

## Professional Development Committee Report for 2018

The Professional Development Committee is a permanent committee of the Michigan Chapter. On November 1, 2017, President Brown appointed the following members to serve on the committee: Jon Bartholic, Tim Harrigan, Dan Busby, Dave Lehnert and Jerry Miller, chair. The chair asked Chapter Secretary Dan Kesselring and President Hugh Brown to serve as advisers to the committee.

Committee activities during the year included coordinating events with two committees appointed by President Brown. These coordinating activities were: Annual Fall Workshop/Field Trip Committee chaired by Dan Busby and 2018 ANR Week Committee (ad hoc) chaired by Tim Harrigan.

Activities planned and implemented by the Professional Development and associated committees included:

1. ANR Seminar held on March 2, 2018 at the Kellogg Center, Michigan State University. Dr. Carrie Laboski, Professor of Soil Science, U of Wisconsin, served as the keynote speaker and Clare Lindahl, CEO, Soil and Water Conservation Society, presented an update from national headquarters and shared her vision for the society. The program agenda is posted at: <http://www.miglswcs.org/app/download/7124171567/2018+MI-SWCS+ANR+Seminar+Agenda.pdf>
2. Michigan Association of Conservation Districts summer conference held on June 4 at Bay City, Michigan. Two activities were organized and implemented. (a) A concurrent session led by members Jon Bartholic, Katie Droscha and Laura Young presented an update on Web-based Mapping Analysis Tools available for planning and assessment for use by practicing soil conservationists. Tools presented included the Sensitive Area Identification System, the Great Lakes Watershed Management System and the Groundwater Recharge Goal Setting for the Saginaw Bay Watershed. (b) A field tour hosted by Star of the West. SWCS member attendance was coordinated by Dan Busby. This tour included a visit to local farms to view implementation of conservation practices in the Saginaw Bay watershed.

Activities planned by the committee for upcoming events:

1. Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference on October 29 and 30 at Bellaire, Michigan. Two activities planned for the conference include: (a) A field trip scheduled for Monday, October 29 at 4:30 pm. Dan Busby organized the field trip. The field trip includes a tour of Providence Farm. (b) A concurrent session scheduled for Tuesday, October 30, at 3:30 pm titled "Computer Assisted Nutrient Management Planning Program (CANMaPP); A discussion with developers, farmers and conservation field staff for tool integration, planning, support and conservation assessment". Members Katie Droscha and Jon Bartholic organized the concurrent session.
2. The 2019 Agriculture and Natural Resources annual seminar scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, at the AgroLiquid facility at St. Johns. Tim Harrigan chairs the committee planning the annual seminar. Current progress includes a committee conference call held on September 18. A result of the conference call was the committee agreed to schedule the AgroLiquid facility for March 6. The committee members are in process of identifying speakers.

**Report submitted by Gerald "Jerry" Miller, Committee Chair**