

Michigan Chapter SWCS

Professional Development Committee Report for 2019

The Professional Development Committee is a permanent committee of the Michigan Chapter. Committee members are: Jon Bartholic, Dan Busby, Katie Droscha, Tim Harrigan and Jerry Miller, chair. Chapter Secretary Dan Kesselring serves as an advisor and resource to the committee.

Committee activities during the year included coordinating multiple professional development events. These activities included:

1. 2018 Annual Fall Workshop/Field Trip Committee coordinated and led by Dan Busby.
2. Concurrent sessions at the 2018 Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference coordinated by Katie Droscha and Jon Bartholic.
3. 2019 ANR Week seminar chaired by Tim Harrigan.
4. A concurrent session at the 2019 Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual summer conference coordinated by Katie Droscha and Jon Bartholic.
5. The committee served as the chapter representative to the Maple River Regional Conservation Partnership Program led by the Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University. The Chapter has committed \$200 for in-kind support.

A summary of select activities implemented by the Professional Development Committee include:

1. The annual Agriculture and Natural Resources Seminar held on March 6, 2019 at the Agro-Liquid Conference Center, St. Johns, MI. Dr. Linda Prokopy, Professor and Sociologist, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University, served as the keynote speaker. The program agenda is posted at:
<http://www.miglswcs.org/app/download/7125074135/2019+SWCS+ANR+Seminar+Agenda.pdf>
2. Michigan Association of Conservation Districts summer conference held on June 3 at Bay City, Michigan. Committee members Katie Droscha and Jon Bartholic organized a concurrent session titled “Maple River RCPP – Working with landowners to address surface water quality and groundwater recharge” presented by Jeremiah Asher and Laura Young, IWR, MSU, and Jessie Schulte, Kent CD.

Activities planned by the committee for upcoming events:

1. Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference October 28 and 29, 2019, at Bellaire, Michigan. Three activities planned for the conference include:
 - (a) Field trip scheduled for Monday, October 28 from 1:30 to 4:30 pm, organized and led by Dan Busby. Titled, “Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Field Trip: Fruit Production and Organic Farming in Northern Michigan”. The field trip will focus on fruit production and organic farming, and the proper disposal of wash water and waste material in Northern Michigan.

- (b) Concurrent session organized by Jon Bartholic and Katie Droscha scheduled for Tuesday, October 29 at 10:45 am titled, "Enhancing Water Resource Management – New Discoveries and Opportunities", presented by Zach Curtis, SWCS member, Paul Sachs and Megan Boos.
 - (c) Concurrent session organized by Katie Droscha and Jon Bartholic scheduled for Tuesday, October 29 at 4:00 pm titled, "Web-based mapping analysis tools to assist with conservation assessment and planning support. Learning, using, and sharing", presented by Zach Curtis and Katie L. Droscha.
2. The 2020 Agriculture and Natural Resources annual seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4 at the Agro-Liquid Conference Center, St. Johns. Tim Harrigan chairs the committee planning the annual seminar. Committee members are in process of identifying speakers.

Report submitted by Gerald "Jerry" Miller, Committee Chair