

Professional Development Committee Report for 2020

The Professional Development Committee is a permanent committee of the Michigan Chapter. Committee members: Jon Bartholic, Dan Busby, Katie Droscha, John Freeland, Tim Harrigan, Glenn O'Neil and Jerry Miller, chair. Chapter Secretary Dan Kesselring serves as a resource to the committee.

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

1. 2019 Annual Fall Workshop/Field Trip, held in conjunction with the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, coordinated and led by Dan Busby.
2. Concurrent sessions at the 2019 Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference coordinated by Katie Droscha and Jon Bartholic.
3. 2020 ANR Week seminar chaired by Tim Harrigan.
4. 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.
5. Two Water Quality Science Webinar.

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

1. Field trip conducted on Monday, October 28, 2019 from 1:30 to 4:30 pm organized and led by Dan Busby. The event was titled, "Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Field Trip: Fruit Production and Organic Farming in Northern Michigan". The field trip focused on fruit production and organic farming, and the proper disposal of wash water and waste material in Northern Michigan.
2. Presented two concurrent sessions during the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference. The sessions were organized by Katie Droscha and Jon Bartholic and presented on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.
 - a. "Web-based mapping analysis tools to assist with conservation assessment and planning support. Learning, using, and sharing". Presentation made by SWCS members Zach Curtis and Katie L. Droscha.
 - b. "Enhancing Water Resource Management – New Discoveries and Opportunities", presented by Zach Curtis, SWCS member, Paul Sachs and Megan Boos
3. The annual chapter Agriculture and Natural Resources Seminar was held on March 4, 2020 at the Agro-Liquid Conference Center, St. Johns, MI. The seminar theme was "Conservation Agriculture Uncertain Times". Dr. Matt Helmers, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and Director, Iowa Nutrient Research Center, Iowa State University, served as the keynote speaker. The program agenda is posted at: <http://www.miglswcs.org/events-and-archives/>
4. Two Water Quality Science webinar were presented on September 17, 2020. The titles were:
 - a. "Engaging River Raisin Farmers in Subsurface Water Monitoring Program: A look into applicability, efficacy, and need" presented by Alaina Nunn, Research Assistant, Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University.

- b. “Improving Stream Habitat in the Maple River Watershed” presented by Connor Crank, Project Coordinator, Institute of Water Research, Michigan State University.

Upcoming activities planned by the committee include:

1. A webinar titled “Floating wetland treatment of subsurface drainage” presented by Jeremiah Asher, Assistant Director, Institute of Water Resources, Michigan State University, is scheduled in conjunction with Michigan Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society annual meeting on October 27, 2020.
2. A virtual concurrent session during the week of December 14, 2020 for the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts annual conference. The virtual concurrent session is organized by Katie Droscha. The title and presenter of the concurrent session is in the draft stage.
3. The 2021 Agriculture and Natural Resources annual seminar scheduled for the week of March 8 (two sessions versus one all day event). The seminar is being planned as a virtual event. Tim Harrigan chairs the planning committee for the annual seminar. Committee members are in process of identifying topics and speakers.
4. Virtual webinars are being discussed for each quarter (Apr – Jun and Jul – Sep).

Report submitted by Gerald Miller, Committee Chair