

Professional Development Committee Report for 2024

The Professional Development Committee is a permanent committee of the Michigan Chapter. The committee members are: Jon Bartholic, Dan Busby, Katie Droscha, Kelly Goward, Tim Harrigan, Glenn O'Neil, Steven Schaub, Tess Van Gorder and Jerry Miller, chair. Chapter Secretary Dan Kesselring serves as a resource for the committee.

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

1. 2023 Chapter Annual Meeting roundtable coordinated by Chapter President Katie Droscha.
2. 2024 ANR Week seminar program chaired by committee member Tim Harrigan.

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

1. Following the December 15, 2023, annual meeting a roundtable was presented by chapter members. The event consisted of five-minute presentations presented by Chapter members describing their professional work in soil and water conservation
2. The annual Agriculture and Natural Resources Seminar was held on March 8, 2024, at the AgroLiquid facility, St. Johns. The seminar theme was: Sustainable Intensification of the Rural Landscape: Protecting Soil Health, Water Quality and Farm Profitability. The keynote speakers were Drs. David Karpovich, Director, Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute, Saginaw Valley State University, and Doug Pearsall, Senior Conservation Scientist, The Nature Conservancy. The agenda for the 2024 ANR seminar is posted at <https://www.miglswcs.org/app/download/7127378253/2024+MiSWCS+ANR+Seminar+Agenda+v2.pdf>. There were 67 individuals registered for the seminar including eight speakers. A total of \$1,900 was provided by sponsors.

Upcoming activities planned by the committee include:

3. The 2024 Agriculture and Natural Resources annual seminar is scheduled for March 7, 2025, at the AgroLiquid facility, St. Johns. The seminar is being planned as an in-person event. Jerry Miller and Glenn O'Neill co-chair the program planning committee for the annual seminar. Committee members are in the process of finalizing topics and speakers.
4. Virtual webinars are being discussed for each quarter (Apr – Jun and Jul – Sep).
5. Following the March ANR seminar the Professional Development Committee will discuss ideas for a summer workshop and field event.

Report submitted by Gerald "Jerry" Miller, Committee Chair