

# Michigan Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society

## ANR SEMINAR

# SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF THE RURAL LANDSCAPE:

## *Protecting Soil Health, Water Quality and Farm Profitability*

March 7, 2025, Seminar

## PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

**Title: Precision Agriculture**

**Dr. Bruno Basso**, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor  
Michigan State University

Abstract pending.

**Title: Urban Agriculture**

**Naim Edwards**, Director  
Detroit Partnership for Food, Learning, and Innovation  
Michigan State University

Abstract pending.

**Title: A journey Toward Great Lakes Resilience**

**Jane Elder**, Author, *Wilderness, Water and Rust*  
Retired Director of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters  
Former National Director of Ecoregion Programs for the Sierra Club.

What do we value about life in the Great Lakes region, and how can we move beyond the rust-belt legacy to imagine bold new strategies through which ecosystems and communities can thrive? In her memoir and policy critique *Wilderness, Water & Rust: A Journey Toward Great Lakes Resilience*, Jane Elder weaves together memories from her life in the upper Midwest, including nearly fifty years of environmental policy advocacy work. She celebrates the natural gifts of Great Lakes country, and provides an insider's perspective into the quest to protect the Great Lakes and surrounding public lands, from past battles to protect Michigan wilderness and the national lakeshores to present fights against toxic pollution and climate change. She argues that stymied policy frameworks and siloed regulatory approaches—from the Clean Water Act to American farm policy—threaten our capacity for ecological resilience and vital human communities. In her talk, she will provide highlights from the book, challenges that lie ahead and explore ways we can imagine new, whole futures in the freshwater heartland.

**Title: A Journey in Regenerative Agriculture**

**Aron Buechler**, Owner, Buechler Farms and Total Solutions Consulting  
**Bryan Schwab**, Schwab Farms, Bay County  
**Jason Deshano**, Deshano Farms, Bay County

Starting with an introduction of Buechler Farms, LLC, and the farming practices this farm used before this regenerative journey began, we will then explain the farming practices we use today, how we got there and where we plan to go in the future.

**Title: Climate and Agriculture: Navigating Policy, Programs, and the Private Sector**

**Tess Van Gorder**, Conservation & Regulatory Relations Specialist  
Michigan Farm Bureau

Abstract pending

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**Title:** **Agroforestry in Michigan**  
**Nathan Ayers**, Project Lead  
West Michigan Agroforestry Partnership

Abstract pending