

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

This presentation will explore the ever evolving space where agriculture, public policy, and the private sector interact. Attendees will gain insights on carbon and ecosystem services programs, relevant state and federal policies, and how the private sector is driving the climate-smart agriculture conversation.

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PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

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

Abstract pending