



# Michigan Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society

## ANR Seminar

### **SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION: *Enhancing Soil and Water Quality***

March 6, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
AgroLiquid Conference Center, 1130 S. Dewitt Rd., St. Johns, MI

#### AGENDA

- 8:30 a.m. **Registration, Coffee/Tea and Sponsor Introduction**
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome**  
**Zachary Curtis**, President, Michigan Chapter SWCS
- 9:10 a.m. **Attitudes, Barriers, and Opportunities Towards a More Diverse Agricultural Landscape: Updates for the Diverse Corn Belt Project**  
**Emily DeaKyne**, Diverse Corn Belt Project Manager, Purdue University
- 10:00 a.m. **Partnering for Sustainability & Resiliency: Bel's Regenerative Agriculture Initiative for Apples**  
**John Halverson**, Purchasing Category Director, Bel Group
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:50 a.m. **Farmer-Friendly Cover Crop Recommendations to Overcome Barriers to Adoption**  
**Madelyn Celovsky**, Conservation Agronomist Educator, Michigan State University Extension
- 11:20 a.m. **Michigan Irrigation Trends and Research Trends**  
**Younsuk Dong**, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Michigan State University
- 11:50 a.m. **Lunch and Sponsor Recognition**
- 12:40 p.m. **Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program - Scholarship Presentation**  
**Zachary Curtis**, Chair, Scholarship Committee, Michigan Chapter SWCS
- 12:50 p.m. **Panel - Lessons from the Field** (Moderator – Steve Schaub)  
**Mark Hacker** – Mark Hacker Farms, Inc., Branch County  
**Robert Mantey**, Ed Mantey and Sons, Inc., Tuscola County  
**Makenzi Whittum**, Ed Mantey and Sons, Inc., Tuscola County  
**Liam Zahm**, Zahm's Aerial Enterprises, LLC, Sparta, MI
- 1:50 p.m. **Break**
- 2:10 p.m. **Environmental Justice is Essential: Strengthening the Science & Art of Conservation**  
**Jalonne L. White Newsome**, Associate Professor  
University of Michigan School of Environment & Sustainability  
Environmental Justice Specialization  
CEO/Founder, Empowering A Green Environment and Economy, LLC
- 2:50 p.m. **Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) Application in the Western Lake Erie Basin**  
**Peter Vincent**, Environmental Quality Specialist  
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy
- 3:30 p.m. **Wrap-up, Announcements, and Adjourn**  
**Zachary Curtis**

Fostering the science and art of soil and water conservation in Michigan and the Great Lakes Region. 02/26/26