



THE 16TH

St. Louis River SUMMIT

GRIT + GRATITUDE

Celebrating St. Louis River
Successes

UW-SUPERIOR YELLOW JACKET UNION

March 3-5, 2026

Tuesday, March 3 – Morning

| TIME | ACTIVITY | PRESENTER |
|----------|---|---------------|
| 9:00 am | R Coding Tips Workshop – optional, pre-registration required | Gus Pendleton |
| 12:00 pm | Registration and check-in desk opens | |

Tuesday, March 3 – Afternoon

Steady Steps Toward Restoration

| TIME | ACTIVITY | PRESENTER |
|---------|---|---|
| 1:00 pm | Welcome | |
| 1:25 pm | Grit & Gratitude Reflections: Saving the Superior Municipal Forest | |
| 1:35 pm | Reintroducing Ishkode (fire) to Wisconsin Point Through Collaborative Stewardship | Vern Northrup, Camron Vollbrecht, Jeremiah Rule |
| 1:55 pm | Year One Response to Allouez Bay Wetland Restorations and Next Steps | Tom Prestby |
| 2:15 pm | Restoring the Sturgeon Population in St. Louis River River | Shawna Weaver, Miranda Rinne |
| 2:35 pm | St. Louis River Area of Concern (AOC) 101 | Matt Steiger |
| 2:50 pm | Break | |
| 3:10 pm | St. Louis River Area of Concern Annual Progress Update | Tyler Kaspar |
| 3:30 pm | Celebrating Completion of MN Remediation Sites | LaRae Lehto |
| 3:45 pm | LAMP Implementation in the St. Louis River Estuary: Linking Local Actions to Lakewide Priorities and GLRI Funding into the future | Tyler Kaspar, Cherie Hagen, Jesse Martus |
| 4:25 pm | Transition to evening Poster Session | |
| 4:30 pm | Poster Session (4:30-6:00 pm in the Yellowjacket Union Atrium) See insert for details. | |

Wednesday, March 4 – Morning

The River Runs Through Us All

| TIME | ACTIVITY | PRESENTER |
|----------|---|----------------------------------|
| 9:00 am | Welcome & Remarks from Douglas County Board of Supervisors Chair | Mark Liebaert |
| 9:15 | Connect & Collaborate Preview | |
| 9:40 am | Grit & Gratitude Reflections: The Early Days of the EPA | |
| 9:50 am | Starting Out in Conservation: The Maajii Akii Gikenjigewin Crew | Emily Lockling, Hillary Olsen |
| 10:10 am | There is No Poop Fairy: 15 years of Regional Stormwater Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices | Lisa DeGuire, Ryan Granlund |
| 10:25 pm | A Vanishing Estuary | Deanna Erickson |
| 10:30 am | Break | |
| 10:50 am | Community Engagement for Conservation: A Toolkit | Molly Wick |
| 11:05 am | Building Collaborative Capacity: Designing for the Multiple Dimensions of Trust | Gini Breidenbach |
| 11:20 am | Ecological Justice Hotspots in Chigami-Ziibiing | Nicolette Slagle |
| 11:40 am | Weaving the Stories and the People of the St. Louis River Together for Hope and Change | Kris Eilers |
| 11:55 am | Enhancing Paddle Safety and Community Connection in the Twin Ports | Kelsey Prihoda |

Wednesday, March 4 – Afternoon

Impacted Ecosystems

| TIME | ACTIVITY | PRESENTER |
|----------|---|-------------------|
| 12:00 pm | Lunch – concurrent with special sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative Listening Session hosted by Friends of the Lake Superior Reserve (Room YU 203) Career Session for Students: Learning from Each Other (Room YU 204) | |
| 1:15 pm | Grit & Gratitude Reflections: A Little Help From My Friends | |
| 1:25 pm | Hydrologic and Pollutant Load Effects of Peatland Restoration in the St. Louis River Basin | Christian Lenhart |
| 1:45 pm | Salinity-based Effects on the Photochemistry of Dissolved Organic Matter within St Louis River | Keagan Bailey |
| 2:00 pm | Summary of the Dangers of Sulfate Pollution to the St. Louis River and Estuary | Thomas Anderson |
| 2:20 pm | Environmental Justice and a Blueprint for More Equitable Lighting | Todd Bulet |
| 2:40 pm | Effects of DEM Properties on Watershed Delineation Accuracy in the St. Louis River Area of Concern | Taylor Moore |
| 3:00 pm | Transition to Connect & Collaborate Networking Sessions | |
| 3:10 pm | Break | |
| 3:30 pm | Connect & Collaborate – Networking sessions held concurrently from 3:30–5:00 pm | |

Attendees are encouraged to Connect & Collaborate in one of the following sessions:

- Ecological Justice and Chigami-Ziibiing- Next steps? (**Room SWEN 2005**)
- Gibiskising minis: Past, Present, Future. Ecological and Cultural Landscape Restoration Strategies for Wisconsin Point (**Room YU 203**)
- Examining the uses and limitations of AI through the lens of the St. Louis River Estuary (**Room YU 204**)
- Partnering for Science: Best Practices and New Opportunities for Participatory Science (**SWEN 2016**)
- Headwaters Partnership Visions for the Future: Sharing the Partnership's Work (**YU 202**)
- Backstage Secrets for Better Outreach (**SWEN 1007**)
- Taking Stock of Success and Building social indicators for community impact in the St. Louis River Estuary (**YU 201**)

Thursday, March 5 – Morning

River Renewal

| TIME | ACTIVITY | PRESENTER |
|----------|--|------------------------------|
| 9:00 am | Grit & Gratitude Reflections: The Terns of Interstate Island | Annie Bracey, Fred Strand |
| 9:10 am | Islands Without Ash: Restoration on Forested Wetlands in the St. Louis River Estuary | Kirsten Rhude |
| 9:30 am | Lower St. Louis River Centrarchid and Yellow Perch Population Dynamics | Sam Peterson |
| 9:45 am | A Compelling Story of Successes in AIS Prevention | Doug Jensen |
| 10:05 am | Break | |

Measuring the Micro

| TIME | ACTIVITY | PRESENTER |
|----------|---|---------------|
| 10:25 am | What do we know about cyanobacterial blooms in the St. Louis River estuary and western Lake Superior? | Sam Blackburn |
| 10:45 am | Bridging Citizen Science and Research Standards in Microplastic Monitoring: Comparative QA/QC Analysis and Fluorescence-Based Detection | Abimbola Ige |
| 11:05 am | Turbidity in the St. Louis River Estuary | Joe Wallace |
| 11:25 am | Cyanobacteria Have Spatially Distinct Seasonality in the St. Louis River Estuary | Gus Pendleton |
| 11:30 am | Invasive Plants in my Neighborhood-A Linocut Study of Invasive Plants in my Neighborhood | Monica Ihrke |
| 11:35 pm | Celebration! | |
| 12:15 pm | Adjourn and transition to afternoon pre-registered optional Field Trips | |
| 1:30 pm | Field Trips – optional, pre-registration required. Attendees are encouraged to please dress appropriately for the experience and factor time for travel to the meet-up location. | |

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 SUMMIT SPONSORS



W.J. McCabe
(Duluth)
Chapter



Swenson College of Science and Engineering
Large Lakes Observatory



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THE 16TH
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SUMMIT

Poster Session

Tuesday, March 3 – 4:30–6:00 pm
YELLOWJACKET UNION ATRIUM (with cash bar)

★ indicates a Student poster

- 1 ★ Transient Storage of Coarse Fluvial Sediment in Western Lake Superior Tributaries
Haven Free
- 2 ★ A Fluvial Sediment Budget for the Western Arm of Lake Superior
Michael Park
- 3 ★ Hydroclimate and Moisture Source as Controls on the Isotopic Signature of Precipitation Near Lake Superior
Eva Muscatello
- 4 Campus Tree Planting and Applied Ecological Decision-Making: A Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experience
Michelle Frack
- 5 ★ Steel Waters Run Deep: Uncovering the Ripple Effects of Restoration on Community and Ecology
Jules Witts
- 6 How do contaminants in the St. Louis River estuary affect the health of restored manoomin and those who eat it?
Becca Honeyball
- 7 Creating Spaces and Connecting Interests: Providing a Framework for Collaboration in the St. Louis River AOC
Katie Williams
- 8 Wisconsin Point Visitor Use Assessment
Ellen Kwiatkowski
- 9 Wisconsin Point Coastal Habitat Restoration & Resiliency Project – Data Collection & Investigation
Shanna Saarela-Schultz
- 10 ★ Quantifying Footprint of Atmospheric Hg Point Sources: Concentrations in Air and Leaf Tissue
Eli Downing
- 11 Linking Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) Diet and Mercury Exposure Using eDNA
Annie Bracey
- 12 Cross-Species Susceptibility to Harmful Algal Bloom Toxins Microcystin-LR, Anatoxin-a, and Saxitoxin
Kali Mattingly
- 13 ★ Seasonal view of cyanobacterial species in St. Louis River Estuary and identifying potential bloom indicators
Abigail Samson
- 14 Spatial and Temporal Patterns of *E. coli* at Barker's Island and Wisconsin Point
Sophie Husby
- 15 Two Decades of Change: Shifts in Aquatic Macrophyte Communities Across the St. Louis River Estuary
Reed Schwarting
- 16 Improved Manoomin (*Zizania palustris*) stands following prolonged water level increase in Pokegama Bay
Cecile Renfro
- 17 Allouez Bay Marsh Bird Habitat Restoration
Rob Peterson
- 18 Lower St. Louis River Habitat Plan 2026 Update
Rebecca Eiden
- 19 Habitats of the St. Louis River Estuary: A Habitat Map
Howard Veregin
- 20 Mapping and Assessing Native Plant Communities in Duluth's St. Louis River Watershed
Maggie Ross
- 21 ★ Evaluating The Effectiveness Manoomin Hull sas Mulch
Ojibway Jerron
- 22 ★ Ground Truthing Remote Sensing Data for Manoomin (Wild Rice)
Eric Omdahl
- 23 Dangers of Sulfate Pollution
Anderson Thomas

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- 24 ★ **Roots, Shoots, and Gases: How Plant Functional Groups Influence Peatland Mesocosm Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
Daniel Rudolph
- 25 **News from NE Wisconsin Freshwater Collaborative Team**
Robert Fish
- 26 **The Enduring Lake Superior Communities Program**
Melissa Burke
- 27 **A Practical Framework for Monitoring and Managing Invasive Species Impacts to Wetland Health in the St. Louis River Estuary**
David Grandmaison
- 28 **The Management of Invasive Knotweeds (*Fallopia spp.*) Across the Lake Superior Basin of Wisconsin**
Ramona Shackelford
- 29 **GLISSnet at 5 years: Monitoring for Newly Introduced Invertebrates in the St. Louis River Estuary and Beyond**
Chelsea Hatzenbuehler
- 30 ★ **First Evidence of *Hemimysis anomala* (bloody red shrimp) Establishment in Lake Superior**
Kristin Huelsbeck
- 31 **Post Wildfire Impacts on Water Quality in Northern Minnesota Lakes**
Shawnee McMillian
- 32 **Water Quality Changes Due to Burn Severity After Two Northern Minnesota Wildfires**
Liana Sweezer
- 33 **Water Quality Stability Following the Brimson Complex Fire**
Mia Hallett
- 34 **Climate Youth Labs (CY-Labs): Elevating Youth Voices to Promote Climate Resiliency**
Eric John Diel