



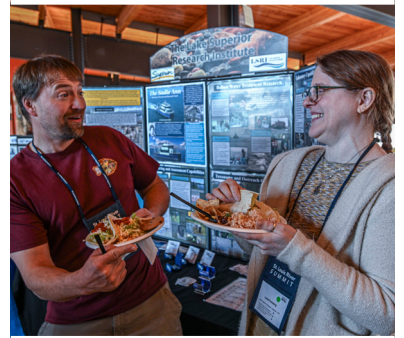
THE 15TH ANNUAL

St. Louis River SUMMIT

An Estuary Mosaic:
Understanding the Pieces,
Appreciating the Whole

UW-SUPERIOR YELLOWJACKET UNION

March 4-6, 2025



Tuesday, March 4 – Afternoon Session

Bright Ideas for Clear Waters

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
1:00 pm	Welcome	
1:25 pm	Historical St. Louis River Estuary plankton communities and water quality at the Montreal Pier Facility	Michael Nagel
1:45 pm	Accuracy of Rapid Test Strips for the Detection of the Cyanotoxin Microcystin-LR	Janae Widiker
2:05 pm	Predicting total phosphorus level in streams over north shore of Lake Superior using hybrid machine learning model	Amit Kumar
2:25 pm	Working in Partnership to Improve the Understanding of Water Quality Along Lake Superior's Wisconsin Coastline	Sam Blackburn
2:40 pm	Break (20 minutes)	
3:00 pm	Evaluation of Ballast Water Management Systems on Great Lakes Vessels	Nathan Schwartz
3:20 pm	The Great Lakes Port Conditions Database: A Tool for Effective Ballast Water Management	Gwendolyn Ough
3:35 pm	Avian Night Sky Paintings and Poems	Stephen Wilbers
3:55 pm	Adjourn – transition to Poster & Art Session	
4:00 pm	Poster and Art Session (4:00–6:00 pm in Yellowjacket Union Atrium) See insert for details.	

Wednesday, March 5 – Morning Session

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
9:00 am	Keynote event	Nancy Schuldt
10:30 am	Break (15 minutes)	

Keynote event

Water, We Respect You: Tribal Sovereignty in the watershed of Chigami-ziibi

Chigami-ziibi (the St. Louis River) sprawls across the Ceded Territory of Ojibwe people and forms the eastern border of the Fond du Lac Reservation. Treaty rights and the efforts of Tribal Nations staff have played a central role in stewarding the river and the estuary, from the restoration of name (nah-meh, lake sturgeon) and manoomin (wild rice) to the Area of Concern delisting process to water quality protection. These efforts are underpinned by Indigenous Knowledge and by sovereignty, the authority to self-govern in order to protect and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of tribal citizens. As the river heals and faces a mosaic of new challenges, how can Tribal Sovereignty illuminate ways we can all care for the river?

Presenter and panelists include: Nancy Schuldt, Water Projects Coordinator, and Thomas Howes, Natural Resources Manager, of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Darren Vogt, Resource Management Division Director at the 1854 Treaty Authority; Jason Schlender, Executive Administrator at the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, and Joseph Bauerkemper, Director of the Tribal Sovereignty Institute at University of Minnesota Duluth.

AOO Advances: Restoring Connections and Revitalizing Waterways

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
10:45 am	Lest We Forget	Grace Leppink-Walz, Tyler Kaspar, Barb Huberty, and Matt Steiger
11:05 am	St. Louis River Area of Concern Annual Progress Update	Matt Steiger
11:25 am	Waterway Benefits Study Recommendations: Centering Reconnection	Molly Wick
11:40 am	New Opportunities for River Connections: Public Access Improvements in the Wake of River Restoration	Allison Brooks
12:00 pm	Lunch – with optional concurrent events (75 minutes)	
	Career Session for Students (meet in Room 204)	
	Legislative Listening Session hosted by FOLSR (meet in Room 202)	

Wednesday, March 5 – Afternoon Session

Watershed Wisdom: Collaboration, Governance, and Sustainability in Action

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
1:15 pm	Course-Based Research Provides Coastal Insights Through Collaborative Science and Big Data Skills	Kait Reinl and Paul Hanson
1:35 pm	A Watershed Approach to Co-Creating Just Sustainabilities: Reflections from the Lake Superior Living Labs Network	Rachel Portinga
1:50 pm	Tackling watershed wide issues with local efforts: A St Louis River One Watershed, One Plan in action	Andy Kasun
2:05 pm	Break (15 minutes)	
2:20 pm	Ripple effects: Examining the mosaics of governance structures in three Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects	Meghan Klasic
2:40 pm	Sustaining Namāēw: partner-led climate adaptation for Indigenous fisheries in the Great Lakes	Holly Embke
3:00 pm	Activating a Community of Lake Superior Educators	Luciana Ranelli
3:15 pm	Break – transition to Networking Sessions	
3:30 pm	Networking Sessions – held concurrently from 3:30-5:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 – Cut & Paste – Creating Mosaics, Crossing Boundaries, & Making Connections • 2 – Who is monitoring what in the St. Louis River Estuary in 2025? • 3 – Bridging Science and Education: Developing Data-Driven Lessons for ClassHALLs • 4 – Ecological Justice in the St. Louis River Estuary • 5 – Collaborative Use of Educational and Research Vessels in the Twin Ports 	

Thursday, March 6 – Morning Session

Contaminants and Resilient Habitats

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
9:00 am	Incorporating Habitat Use and Life History to Predict PCB Residues in St. Louis River estuary fish	Joel Hoffman
9:20 am	Changes in methylmercury exposure to Common Tern chicks at a breeding colony in the St. Louis River Estuary (2016 - 2023)	Annie Bracey
9:40 am	How do contaminants in the St. Louis River estuary affect the health of restored manoomin and those who eat it?	Gigi Diekelman and Ashla Ojibway
9:55 am	Woodland Ave - Hartley Park Green Infrastructure Project	Tim Olson
10:10 am	Break (10 minutes)	
10:20 am	Featured Event – Climate Resilience is every day Hosted by Lake Superior Reserve, with featured panelists: Mindy Granley, Supervisor – Climate Assistance Unit, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Karola Dalen, Sustainability and Capital Planning Manager, St. Louis County; Dr. Natalie Chin, Climate and Tourism Outreach Specialist, Wisconsin Sea Grant Embedding climate resilience into communities and the landscape is certainly a matter of innovative techniques and know-how, but it is also a mindset that takes opportunities to build resilience whenever they are available across the mosaic of infrastructure, community development, and landscape restoration along Lake Superior’s shores. What can environmental professionals learn from organizations along the St. Louis River working to embed climate resilience into their every day work? How can we consider the built environment and natural spaces when imagining our resilient future? This discussion shares new, timely perspectives on creating a sustainable future across our region.	
11:00 am	Break (15 minutes)	

Restoration in Focus

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
11:15 am	Larval fish as indicators of St. Louis River estuary habitat quality and restoration effectiveness	Greg Peterson
11:35 am	Allouez Bay Marsh Bird Habitat Restoration Update	Tom Prestby
11:50 am	Substrate Environmental DNA for Detecting Fish Fauna in Comparison to Physical Surveys	Valerie Brady
12:05 pm	Adjourn – transition to pre-registered optional Field Trips following.	

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W.J. McCabe
(Duluth)
Chapter



2025 SUMMIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

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