REIMAGINING CONNECTIONS
THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
JANUARY 27TH – 29TH, 2021

www.Stewardshipnetwork.org/conference
WELCOME TO THE 14TH ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP NETWORK CONFERENCE!

When we called for presentation abstracts in April of last year, we knew that this event would be different. We decided early on to make the conference virtual, trusting in our planning team and partners to explore innovative and creative solutions to maintaining the value and sense of place past conferences have provided. This annual gathering of people who are dedicated to caring for land and water fulfills a unique need for those looking to learn and create meaningful change through collaboration; abandoning the opportunity to convene this amazing group of stewards was never an option. We knew that together, we would find a way.

The Collaborative Conservation movement is continuing to gain momentum around the world, and The Stewardship Network is proud to be a pioneering champion of this paradigm shift, which is nothing short of revolutionary. We encourage you to attend some of the “Collaborating Well” sessions to learn more about the mindset and skills that are critical to building on this movement—working well together in pursuit of ecological integrity and healthy partnerships.

Each of you, with your own unique set of experiences, knowledge and skills, brings an irreplaceable perspective to the virtual table around which we gather. You are what makes this conference such a dynamic and exciting place for new ideas, partnerships, and projects. We’re deeply grateful to those of you who have been involved with The Stewardship Network for decades, and we’re equally excited by the new faces that we see each year at this gathering for thought leaders in the stewardship community.

Now is your time to connect, grow, and inspire. Over the next few days, we invite you to learn about something completely new; ask difficult questions; step out of your comfort zone; join or create a networking session to connect with others; listen to someone with a widely differing viewpoint; share your “Pivot” story during the Stewardship Story Slam; and share your setbacks, challenges, successes, and aspirations.

At The Stewardship Network, we work to provide a framework for collaborative conservation projects that engage diverse sets of partners. Our mission is to provide the tools, connections, and individualized support necessary to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of your meaningful work. We offer the chance to build community and capacity around shared goals and values so that we may all move forward, and farther, together.

Thank you for joining us and once again. Welcome to the Reimagining Connections: 2021 Stewardship Network Conference!

Enjoy.

The Stewardship Network 2021 Conference Planning Committee

Brett Bloom, Oak Farm Montessori School
Celia Larsen, Rudolf Steiner School
Dave Borneman, David Borneman LLC
Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network
Jacqueline Courteau, NatureWrite LLC

Rob Luzynski, The Stewardship Network
Patrick Scanlon, GLL’s CISMA
Melanie Herron, Fair Food Network
Roger Lalline, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

2021 Stewardship Network Conference Planning Committee

www.StewardshipNetwork.org | facebook.com/stewardshipnetwork
Our Approach: The Stewardship Network’s approach builds inclusivity into stewardship efforts, while increasing visibility and reach of local place-based community organizations. To that end, TSN embraces the unique backbone supporting role collective impact organizations play in eliciting large-scale change through aligned effort.

- **Ecological Stewardship** – The Network stewards natural ecosystems by integrating traditional methods, cutting-edge research, and field-proven techniques to take action on environmental issues locally, regionally, and around North America.

- **Innovative Approach** - Our innovative collaboration model and network structure combine to form an approach to collaborative conservation designed for the 21st century and beyond.

- **Generous Collaboration** - We create opportunities for partners to build trust and collaborate generously, resulting in genuine and lasting connections that realize the collective potential of our shared stewardship work.

- **Distributed Leadership** - Empowering local leadership with capacity-building support, shared resources, and aligned systems to identify problems, develop solutions, and create change within their communities.

*Are you connected?*

Everyone knows that more can be accomplished if everyone works together and plays to their strengths—so why isn’t that happening as we face unprecedented ecological issues? Because collaboration isn’t easy. Be it lack of resources, red tape, personal conflict, or the sense that collaborating requires extra time or work, most people choose to keep their heads down and focus on their narrow slice of the pie. At TSN, we know that your hard work and your community are bigger than that.

The Stewardship Network provides the structure, support, and tools for individuals and organizations within a community to collaborate on large scale environmental issues.

- We train local leadership (Community Coordinators and Co-Coordinators) in facilitation and healthy, inclusive collaboration methods for their community
- We assist communities planning, executing, and tracking projects
- We help communities secure funding, and in some cases serve as the fiduciary for grants
- We undertake logistical and administrative burdens where needed so that community members and partners can focus on aspects of the larger picture that fully utilizes their skills or passions
- We provide platforms to showcase projects and initiatives, and connect with other natural area stewards around the world
- We manage and provide the technology for communication and organizing within communities, as well as engaging the wider public in stewardship events and activities
- We convene The Stewardship Network for peer to peer learning at our annual conference

NCS Designs, Installs & Monitors Living Solutions
NCS provides services on a landscape and eco-friendly living solutions, including but not limited to:
- **Landscape Design Requirements Client Engagement**
  Help transform and protect a property's design, where we create unique and functional designs that are user-friendly, environmentally friendly, and sustainable. We provide services such as park, outdoor space, eco-friendly design, and integrated systems to enhance the community experience. 
- **Ecological Restoration Demands Expertise**
  NCS specializes in the restoration of natural ecosystems. From erosion control and stream restoration to wetland creation and wildlife habitat restoration, our team is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty and ecological value of our communities. 
- **NCS Winter Discounts**
  Enjoy significant savings through our special winter promotions. Whether you’re looking to enhance your property or prepare it for the upcoming season, NCS offers competitive rates and exceptional value for your investment. 

Follow us! @stewardshipnet

info@naturalcommunityservices.com
218-672-7811

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## Conference Agenda - 2021 Stewardship Network Conference

**Wednesday, January 27, 2021 - All Times in Eastern Time Zone**

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Log in / Get acquainted with the conference dashboard</td>
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<td>12:15 PM</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Event overview • Keynote introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Keynote Presentation</td>
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<td><strong>Break in the Action</strong></td>
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<td>Activity Session - participate in any of the following: Networking • Bookstore • Poster room</td>
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<td>Water Ceremony</td>
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<td>Poster Session/Networking</td>
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## Thursday, January 28, 2021 - All Times in Eastern Time Zone

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<tr>
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<td>Thursday Plenary</td>
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<td>Story Slam</td>
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<td>Poster Session/Networking</td>
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Mamie A. Parker worked almost 30 years as a fish and wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in Genoa; La Crosse; Green Bay, Madison, and Lake Mills, Wisconsin; Columbia, Missouri; New London and Minneapolis, Minnesota; Atlanta; Georgia; Amherst, MA; and Washington, D.C. During the Clinton Administration, Parker rose to the rank of Chief of Staff in the Service Headquarters, the first African American to hold this title. She has outstanding experience in NEPA, Clean Water Act, wetland protection and restoration. This extensive experience led her to receive the Annual Ira Gabrielson Award, an award given by FWS leaders to the most outstanding leader in the agency. She played a major role in protecting our nation’s waters from pollutants and invasive species such as listing the Snakehead fish and Asian Carp as an injurious wildlife species. Parker led the FWS staff, along with partners in developing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The President of the United States presented Parker with the Presidential Rank award, the highest award given to government employees.

Parker also led the effort in working with the American Pharmaceutical Association and Wal-Mart to promote a national campaign of smart disposal of medicine and unwanted aquarium fish and plants. She was featured on the NPR’s Morning Edition. Parker is a leader in various organizations and serves on the Board of Directors of The Nature Conservancy, Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, Northland College, Student Conservation Association, the National Wildlife Refuge Association, Brown Advisory Sustainable Investment, Marstel-Day Consulting Company, and the Chesapeake Conservancy. Former Secretary Madeleine Albright and the Council of World Women Leaders awarded her with an Aspen Institute Fellowship for her work in the Kingdom of Lesotho and in Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa. She recently returned from China where she spoke at the World Fisheries Congress on the impacts of climate change and development in coastal cities and communities of color.
Collaborative Connections: Building Meaningful Relationships

Relationships are at the core of collaboration. This session will explore the relational dimensions of collaborative leadership and discuss how relationships are shaped by the way we communicate, share information, and engage in collective action.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Amy Mickel, Sacramento State University
Sharon Farrell, Golden Gates Park Conservancy

Evaluating the Sustainability of the American System of Land Ownership

Most Midwestern land is privately owned, and most of this private land is in poor ecological condition—dominated by chemical-dependent monocultures or ever-expanding housing subdivisions. Are there hidden mechanisms in our system of land ownership that discourage ecological stewardship and sustainability? An analysis was conducted upon the land ownership system of the US—i.e., the laws and norms which establish land rights, responsibilities, and usage. The analysis was conducted with a biomimicry-based sustainability model; this model uses a component-level review that can help to ferret out poorly functioning aspects of very complex systems. The analysis focused on how numbers of owners, parcel shape, land transfers, taxing, zoning, parcel size, and residency may be enhancing or detracting from environmental stewardship and human sustainability. Results of this analysis will be presented, with an aim of fostering interactive discussion with the audience.

Steve Thomas, ECT

Facilitating It All: Tools and Skills for Conveners and Coordinators

Collaboration is a practice that includes a set of tools, techniques, and skills grounded in facilitation, coordination, and multi-party negotiation. This session will offer a glimpse into these tools and skills, focusing on how they help collaborative leaders build more informed, inclusive, transparent, and effective processes.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network
Shawn Johnson, University of Montana
How Systems Shape Us (and Vice Versa)
We live in a world of intersecting and overlapping systems. While these systems shape and influence the way we interact, we have the ability to use our understanding of systems to affect the way they behave. This session will highlight how a systems and network lens can inform collaborative approaches to landscape-scale issues and demonstrate how a systems worldview can assist collaborative leaders.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Dylan Skybrook, Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network

Implementing the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework during a global pandemic
Through a systematic approach, the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework (PAMF) engages Phragmites managers throughout the Great Lakes Basin to develop best management practices and provide site-specific management guidance that is based on the results of past management efforts. PAMF is now in its fourth iterative cycle and includes data from hundreds of management units held by private, local, state, provincial, and federal partners across the Great Lakes Basin. PAMF participants were provided the opportunity to attend trainings and utilize in-field assistance to enroll their sites. The COVID-19 pandemic presents new challenges for running a participatory science program, which frequently relies on in-person engagement. This presentation will focus on reflections from adapting learning and engagement approaches to a virtual setting, as well as the latest Phragmites management outcomes from the program.

Samantha Tank, Great Lakes Commission

Intersections and Integrations: Building DEI and Cross-Cultural Competency
Collaborative leadership relies on a core set of principles and values, key among them being inclusivity and solidarity to address shared challenges and opportunities. This session will highlight ways to build awareness and capacity to effectively work across cultures and collaborate authentically with historically marginalized communities.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Yakuta Poonawalla, Golden Gate Parks Conservancy
Kevin Wright, Marin County

Introduction to Michigan’s Wild Rice Initiative
After decades of leaving wild rice management to Native American tribes, state officials in Michigan formed the Wild Rice Initiative to track how wild rice issues intersect with some government agencies. The Michigan Wild Rice Initiative (MWRI) is a collaboration of the State of Michigan and the twelve federally recognized tribes within Michigan.

Manoomin is an important food source and cultural touchpoint for the Anishinaabe people. Manoomin translates to “the good berry” in Ojibwe. Wherever possible, Ojibwe communities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan have retained their connections to this important plant, and many continue to cultivate and harvest manoomin each year. In recent years, tribal groups and partners have worked to bolster wild rice populations so future generations can continue harvesting and enjoying this important natural and cultural resource.

In this session you will learn about the MWRI, its background, coordination, what initiated its formation, who’s involved, the goals, objectives, subcommittees, and what you can do to help.

Roger LaBine, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Barb Barton, Endangered Species Consulting

Invasive Species control in the Midwest
Originally developed as training for our new conservation crew members, this is a basic overview of the main invasive species, the techniques, differentiating from look-a-likes, and nuances I’ve picked up working in the field.

Amy Lipson, City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation

Lake Superior Manoomin Cultural and Ecosystem Characterization Study
Manoomin (wild rice) is integral to the culture, livelihood, and identity of the Anishinaabe within Canada and the United States. Manoomin grows only in the clear waters of the Gich-miinoogigigan (The Great Spirits Garden). The arrival of the Anishinaabe to the Great Lakes Basin was in fulfillment of the prophecy that guided their migration from the Atlantic Northeast westward toward the Great Lakes to where “food...
Landscape connectivity and conservation: Concepts, approaches, and examples

Landscape connectivity is the degree to which a landscape promotes movement. Connectivity is a key concept in ecology because better-connected landscapes can support a greater number of species, lower rates of extinction, and facilitate ecological processes, such as hydrology. Not surprisingly, connectivity is also an important consideration for stewardship in fragmented landscapes. But how does connectivity work and what approaches, such as corridors, are available to practitioners looking to promote landscape connectivity? In this talk, we will overview the concept of landscape connectivity and describe approaches for promoting connectivity during landscape-scale stewardship efforts. We will then provide an overview of how connectivity is being incorporated into landscape-scale conservation planning in southwest Michigan, where goals focus on promoting water quality, biological diversity, and resiliency in the face of global change.

Lars Brudvig, Michigan State University
Mitch Lettow, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

Lessons for Community Engagement from Ontario’s Battle over Bottled Water

The Wellington Water Watchers (WWW) is a leading organization in Ontario’s battle over groundwater taking for commercial bottling. In this presentation, Robert Case, Chair of the Board of WWW and an Associate Professor in Social Development Studies, describes the evolution of the opposition to for-profit water bottling in Ontario and in combination with the related academic literature draws from it critical insights, quandaries and questions for the building and sustaining of community engagement and democratic participation in policy-making and water stewardship. Anyone interested and/or involved in grassroots mobilization on water/environmental issues is invited to attend to share their experiences, insights and challenges in the discussion session following Rob’s presentation.

Robert Case, Renison University College and Wellington Water Watchers

Nature Photography

For conservationists and stewards of our environment, communication about our work is an essential skill. Now, more than ever, compelling images of the places we love are an important part of how we engage with our community, raise funds for our work, and inspire others to action. This session will introduce you to the fundamentals of exposure in manual photography set against the backdrop of wildlife and landscape image making. Designed for beginners who have not ventured away from the automatic setting of their cameras to the experienced photographer interested in seeing a new approach, this session will include example scenarios from summer to winter; from owls and wetlands. The session will improve your literacy in manual camera operation, lens and equipment choices, and more.

Zachary Branigan, Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy
Navigating Complexity, Conflict and Change

Working on complex issues with multiple people and interests is challenging, and conflicts will surely arise. This session explores the origins and drivers of conflict as a way to help collaborative leaders better understand complexity, respond to change, and remain focused on the broader needs, interests, and concerns of your diverse community.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Dylan Skybrook, Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network
Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network

Operating a volunteer-driven, landowner-focused CWMA
Most CWMAs are organized and run by a combination of governmental units and non-profits. Most of them at least started by focusing on the lands owned or operated by the founders. The Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) was the first CWMA formed in Virginia (in 2014). From its beginning it has sought to motivate and educate the tens of thousands of landowners in its 10-county territory to take action to remove invasive plants. In the last 5 years the PRISM has generated over a million dollars in federal awards and grants to provide financial assistance to landowners. This presentation discusses the successes of the PRISM and how other interested groups could do the same. The PRISM itself has received no government funding and is run by volunteer landowners.

Roderick Walker, Blue Ridge PRISM

Reconnecting People and Floodplains: The Social and Ecological Restoration of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Michigan

The Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge is a floodplain where four tributaries merge to form a coastal wetland. The Shiawassee floodplain system has long been disconnected from the river channels with miles of dikes. This landscape alteration shifted the land cover from lowland forests and wetlands to agricultural and urban development; which has disrupted Shiawassee’s ecosystem services and degraded the habitat quality for both vegetation and wildlife. In line with the goals of the Refuge staff to protect this crucial wetland habitat, our project focuses on the completion of data analyses from previous monitoring efforts and continuation of restoration work. The ecological restoration consists of both traditional fieldwork and the exploration of utilizing an ARIS sonar camera to further inform the work. This presentation provides a summary of our progress, presents the findings, and discusses the future directionality and capabilities of the ARIS camera.

Julia Dellick, Jon Gorter, Anna Greenberg, Xinmiao Liu, and Maria Salem, University of Michigan

Collaborating Well is pleased to present a track at The Stewardship Network’s conference.

Join us in Room 4 to learn more about the collaborative leadership mindset and skill set.
If you are interested in learning more about Collaborating Well visit collaboratingwell.org or email info@collaboratingwell.org.
HABITAT GUARDIAN

The Collaborating Well Initiative
Contributing partners:
California Landscape Network
California State University, Sacramento
Golden Gates National Parks Conservancy
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Network for Landscape Conservation
One Tam/Marin County Parks
Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network
The Stewardship Network
University of Montana

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NORTH AMERICAN INVESTMENT SERVICE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Friends of the Network

Appel Environmental Design
Geum Services, Inc
Huron River Watershed Council

Michigan Wildflower Farm
Monroe Boat Association
Ottawa County Parks and Recreation
Restoring the Jay Meadow and Gardens in New York
Kevin Peraino, executive director of the Jay Estate, a 23-acre National Historic Landmark on the shore of Long Island Sound, will discuss how the site is restoring its historic meadow and gardens. The property, which was once the home of Founding Father, jurist, peacemaker, and anti-slavery advocate John Jay, is also the site of an 8,000- to 10,000-year-old meadow that has included artifacts dating back to Paleo-Indian times. Today the landscape is being restored with capital projects including a million-dollar public garden installation (designed by Thomas Woltz) and a meadow of native pollinators.

Kevin Peraino, Jay Heritage Center

Something Is Right: Collaborative Leaders
In the face of complex challenges and diverse, competing interests, collaborative leaders are finding ways to bridge divides, leverage diverse resources and abilities, and stitch together coalitions of people and organizations that are addressing some of today’s most critical conservation and stewardship challenges. This session will highlight trends in collaborative stewardship, showcase notable success stories, and invite participants to imagine the future of this growing and evolving field.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Sharon Farrell, Golden Gate Parks Conservancy
Kevin Wright, Marin County, CA
Shawn Johnson, University of Montana
Lisa Brush, The Stewardship Network

Restoring Midwest Oak Openings
The Oak Openings Region is a globally-unique ecosystem stretching across 1300 square miles of northwestern Ohio and southeastern Michigan. It contains rare natural communities including lakeplain wet prairies, black oak/lupine barrens, and mesic sand tallgrass prairies. From 2020-2022, TNC and its partners are restoring nearly 3500 acres of land that have become degraded due to the encroachment of invasive plant species. TNC’s Oak Openings Interagency Restoration Team uses methods such as forestry mowing, brush cutting, foliar and cut-stump herbicide application, prescribed fire, and planting native vegetation to restore natural communities in the region. Rare species that may benefit from this work include blazing star borer moth, lark sparrow, and Karner blue butterfly. This presentation will provide an overview of TNC’s current restoration projects in the Oak Openings Region.

Peter Blank, The Nature Conservancy

Something Isn’t Right: The Need for Collaborative Training
We see the challenges facing our communities and landscapes and know we must find a new way to care for our planet and one another. This session explores the challenges and opportunities we face to build healthier, more resilient places where people and nature can thrive. Specific topics will include the impacts of siloed thinking and institutions, growing mistrust in public officials, and a need to address systemic racism and injustice.

Collaborating Well Thought Leadership Group
Shawn Johnson, University of Montana
Amy Mickel, Sacramento State University
Devin Landry, California Landscape Stewardship Network

Stewardship from Scratch
Learn how Friends of the St. Clair River is getting creative and adapting our recipe for success when Mother Nature has other plans. We began the story of our stewardship program with one habitat restoration project, a dozen volunteers, and a caring, connected community. Over a five-year period, we added more than 100 volunteers, additional staff, a dedicated board of directors, increased organizational capacity and several projects. We continued to stir vigorously and added record high water levels, a couple of funding freezes and one pandemic. While there is no cookbook for starting or sustaining a stewardship program, there are things we can do to remain flexible, relevant, safe, hopeful and fun. Friends of the St. Clair River is committed to inspiring citizen action to restore, protect and enhance the St. Clair River and its watersheds around the Thumb Coast of Michigan through stewardship, monitoring and education.

Kirsten Lyons, Friends of the St. Clair River

Stewardship Network 2021 Conference
The Biological Diversity of Michigan State Parks
Michigan state parks protect a surprising amount of the native biological diversity of our state. Sixty-three of the 77 different natural community types found in Michigan (Michigan Natural Features Inventory classification) are well represented with 351 exemplary natural community occurrences. Our state parks are home to 256 different endangered, threatened, and special concern species, as well as many animal Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Come explore Michigan’s natural heritage as we visit the Krumholz bedrock shoreline of Fort Wilkins Historic State Park, the sinkholes of Rockport Recreation Area, the virgin beech-maple forest of Warren Woods, and many, many more.

Ray Fahlsing, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Using Survey 1-2-3 for field assessment and engagement: From pollinator habitat to ecological integrity
Assessing local-scale habitat features is essential for prioritizing land protection and restoration efforts. However, to get enough information to make landscape-level decisions requires having many parcel or habitat-level assessments. To what extent is that feasible? They would need to be relatively easy and quick to do, and possibly tap into volunteers and citizen scientists. We will present 2 cases of the application of Survey 1-2-3, a mobile device tool, to accomplish two different assessments: pollinator habitat quality in suburban settings to support Bee Campus USA certification of the UM campus, and ecological integrity of natural areas as part of the Huron River Watershed Council Natural Areas Assessment Program. These 2 cases illustrate lessons learned of using Survey 1-2-3 not only to assess a site on a rich set of questions, but to simultaneously engage and educate the data collector. We welcome discussion with others who have used the same or similar tools.

Sheila Schueller, Zhelin Li, and Colin Welk, University of Michigan

STEW-MAP: Case studies of tool development for getting to know your network of local stakeholders and cultivating support
Researchers at the USDA Forest Service developed a methodology to answer the question “how do we understand the social, spatial and temporal interactions among actors working on stewardship” or in other words...who takes care of our city or region? Over the past decade, the stewardship mapping and assessment project, or STEW-MAP has been adapted and applied in over 13 locations around the world. In this session, we will briefly introduce the STEW-MAP approach and share some of the ways that natural resource specialists have worked to assess, map, and organize with civic actors in their communities. Presenters will reflect on their direct experience using STEW-MAP and related social network and civic mapping tools.

Sophie Plitt, US Forest Service Northern Research Station

The Advantages and Disadvantages of Volunteers in Reforestation Efforts
Reforestation is an important part of Metroparks Toledo’s mission to restore its lands to their natural state. Due to the large requirement of time, labor, and resources we started utilizing volunteers in 2015 to ease the burden on the park district and community. In the five years since volunteers started to be regularly recruited for planting projects we have had 450 individual and group volunteers contribute a little over 1,400 hours. These volunteers have helped us re-introduce 50 acres of native deciduous species, employing several planting techniques at most stages of the planting process. Recruiting community members can be beneficial in the completion of the project as well as the individual investment of the project site, but it is also not without its challenges. Using the insight provided by our experiences, we will identify the advantages and disadvantages in utilizing those volunteers in our reforestation efforts.

Meredith Busic and Brandon Perry, Metroparks Toledo

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Meredith Busic and Brandon Perry, Metroparks Toledo

The Biological Diversity of Michigan State Parks
Michigan state parks protect a surprising amount of the native biological diversity of our state. Sixty-three of the 77 different natural community types found in Michigan (Michigan Natural Features Inventory classification) are well represented with 351 exemplary natural community occurrences. Our state parks are home to 256 different endangered, threatened, and special concern species, as well as many animal Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Come explore Michigan’s natural heritage as we visit the Krumholz bedrock shoreline of Fort Wilkins Historic State Park, the sinkholes of Rockport Recreation Area, the virgin beech-maple forest of Warren Woods, and many, many more.

Ray Fahlsing, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Using Survey 1-2-3 for field assessment and engagement: From pollinator habitat to ecological integrity
Assessing local-scale habitat features is essential for prioritizing land protection and restoration efforts. However, to get enough information to make landscape-level decisions requires having many parcel or habitat-level assessments. To what extent is that feasible? They would need to be relatively easy and quick to do, and possibly tap into volunteers and citizen scientists. We will present 2 cases of the application of Survey 1-2-3, a mobile device tool, to accomplish two different assessments: pollinator habitat quality in suburban settings to support Bee Campus USA certification of the UM campus, and ecological integrity of natural areas as part of the Huron River Watershed Council Natural Areas Assessment Program. These 2 cases illustrate lessons learned of using Survey 1-2-3 not only to assess a site on a rich set of questions, but to simultaneously engage and educate the data collector. We welcome discussion with others who have used the same or similar tools.

Sheila Schueller, Zhelin Li, and Colin Welk, University of Michigan

STEW-MAP: Case studies of tool development for getting to know your network of local stakeholders and cultivating support
Researchers at the USDA Forest Service developed a methodology to answer the question “how do we understand the social, spatial and temporal interactions among actors working on stewardship” or in other words...who takes care of our city or region? Over the past decade, the stewardship mapping and assessment project, or STEW-MAP has been adapted and applied in over 13 locations around the world. In this session, we will briefly introduce the STEW-MAP approach and share some of the ways that natural resource specialists have worked to assess, map, and organize with civic actors in their communities. Presenters will reflect on their direct experience using STEW-MAP and related social network and civic mapping tools.

Sophie Plitt, US Forest Service Northern Research Station

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Sheila Schueller, Zhelin Li, and Colin Welk, University of Michigan
**Water for Any Farm**
We’re surrounded on all sides by so many enormous problems that solving any of them almost seems like an impossible task. This workshop will showcase some simple USDA approved agricultural practices that can eliminate up to 90% of all surface runoff and non-point source pollution, reduce toxic algae blooms and contaminated drinking water, while simultaneously sequestering carbon, creating pollinator habitat and diversifying income streams from the land.

Mark Shepard, Restoration Agriculture Development

**Working the Woods While Becoming Future Environmental Leaders**
See what Calvin University students have been up to the past 30+ years to care for the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens (CEPNG). The CEPNG—a 104 acre nature preserve within Calvin University’s urban campus— is dedicated to protecting and caring for their lands through restoration, field research, education and community engagement. Join Jen Howell (Land Manager) as she describes the hands-on land management practices she introduces to students to properly care for the preserve while enhancing student credentials and confidence. Then hear from current student employees as they share their personal involvement in developing new invertebrate species monitoring and cartography projects this past summer.

Jen Howell, Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens
Evalyn Bailey, Nathan Hilbrands, Betty Kliwer, and Micah Meindertsma, Calvin University

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**EXCITING NEWS!**
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- Access to PlayCleanGo education and outreach materials
- Discounts on events and prevention tools
- Professional development, events, and online training
- Access a network of invasive species management professionals across North America

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POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday 6:30 PM EST

1. Vascular Plant Analysis of Ecosystems on the Rouge River Floodplain of the University of Michigan-Dearborn:
   Orin Gelderloos, University of Michigan - Dearborn
   Griffin Bray, University of Michigan - Dearborn

2. Cayuga Lake Monitoring Program, A Tributary of Lake Ontario
   Cedric Mason, Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now
   Stephanie Redmond, Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now

3. Developing Modified Airborne eDNA Detection Techniques for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (Adelges tsugae)
   Meg Sanders, Grand Valley State University
   Charlyn Partridge, Grand Valley State University

4. Quantifying Carbon Storage with Remote Sensing Techniques
   Jackie Edinger, University of Michigan
   Jessica Einck, University of Michigan
   Sebastian Kasparian, University of Michigan
   Lavran Pagano, University of Michigan

EVENING ACTIVITIES

Water Ceremony

Wednesday 6PM EST
Beatrice Menasé Kwe Jackson
Traditional Healing Consultant, bealivetraditions.com
Join us as Beatrice Jackson leads us through this traditional practice that continues to be a deeply cherished and meaningful part of our annual gathering. You will be guided through the mental, physical, and spiritual connection to water as we collectively honor this sacred gift through song, movement, and contemplation. As we dedicate our lives to the betterment of the natural world and connections with one another, we take this time to appreciate water’s role in the universe, flowing endlessly through ourselves and everything around us. “When a prayer is said and a song is sung, the water becomes sacred, and can heal body, mind, and spirit.” While this traditionally takes place on the banks of the Red Cedar River, Bea will guide us through the ceremony and song online. Please have a glass of water for this ceremony.

Stewardship Story Slam

Thursday 6:30PM EST
Session Room
Patricia Wheeler, Storyteller
Please join us for an open-mic storytelling competition. Open to anyone at the conference with a true five-minute story to share on the theme, Pivot - as it relates to nature and your relationship with the natural world. Tell us about a time you had to make a quick change. When you had to go the other direction, change course, change your view on things. Eight tellers will be chosen at random and will be judged by the audience. Come tell a story, or just enjoy the show!

EXPO HALL

Be sure to visit the Expo Hall throughout the conference. You can hop in there at any time to visit the book sale, our beautiful photography competition slideshow, go on virtual field trips, listen to the amazing sounds of ecoacoustics, stretch and feel rejuvenated with yoga, and so much more. Enter by clicking the Expo button on the left side of your hop in screen.

The Stewardship Network Conference 2021 Virtual Book Sale IS LIVE!

Visit the Schuler Books website below to view our curated selection of titles. 20% of your purchase will go towards The Stewardship Network when you use the code “STEWARD” at check-out (valid until 1/30).

www.schulerbooks.com/stewardship-network-conference