

15th Annual MiCorps Volunteer Monitoring Conference & Training at the Kettunen Center



CRYSTAL ANNIVERSARY

NOVEMBER 19, 2019 • KETTUNEN CENTER • 14901 4-H DRIVE, TUSTIN, MI

**** All Overnight Guests Should Check-In with the Front Desk in the Main Lodge Building Upon Arrival ****

Monday, November 18th (Optional Pre-Conference Events)

Guests planning to arrive on Monday should reserve their onsite lodging and meals (dinner on 11/18, breakfast on 11/19), if needed, via our [online registration form](#). These items are available for an additional cost and are not included in the conference registration fee.

5:30 – 6:30 pm **Dinner** (Main Lodge, Dining Room) – *Please use our [online registration form](#) to reserve your seat.*

7:30 – 10:00 pm **Reception and Networking** (Main Lodge, Lobby and Deck)
Please join us for refreshments, conversation, and a bonfire at the lake (weather permitting). Participants are welcome to bring a favorite board game or group activity to share.

Tuesday, November 19th (Conference)

7:30 am **Breakfast** (Main Lodge, Dining Room) – *Please use our [online registration form](#) to reserve your seat.*

8:15 am **Conference Registration and Check-In** (Mawby Learning Center, Downstairs Lobby)

9:00 am **Welcoming Remarks and Introductions** (Mawby Learning Center, Lakeview Room)
Marcy Knoll Wilmes, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

9:30 am **Keynote: Utilizing Restoration Best Practices and Citizen Science to Protect Cold-water Resources in Michigan**
Jeremy Geist, Trout Unlimited

With over twenty percent of the Earth's available surface freshwater flowing through its rivers, streams and lakes; the Great Lakes basin is an unparalleled natural resource. An immense network of cold-water rivers and streams exist, among other important aquatic ecosystems such as inland lakes and wetlands. Despite the often pristine conditions found throughout the region, opportunities exist for restoration, enhancement and protection of these resources. Past and present human disturbances, invasive species, along with the predicted patterns of climate change pose a threat to cold-water ecosystem integrity and resiliency. This talk will describe the work Trout Unlimited (TU) is doing to address threats to cold-water systems in the region, and how TU and area partners are using science driven restoration techniques and citizen scientists to improve watershed connectivity, resiliency and habitat.

10:30 am **Break / Move into Breakout Sessions**

10:50 am Breakout Session (Sessions will be held concurrently. Participants may attend one session.)

<p>Option A: (Mawby Learning Center, Lakeview Room)</p>	<p>We're monitoring our lake, now what? Next Steps after Lake Monitoring <i>Moderator: Erick Elgin, MiCorps Staff, Michigan State University Extension</i></p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Erick Elgin, MiCorps Staff, Michigan State University Extension</i> • <i>John Bauman, Michigan DNR</i> • <i>Julia Kirkwood, Michigan EGLE</i> • <i>John Stivers, Stony Lake Property Owners Association (Oceana County)</i> <p>This session will focus on how volunteers can use their MiCorps data to better understand their lake, share the story of their lake's conditions, and encourage lake-friendly actions. Panelists will represent a broad range of perspectives and expertise on lake monitoring and conservation. Please bring your questions!</p>
<p>Option B: (Main Lodge Lower Level, Ford Room)</p>	<p>In-Stream Monitoring: Emerging Issues and Challenges <i>Moderator: Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council</i></p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Paul Steen, HRWC - Microplastic monitoring</i> • <i>Dr. Marty Holtgren, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly - Lake sturgeon monitoring</i> <p>This session will include brief overviews of two monitoring efforts that are currently assessing emerging issues of interest within our region. Learn more about their progress, challenges they've faced, and how some of their efforts and results might be applicable to your own watershed.</p>

12:00 pm Lunch (Main Lodge, Dining Room) – ***Included in conference registration fee.***
To keep the networking opportunities going throughout the day, each lunch table will have an identified theme for discussions. Please select a topic of interest and meet some new people with similar interests and goals!

1:00 pm Training Workshops (Workshops will be held concurrently. Participants may attend one workshop.)

<p>Option A: (Mawby Learning Center, Lakeview Room)</p>	<p>Plants of Michigan's Lakes and Streams <i>Erick Elgin, MiCorps Staff, Michigan State University Extension</i></p> <p>We'll start with an introduction to the diversity and ecology of aquatic plants of our lakes and streams – Michigan's underwater forests! You'll discover tools and tips for identifying these plants and be guided through hands-on practice with fresh and pressed specimens. You'll learn how to identify invasive aquatic plants and distinguish them from their native look-alikes, and explore many of the more common native plants of our lakes and streams. We'll also discuss ways to stop the spread of invasive plants during monitoring and recreational activities.</p>
<p>Option B: (Main Lodge Lower Level, Ford Room)</p>	<p>Insect Identification <i>Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council</i></p> <p>Both beginners and advanced volunteers are welcome to attend this combined session. Participants will meet for discussion and tips on identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates. First, there will be a rapid review of identifying macroinvertebrates at the order level. Then, Dr. Steen will put a specific emphasis on identifying mayflies and stoneflies to the family level. Participants will practice identification skills on all different kinds of aquatic macroinvertebrates with microscopes and preserved specimens. Participants are welcome to bring their own microscopes.</p>

Register Online: <https://micorps.net/resources/conference-registration/>

2:45 pm **Break / Move Back into Lakeview Room** (Mawby Learning Center)

3:05 pm **Volunteer Recruitment: Planning Ahead Pays Off!** (Mawby Learning Center, Lakeview Room)
Jason Frenzel, Huron River Watershed Council

Sometimes getting volunteers (or the right volunteers) in the door is extremely challenging. Starting with program development through recruitment and onboarding, this informal chat will provide plenty of ideas for improving your volunteer recruitment.

3:50 pm **Conference Wrap-Up and Evaluation**
Marcy Knoll Wilmes, EGLE

4:00 pm **Adjournment**