

ST. CROIX RIVER RESEARCH RENDEZVOUS

St. Croix Watershed Research Station | Science Museum of Minnesota
Wild Rivers Conservancy of the St. Croix and Namekagon



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

October 21, 2025

8:30 a.m. **Registration & Continental Breakfast** (30 minutes)

9:00 a.m. **INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Greg Gentle, Director, The Acreage at Osceola; Matt Poppleton, Executive Director, Wild Rivers Conservancy; Dr. Adam Heathcote, Director, Department of Water and Climate, Science Museum of Minnesota

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

9:10 a.m. **Minnesota's Greatest Environmental Investment** — Joy Ramstack Hobbs¹, Stephanie Long², Andy Kosier³, Jon Steinhorst⁴ : ¹Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station, ²Science Museum of Minnesota, Science Live Programs, ³Science Museum of Minnesota, Visitor Experience, ⁴Midwestern Workhorse LLC

SESSION 1: SIGNALS FROM THE RIVER – ECOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, & HISTORY (moderator Dr. Mark Edlund)

9:25 a.m. **Water Chemistry and Chironomidae of the St. Croix River: A Longitudinal Assessment of Seasonal and Spatial Distributions** — Alexander Egan¹, David Burge², Al Kirschbaum¹, Leonard C. Ferrington, Jr.³ : ¹National Park Service, Great Lakes Inventory & Monitoring Network, ²Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station, ³University of Minnesota

9:45 a.m. **Ancient Bison Remains Reflecting Multiple Ontogenetic Stages from the Sunrise River (Wyoming, Minnesota)** — Alex Hastings¹, Nicole Dzenowski¹ : ¹Science Museum of Minnesota, Department of Paleontology

10:05 a.m. **Waters and Wetlands Research Group: Long Term Monitoring of Valley Creek** — Dillon Clendenen¹, Lisa Peterson¹, Don Wendel¹, Jeffery Brenner¹, Michael Ramsey¹, Isabelle Knighton¹ : ¹Waters and Wetlands Research Group

10:25 a.m. **BREAK** (15 minutes)

SESSION 2: RESEARCHING NON-NATIVE SPECIES IN THE WATERSHED (moderator Dr. Erin Mittag)

10:40 a.m. **Using Plants to Control Buckthorn** — Mike Schuster^{1,2} : ¹University of Minnesota, Department of Forestry Resources, ²Hamline University, Biology Department

11:00 a.m. **Revegetation Provides Broad-Scale Efficacy to Inhibit the Growth of *Rhamnus cathartica* Seedlings Across the State of Minnesota** — Mark E. Fuka¹, Mike Schuster¹ : ¹University of Minnesota, Department of Forestry Resources

11:20 a.m. **Fungi Associated with Dying Invasive Buckthorn as Prospects for Biocontrol of Invasive Buckthorn in Minnesota** — Ryan D. M. Franke¹, Robert A. Blanchette¹ : ¹University of Minnesota, Department of Plant Pathology

11:40 a.m. **Got Rock Snot? What We've Learned from Lake Superior Tributaries to Protect St. Croix Trout Streams** — Kui Hu¹, Jackalyn Wyrobek¹, Mark B. Edlund¹, Heidi Rantala², David R.L. Burge^{1,3}, Adam J. Heathcote¹, Robert Pillsbury⁴, Mari Leland^{1,5} : ¹Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station, ²Minnesota Department of Natural Resources–Duluth, ³University of Minnesota, Natural Resources Research Institute, ⁴University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh, Department of Biology and Microbiology, ⁵Michigan Technological University, Department of Biological Sciences

NOON **POSTER SESSION** (15 minutes)

12:30 p.m. **LUNCH** — Provided cups, plates, and cutlery are compostable and/or ecofriendly. We encourage you to reduce waste by using the appropriate compost, recycle, and waste bins. (60 minutes)

SESSION 3: CONSERVATION AND FRESHWATER BIOLOGY

(moderator Dr. Lienne Sethna)

1:30 p.m. **Lake Sturgeon Monitoring in the Lower St. Croix River** — Dustin Schurrer¹: ¹Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

1:50 p.m. **American Bullfrogs in the St Croix and Beyond: Using eDNA Surveys to Detect Nonnative Amphibians in Minnesota** — Luke Tonsfeldt¹, Ken Kozak¹: ¹University of Minnesota

2:10 p.m. **Namekagon River Mussels: A Peek Below the Surface** — Abigail Charleson¹, Mark Hove¹, Marian Shaffer², Toben LaFrancois³, Byron Karns⁴, and Dan Hornbach⁵: ¹University of Minnesota, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, ²National Park Service—Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway, ³Burke Center for Ecosystem Research, ⁴One Pine Aquatic Resources Assessments, ⁵Macalester College, Department of Environmental Studies

2:30 p.m. **Meticulously Managing Minnesota’s Museum Mollusks for Maximal Mobilization** — Dakota M. Rowsey¹, Catherine M. Early¹: ¹Science Museum of Minnesota, Biology Department

2:50 p.m. **Rearing Zebra Mussels to Support Aquatic Invasive Species Control Research** — Ben Minerich^{1,2}, Seth Stapleton^{1,2}, John Gerritsen^{1,2}: ¹Minnesota Zoo, ²University of Minnesota, Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

3:10 p.m. **BREAK** (15 minutes)

SESSION 4: INNOVATIONS IN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

(moderator Dr. Adam Heathcote)

3:25 p.m. **Addressing 21st Century Challenges for the St. Croix** — Jason Ulrich¹, Mark Edlund¹: ¹Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station

3:45 p.m. **Forest Health in the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway: The Times They Are A-Changin’** — Michael Rhoades¹: ¹National Park Service, Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway

4:05 p.m. **EcoFIP: A Toolbox for Assessing Multi-benefit Floodplain Restoration Opportunities** — Luke Tillmann¹: ¹Verdantas Eco-engineering Department

4:25 p.m. **NutriSink: Not Just for Breakfast Anymore, A Spatial Prioritization Tool for Floodplain Restoration to Improve Water Quality** — Jeremy Williamson¹: ¹Verdantas Eco-Engineering Department

CLOSING REMARKS AND FROLIC/SOCIAL HOUR

4:45 p.m. **Final Notes** — Dr. Adam Heathcote, Director, Department of Water and Climate, Science Museum of Minnesota

4:50 p.m. Continue the day’s conversations at an informal networking and social hour (optional)

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL ST. CROIX RIVER RESEARCH RENDEZVOUS MATERIALS:



**PRESENTATION
ABSTRACTS**

**FREE VENUE WIFI
“Acreage Guests”**



**ATTENDEES
LIST**

(Limited paper supply at registration desk)

POSTER SESSION

Data Analysis and Monitoring Crew: Integrating UW Students in River Monitoring and Restoration Through the Support of the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin — Natalie Beyer¹, Robert Boss¹, Elliot Connelly¹, Michael Engstrom¹, Cass Hoffmann¹, Elijah Paik², El Popp¹, Emily Rose¹, Elizabeth Schwint¹, Bradley Wait¹ : ¹University of Wisconsin–River Falls, ²University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

Effective Control of Buckthorn Using Critical Period Cutting — Cece Chmelik¹, Sam Fox-Johnson², Mike Schuster² : ¹Hamline University, ²University of Minnesota

Freshwater Mussels - Public Engagement and Education Resources — Zoe Schroeder¹, Bernard Sietman¹, Isabel Boyce¹, Kathryn Holcomb¹, Jordan Holcomb¹, Zeb Secrist¹, Lindsay Ohlman¹ : ¹Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Center for Aquatic Mollusk Programs

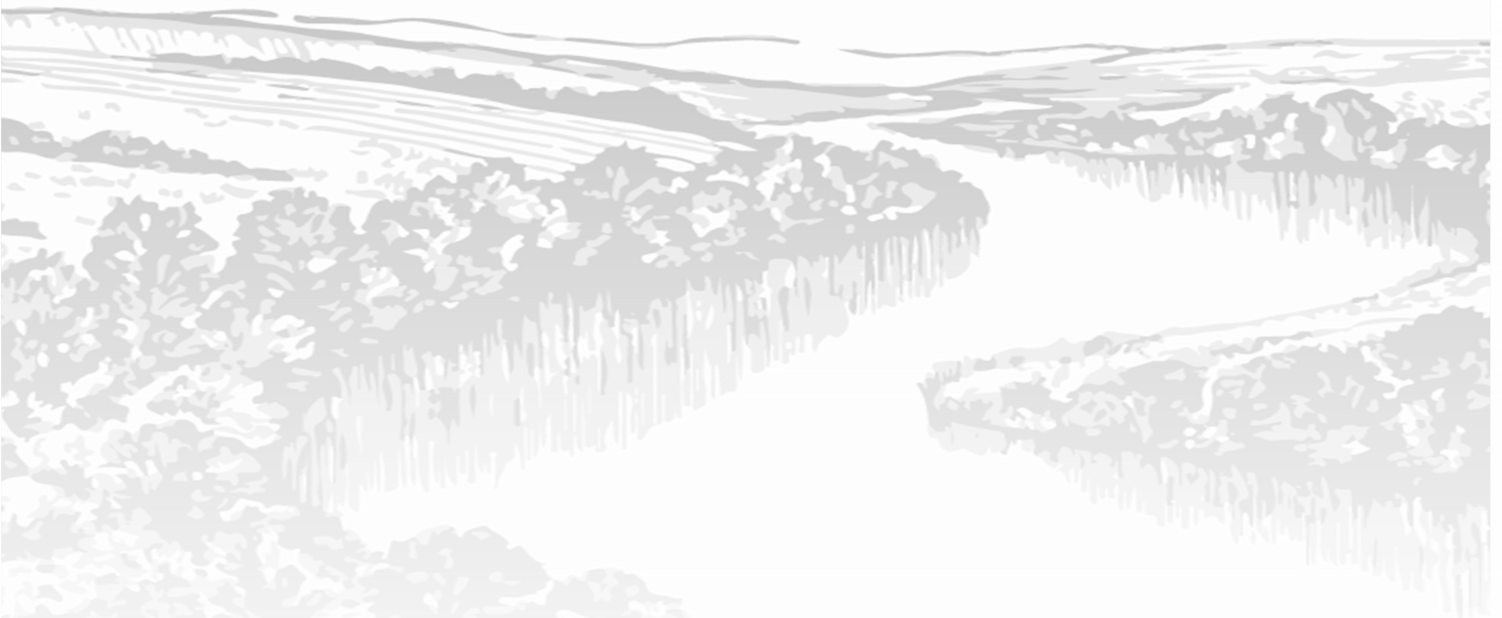
From the Field to the Lab: Successes and Strategies of the Connecting Opportunities for Research Experiences in the Geosciences (Core) Program — Kelsey Boeff¹, Joy Ramstack Hobbs¹, Robby Callahan Schreiber², Thulani Jwacu³, Zoe Plechaty¹, Evelyn Christian Ronning⁴, Lienne Sethna¹ : Science Museum of Minnesota – ¹St. Croix Watershed Research Station, ²Museum Access & Equity, ³Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center, ⁴Research and Evaluation

Interconnected Agriculture: How Perspective Impacts Sustainable Farming — Spencer Greenberg^{1,2,3} : ¹Science Museum of Minnesota, Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center, ²Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station, ³National Science Foundation

Microbial Analysis of Restored Prairie, Prairie Strip, and Crop Soils in Wisconsin — Lizzy Arrowood¹, Kevyn Juneau¹, Natasha Rayne², Lathadevi K. Chintapenta¹ : ¹University of Wisconsin–River Falls, ²University of Wisconsin–Madison

Pollinator Usage of Prairie Strips in Agricultural Production Fields in Western Wisconsin — Chloe King¹, Lathadevi K. Chintapenta¹, Natasha Rayne², Kevyn Juneau¹ : ¹University of Wisconsin–River Falls, ²University of Wisconsin–Madison

NOTES:



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