

Celebrate the *Sault Sainte Marie* UP

**UPPER PENINSULA
ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION**

September 16

Lake Superior State University
Walker Cisler Center
Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan



Saturday, September 16, 2017

Lake Superior State University

Walker Cisler Center

Plan Your Day

9 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Native American Drum Blessing ... Walker Cisler Center Entrance

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m

- The Tannery Site Clean-up:
A Local Environmental Success Story – Eventually Anchor Room

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

- The History of Bahweting from an Anishinabe PerspectiveAnchor Room
- Invasive Species in the Eastern Upper PeninsulaLake Huron Room
- Lake Superior and U.P. Water Trails..... Lake Erie Room

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- Sault Sainte Marie: City of the RapidsAnchor Room
- Islands and Wetlands of the St. Mary's River and
the Birds that Call Them Home..... Lake Huron Room
- LSSU Aquatic Research Laboratory's role in
Great Lakes Fisheries and Habitat Lake Erie Room

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

- Cleanup and Current Status of the St. Mary's RiverAnchor Room
- EUP Water Trails – Collaborations and Success Stories
Along the WayLake Huron Room
- Climate Change and Wildlife in the Eastern Upper Peninsula:
A Case Study Lake Erie Room

3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Closing Session.....Anchor Room

5 p.m. After Event Activities

- Lower River Island TourRotary Park
- Noticing Nature WalkBig Bear Arena
- Algonquin Park Bike Adventure Algonquin Park
- LSSU Aquatic Research Lab TourLSSU ARL

Celebrate the UP

Sault Sainte Marie

UPPER PENINSULA ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

Co-sponsored by UPEC and the EUP's Sierra Club chapter, Three Lakes Group.

9 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. *Native American Drum Blessing*

—Joseph Medicine..... Walker Cisler Center Entrance

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. *Opening Session*

The Tannery Site Clean-up:

A Local Environmental Success Story – EventuallyAnchor Room

—Greg Zimmeman, LSSU Biology Professor

Professor Zimmerman will review the timeline and process of the Northwestern Leather Company or “tannery” site cleanup, a sometimes slow-moving but eventual success story of restoring a formerly contaminated area of the St. Mary’s River.

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. *First Round of Informational Sessions*

The History of Bahweting from an Anishinabe PerspectiveAnchor Room

—Aaron Payment, Tribal Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Bahweting is the Anishinabe mowin (Ojibwe) word for the popping sound of the water cresting on what was once the rapids where Lake Superior and the St. Mary’s River connect. The Anishinabeg have lived in this territory since time immemorial. As various US American Indian policies have changed, so too have the conditions and quality of life of the original and indigenous inhabitants. As a region needed for settlement much earlier than other parts of what would become the United States, the Bahweting Anishinabeg lived a parallel existence in the Sault (French for rapids). Some of the Anishinabeg mixed with the French and other races early such that the territory was shared long before other settlements. This was not without conflict and struggle, however, as latent and overt racism ensued. The story of Bahweting, however, is one of empowerment and eventual compromise with a mutually respectful and shared co-existence as a community to this day.

***Invasive Species in the Eastern Upper Peninsula* Lake Huron Room**

—Nick Cassel, Invasive Species Program Coordinator for the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District

Mr. Cassel will discuss the importance of managing top priority invasive species found in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Proper identification and management strategies will be discussed as well as the Three Shores Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA), which is a partnership of federal, state, tribal, and private entities strategically working together to manage these species.

***Lake Superior and U.P. Water Trails* Lake Erie Room**

—Wayne Barry, retired Lansing Community College instructor and community advocate

—Joanie McGuffin, Administrator of the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy and long-time Lake Superior paddler and author

Ms. McGuffin will highlight LSWC’s 5-year project in partnership with Trans Canada Trail to build and connect a 600-mile section of the Lake Superior Water Trail along the Canadian North Shore between Whitefish Bay and Thunder Bay. This connection is part of two superlative trails: 1) The Great Trail, an 18,000 mile ocean to ocean to ocean trail across Canada and 2)The total Lake Superior Water Trail encircling the greatest expanse of freshwater on Earth. This trail has been an opportunity for LSWC to develop partnerships basin-wide for the health and well-being of the Lake Superior watershed.

Mr. Barry’s presentation builds on the international aspect of this water trail project. He and his wife Joanne undertook research trips to gather the existing American Lake Superior Water Trail data in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota for LSWC to build the connection between nations and truly make this an international “Appalachian Trail of Water Trails.”

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch break

Lunch can be purchased from the LSSU Quarterdeck cafeteria

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Second Round of Informational Sessions

***Sault Sainte Marie: City of the Rapids*Anchor Room**

—Bernie Arbic, author of City of the Rapids

Professor Arbic will show that much of the history of the Sault Ste. Marie area, from pre-European times to the present, is related to the St. Mary’s River, and especially to the rapids which gave our city its name.

Islands and Wetlands of the St. Mary's River and the Birds that Call Them Home [Lake Huron Room](#)

—Elliot Nelson, Extension Educator with Michigan Sea Grant

The islands and wetlands found in the Great Lakes near Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula are some of the most pristine and ecologically important in all of the Great Lakes. Many of the islands are home to large colonies of threatened or endangered bird species. In addition, the rich wetlands host a unique mix of secretive marsh birds. Mr. Nelson will explore some of the research on birds in the St. Mary's region and look at why these islands and wetlands are so important to them.

LSSU Aquatic Research Laboratory's role in Great Lakes Fisheries and habitat.....[Lake Erie Room](#)

—Ashley Moerke, LSSU Biological Sciences Professor

—Kevin Kapuscinski, LSSU Biological Sciences Professor

Lake Superior State University's Aquatic Research Laboratory has been rearing Atlantic salmon and conducting research in the Great Lakes basin for more than 30 years. Drs. Moerke and Kapuscinski, who are co-directors of the lab, will highlight several projects, including the recovery of lake sturgeon in the St. Mary's River, the role and status of coastal wetlands in the upper Great Lakes, and the recent restoration of the Little Rapids area near Sugar Island. Additionally, they will share the plans to renovate and expand the lab into the Center for Freshwater Research, a new facility that will enable LSSU to be a leader in protection and management of water resources in the Great Lakes basin.

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Third Round of Informational Sessions

Cleanup and Current Status of the St. Mary's River[Anchor Room](#)

—Paula Antunes, Senior Research Scientist at AquaTox Testing & Consulting and member of the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC)

—Lisa Derickx, Remedial Action Plan Coordinator for the St. Mary's River, Algoma University

The St. Mary's River is a beautiful waterway that is well recognized for its rapids and productive fishing grounds, which have been a traditional meeting place for generations. Unfortunately, early urban and industrial development had a massive deleterious impact on the multiple beneficial uses of the river. Dr. Antunes and Mrs. Derickx will explain what these impacts were, what has been done to mitigate them, and what challenges lie ahead. They will also discuss the role that community involvement and multi-stakeholder collaboration has played in bringing life back to the river.

EUP Water Trails –

Collaborations and Success Stories Along the Way Lake Huron Room

—Ellen Benoit, Eastern U.P. Regional Planning and Development Commission

—Dennis Dougherty, retired Sault Area Public Schools science teacher and community advocate

Ms. Benoit and Mr. Dougherty will highlight the development of the Eastern Upper Peninsula water trails in Lake Superior, the St. Mary’s River and Lake Huron, detailing the 600 mile multi-national / multi-state water trails. They will showcase the inter-active map website, and discuss the successful local achievements and future collaboration plans.

Climate Change and Wildlife in the Eastern Upper Peninsula:

A Case Study Lake Erie Room

—Eric Clark, lead biologist for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Inland Fish and Wildlife Department

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has been developing adaptive management frameworks for a variety of northwoods wildlife species with a focus on those that are culturally important and vulnerable to climate change. Since 2012, Sault Tribe has been researching American marten and snowshoe hare, logging over 20,000 trap/nights to assess their populations in the EUP. Clark will discuss the cultural and ecological importance of these species and some highlights of the research.

3 p.m - 4 p.m. Closing Session Anchor Room

In this brief panel discussion, local advocates will discuss their personal experiences with advocacy, and what all of us can do to get more involved.

Presenter Biographies



Paula Antunes Ph.D. is a senior research scientist at AquaTox Testing & Consulting Inc. and adjunct faculty at Algoma University. Her background is in environmental toxicology and chemistry, with a specialization in metal speciation and development of risk assessment models. She has worked on projects developing water quality guidelines, new biological test methods, contaminated sediment sampling and assessment and remediation of contaminated sites, including those associated with the St. Mary's River Area of Concern. She has volunteered with the Binational Public Advisory Council to assist with the Remedial Action Plan for the St. Mary's River since 2009 and is a past board member of the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition. Antunes is an avid outdoors person who places high value on environmental protection and sustainability, urban and rural agriculture and environmental education.



Bernie Arbic Ph.D. grew up in Sault Ste. Marie. He started teaching mathematics in Northern Nigeria in 1962, and has also taught at the secondary level in Rumford, Maine. Most of his academic career was at Lake Superior State University. He has written several local history books, including the Sugar Island Sampler (1992), City of the Rapids: Sault Ste. Marie's Heritage (2001), and Upbound Downbound: The Story of the Soo Locks (2005); the last with co-author Nancy Steinhaus.



Born and raised in Muskegon, **Wayne Barry** retired in the Eastern U.P. after a career with Lansing Community College as a Technical Careers instructor. He works on hiking/walking, paddling and bicycling resources, and is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Non-motorized Transportation Committee, the Building Healthy Communities Coalition, and founder of the Sault Ste. Marie Area Recreation Trails Group. He and his wife participate in almost every kind of on-the-water activity on the Great Lakes, including paddling, sailing, power boating, swimming and camping.



Ellen Benoit has worked with policy and program development with the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning and Development Commission since 1987. She supervises planners and clerical staff, coordinates research and analysis and data compilation, and administers the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs regional regranting program for the Eastern U.P. She also plays an integral role in transportation planning, coastal zone management, trails initiatives and hazard mitigation planning programs. She holds a degree in business data processing from Lake Superior State University.



For nearly six years, **Nick Cassel**, the invasive species program coordinator for the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District, has managed terrestrial and aquatic invasive species found in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula. He has a B.S. in Wildlife Management from Lake Superior State University and has worked all over the country for natural resources entities including the Michigan DNR, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He coordinates management of invasive species, such as garlic mustard and phragmites, on both public and private lands, by working with more than 40 partners and working with committees to assure proper monitoring, mapping, treatment, and restoration is taking place across all jurisdictional boundaries within Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac counties.



Eric Clark has been the lead biologist for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Inland Fish and Wildlife Dept. since 2008. He is also working on his Ph.D. in the Applied Forest and Wildlife Ecology Laboratory at Michigan State University. His research interests are focused on wildlife population interactions with landscape processes and climate. He lives in Sault Ste. Marie, Mi. with his wife Robin and two daughters, Lillian and Miriam, and is an avid ruffed grouse hunter and trout fisherman.



Lisa Derickx completed her bachelor's degree at Carleton University in environmental science with a concentration in biology and a keen interest in ecology. She has worked for various environmental organizations in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, including Corridors for Life, Testmark Laboratories, Natural Resources Canada, the Invasive Species Research Institute, Sault College and Algoma University. She is primary author of *A guide to the identification and control of invasive species in Ontario's hardwood forests* (2013) and is the Remedial Action Plan Coordinator for the St. Mary's River Area of Concern.



Denny Dougherty is a retired Sault Area Public Schools science teacher who is well known for his work in community projects. He has been project coordinator for Sault Ste. Marie's Project Park since 1992, as well as coordinator for the Sault Schools Natural Science Park since 2005. Since 2015, he and a devoted crew have worked to install handicap-accessible docks and ramps, board walks, viewing platforms and trails on the Sault's Voyageur Island Park, which is located downstream from Rotary Park. Doherty has also been a science kit developer with Desk Labs LLC since 1995.



Kevin Kapuscinski Ph.D. is an assistant professor and co-director of the Aquatic Research Laboratory at Lake Superior State University. His research interests include the population characteristics and ecology of fishes, especially those inhabiting nearshore areas of the Great Lakes and their connecting waters. He is particularly interested in advancing conservation of native fishes and management of fisheries, enhancing our understanding how invasive species alter ecosystem structure and function, and identifying habitat characteristics influencing fish assemblage structure, especially for evaluating how assemblages respond to habitat restoration. He came to LSSU in 2014, has since been involved in local and Great Lakes research projects, and edited a book focused on one of North America's largest freshwater predatory fishes, the muskellunge.



Gary and Joanie McGuffin are adventure photojournalists. They have shared the stories of their long distance travels through the media, multimedia presentations, photographic exhibitions, the Internet, periodicals, and their 8 best-selling books. They pioneered the use of satellite communications from the wilderness to promote protection of Ontario's ancient forest landscapes, and the health of the greatest freshwater coastline on Earth. They are founders of the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy, the international charitable NFP, overseeing and implementing a 600 mile/ 1000 km section of the Lake Superior Water Trail on the Canadian North Shore.



Ashley Moerke Ph.D. is a professor in the Lake Superior State University School of Biological Sciences and co-director of the LSSU Aquatic Research Laboratory. Her research interests are broadly focused on managing and conserving freshwater resources, and she is passionate about engaging undergraduate students in the scientific process to create better citizens, managers, and scientists. Her recent projects include the recovery of lake sturgeon in the St. Mary's River and the role and status of coastal wetlands in the upper Great Lakes. She holds a Ph.D. from University of Notre Dame and is the 2014 Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year.



Elliot Nelson is an extension educator with Michigan Sea Grant, a cooperative program through the University of Michigan and Michigan State University Extension. He works to bring science to coastal communities to help them achieve economic and environmental sustainability. His work is primarily in the areas of aquaculture, K-12 Great Lakes literacy and ecotourism, serving the six eastern counties of the Upper Peninsula through his office at Lake Superior State University.



A high school drop-out from an impoverished reservation community, **Aaron Payment M.P.A.** is the chair of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Since 1993, he has provided annual tribal governance training to future Michigan legislators through the Michigan Political Leadership Program. Payment worked 16 summers with the Upward Bound program, preparing youth for a college education, and five summers coordinating the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan Anishinabe Future Leaders Program.



Gregory Zimmerman Ph.D., professor of biology at Lake Superior State University, has been active in local environmental projects for the past 20 years. His teaching, research and outreach are in the area of ecology and public health.

After Event Activities

5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Equipment availability is limited, please be sure to call or sign-up in advance.

Lower River Island Tour Rotary Park

Leader: Bird's Eye Adventures

Enjoy a short, guided kayak trip through Sault Ste. Marie's lower river islands to learn about the history, commerce and ecology of the area, with an opportunity to take a short hike on the most recently developed Voyager Island Park. The tour leaves from Rotary Park at 5 p.m.

Call Bird's Eye at 906-259-7121 to reserve a kayak for this trip.

Noticing Nature Walk Big Bear Arena

Leader: Val Walker, Sault Naturalists Outings Coordinator

This family-friendly walk is over easy and relatively flat terrain with a focus on some fall wildflowers. In addition, we will be watching for and discussing animal tracks and signs. We will meet at the Big Bear Arena playground at 5 p.m.

Dress appropriately and leave pets at home.

Algonquin Park Bike Adventure Algonquin Park

Leader: LSSU Regional Outdoor Center Staff

Ride the trails of Algonquin Park and learn about its history. The number of bikes is limited, so be sure to sign up, or bring your own bike. It should be a great ride. Bikes will be loaded at the ROC site around 4:30 p.m. and trailered to Algonquin Park to start the trip at 5 p.m., so if you have your own bicycle, you can either meet at the park or they can trailer your bike for you.

Be sure to sign up at the registration table if you are interested in participating.

LSSU Aquatic Research Lab Tour LSSU ARL

Leader: Roger Greil, LSSU ARL Manager

Find out about fish culture, health, ecology and management in LSSU's Aquatic Research Laboratory.

Meet at the ARL at 5 p.m.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated.



I would like to contribute to **UPEC** in the amount of:

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