

**Celebrate the UP Sault Sainte Marie - Saturday September 16, 2017**

**Lake Superior State University - Walker Cisler Center  
650 W Easterday Avenue  
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Native American Drum Blessing with Joseph Medicine in front of the LSSU Walker Cisler Center**

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

**Anchor Room**

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

– 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**

**Anchor Room**

**The History of Bahweting from an Anishinabe Perspective**

– 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 ensured. 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.

**Lake Huron Room**

**Invasive Species in the Eastern Upper Peninsula**

– 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 Erie Room**

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

– 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.

Joanie 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 wellbeing of the Lake Superior watershed.

Wayne's presentation builds on the international aspect of this water trail project. He and his wife Joanne undertook the 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**

**Anchor Room**

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

– 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.

**Lake Huron Room**

**Islands and Wetlands of the Saint Mary's River and the Birds that Call Them Home**

– 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.

**Lake Erie Room**

**LSSU Aquatic Research Laboratory's role in Great Lakes Fisheries and habitat**

– Ashley Moerke, LSSU Biological Sciences Professor  
– Kevin Kapuscinski, LSSU Assistant Professor and co-director of the ARL

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**

**Anchor Room**

**Cleanup and Current Status of the St. Mary's River**

– 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.

**Lake Huron Room**

**EUP Water Trails – Collaborations and Success Stories Along the Way**

– Ellen Benoit, Eastern U.P. Regional Planning and Development Commission  
– Dennis Dougherty, retired Sault Area Public Schools science and community advocate

Highlighting 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. Showcasing the inter-active map website, with discussion on the successful local achievements and future collaboration plans.

**Lake Erie Room**

**Climate Change and Wildlife in the Eastern Upper Peninsula: A Case Study**

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

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.

**3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closing Session**

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

**4:30 – 7:30 After Event Activities**

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

Rotary Park

**Lower River Island Tour**

**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 5:00 p.m.

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

Big Bear Arena

**Noticing Nature Walk**

**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 5:00 p.m.

Dress appropriately and leave pets at home.

Algonquin Park

**Algonquin Park Bike Adventure**

**Leader: LSSU ROC 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 5:00 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 ARL

**LSSU Aquatics Research Lab Mini Workshop**

**Leader: Roger Greil, LSSU ARL Manager**

Experience a mini-workshop on fish culture, health, ecology and management in LSSU's Aquatic Research Laboratory.

Meet at the ARL at 5:00 p.m.