

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**

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: MINNESOTA'S GREATEST ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENT

9:10 a.m. For three decades, Minnesotans have invested in projects through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to preserve and protect our state's natural resources. The Science Museum of Minnesota is highlighting the impacts of these investments through a series of engaging short films.

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** (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)

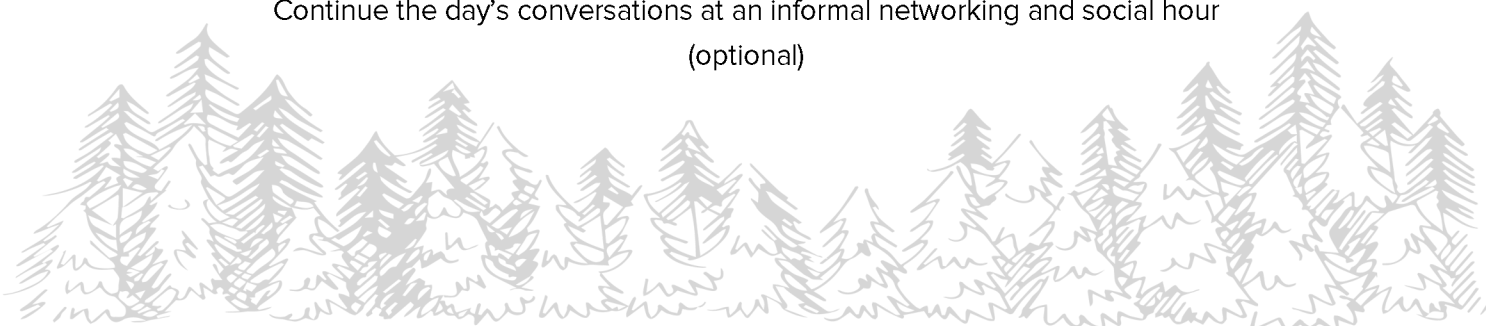
- 3:25 p.m. **Addressing 21st Century Challenges for the St. Croix** — Jason Ulrich¹, Mark Edlund¹ : ¹Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station
- 3:45 p.m. **Forest Health in the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway: The Times They Are A-Changin'** — Michael Rhoades¹ : ¹National 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

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

FROLIC AND SOCIAL HOUR

Continue the day's conversations at an informal networking and social hour
(optional)



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 Beyerl¹, 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 Boeffl¹, 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

