



**** All Overnight Guests Arriving after 4 pm Should Check-In with the Front Desk ****

Monday, October 27, 2014 (Optional Pre-Conference Events)

12:30 – 4:00 pm Conference / Training Registration and Check-In (Whitely Conservation Education Building)

1:00 – 4:00 pm Training Workshops (Whitely Conservation Education Building): Two free training sessions will be offered concurrently. Participants may attend only one and **advanced registration is required** through our online registration form.

<p>Option A: (Main Branch Au Sable Classroom)</p>	<p>Insect Identification <i>Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council and Kevin Cronk, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council</i></p> <p>Both beginners and advanced volunteers are welcome to attend this combined session. Participants will meet at the Education Building for discussion and tips on identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates to the family level. This year, Dr. Steen will put a specific emphasis on identifying damselflies, dragonflies, and true bugs. Then, practice your identification skills on all different kinds of aquatic macroinvertebrates with microscopes and preserved specimens.</p>
<p>Option B: (North/South Branch Au Sable Classroom, then field sites)</p>	<p>Field Training for Road-Stream Crossing Surveys <i>Patrick Ertel, Michigan DNR</i></p> <p>Culverts can be the source of many problems to creeks and rivers. They can be too narrow, set at incorrect elevations, not aligned with the stream, and many other issues. Though they may pass the water effectively, culverts of this nature have been impacting streams since the day they were put in. Fish can't swim through, material and natural water flows get blocked, sediment pollution comes from the dirt roads, changes in water temperature and chemistry take place, and the list goes on. Join Patrick Ertel in a tour of the local area to learn how to assess the condition of those troublesome places where a stream passes beneath a road.</p>

5:30 – 6:30 pm Dinner (Dining Room, Resource Center Building) – *Not included in conference fees. Please pay in advance using the online registration form if you wish to join us for dinner.*

6:30 – 7:30 pm Evening Presentation (Au Sable Classroom, Whitely Conservation Education Building)
Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University, will lead an open format discussion on the do's and don'ts of presenting data to lay audiences. Please bring your experiences and questions.

7:30 – 10 pm Reception and Networking (Fireside Lounge, Resource Center Building)
The evening presentation will be followed by refreshments, music, games, and informal networking.

Tuesday, October 28, 2014 (Conference)

7:15 am Breakfast (Dining Room, Resource Center Building) – *Not included in conference fees. Please pay in advance using the online registration form if you wish to join us for breakfast.*

8:00 am Conference Registration and Check-In (Whitely Conservation Education Building)

8:45 am Welcoming Remarks (Au Sable Classroom)
Bill Dimond, Michigan DEQ

9:00 am Morning Keynote: Volunteer Monitoring: A Tool for Change
Julie Vastine, Director, Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring, Dickinson College

Volunteer monitoring, for decades, has been a successful educational tool for engaging communities and individuals to use science as a tool to investigate stream health. Over the years, tools have been developed to help volunteers troubleshoot the common stop gaps in implementing successful programs, such as getting started, designing study plans, analyzing data, organizing data, and interpreting data. But still there is the looming fear that data will sit on shelves and not be used. So how do you transition from monitoring as an educational tool to monitoring for change? This presentation will highlight volunteer success stories using data for good and the unexpected positive outcomes of volunteer monitoring.

10:00 am Awards for New MiCorps Members
Presented by: Bill Dimond, Michigan DEQ, and Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council

10:15 am Break

10:30 am Breakout Session 1 (Breakout sessions A and B will be held concurrently. Participants may attend one session.)

<p>Option A: (North/South Branch Au Sable Classroom)</p>	<p>MiCorps 101: An Introduction to the MiCorps Programs <i>Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council, with other MiCorps and Michigan DEQ Staff</i></p> <p>This session is geared toward those who are new to MiCorps and volunteer monitoring, or those who would simply like a refresher. We will provide an overview of the program and how you can get involved.</p>
<p>Option B: (Main Branch Au Sable Classroom)</p>	<p>Assessing Ecosystem Health: Habitat Alteration and Invasive Species <i>Moderator: Jason Frenzel, Huron River Watershed Council</i></p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kristi Klomp, Timberland RC&D Council – Lessons learned from the 2014 Road/Stream Crossing Inventory pilot project</i> • <i>Dr. Thomas Tissue, White River Watershed Partnership – Connecting habitat assessment results to in-stream conditions</i> • <i>Kevin Walters, Michigan DEQ – Aquatic Invasive Species: An update on the State of Michigan’s program and recent outreach efforts</i>

12:00 pm Lunch (Dining Room, Resource Center Building) – *Included in conference registration fee.*

12:45 pm **Tricks and Trapdoors in Watershed Planning** (Au Sable Classroom)
Ric Lawson, Huron River Watershed Council

Developing a watershed plan is a conceptually easy first step toward restoring or conserving a lake or stream. Completing a plan that is useful is trickier than it sounds. Ric will discuss his experience with a range of plans (good and bad) and lessons he’s learned about how to make them work.

1:20 pm **Break**

1:30 pm **Breakout Session 2** (Breakout sessions A and B will be held concurrently. Participants may attend one session.)

<p>Option A: (Main Branch Au Sable Classroom)</p>	<p>Taking Monitoring to the Next Level: Tools and Opportunities <i>Moderator: Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University</i> <i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alison Stevens, Michigan Sea Grant – Great Lakes FieldScope</i> • <i>Dr. Troy Zorn, Michigan DNR – Stream Fish Population Trend Viewer</i> • <i>Dr. Jo Latimore, Michigan State University – Michigan’s Lake and Stream Leaders Institute and the Conservation Stewards Program</i>
<p>Option B: (North/South Branch Au Sable Classroom)</p>	<p>Stream Monitoring Programs Presented by Past and Present MiCorps Grantees <i>Moderator: Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council</i> <i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mike Jones, Benzie Conservation District</i> • <i>Teri Grout, Alger Conservation District</i> • <i>Adrianna Coultres, Grass River Natural Area</i> <p>MiCorps grantees will discuss their volunteer stream monitoring programs: where they monitor, how their program runs, and the successes and lessons they have experienced along the way.</p>

3:00 pm **Break**

3:15 pm **State of the Program: Celebrating the First 10 Years of MiCorps** (Au Sable Classroom)
Dr. Paul Steen, MiCorps Staff, Huron River Watershed Council

3:50 pm **Conference Wrap-up and Evaluation**
Bill Dimond, Michigan DEQ

4:00 pm **Adjournment**