



The **Illinois Lake Management Association's** 30th annual lake conference is being held where it all started. Thirty years ago ILMA hosted its first conference at the campus of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. We return to **NIU on February 19-21, 2015** to pack together a dense schedule of presentations on lake and watershed topics. The conference offers two full days of presentations from over 30 experts in the water quality field, and a third day of workshops. Come take advantage of having the opportunity to learn and network with persons throughout the industry. For full registration information please see our website at: www.ilma-lakes.org

This year is the 30th annual conference for ILMA. As an all-volunteer organization, we are celebrating and highlighting the role volunteering plays in protecting our lakes, rivers, and watersheds. Our **keynote speaker is Chad Pregracke**, the President and Founder of Living Lands & Waters (LL&W), the world's only "industrial strength" not-for-profit river cleanup organization. Chad formed LL&W at the youthful age of 23, after spending his life growing up and working on the Mississippi River. Early on, he became appalled by the amount of garbage in the river and decided that if no one else was going to do something about it, he would.



Over the last 16 years, he, his crew, and nearly 70,000 volunteers have removed over 7 million pounds of garbage out of our nation's rivers. He's also broadened his mission to include a MillionTrees and an Adopt-A-River Mile Project, as well as a new floating classroom aboard a barge that he and his crew live on 7 months of the year, teaching students, educators and individual citizens about the value of our rivers and natural resources. Most recently, Chad was named the 2013 CNN Hero of the Year! Come join us as Chad kicks off the conference with his discussion of what happens when you get past the question of "What can one volunteering decision accomplish?"

The registration fee for this year's conference includes lunch on Thursday and Friday, an exhibitor reception and dinner on Thursday evening, as well as all conference materials. **The registration fee for the conference is \$130 for current ILMA members or \$150 for non-members. Special rates: \$100 for representatives of home owner associations; and \$80 to full time students. The Saturday workshops can be attended with or without registration to the full conference at a fee of only \$25.**

Be sure to register soon as conference/workshop and hotel availability are limited. Payment can be made by check (mail) or via PayPal through the website. Cancellations will be subject to a \$20 service fee up until February 4, 2015, after which no refund will be available. See our website for the most up-to-date information: www.ilma-lakes.org.

Conference attendees will be provided a special rate at the **Holmes Student Center Hotel (on campus: 815-753-1444)**, be sure to notify the hotel when making a reservation.

Professional Development Hours PDHs will be provided for those guests which attend either the 2-day conference sessions and/or the workshops; 10 PDHs will be provided for the conference sessions, 4 will be provided for attending one of the workshops.

Chad's keynote speech will kick off the conference Thursday morning along with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Bureau of Water Chief, Marcia Willhite, where she will discuss the agency's long range plans for implementing a new statewide nutrient reduction strategy. The conference will continue with ten technical sessions running through Friday afternoon. Technical sessions are 90 minutes long, will be a mixture of panel discussions and oral presentations, and are divided into the topics described on the following page. A full program guide with presentation times will be released soon.

Technical Sessions [February 19-20]

Lake Management Issues for Home Owners Associations

The majority of lakes in Illinois have been constructed, are privately owned, and were built for residential development purposes (typically for recreation and/or stormwater control). Whether constructed or natural, home owners associations represent the primary management unit for our lakes. This session will present information on legal issues regarding establishing and maintaining a strong association; how to manage large dollar maintenance projects, and financial tools beyond grant acquisition for an HOA to implement.

What Does Climate Change Mean for Lakes in the Midwest?

The phrase 'global climate change' has been worked into the regular vernacular, but getting past the headlines is needed to understand some of the real implications to our Midwestern lakes. This session will cover how anticipated changes will impact stormwater runoff, ice cover, nutrient dynamics, and overall water supply issues.

Volunteering Actions

Whether it is volunteering to pick up trash from a streambank, collect and report secchi depths, or plant trees, volunteerism maintains a prominent place in protecting our lakes and streams. In this session we will hear from agency coordinators and individuals on the activities they were able to accomplish and about the programs available to assist in the collection of data and fund clean-up efforts.

Exotic Aquatic Species: Transportation, Colonization, and Management [Panel Discussion]

We will have experts from state agencies, research organizations, private companies, and not-for-profit organizations to discuss and engage with the audience on the subject of aquatic invasive species in Illinois. The general topics will include the identification of species, transportation modes, and treatment strategies, but the heart of the panel will be to discuss pooling resources and coordinating across disciplines to cover management needs and expertise of these constantly evolving adversaries.

Urban Flooding and Stormwater Management

Over time our understanding of managing urban stormwater runoff has improved, but often our infrastructure remains behind. In addition to dealing with aging infrastructure, municipalities and counties need to address these deficiencies through development of new ordinances. This session will provide presentations which cover three viewpoints; discussion of a project needed to improve/retrofit an existing structure, covering how a municipality can develop and implement stormwater ordinances, and the research and modeling behind stormwater management.

Capture and Release

The historical paradigm was to move waste and water through the system as quickly as possible and let those downstream worry about it. Each decade that has passed since the enactment of the clean water act has seen steady improvements in the technology available to deal with both wastewater and stormwater. The paradigm has slowly shifted such that systems are providing a capture before release to improve the downstream. This session will focus on treatment technologies and the impacts they can have.

What about Safe Drinking Water?

This past year an algal bloom in the Midwest temporarily removed access to safe drinking water for nearly half a million people. This extended beyond a simple boil order as the water was deemed not safe to come into contact with. Access to safe potable water is considered a given for most Americans yet accidental releases of materials adjacent to water supplies and nutrient loading in our streams and waterways can quickly bring attention to the need to be aware of our water supply. This session will discuss water protection protocols and lessons learned from past incidents.

Lake Critters

Measuring water quality extends beyond the analysis of turbidity and pH. Healthy lakes are composed of numerous and diverse aquatic organisms that don't always get their due. This session will provide three presentations on the subject of macroinvertebrate communities within lakes and streams

Nutrient Management on Watershed Scales

Nutrient loading rates are strongly affected by the activities occurring in the watershed. A watershed may be dominated by urban or agricultural land, but generally contains a mixture of the two, and lake managers must coordinate with land users throughout a watershed to address issues outside of land they control. This session will focus on coordination with local governing bodies regarding application of fertilizers on urban lawns, and agricultural land management strategies (with focus on use of cover crops).

Partnership Formation [Panel Discussion]

Local/community involvement is the most effective way to protect the resources surrounding us; however, protecting larger scale watersheds requires coordination of multiple 'local' groups. There is no silver bullet or one-size-fits all; a small group of local informal volunteers is as important as a larger not-for-profit organization which has full time employees. This session has brought together a panel of individuals spanning this spectrum to share with the audience with the experiences of growth, turnover, maintaining enthusiasm, managing projects, and coordinating with other groups to share resources.

Workshops [February 21st]

Understanding Types and Benefits of Fish Habitat and Structure

Leonard Dane, Deuchler Environmental

Structure, whether natural or artificial, is an important feature in a water body that helps to maintain a diverse and healthy population of fish. This workshop will aim to break down the important components of fish habitat, with some hands-on activities, needed to promote a healthier distribution of fish populations within your lake or pond.

Introduction to Open Source, Mobile GIS Tools

NIU Geography Department

As GPS/GIS technology has become more ubiquitous, programs are no longer reserved for the professional field. This hands-on workshop will explore mobile mapping tools available on Android and Apple smartphones, simple visualization techniques using Google Maps and Fusion Tables, and ways to import the data into the increasingly popular, open-source GIS platform QGIS.

Detailed Conference Agenda

THURSDAY

[9:30] – Conference Introductions and Welcome: Bryan Cross, ILMA President

[9:40] – Keynote Speech: Chad PreGracke, Living Lands & Water

[10:40] – Marcia Willhite (IEPA), Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy

[11:10] – Stephen McCracken (DRSCW), Formation and Organization of the DRSCW

[11:40] – Scholarship Awards

[12:00] – Lunch Break (auditorium)

[1:15-2:45] – Session A, Volunteering Actions

Gary Swick (Friends of the Fox River) – Watershed Watchdogs

Sue George (The Conservation Foundation) – How to grow BIG

Greg Ratliff (IEPA) – The Illinois Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

Session B, Lake Management Issues for Home Owners Associations

John Bickley (Kovitz, Shifrin, & Nesbit) – Navigating Legal Issues Specific to Home Owners Associations

Rich Bahr (Tower Lakes) – The HOA that Roared

Richard Hilton (Wonder Lake) – Finding Funds for Lake and Watershed Improvements

[3:15-4:45] – Session A, Nutrient Management on Watershed Scales

Adrienne Gulley (IL/IN Sea Grant) – Lawn to Lake Program

Pete Fandel (USDA-NRCS) - Benefits of Cover Crops in Agricultural Fields for Nutrient Reduction

Paul Terrio (USGS) – Continuous Nutrient Monitoring in Illinois Streams

Session B, Partnership Formation (Panelists)

Stephen McCracken (The Conservation Foundation/Des Plaines River Salt Creek Workgroup)

Sue George (The Conservation Foundation)

Rich Bahr (Tower Lakes Improvement Association)

Ed Weilbacher (Kaskaskia River Basin Association)

Nancy Schumm (Illinois Lakes Management Association)

[5:00-6:00] – Exhibitors Reception

[6:00-7:00] – Dinner

[7:00-8:00] – Annual ILMA Membership Meeting

[8:00-11:00] – Social (@ the Huskie Den)

FRIDAY

[8:30-10:00] – Session A, What about Safe Drinking Water?

Kyle Kaminski (YSI) - Detecting Algae Before the Bloom

Justin Albertson (Illinois Public Health/CDC) - HAB Surveillance in Illinois: A Public Health Perspective

Tyler Rotche (Prairie Rivers Network) – How can Storage and Disposal of Coal Ash Impact Water Quality

Session B, Urban Flooding & Stormwater Management

Brian Valleskey (Manhard Consulting) - Stormwater Facility Maintenance & Management Concerns for Flooding and Water Quality

John Willis (WBK) - Retrofit of the Busse Reservoir Main Dam for Flood Mitigation and Stabilization of Ecological Resources

Kurt Woolford (Lake County SMC) - Urban Flooding: The Evolution of Stormwater Ordinances in Northeast Illinois

[10:30-12:00] – Session A, What Does Climate Change Mean for Lakes in the Midwest?

Josh Ellis (Chicago Metropolitan Planning Council) - Getting out in Front of Climate Change: How Illinois is Working to Ensure Long-term Viability of our Water Resources

Tim Asplund (Wisc. DNR) - Key Findings from the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) Adaptive Assessment

John Magnuson (Wisc. Univ.) - What Lake Ice Seasonality Tells Us about Lakes and Climate

Session B, Exotic Aquatic Species: Transportation, Colonization, and Management (Panalists)

Bob Kirschner (Chicago Botanic Garden)

Debbie Mauer (Lake County forest Preserve)

Cathy McGlynn (Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership)

Keith Gray (Integrated Lakes Management)

[12:00] – Lunch Break (Auditorium)

[1:15-3:15] – Session A, Capture and Release

Eliana Brown (Illinois Water Resources Center) - Residential-Scale Best Management Practices for Lake Water Quality

David St. Pierre (Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago) - Phosphorus Removal to Combat Gulf Hypoxia

Jim Patchett (Conservation Design Group) – Gray vs. Green: Integrated Green Infrastructure Solutions that Manage Resources and Enrich Communities

Andy Stahr (The Pizzo Group) - Sustainable Landscapes: Rain Gardens with Native Plants

Session B, Lake Critters

Nicole Vidales (IEPA) - Role of Aquatic Insect in Water Quality

Jeremy Tiemann (INHS) - Damn those Dams; their Effects on Stream Ecosystems

Daniel Miller (Wisc. Univ.) - Predation by sunfish (*Lepomis* spp.) on the aquatic milfoil weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*)

Diane Tancl (IEPA) - Macroinvertebrate IBI in Illinois

[3:30] Fin