

2026 Conference Agenda

Monday February 16th, 2026

2:00 PM –5:00 PM	Exhibitor Set Up & Registration Open	Illinois Ballroom
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	ILMA Board of Directors Meeting	Alma Mater

Tuesday February 17th, 2026

Registration opens at 8:00 AM

8:00 –8:45 AM	Breakfast	Illinois Ballroom
8:45 AM– 9:00 AM	Conference Welcome & Overview	Illinois Ballroom
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Keynote Speaker <i>Dick Hilton, Illinois Lakes Management Association Past Presidents Panel</i>	Illinois Ballroom
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Concurrent Session 1	Alma Mater & Lincoln
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch & ILMA Annual Meeting	Illinois Ballroom
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Concurrent Session 2	Alma Mater & Lincoln
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Break	Illinois Ballroom
2:45 PM - 4:15 PM	Concurrent Session 3	Alma Mater & Lincoln
4:15 PM - 5:30 PM	Exhibitors Reception	Illinois Ballroom
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Dinner, Awards, and Raffles	Illinois Ballroom

Wednesday March 18th, 2025

Registration opens at 7:45 AM

7:45 AM—8:30 AM	Breakfast	Illinois Ballroom
8:30 AM- 10:00 AM	Concurrent Session 4	Alma Mater & Lincoln
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Break	Illinois Ballroom
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	Concurrent Session 5	Alma Mater & Lincoln
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch & Awards	Illinois Ballroom
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Concurrent Session 6	Alma Mater & Lincoln
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Conference Wrap Up	Illinois Ballroom

Tuesday February 17th, 2026

Registration opens at 8:00 AM

8:00 AM– 8:45 AM	Breakfast	Illinois Ballroom
8:45 AM– 9:00 AM	Conference Welcome & Highlights	Illinois Ballroom
9:00 AM– 10:30 AM	Keynote Speaker & Past Presidents Panel	Illinois Ballroom

A History of ILMA and Lake Management

Mr. Dick Hilton, MPOA Wonder Lake

Dick has many years of experience managing water quality and watershed issues and restoration planning. He has been an integral part of many organizations including founding member of the Nippersink Creek Watershed Association, Associate Director of the McHenry Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, 30-year President of the Master Property Owners Association for the Wonder Lake Area (MPOA), and the Illinois Lakes Management Association. Prior to his involvement in lake management, He was employed in corporate management positions and special education teacher in School District U-46. Dick has a wealth of knowledge on the protection and management of lakes and watersheds, and he is also a wonderful storyteller.

Sharing the stage with Dick will be a panel of past ILMA presidents to discuss ILMA's history and future. They will host an interactive, open forum to examine ILMA's core objectives, the value of our member services, and the irreplaceable spirit of volunteerism. As part of a renewed commitment to transparency, ILMA is driving more robust, open engagement with *you*, the membership - your voice is the future of ILMA!



10:00 AM– 11:30 AM	Concurrent Session 1	Alma & Lincoln
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Session 1a—Alma Mater Room

Theme: Plant Management

Moderator: Tim Holt

10:00

Hydrilla in Illinois: Ginger Creek Case Study with 1 Year of Treatments and Monitoring

Alana Bartolai, Lake County Health Department

10:30

Biocontrol Options for Controlling Undesirable Vegetation

Vince Mosca, Hey & Associates

11:00

Water Restoration—Managing weeds, Algae & Water Quality

Michael Hiatt, SePRO Water Diagnostics and Restoration

Session 1b—Lincoln Room

Theme: Nutrients

Moderator:

10:00

Evidence of Internal Nutrient Loading in a Mixed-Use Groundwater Drainage Lake

John Schuster, Prairie Crossing Homeowners Association

10:30—11:30

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency—Monitoring Cyanotoxins in Surface and Drinking Waters and Best Management Practices

Alexandrea Terlep, Illinois EPA

Karen Bridges, Illinois EPA

Rufus Ajayi, Illinois EPA

11:30 PM– 1:00 PM	Lunch & ILMA Annual Meeting.....	Illinois Ballroom
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Tuesday February 17th, 2026

Registration opens at 8:00 AM

1:00 PM– 2:30 PM Concurrent Sessions 2

Alma Mater & Lincoln

Session 2a—Alma Mater

Theme: Restoration

Moderator: Jennifer Biancalana

1:00

Urban Stream Restoration Planning and Implementation: Confluence of Engineering and Ecology

Alex Strack, Baxter & Woodman

1:30

Botanical Characterization and Shoreline Protections of Illinois Beach State Park

Michael Krellwitz, Illinois Natural History Survey

2:00

Ecosystem Restoration

Jack Pizzo, Pizzo & Associates, Ltd.

Session 2b—Lincoln Room

Theme: Water Quality

Moderator: Chris Cartwright

1:00

Chain O' Lakes Water Quality: Aligning Water Quality Metrics with Watershed Goals

Rob Bryson—Fox Waterway Agency Advisory Committee

1:30

Flipping the System: Restoring Native Plant Communities in Lakes

Emily Zajecka, ILM Environments

2:00

Addressing Dissolved Oxygen improvements in Lake Spokane

Pradeep Mugunthan, Four Peaks Environmental

2:30 PM– 2:45PM Break

Illinois Ballroom

2:45 PM– 4:15PM Concurrent Sessions 3

Alma Mater & Lincoln Rooms

Session 3a—Alma Mater

Theme: Sediment

Moderator: Shawn Dixon

2:45–3:45

Planning and Implementing a Successful Dredging Project

Peter Berrini, Berrini & Associates

3:45–4:15

Considerations for a Changing Climate and Sediment Management of Lakes

Brian Valleskey, Baxter & Woodman

Session 3b—Lincoln Room

Theme: Watershed Awareness

Moderator: Chris Cartwright

2:45

Finding Local Water Quality Data Using the Web Application "How's my Waterway"

Diane Tancl, US EPA

3:15

Overview of the DNR EcoCAT Tool

Adam Rawe, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

3:45

Native vs. Invasive: What's the Difference and What to Look For

Malena Ryan, Aquatic Control

4:15 PM– 5:30 PM Exhibitors Reception

Illinois Ballroom

5:30 PM– 7:30 PM Dinner, Awards & Raffle

Illinois Ballroom

Wednesday February 18th, 2026

Registration opens at 8:00 AM

7:45 AM– 8:30 AM Breakfast

Illinois Ballroom

8:30 AM- 10:00 AM Concurrent Session 4

Alma Mater & Lincoln Rooms

Session 4a—Alma Mater

Theme: Civic Engagement/ Community Science

Moderator: Alana Bartolai

8:30

Exploring Water Monitoring Volunteers' Perceptions of Freshwater Invertebrate Conservation

Eden Rozing, University of Illinois

9:00 –10:00

Building Power for the Environment

Sergio Vargas, Illinois Environmental Council

Session 4b—Lincoln

Theme: Watershed Plans

Moderator: Diane Tancil

8:30

Creating a Source Water Protection Plan: A Lake Springfield Case Study

Quentin Jordan, City Water Light & Power

9:00-10:00

An Overview of Development Through EPA Approval

Aaron Enteman, Illinois EPA

Riley Rominger, Illinois EPA

10:00 AM- 10:15 AM Break

Illinois Ballroom

10:15 AM- 11:45 AM Concurrent Sessions 5

Alma Mater & Lincoln

Session 5a—Alma Mater

Theme: Innovative Nutrient Solutions

Moderator: Lisa Woolford

10:15

One-Year Update of Laboratory Experiments and Deployment of Sustainable Artificial Floating Wetlands on Lake Decatur

Yihui Wang, University of Illinois

10:45

Can Perennial Biomass Crops Enhance Lake Management and Agricultural Watersheds?

Emily Heaton, University of Illinois

11:15

Implementing Phosphorus Removal Structures in the Midwest for Improving Surface Water Quality

Chad Penn, Purdue University

Session 5b—Lincoln

Theme: Water Quality

Moderator: Kip Stevenson

10:15

Monitoring Nutrient and Suspended Sediment Loads to Lake Springfield 2021-2024

Luis Garcia, USGS

10:45

Lake Decatur Watershed Monitoring Program—Drought and It's Impacts on Water Quality

James Haken, Illinois State Water Survey

11:45 AM—1:00PM Lunch & Raffles.....Illinois Ballroom

Wednesday February 18th, 2026

Registration opens at 8:00 AM

1:00 PM– 2:30 PM Concurrent Sessions 6

Alma Mater & Lincoln Rooms

Session 6a—Alma Mater

Theme: Fisheries

Moderator: Leonard Dane

1:00

Recruitment Limitation and Nest Box Supported Reproduction in Channel Catfish Impoundment Populations

Danielle Shubat, Eastern Illinois University

1:30

Fish Passage and Stream Community Development Following Hydrological Reconnection in the Calumet Region

Abigail Rick, University of Illinois Urbana– Champaign

2:00

Utilizing Local Fishing and Tournament Organizations to Improve Lakes

Taylor Umlad, Bloomington Normal Bass Club

Session 6b—Lincoln

Theme: Watershed Program Development

Moderator: Alana Bartolai

1:00

Funding Sources for Successful Watershed Programs

Jennifer Gunter, City of Decatur

1:30

The Illinois Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Program

Kurt Cardoni, Illinois EPA

2:00

How Data and Committed Volunteers are Building Capacity for Improving Lakes

Becky Swale, Lake County Lake Lovers

2:30 PM– 2:45 PM Conference Wrap Up

Illinois Ballroom



ILMA

Illinois Lakes Management Association