

2026 Michigan Fish and Wildlife Conference Schedule



UM Flint Riverfront Conference Center

Flint, MI

February 25–27, 2026



Wednesday 2/25/26

Time	Workshops	Room
1:00 - 4:30pm	Aquatic Net Repair	Suite A-C
1:00 - 4:30pm	Camera Trap Data Utilization	Boardman B
1:00 - 4:00pm	Mussel Identification Test	Suite D

6:30 - 10:00pm	Student Social at Market Tap (Flint Farmer's Market)
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Thursday 2/26/26

Time	Topic	Room
7:00am	Breakfast	Expo
8:00am	Welcome	Expo
8:15am	<i>Plenary:</i> Michigan DNR Fisheries Chief Claramunt and Wildlife Chief Sarah Thompsom North American Conservation Model	Expo

9:15am	BREAK
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* = student presenter

Time	Fisheries Topics	Presenter	Room	Wildlife Topics	Presenter	Room
9:40	Distribution and Conservation Status of Native Lampreys in Michigan's Lower Peninsula	John Hume	H	Nobody Says the "B" Words: Proper Cleaning and Preservation of Skulls and Other Bones with Emphasis on Use of Dermestid Beetles	Dan Traynor	E
10:00am	Dam Removals - What's the Strategy	Dan DeVaun, P.E.	H			
10:20am	Ecological Effects of Compensating Gate Operations on Fishes and Benthic Invertebrates in the St. Marys River Main Rapids	Conner Arnold	H	The Michigan Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit: A New Conservation Partner	Brett DeGregorio	E
10:40am	Habitat Use and Movements of Smallmouth Bass Before and After River Restoration in the Flint River, Michigan	Anthony Oswald*	H	Armadillos are coming: Where, when, and why we should care	Brett DeGregorio	E
11:00am	Determining Fish Movement and Habitat After Dam Removal on the Flint River, Flint, MI	Sydney Tremblay*	H	A spatial assessment of deer-human interactions in Kent County, MI	Brody Glej*	E
11:20am	Functional diversity elucidates impact of dam on fish community composition in two urban river systems	Victoria Pilon*	H	Temporal Scales of Climate Impacts on Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease in Indiana White-Tailed Deer	Mike Shaw*	E

11:40am	Navigating Michigan's Stream Quantification Tool (SQT) Program	Sam Prentice	H	Alternative Silviculture to Mitigate White-tailed Deer Herbivory	Melissa Starking	E
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12:00pm	LUNCH, MENTOR-MENTEE EVENT					Expo
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Time	Fisheries Topics	Presenter	Room	Wildlife Topics	Presenter	Room
1:00pm	Seeing the Whole Watershed: Comprehensive Freshwater Mussel Surveys.	Aaron Vlasak*	H	Black bear movement in relation to all-terrain and off-road vehicle use on Drummond Island, Michigan	Carli Huhn*	E
1:20pm	Assessing How Freshwater Mussel Growth Varies with Water Temperatures in the Kalamazoo River Watershed	Tadiwanashe Mutasa*	H	Evaluating the Presence, Distribution, and Habitat Preferences of Marten (<i>Martes americana</i>) and Fisher (<i>Pekania pennanti</i>) in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula	Nicholas Weld*	E
1:40pm	Comparing mussel communities across three sites along the Red Cedar River in Ingham County, Michigan	Alex Peake	H	Estimating abundance trends of limited take furbearer populations in Michigan	Justin Remmer	E
2:00pm	Mussels and Mesohabitats	Hunter Torolski	H	Raccoon (<i>Procyon lotor</i>) rest site selection in a northern Michigan managed landscape	Annah Huberts*	E

2:20pm	SNACK BREAK					Expo
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Time	Fisheries Topics	Presenter	Room	Wildlife Topics	Presenter	Room
2:40pm	The Lower St. Joseph River: A Vital Resource for State-Listed Freshwater Mussels	Meghan Martinski	H	Anuran Diets in Shifting Plant Communities	Hannah Bey*	E
3:00pm	Post-Relocation Mussel Monitoring Approaches, Methodologies, and Challenges	Ryan Holem	H	Connectivity of Blanding's Turtle (<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>) Habitat in the Northern Lower Peninsula	Mirabai Moseley	E
3:20pm	Macrophyte Community Groups in Michigan	Olivia Coskie*	H	Inbreeding Depression in Massasauga Rattlesnakes: How should we manage for this?	Jennifer Moore	E
3:40pm	Modeling Coastal Wetland Indicators Using a Bayesian Hierarchical Framework	Emily Eberly*	H	Perspectives on applying connectivity tools to reptile conservation efforts in Michigan	Eric McCluskey	E
4:00pm	What's in a name? Redrafting MIAFS DEIJB as Fisheries Community Advocacy and Sustainability Team (FishCAST)	Dana Castle, Lydia Doerr	H	Evaluating habitat conditions of white-tailed deer and blacklegged ticks to mitigate Lyme disease risk in southern Michigan	Sarah Scheitz*	E

4:20pm	BREAK				
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Time	Event	Room
4:30pm	TWS Membership Meeting	E
4:30pm	AFS Membership Meeting	H
5:30pm	Student Raffle Begins	Expo
6:00pm	Dinner and Bar Opens (raffle winners announced at the end of dinner)	Expo
7:00-9:00pm	Professional Networking, Poster Session	Expo

Friday 2/27/26

Time	Event	Room
7:00am	Breakfast	F-G
8:00am	Opening remarks	E + H

Time	Fisheries Topics	Presenter	Room	Wildlife Topics	Room
8:20am	Migration timing of adfluvial brook trout (<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>) revealed by acoustic telemetry in the Pilgrim River, Lake Superior	Troy Zorn	H	Sandhill Crane Response to Solar Panel installation in Northwest Indiana	Gabrielle Nielson E
8:40am	Using artificial aquarium plants impacts welfare, reproductive behavior, and aggression in the African cichlid fish, <i>Astatotilapia burtoni</i>	Ethan Burka*	H	Is it too early to see the impacts of climate change on cavity nesting birds in Michigan?	Katie Stumpf E
9:00am	Population Characteristics of Lake Sturgeon <i>Acipenser fulvescens</i> in the St. Marys River during 2023-2025	Alana Schofield*	H	Creating and field-testing Bayesian Networks meant to predict habitat of a data deficient and secretive marsh bird	Dustin Brewer E
9:20am	The Host With The Most (Glochidia): Kidneyshell Propagation Reveals Limiting Factor	Drew Holloway	H	Large-scale environmental variability in disease transmission risk in feral swine	Olivia Spagnuolo E

9:40am	BREAK				F-G
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Time	Fisheries Topics	Presenter	Room	Wildlife Topics	Room
10:00am	Effects of water withdrawals on stream fish habitat across Michigan's Lower Peninsula	Sarah Menzl*	H	Student Presentation Awards	E
10:20am	Unexpected appetites: Metabarcoding reveals grass carp (<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>) foraging behaviors in the Great Lakes	Ryan Brown	H	American Marten Working Group Meeting (open to all)	E
10:40am	Optimal Foraging of Three Predatory Fishes on Red Swamp Crayfish (<i>Procambarus Clarkii</i>)	Samantha Strandmark	H		
11:00am	Insights from parentage-based tagging for Michigan walleye stocking assessments	Jared Homola	H	Mini Breakout Session: Finding Your Focus	E
11:20am	Assessment of Trout and Muskellunge Populations to Address Angler Conflict within the Upper Paint River Watershed.	Jennifer Johnson	H		
11:40am	Initial Effects of a Protected Slot Length Regulation on Northern Pike Size Structure and Harvest in Townline Lake, Montcalm County, Michigan	Jeremiah Johnson	H	Mini Breakout Session: Work Life Balance	E
12:00pm	Student Presentation Awards		H		

12:30pm	End of Conference - Safe Travels!				
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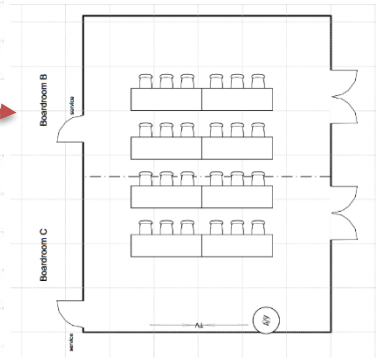
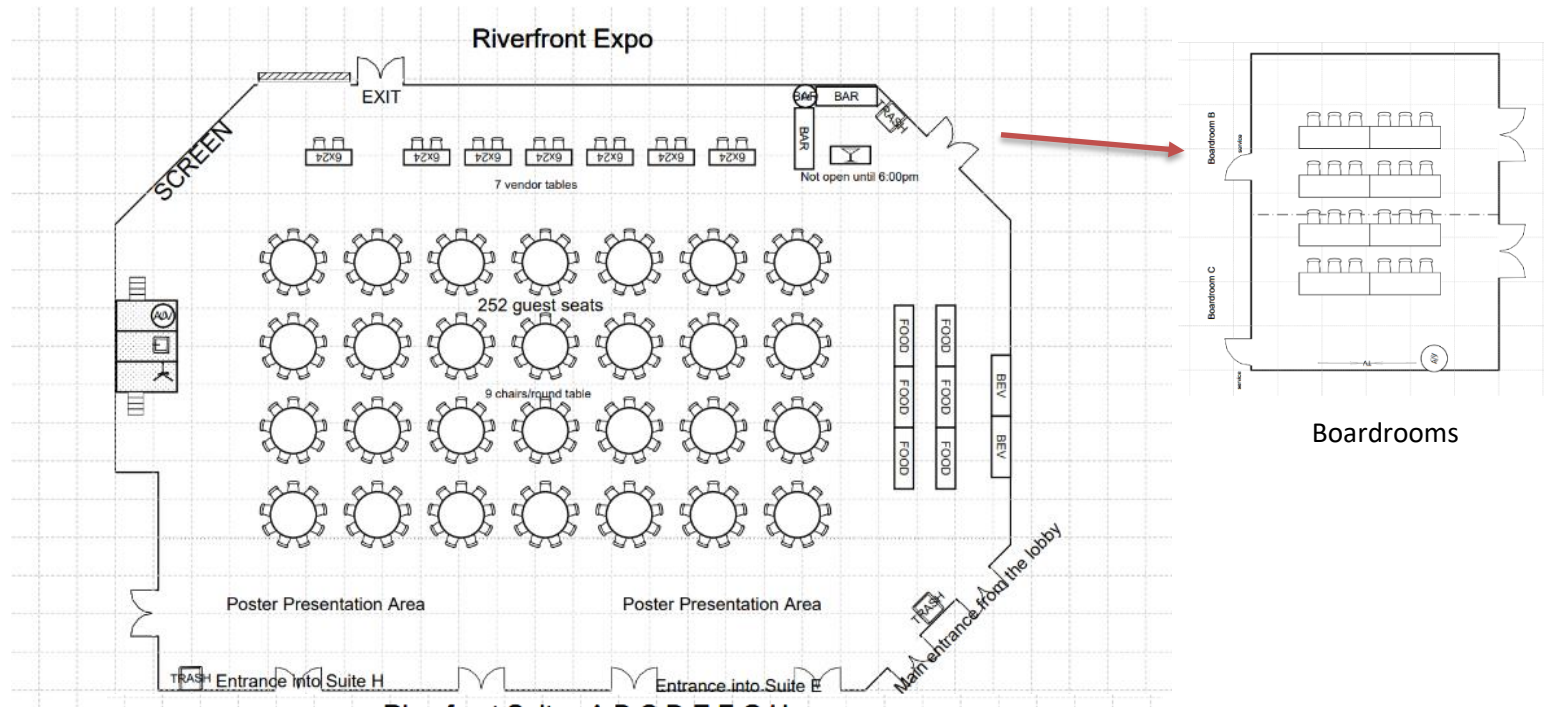
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