



The **Illinois Lake Management Association's** 34th annual lake conference is being held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in **Crystal Lake on March 14-16, 2019**. This conference will feature over 30 experts presenting on various lake and watershed topics. The technical presentations will occur over two full days; the workshops will be split between the second and third day. Come take advantage of 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's **keynote speaker is Dr. Gerould Wilhelm**. Dr. Wilhelm's career has included 22 years as a researcher at the Morton Arboretum and 20+ years as the owner of the Conservation Design Forum. Additionally, he is a founding member of the Conservation Research Institute (CRI). The CRI is a private, 501(c)(3) organization established in 1997 and is dedicated to the promotion of planning, design, installation restoration, and long-term management of sustainable ecological systems in built and natural environments through applied research, education, and outreach. Dr. Wilhelm is a renowned botanist and is the 'Wilhelm' in the duo of Swink & Wilhelm (a reference for any amateur or professional botanists working in the Chicagoland area). Come hear his talk on the influence of water within our landscape, how it has the power to both physically shape our environmental and the perception of our living spaces.



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 is \$150 for current ILMA members or \$170 for non-members. Special rates: \$120 for representatives of home owner associations and to full time students. The Saturday workshops can be attended with or without registration to the full conference at a fee of only \$30.**

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 March 1, 2019, 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 of \$92 per night at the **Holiday Inn (815-477-7000)**, 800 South Route 31, Crystal Lake, Illinois. be sure to notify the hotel when making a reservation.

Professional Development Hours PDHs will be provided for those guests who attend either the 2-day conference sessions and/or the workshops; 10 PDHs for the conference sessions, 4 for attending one of the workshops. IEPA Class ID numbers will be provided for operator certification.

Technical sessions, including Dr. Wilhelm's keynote address, will be held on Thursday and Friday. All workshops will be on Saturday. Most sessions will run in concurrent pairs. The sessions are 90 minutes long, typically with three separate presenters; however, some will be in a panel format. A full program guide with presentation times will be released soon.

Technical Sessions [March 14-15]

HOA Splash

Many lakes in Illinois, and throughout the country, are managed by home owner associations (HOA). HOA boards are generally made up of volunteers with a mixture of backgrounds. Home owners can be an unruly bunch, boards must manage streets, storm drains, ordinances, and their lake. This session is devoted to the variety of issues that boards need to tackle such as educating the community to support lake improvements, acquiring grants, and managing projects.

Urban Runoff

Urban environments present their own unique set of challenges when dealing with strategies to protect water quality. Salting applications during the winter are important for public safety; however, chloride accumulation has a direct impact on the health of aquatic organisms. Speakers will discuss salting application programs, impacts of chlorides, and additional issues related to lawn care and fertilization runoff.

Plastics

The introduction of plastics into our everyday lives has created numerous benefits. We are now beginning to realize that they also have created negative ecosystem impacts as well. These include massive islands of floating plastic debris in the oceans and wildlife fatalities from consuming trash. This session will discuss specific research and programs being implemented to address past and future problems created by plastics.

Everybody Loves Fishing, Right?

Managing our fisheries produces both recreational and ecological benefits. Whether its bluegill, bass, muskie, walleye, or catfish, establishing programs to better manage the life cycles of fish can produce tangible improvements to lakes. Topics will cover measures to reduce carp populations, presence of pharmaceuticals within the water column, and how regulations are part of fisheries management.

Trending Topics

Lake management and water quality issues are dynamic. The science must also be able to accommodate these changes and progress forward. This session will hold a mixed bag of topics related to algae, changes in sampling methodologies, and information on best management practices.

Volunteer Programs

Much of the data scientist use to analyze and monitor water quality comes from citizen scientists through established volunteer programs. This session is dedicated to highlighting these programs and the unbelievable individuals who devote their time to gather data and contribute to the existing knowledgebase.

Wildlife

Lakes are not just about fish. They support an abundance of other wildlife both within the lake and the land surrounding it. Sometimes, wildlife can impact a lake as much as the lake impacts it. This session will include discussions on beaver and muskrat populations, endangered turtles, and programs that increase mussel diversity and numbers.

Dredging

Sediment retention is a natural part of a lake's life cycle. This can, however, degrade water quality and recreational opportunities over time. Dredging is a management solution, both expensive and time-consuming. Whether a lake is publicly or privately owned, undertaking the task of dredging can be daunting. Presentations will focus on issues related to implementing a dredging project, unique perspectives from home owner associations, and local case studies.

Aquatic Plants

Vegetation is a natural and important part of a lake ecosystem. Problems arise when things get out of balance. Further complicating the issue is a basic understanding of where the balance is; for example, many members of the public believe no plants are a good thing. Topics will include recognizing invasive species, treatment methods, and their role in providing critical habitat.

Managing on Large and Small Scales [Panel Discussion]

Lake management is typically driven by a combination of state and federal programs/regulations and local community groups. Each side plays an important role in setting agendas and establishing the best scientific information. This session will bring together a panel to share experiences and interact with the audience. Success and failures from past projects and/or programs will be discussed.

Workshops [March 15th & 16th]

Calling Frog Survey [Friday March 15th]

Allison Sacerdote-Velat: Chicago Academy of Science

This citizen science program has been based at the Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum since 2014. With over 100 monitoring routes, the Calling Frog Survey spans 7 counties in northeastern Illinois and Northwestern Indiana. Volunteer frog monitors help record species presence and breeding call intensity to help track species distribution trends, population trends, and response of frogs and toads to habitat restoration. The workshop is for both beginning & experienced monitors. We'll introduce attendees to the 13 regional frog and toad species and their natural history, highlighting visual and acoustic identification. We will discuss our monitoring protocol, data collection, how to set up a survey route, and share some insights from our 2018 field season.

AIS Identification [Saturday March 16th]

*Alana Bartolai: Lake County Health Department
Holly Hudson: CMAP*

What is that thing living in my lake?! Native or exotic? Invasive or benign? A five-alarm emergency or longer-term control situation? Come find out at the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Identification Workshop! This workshop will help you distinguish native versus non-native aquatic plants (underwater and lakeshore) and animals (mussels, snails, fish, crayfish). Experts from the Lake County Health Department, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and others will provide a mix of presentations and hands-on activities using photos, drawings, reference guides, and specimens to reveal key distinguishing characteristics. Guidance will also be provided regarding AIS prevention and management measures.