

The Intersection of the Environment & Politics

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute
Saturday, February 23, 2019

8:00 am **Conference Registration**
Visitor Center Commons Area

8:30 am **Welcome**
Ellen Holste, Program Coordinator, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute
Auditorium

8:45 am **Keynote Speaker**
Fighting for our environment: Stories from an environmental advocate
Nancy Warren, Executive Director of the National Wolfwatcher Coalition and Past President of the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition
Auditorium

9:45 am **Break**

10:00 am **Breakout Session 1** (Breakout sessions will be held concurrently)

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| Auditorium | Inform Your Lake, Stream, and Wetland Management Decisions through Citizen Science Programs <i>Erick Elgin, Water Resource Educator, Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Clean Water Corps</i> |
| Dining Room | Who wants to save that? Legitimizing policies to save non-charismatic species <i>Dr. Laura Schneider, Professor of Political Science, Grand Valley State University</i> |

10:45 am **Break**

11:00 am **Breakout Session 2**

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| Auditorium | Speak Up! Public engagement opportunities with Michigan DNR <i>Kelly Siciliano Carter, Public Outreach and Engagement Unit Manager, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division</i> |
| Dining Room | Climate change and the courts: How do court cases affect policy? <i>Dr. Denise Keele, Associate Professor of Political Science and Institute of the Environmental & Sustainability, Western Michigan University</i> |

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11:45 am **Networking Lunch**
Participants are encouraged to network and visit non-profit organizations' tables in Visitor Center Commons Area during the lunch break.

1:15 pm **Breakout Session 3**

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| Auditorium | Green advocacy in Michigan <i>TBA, Michigan Environmental Council</i> |
| Dining Room | Green consumerism: How does product labeling affect consumer choices and policy? <i>Dr. Abigail Bennett, Assistant Professor of Fisheries and Wildlife and Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability, Michigan State University</i> |

2:00 pm **Break**

2:15 pm **Closing speaker**
Getting the Message Out: Tackling Communication Barriers
Lester Graham, Reporter for The Environment Report and Friday Host for Stateside, Michigan Radio
Auditorium



Nancy Warren

As a child growing up in New York City, Nancy questioned why the fish she caught smelled like gasoline, why her eyes burned, and why barges of trash were being dumped in the ocean. The adults around her had no answers and thus began her lifetime of environmental activism. Throughout more than 45 years living in Michigan, Nancy has tackled many issues from joining a wetlands preservation committee working with land developers, to challenging the Department of Corrections with their prison site selection, to fighting to preserve wild spaces. Nancy has been in the forefront working to find common ground. She travelled to Washington DC to lobby for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and exposed the Power Company for violating the terms of their license agreement. Her passion for wolves began more than 20 years ago when she learned that there were a handful of wolves in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and sought to improve human tolerance through education. She is an active volunteer for the Speakers Bureau of Timber Wolf Alliance giving programs at schools and various organizations throughout Northern Wisconsin and the Western U.P. She serves as the Executive Director for the National Wolfwatcher Coalition, held a seat on WI Wolf Stakeholders Committee and was a representative on the MI DNR Wolf Roundtable charged with developing the guiding principles for the MI Wolf Management Plan and continues to serve on the MI Wolf Management Advisory Committee. For 19 seasons, Nancy was a volunteer carnivore tracker for the Wisconsin Volunteer Carnivore Program, assisting with wolf population monitoring through track and howling surveys and assisted with the handling and collaring of several Wisconsin wolves. Other volunteer activities include advisor to the Keep Michigan Wolves Protected Campaign, board member of Timber Wolf Alliance, Northwood Alliance, Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, Ontonagon County Commission on Aging and Ontonagon Resource Advisory Committee for the Ottawa National Forest. Nancy and her husband, Al, live in Ewen, in the Western U.P. and have welcomed and adapted to having wolves and other wild animals frequent their property which has been placed under a conservation easement, insuring its protection for future generations.

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Erick Elgin

Erick Elgin is an Aquatic Ecologist and Water Resources Educator with Michigan State University Extension. His job responsibilities include providing expertise in aquatic ecology to residents and organizations within Michigan and delivering educational programs that promote understanding about water resources. Among many initiatives, Erick is a core member of the Michigan Clean Water Corps – a network of volunteer water quality monitoring programs in Michigan. Erick is from Minnesota where he studied natural resources management and worked with multiple habitat restoration companies and organizations. He also has a master’s degree in aquatic ecology from the University of Calgary where he studied food web dynamics in prairie pothole lakes in Alberta, Canada. He has extensive experience working with lakes, wetlands, and aquatic plants.



Laura Schneider

Laura Schneider is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Grand Valley State University. She received her master’s and Ph.D. from Purdue University and completed her undergraduate degree at Skidmore College. She teaches a variety of courses at GVSU, including American Government, Environmental Policy, Women Health and the Environment, and Women and Public Policy. Her environmental research interests include endangered species, fire policy, toxin exposure and women’s health, and climate change.

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Kelly Carter

Kelly Siciliano Carter is the Public Outreach and Engagement (POE) Unit Manager for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division. Kelly graduated from Michigan State University with a Masters in Humans Dimensions of Fisheries and Wildlife. Kelly has worked for the DNR since 2000. She started her career as the Wildlife Training and Safety Coordinator and then switched gears in 2003 and became the Information and Education Coordinator. In 2009, the POE Unit was formed, and she was hired to lead the team. Kelly has been involved in stakeholder engagement for more than 15 years and has helped coordinate species management plans, strategic plans, and communication plans – all needing extensive stakeholder input. She has a passion for connecting all people with wildlife and looks forward to sharing her experiences with you.



Denise Keele

Denise Keele has a BS in Forestry from the University of Tennessee Knoxville and received her PhD in Environmental Politics from SUNY-ESF and Syracuse University. She is currently an Associate Professor of Political Science, jointly appointed with the Institute of the Environment & Sustainability, at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Her research and teaching focus is environmental policy and law, in particular the use of the courts to influence public policy. Her publications range from applied policy studies in the *Journal of Forestry* to judicial behavior studies in the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*.

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Michigan Environmental Council



Abigail Bennett

Abigail Bennett is Assistant Professor of Global Inland Fisheries Ecology and Governance. Her research engages institutional analysis, political economy, and discourse analysis to study processes of institutional emergence and change and associated social and ecological outcomes in fisheries. In particular, she is interested in understanding how different governance arrangements - both formal and informal - shape intersections of fish trade, food security, and sustainable fisheries livelihoods. Her research also seeks to track the discursive representation of inland fisheries in policy and development spaces and the role of fisheries science in shaping those narratives. Relatedly, she aims to connect her research to outreach with organizations such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission in order to inform scholarship and work across the science-policy interface.

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Lester Graham

Lester Graham has been a journalist since 1985. He currently reports for The Environment Report and hosts Stateside (on Fridays) on Michigan Radio. He was previously with The Environment Report from 1998-2010. In the interim, he reported on the Detroit bankruptcy, Michigan politics, and issues regarding race and gender inequity. Graham has served as a board member of the Public Radio News Directors Inc. and served as President of the Illinois News Broadcasters Association. He is a member of the Radio-Television Digital News Association (RTDNA), Society of Professional Journalists, and other professional groups. Lester has received 25 national awards for journalism excellence and scores more at the regional and state levels.

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