



2024 Annual Meeting and Conference

Preserving & Protecting Lake Michigan: Restoration, Climate & Line 5

Friday and Saturday October 25-26, 2024

Lodging: The Hampton Inn, 101 S. Lake Shore Drive, Manistee, MI 49660

Conference: Westshore Community College, 400 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660

Dinner & Keynote: Blue Fish Restaurant, 312 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660

Attend in-person or via Zoom

Taking place on the shores of Lake Michigan in Manistee, Michigan, this weekend will include our annual meeting, engaging Lake Michigan-related field trips and an exciting line-up of policy makers, scientists, and Great Lakes advocates.

Conference Schedule *All Times (ET)*

Friday, October 25

3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. ET Optional field trip

The Arcadia Marsh: A Historical and Environmental Tour

Join the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) for a guided tour of the Arcadia Marsh Nature Preserve just south of Arcadia. Senior Charitable Giving Specialist Erin Whiting and Land Steward Steve Lagerquist will co-lead the tour to give us an overview of GTRLC's history and impact on the health of the Great Lakes region's unique ecosystem. This engaging tour will provide insights into GTRLC's habitat restoration work at Arcadia Marsh, the biodiverse ecological value of marshes, and the power of strong community partnerships. If lucky, we will see various birds that call the marsh home, including blue herons and bald eagles.

The Arcadia Marsh is one of the most beautiful and diverse nature preserves under GTRLC's umbrella. The universally accessible boardwalk allows users of all abilities to enjoy this iconic property and experience the unique flora and fauna that call this place home. This will be a relatively easy walk on flat, even terrain. The main trail at Arcadia Marsh is a long boardwalk that extends 0.75-mile across the heart of the preserve. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and bring a camera and/or binoculars.

Directions from Manistee: Drive is about 22 miles north from Manistee and takes about ½ hour. 1691 Northwood Hwy, Arcadia, MI 49613



Click the link below to learn more!

<https://www.gtrlc.org/recreation-events/preserve/arcadia-marsh-nature-preserve/>

Dinner **on your own.**

Saturday, October 26

9:30 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. Opening presentation

Stanley “Skip” Pruss

For the Love of Water (FLOW), Senior Legal Advisor

Former Chief Energy Advisor to Governor Jennifer Granholm

Former Director, Department of Energy & Economic Growth, State of Michigan

Founder, 5 Lakes Energy Company

Line 5: A Pipeline Like No Other

Stanley “Skip” Pruss was the Director of the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth and Michigan’s Chief Energy Officer under Governor Jennifer Granholm, and also served as the Governor’s Special Advisor for Renewable Energy and the Environment. Prior to that, Skip was the Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and served as the Assistant Attorney General in Charge of Michigan’s Consumer Protection Division where he was also Chair of the Department of Attorney General’s Public Protection Practice Group.

11:30 am Catered Lunch on Site

12:45 p.m. 2024 League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region Annual Meeting

2:00 p.m. Presentation

**Alexis DeGabriele, Aquatic Biologist-Wetlands
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI), Natural Resources Department
*Wild Rice Monitoring and Restoration by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.***

Alexis DeGabriele has worked as an Aquatic Biologist- Wetlands for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI) since 2021. She has a BS in Applied Ecology and Environmental Science and a Master of Geographic Information Science degree from Michigan Technological University. Alexis is responsible for LRBOI's Manoomin (Wild Rice) program, which has been doing monitoring and restoration in the 1836 Ceded Territory since the early 2000's. As a member of the Michigan Wild Rice Initiative, Alexis has been involved in the development of the state stewardship plan which will be released in January 2025.

3:30 p.m. **Mark Fedder, Executive Director
Manistee County Historical Society
*Historical Manistee Guided Walking Tour.***

After our afternoon speaker, we are offering a walking tour of historical Manistee led by Mark Fedder, the Executive Director of the Manistee County Historical Museum. Located in Historic Downtown Manistee, the Manistee County Historical Museum is housed inside the Lyman Building at 425 River Street. The museum serves to preserve, interpret, and educate the public about the history of Manistee County.

6:00 p.m. Reception and Dinner

6:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception (cash bar) & Light d'oeuvres

6:30 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. **Keynote Presentation:**

**J. Carl Ganter, Co-Founder & Director
Circle of Blue**

Designing Water's Future: A Journey from Michigan to the World

J. Carl Ganter will take us to the front lines of the world's freshwater challenges and reveal some of the key solutions for systems change at local-to-global levels. Carl is a journalist, former National Geographic and Time Magazine photographer, and co-founder of Circle of Blue, which reports on water issues around the world from its base in Traverse City. A Leelanau County native, Carl is a fellow at the Explorers Club and recipient of the Rockefeller Foundation Centennial Innovation Award.

Conference Fees

For those attending in-person, registration is \$115 for the field trips, daytime conference & Dinner. Daytime Conference & Lunch Only: \$55.00, Dinner only: \$60.00; Field trips: both are free. Online attendance is \$25.00; field trips are not available online.

Attendees will provide their own transportation to the field trip destination; there will not be buses. The tours will not be available via Zoom.

Registration is online only. Please visit <https://www.lwvlmr.org/> to register. If you have difficulty with registration online, please contact us for assistance at lwvlakemichigan@gmail.com.

Accommodations

Attendees may stay at the Hampton Inn, 101 S. Lake Shore Drive, Manistee, MI at a **discounted rate of \$180 per night, plus tax, and it includes breakfast**. A limited **discounted room block is available**. This reservation is separate from the Annual Meeting and Conference Registration.

You can reserve your room by calling the Hampton in at 231.299.1096, press 0, and ask for the Front Desk (for the discount you must tell them that you are with League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region; the code is LWV.) While calling the Front Desk is the best way to ensure you receive the discount, you can also reserve a room online at [Hampton Inn & Suites Manistee Waterfront \(hilton.com\)](https://www.hilton.com) You must enter the code LWV to obtain the discount. Please email us at lwvlakemichigan@gmail.com, if you have any problems.

Another option for a budget conscious stay, but not on the water, is the Manistee Microtel: <https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/microtel/manistee-michigan/microtel-inn-and-suites-manistee/overview?CID=LC:5b3ss9kd80xe5ox:29215&iata=00093796>. We do not have a discount arrangement at the Microtel.

COVID Safety Measures

In consideration for the health and safety of our members and guests, the most up-to-date CDC guidance regarding COVID safety measures will be followed. If you are feeling at all unwell, please change your plans and attend via Zoom.

[How to Protect Yourself and Others | CDC](#)

Scholarships

Scholarships for registration fees are available. For information, please contact lwvlakemichigan@gmail.com.

In-person Auction

We invite you to donate an item to the in-person auction that will run before and during the event. THE DEADLINE FOR DONATION OF ITEMS HAS BEEN EXTENDED. It's not too late! Click here for donation form: [LWV- Lake Michigan Region Auction Donation Form \(google.com\)](#)

View Auction Items Donated Thus Far, Here!

<https://new.biddingowl.com/LWVLMRAuction2024>