# **ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM 2018**

"The Flint water crisis is a story of government failure, intransigence, unpreparedness, delay, inaction, and environmental injustice."

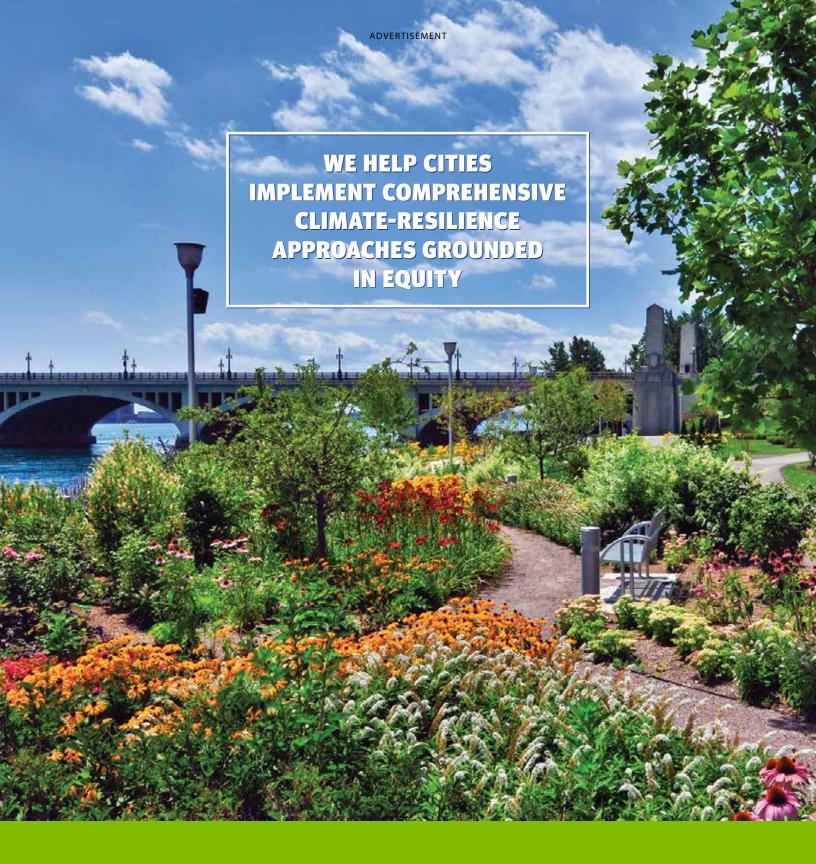
■ March 2016, Flint Water Advisory Task Force, appointed by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, Republican

# SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS

28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Hosted by University of Michigan-Flint
Oct. 3-7, 2018



The Kresge Foundation is pleased to partner with the Society of Environmental Journalists.



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# Whova Want to be more productive at SEJ-FLINT?

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On behalf of the University of Michigan-Flint, welcome to Flint, Michigan!

Our campus is honored to host the Society of Environmental Journalists' 28th Annual Conference here in the heart of our city. As an anchor institution, we are proud of our role in this region: as a leader in academic excellence, research, and real-world, engaged learning. We also take pride in being a place where civil discourse can bring about the change we need to move this community forward.

This year's conference theme, "Fresh Water, Fresh Ideas," resonates with our campus and community. While it has been several years since unsafe levels of lead were found in our drinking water, Flint and its residents are still dealing with the repercussions.

From the beginning, UM-Flint worked in partnership with the city and community organizations to be part of the solution, and to help our community deal with the effects of this public health emergency. Our campus hosted the first large-scale community filter distribution to area residents while our Geographic Information Systems Center identified and mapped all known locations of lead pipes in the city.

And our work continues. Our Public Health and Health Sciences faculty continue to provide free courses on the water crisis to our community, our nursing faculty and students will keep performing free lead screening until 100% of at-risk children are tested, and our university still offers early childhood education to area children at Cummings Great Expectations Early Childhood Center.

Our Healthy Flint Research Coordinating Center brings together faculty from all three University of Michigan campuses and Michigan State University, along with community-based organizations, to identify and coordinate efforts that work towards the best possible health outcomes for our hometown. We've set up a Community Impact Fund with donations from alumni and friends to support the efforts that our students, faculty, and staff undertake with community partners to protect the health of residents in the region.

The work isn't done yet. But the University of Michigan-Flint is in it for the long haul. We are a resource for our community, partners that will help Flint move forward. We are the opportunity for the students of this region – young and old – to earn a Michigan degree. The next generation of our region's thinkers, doers, and leaders will emerge from UM-Flint.

I'm sure you'll soon see why I'm so proud of this university and this city. I hope you'll join us in telling the story of Flint, of our university, and the people who roll up their sleeves every day to fight for our future.

Thank you, each and every one of you, for the work you do in covering environmental issues. Your efforts to advance the public's understanding of these issues is vital, and I am so appreciative of your work.

Once again, welcome to Flint, Michigan, and the University of Michigan-Flint. GO BLUE!

Sincerely,

Susan E. Borrego Chancellor, UM-Flint

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#### CITY OF FLINT

Dr. Karen W. Weaver Mayor

#### GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR KAREN WILLIAMS WEAVER, PHD



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On behalf of the City of Flint, it brings me great pleasure to welcome the 28th Annual Conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ).

We are so grateful to have the SEJ here drawing the nation's environmental press corps to Flint. With hundreds of attendees, including journalists, environmental news sources, and academics from across the nation and globe, expected to attend we are sure that this will be a successful and impactful event.

I commend UM-Flint and the hosting partners for bringing this event to our city. It is my hope that this event expands the world views of our community.

With warmest regards,

Dr. Karen W. Weaver

Mayor

City of Flint

Bio: Dr. Karen W. Weaver, Mayor City of Flint, Michigan

Dr. Karen W. Weaver was born in Flint, Michigan, a city she loves! Dr. Karen W. Weaver attended Flint Public Schools and graduated from Flint Northern High School. From there she went to the University of Michigan-Flint. She later graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Tougaloo College, a Historical Black College, in Tougaloo, Mississippi. Dr. Weaver received her Master's Degree from Long Island University in Brooklyn, NY and her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Michigan State University. Before being elected as Mayor of The City of Flint in November 2015, Dr. Karen W. Weaver held several leadership positions in the Flint Community; Director of Behavioral Services at Mott Children's Health Center, and Chief Operating Officer of Ennis Center for Children. She is an entrepreneur and owns the "Shea LaVelle Boutique," a specialty store for natural skin, hair and body care products.

City of Flint • 1101 S. Saginaw St., Rm 101 • Flint, Michigan 48502 www.cityofflint.com • (810) 766-7346 • Fax: (810) 766-7218

# Stay lit, Cuyahoga River. (No actual fire needed.)



#### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018**

Environmental Journalism 2018: The 28th Annual Conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists officially begins Wednesday, October 3, at 5:00 p.m., with an opening reception followed by dinner and programs on Flint and the future of the auto industry.

Before the official kick-off, three all-day workshops will be held, as well as an afternoon meet-and-greet with fun networking opportunities.

Please note: SEJ is committed to supporting a harassmentfree environment at the conference. Please read our antiharassment policy: bit.ly/SEJAnti-HarassmentPolicy

All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will be at the UM-Flint's Riverfront Conference Center, 1 Riverfront Plaza, Flint, MI 48502, unless otherwise indicated.

#### **Independent Journalism Workshop** Heart-to-Heart with Flint:

Racism, Stereotypes and News Narratives

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Location: Suite A, Expo Center

This workshop will be run by one of the top private consulting firms in the country with a specialty in race-related conversations, VISIONS, Inc., which stands for Vigorous InterventionS In On-going Natural Settings. VISIONS workshops encourage uninhibited conversation on sensitive and emotional experiences related to identity and stereotypes. All participants, including journalists, will be asked to openly explore their personal perceptions of and experiences with race, stereotypes and other aspects of their own identities. For this workshop, VISIONS will bring together journalists and Flint community members as equals in a unique opportunity to explore mainstream media's coverage of disenfranchised communities with people who weathered the national spotlight. The workshop will involve a series of learning activities and frank conversations. People not participating in the workshop will not be permitted to observe.

#### **SEJ Journalism Workshop**

**Video Production for Journalists** 

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Boardroom B&C, Expo Center

The team from The Video Journalist, Inc. has more than 30 years of experience teaching video production in a newsroom setting. Their class, which follows founder Michael Rosenblum's five-shot method, has been taught to international outlets like The Guardian and more local shops like the Newarkbased Star-Ledger. Instructor Brett Savaglio will lead this interactive program that aims to equip reporters with a video storytelling mindset that can be executed by anyone, whether you're using a DSLR or a smartphone. The workshop begins with breakfast and classroom instruction to establish a mindset for video production, then moves into hands-on workshopping where students will get started using Rosenblum's method with direct feedback and guidance. No technical background or gear is required, but feel free to bring whatever tools you might use in the field. Special thanks to Michael Rosenblum and The Video Journalist, Inc. for in-kind sponsorship of this workshop.

**Facilitator:** 

**Kevin Beaty**, Multimedia Reporter, Denverite

Instructor:

**Brett Savaglio**, The Video Journalist, Inc.

#### **SEJ/Climate Matters Collaborative** Journalism Workshop

Telling Climate Change Stories that Matter: From Impacts to Solutions

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Location: Suite D, Expo Center

Extreme weather. Economic losses. Threats to food and water. Americans are feeling the impact of climate change on their health, safety and wallets, but most don't realize it. You will leave this workshop better able to report locally relevant stories. We will address the hottest topics in climate research, impacts and solutions, as well as audience interest and journalistic challenges. You'll get access to National Science Foundation-funded localized climate reporting resources, including ready-to-use graphics.

#### Moderator:

Nancy Gaarder, City Editor/Reporter, Omaha World-Herald and Board Member, Society of Environmental Journalists

#### Speakers:

Jeff Burnside, Independent Journalist

**Dennis Dimick**, Executive Environment Editor, *National Geographic* 

Paul Gross, Meteorologist, WDIV-TV Channel 4, Detroit

Susan Hassol, Director, Climate Communication

Chuck Kutscher, Fellow, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute **Edward Maibach**, Professor and Director, Center for Climate Change Communication, George Mason University

Michael Mann, Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director, Earth System Science Center, Pennsylvania State University

Meera Subramanian, Freelance Journalist

Bernadette Woods Placky, Meteorologist and Director of Climate Matters, Climate Central

#### Registration

2:00 - 6:00 p.m. Location: Lobby

Pick up your badge and conference materials here. If you didn't sign up for the Thursday tours, Saturday evening party or Sunday breakfast at Flint Institute of Arts, there might still be room. Check with registration and sign up there.

#### **SEJ Information Table**

2:00 - 6:00 p.m. Location: Lobby

Sign up here for Friday beat dinners and Saturday mini-tours. Read up on Board candidates, find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services.

#### Meet-and-Greet Reception

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Location: Expo Room

We'll celebrate coming together again, this time along with local artists and their works, and we'll start the discussion about how water is often a major part of both the celebrations and struggles of all communities. Come say hello to SEJ's new executive director, Meaghan Parker, and share your ideas for SEJ's future with her and other attendees on how we can meet SEJ's goals, including increasing diversity in environmental journalism and supporting new journalists. Sponsored in part by the U.S. Water Alliance.





#### **OPENING DINNER EVENT**

Welcome to Flint, and Future of Autos Plenary

5:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Location: Expo Room/UM-Flint (reception and dinner); Factory One (plenary session)

When journalists flood a place following a disaster, local people often plead: Don't forget us. Come back. Well, thanks for the invitation, Flint. As hundreds of journalists gather to kick off SEJ's conference, we'll celebrate the strength, smarts and sounds of

the Vehicle City. Hear what people learned from the water crisis that could help other communities responding to environmental disaster.

Sponsored in part by the C.S. Mott Foundation.

#### **Emcees:**

**Emilia Askari**, Journalist and Educator, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and Research Assistant, Michigan State University Brian Bienkowski, Senior Editor, Environmental Health News and The Daily Climate

#### Speakers:

Mari Copeny, Youth Activist / Little Miss Flint (invited)
Mona Hanna-Attisha, Pediatrician and Author, "What The Eyes
Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City"
Isaiah Oliver, President and Chief Executive Officer, Community
Foundation of Greater Flint
Other Flint leaders TBA

#### **EVENING PLENARY:**

#### **FUTURE OF CARS**

8:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Location: Factory One, 303 West Water Street, Flint

The panel will look at the big changes ahead, as autonomy, electrification and connectivity come together in the next few years to create the biggest change in car culture since the horse gave way to the horseless carriage. The private car could become obsolete, as consumers hail fleet-owned self-driving cars to get to their destinations. If current trends continue, the mobility traditions in place for more than a century — governing vehicle use, sales, service, branding, competition, parking, fueling and more — will be profoundly altered. This revolution holds promise for the planet. Today's cars are driven only five percent of the time, but electric fleet cars, in addition to being zero emission, will stay on the road 24/7. That means a much-smaller global auto park, perhaps a 70 percent reduction, and a corresponding drop in the need for the parking that currently occupies 50 to 60 percent of urban downtowns. There are a billion parking spaces in the U.S., four for every car on the road! Sponsored in part by General Motors.

#### Moderator:

**Jim Motavalli**, Freelance Environmental Journalist; Contributor, The New York Times, Car Talk at NPR; Author; and Radio Host, WPKN-FM

#### Speakers:

Michael Ableson, Vice President, Global Strategy, General Motors John DeCicco, Research Professor, University of Michigan Energy Institute and Director, University of Michigan Energy Survey Michelle Krebs, Automotive Writer; Executive Analyst, Autotrader; and former Senior Auto Analyst and Editor, Edmunds.com 4th speaker TBA

#### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018**

Please note: SEJ is committed to supporting a harassment-free environment at the conference. Please read our anti-harassment policy: bit.ly/SEJAnti-HarassmentPolicy

#### Registration

5:30 - 9:30 a.m. and Noon - 6:00 p.m.

Location: Lobby

Pick up your badge and conference materials here. If you didn't sign up for the Thursday tours, Saturday evening party or Sunday breakfast at Flint Institute of Arts, there might still be room. Check with registration and sign up there.

#### **SEJ Information Table**

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Location: Lobby

Sign up here for Friday beat dinners and Saturday mini-tours. Read up on Board candidates, find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services.

#### **TOURS IN THE FIELD**

Advance registration is required for all Thursday tours. Attendance on each tour is strictly limited, so registering early is important. Departure times vary (see next page), but all Thursday tours will return to the Riverfront Conference Center about 5:00 p.m. Planning was still underway at the time of printing, so please visit www.sej.org for more details. For those looking for some exercise, tours 1, 5 and 9 are your best options. Other tours involve moderate exercise. Tours 2 and 7 are best suited for those with limited mobility.

Departure: For detailed departure information, please consult your Shuttle Schedule or logistics on your Whova app. Each tour will depart from the Riverfront Conference Center at the times listed, but will pick up attendees at their hotels earlier.



1. The Last Good Country: Lush Forests and "Holy Waters" (5:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

"It's great northern air. Absolutely the best trout fishing in the country. No exaggeration. Fine country." Ernest Hemingway was describing the woodlands and waterways near the tip of Michigan's mitten, the setting for some of his short fiction. The Pigeon River State Forest retains something of the beauty and wildness that inspired the budding author, despite logging that scarred the landscape. A century later, a restored elk herd is a symbol of the forest's renewal. We'll take a post-dawn hike in search of the bugling beasts. We'll learn of efforts to combat diseases that threaten Michigan's deer and hear the remarkable story of the Kirtland's warbler, a songbird rescued from near-extinction. Resource managers will discuss the challenge of satisfying the forest's varied recreationists. Another destination is a fish hatchery that has turned the Au Sable River, revered by anglers as "holy waters," into a battleground over private aquaculture.

Total drive time - 6 hours.

Tour Leaders:

Arielle Breen, News Reporter, Gaylord Herald Times John Flesher, Correspondent, Global Environment Beat Team, The Associated Press

Speakers:

Abigail Ertel, Community Program Lead, Huron Pines Marvin Roberson, Forest Ecologist, Sierra Club Kelly Straka, Wildlife Veterinarian and Supervisor, Wildlife Health Section, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Dan Vogler, Owner and General Manager, Harrietta Hills Trout Farm

**Scott Whitcomb**, Unit Manager, Pigeon River Country, Forest Resources Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources



Cruisin' Ground Zero: The Western Lake Erie Shoreline (6:30 a.m. departure, \$50 fee, includes lunch and boat ride)

Western Lake Erie and its mammoth Maumee River watershed are Ground Zero for Great Lakes research — by far the warmest, shallowest and most dynamic part of the world's biggest lake system. There's a unique convergence of human and wildlife impacts, such as shipping, automobile manufacturing, tourism, fishing, birding and big agriculture. This region is a major driver for anything from sewage regulations to climate change policies, as well as research into ag runoff, atmospheric fallout from coal-fired power plants, PCBs, toxic algae and invasive species. It's the Great Lakes region's biggest area for fish spawning, as well as a birder's paradise. We'll ply the shoreline for hours aboard a large vessel out of Toledo and hear from leading experts.

Total drive time - 3.5 hours.

**Tour Leaders:** 

**Tom Henry**, Environmental-Energy Writer, *The* (Toledo) *Blade* Karen Schaefer, Freelance Journalist and Independent Radio Producer

Speakers:

Sandy Bihn, Founder and Executive Director, Lake Erie Foundation; and Founder and Executive Director, Lake Erie Waterkeeper Thomas Bridgeman, Professor of Ecology/ Lake Erie Center Director, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Toledo Pete Bucher, Water Resources Director, Ohio Environmental Council George Bullerjahn, Professor of Research Excellence, Department of Biological Sciences, Bowling Green State University **Joe Cappel**, Vice President of Business Development, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

Jennifer Carter-Cornell, Funding Practice Leader, Hull & Associates,

**Joe Cornely**, Senior Director, Corporate Communications, Ohio Farm **Bureau Federation** 

**Steve Davis**, Watershed Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Mike Ferner, Founder and Coordinator, Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie Kelly Frey, Sanitary Engineer, Ottawa County Sanitary Engineering Department (Ohio)

**Lynn Henning**, Regional Representative, Socially Responsible Agricultural Project

Laura Johnson, Assistant Professor of Biology and Director, National Center for Water Quality Research, Heidelberg University

Wade Kapszukiewicz, Mayor, City of Toledo

**Kimberly Kaufman**, Executive Director, Black Swamp Bird Observatory Joe Logan, President, Ohio Farmers Union

Nicholas Mandros, Regional Director, Toledo, Ohio Environmental Council & OEC Action Fund

Andy McClure, Administrator, Collins Park Water Treatment Plant, City of Toledo (invited)

Paul Pacholski, President, Lake Erie Charter Boat Association **Dave Spangler**, Vice President, Lake Erie Charter Boat Association Frank Szollosi, Regional Outreach Coordinator, Great Lakes Office, **National Wildlife Federation** 

Pam Taylor, Research Coordinator, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan

**Chris Winslow**, Director, Ohio Sea Grant College Program and Stone Laboratory, Ohio State University



3. Canada's Chemical Valley: From Toxic to Green? (7:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

Canadians struck oil in 1858, near Sarnia, Ontario, and have excelled in petrochemicals and refining ever since. Sarnia, and the Chemical Valley, has one of Canada's densest concentrations of petrochemical operations and infrastructure. The flip side of this prosperity is the cumulative effect of emissions from multiple toxic pollutants. We'll hear about health impacts on a tour with members of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation and then from a panel of health experts, a local Member of Parliament who once worked as an engineer for Suncor and Dow Chemical, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario and other legal experts well versed in the regulation of emissions. Stakeholders have failed to fund an authoritative health study for a decade. Later in the afternoon we will get an introduction to the small, but rapidly emerging, green chemistry industry in discussions with Bioindustrial Innovation

Canada and an on-site tour of a bio-chemical refinery.

Total drive time – 4 hours including an international border crossing.

Tour Leaders:

Saul Chernos, Freelance Journalist Mary Ann Colihan, Freelance Journalist

Speakers:

**James Brophy**, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology, University of Windsor, and Founder and former Director, Sarnia's Occupational Health Clinic for Ontario Workers Michael Gilbertson, former Research Manager, International Joint Commission (retired)

Marilyn Gladu, Member of Parliament (Sarnia-Lambton) and Shadow Minister for Health, Canada

**Lindsay Gray**, Activist and Member, Aamjiwnaang First Nation Vanessa Gray, Activist and Member, Aamjiwnaang First Nation Margaret Keith, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology, University of Windsor Ada Lockridge, Activist and Member, Aamjiwnaang First Nation **Elaine MacDonald**, Program Director, Healthy Communities, Ecojustice Sandy Marshall, Executive Director, Bioindustrial Innovation Canada and Chief Executive Officer, Sustainable Chemistry Alliance **Dianne Saxe**, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario Representatives from Aamjiwnaang First Nation TBA

**ADVERTISEMENT** 





4. The Shape of Water... and Milk and Beer!

(7:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

Participants learn of innovative solutions to the environmental challenges of producing clean water and milk and beer. See a Michigan State University experimental farm turn manure into electricity and compost that exports phosphorous from sensitive watersheds. Then it's on to the challenges of urban stormwater in Grand Rapids with a tour that includes lunch and beverages at Founders, the largest craft brewery in Michigan, which has partnered with the city in a unique solution to handling its waste. Then we visit the countryside where SwissLane Farms shows how a dairy with 2,200 cows is a national leader in sustainability. Total drive time - 3.5 hours.

#### **Tour Leaders:**

**Chris Clayton**, Ag Policy Editor, DTN/The Progressive Farmer **Jennifer Kiel**, Editor, Michigan Farmer and Ohio Farmer, The Farm **Progress Network** 

**David Poulson**, Senior Associate Director, MSU Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, School of Journalism; and Director, Translational Scholars Program, MSU Global Center for Food Systems Innovation, Michigan State University

#### Speakers:

Matt Chapman, Project Manager, Grand Rapids Whitewater **Bill Kaiser**, Wastewater Plant Superintendent, City of Grand Rapids (Michigan)

Joe Kelpinski, Program Manager, Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

**Dana Kirk**, Assistant Professor, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, and Manager, Anaerobic Digestion Research and Education Center, Michigan State University

Annie Oesch-Link, Founder, Dairy Discovery, SwissLane Farms (Alto, Mich.)

**Carrie Rivette**, Stormwater Manager, City of Grand Rapids and Chair, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds

Michael Staal, Project Manager, City of Grand Rapids and Chair, Public Engagement Committee, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds



5. Sail the Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay

(8:00 a.m. departure, \$50 fee, includes lunch and boat ride)

The toxic legacy of Michigan's 100-year manufacturing past lingers in the Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay. The waterways are the subject of past and present pollution and remediation of dioxins, PCBs, DDT, PBBs, chlordane and heavy metals. The tour will begin with a visit to the Saginaw Bay Visitor Center for an overview of the natural features, history and remediation of one of the largest freshwater wetlands systems in the world. We will continue on the Schooner Appledore with a catered lunch aboard, for a tour afloat of five miles of the river and into the bay, where Channel Island, a confined disposal facility for contaminated dredging spoils, can be seen. Total drive time - 2 hours. The tour is sponsored in part by the Watershed Initiative Network.

#### **Tour Leaders:**

Clark Hughes, Regional News Manager, The Saginaw News, The Flint Journal and The Bay City Times/MLive.com Gary Ridley, News Leader, MLive-The Flint Journal

#### Speakers:

#### **Dow Chemical representative (invited)**

John Jackson, Member, Great Lakes Water Quality Board, International Joint Commission; Canadian Adviser, Great Lakes Fishery Commission; and Lecturer, Waste Management, School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability, University of Waterloo

Mike Kelly, Director, Great Lakes Office, Conservation Services, Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network, The Conservation Fund

**Terry Miller**, President, Lone Tree Council; Adjunct Professor of History, Delta College; and Board Member, BaySail Inc.

Lisa Williams, Environmental Contaminants Branch Chief, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



#### 6. Gasoline, Garbage and Greenery in Detroit

(8:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

Southwest Detroit has the unfortunate distinction of being the most polluted locale in Michigan. Because the state has no laws regulating the distance between industrial operations and residential areas, a host of heavy industries, including a massive Marathon Petroleum Co. refinery, are clustered in an area where people — mostly African American and poor — are trying to survive. Across town, on Detroit's east side next to a similar residential area, is a controversial facility that burns garbage to produce electricity and steam. Activists have been unsuccessfully trying to shutter it for decades. Along with visiting the areas where the refinery and incinerator are located, the tour also includes a much greener (but still controversial) project that involves the commercial planting of hardwood trees on 1,500 lots previously owned by the city to create what has been described as the world's largest urban farm. Total drive time - 3 hours.

#### **Tour Leaders:**

Curt Guyette, Investigative Reporter, American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Zoe Schlanger, Environment Reporter, Quartz

**Rhonda Anderson**, Environmental Justice Organizer, Detroit Regional Office, Sierra Club

Theresa Landrum, Community Communication Liaison, The Original **United Citizens of Southwest Detroit** 

**Dolores Leonard**, Coordinator, 48217 Zipcode Air Monitoring Station **Nick Leonard**, Staff Attorney, Great Lakes Environmental Law Center **Rochelle Riley**, *Detroit Free Press* columnist and book editor/ contributor, "The Burden: African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery" (invited)

Mike Score, President, Hantz Farms

Jerome Vaughn, News Director and WDET Host, All Things Considered (invited)



7. The Future of Mobility: Visit the Test Tracks for Self-Driving Cars (9:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

This tour provides a special opportunity to see the way the automotive industry is being transformed and be a passenger in a self-driving car. We will head to two different laboratories: The American Center for Mobility in Ypsilanti Township, Michigan, the largest test site for self-driving cars in the U.S., and Mcity, a 32-acre mock city with 16 acres of city streets including working traffic lights and stop signs, simulated highway on-ramps and simulated storefronts. We will also tour the EPA's National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory, which is responsible for developing the greenhouse gas rules and ensuring compliance with fuel economy regulations. An on-the-record spokesperson will be available to answer questions.

Total drive time - 2.5 hours.

#### **Tour Leaders:**

**Julie Halpert**, Freelance Journalist Instructor, Environmental

Roger Witherspoon, Journalist, Author, Educator

#### Speakers:

Sam Abuelsamid, Senior Analyst, Navigant Research **Sharon Carty**, Editor-in-chief, Shift Magazine

Mark Chaput, Vice President of Facilities Operations and Construction, American Center for Mobility

**David Cole**, Chair, AutoHarvest; Chair Emeritus, Center for Automotive Research; former Director, Office for the Study of Automotive Transportation, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute **Charles Griffith**, Director, Climate and Energy Program, Ecology Center **Jim Motavalli**, Freelance Environmental Journalist; Contributor, *The* New York Times, Car Talk at NPR; Author; and Radio Host, WPKN-FM **Brian Wolf**, Head of Business Strategy, Ford Autonomous Vehicles LLC

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8. Recovering the City: Detroit's Waterways and Land Re-Use (9:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

One of the great cities of the Great Lakes, Detroit has a wealth of waterways. Through them, we'll explore how the city is coming to terms with both the industry and austerity of its past. That includes the magnificent renewal of an urban river (which doubles as an international border), debates over public space at Belle Isle, Detroit's 982-square-mile island park (home to the country's oldest aquarium, built 1904), and reckoning with the city's "ghost waters" — long-buried creeks and streams. We'll also look at the complexities of water shut-offs in Detroit, and how urban farmers are experimenting with imaginative green and blue infrastructure.

Total drive time – 3 hours.

**Tour Leaders:** 

Jane Braxton Little, Freelance Journalist Anna Clark, Freelance Journalist and Author, "The Poisoned City: Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy"

Speakers:

**Richard Ackerman**, Green Growth Manager, Eastside Community Network

**Louis Aguilar**, Projects Reporter, *The Detroit News* **Amy Emmert**, Director of Education, Belle Isle Conservancy **Donna Givens**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Eastside
Community Network

**Noah Hall**, Professor of Law, Wayne State University **Sarah Hayosh**, Stormwater Innovation Manager, Detroit Future City **Khalil Ligon**, Community Sustainability Planner, Alliance for the Great Lakes

**Walter Middlebrook**, Professional in Residence, College of Communications, The Pennsylvania State University (invited) **Ron Olson**, Division Chief, Parks and Recreation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

**Marc Pasco**, Director of Communications, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy

**Nick Schroeck**, Director of Clinical Programs and Associate Professor of Law, Mercy School of Law, University of Detroit **Katrease Stafford**, Detroit Government Reporter, *Detroit Free Press* 



**9. Flint: Environmental Injustice in Context** (10:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

You've read the stories about a community so disenfranchised that authorities dismissed complaints about brown, smelly water flowing from taps. Now spend time in Flint with people who know it best, residents of this once-thriving auto town where a drinking-water crisis left a community with lead poisoning and other health issues and caused at least a dozen deaths leading to criminal charges against powerful state officials. Learn how Flint is faring now that the national spotlight has dimmed. We'll hear about innovative programs that could influence health infrastructure and regulation in communities near you. We'll also visit with community and business leaders, activists and local residents, to see and hear firsthand about ongoing struggles amid efforts to turn adversity into a model of resilience and hope. Total drive time - 1 hour.

Tour Leaders:

**Jiquanda Johnson**, Founder, Publisher and Editor, FlintBeat.com **Tammy Webber**, Reporter, The Associated Press

Speakers:

**Debra Furr-Holden**, C.S. Mott Endowed Professor of Public Health; Interim Director, Division of Public Health; and Director, Flint Center for Health Equity Solutions, Division of Public Health, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University

**San Juana Olivares**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Genesee County Hispanic and Latino Collaborative

**Pamela Pugh**, Chief Public Health Advisor, City of Flint and Elected Member, Michigan State Board of Education

**Edna Sabucco**, Flint Resident and Founder, Eastside Franklin Park Neighborhood Association

**Phil Schmitter**, Catholic Priest

**Charles Winfrey**, Local Community Leader and Mentor



# The John B. Oakes Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism

# **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 WINNER**

# The New York Times

"Trump Rules: An Historic Drive to Rollback Environmental Protections"



Photo: Nick Oxford, The New York Times

# AND THE FINALISTS

The Post and Courier "Scum"



Photo: Grey Lovett. The Palm Beach Post

Quartz
"The Race to Zero Emissions"



Illustration: Tsiisse Talsma for Quartz

Columbia Journalism School 💩

#### Bookstore

5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Location: Lobby

The UM-Flint bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference. Stop by for book signings from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

#### **Independent Hospitality Receptions and Exhibits**

5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Location: Expo Room

Now a popular SEJ tradition, this is the conference's best networking opportunity. After spending the day in the field, meet with hosts of multiple receptions. They'll have experts on hand as well as displays, materials and, of course, great food and drink. And don't miss the sneak peek at our 2018 exhibitors.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2018

As a journalism organization that believes in an open society, SEJ each year welcomes a diverse group of attendees to our annual conference. Attendees include representatives of business, government and environmental groups, as well as working journalists, academics and students.

Because non-journalists are here, you may see or hear presentations or responses to presentations that you might not expect from mainstream journalists. The presentations and any responses do not necessarily reflect the views of SEJ or any of its members.

As our guest, you should respect our interest in open discussions of environmental issues by thanking all participants in sessions you attend and not disrupting presentations of views you disagree with.

Finally, please respect our rule that SEJ members are given preference during question-and-answer sessions.

Please note: SEJ is committed to supporting a harassmentfree environment at the conference. Please read our antiharassment policy: bit.ly/SEJAnti-HarassmentPolicy

All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will be at the UM-Flint's Riverfront Conference Center, 1 Riverfront Plaza, Flint, MI 48502, unless otherwise indicated.

#### Registration

7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Location: Lobby

Pick up your badge and conference materials here. If you didn't sign up for the Saturday evening party or Sunday breakfast at Flint Institute of Arts, there might still be room. Check with registration and sign up there.

#### **SEJ Information Table**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Location: Lobby

Sign up here for Friday beat dinners and Saturday mini-tours. Read up on Board candidates, find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services.

#### **SEJ Exhibits**

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Location: Expo Room

Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2018 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, journalism fellowships, see some great displays and add to your source list.

#### Bookstore

1:45 - 4:00 p.m. Location: Lobby

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#### **BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

#### Meet the Candidates

7:30 - 8:45 a.m. (breakfast will be served in the Expo Room beginning at 7:00 a.m.)

Location: Expo Room

Share breakfast with SEJ candidates for the 2018-19 Board of Directors and challenge them in a Q&A session focused on the future of SEJ.

Moderator:

Jane Braxton Little, Freelance Journalist



#### **OPENING PLENARY**

The Future of News 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Location: Expo Room

So, what's next? Leaders from journalism and the world of information technology tell us what to expect as the relationship between people and environmental news continues to evolve. We know how to tell stories. We know how to find information that people want to hide. We know there are lots of other things we should be doing with our phones, and most of us are getting better at all that. But, what else do we need to know? How can environmental journalists also be innovators, helping to shape the future of news?

#### **Opening Remarks:**

Susan Borrego, Chancellor, University of Michigan-Flint

#### Moderator:

Arnessa Garrett, Knight-Wallace Fellow, University of Michigan and Assistant Business Editor/Commerce Hub, The Dallas Morning News

#### Speakers:

**Susan Goldberg**, Editor in Chief, *National Geographic* Magazine and Editorial Director, National Geographic Partners Russell Ladson, Chief Executive Officer, Drop

Aviv Ovadya, Chief Technologist, University of Michigan School of Information's Center for Social Media Responsibility and Fellow, Columbia Journalism School's Tow Center for Digital Journalism

Terry Parris Jr., Deputy Editor, Engagement, ProPublica Roop Raj, News Anchor, Fox 2, Detroit

#### Beverage Break and Student Meetup

10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Location: Expo Room Sponsored by Earthjustice

#### **CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1**

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.



mage courtesy of Pixabay

#### THE CRAFT 1

Freelance Pitch Slam

Location: Suite A

Tired of hitting refresh on your inbox? Why not pitch the old-fashioned way, sans elevator? A long-time conference favorite, SEJ's Pitch Slam is your chance to present a 90-second pitch to a captive audience of distinguished national and international editors. Not only will you walk away with valuable information on what publications are looking for, word rates and key contacts in the field, you'll receive targeted feedback on your pitch, and, if you're lucky, an assignment! We welcome freelancers of all experience levels to step on up and share their best story ideas not a topic. Although it's not required, the editors encourage you to send in your pitches in advance of the conference so that they can give them a closer look and thus give a more prepared critique when you pitch at the session. If you have one prepared, please email it to moderator gloriadickie@gmail. com by midnight EDT Tuesday, Oct. 2. You will still need to reserve your spot on a sign-up sheet at the start of this session — first come, first served. Note: This session will not be recorded and attendees are expected to keep others' pitches confidential.

#### Moderator:

Gloria Dickie, Freelance Science and Environmental Journalist

#### Speakers:

**Genevieve Belmaker**, Forests Editor/Contributing Editor, Mongabay.

Marla Cone, Senior Editor/Science, Reveal from The Center for **Investigative Reporting** 

Andrea Thompson, Associate Editor, Sustainability, Scientific American Peter Weiss, Interim Manager/Features & Special Projects Editor, Eos



#### **THE CRAFT 2**

Investigating Scientific Integrity

Location: Suite D

The phrase "scientific integrity" gets thrown around a lot, but what does it actually mean and how do we as journalists cover it? We'll explore how scientific integrity figures into your beat, whether your focus is national or local. Attendees will get a handle on sourcing, research and best available data. This panel is geared towards journalists tackling daily deadlines as well as deep dives.

Moderator:

Jenny Zou, Reporter, Center for Public Integrity

Speakers:

**Francesca Grifo**, Scientific Integrity Official, Office of the Science Advisor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Sharon Lerner**, Reporter, The Intercept and Reporting Fellow, The Investigative Fund

Lisa Song, Reporter, ProPublica



#### **CLIMATE**

Here Comes the Flood

Location: Room 2307

Flooding is seen as a coastal risk, with the majority of National Flood Insurance Program policies purchased in three states: Florida, Louisiana and Texas. But climate change is fueling more frequent and intense precipitation events, leading to more devastating flooding events in other states. Meanwhile, the NFIP is still about \$25 billion in debt with no consensus on how to fix the program. How much of a risk does flooding present to both coastal and non-coastal communities? What can or should be done to mitigate or adapt to flood risk across the country? What does the future of the National Flood Insurance Program look like?

Moderator:

Gloria Gonzalez, Deputy Editor, Business Insurance

Speakers

**Steve Ellis**, Vice President, Taxpayers for Common Sense (speaking on behalf of the SmarterSafer Coalition)

**Blair Feltmate**, Head, Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo

**Velma Smith**, Manager, Government Relations, Pew Charitable Trusts **Sarah Wilkins**, Project Manager, Thriving Earth Exchange, American Geophysical Union

FRIDAY OCTOBER 5, 2018

#### **CLIMATE 2**

Climate and You: Change Hits Home

Location: Room 2321

So your vegetable garden isn't producing like it used to. Allergy season doesn't want to guit. And damn, it's humid....dry....hot....cold..... Climate change is here, yet climate reporting at the local level remains difficult. Journalists who have successfully met this challenge will share their experiences. Researchers will demonstrate new, localized reporting tools available free of charge.

#### Moderator:

Nancy Gaarder, City Editor/Reporter, Omaha World-Herald and Board Member, Society of Environmental Journalists

#### Speakers:

**Edward Maibach**, University Professor and Director, Center for Climate Change Communication, George Mason University

Meera Subramanian, Freelance Journalist

Bernadette Woods Placky, Director of Climate Matters, Climate Central





#### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Indigenous Rights: The State of Environmental Sovereigntu Location: Room 2315

From the Great Lakes' Line 5 pipeline controversy to Bears Ears National Monument protection to the continued Trans Mountain pipeline opposition, indigenous communities across North America continue to fight on the ground and in the courtrooms for sovereignty over their natural resources. In the U.S. tensions have only heightened under the Trump Administration. Hear from journalists and legal experts on the most pressing environmental issues facing indigenous communities in North America today — and the historical perspective, sources, court cases and reporting tips you need to bring these important issues to your readers.

#### Moderator:

Levi Rickert, Editor, Native News Online

#### Speakers:

Holly Bird, Executive Director, Michigan Water Protectors Legal Task Force and Civil Ground Coordinator/Attorney, Water Protector Legal Collective

Mark Trahant, Editor, Indian Country Today 3rd Speaker TBA

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OCT. 3-7, 2018



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Image courtesy of Pixabay

#### **WATER**

Water Wars or Water Peace?

Location: Room 2317

Access to fresh water is a major driver of social conflict in developing countries — and as both population and vulnerability to climate change increase, these conflicts may intensify. Water policies have profound impacts on food, land, wildlife and relationships with neighboring countries. At the same time, multinational corporations are seeking new supplies in some of the world's thirstiest places; and water-scarce countries like China and Saudi Arabia are grabbing farmland outside their borders to feed their citizens. Historically, the need to manage shared water sources has also spurred negotiation between parties in some of the world's most intractable conflicts. Will the future look like the past? From the Middle East to Mozambique to the Mekong, will our mutual dependence on water lead to cooperation, or to conflict?

Moderator:

Carl Ganter, Co-founder and Director, Circle of Blue

Speakers:

**Monica Lewis-Patrick**, Co-founder, President and Chief Executive Officer, We the People of Detroit

**Julia McQuaid**, Director, Program on Transnational Challenges/ Principal Research Scientist, Center for Stability and Development/ Center for Strategic Studies, CNA

Rowan Moore Gerety, Reporter, Radio Producer and Author

#### **ENERGY**

Natural Gas and Climate Change: What's the Real Story? Location: Room 2319

Burning natural gas now produces 1/3 of all American electricity production — up 44% in the last 10 years. The natural gas industry says it produces about half the CO2 as burning coal. Many journalists depend on EPA website information for their facts. But unburned leaking natural gas from distribution systems has a climate changing impact more than 1000% higher than the most commonly used EPA website sources report — and the leaking damage far outweighs the claimed burning benefit. This panel will explain how to bring this global issue local, introduce you to scientific sources for more accurate facts and review the common mistakes journalists make when reporting on the impact of natural gas on climate change.

Moderator:

Francis Koster, Writer, Lecturer and Author

Speakers:

David Abel, Reporter, *The Boston Globe*Sabrina Shankman, Producer/Reporter, InsideClimate News
Daniel Zimmerle, Senior Research Associate, Energy Institute,
Colorado State University























#### **NATION**

From the Skyline to the Streets: Covering the Urban Environment Beat

Location: Room 2325

Drinking water, traffic, green space, heat waves, trash: Cities are full of environmental stories. Surveys show that nearly all U.S. mayors see climate change as a serious threat, and many are investing to address it. But with federal funding shrinking and economic inequality on the rise, it's not easy to make city services accessible for everyone who lives there. Panelists will share story ideas and discuss how to weave many voices and perspectives into urban reporting.

Moderator:

**Jennifer Weeks**, Environment + Energy Editor, The Conversation

Speakers:

Oscar Abello, Editor, Next City

Serena Daniels, Contributor, Next City and Co-founder/Editor, Tostada Rick Sadler, Assistant Professor, Division of Public Health, Michigan **State University** 



#### **GLOBE**

**Cutting the Crap:** Is Reducing Waste the Key to Tackling Climate Change? Location: Room 2331

Americans buy a lot and throw away a lot, including everything from food products to consumer goods. It's a vicious cycle that contributes to climate change and litters the environment with plastics and other waste. This panel will first look at how we can evaluate the implications of waste on greenhouse gas emissions. The question is as urgent as ever: research from across all sectors suggests that more than 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions come from consuming goods and food. And, with that in mind, the panel will explore how people and institutions can rethink their consumption to slow global warming.

Moderator:

Justin Worland, Correspondent, TIME

Speakers:

Tony Kingsbury, President, TKingsbury LLC Annie Leonard, Author, "The Story of Stuff" Alex Truelove, Zero Waste Director, U.S. PIRG



**FILM Environmental Film Screening: Pipelines** Location: Room 2301

Hidden beneath the surface of the five Great Lakes, dozens of pipelines carry oil and gas every day. One of them lies underneath the waters of Michigan's Straits of Mackinac. It's called "Line 5." Does the Line 5 pipeline pose a threat? Who is in charge of making sure the pipelines are safe? What regulations are in place to safeguard the largest surface freshwater system on Earth? In this new half-hour documentary, Detroit Public Television's Great Lakes Bureau examines the controversy surrounding the Line 5 pipeline built by Enbridge Inc. Watch "Beneath the Surface: The Line 5 Pipeline in the Great Lakes" to find out more.

#### Moderator:

Mary Ellen Geist, Bureau Chief, Great Lakes Bureau, Detroit Public Television



#### **LUNCH PLENARY**

Tracking Trump: **Environmental Rollbacks and Legal Challenges** 

12:15 - 1:45 p.m. Location: Expo Room

He did what? Wait, what rule is that? The Trump Administration charged into office promising sweeping environmental rollbacks and has stayed true to its word. From methane to pesticides, the feds have relaxed dozens of protections designed to curb climate change and pollution. Whether you're in the Beltway or reporting from afar, how can reporters best stay on top of the rollbacks and mounting legal challenges? How will red states, blue states and local authorities respond? How do we prepare ourselves to know what changes will have the most lasting impact? And how do we get a handle on the scope of the legal quagmire?

#### Moderator:

**Emily Holden**, Climate/Energy/Environment Reporter, Guardian News & Media

#### Speakers:

Jay Austin, Senior Attorney, Environmental Law Institute Barry Hill, Adjunct Professor of Law, Vermont Law School and former Director, Office of Environmental Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection

**Eric Lipton**, Investigative Reporter, *The New York Times* 4th Speaker TBA

#### **CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2**

2:00 - 3:15 p.m.



#### THE CRAFT 1

**Solutions Journalism: Integrating Impact and Covering Progress** Location: Suite A

From pollution to corruption, environmental journalism is rightfully aimed at highlighting problems and exposing misdeeds. But what often gets less attention are efforts to find solutions to these issues. This panel will explore the role of solutions-based journalism in the environmental context. Among other aspects of the craft, we will look at when this approach is suitable, best practices and potential pitfalls (fluff pieces, hero narratives, etc.).

Moderator:

Tik Root, Freelance Journalist

Speakers:

Talia Buford, Reporter, ProPublica Jonathan Ellis, Deputy Climate Editor, The New York Times Carolyn Robinson, Regional Director, Solutions Journalism Network



#### **THE CRAFT 2**

How to Freelance and Not Go Broke

Location: Suite D

This panel will provide valuable tips on ways that journalists can freelance by making environment a full-time beat. We'll hear from an editor of a prestigious environmental publication as well as two esteemed freelancers who successfully practice this craft, including a first-place winner in the SEJ 2018 Environmental Reporting Awards. Topics will include: new outlets for freelancers, grant opportunities to fund your stories, ways to develop your personal brand and how to broaden your area of expertise to get more freelancing gigs. We'll allow plenty of time for panelists to answer your burning questions about how to make the most of a freelancing career.

Moderator:

Julie Halpert, Freelance Journalist

Speakers:

Nancy Averett, Freelance Science Writer Mary Hoff, Editor in Chief, Ensia Rachel Nuwer, Freelance Journalist

# **CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED** 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.



#### **CLIMATE**

Election 2018: Climate Change Reversal?

Location: Room 2307

This panel will forecast how the midterm election could mean incremental and possibly substantial changes for energy and climate policies, if Democrats win control of the House and, possibly, the Senate. The Nov. 6 election comes against a backdrop of U.S. retreat from international action on climate, including President Trump's decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Accord. And it comes less than a month before negotiators from nearly 200 nations resume UN climate talks in Poland toward finishing the rule book for the Paris Accord, with U.S. participation at those talks very much up in the air.

#### Moderator:

**Dean Scott**, Senior Reporter for Climate Change, Bloomberg Environment

#### Speakers:

Alex Flint, Executive Director, Alliance for Market Solutions and former Staff Director, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Jennifer Haverkamp, Director, Graham Sustainability Institute, University of Michigan and former Special Representative for Environment and Water Resources, U.S. State Department Ana Unruh Cohen, Managing Director, Government Affairs, Natural Resources Defense Council and former Policy Director, Climate, Energy and Natural Resources, Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.)



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Diversity Within Environmental Groups: Has Anything Changed?

Location: Room 2315

In 2014, a report on the state of diversity in environmental institutions turned up a troubling finding: While ethnic minorities made up close to 40 percent of the U.S. population, they comprised fewer than 20 percent of environmental organizations, agencies and foundations. Further, white men were still likely to hold the most powerful positions in environmental groups. This panel will discuss the efforts underway to correct these imbalances. What are the journalistic consequences of a lack of racial and gender diversity in the environmental movement? What should reporters and editors know about how this inequity can bias our work?

#### Moderator:

Nikhil Swaminathan, Executive Editor, Grist

#### Speakers:

**Rhonda Anderson**, Regional Organizing Manager, Detroit Regional Office, Sierra Club

**Yessenia Funes**, Staff Reporter, Earther **Dorceta Taylor**, James E. Crowfoot Collegiate Professor and Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan

# **CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED** 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.



#### **WATER**

PFAS Contamination: This Decade's DDT

Location: Room 2317

Over the past decade, PFOA, PFOS and other compounds in the class know as PFAS have emerged as major drinking water contaminants around the country and the globe. While research has tied the persistent chemicals to a wide range of health effects including cancers, states and federal agencies have disagreed about what levels are safe. How can reporters convey the level of risk when officials disagree? How can the chemicals used in water- and stain-proofing, firefighting and industry be removed from water? And who will pay? This panel explores these and other questions about the emerging contaminants.

Moderator:

Sharon Lerner, Reporter, The Intercept

Speakers:

**Robert Bilott**, Partner, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP **Judith Enck**, Senior Advisor, Center for Climate Integrity and former Regional Administrator, Region 2, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Detlef Knappe**, S. James Ellen Distinguished Professor, Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering, North Carolina State University



#### **ENERGY**

U.S. Offshore Wind Power Catches a Tailwind

Location: Room 2319

Europe has installed 16,000 megawatts of offshore wind projects. The United States, meanwhile, has built just one 30-megawatt project off Rhode Island. But momentum in the U.S. market is building, and a handful of coastal states are competing to lead the industry. On May 23, 2018 alone, regulators in Massachusetts and Rhode Island awarded contracts for a combined 1,200 megawatts of offshore wind capacity. Even so, big hurdles — developing a domestic supply chain, complying with the Jones Act, building out port infrastructure — remain. Come learn what it will take to build a Europe-sized offshore wind market in the United States.

Moderator:

**Justin Gerdes**, Independent Journalist

Speakers:

**Liz Burdock**, Executive Director, Business Network for Offshore Wind **Stephanie McClellan**, Director, Special Initiative on Offshore Wind, College of Earth, Ocean and Environment, University of Delaware **Clint Plummer**, Vice President of Development, Deepwater Wind



A **Knight-Wallace Fellowship** offers a challenging, rewarding experience for seasoned journalists. Pursue a personalized study plan with access to courses and thought leaders at the University of Michigan. Expand perspectives through international travel, seminars and workshops. A generous stipend allows Fellows to step away from daily deadlines. One year with us is the catalyst for professional and personal growth.



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# **CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED** 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.



#### **NATION**

Science in the Trump Administration

Location: Room 2325

The gathering of evidence and pursuit of truth should be at the core of every decision government makes. Politicians and policymakers must understand the facts, the laws of nature, before they act, rather than molding the facts to suit their personal convictions, silencing the scientists or even de-funding the pursuit of science. Today an antiscience attitude has infiltrated many aspects of the federal government. This panel will discuss these conflicts between science and government and give journalists tips about investigating the politicization of decision-making and the misuse of science.

Moderator:

**Elizabeth Shogren**, Science Reporter, Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting

Speakers:

Joel Clement, Non-resident Senior Fellow, Arctic Initiative, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School and former Director, Policy Office, U.S. Department of the Interior Eric Lipton, Investigative Reporter, *The New York Times*Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science, Office of Research and Development, and Science Advisor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (invited)



**GLOBE** 

Reporting Beyond Our Borders: Funding and Navigating International Trips

Location: Room 2331

While SEJ is based in North America, the need for environmental coverage spans the globe. Funding for this kind of reporting can be hard to come by, and international environmental stories often require cultural and social context to broaden our understanding. How can journalists best cover the stories unfolding beyond American borders? Hear from journalists who have taken a variety of approaches to covering international stories, whether reporting from their own countries for international audiences or American journalists who seek out innovative funding strategies to get them abroad. Learn about some of the reporting challenges and how these environmental journalists have surmounted them.

Moderator:

Lois Parshley, Independent Journalist

Speakers:

**Mark Johnson**, Health and Science Reporter, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* 

**Lisa Palmer**, Journalist, Author and Senior Fellow, National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center

**Rachael Strecher**, Director, Storytelling Grants and Media Innovation, National Geographic Society

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.



#### **FILM**

#### **Environmental Film Screening: Water Diversion** Location: Room 2301

Water. Some people call it the new oil. But who owns the water in the Great Lakes Region, where more than 40 million people get their drinking water from five freshwater lakes? In the new half-hour documentary, "Tapping the Great Lakes", Detroit Public Television's Great Lakes Bureau takes a deep dive into several methods of water withdrawal and their impact on the Great Lakes, including Nestle's bottled water operation in Michigan and Waukesha, Wisconsin's request to use Lake Michigan water for its drinking water supply. Who's watching over Great Lakes water? Can the Great Lakes survive continued attempts to diminish their supply of water? Watch "Tapping the Great Lakes" to find out more.

Moderator:

Mary Ellen Geist, Bureau Chief, Great Lakes Bureau, Detroit Public Television

#### Beverage Break and Student Meetup

3:15 - 3:30 p.m. Location: Expo Room **Sponsored by Earthjustice** 

#### **Membership Meeting**

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Location: Expo Room

All are welcome for the Annual Membership Meeting of the Society of Environmental Journalists. SEJ members, please attend to hear from candidates and cast your vote to fill open seats on SEJ's 2019 Board of Directors. Reports, Q&A and lively discussion of hot topics and future plans for SEJ membership, finance and programs will round out the hour.

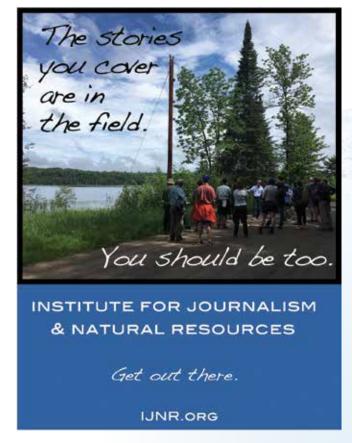
#### A Bounty of Beat Dinners

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Flint's remarkable downtown Farmer's Market will be celebrating harvest time and its restaurants will share in the bounty. We'll get you out to the city's finest eateries and local favorites.

Consult your beat dinner flyer in your conference packet, or the web agenda, for details. Sign up at the SEJ Information Table for the beat dinner of your choice.

ADVERTISEMENT



#### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018**

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#### Registration

7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Location: Lobby

Pick up your badge and conference materials here. If you didn't sign up for the Saturday evening party or Sunday breakfast at Flint Institute of Arts, there might still be room. Check with registration and sign up there.

#### **SEJ Information Table**

8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Location: Lobby

Sign up here for Saturday mini-tours. Find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services.

#### **SEJ Exhibits**

7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Location: Expo Room

Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2018 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, journalism fellowships, see some great displays and add to your source list.

#### Bookstore

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Location: Lobby

The UM-Flint bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

# NETWORKING BREAKFAST AND BREAKOUT SESSION

Location: Expo Room

7:30 - 8:45 a.m. (Breakfast will be served in the Expo Room beginning at 7:00 a.m. Consult your Networking Breakfast Flyer for the table of your choice, or join this breakout session below.)

# Pitch Slam and FEJ Proposal Coaching: U.S. Drinking Water, Storm Water

Location: Suite A

SEJ's Fund for Environmental Journalism will award grants up to \$5,000 in January 2019 for story projects covering U.S. drinking water or storm water issues. Share ideas, gain feedback and tips to strengthen your proposal for FEJ Winter Competition. Deadline is November 15. Note: This session will not be recorded. Made possible by a grant from Spring Point Partners.

#### Speakers:

**Jennifer Weeks**, Environment + Energy Editor, The Conversation **Timothy Wheeler**, Associate Editor/Senior Writer, Bay Journal **Carolyn Whetzel**, Independent Journalist

#### **CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3**

9:00 - 10:15 a.m. (with exception of LEGAL; 9:00 a.m. - Noon)



#### **THE CRAFT 1**

**Environmental Data Visualization** 

Location: Suite A

We'll talk about "getting to know your data" and show how one fairly simple statistical test challenged a state health department's characterization of a researcher's work on lead poisoning in Flint. We'll also look at how scientists assess ocean acidification (OA) using sensor data and lab tests. A sample database will be introduced and visualized to reflect OA's impact on sea life with some emphasis on future predictions of a higher CO2 planet.

#### Presenters:

**Dianne Finch**, Digital Journalist, Educator, Data Visualization Consultant

Kristi Tanner, Staff Writer, Detroit Free Press





#### **THE CRAFT 2**

Social Media: New Ideas for the Age of the Presidential Tweet Location: Suite D

In an era when tweets from the President of the United States regularly make news, what strategies should journalists use on social media? Get practical tips and perspective from journalists who are social media power users and academics who study trends on social media.

#### Moderator:

Judy Fahys, Reporter, KUER News

Michelle Bloom, Senior Designer, Politico and Knight-Wallace Fellow, University of Michigan

**Cliff Lampe**, Professor of Information, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor School of Information (invited)

**Christian Sandvig**, Professor of Information; Faculty Associate, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research; Professor of Communication Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Professor of Art and Design, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (invited) Mark Trahant, Editor, Indian Country Today



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#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.



#### **CLIMATE**

Blaming Climate Change for Disasters and Suffering Location: Room 2307

Climate change is making disasters worse and affecting communities' health and welfare, but describing warming's role when other factors are involved can be tricky. Journalists who include climate change in their coverage can be accused of being insensitive or partisan. And when climate change is prominently blamed for flooding, fires or heat deaths, other factors under the control of local and state leaders can be overlooked — like wetland losses, forest mismanagement and poverty. Panelists will explain the science of extreme event attribution and describe how they accurately, succinctly and sensitively explain the role of climate change in their coverage.

Moderator:

John Upton, Features Journalist, Climate Central

Speakers:

**Justine Calma**, Staff Writer, Grist

Alexander Kaufman, Climate, Environment and Business Reporter, HuffPost

Andrea Thompson, Associate Editor, Sustainability, Scientific American



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Flint to the World: Water is a Human Right

Location: Room 2315

Access to safe drinking water was recognized by the United Nations as a human right in 2010. Although the resolution carries no regulatory weight and many developed nations abstained, including the United States, supporters believe it sets an important goal. Lack of safe drinking water has a devastating impact on health, but who is going to pay to provide clean water for all? Is enshrining water as a human right the best way to prevent overuse and contamination? Or should we let the free market decide and how much is this already happening?

Moderator:

Leana Hosea, Media Fellow, School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan

Speakers:

Josiah Neeley, Senior Fellow, Energy Policy Director and Southwest Region Director, R Street Institute

Erik Olson, Senior Director, Health and Food, Healthy People and Thriving Communities Program, Natural Resources Defense Council Wenona Singel, Associate Professor of Law, College of Law and Associate Director, Indigenous Law and Policy Center, Michigan State University

Nakiya Wakes, Resident, City of Flint

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.



#### WATER

**Great Lakes:** 

Perspective on a Toxic Past and Binational Protection

Location: Room 2317

What will it take to get the Great Lakes clean enough to eat the fish without consumption advisories? Where do things stand with cleanup of toxic hot spots in the region? We're eight years into the cleanup and restoration work of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative — so, what's next, and will that funding be secure into the future? How well are the U.S. and Canada working together to protect their shared resources? We'll tackle these questions and more.

#### Moderator:

Rebecca Williams, Senior Reporter, The Environment Report, Michigan Public Radio

#### Speakers:

John Jackson, Member, Great Lakes Water Quality Board, International Joint Commission; Canadian Adviser, Great Lakes Fishery Commission; and Lecturer, Waste Management, School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability, University of Waterloo

Nancy Nichols, Independent Writer/Editor

John Stine, Chair, Great Lakes Commission and Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



#### **ENERGY**

Cargo Shipping's Clean Energy Challenge

Location: Room 2319

Cargo ships are the linchpins of our modern economy; they carry nearly 90 percent of everything we buy. Yet ships are significant sources of global greenhouse gas emissions and toxic air pollutants. As a result, the shipping industry is facing major policy changes, including a 2020 low-sulfur fuel rule and a 2050 carbon reduction goal. To meet these targets, cargo ships must dismantle a centuryold energy system and develop newer, cleaner technologies — no small task for such massive ships. This wide-ranging panel will explore the challenges and solutions facing an industry that's vital to our everyday lives.

#### Moderator:

Maria Gallucci, Freelance Science Journalist and 2017-2018 Energy Journalism Fellow, The University of Texas at Austin

#### Speakers:

Dennis Donahue, Operations Manager, Lake Michigan Field Station, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, National Oceanic and **Atmospheric Administration** 

Joseph Pratt, Chief Executive Officer, Golden Gate Zero Emission Marine and former Researcher/Engineer, Advanced Energy RD&D, Sandia National Laboratories

Christina Wolfe, Manager, Air Quality, Port and Freight Facilities, **Environmental Defense Fund** 

#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.



#### **NATION**

The War Against Plastics: Who's Winning? Location: Room 2325

Now that plastic is pervasive around the planet, more and more people are rising up and demanding solutions with unprecedented momentum. But what are they? Must more cities, states and now even nations ban or curb plastic uses? Should plastic manufacturers be shouldering more of the blame and therefore the solutions? What is the very latest science on plastic in the environment and food chain? National Geographic announced that its 'plastic bag iceberg' magazine cover is already among its most iconic ever — a measure of the public's rising angst. And reporters are responding with more aggressive coverage. This panel is designed to advance reporters' insight and to equip each with the newest information and new hooks looming around the corner.

Moderator:

**Jeff Burnside**, Independent Journalist

Speakers:

**Dune Ives**, Executive Director, Lonely Whale

Faye Park, President, U.S. PIRG and Executive Vice President,

The Public Interest Network

3rd Speaker TBA



#### **GLOBE**

Gender Equality and the Environment: From the Field to the Newsroom

Location: Room 2331

The statistics tell the story: Almost half of the world's farmers are women, and the UN estimates that 80 percent of people displaced by climate change are women. Yet less than 20 percent of women own land and only 12 percent of the world's environment ministries are led by women. Women are leading some of the world's most inspiring — and most dangerous — grassroots movements, while sexual harassment plagues women at leading U.S. environmental institutions. A growing group of researchers, activists and journalists are investigating the links between gender and the environment, exposing the fault lines of injustice that threaten to undermine environmental protection and gender equality. Panelists from Michigan, the Mid-South and Mexico will share their stories of how women's work is changing our planet.

Moderator:

**Lisa Hymas**, Climate and Energy Program Director, Media Matters for America

Speakers:

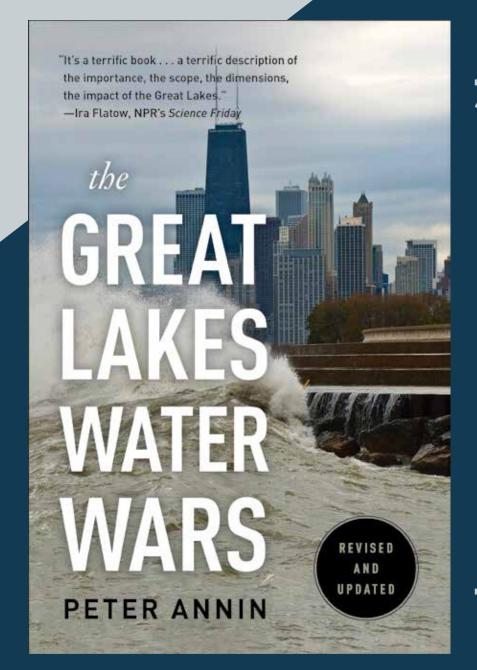
**Itzá Castañeda Camey**, Gender and Sustainable Development Special Adviser, Global Gender Office, International Union for the Conservation of Nature

Anna Smith, Assistant Editor, High Country News

**Tianna Scozzaro**, Director, Gender Equity and Environment Program, Sierra Club

#### ·SECOND EDITION·

# **ON SALE NOW**



"Nobody knows
better than Peter
Annin the stakes
that are in play in the
decades-old fight to
protect the world's
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system from outside
profiteers. And nobody
tells this never ending
story better."

Dan Egan, award-winning author of *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* 



Author and veteran reporter Peter Annin is the director of the Northland College Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation.

This new release includes chapters on the controversial Waukesha diversion, Foxconn, and the massive diversion in Chicago.

NORTHLAND COLLEGE

#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED

9:00 a.m. - Noon



#### **LEGAL**

#### Freelancers Legal Issues Workshop

(Note: This session runs from 9:00 a.m. - Noon and requires preregistration.)

Location: Room 2337

This nuts and bolts legal workshop is offered in a special double session by two attorneys, publishing lawyer Sallie Randolph and environmental lawyer William H. Funk. The session will cover a variety of legal issues faced by working writers. We'll explore the legal problems faced by freelancers as they navigate the changing landscape of publishing today — from periodicals to books, from scholarly journals to tabloid weeklies, from academic presses to self-publishing. How can today's writers navigate through the prospects and pitfalls of 21st century publishing?

Moderator:

**William Funk**, Freelance Journalist, Documentarian and Environmental Attorney

Speaker:

Sallie Randolph, of Counsel, Law Office of Stephanie Adams, PLLC

#### **Beverage Break and Student Meetup**

10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Location: Expo Room

#### **Concurrent Sessions 4**

10:45 a.m. - Noon (with exception of LEGAL; 9:00 a.m. - Noon)



Image courtesy of Pixabay

#### THE CRAFT 1

#### Keeping Your Data Safe and Secure

Location: Suite A

Worried about having your communication with sources intercepted? Your email and other accounts hacked? Digital security has become more important than ever in an environment in which reporters are increasingly vilified, threatened, arrested and subpoenaed. Whether it's Russian hackers or the U.S. government or a private company that alarms you, you need to trust that you are protected from powerful digital surveillance and data-collection tools that could be used against you. This workshop will offer insights, tools and techniques on how to securely work with sensitive sources, how to assess vulnerabilities in your data and digital communications, and how to store data.

Moderator:

Susan Moran, Freelance Journalist

Speakers:

Philip Erlenbeck, Unix Administrator, Department of Information Technology and Services, University of Michigan-Flint Liza Gross, Independent Journalist and Author, "The Science Writers' Investigative Reporting Handbook: A Beginner's Guide to Investigations"

**Will Potter**, Investigative Journalist; Senior Academic Innovation Fellow, Office of Academic Innovation, University of Michigan; and Author, "Green Is the New Red: An Insider's Account of a Social Movement Under Siege"

Jamie Tomasello, Senior Manager, Security Operations, Duo Security

#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 10:45 a.m. - Noon



#### **THE CRAFT 2**

**Unheard Voices:** 

Would They Have Mattered When the Flint Story Broke? Location: Suite D

This panel explores the way the Flint Water Crisis broke locally and nationally. While local coverage was early, often and award winning, national coverage was late, lacking and self-criticized by editors and ombudswomen at newspapers such as the New York Times and Washington Post. What voices were heard locally that were not heard nationally? Did conscious or unconscious class-ism or racism play a role in whom the media considered legitimate sources? As dramatic as Flint was and remains, it is but one of hundreds of environmental justice coverage opportunities around the nation. What lessons can be learned to improve such coverage?

#### Moderator:

**Derrick Jackson**, Fellow, Union of Concerned Scientists and Author, "Unjust Coverage of the Flint Water Crisis," a 2017 paper for Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy

**Richard Craig**, Associate Professor of Communication and Director, Masters Program in Communication, George Mason University

Ron Fonger, Reporter, The Flint Journal

Curt Guyette, Investigative Reporter, American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Cynthia Lindsey, Attorney and Founder, Cynthia M. Lindsey & **Associates** 

Lawrence Reynolds, former President and Chief Executive Officer, Mott Children's Health Center, Flint and Member, Flint Water Advisory Task Force



#### **CLIMATE**

States, Cities and Corporations Take the Lead on Climate Change

Location: Room 2307

As the Trump administration moves to exit the Paris agreement and unravel pollution-cutting regulations, states, cities and businesses are taking up the slack in fighting and adapting to climate change. This panel will examine how states and local governments are acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, brace for the impacts and hold polluters accountable. We'll discuss what politicians from New York to California may be overlooking in responding to rising sea levels and worsening wildfires and explore steps businesses are taking, sometimes reluctantly, toward a lower-carbon future.

#### Moderator:

Tony Barboza, Staff Writer, Los Angeles Times

#### Speakers:

Jessica Boehland, Senior Program Officer, Environment, The Kresge Foundation

Judith Enck, Senior Advisor, Center for Climate Integrity and former Regional Administrator, Region 2, U.S. Environmental Protection

**Andrew Revkin**, Strategic Adviser for Environmental and Science Journalism, National Geographic Society 4th Speaker TBA

#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 10:45 a.m. - Noon



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Elevating and Improving Our Reporting on Environmental Justice Issues

Location: Room 2315

"Environmental justice" is too often viewed as a narrow beat — here's a downtrodden community facing an environmental problem. But the beat can encompass so much more. Environmental justice intersects with labor, criminal justice, health care and urban development, among many other areas. How can journalists tell more expansive stories about justice and the environment? How can reporters working on local EJ stories get more support and attention for their work? And how can journalists with national audiences connect the dots between happenings in different parts of the country and tell cohesive stories that make an impact?

#### Moderator:

Evlondo Cooper, Senior Writer, Climate & Energy Program, Media **Matters for America** 

#### Speakers:

Yvette Cabrera, Environmental Justice Reporter, HuffPost Jiquanda Johnson, Founder, Publisher and Editor, FlintBeat.com **Debra Krol**, Owner, Jolon Indian Media and Freelance Journalist



#### **WATER**

Water Infrastructure: Pipes, Plants and Problems

Location: Room 2317

The availability of clean drinking water and the safe disposal of wastewater pose a great challenge to the nation's cities and towns and its rivers and lakes. Our water infrastructure is in deep disrepair. New construction and repair estimates vary widely. It could surpass \$300 billion each for drinking water and wastewater. Competition is building between new kinds of plastic piping and traditionally manufactured pipes of concrete and steel. How can local governments, regional utilities and states pay for the tremendous cost to build and operate plants that produce safe drinking water and dispose of unsafe water?

#### Moderator:

Neil Strassman, Contributing Editor, Texas Climate News

#### Speakers:

Janice Beecher, Professor and Director, Institute of Public Utilities Regulatory Research & Education, College of Social Science, Michigan State University and Member, Environmental Finance Advisory Board, **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** 

Andrew Whelton, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering and Environmental and Ecological Engineering, Purdue University 3rd Speaker TBA

# lmage courtesy of Lorie Schaul

#### **ENERGY**

Youth Rising: Young Voices on Solutions to the Climate Crisis Location: Room 2319

Some of the biggest oil and gas companies on the planet, and even the federal government, are entangled in legal disputes over climate change and, in many of these challenges, it is America's youth demanding accountability. From Alaska to Florida, kids and teenagers — the very generation that will have to deal with climate consequences — are pushing corporations to stop pumping out greenhouse gases and urging the federal government to protect public resources. Hear from the children and get a primer on the lawsuits as they press toward federal court.

#### Moderator:

Lynne Cherry, Author/Filmmaker/Journalist

#### Speakers:

Victoria Barrett, Plaintiff, Our Children's Trust Lawsuit Lou Helmuth, Deputy Director, Our Children's Trust 3rd Speaker TBA



#### **NATION**

Faith and the Environment: How Religious Leaders Are Changing Hearts in Support of Eco-justice

Location: Room 2325

A wide range of religious leaders have urged their followers to take strong stands in support of the environment. In his 2015 encyclical, "Laudato Si," Pope Francis warned that climate change represented "one of the principal challenges facing humanity." On this panel some of the nation's key religious figures will discuss efforts to divest from fossil fuels, support victims of the Flint water crisis and oppose rollbacks of environmental laws by appealing to the power of faith.

#### Moderator:

**Jim Detjen**, Knight Professor of Journalism Emeritus and Founding Director, Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, Michigan State University

#### Speakers:

**Brooks Berndt**, Environmental Justice Minister, United Church of Christ Deb Conrad, Senior Minister, Woodside Church, Flint, Michigan **Dan DiLeo**, Director, Justice and Peace Studies Program, Creighton University (invited)

Shantha Ready Alonso, Executive Director, Creation Justice Ministries

#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 10:45 a.m. - Noon



#### **GLOBE**

The Global Rise of HABs: Climate Change, Poor Land Use and Other Common Denominators Spurring Deadly Algal Growth Across the World

Location: Room 2331

In 1958, the late Steve McQueen starred in a sci-fi movie called The Blob, a cult classic about a gelatinous form of alien life that kept growing out of control. What's happening today with big, toxic outbreaks of cyanobacteria isn't fictional and it isn't funny, though. Many of these so-called "harmful algal blooms" contain a species of algae called microcystis which — at 3.5 billion years old — is one of Earth's oldest-living organisms and — according to the CDC — is also one of the most deadly things in nature. This and other algal species are on the rise globally, fed by an insane amount of nutrients and growing under Earth's climate-altered heat lamp. From Lake Erie to South Florida to Africa's Lake Victoria, China's Lake Taihu, Hungary's Lake Balaton, Russia's Lake Onega and Canada's Lake Winnipeg, our panel of experts will take you on a whirlwind tour of Earth's hot spots for algae and tell you what full-blown HABs have in common with each other.

#### Moderator:

Tom Henry, Environmental-Energy Writer, The (Toledo) Blade

#### Speakers:

**Timothy Davis**, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Bowling Green State University and former Research Scientist, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, National Oceanic and **Atmospheric Administration** 

Lynn Henning, Regional Representative, Socially Responsible Agricultural Project

Michael McKay, Ryan Professor of Biology and Director, Marine Program, Bowling Green State University

William Mitsch, Director, Everglades Wetland Research Park, Florida **Gulf Coast University** 

John Rumpler, Senior Director, Clean Water for America Campaign and Senior Attorney, Environment America

**Steven Wilhelm**, Kenneth & Blaire Mossman Professor and Associate Head, Department of Microbiology, The University of Tennessee



mage courtesy of Pixabay

#### **LEGAL**

Freelancers Legal Issues Workshop

(Note: This session runs from 9:00 a.m. - Noon and requires

pre-registration) Location: Room 2337

This nuts and bolts legal workshop is offered in a special double session by two attorneys, publishing lawyer Sallie Randolph and environmental lawyer William H. Funk. The session will cover a variety of legal issues faced by working writers. We'll explore the legal problems faced by freelancers as they navigate the changing landscape of publishing today — from periodicals to books, from scholarly journals to tabloid weeklies, from academic presses to self-publishing. How can today's writers navigate through the prospects and pitfalls of 21st century publishing?



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM AWARDS LUNCHEON**

Noon - 2:00 p.m. Location: Expo Room

We work hard throughout the year to not only get the stories, but to get them right. Now it's time to shift the spotlight on ourselves. Let's gather and honor the best of the best, including the inaugural Nina Pulliam Outstanding Environmental Reporting Award, plus winners in seven categories of SEJ's Annual Awards for Reporting on the Environment. Following the awards and other festivities, we'll discuss idea-to-execution with some of 2018's top winners to learn how they find stories and develop them into environmental journalism blockbusters.

#### Fmcees:

Jeff Burnside, Independent Journalist; Gloria Dickie, Freelance Science and Environmental Journalist; and **Bobby Magill**, SEJ President and Reporter, Bloomberg Environment

#### Presenter:

Gene D'Adamo, President and Chief Executive Officer, Nina Mason **Pulliam Charitable Trust** 

#### Speakers:

**Tony Bartelme**, Senior Projects Reporter, *The Post and Courier* and Winner, SEJ 2018 Award for Outstanding Beat Reporting, Small Market Carey Gillam, Freelance Writer and Winner, SEJ 2018 Rachel Carson **Environment Book Award** 

Kevin Hayes, Editor, The Weather Channel Digital and Winner, SEJ 2018 Award for Outstanding Feature Story

Abrahm Lustgarten, Senior Reporter, ProPublica and Winner, SEJ 2018 Kevin Carmody Award for Outstanding Investigative Reporting, Large Market

#### Mini-Tour Excursions

2:15 - 5:30 p.m.

Sign up on-site at the SEJ Information Table beginning Wednesday afternoon for SEJ's popular mini-tours. Consult your mini-tour flyer in your conference packet for details. Additional flyers are available at the Information Table.

Departure: Following the lunch and plenary session, buses will be staged outside the front door of the Riverfront Conference Center and SEJ staff will be there to help you find your bus.



#### **DINNER AND DANCE PARTY**

7:00 - 11:00 p.m. Location: Expo Room

Bring your dancing shoes. Get ready for blues legend Larry McCray, who will bend strings and give SEJ a heavy dose of Midwestern soul. McCray is an internationally known, award-winning blues guitarist — so forget the deadlines and party with your peers to one of Michigan's best.

Pre-registration and \$35 fee required.

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2018**

Check your Shuttle Schedule, or logistics on your Whova app, for departure details.

Please note: SEJ is committed to supporting a harassmentfree environment at the conference. Please read our antiharassment policy: bit.ly/SEJAnti-HarassmentPolicy

#### **SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Location: Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 East Kearsley Street, Flint, Michigan 48503.



Photo courtesy of Flint Institute of Arts

Join us for a full breakfast at SEJ's leisurely and literary Sunday morning sessions. Founded in 1928, the Flint Institute of Arts takes us back to the city's prosperous beginnings and houses more than 8,000 works of art. Attendees can tour this impressive collection bookended by a panel of noted authors and the ever-popular book slam, where you can try your hand at pitching the next great book idea to a panel of editors and agents. Pre-registration and \$25 fee required. Sponsored in part by the Knight-Wallace Fellows at the University of Michigan.

#### Bookstore

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Location: Flint Institute of Arts

The UM-Flint bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

#### Breakfast, Books and Art

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

The book market is one segment of journalism that is still flourishing. Over breakfast, recently published authors share stories and advice for birthing a successful book — from the glimmer-inthe-eye stage through conception and postpartum promotion. Driven in part by audience questions, the conversation will cover shaping an idea and constructing a winning proposal; working with agents and editors; carving out time and space to write; fighting procrastination; marketing and promoting; and spinning off to film, periodicals and other media.

#### Moderator:

**Tom Clynes**, Author, "The Boy Who Played with Fusion"

#### Speakers:

**Anna Clark**, Freelance Journalist and Author, "The Poisoned City: Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy"

Lisa Gardiner, Author, "Tales from an Uncertain World: What Other Assorted Disasters Can Teach Us About Climate Change"

Rachel Nuwer, Freelance Journalist and Author, "Poached: Inside the Dark World of Wildlife Trafficking"

Will Potter, Investigative Journalist; Senior Academic Innovation Fellow, Office of Academic Innovation, University of Michigan; and Author, "Green Is the New Red: An Insider's Account of a Social Movement Under Siege"

#### **Gallery Tours**

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Between the two sessions attendees are welcome to browse the Hodge and Henry temporary galleries currently featuring "Collecting Stories," which provides a deep look into 90 years of art donations to the FIA. In addition, guests may view the permanent galleries, which include more than 8,000 works of art, as well as the new expansion of the Contemporary Craft Wing, which highlights works by more than 85 glass artists from the Glass Glass Collection and ceramics from the Harris-Burger Collection.

#### **Book Slam**

11:00 a.m. - Noon

Have a book idea bubbling up that's ready to be aired in front of a panel of keen-eyed book editors? Representatives of large, small and academic presses will provide constructive criticism from their different vantages of your pitch, while also giving insights into what publishing houses are seeking from book authors and the stories they tell. This is an annual SEJ conference favorite and fills up quickly, so advance sign-up is required. Email the moderator, meerasub@gmail.com, with a working title to secure your spot. Spending the time to craft your pitch in advance is strongly recommended; two minutes is about 200 words and the time limit is strict so everyone has a chance. Those not pitching are welcome to attend with the caveat that this is a confidential session. It will not be recorded.

#### Moderator:

**Meera Subramanian**, Journalist and Author, "A River Runs Again:

India's Natural World in Crisis, from the Barren Cliffs of Rajasthan to the Farmlands of Karnataka"

#### Speakers:

Paula Ayer, Editor, Greystone Books
Scott Gast, Editor, University of Chicago Press
Matt Weiland, Vice President and Senior Editor, W. W. Norton &
Company

#### NOON

Conference ends and shuttles take attendees back to hotels or to the Flint airport, with airport arrival no later than 1:00 p.m.



Image courtesy of Adobe Stock

#### **POST-CONFERENCE TOUR**

#### North America's Great Lakes

Organized and presented by the Institute for Journalism & Natural Resources
Sunday, October 7 — Wednesday, October 10

The Great Lakes comprise nearly 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water and touch everything from pristine Canadian forests to urban centers like Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland. The lakes also carry timber, grain, copper and iron to the world. We'll take participants into Michigan's eastern Upper Peninsula and the convergence of the three largest lakes — Superior, Huron and Michigan — to look

at a wide range of issues that impact both the Great Lakes and North America. Potential topics include Enbridge's Line 5, wind power, aquatic invasive species, climate impacts on northern forests, logging, shipping, mining infrastructure and legacy pollution. Tour departs following SEJ's Sunday morning program and returns to Flint no later than 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 10. There will be no cost to journalists accepted to participate in the tour. Sponsored in part by the C.S. Mott Foundation.

The Society of Environmental Journalists is grateful to all whose personal efforts and financial support have made SEJ's 2018 Annual Conference possible, especially our conference host, the University of Michigan-Flint.



Susan E. Borrego, Ph.D. Chancellor

#### University of Michigan-Flint Conference Team

Michael J. Hague, Vice Chancellor for Business & Finance; Tess Barker, Chief of Staff; Mary Jo Sekelsky, Interim Vice Chancellor University Advancement; and Susan Alcock, Interim Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

**Event & Building Services: Jennifer Hogan**, Director; **Judy Birschback**, Associate Director; **Launa Collins**, Operations Manager; and **Nate Lundt**, Special Events Manager.

#### **UM-Flint Donor Acknowledgement**

The University of Michigan-Flint thanks its generous donors who helped make it possible to host this conference:

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Mott Community College
Michigan Association of Broadcasters

Please see our tribute ad and look for donor materials in your conference bags.

Special thanks to our internal and external partners who support the university with excellence in service and attention to detail:

**Riverfront Residence Hall: Clark Dawood**, Associate Director of Housing & Residential Life and **Alex Straley**, Housing Coordinator

**UM-Flint Barnes & Noble Bookstore** 

**UM-Flint School of Management** 

University Advancement: Sara Barton, Mia McNeil, Becky Pettengill, Melissa Stephens-Farrell, and Claus Weimann

**University Communications & Marketing** 

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#### SEJ 2018 Conference Team

#### **Co-Chairs:**

**Emilia Askari**, Journalist and Educator, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and Research Assistant, Michigan State University

**Brian Bienkowski**, Senior Editor, Environmental Health News and The Daily Climate

#### Society of Environmental Journalists Staff

Meaghan Parker, Executive Director
Christine Bruggers, Associate Director, Director of Awards
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Joseph A. Davis, FOI WatchDog Director; Editor, TipSheet, EJToday Adam Glenn, Editor, SEJournal Online Cindy MacDonald, SEJ.org Content Manager, Programs Associate Bruce Allar, Kevin Beaty, Robin Smith, Dale Willman, Event Management Services

SEJ's Board of Directors thanks **Chris Bruggers** and **Beth Parke**, who worked tirelessly as SEJ's interim co-executive directors over the last year. Their dedication ensured the success and stability of SEJ during our executive director transition. The board is deeply grateful for their steady hands when they were needed most. We also want to thank our 2018 Executive Director Search Committee and welcome **Meaghan Parker** as SEJ's new executive director.

- Bobby Magill, President

#### Thank You, SEJ Member Volunteers

SEJ could not have produced this conference without generous contributions of time from dozens of members who are serving as session organizers, multimedia crew, moderators, tour leaders and on-site volunteers.

Special thanks to Jane Braxton Little, Saul Chernos, Anna Clark, Nancy Gaarder, Julie Halpert, Tom Henry, Derrick Jackson, Dave Poulson and Meera Subramanian.

#### SEJ 2018 Awards Committee

Chair, **Beth Daley**, InsideClimate News, and co-chair, **James Bruggers**, InsideClimate News; **Emilia Askari**, Journalist and Educator, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and Research Assistant, Michigan State University, and **Gloria Dickie**, Independent Multimedia Journalist

SEJ is grateful for the selfless efforts of the 30 individuals who screened and judged the 2018 Awards for Reporting on the Environment and the Nina Mason Pulliam Award for Outstanding Environmental Reporting. http://bit.ly/2018JUDGES

#### SEJ 2018 Board of Directors

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Scott Dodd, The New York Times

Lyndsey Gilpin, Independent Journalist

Gloria Gonzalez, Business Insurance

Roger Witherspoon, Independent Journalist

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Michigan State University

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Founding President (ex officio): **James Detjen**, Knight Professor of Journalism Emeritus and Founding Director, Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, Michigan State University

#### The Society of Environmental Journalists



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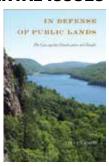


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#### **CUTTING-EDGE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**







#### **Gone Goose**

The Remaking of an American Town in the Age of Climate Change **BRADEN T. LEAP** 

Available December

#### In Defense of **Public Lands**

The Case against Privatization and Transfer

STEVEN DAVIS

#### Wildlife Crime

From Theory to Practice **EDITED BY WILLIAM D. MORETO** 

#### An Analysis of Wildlife Crime

**Exploiting the** 

Wilderness

GREG L. WARCHOL

#### **Sinking Chicago**

Climate Change and the Remaking of a Flood-Prone Environment HAROLD L. PLATT

Urban Life, Landscape, and Policy series

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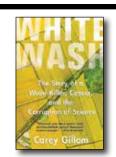
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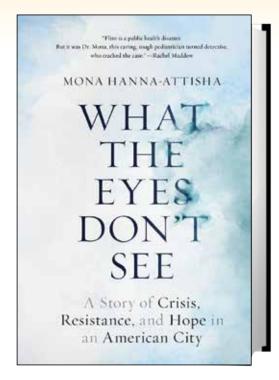
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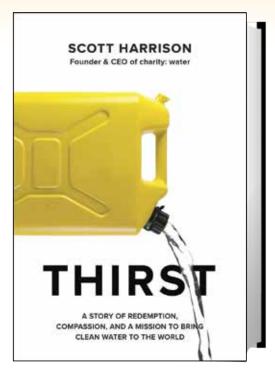
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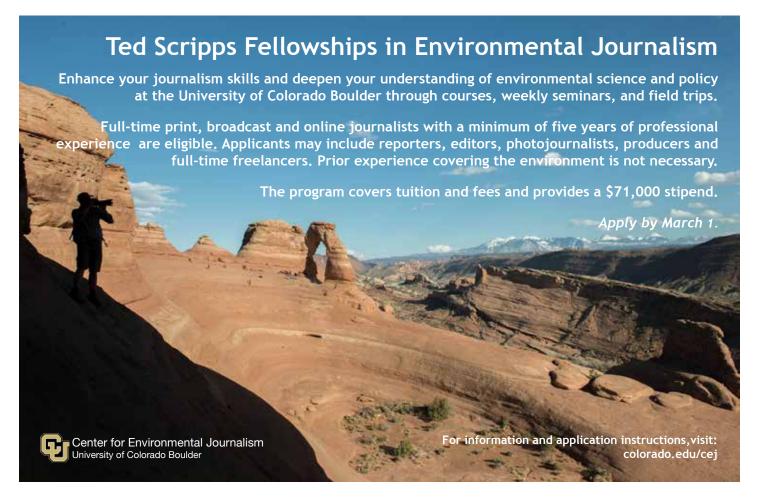
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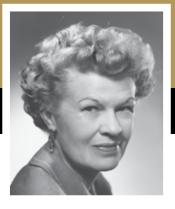
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