



**Northwest Ohio Natural History and Research Conference Agenda
February 26, 2024 9:00 a.m.- 4:15 p.m.**

9:00 Check in at Registration Table

9:30 Welcome, Erika Buri, Green Ribbon Initiative (GRI)

Master of Ceremony, Karen Menard, Metroparks Toledo

9:45 Modeling Future Winter Waterfowl Distribution in Ohio and Throughout the Great Lakes Region, Brendan Shirkey, Winous Point Marsh Conservancy

10:15 The Howard Marsh Metropark Restoration (Phase 1 & 2), Mark Shieldcastle, Black Swamp Bird Observatory

10:45 Effects of a Highly Modified Landscape on Diversity of Anuran Communities in Northwestern Ohio, Brian Kron, Bowling Green State University

11:15 Microcystin at Maumee Bay State Park: A Beachgoer's Guide to Safety, Garrett Moots, The University of Toledo

11:45 Introduction of poster presenters

12:00 Lunch

12:30 Poster Viewing

1:15 Resume Presentations, Master of Ceremony, Jay Wright, Metroparks Toledo

1:15 New Endeavors in Conservation: An Overview of Current Pursuits in Ecological Research, Jay Wright, Metroparks Toledo

1:45 Rare Insect Survey Updates and Habitat Associations in the Oak Openings Region, Dave Cuthrell, Michigan Natural Features Inventory

2:15 Revealing a Rarity: Preservation of the Blue Creek Limestone Glade State Nature Preserve, Karen Menard, Metroparks Toledo

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00 A New Generation of Conservation Champions: A Model to Foster Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion among High School Students Interested in Wildlife-related STEM Careers, Christine Mominee, Toledo Zoo

3:30 Coordinating Ecological Restoration Among Organizational Partners in Ohio, LaRae Sprow, Metroparks Toledo and Peter Blank, The Nature Conservancy

4:00 Closing Remarks

Poster Presentations (12:30-1:15)

Paige Anspach, The University of Toledo, Propagation Techniques for Conservative Plants in the Oak Openings Region

Raven Patrick, The University of Toledo, Inoculation Techniques for Legumes in the Oak Openings Region

Zaynab Alghouleh, The University of Toledo, Shaping Policy for the Environment: A Pathway to Clear Municipal Codes for Native Plantings

Nick Weaver, The University of Toledo, Utilizing Social Media to Augment Classroom Experiences: A Case Study in Greening UToledo Thru Service (GUTS)

Megan Ginther, The University of Toledo, Lake Erie Watershed Investigations by Community Science Participants

Bradley Cordle, 2023 Ohio Bumble Bee Diversity Survey

Ben Luukkonen, Michigan State University, Great Lakes Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) Genetics and Movement Ecology

Valerie Hornyak and Karen Menard, Metroparks Toledo, Lark Sparrows in the Oak Openings: Populations and Management

Dean Babcock and Karen Menard, Metroparks Toledo, Long-term Butterfly Monitoring in the Metroparks

Penny Niday and Karen Menard, Metroparks Toledo, State-listed Plant Monitoring in the Metroparks

Ron Boudouris, Rick Barricklow and Karen Menard, Metroparks Toledo, The Wiregrass Odonata Monitoring Project

Patrick Bronson, Metroparks Toledo, Maumee River Macroinvertebrate Monitoring