

MIDWEST BEAVER NEWS

MAY 2024



A roundup of recent regional, national, and international beaver news curated for you!

Save the Dates

Midwest Beaver Summit 2024:

August 28, 2024, Virtual

BeaverCON 2024:

October 20-23, 2024, Boulder, Colorado.

[Further information](#)

2024 Midwest Beaver Summit

Mark your calendars! The 2024 Midwest Beaver Summit will be held on Wednesday, August 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. CST. This year, presentations will include “Beaver Wetlands, Flooding, and Drought” with Dr. Emily Fairfax; “Who Speaks for Beaver? Indigenous Ecological Knowledge and Folklore”; “Beaver Dam Impacts on Water Quality, Biodiversity, and Trout Populations in Wisconsin Streams”; and “Navigating Conflicts Between People and Beavers and People Again.”

We are hoping to expand the impact of the 2024 Summit by recruiting co-hosts throughout the Midwest to reach a wider

audience of stakeholders. Co-hosts are asked to spread the word about the Summit; share digital assets and/or promotional information with their constituents and on social media, potentially find other co-hosts, and participate in Summit planning by having a representative attend at least one virtual planning session. Co-hosts will be prominently thanked in promotional and program materials.

[Click here to sponsor or co-host](#)

BeaverCON 2024 Coming This October

BeaverCON 2024 will be held at the University of Colorado–Boulder from October 21-23, 2024. The third biennial global gathering for knowledge-sharing about beavers will feature presentations, discussion, panels, storytelling, science, art, field trips, and workshops.



[Click here for more information](#)

Check Out These Beaver Pond Wetlands in Boone County, Iowa

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach recently shared a youtube video that discusses how beavers' wetland habitat increases both plant and animal diversity in the area; how beaver ponds allow for suspended particles like sediment to settle out of the water column and for water to interact with microbes and plants that can remove nutrients, thus improving

water quality. Other noted ecosystem services include storing water on the landscape, helping with groundwater recharge, and reducing stream bank erosion.

This project is funded by the Wildlife Diversity Program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Nutrient Research Center, and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

[Watch the video](#)

Minnesota College Students and Community Celebrate Second Annual Beaverfest

The second annual Beaverfest was held on Saturday, May 11, at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. According to organizer and Carleton College junior Jonah Docter-Loeb, the intent of the five-hour event was to educate visitors about the benefits of a human-beaver coexistence. Beaverfest was organized by Carleton students concerned about the environment, in partnership with professor Colleen Carpenter's spring environmental ethics class. As an Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) course, students have assisted the Grounds and Arboretum managers in monitoring beaver damage along Lyman Lakes and the Upper Arb.

The outdoor fair offered crafts, food, beaver walks and educational booths designed for the whole family. Local beaver expert Dr. Emily Fairfax, who is an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota as well as representatives from the Minnesota Science Museum and trapper Mike Smith talked with visitors about the science and sociability of beavers.



Learn more about
Beaverfest here

Beavers and State Wildlife Action Plans

State wildlife action plans (SWAPs) serve as the blueprints for conserving our nation's fish and wildlife and preventing endangered species. In 2005, each state, territory and District Columbia submitted their plan for approval to the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a condition for receiving funding through the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program. The plans were reviewed and revised in 2015 with the latest science and information to guide the conservation of over 12,000 species in greatest conservation need.

The next major revisions are due to be completed by 2025, and this is our chance to get beaver restoration written into SWAPs to support applicable species in need of conservation in your state. In Oregon, [perhaps it's the Oregon Spotted Frog that would benefit from more beaver ponds.](#) In Washington, it's Chinook Salmon. What endangered species might benefit from beaver restoration in your state?

If you'd like to collaborate with other advocates on getting beaver restoration written into your state SWAP, please email rachel.siegel@illinoisbeaveralliance.org.

What Does Process-Based River Restoration Look Like?

Process-based restoration seeks to return rivers to their natural state of complexity and connectedness to floodplains. Low-tech, process-based (LTPB) river restoration is the practice of adding simple, low unit-cost, structural additions--locally sourced rock, human-created Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs), and anchored log structures--to riverscapes to mimic functions and promote specific processes. Beaver-related restoration is a type of process-based restoration that seeks to re-establish dam building in degraded streams by relocating beavers to streams where dams are desired, building BDAs, or restoring riparian vegetation to attract beavers.

The Doty Ravine Preserve is a great example of process-based restoration. Placer Land Trust built BDAs to encourage the native beavers. The result is a green, lush, drought- and fire-resistant landscape at a fraction of the cost of conventional restoration.



Find out more about the Doty Ravine Preserve [here](#)

New Resource: Scientific Articles About Beaver Ecosystem Services

Researchers have been hard at work documenting and attempting to value the ecosystem services that beavers provide. From building biological integrity into streams to increasing flood water storage capacity to increasing biodiversity and species richness to supporting fish populations to stabilizing stream temperatures to improving water quality to supporting carbon storage, beavers are really the total package!

[Check out the science here](#)



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