

2017 MICHIGAN Winter Operations Conference



October 17 & 18, 2017
Shanty Creek Resort – Bellaire, Michigan

**Center for
Technology & Training**

Network for Success

It won't be long before snow starts to fly. Preparing for successful winter maintenance is essential to local agencies. Changes in operational practices, routine maintenance, and new technology can help your agency save money as you gear up for the winter season. Plan to attend the Michigan Winter Operations Conference, where you can meet with your peers from state, county, and municipal agencies to share and learn new ideas.

Build Your Program

Registered attendees have full access to a variety of technical presentations, including presentations for operators and mechanics, managers and supervisors, and exhibitors.

**Attend the largest
snow fighters'
conference in Michigan!**

Meet Industry Experts

The conference will also bring in suppliers of winter maintenance equipment, materials, and services from across the country. Learn more about latest technologies and techniques for managing ice and snow. The showcase will open at noon on the first day of the conference.



The 2016 Winter Operations Conference attracted more than 200 operators, superintendents, managers, directors, and vendors from state, county, and municipal agencies.

Date and Location

Oct. 17 & 18, 2017

Shanty Creek Resort
5780 Shanty Creek Rd
Bellaire, MI 49615



Shanty Creek Resorts is a four-season destination resort and conference center spanning 4,500 acres and three distinct villages: Summit, Schuss and Cedar River, each with lodging, dining, golf downhill skiing, and cross country trails. It is conveniently located 31 miles northeast of Traverse City, Michigan.

Hotel Accommodations

Overnight rooms at reduced rates are available at Shanty Creek Resorts. Studio parlors (\$102/night) or standard guest rooms (\$92/night) are both located within the resort (see photo to the right). Book your room [online](#).

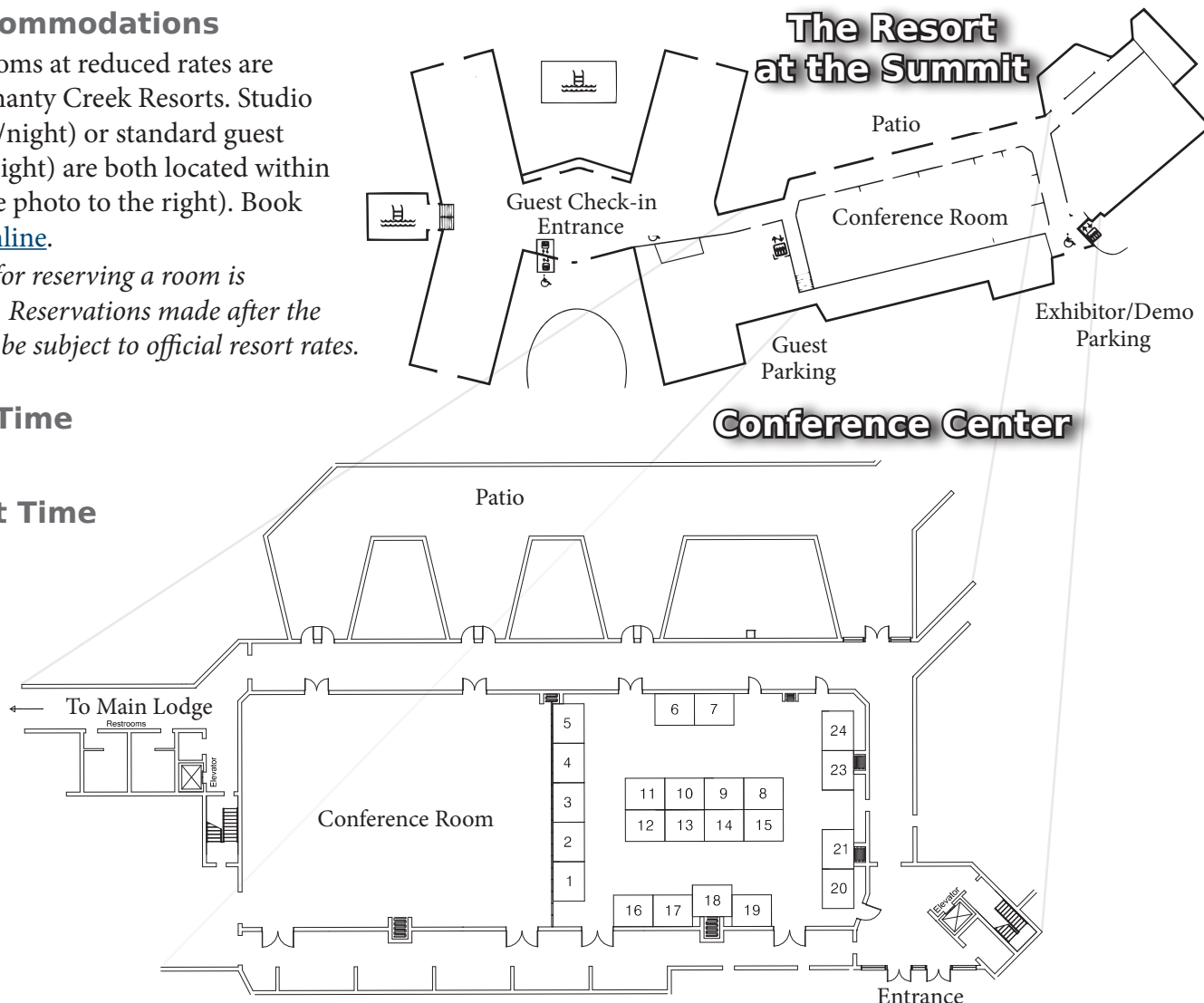
The deadline for reserving a room is September 16. Reservations made after the deadline may be subject to official resort rates.

Check-in Time

5:00 pm

Check-out Time

12:00 noon



Cost & Registration

Registration fee is \$160.00. The registration deadline is October 6.

Registrations after October 6 will be charged \$190.00 per attendee.

Registration fee includes:

- Conference handouts and other materials
- Food and refreshments for all meals and breaks listed on the agenda
- Full access to all technical sessions, exhibit space, and outdoor equipment area
- After dinner networking session on October 17

Register [online](#) for the conference.

Questions? Email ctt@mtu.edu or call 906.487.2102.

No-shows or cancellations within three business days of the conference will be charged the full registration fee. Substitutions will be accepted.

Door Prize Raffle

Last Year's Prizes Included:

- Gift cards
- Jacket
- Trail cam
- Golf bag
- Golf umbrellas
- and more!

Prizes will be drawn throughout the exhibitor show from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17. Must be present to win.

Enter before 1:00 p.m. on October 17

Keynote Speaker

Bret Hodne

*City of West Des Moines,
Public Services Director*

Bret Hodne directs the Public Services department of the City of West Des Moines, Iowa. He started his public career in West Des Moines as an equipment operator in 1989. He was the superintendent of Public Works for 14 years prior to moving into his position as director in 2008. He has served as chair of the APWA Winter Maintenance Committee and currently serves on the APWA Management and Leadership Committee.



Session Topics Will Include:

- Snow Properties & Measurements
- Winter Maintenance of Gravel & Surface Treated Roads
- Differences in Winter Maintenance Between Rural & Urban Areas
- Politics & Plowing
- Brine Production Panel Discussion
- Mi-TIME Traffic Incident Management System
- Communication Between Mechanics & Operators
- When It All Goes Wrong Panel Discussion
- Operators' Experiences with Tow Plows

For updates on the agenda and event details, visit www.CTT.mtu.edu/WinterOps

Planning Committee

Willis Greer

Superintendent, Road Commission for Oakland County

Brian Gutowski

Engineer-Manager, Emmett County Road Commission

Ryan Kempainen

Operations Superintendent, Ottawa County Road Commission

John Kiefer

Training Coordinator, Center for Technology & Training

Melissa Longworth

Region Support Engineer, Michigan Department of Transportation

Bryan Pickworth

Road Maintenance Supervisor, City of Farmington Hills

Jake Welch

Project Manager, Barry County Road Commission

Matt Wiktorowski

Field Operations Senior Manager, City of Novi

Chris Williams

Transportation Planner, SEMCOG

Potential Topics



Professional Development

Addressing the difference between urban and rural winter maintenance; communication between operators and mechanics; when politics meets plowing.



Materials

Comparisons of winter maintenance products; Minnesota Snow & Ice Control field handbook; measuring snow and determining its properties.



Equipment

First-hand experiences with tow plows; designing infrastructure for winter maintenance; maintenance support system study; maintaining gravel and surface treated roads.



Emergency Response

Federal Emergency Management Agency; Mi-TIME Traffic Incident Management System; when it all goes wrong panel discussion.

General Session & Exhibitor Show

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Moderator: Steve Cook, PE, Michigan Department of Transportation

- 6:45 Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 7:55 Opening Remarks**
John Kiefer, PE, Center for Technology & Training
- 8:00 Keynote**
Bret Hodne, MPA, CPM, City of West Des Moines
- 9:00 Snow Properties & Measurements**
Russ Alger, Keweenaw Research Center, Michigan Technological University
- Break**
- 10:00 Maintenance Support System (Pooled Fund Study)**
Ben Hershey, Iteris, Inc.
- 11:00 Winter Maintenance of Gravel & Surface Treated Roads**
Warren Nicholishen, Municipality of Port Hope, Ontario
- 12:00 Lunch**
- 1:00 Exhibitor Show Opens**
- 2:00 Winter Operations—Differences Between Rural & Urban Areas**
Wilf Nixon, PhD, PE, Salt Institute
Mark DeVries, Vaisala, Inc.
- 3:30 Finger Food in Exhibitor Area**
- 5:00 Exhibitor Show Closes**
- 5:30 Dinner**
- 6:30 Networking & Games (Lawn Area)**
- 8:30 Adjourn**

2017
MICHIGAN

Winter
Operations Conference



Agenda



Manager/Supervisor Track

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Moderators: Chuck Fritz, City of Novi - Department of Public Works; Dean Reid, City of Novi - Department of Public Works

- 7:00 Breakfast**
- 8:00 Understanding the Emergency Management Life Cycle**
Christopher Tarantino, MEP, CMCP, Epicenter Media & Training
- 8:45 Politics & Plowing**
Tom Trice, Bloomfield Township
- Break**
- 10:00 From Simple Salt Water to Super Ice Melter**
Denver Preston, K-Tech Specialty Coatings, Inc.
- 11:00 Mi-TIME Traffic Incident Management System**
Angie Kremer, Michigan Department of Transportation
- 12:00 Lunch**
- 1:00 Minnesota Snow & Ice Control-Field Handbook for Snowplow Operators**
Renae Kuehl, PE, PTOE, SRF Consulting Group
- 1:30 Applying Long-Term Thinking to Winter Maintenance Operations**
Wilf Nixon, PhD, PE, Salt Institute
Mark DeVries, Vaisala, Inc.
- 2:30 Adjourn**

Mechanic/Operator Track

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Moderator: Duane Poole, Bloomfield Township

- 7:00 Breakfast**
- 8:00 Open Forum (discussion with panel & audience)**
Kevin Campbell, Emmet County Road Commission
Justin Frazer, Barry County Road Commission
Session Moderators: Bryan Pickworth, City of Farmington Hills, Jake Welch, Barry County Road Commission
- 9:45 Break**
- 10:00 Topic TBD**
Bret Hodne, MPA, CPM, City of West Des Moines
- 11:00 Operators' Experiences with Tow Plows**
Marshall Bay, Michigan Department of Transportation
Gerald Danforth, Michigan Department of Transportation
- 12:00 Lunch**
- 1:00 Minnesota Snow & Ice Control-Field Handbook for Snowplow Operators**
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- 2:30 Adjourn**

Register now!

To register for the 2017 Winter Operations Conference, visit:

<http://ctt.nonprofitsoapbox.com/2017winter-ops-conf>

Register early—by October 6th—for only \$160.

Late registration after October 6th is \$190.



The Center for Technology & Training is located on the campus of Michigan Technological University. Programs managed by the CTT include Michigan LTAP, Roadsoft, MERL, and the Bridge Load Rating Program. The CTT's mission is to develop technology and software, coordinate training, and conduct research to support the agencies that manage public infrastructure. For more information, visit www.ctt.mtu.edu.