

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### Thursday Sessions | 10:30 to 11:15 am | Session A

#### **A.1: Fostering Student Engagement in Agricultural Conservation**

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Student Leadership program increases student engagement by providing opportunities to expand their knowledge of Bay issues and learn how to lead others in taking action to improve water quality in their local communities. An offshoot of CBF's Student Leadership Program in Pennsylvania is the Mentors in Agricultural Conservation (MAC) Program. MAC was created to provide high school students access to real-world experience in agricultural conservation by establishing job-shadowing experiences with CBF Restoration Specialists. Students are able to learn, firsthand, how agricultural best management practices are implemented.

**Workshop Level: All Levels**

*Kassie Fenn* is the Pennsylvania Student Leadership and Education Coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, based out of the organization's Harrisburg office. She grew up near the shores of the Hudson River in Upstate New York and developed a love for nature at an early age. Kassie has worked throughout the United States in both formal and informal education. Joining the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in 2019, Kassie helped launch the organization's newest land-based field program, the Pennsylvania Student Action & Restoration Program (PA StAR). She holds a BA in Environmental Studies (SUNY Plattsburgh) and a MS Ed. in Childhood Education (College of Saint Rose). Kassie enjoys exploring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed with her husband and dog.

#### **A.2: Dig Deeper: Essential Engagement Tools for a Climate Resilient Park**

Magruder Park in Hyattsville, Maryland is 32 acres within the Anacostia River watershed. Much of the park is located within the floodplain and the park areas have persistent flooding issues. The City of Hyattsville began a master planning process in 2018 to hear from both park users and new and diverse constituents regarding programming and facilities to improve the park. The City has also been actively working for many years to remove invasives, plant trees and maintain green infrastructure with the help of community volunteers. The master plan outreach process identified potential new audiences and facilities to support community education and restoration goals.

**Workshop Level: Intermediate**

*Marita Roos* is a Maryland-registered landscape architect and certified planner with thirty years' experience on urban streetscapes, green infrastructure, campus master plans and designs, parks, and historic preservation projects. Marita works with local governments, nonprofit organizations, schools, and citizen associations to plan and design projects that integrate community goals into sustainable and equitable public spaces. In her capacity as programs director for the Neighborhood Design Center in Hyattsville, MD, she led the master planning and facilitated community engagement for Reimagining Magruder Park.

*Dawn Taft* is the City Arborist and Supervisor of Environmental Programs for the City of Hyattsville. Dawn is responsible for assisting with the management of MS4 permitting and NPDES compliance. She provides support and guidance to the Parks Department on installation and maintenance of city bioretention facilities, rain gardens and two city Food Forests. She directs a citizen stewardship program for invasives removal, and manages the city's tree planting program and Organic Field Maintenance Program. She is currently working on a new project, creating bilingual education and outreach opportunities focusing on trees and their impact on stormwater management.

### **A.3: Meaningful Connection to the Latino Community**

Engaging with the Latino community can be challenging and intimidating at the same time. Translating materials is not enough for meaningful connection, let alone ongoing engagement. Come to this session to gain insights on how to engage and connect in a meaningful way through message, strategy, and partnerships.

**Workshop Level: All Levels**

**Abel Olivo**, Director of Operations, has extensive experience in developing policy and effective implementation strategies, including building partnerships to maximize message, impact and reach. After spending more than a decade as a federal lobbyist, and some time as a stay-at-home dad, Olivo transitioned to environmental work about five years ago. A lover of nature, he works to connect his passion with his culture at Defensores de la Cuenca. From tree canopy expansion to stormwater issues, to increased access to green spaces for Latinos and communities of color, he uses his eye for building strong partnerships to benefit all involved.

**Carlos Manuel Lam, Jr.**, Director of Community Outreach, has dedicated the past 16 years of his career to being a community organizer in the Washington, D.C. region and is a trusted leader in the Latino community. He spent a decade as a community organizer in Guatemala before immigrating to the US in 2004. Lam brings tremendous insights on the Latino immigrant experience to his work designing educational materials and working with groups. Through his work with Defensores de la Cuenca, Lam inspires and trains fellow Latinos to become stewards, educators and promoters of the environment, our common home.

### **A.4: Resilient Coastal Forests of Virginia**

The Resilient Coastal Forest (RCF) project is working with multiple stakeholders in coastal Virginia, where tracts of coastal forest were assessed for benefits and threats, and subsequent conservation management plans to mitigate risks to coastal forests and communities. Funded by the USFS, this project is modeling a new way to evaluate and plan for coastal forests challenged by rising seas, storms, changing climate, development, pests and fragmentation. This session will introduce participants to a process to identify and address multiple and interacting threats to coastal forest resiliency, especially in the face of climate change.

**Workshop Level: All Levels**

**Matthew (Matt) Lee** coordinates Green Infrastructure Center's (GIC) Resilient Coastal Forest projects for Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia. Matt works with communities to determine protection and conservation strategies for natural resources, with a focus on community forests. He is researching ways to incentivize tree planting and care, on both public and private property, as well as how to maximize landscape connectivity in developing areas. Prior to coming to GIC, Matt worked as a field botanist for the National Park Service on diverse projects from long-term monitoring of fire effects, to mapping native plant communities of the Pacific Northwest. He transitioned to being a Stewardship Director for an urban watershed council in Portland (OR), where he coordinated stream restoration projects, cleanups, rain garden installation and stakeholder collaboration for a watershed action plan. Matt has a BS degree in Horticulture, with a forestry focus, from Virginia Tech and a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University.

**Karen Firehock** founded the Green Infrastructure Center (GIC) in 2006. She has 35 years of experience in natural resources management. She directs the GIC's projects and develops strategic research. She is the author of numerous green infrastructure (GI) planning guides, case studies, and videos, and has worked on GI projects in 15 states as well as designed webinars for the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and for universities. She is also an adjunct faculty member of the University of Virginia where she teaches graduate classes in landscape-scale green infrastructure assessment and planning, site design, watershed management and ordinances.

**B.1: Healthy Farms, Soils, and Waterways**

Several organizations are conducting research and outreach to advance soil health practices in the region. Practices like no till planting and cover crops offer farm production and environmental benefits, such as climate resiliency, increased water infiltration rates and decreased need for fertilizers. This session will discuss cutting-edge research and farmer-based education efforts in Pennsylvania, with application for surrounding states. In addition, the session will feature demonstrations illustrating some of the key concepts behind the promotion of soil health. We have shared the demonstrations with farmers and non-farmers alike, and you can replicate them in your own education and outreach programs.

**Workshop Level:     Introductory**

*Leroy Bupp* has spent the past 30 years restoring organic matter to the soil on his 700-acre farm in Seven Valleys, Pa. Through a combination of long-term no-tilling, cover cropping, planting green, and spreading manure, he feels he is well on his way to restoring the land—in fact, organic matter on his fields has increased from 2% to 4.8% in the past 4 years. A board member of the PA No-Till Alliance, Leroy travels all over Pennsylvania teaching farmers and agriculture educators the importance of soil health. As a farmer himself, he understands the importance of protecting what nature takes so long to create.

*Lisa Blazure* is an experienced conservation professional who advocates for improving soil health to achieve water quality goals and enhance the economic viability of agriculture. She serves as the coordinator for the Pennsylvania Soil Health Coalition to foster collaboration among numerous stakeholders involved in soil health education and research. Lisa networks with a broad range of colleagues to implement conservation practices and organize educational programs. She has a B.S. in Biology from Bucknell University and an M.S. in Environmental Science from Indiana University.

**B.2: Think Green: Solution for Vulnerable Areas**

The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership is conducting a project to identify underserved communities in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania that are facing a threat from climate change and have habitat of conservation or restoration value. Partners are working with local leaders in these communities to identify and design green infrastructure options tailored to the specific challenges they face while improving habitat value and climate resiliency. In this session, we will discuss the engagement process used to identify these communities and initiate implementation.

**Workshop Level:     Intermediate**

*Julianna Greenberg* is an Environmental Management Staffer on the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Habitat Goal Implementation Team working with the Brook Trout, Stream Health, and Fish Passage Workgroups, as well as the Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species. She is a Maryland native and recently graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor’s degree in Ecology and Evolution. Outside of work, Julianna loves to cook and has a personal passion for fighting food waste.

**B.3: Strategies to Ensure Your Resilience Initiatives are Equitable**

Local climate resilience initiatives must be informed by members of a community and include local leadership in order to be equitable. In this session, River Network staff will introduce two strategies that promote inclusive and equitable resilience: community-based participatory research and leadership development programs – which are the focus of a forthcoming toolkit that includes case studies and success stories from across the U.S. In this interactive presentation, participants will explore both strategies, learn how to use them

individually or as two complementary approaches to community organizing, and consider ways in which they may be incorporated into your work.

**Workshop Level: All Levels**

**Hannah Mico**, River Network's Community Organizing Associate, has spent most of her career in environmental education and community outreach with various non-profit organizations across West Michigan, including West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Urban Roots Grand Rapids, and Michigan League of Conservation Voters. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management from Grand Valley State University in 2016, as well as studied photography and communications. Both areas of study have directed her professional trajectory into a career of making science more accessible and telling important stories.

**Diana Toledo**, River Network's Leadership Development Director, has worked for over 20 years at the intersection of citizen engagement and water resource management, leading, supporting and expanding communities' efforts to help shape decisions that impact their water resources and quality of life. Diana develops and implements networking, training, and funding initiatives to help build strong, effective and results-oriented leaders, organizations and coalitions. As coordinator for the national Urban Waters Learning Network, she supports local efforts to improve urban waterways and revitalize the neighborhoods around them. Diana has an M.S. from the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies (UW-Madison).

**April Ingle**, River Network's Science and Policy Manager, has worked for over 20 years leading organizations, collaborating with partners to advance clean water policy, and supporting individuals and organizations who are working together to protect and strengthen their communities and the places they love. April develops tools and resources and facilitates peer-to-peer exchange in the areas of water policy; access to affordable and safe drinking water; community engagement; and building strong organizations.

**B.4: Climate Change Implications for Stormwater Management**

Increased rainfall volume and intensity projected across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed poses a risk to best management practices (BMPs) and stormwater conveyance systems designed to capture, treat and safely move water through the urban environment. This session will show attendees how local stormwater managers are thinking about climate resiliency considering the latest climate change forecasts and what they are telling us about risks to our current infrastructure. Then, it will review research on how climate change may affect the performance of our restoration practices, and present potential changes in stormwater design to make the next generation of stormwater practices more resilient.

**Workshop Level: Intermediate**

**David Wood** is the Stormwater Coordinator for the Chesapeake Stormwater Network, where he develops training workshops, webcasts, and technical resources for a network of over 11,000 stormwater professionals from across the watershed. Prior to joining CSN, David worked at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, supporting tracking and implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. David has his BA in Biology from St. Mary's College of Maryland.

**Thursday Sessions | 1:00 to 2:15 pm | Session C**

**C.1: Celebrate Women's Personal Resilience with HerChesapeake**

While we all work toward climate resilience, we must also cultivate personal resilience to persist in the face of the unprecedented challenges climate change is generating, AND continue to break glass ceilings and smash the patriarchy. Developing personal resilience can come in many forms - join an interactive session to practice resilience-generating techniques, build community, and celebrate the skills and uniqueness of the women who contribute to a healthier Chesapeake Bay. HerChesapeake focuses on serving the needs of all women, and welcomes people of all genders including trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming individuals.

**Workshop Level:     Introductory**

**Lauren Taneyhill** is the President and Founder of HerChesapeake. Her particular story has led to a sense of urgency in empowering and supporting other women. The combination of environmentalism and gender equity as core values led her to create HerChesapeake. Her professional experience includes policy, governance, communications, building strategic partnerships for local to national scale nonprofits and agencies. Lauren has a Masters of Natural Resources from Virginia Tech, and is based in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Carmera Thomas-Wilhite** was born and raised in Maryland, and grew up spending her summers swimming in the Severn River, visiting farms, and gardening with her grandparents which inspired her land stewardship and passion for nature early. With a background in biology, Carmera uses science-based strategies to engage communities through hands-on restoration projects to teach environmental awareness; mentors young people; and strives for inclusivity and diversity in the field of conservation.

**Jackie Specht** is a new resident to Maryland and wowed by the passion that is evoked by the Chesapeake Bay watershed. She believes that all people should be able to swim in this passion. To be curious. To explore. This sentiment is what drew her to HerChesapeake's environmental feminism mission. Jackie received her Master's in Oceanography and now works as a coastal science program manager at the The Nature Conservancy. When not at work, you may find her paddling with the Kent Island Outrigger Canoe Club or tending her garden at the Eastport Firehouse Community Garden.

**C.2: Internal Work: DEIJ in Action**

The Chesapeake region has evolved both racially and ethnically. Soon, we will embody a colorful society where underrepresented communities will represent the majority. Both with internal culture and external mission-related work, many organizations in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Region are struggling to align successfully their operations with their values when it comes to increasing and advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ). During this session, participants will take a deep dive into barriers they are experiencing to create inclusive work cultures at different organizational levels.

**Workshop Level:     Intermediate**

**Mariah Davis** manages outreach, grassroots advocacy, and civic engagement efforts to support Choose Clean Water Coalition's policy priorities. As the Policy and Campaigns Manager, she coordinates conservation organizations efforts in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. This includes working with conservation organizations at the local, state and regional level to enact sound state policies to ensure progress in the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort. Mariah is pursuing a master's degree in Public Management from the University of Maryland. In 2013, she obtained a Bachelor's in Environmental Studies, with a minor in Chemistry from Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Bre'Anna Brooks**, an Environmental Studies graduate from the University of Colorado at Boulder, is a Program Officer at the Chesapeake Bay Trust and has been with the environmental, non-profit, grant-making organization since April 2016. At the Trust, she manages grant programs designed to increase knowledge of and engage residents in activities that improve natural resources and enhance communities for the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Bre'Anna is the lead for the Trust's two Diversity and Inclusion Committees, which serve several functions to meet the goal of ensuring our grant-making reaches as many diverse audiences as possible.

**C.3: Climate-Informed Forest Restoration and Management**

Our session will provide an overview of ways in which forest restoration and management can improve climate resiliency and adaptation. The session will include presentations on the recently updated Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy, forest adaptation menus compiled by the Climate Change Response Framework, as well as on-the-ground case studies from Maryland. The presentations will demonstrate how tree planting, forest buffers, and forest management can help adapt to projected climate change impacts in the watershed.

We will also identify opportunities to make forest restoration and management efforts more resilient to climate change.

**Workshop Level: All Levels**

**Katie Brownson** is a watershed specialist working for the US Forest Service at the Chesapeake Bay Program. In 2019, she completed a PhD in Integrative Conservation and Ecology at the University of Georgia (UGA). Her dissertation research focused on the social and environmental impacts of Payments for Ecosystem Services programs. Before UGA, she worked for five years at Fungi Perfecti in Washington State, where she did research and development on ways to use fungi for removing contaminants from water and soil.

**Anne Hairston-Strang** is Associate Director of Statewide Programs for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service. She has worked for Maryland Forest Service since 1997, starting as a forest hydrologist. She has a Ph.D. in forest hydrology from Oregon State University, M.S. in forest soils from the University of Minnesota, and a B.S. in forest management from Virginia Tech.

**Danielle Shannon** is staff at the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS), where she helps land managers cope with and adapt to the challenges of climate change. With a M.S. from the University of Minnesota in Forest Hydrology and Watershed Management, Danielle has worked with NIACS to develop adaptation strategies for forest managers focused on hydrology and the management of forested watersheds; and has since collaborated with regional partners to develop climate adaptation resources for non-forested wetland conservation and management.

**C.4: Making the Connection, Driving Change: Education for Community Resilience**

Communities throughout the region experience environmental stressors and hazards due to extreme weather events, climate change impacts, current and historical injustices as well as other social and environmental change. Education, especially with youth, plays a key role in shaping the response to social and environmental justice, longer-term environmental changes, by supporting student's and other stakeholder's deeper understanding of scientific processes, civic engagement, and the intersection of human and natural systems. This session will explore how education, community science initiatives, and historical contexts on environmental justice have supported climate resilience efforts and action in the region and beyond.

**Workshop Level: All Levels**

**Jeremy Hoffman** is the Chief Scientist at the Science Museum of Virginia, as well as affiliate faculty in the Center for Environmental Sciences, the Graduate School, and the L. Douglas Wilder School of Governmental and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University. Jeremy earned his Ph.D. in Geology with a focus in Paleoclimatology at OSU as a NSF Graduate Research Fellow and Science Communication Fellow for the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Jeremy believes science communication efforts must explore new and bold avenues to reach diverse audiences in meaningful ways - including collective leadership.

**Krysta Hougen** is the Environmental Communication Specialist at the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office's Environmental Science Training Center in Oxford, Maryland. In the position she works with colleagues to train formal and nonformal educators on using NOAA science with students and implementing Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences. Krysta has a Master's in Plant Biology from Ohio University and has been working in environmental education since 2010.

**Jen Kretser** is the Director of Programs for The Wild Center, overseeing education program development and interpretive programs. Major initiatives at the Center include leading the Adirondack Youth Climate Program. Jen previously served as Director of Education for the Adirondack Mountain Club for 7 years focused on education efforts. For her work in the Adirondacks, she was the 2006 recipient of the ADK Education Award and the 2007 EPA Region 2 Environmental Educator Award. Jen graduated from Cornell University with a BS in wildlife ecology and an MS in environmental science and education from Antioch University New England.

**Bart Merrick** has been an environmental educator for 25 years, working with teachers and students from Massachusetts to Virginia, promoting environmental literacy and fostering understanding, awareness and respect for the natural world. Upon receiving a Masters in Environmental Science, Bart worked with MD-DNR as the Education Coordinator for CBNERRs. Currently, Bart Merrick is the Education Coordinator for NCBO's Environmental Science Training Center focusing his on integrating the use of environmental science and technology with field-based learning experiences.

**Frank Niepold** is the Climate Education Coordinator at NOAA's Climate Program Office in Silver Spring Maryland and a leader in climate education efforts throughout the country and beyond having led initiatives with Climate.gov, U.S. Global Change Research Program's Education Interagency Working Group, and much more. Frank currently serves as a co-chair for the CLEAN (Climate Literacy) Network's Leadership Board. Frank taught Earth and Life sciences at the middle school level in Maryland and Earth Systems and Science Technology and Society at the high school level in the District of Columbia for a decade. He was a GLOBE Program master teacher and international trainer. He worked for a decade as a Educational Resources Developer on the Landsat Educational Outreach task force at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

## Friday Sessions | 10:15 to 11:45 am | Session D

### **D.1: Strategizing in Uncertain Times**

As our work shifts and changes due to the pandemic, leaders and organizations are called to continually adapt in the face of uncertainty. Each new experiment and challenge, including the recognition that the “new normal” is yet to be defined, provides an opportunity for learning in our fight for clean water. Whether you’re wondering “Now what?!” or you have some good examples under your belt, join this session to learn some practical strategies for adapting your work, hear the real-life cases of several leaders and organizations, and share your experiences and resources.

**Workshop Level:**     **All Levels**

**Sarah Clark**, Senior Associate with the Institute for Conservation Leadership, supports collaborations, leaders and organizations to work for healthier communities and a healthier Earth. A skilled facilitator, Sarah helps leaders and groups to more effectively work together to create change and meet goals. She has developed and lead local and national programs, collaborative efforts, and leadership development initiatives with membership, advocacy, volunteer and community-based organizations. Sarah currently leads ICL's efforts with the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, facilitating network development and collaboration with the initiative's 50+ organizations. She has degrees in Organization Development and Sociology.

**Joy Jackson**, Senior Associate with the Institute for Conservation Leadership, supports collaborations, leaders and organizations to work for healthier communities and a healthier Earth. A skilled facilitator, Sarah helps leaders and groups to more effectively work together to create change and meet goals. She has developed and lead local and national programs, collaborative efforts, and leadership development initiatives with membership, advocacy, volunteer and community-based organizations. Sarah currently leads ICL's efforts with the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, facilitating network development and collaboration with the initiative's 50+ organizations. She has degrees in Organization Development and Sociology.

### **D.2: Fostering a Productive, Healthy Team**

Grassroots organizations are the backbone of the Chesapeake landscape but far too often, these programs are over-extending themselves, feeling burnt-out, and experiencing frequent staff turnover. You can take several efforts to foster a productive, healthy team. This interactive session will explore effective goal setting strategies, productive team and one-on-one conversations, and yoga/mindfulness as a tool for self-care. Participants will practice strategies in the session and leave with a packet of resources they can put into place when they return to the office.

**Workshop Level:     Intermediate**

**Julie Vastine** directs Dickinson College’s Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where she enjoys providing technical assistance to watershed communities interested in using science as a tool for change. Julie has worked in the volunteer monitoring/citizen science field for eighteen years. In 2019, she was appointed to the National Water Quality Monitoring Council as the volunteer monitoring representative. In 2018, she was elected to the Citizen Science Association. Since 2011, Julie has been an enthusiastic proponent of self-care in the workplace, including obtaining her 200-hour registered yoga teacher certification.

**D.3: Using Scorecards to Promote Climate Resilience**

Scorecards or report cards can be an important tool to understand climate adaptation and resilience progress for communities and state and local governments. Scorecards provide a method to track progress for climate resilience goals and can result in more informed decision-making. We have brought together three scorecard efforts in the Chesapeake Bay to share their development approach and identification of priority issues: the Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT), the Maryland Adaptation Report Card, and the Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Resilience Scorecard for Watershed Communities. The importance of stakeholder engagement to ensure legitimacy and relevancy of scorecards will also be discussed.

**Workshop Level:     All Levels**

**Julie Reichert-Nguyen** joined the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office in October 2019. She is a Natural Resources Specialist with over 15 years of experience in researching and evaluating human impacts on natural resources and specializes in fisheries, aquatic habitats, nutrients, climate change, and ocean acidification science and Clean Water Act programs. She has a B.S. in Biological Sciences and a M.S. in Environmental Sciences. She currently serves as the Coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Climate Resiliency Workgroup, which focuses on monitoring trends and designing strategies to enhance resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay to changing climate conditions and sea level rise.

**Dr. Krista Romita Grocholski** is an associate physical scientist at the RAND Corporation and program manager for the NOAA Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (MARISA) center. Highlights of her work with MARISA include co-leading the production of a seasonal climate summary, organizing two workshops on stormwater management for water utilities, and leading a project on developing a climate resilience scorecard for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Prior to joining RAND, she received her PhD and M.S. in astronomy from the University of Florida and her B.A. in astronomy and physics from Vassar College.

**Dr. Michelle E. Miro** is a water resources engineer at the RAND Corporation and professor at the Pardee RAND Graduate School with expertise in water resources policy and management, climate resilience planning, remote sensing, geospatial analysis, and machine learning. She is a co-investigator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (MARISA) program, where she leads coastal resilience and stormwater management research, and serves as a co-investigator on a National Academy of Science coastal resilience grant focused on flood risk and climate resilience for communities in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Angela King** is the Assistant Director of the Virginia Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary Law School. Before joining VCPC, Angela served as an assistant attorney general in the Consumer Protection Section of the Virginia Office of the Attorney General. Her professional experience also includes serving as the Executive Director of the Newport News Green Foundation and as an assistant county attorney for James City County. She received her law degree, magna cum laude, from the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University, Bloomington and her bachelors of science in geography and anthropology, cum laude, from Florida State University.

**Dr. Katie May Laumann** is a Science Integrator at the Integration and Application Network (IAN) of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES). She is the project manager for the Maryland Coastal Adaptation Report Card. She has contributed to ecosystem health report cards for Bhitarkanika National Park (India), the Maryland Coastal Bays, and the Mississippi River. Katie May holds an M.A. in conservation biology from Columbia University and a



Ph.D. in marine science from the College of William and Mary. She has worked in fisheries management, conservation, and education and outreach.

**Annie Carew** is a Science Communicator at the Integration and Application Network (IAN) of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES). She has contributed to ecosystem health report cards for the Maryland Coastal Bays and Western Lake Erie. Annie holds an M.S. in environmental science from UMCES. She has worked on projects in aquatic plant restoration, salamander ecology, and prairie rangeland management in addition to education, outreach, and science communication.

#### **D.4: Herding Cats and Bringing Rockstars Together: Creating Effective Collaboration**

This interactive session will focus on the recently launched Rapidan Rappahannock and the Upper and Middle James regional collaboratives highlighting best practices and lessons learned, with stories of challenges as well as opportunities. The session will feature two partnership coordinators and two facilitators, and will help participants develop strategies to improve effectiveness of their collaboratives, have more fun, and gain a deeper understanding of productive coordinator-facilitator partnerships. There will be opportunities for small group discussion to lift up stories, explore tools, and share highlights of participants' own experience around partnering for resilience and results. Participants are invited to bring their best and worst collaboration moments to the session.

#### **Workshop Level:     *Intermediate***

**Bill Potapchuk** has helped organizations and communities reach collaborative agreements and address critical issues for more than 30 years. He brings special expertise in working on issues where race, class, culture, and equity intersect. Currently, he facilitates the work of the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership and the Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership. Bill is President of the Community Building Institute and is adjunct professor in the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University. He has co-authored chapters in major textbooks for the field including the Deliberative Democracy Handbook, Consensus Building Handbook and the Collaborative Leadership Fieldbook.

**Maggi Blomstrom** works with the Piedmont Environmental Council as the Rappahannock-Rapidan Conservation Initiative Coordinator -- a multi-faceted initiative to promote land conservation, water quality improvements, natural habitat protection and restoration, and public access throughout the Upper Rappahannock River watershed. She brings years of experience and enthusiasm engaging with landowners, volunteers, communities, and partners to advance environmental stewardship and land management. Maggi holds a B.A. in Geography and Urban and Regional Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University and a M.A. in Community Development and Planning from Clark University in Massachusetts.

**Amber Ellis** is the Senior Watershed Restoration Manager with the James River Association. She earned a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Virginia Tech, is a Professional Landscape Architect in Virginia, a Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional, and has a certificate in Ecotherapy through the EarthBody Institute. From riparian buffers, to stormwater, to living shorelines; building diverse partnerships to get more projects on the ground is at the heart of her work in the James River watershed. Amber currently leads the Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium and the James Living Shoreline.

**Christine Gyovai** is the Principal of Dialogue + Design Associates. She holds certificates in charrette systems, mediation and permaculture design, and has a focus on increasing community resilience and environmental sustainability in central Appalachia and the Chesapeake Bay. In addition to several regional efforts, Christine facilitates the Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium and loves paddling and sailing. She holds a M.U.E.P. in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia and a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Burlington College. Christine lives in central Virginia with her husband and two children.

**E.1: The Art of Social Resiliency Engagement**

With all of the troubles in the world, why should I care about saving the Chesapeake Bay? We know the answer, the problem that we face as educators is: How do we get the attention of the masses? How can we create experiential and sensory programs to help them engage with their natural environment and the discussion of the bigger questions of climate change and social resiliency? This session will explore the theory of social relativity and the use of art, poetry and music to engage myriad groups in the concepts of environmental social resiliency, and promoting stewardship of our shared world.

**Workshop Level:     *Introductory***

*Michael Steen* serves as the Director of Education for the Watermen’s Museum in Yorktown Virginia. He has a BA in History from VMI, an MS in Parks, Recreation and Tourism from VCU, and is a VNRLI fellow with UVA. His 35+ years of work experience includes working with National Park Service, Virginia State Parks, Chesterfield County, Jamestown Yorktown Foundation, Pamplin Park, Museum of the Confederacy and as adjunct faculty at VCU and RCC.

**E.2: Ward 7’s Equity Advisory Group Advances Climate Resilience and Community Engagement**

Attendees will gain tools and strategies for engaging diverse communities/stakeholders in local resiliency planning by examining a project that successfully brought together Washington D.C. planning bodies and the historically disenfranchised Ward 7 neighborhood, an environmental justice community. This project piloted an equitable engagement process that centers on engaging diverse community leaders to develop climate resiliency strategies that raises up voices within the EJ community while rebuilding trust between the local government and communities of color. Participants will examine the formation of a racially, socioeconomically, and generationally representative group of community leaders to provide recommendations for implementing local climate readiness plans.

**Workshop Level:     *Intermediate***

*Sarah Malpass* is a planner and lead of the DEI practice area at Skeo, providing collaborative planning and design services for over 10 years. Her primary focus areas include equitable development, community and environmental planning, and capacity building for stakeholders working across traditional dividing lines. She has a special interest in supporting environmental justice communities seeking to build local capacity and address long-standing divides around race, class and the environment. Sarah strives to implement equitable development solutions that provide a foundation for healthy, fulfilling community life. Her skills include community and regional planning, stakeholder facilitation and community engagement.

**E.3: Heat, Health & Trees**

One of the climate change factors with increasingly dire risks to human health is urban heat/extreme heat, which disproportionately burdens low-income communities and communities of color. Trees can play a powerful role in mitigating these temperature increases, while also providing a host of co-benefits to the community. This session features cutting-edge heat mapping and resiliency planning initiatives from Richmond, Virginia (Dr. Jeremy Hoffman) and Washington, DC (Melissa Deas), complemented by a seasoned community engagement perspective from Baltimore Tree Trust (Bryant Smith).

**Workshop Level:     All Levels**

**Jeremy Hoffman** is the Chief Scientist at the Science Museum of Virginia, as well as affiliate faculty in the Center for Environmental Sciences, the Graduate School, and the L. Douglas Wilder School of Governmental and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University. Jeremy earned his Ph.D. in Geology with a focus in Paleoclimatology at OSU as a NSF Graduate Research Fellow and Science Communication Fellow for the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Jeremy believes science communication efforts must explore new and bold avenues to reach diverse audiences in meaningful ways - including collective leadership.

**Melissa Deas** is a Climate Program Analyst with the DC Department of Energy & Environment where she coordinates the District's climate adaptation plan and promotes collaborative and climate-ready policies.

**Bryant Smith** is a native of East Baltimore, who has recently joined Baltimore Tree Trust as Executive Director after a distinguished career as an Urban Forester with the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks. In a career spanning nearly thirty years, he has served in senior leadership positions with the U.S. Forest Service and environmental nonprofits across the Chesapeake Bay region.

#### **E.4: Partnerships Strengthen Diverse Climate-Resilient Communities**

The RiverSmart Homes program, administered by the District of Columbia's Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), incentivizes homeowners and residents to install stormwater management practices, safely retaining and managing stormwater on residential properties, and diverting that water away from municipal sewers. This program's success rises out of strong partnerships between DOEE, the grantees, their sub-grantees, contractors, and the residents of the District. In this session, DOEE and their longstanding partner the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will discuss general tactics for strengthening partnerships, identifying diversity and its significance within our partnerships, and how stronger partnerships cultivate climate-resilient communities. This session includes lecture, two interactive activities, and group discussion.

#### **Workshop Level:      *Introductory***

**Elaine Vidal** is an Environmental Protection Specialist with the Department of Energy and Environment in Washington, DC. She is part of the RiverSmart Homes program that works to install stormwater BMPs on residential properties throughout the District. Elaine has over six years of leadership experience in implementing community partnered grant projects to provide collective enhancement of environmental sustainability. In her free time, Elaine likes to kayak and spend time with her two dogs.

**Brendan Durkin** is an Environmental Protection Specialist with the Department of Energy and Environment in Washington, DC. He is a part of the RiverSmart Homes program that works to install stormwater BMPs on residential properties throughout the District. Brendan has over five years of experience in urban forestry and is a certified arborist. Outside of RiverSmart Homes, Brendan enjoys instructing yoga classes and playing guitar.

**Laura Todd** is the RiverSmart Program Coordinator at Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in Washington, DC. She graduated from Elon University in North Carolina with a degree in Environmental Studies having completed research on the influential predictors and formative experiences of adolescent environmentalists. In 2019, Laura became a Master Watershed Steward. A native of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Laura enjoys kayaking the waters of her native Wicomico River and unwinding on the beaches of Assateague Island.