SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, November 3 | 1:30 - 2:30 PM | Session A

FRI-A.1: Sustainable Community Based Public Private Partnerships

Room: 151 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Intermediate

The struggle to derive socio-economic benefits from managing stormwater is often seen to be more prominent in minority communities as seen across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The need for an increased level of diversity and inclusivity in these efforts has been emphasized, which is poised to yield a more sustainable outcome. The proposed session will highlight the sustainability of a novel Community Based Public Private Partnership (CBP3) approach adopted by the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) at Prince George's County, MD, which leverages on defining specific equity-driven objectives that promote diversity in workforce development efforts, and ensures active minority community engagement.

Bello Mahmud is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in Civil Engineering at Morgan State University. Bello holds a Masters degree in Project Management, and a Bachelor's degree in Building. He is dedicated to advancing knowledge, evident in several published academic works, coupled with a number of prestigious scholarships and awards for his academic achievements. His research focuses on construction safety, inclusive procurement strategies, and equitable workforce development for stormwater infrastructure projects. A member of several esteemed professional organizations, Bello is passionate about making a positive impact in the world, which extends to participating in volunteer and advocacy projects towards a sustainable society.

Roland Jones is a Market Director at Corvias Infrastructure Solutions, LLC (CIS), and oversees the MIDAtlantic including the Clean Water Partnership with Prince George's County. CIS is a national leader in the development and implementation of public infrastructure solutions that drive local economic inclusion and equity, reduction of public risk, and community investment and buy-in. Roland has worked for state/local government clients, with over 30 years' experience developing world class procurement and supply chain programs, created, developed, and implied Supplier Diversity program in corporate America and local government.

FRI-A.2: Business and Residents Build Resilient Communities

Room 154 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Introductory

The increased need to manage urban stormwater creates an opportunity for private businesses to invest in green solutions. The D.C. Department of Energy and Environment's RiverSmart Homes Program provides technical and financial assistance to businesses and residents, empowering them to invest in green stormwater practices. Over 13,000 homes in Washington have received green stormwater practice recommendations through RiverSmart homes and new residents sign up every day. This creates a marketplace in which experienced contractors have a growing client base, and the District government leverages private investment to manage stormwater providing broad ecological benefits.

Brendan Durkin is an Environmental Protection Specialist with the Department of Energy and Environment in Washington, DC. He works as a RiverSmart Homes Program Assessor educating residents to install stormwater BMPs on properties throughout the District. Brendan has over eight years of experience in urban forestry and is a certified arborist. Outside of RiverSmart Homes, Brendan enjoys instructing yoga classes and playing guitar.

Garrett Stewart began working as an assessor for the DC Department of Energy and Environment's RiverSmart Homes Program in May 2023, providing technical assistance to DC residents who are interested in implementing green stormwater practices on their property. He has over four years of experience working on key watershed issues including stormwater management. At home, Garrett is an avid backpacker and runner.

FRI-A.3: Dairy Diary: A Treehugger's Lessons Learned

Room: 160 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Introductory

Environmental NGOs are increasing their engagement with farmers throughout the watershed. But few early career environmental professionals have backgrounds in agriculture. After 20 years working for environmental NGOs, the speaker stumbled into a unique opportunity with the dairy industry. His only prior agricultural experience was the occasional childhood visit to his great-grandparents' farm and (mostly) unsuccessful attempts at growing tomatoes. Suddenly, he found himself working with—and for—dairy farmers in five states. What has a self-described treehugger learned from dairy farmers (and vice versa)? And how can those lessons help you successfully engage with the agricultural community?

Ron Ohrel is Director of Environmental Outreach with American Dairy Association North East. Having worked for environmental nonprofits, academia, consulting, the federal government, and now the dairy industry, he has extensive experience with environmental issues affecting the Mid-Atlantic and the Northeast. Throughout his career, Ron has partnered with public and private organizations to raise greater awareness of topics related to agriculture, water quality, endangered species, land use, and environmental policy. Ron has a bachelor's degree in marine science from Coastal Carolina University and a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University.

FRI-A.4: Ultra Urban Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Room: 161 Instructional West | Workshop Level: All

Over the last 12 years, Baltimore Climate Resilience Coalition (BCRC), an organization in inner city Baltimore, has introduced many new approaches, methods and products that culminated in installations of innovative green stormwater infrastructure often with the cooperation of local businesses. A combination of green and blue infrastructure has led to installation of rain gardens/bioswales in enlarged tree pits allowing stormwater to be used for transpiration/evapotranspiration and mitigation of outside temperatures. Additionally, we enhanced stormwater capture and soil moisture capacity by using products like lava blocks, polymer wrapped in geotextiles or using permeable pavers on sand, and building polder-like subsurface under sidewalks.

Mateusz Rozanski has experience in building green infrastructure in highly urban environments. As a cofounder of the Baltimore Climate Resilience Coalition and longtime Greening Coordinator for the Old Goucher Community Association, Mr. Rozanski successfully implemented many adaptation projects in Old Goucher and surrounding neighborhoods

over the last decade, including coordinating the planting of over 800 trees in Central Baltimore.

FRI-A.5: Farm to Legislative Table

Room: 105 Instructional East | Workshop Level: All

Few pieces of legislation are more important in our work to protect and restore the rivers and streams that feed the Chesapeake Bay than the Farm Bill. Renewed every five years, the Farm Bill contains massive programs to help farmers implement critical conservation practices on their land through financial and technical assistance. Support, however, for these programs is not guaranteed. Join the Choose Clean Water Coalition to see how the sausage is made, as we share how we advocate around the Farm Bill and share best practices to collaboratively push for policies and investments that support clean water.

Drew Robinson is the Choose Clean Water Coalition's Senior Communications Manager. Drew oversees the Coalition's annual conference, manages the Coalition's Communications Workgroup, and provides communications support to the Coalition's more than 280 member organizations. Drew also manages the Coalition's external communications and leads strategic communications campaigns to advance the Coalition's policy priorities. Hailing from the Garden State, Drew attained his love for the environment and clean water on frequent camping trips on the way to earning his Eagle Scout. After graduating from Dickinson College with a bachelor's in Political Science and Religion, Drew taught English on the small island of Pohnpei, Micronesia, led a multi-state campaign organizing young Evangelicals towards greater awareness and activism addressing climate change, and served for more than five years at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as the Digital Advocacy and Outreach Manager.

Sara Ramotnik serves as the Senior Membership & Program Coordinator of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, where she manages outreach and grassroots advocacy efforts to support the Choose Clean Water Coalition's policy goals. She works with conservation organizations throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed to bolster their efforts in campaigning for clean water. She believes that through strong collective action and accountability, we can make policy changes that are crucial for protecting the landscape and waters that surround us.

FRI-A.6: Restoration Adaption - Responding to Challenges

Room: 114 Instructional East | Workshop Level: All

In the past decade, Anne Arundel County has built an ever-growing inventory of voluntary environmental restoration projects on public and private property. Each project has provided new perspectives and knowledge. Join Sally Albright of Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration and Jennifer Carr of Arundel Rivers Federation as they share stories of projects that took unexpected turns, and how each lesson learned helps to get more projects in the ground in the future. You'll hear about design challenges, utility constraints, property owner relationships and more!

Sally Albright graduated from Oregon State University with a B.S. in Environmental Sciences and a B.S. in Oceanography. Sally joined the Anne Arundel County DPW Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration in 2019, first as Grants Manager and now as Outreach Coordinator. Sally grew up on (and in) the South River and, prior to joining the County, she interned for the Arundel Rivers Federation assisting with water quality monitoring and on-the-ground installation/maintenance of restoration projects throughout the South, West, and Rhode River

watersheds.

Jennifer Carr graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Geography and a minor in Environmental Science. After graduation, she worked for an AmeriCorps non-profit in Baltimore, interned with the International Rescue Committee, and taught in a rural village in Serbia. After returning home, Jennifer joined the Federation in 2011 as a one-year Chesapeake Conservation Corps Member funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The Federation hired her in 2012 and she has worked in a variety of positions, including coordinating volunteers, event planning, unofficial IT officer, and Director of Restoration.

Michael Thompson has over 20 years' experience in the stream and wetland restoration industry. His background has primarily been focused on assessment, design, construction and monitoring of restoration projects but he also has experience with stormwater management retrofits, low impact design as well as ecological master planning. Mike is a qualified forest professional with the MD DNR, a Professional Wetland Scientist, Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner and a Certified Senior Ecologist. Mike has completed all four levels of Rosgen training and has a background in biological monitoring for macroinvertebrates and fish. Mike has a love for just about all things outdoors and focuses on improving habitats for all things great and small.

FRI-A.7: Chesapeake-WILD Projects Flexing their Mussels

Room: 201 Instructional East | Workshop Level: All

This session will 1) provide a snapshot of Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund (CBSF) grants programs; 2) take a deep dive into the newest grants program, Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (C-WILD) program, funding wildlife conservation and environmental equity across the 41-million acre bay landscape; and 3) spotlight projects to demonstrate ways grantees are advancing estuary health using C-WILD grants. NFWF and USFWS presenters will highlight new dimensions and directions of CBSF funding opportunities, share tools and techniques for successful applications and projects, and offer lessons from on-the-ground work two years into the C-WILD program. Join us to learn how NFWF grants support habitat conservation and restoration, climate adaptation and resilience, community partnership, public access, and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Jake Reilly is Director of Chesapeake Bay Programs for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Jake has experience in policy and management of Federal, state, and local environmental and agricultural conservation programs with a focus on watershed management and ecosystem services. Prior roles include Program Examiner with the White House Office of Management, Budget; Environmental Management Fellow with the Chesapeake Research Consortium; and Forest Policy Associate with American Forests. He holds a B.S. in Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics from the University of Maryland College Park and an M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University.

Joe Toolan (he/him) is the Manager of Chesapeake Bay Programs at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. He has experience managing grant programs focused on community stewardship and behavior change across jurisdictions, coordinating green workforce development programs, building capacity in and networks of nonprofit organizations, and leading Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice work. Joe has a bachelor's degree in Geographical Sciences with a concentration in Environment Systems and Natural Resource Management from the University of Maryland, and an Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Georgetown University. Joe is also Chair of Annapolis Pride, Chair of the State of Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, and a Planning Committee Member for the Naturally Latinos Conference.

Faren R. Wolter PhD (she/her) leads and coordinates U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Science's Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) Program, which was created in response to a partner-identified need for coordinated action to restore, conserve, and protect an intact, functioning watershed that supports a diversity of wildlife, fish, and plants, and contributes to the wellbeing of all who live, work, and recreate in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Faren holds a Ph.D. in Forestry with an emphasis in Society & Ecosystems from University of Missouri – Columbia, and a B.S. in Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Wildlife Biology from Clemson University. Dr. Wolter is also a graduate of the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute.

Friday, November 3 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM | Session B

FRI-B.1: Mapping the Way to Partnership Projects

Room: 151 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Intermediate

Interested in better prioritizing your potential projects, tracking current projects, and sharing this information across your partner organizations? This session presents case studies of map-based project management tools developed through ArcGIS online by the Chesapeake Conservancy, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and partners. These mapping applications can serve as a useful tool for partnerships to visualize both current projects and high-priority potential projects based on criteria of importance, such as funding availability, community demographics, current land cover, and more. We discuss the benefits, mechanics, and potential uses of these mapping applications.

Alexandra Neumann works on the Agriculture Program Team at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, which develops partnerships with farmers and food system corporations across the watershed. These partnerships collaborate to implement projects on farms that improve water quality and mitigate climate change. Alexandra holds a B.S. in Sustainability and a B.S. in Conservation Biology from Barrett, the honors college at Arizona State University. With prior experience in grant writing, participatory research with rural farmers, and urban ag education in a K-5 setting, her academic and professional work has centered on building sustainable food systems. Alexandra lives in Lancaster, PA where she is often hiking, gardening, and volunteering in the community.

Ryan Hill is a project coordinator/geospatial analyst for the Chesapeake Conservancy supporting collaborative restoration projects in Pennsylvania under the 30 by 30 initiative. He serves under the programs team and the CIC to develop, advance, and implement mapping tools that support partnerships focused on precision conservation. Most recently, he worked as a senior environmental planner for Monroe County to administer the agricultural preservation program and water quality monitoring program. He graduated from Penn State with a bachelor's degree in environmental resource management with minors in GIS and watershed/water resources.

FRI-B.2: MPA: Building the Future Together

Room: 154 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Introductory

Maryland Port Administration is a state agency that supports the shipping industry through the Harbor Development department and is a bridge between the private sector and the community. The shipping industry relies on the work MPA does keeping the shipping channels navigable by planning and maintaining dredged material containment facilities (DMCF) near neighboring communities. The needs of the shipping industry related to channel maintenance and DMCF must be balanced with the needs of the community where the dredged material is placed- by restoring, preserving, and protecting local environments. Diverse partnerships in these efforts lead to surprisingly impactful Environmental Justice stories.

Rachael Dickey Gilde is an Environmental Program Manager with the Maryland Port Administration overseeing technical projects associated with dredged material and related outreach efforts. For over 10 years and with multiple employers, she has been participating in and conducting outreach about MPA dredging and restoration projects affiliated with Masonville Cove, Poplar Island, the Mid-Bay Islands, Hart Miller Island, and Cox Creek. She received her degree from McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland, and has conducted environmental research at several prestigious institutions including University of Maryland, College Park; Bodega Bay Marine Laboratory, University of California, Davis; National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods

Hole, Massachusetts, University of Queensland in Townsville, Australia; and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Study subjects ranged from whale acoustics, to turtle populations and behavior, to seaweed physiology; to oyster settling. Through an affinity for science, she developed a passion for sharing rich stories of stewards studying and protecting the environment.

Danielle K. Fisher is an Outreach Coordinator with the Maryland Port Administration (MPA). In her current role, Danielle is actively fostering cross-functional community collaborations and creating transparent narratives to position MPA's Dredged Material Management Program as a valuable resource for all Marylanders, with a focus on environmental restoration projects.Danielle has a decade of stakeholder engagement and Strategic marketing experience. Over the course of her career, she has focused on nurturing and strengthening connections resulting in lasting impacts on both communities and local businesses. Her marketing expertise has consistently driven success across diverse industries, including higher education, housing, media, healthcare, and transportation, by crafting resonating strategies for various audiences. Danielle received her Bachelor's of Science in Marketing from Temple University. She is a Baltimore Native, living in Northeast Baltimore. She is active in urban nature spaces.

FRI-B.3: Manure Injection to Improve Water Quality

Room: 160 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Introductory

Meeting Chesapeake Bay nutrient reduction goals will require innovative agriculture conservation practices and collaborations. In 2021, The Campbell Foundation partnered with the Lancaster County Conservation District on a manure injection incentive program to evaluate injection as a nutrient management technique with both on-farm and environmental benefits. The program has been met with enthusiasm, and the English farming community has sold out available incentives. Adoption within the Amish community has lagged, due partially to energy impediments of the custom-built horse-drawn injector. The Conservation District is working closely with farmer communities to understand their needs and guide the program in response.

Caroline Harper joined The Campbell Foundation in August 2020 as an Executive and Grants Assistant and transitioned to the Foundation's Agriculture program in January 2023. A graduate of the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Chesapeake Conservation Corps program, her prior work experience includes environmental education through the public school's Environmental Literacy program, avian and marine fieldwork, and oyster restoration work with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Caroline graduated from Wellesley College in 2017 with a degree in Biology and a minor in music. Caroline grew up in Annapolis, Maryland, and likes to spend time outside birding, hiking, and traveling.

FRI-B.4: Biochar and Climate Resilient Landscapes

Room: 161 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Introductory

Biochar soil amendment can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our restoration efforts, especially when applied to stormwater management practices. Biochar also helps to address waste, soil health and supports healthier and more vigorous plant growth. EcoWorks has completed a number of research and application-based projects using biochar and will describe these through a lens of, and with group discussion on, climate resilient landscapes. An overview of EcoWorks green jobs programs will also be provided.

Lori Lilly is a natural resource management professional with an M.S. in Marine Estuarine and Environmental Science and over 15 years of cumulative experience in watershed planning and implementation, project management, water quality monitoring and grant writing. She is a leader and an independent thinker with a passion for environmental issues and a demonstrated commitment to improving water resources through grassroots efforts. Lori initiated, developed and manages a debris management program in flood-prone Ellicott City, MD and provides regional and national leadership for environmental management and innovations such as for biochar and illicit discharges. Lori founded Howard EcoWorks in 2016, to be a regional force for social and environmental change. EcoWorks engages and educates the community about environmental sustainability and restoration, while creating pathways to green jobs through workforce development programs.

FRI-B.5: Tree-t Yourself: Plantings for Landowners

Room: 105 Instructional East | Workshop Level: Introductory

Maryland Forest Service will showcase how the 5 million tree program and agroforestry programs are meeting communities and people where they are at. We will showcase how we are engaging and listening to the needs of rural and urban communities and assisting in removing the administrative barriers for the funding and implementation of plantings. The session will discuss how to initiate relationships with private landowners, maintain these relationships, and how a public agency can assist landowners with their needs.

Ryan Mayenschein is a Tree Planting Supervisor for the 5 Million Trees Initiative with the Maryland Forest Service. Most recently before working at the Department of Natural Resources, he worked as an Arborist in Baltimore City. During this time he acquired a degree in Business Administration and is currently working on a B.A. in Chemistry.

Francis Smith is a Natural Resources Planner with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service. Starting out in journalism, followed by a year living in Africa, he eventually earned an M.S. in Environmental Science, Biological Resources Management. His decade of experience with the Forest Service has ranged from riparian forest buffer maintenance and monitoring to agroforestry to communications to forest health and helping manage the challenges our forests and trees face.

Anna Twigg is a Tree Planting specialist with the Maryland Forest Service. She has a Master of Public Administration and holds certifications in wildland firefighting, Roadside tree care, and environmental education. Anna works to connect both urban and community forestry projects with technical assistance and funding through Maryland's 5 Million Trees Initiative

FRI-B.6: Geospatial Targeting Tools for Grant Applications

Room: 114 Instructional East | Workshop Level: Introductory

An influx of federal dollars in recent years has led to increased funding opportunities to advance clean water and other priorities. To access these funds, organizations are encouraged to prepare proposals incorporating specific targeting tools, many developed by Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partners. This session will highlight how CBP tools, such as the Chesapeake Environmental Justice and Equity Dashboard and the Chesapeake Data site, can be used to inform science-based planning and enhance justification for funding. CBP staff will demonstrate how to use various tools for effective data-driven storytelling and guide the audience through case studies.

Jackie Pickford is employed by the Chesapeake Research Consortium and works within the Chesapeake Bay Program's Water Quality Goal Implementation Team as an Environmental Management Staffer. In addition to the WQGIT, she is responsible for staffing the following groups within the Bay Program: Agriculture Workgroup, Agricultural Modeling Team, BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Action Team, Conowingo WIP Steering Committee, Land Use Workgroup, Milestones Workgroup, and Wastewater Treatment Workgroup. She holds a bachelor's degree in Integrated Science and Technology with a concentration in Environment and a minor in Science, Technology and Society from James Madison University.

Sophie Waterman is employed by the Chesapeake Research Consortium and works with the Chesapeake Bay Program's Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team as the Environmental Staffer. She supports the HWGIT, the Forestry Workgroup and the Federal Facilities Workgroup. She holds a bachelor's degree in Geography and Geospatial science with a minor in Public Health from Oregon State University.

FRI-B.7: Clean Waterways: An Anacostia Trash Story

Room: 201 Instructional East | Workshop Level: All

The Anacostia River is one of three rivers in the U.S. to be assigned a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for trash. Being an urbanized watershed, the Anacostia has been plagued with litter for years. Starting in 2009, Anacostia Riverkeeper (ARK) established one of the first comprehensive trash reduction campaigns in the watershed; a program that has reduced hundreds of tons of trash from the watershed. ARK staff will explore the history of trash in the Anacostia, how it primarily impacts disadvantaged communities, and provide a roadmap for building trash reduction programs utilizing technology, volunteers, and private/public partnerships. This session will provide a detailed description of Anacostia Riverkeeper's Clean Waterways Cleanup program, which aims to divert trash from entering the Anacostia watershed while gathering data to inform and uphold legislation on trash pollution. Topics to be covered include but are not limited to: volunteer coordination, data management, corporate sponsorship strategies, trash legislation, and more.

Quinn Molner is a graduate from George Washington University, has been working for Anacostia Riverkeeper for over 5 years and is currently Director of Operations. She oversees scheduling and logistics across all watershed programs and manages communications materials and outreach. Her interests include environmental equity and sustainable habits.

McKenzie Ingram coordinates outreach events ranging from Anacostia River Explorers boat hours, Friday Night Fishing, Clean Waterways trash cleanups and more. McKenzie is pursuing her Masters in Environment Science at American University.

Friday, November 3 | 4:30 - 5:30 PM | Session C

FRI-C.1: How NFWF Views Diverse and Equitable Community Engagement

Room: 151 Instructional West | Workshop Level: All

This facilitated discussion will share NFWF perspective on what "authentic and robust DEIJ engagement" looks like in Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund (CBSF) grants program, provide a refreshed view of NFWF's DEIJ Action Plan, and highlight examples of grantee experiences to demonstrate how CBSF-funded projects are engaging diverse communities. Session seeks to build on last year's NFWF DEIJ Action Plan session discussion, explore grantee/partner ideas and perspectives, exchange insights and experiences, and entertain questions.

Jake Reilly is Director of Chesapeake Bay Programs for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Jake has experience in policy and management of Federal, state, and local environmental and agricultural conservation programs with a focus on watershed management and ecosystem services. Prior roles include Program Examiner with the White House Office of Management, Budget; Environmental Management Fellow with the Chesapeake Research Consortium; and Forest Policy Associate with American Forests. He holds a B.S. in Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics from the University of Maryland College Park and an M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University.

Joe Toolan (he/him) is the Manager of Chesapeake Bay Programs at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. He has experience managing grant programs focused on community stewardship and behavior change across jurisdictions, coordinating green workforce development programs, building capacity in and networks of nonprofit organizations, and leading Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice work. Joe has a bachelor's degree in Geographical Sciences with a concentration in Environment Systems and Natural Resource Management from the University of Maryland, and an Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Georgetown University. Joe is also Chair of Annapolis Pride, Chair of the State of Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, and a Planning Committee Member for the Naturally Latinos Conference.

FRI-C.2: Presenting Perdue's Pennsylvania Poultry Projects

Room: 154 Instructional West | Workshop Level: All

Join this session to learn how Perdue Foods and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay have partnered to strengthen conservation practices on their Pennsylvania based broiler farms. Since 2015, the Alliance has assisted farmers throughout Pennsylvania to leverage existing public funds in order to maximize contributions made by corporate partners towards conservation goals. This public/private model can be replicated across industries and regions to drive more on-the-ground impact and accelerate results. Achieving clean water requires many diverse stakeholders working together. We will demonstrate how lessons learned from our model may be replicated.

Brittany Smith is the Pennsylvania Agriculture Projects Manager with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, based in the Lancaster regional office. During her four years at the Alliance, she has supported the team in finding innovative solutions and program development through expansion of the program into new parts of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. She supports both dairy and poultry farmers through on-the-ground conservation solutions, grant writing, and developing corporate partnerships. Brittany has over a decade of experience in conservation planning, environmental education, and local government. In her free time, she enjoys kayaking, bicycling, and renovation projects.

Mike Levengood is the Vice President, Chief Animal Care Officer, and Farmer Relationship Advocate with responsibility to lead the animal care initiative for all of Perdue Foods. His 39-year career at Perdue has spanned both processing and live production operations. He supports a network of farmers through councils. Responsibilities also include bio-security and serves as a liaison for Marketing, Sales and Corporate Communications on animal care and live production operations. Mike currently represents Perdue Foods on the Executive Board of the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association and is a past Chairman of the National Chicken Council Grow-Out Committee.

FRI-C.3: RiverSmart Homes: Incentivizing Private Homeowners

Room: 160 Instructional West | Workshop Level: All

This presentation will discuss the RiverSmart Homes Program run through the DC DOEE and how the partnership between nonprofits, government, private homeowners and contractors works to help achieve the Chesapeake Bay clean water goals. This program has continually increased in popularity since its founding in 2008. The residential homeowners who participate invest their money, property and time to install and maintain stormwater best management practices. This presentation will give an overview of the program, illustrate the number of best management features installed and discuss the amount of private homeowners' investment in their stormwater management.

Jacqueline Moss is an environmental protection specialist for seven months on the RiverSmart Homes team at the DC Department of Energy and Environment. She is originally from Ohio, where she attended the Ohio State University majoring in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Previously, she worked as a project manager at the Smithsonian Institution for two years. She also completed a year of service as an AmeriCorps member at a clean water non-profit in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Biniyam Woudie has been working on the RiverSmart Homes team at the DOEE as an Environmental Protection Specialist for the last 7 months. He received a bachelor's degree from Howard University in Health Sciences and certification from University of District of Columbia (UDC) in National Green Infrastructure (NGICP). Before joining the RiverSmart Homes team, he worked for Dandelion Food Escapes LLC as a contractor installing green stormwater features on private properties and then with Rock Creek Conservancy as a Maintenance Crew lead helping to maintain green features installed in the District.

FRI-C.4: Community Engagement with Master Watershed Stewards

Room: 161 Instructional West | Workshop Level: All

Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Coordinators, Jodi Sulpizio, Beth Yount, and Natalie Marioni, will provide an overview of how the Master Watershed Steward program can amplify the educational reach and restoration impact of local organizations, government, and businesses highlighting the following three program and project initiatives: live stake nurseries, Watershed Friendly certification, and community science initiatives. Master Watershed Stewards are trained volunteers who are actively educating the public and advancing restoration efforts in 24 counties within the Bay watershed.

Jodi Sulpizio is a Natural Resources Educator for Penn State Extension and coordinates the Master Watershed Steward Program and the Spongy Moth Program in York County. She provides education to the community on water quality issues related to private drinking water supplies,

stormwater management, and watershed health. Additionally, she enjoys managing Stewards as they plan and implement best management practices, monitor streams, participate in citizen science projects, and educate the community about water resources. She graduated from Penn State University with a B.S. degree in Environmental Resource Management with a focus on water resources and is currently studying to obtain a Master's Degree in Community and Economic Development. Jodi is passionate about empowering both citizens and volunteers to protect environmental resources.

Natalie Marioni is a Penn State Extension educator and the Master Watershed Steward Coordinator in Berks and Schuylkill counties. She has worked in natural resources for over 20 years, first as a wildlife biologist and more recently as an educator focused on helping communities understand best practices for healthy watersheds. Her areas of expertise include field biology, ecology and watershed health, and project development and coordination. Additionally, she's working to incorporate more community science projects that allow volunteers to collect data on watershed health and climate change. She has an MSc in Biology, with a concentration in wildlife conservation, from the University of Nevada, Reno and is a Local Phenology Leader through the USA National Phenology Network.

Beth Yount is a statewide Extension water resources educator and the Master Watershed Steward Coordinator in Philadelphia County. She provides education about watershed health, safe drinking water, stormwater management, conservation practices, and sustainable soil stewardship. She focuses her work in Philadelphia on adapting and implementing best management practices in heavily developed areas and educating residents about habitat management and protection of riparian ecosystems and watersheds in the downstream environment. She has an MS in Soil Science from the University of California, Davis, and an MS in Sustainable Engineering from Villanova University.

FRI-C.5: Rappahannock Carbon: Farms, Forests, and Communities

Room: 105 Instructional East | Workshop Level: All

Rappahannock Carbon is a new venture developed by the Rappahannock River Roundtable and powered by First Earth2030, to implement the Healthy Watershed Forest Initiative developed by the Virginia Department of Forestry to provide a framework for small forest landowners to access the carbon market. This project is the first of its kind in Virginia and features an unique program available to forest landowners in rural and urban communities. Join us to learn about the development of the program, programs available, and how we are helping landowners protect forests and water quality in the Rappahannock River Region.

Tee Clarkson is a passionate outdoorsman and conservationist, a Co-founder and a Principal of FE|2030, the Executive Director of Broad Water Innovations, and the Managing Director of Atoka Conservation Exchange. He is also the owner of Virginia Outside, a company that has introduced thousands of children to the wonders of Virginia's wild places. Tee has helped protect thousands of acres in Virginia and neighboring states using tools such as conservation easements, stream, wetland and nutrient mitigation programs as well as carbon offset programs.

Bryan Hofmann joined Friends of the Rappahannock in 2013 and is currently the Deputy Director and the coordinator for the Rappahannock River Roundtable. Bryan is a certified Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional, Virginia Tree Steward, and serves on multiple boards and technical committees for the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program, Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program, the Rapidan Institute, RIVERE Research Board, and the Rappahannock River Basin Commission TAC. He earned a B.A. in political science and economics from Xavier University and a M.En. in Environmental Science from Miami University. In his spare time, you can

find Bryan fly fishing the Rapidan and Holston Rivers, shucking oysters, or guiding his friends and family through whitewater on his raft.

FRI-C.6: Establishing Ecosystem Service Markets for Agricultural Producers

Room: 114 Instructional East | Workshop Level: Introductory

This session will demonstrate efforts to engage farmers and the private sector in the formation of markets. It will describe an innovative finance approach utilized by a partnership between the Conservation Innovation Fund, the Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland Virginia Milk Cooperative, and several other organizations. The Revolving Water Funds and a new USDA Climate-Smart Commodities project accelerate water-quality improvements and carbon sequestration on agricultural lands by developing corporate partnerships focused on those outcomes. The session will cover strategy, benefits of these partnerships, engagement with the private sector, working with early adopter farmers, and lessons learned.

Morgan Maloney is a Managing Director at the Conservation Innovation Fund (CIF) and has been leading food system change through nonprofit, government, and business for the last decade. Prior to joining CIF, Mrs. Maloney founded Sowing Strategies, LLC to help clients improve the food system for farmers and families. Previously, she connected local farmers to institutional markets at Fairfax County Public Schools. Mrs. Maloney also developed farm education programs and grew food at the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture. She holds an MBA from the Georgetown University McDonough School of Business and a BS from Wake Forest University.

Kevin Tate manages the Shenandoah Valley Conservation Collaborative, a partnership of nonprofits, land trusts, and state and federal agencies working with farmers to conserve farmland, improve water quality, and build healthy soils in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Previous to returning to his family roots in the Shenandoah Valley, Kevin worked with strawberry farmers in California and dairy farmers in Peru to implement production practices beneficial for their business and environments.

Janae Klingler is the Manager of Animal Care & Sustainability with Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association. Janae has been with Maryland & Virginia for 11 years. She began her career in quality assurance and quickly moved into a Field Representative. In 2019, Janae moved into the role of Manager of Animal Care & Sustainability. Over the past 4 years Janae and her team have worked to establish partnerships with conservation non-profits organizations and corporate entities. These partnerships have successfully connected members to cost share funding for conservation practices and expanded the adoption of conservation practices on member farms.

Christian Anderson is the Virginia Agriculture Projects Manager based out of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Richmond office. He focuses on helping farmers create sustainable farms through implementing Agricultural best management practices and conservation plans to increase the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

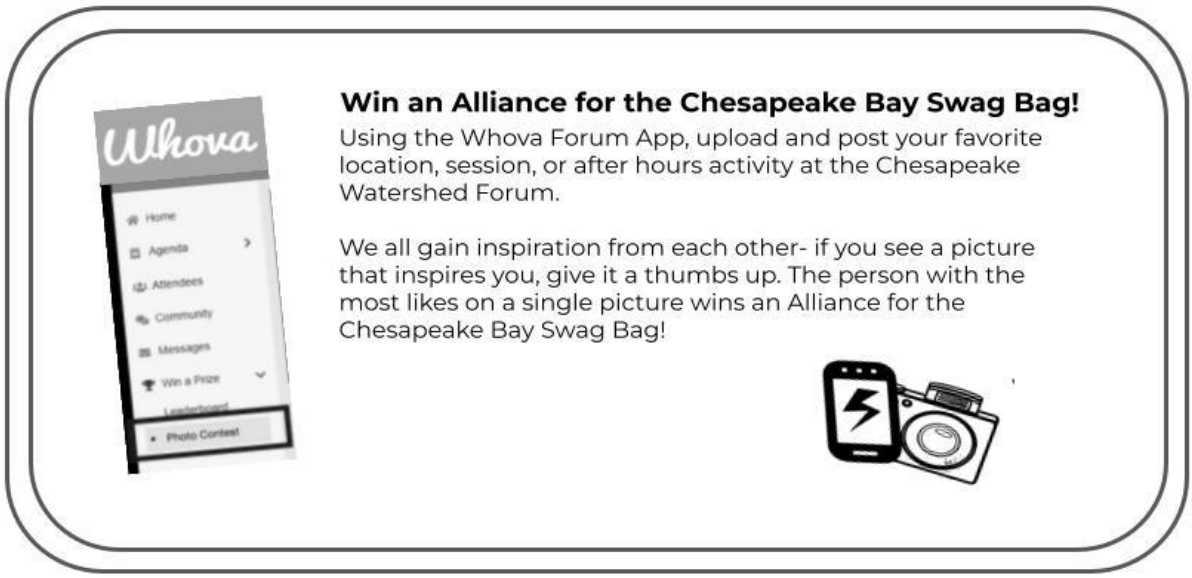
FRI-C.7: Tools for Collaborative Decisions

Room: 201 Instructional East | Workshop Level: Advanced

What can make or break your collaboration or partnership? Answer: Clear and timely decision making that supports forward progress and the ability to work with disagreements and agreements. In this highly interactive workshop, leaders will learn a framework to support productive decision making within any collaborative setting.

You will: (1) Understand ways to open up discussion that can lead to shared understanding of agreements/disagreements; (2) Understand and use a specific decision-making framework to build agreement; (3) Practice applying the framework to a group decision; and (4) Identify a concrete opportunity to enhance decision making and strengthen your leadership of collaborative efforts.

Sarah Clark, Senior Associate, is a skilled consultant with over 20 years' experience supporting mission-driven organizations to achieve results. She specializes in designing and facilitating planning processes and meetings with coalitions, networks, organizations, and teams. As the Institute for Conservation Leadership's lead in the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, Sarah supports the development of effective networks, organizations, and leaders in this $130 million regional initiative to improve water quality. Sarah has extensive experience heading national leadership development initiatives with ICL, health, human rights and housing organizations. Sarah has an MS degree in Organization Development from American University and a BA in Sociology from Miami University.



Saturday, November 4 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Session D

SAT-D.1: Techniques for Tree ID

Room: 161 Instructional West | Workshop Level: All

Identification of a tree can be accomplished by learning the physiological characteristics that distinguish it from other trees. Things like leaf shape and size, branching arrangement, color, and sometimes the smell can be clues to what type of tree you are observing. Bark is also a defining characteristic for many trees. Students will learn the terminology used to describe these characteristics and be able to apply them in the field using simple checklists and dichotomous keys.

Craig Highfield is the Forests Program Director for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The mission is to pursue innovative strategies and collaborations that improve the health of the region's forests, create new forests in places important to water quality, and promote the benefits of forests and resource management to private landowners, decision-makers, and the general population of the six-state bay watershed. Craig leads the forest team in the Alliance's state offices in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

Ryan Davis is the Senior Forests Projects Manager at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. He has a B.S. in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology with a minor in Forestry from NC State University, and an M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from West Virginia University, where he completed his thesis on shrubland songbird ecology. Ryan joined the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in 2017 and is the Senior Forests Projects Manager.

Rebecca Lauver is a Forests Projects Coordinator at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. She has a B.S. in biology and interned at Stroud Water Research Center for three summers during college in the entomology lab, working to measure water quality through the use of benthic macroinvertebrates. She now works to implement tree plantings by conducting landowner visits, creating planting plans, planting the trees, coordinating volunteers, and completing follow-up maintenance.

Jim Kauffman is a Forests Projects Coordinator for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Jim works with farmers and landowners throughout Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to implement forested riparian buffers and other conservation practices. Jim has accrued a diversity of knowledge in the field of wildlife and forest ecology, which he enjoys sharing to improve the public's understanding of nature and conservation.

SAT-D.2: Nature Therapy Inspired Team Building

Room: 111 Instructional East | Workshop Level: All

Team building experiences in nature can be a vital tool for building, inspiring, and sustaining highly collaborative teams. This session presents a set of non-clinical nature therapy practices that may be used for joyful, creative, and relaxed team building. Participants will enjoy a model retreat experience that may be replicated and adapted for a wide variety of settings. The session will conclude with a discussion of the evidence base for nature connection work for preventing burnout, retaining staff, and building strong team relationships.

Amber Ellis is the Restoration Director for the James River Association. Building diverse partnerships to get more projects on the ground is at the heart of her work. Amber serves as the convener for the Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium and the James River Buffer Program. 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.

Carolyn Schuyler is a Visiting Scholar at the University of Virginia, the founder and former Executive Director of Wildrock (www.wildrock.org), a Nature Play and Discovery Center, and a psychotherapist with a specialty in trauma recovery and ecotherapy. She earned a degree in Psychology from Harvard College and a Masters in Social Work for the University of Michigan.

Dorothe Bach is Associate Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of Virginia. Dorothe delivers a variety of educational development programs and supports teaching innovation. She co-taught a class at the University of Virginia called Restoring Our Connection with Nature in partnership with Carolyn Schuyler. She has published 17 peer reviewed articles and received local and national awards for her work.

SAT-D.3: Local Environmental Planning Using CAST

Room: Computer Lab G24 | Workshop Level: Intermediate

CAST enables planners in the watershed to develop a plan for meeting nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment load allocation using the most cost effective strategy. CAST can be used to answer questions about the effect of different BMPs on loads, to identify the geographical location where BMPs will reduce the most load, and assess the impact of implementation on communities and ecosystems. Come to this session to learn how to quantify load reductions from BMPs for grant applications, communication with locally elected officials, and select/prioritize BMPs implementation for restoration and conservation. CAST is free and online so available to all.

Helen C. Golimowski is a Watershed Data Analyst at Devereux Consulting. Helen is a 2018 BA graduate of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and before that completed her AA at the Community College of Baltimore County. While studying at UMBC, Helen was an intern with the Spa Creek Conservancy in Annapolis where she did ground-level data collection and supported GIS mapping projects. Helen also participated in water quality data collection in her undergraduate environmental science courses. She supports Devereux Consulting's projects related to decision support tools for water quality improvements in major watersheds around the Mid-Atlantic region.

Olivia Devereux, M.S., Founder, owner, and President of Devereux Consulting, Inc., is an environmental scientist with expertise in developing management systems that enhance, maintain, protect, and improve land and water resources. She is an expert in developing watershed and BMP modeling systems. She has performed water quality assessments and facilitated environmental planning efforts. She is the scientific lead in developing the CAST tool and was the scientific lead in developing the first Chesapeake Bay Program Scenario Builder, the system that distributes nutrients to the land and was used to create inputs to the Watershed Model.

SAT-D.4: Local Dairy Farm Tour

Meeting Location: Commons Loop | Workshop Level: All

Dairy farmers use numerous practices to protect local water quality and their downstream neighbors. There's more work to be done, but we share the same goal—a healthy Chesapeake Bay. On this tour of a family-owned dairy farm, you'll meet local farmers and learn first-hand about their farm operation, environmental practices, and some of the challenges—and opportunities—to improve local waterways and ensure a healthy Chesapeake Bay. Ask any questions you've ever had about dairy farming during your 90-minute, ¼-mile walking tour. The tour is rain or shine, so bring your inclement weather gear. Close-toed shoes are required.

Ron Ohrel is Director of Environmental Outreach with American Dairy Association North East. Having worked for environmental nonprofits, academia, consulting, the federal government, and now the dairy industry, he has extensive experience with environmental issues affecting the Mid-Atlantic and the Northeast. Throughout his career, Ron has partnered with public and private organizations to raise greater awareness of topics related to agriculture, water quality, endangered species, land use, and environmental policy. Ron has a bachelor's degree in marine science from Coastal Carolina University and a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University.

Saturday, November 4 | 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | Session E

SAT-E.1: Engaging Communities for Clean Water

Room: 151 Instructional West | Workshop Level: All

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC)'s Clear Creeks Project is a grant-funded, citizen-based initiative to restore the water quality within targeted areas of the Gunpowder watershed in Baltimore and Harford County. For ten years, Clear Creeks has provided homeowners, businesses, and other institutions with resources to take action for clean, clear water within the Gunpowder watershed. The session will cover GVC's program and how we work directly with our communities and our plans for continuing to expand our reach. Attendees will have time to work on their own community engagement strategies, applying what they learned, sharing out, and gaining feedback.

Kim Pause Tucker is Executive Director of Gunpowder Valley Conservancy and an environmental educator at heart. Previously, she was a Biology Professor and Founding Director of Stevenson University's Center for Environmental Stewardship for nearly a decade, which allowed her to connect students from a variety of majors to meaningful conservation and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) projects in the community. She is a Senior Fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program, 2016 Rising Leader in Experiential Education, Chesapeake Bay Trust's 2019 Environmental Educator of the Year, and previously served on non-profit boards including Irvine Nature Center and the inaugural Maryland STEM Festival. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, eating, hiking, yoga, spending time with her husband, and trying to keep her giant puppy from causing too much chaos.

Karen Stupski is a sustainability educator, grant writer, and communitarian. She currently serves as Gunpowder Valley Conservancy's Grants and Program Manager, a faculty member at Goddard College and lives at Heathcote Community, a small eco-village dedicated to sustainable living, where she coordinates the permaculture education program. Karen believes that permaculture design is a valuable tool for creating sustainable systems, which is necessary in order to achieve our goal of protecting and restoring the Gunpowder watershed and the Chesapeake Bay.

Amy Young is the Communications Manager for Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, a Baltimore County-based land trust and watershed restoration nonprofit. She enjoys connecting people to environmental stewardship opportunities, especially those that promote native plants. Amy has a B.A. in Biology (Swarthmore College) and a M.S. in Plant Biology (University of Georgia). As a field ecologist, she studied plants in desert, mountain, prairie, wetland, rainforest, coastal dunes, and Fall Line Sandhill communities. In her spare time, she collects science ephemera and is an amateur genealogist.

Donald Callihan, PhD is currently Vice President of the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy Board of Directors and serves as co-chair of the Education & Restoration and Governance committees. He is a retired clinical microbiologist with over 50 years in the field and retired Staff Scientist from BD Diagnostics in Sparks, MD. Since retirement he has focused on the intersection between promoting the importance of native plants in the Northeastern Piedmont Ecoregion while managing non native invasive species. He trained as a Maryland Master Naturalist and currently chairs the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council's Stewardship Committee. In addition to membership in the Maryland Native Plant Society and Wild Ones Greater Baltimore Chapter and Ecological Landscape Alliance, he is an active member of the Maryland Invasive Species Council and a member of the North American Invasive Species Management Association. He is a Leave No Trace Center Master Educator and has served as the Baltimore Area Council, BSA, Council Outdoor Ethics Advocate. Don lives in Cockeysville, Maryland above the Loch Raven Reservoir and is committed to the health of the forest in watersheds feeding this important regional source of drinking water for Baltimore City and County, as well as its significant recreation potential.

SAT-E.2: Resilience Techniques for Adversity

Room: 154 Instructional West | Workshop Level: All

Would you like to develop an understanding of resilience techniques that work for you as an individual? Join this session to explore how to manage personal and professional adversity through resilience and stress management techniques. Our approach is that self-care is a process with tools that lead to a sustained approach. This session will also include space for larger group discussions and individual goal setting to discover techniques that work for you.

Pri Ekanayake serves the Institute for Conservation Leadership as a Senior Associate. She brings her experience as an environmental educator and teacher to her role as a facilitator and trainer for the organization. Before joining ICL, Pri worked at the DC Department of Energy and Environment where she managed a portfolio of environmental education grants. She has over 10 years of experience as an educator and trainer in academia and nonprofits, where she honed her talent for learner-centered design that emphasizes adult learning principles. Pri has worked as a facilitator, trainer, and coach in a variety of institutions ranging from The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, Florida Gulf Coast University, Heifer International, Population Education, and various public schools. She holds a MS in Natural Resources with a focus in Education from the University of Michigan and a BA in Biology and Anthropology from Rollins College.

SAT-E.3: Scaling Up Biochar in the Chesapeake

Room: 160 Instructional West | Workshop Level: All

This session will focus on efforts to encourage the urban and agriculture sectors to increase the use of biochar for water quality, soil health, and climate resiliency benefits in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The session will highlight results and findings from the Chesapeake Bay STAC biochar workshop held in May 2023 and the currently active NFWF INSR grant to scale up biochar use in the watershed. The session will include a discussion of ongoing and future projects that involve collaboration and public-private partnerships to increase the use of biochar.

Alexandria Wilkins works with the Center for Watershed Protection as a watershed planner. New to the Chesapeake Bay watershed, she has a background in environmental education and water resource management. She leads the expansion and outreach efforts and activities under the NFWF INSR Scaling up Biochar grant with partners from the US Biochar Initiative.

Chuck Hegberg began working with biochar in 2006. In 2010, he began partnering with the University of Delaware to study biochar's potential in green infrastructure (e.g., enhanced media development, urban soil repair, and climate smart agriculture). Chuck works for RES, LLC, Infinite Solutions and serves as Vice Chair on the US Biochar Initiative Board, the Chair for the STAC Biochar Workshop and has participated in the leadership of the Eastern Biochar Group and the 2018 and 2022 USBI Biochar Conferences held within the mid-Atlantic region. He is the technical lead on the NFWF INSR Scaling up Biochar grant.

SAT-E.4: Data Interpretation for Effective Science Communication

Room: 114 Instructional East | Workshop Level: All

This session aims to provide hands-on guidance and resources for data interpretation and visualization. The session will be aimed at early career professionals and beginners in data

interpretation, teaching them how to turn raw data into effective and understandable graphs, tables, and figures. Participants will learn data cleaning and management in Microsoft Excel, how to display your data most effectively, and how to use graphic design principles to make engaging and accessible data visualizations. We will provide tutorials in Microsoft PowerPoint, Canva, and the use of the UMCES IAN Symbol Library.

Ann Foo is a Science Communicator at the Integration and Application Network (IAN) at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science in Annapolis, MD. Ann focuses on using graphic design to make effective and engaging diagrams, publications, and data visualizations.

Alexandra Fries is a Program Manager at the Integration and Application Network (IAN) based at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science in Annapolis, MD. Alexandra's work in environmental management has been focused on assessment, monitoring, and management of aquatic, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems. Alexandra has extensive experience in data analysis, synthesis, mapping, interpretation, and communication. Within IAN, Alexandra conducts data analysis, synthesis, and communication by completing environmental report cards, updating the IAN website, and conducting science communication courses. Alexandra also creates science communication materials such as diagrams, posters, presentations, newsletters, and reports using Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office Suite, and ArcGIS. Alexandra has experience managing projects and staff on local and international projects, liaising directly with partners and colleagues, and providing insights on project direction and goals. Alexandra writes grants, and works with partners to develop projects from start to finish.

SAT-E.5: Native-ish

Room: 201 Instructional East | Workshop Level: Introductory

Native-ish may be the way we need to look at our urban landscapes in the very near future. Let's dig into what a native plant/tree is, how and why we define it, and how our definitions may need to be shifted as the climate shifts. Hardiness and survivability will be critical. Some of our most aggressive native species might not be able to out-compete invasives. Some of our existing trees and shrubs are on the move. Hybrids, new varieties, and trees and plants with an ability to survive the harshest conditions may mean a shift from a native-only planting ideal.

Jenny Willoughby is a Board Certified Master Arborist whose forays into the wild have included escaping from the clutches of a giant Pacific octopus, bargaining with a hungry mob of monkeys, rescuing baby black-crowned night herons, and sharing hot cocoa with a black bear. She earned a BS in Forestry and Wildlife and an MS in Geographic and Cartographic Sciences. Jenny is the Sustainability Manager for the City of Frederick where she manages projects from tree canopy assessments to stream restorations and residential compost to electric vehicle readiness, but her passion is still in the trees.

Saturday, November 4 | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM | Session F

SAT-F.1: Native People Protecting Native Plants/Waterways

Room: 151 Instructional West | Workshop Level: All

Indigenous people have always maintained a close relationship with the natural world, especially plants and waterways – for sustenance, medicine, shelter and spiritual needs. This presentation will focus on Virginia/West Virginia Native groups, their close link to land and water, concerns and restoration efforts, plus highlight a few of the most important Indigenous plants/trees. We will also focus on the current insect apocalypse, how to support our local ecosystem, weaving in Native knowledge and ecological information. The presentation will briefly cover Native history, the current resurgence of Native knowledge and Indigenous community-based systems to address today's challenges.

Chris Anderson has worked in the environmental field for her entire career, including with local government, the private sector and the nonprofit world. She is currently on staff with Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley, which informs and engages people to protect the natural resources, cultural heritages, and rural character of our region. With Cherokee roots, she feels a deep connection to the natural world and, in her personal life, uses art to educate and engage diverse audiences in conservation and ways to support a healthy ecosystem.

René Locklear White is an active member of the Lumbee Indian Nation. She holds a MA in Diplomacy, BA in Art, BS in Math and is currently pursuing (and helping create) a BA in American Indian Studies at her tribal university the University of N.C. at Pembroke. She is a devoted volunteer. Her personal vision is to help leaders first, bring recognition to the contributions of Indigenous peoples to reduce suffering. As co-founder of a Native American non-profit, Sanctuary on the Trail, she has been working to bundle together educational artifacts and resources. René sees herself as an intercultural mediator/emissary.

SAT-F.2: Cleaning Up Coal Ash

Room: 154 Instructional East | Workshop Level: Intermediate

Coal fired power plants are closing throughout the region, but they are leaving all of their wastes in place to contaminate our groundwater and surface water. Through GIS analysis and mapping, we have identified the locations and quantities. Now we face the challenge of removing these contaminants from our waterways. Join us in this workshop to learn more about the consequences of coal ash and discuss the strategies and tactics to protect communities from this threat.

Dean Naujoks, Potomac Riverkeeper has over 25 years of experience grassroots organizing. He began his non-profit career in 1991 with the NC Wildlife Federation. After graduating from NC State University, with a self-created degree in Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development, he was hired as the first Upper Neuse Riverkeeper, serving from 2001 to 2008. He became the first Riverkeeper on the Yadkin River with Yadkin Riverkeeper, Inc. in 2008, also serving as Executive Director until 2014. Dean has been awarded River Network's 2009 National River Heroes Award. River Network's River Heroes Award celebrates rivers and those who protect them by recognizing victories and honoring those who provide leadership and inspiration along the way. Yadkin Riverkeeper also won the 2011 North Carolina Wildlife Federation Governor's Achievement Award Water Conservation Organization of the Year.

Betsy Nicholas, Vice President of Programs has more than 25 years of experience in environmental law and policy. Her experience includes private practice in law firms, trial work

with the U.S. Department of Justice, and more than 15 years working as an advocate and policy-maker in Riverkeeper organizations. She has extensive experience in administrative advocacy, challenging permits and regulations relating to construction stormwater, NPDES discharge permits, RCRA exemptions, industrial stormwater and animal feeding operations permits. but her greatest talents lie in policy in legislative work, primarily at the state level.

Jason Litten has dedicated 25 years to his tenure at Frostburg State University, during which he has held the role of Co-Director at the Western Maryland Regional GIS Center. Throughout his extensive career, he has been involved in a diverse range of projects. These endeavors encompassed identifying pollution origins, particularly coal ash sources, charting the historical footprint of coal mining, employing drones for remote sensing data collection, mapping electric infrastructure, delving into historical research, and numerous other initiatives. Notably, Jason has been a guiding force for many students over the years, providing mentorship through the GIS Center's various grant-funded projects.

SAT-F.3: Saving Birds from Window Collisions

Room: 160 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Introductory

One billion birds die every year in the U.S. colliding with building glass. Collisions are a major cause of the 29% decline in birds in the U.S. since 1970. Fortunately, ornithologists and architects have identified effective building design features and window treatments that reduce collisions by more than 90%. Both legislative and grassroots efforts are needed to protect the ecosystem of air or bird declines will continue. We will discuss recent successes in passing bird safe building laws in Howard County and State of Maryland, as well as retrofitting National Aquarium, Maryland DNR headquarters, nature centers, and private homes. Individuals and organizations will learn how to retrofit their homes and businesses to be bird safe through easy and inexpensive window treatments. Individuals and organizations will learn how to help pass laws to maximize bird safe passage of migratory birds. We will present lots of photos to fully engage the audience in the technical and emotional content of this issue. We will facilitate discussion of personal experiences with bird collisions. Almost everyone has experienced it, but very few understand the magnitude of the problem and its easy solutions. We will include a hands-on activity where audience members can handle window treatments and create their own Acopian bird savers.

Mark Southerland has a Ph.D. in ecology and has spent the last 30 years working as a consultant to monitor, assess, and restore ecosystems in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Mark has also led the Maryland Water Monitoring Council, Patapsco Heritage Greenway, and Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board, while also serving on the Howard County Conservancy Board and Science Council of the Maryland Science Center. He is co-founder of Safe Skies Maryland and was instrumental in passing bills in Howard County and Maryland General Assembly to require bird safe buildings.

Carolyn Parsa is Director of Safe Skies Maryland, a statewide conservation organization. Their goal is to ensure that the next generation can enjoy a healthy and diverse population of resident and migratory birds. Now more than ever birds and people need healthy and sustainable communities and we need the ecosystem services and economic benefits that birds provide. They work with communities to enhance habitat and consider sustainable practices, such as providing visual cues on glass to help birds avoid collisions. Visit them for more information at: https://mdbirds.org/safeskiesmaryland/

Bob Marietta is the sustainability director at Howard Community College and has led bird collision surveys, bird safe window treatments, student projects, and green professor program on this issue.

SAT-F.4: Emerging Issues for Emerging Leaders

Room: 114 Instructional East | Workshop Level: Introductory

This interactive, engaging, facilitated discussion will provide a space and opportunity for emerging leaders to learn some basic skills, share their own experiences, and brainstorm solutions together. Geared towards those participants interested in moving into a supervisor/managerial position, we will discuss common issues facing today's leaders: providing constructive and helpful feedback, building a transparent and inclusive culture within your team, and facilitating engaging meetings (that couldn't be an email!).

Brenna Goggin joined River Network in 2019. Serving as the Director of Leadership Development, Brenna provides local nonprofit leaders and organizations with support and resources to help them be effective and sustainable. Brenna has a BA in Political Science from Bridgewater College and a Masters in Public Affairs with a concentration in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Prior to joining River Network, she served as the Director of Advocacy for a Delaware environmental nonprofit organization, working to strengthen local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Outside of work, you'll find Brenna baking, dog/chicken sitting for her neighbors, or going on outdoor adventures with her husband Ben and their two Westies: Padfoot and Dougal.

SAT-F.5: Urban Tree Planting: Why, Where, How

Room: 201 Instructional East | Workshop Level: Intermediate

Many government, NGO, and private sector programs are focused on enhancing urban tree canopy due to its multiple benefits for water quality, resilience, public health, and other benefits. These programs are structured in many different ways in terms of funding, planning, targeting certain areas with an equity lens, outreach, sourcing of trees, site preparation, installation, and long-term maintenance. What works and what are some key lessons learned from these programs? Given the high level of investments being made in urban tree programs, this session will highlight case studies from Richmond and Baltimore with the intent of distilling best practices.

David J. Hirschman manages Hirschman Water & Environment, LLC, a consulting firm located in Charlottesville, VA, specializing in water resources planning and management. He has forty years of experience with stormwater and water resources management in the public, private, academic, and non-profit sectors, and still loves the work. He has worked throughout the Bay Watershed, helping numerous groups realize their ambitions for healthier local waterways. Dave has worked with the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) certification program since its inception, helping to develop curriculum for various CBLP courses. He also serves as one of the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund field liaisons for the National Fish & Wildlife Foundations, assisting applicants and grantees with prospective and ongoing projects.

Kwamel Couther began his tree care and maintenance journey at just fifteen years old, Kwamel is now a self-proclaimed outdoorsman who loves to see the products of his labor all around the city. Prior to joining the Tree Trust, Kwamel spent several years with Civic Works, Cylburn Arboretum, and in the commercial landscaping industry. He was the recipient of the first annual Ed Miller Award and the 2015 Volunteer of the Year award from Civic Works. Kwamel is currently preparing to sit for the International Society of Arboriculture's arborist exam.

Elliot Weidow has been planting trees for nearly a decade everywhere from school campuses, stream restoration sites, reclaimed agricultural fields, and cemeteries, to the sidewalks of Baltimore City. Possessing a Master's Degree in Botany from University of New Orleans, as well as bona fides as a Master Gardener and ISA-Certified Arborist, Elliot is no stranger to the joys and

challenges of managing tree planting projects at every scale. At the Tree Trust, Elliot overseas the successful development and implementation of our field operations, while coordinating the logistics of our Neighborhood Foresters program. Elliot is a former co-chair of the Baltimore City Forest Conservancy District Board.

Amy Wentz is a co-founder of Southside ReLeaf. She is a United States Army Veteran and proud mother of two who serves in her community advocating to improve the public education system, working to promote safe and healthy neighborhoods, and striving to achieve equitable outcomes for the residents throughout the City of Richmond. She is the founder of Positively Black Richmond, co-founder of Richmond Black Restaurant Experience, and is on the action team for BLK RVA, all with goals of uplifting black faces and spaces throughout the City. Amy has received numerous accolades over the years for her continued service in her community. She was recognized as Style Weekly's Top 40 Under 40 in 2013 and honored with a Community Service Award from Richmond City Council for her extensive volunteerism in the 8th District. Amy currently works full-time as an analyst for a software development company and is a proud graduate of Richmond Public Schools.

Ann Jurczyk is the Virginia Director of Outreach and Advocacy for CBF – the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. In this role she educates and engages citizens in both restoration and advocacy activities to further CBF's mission to Save the Bay. She has a BA in English and a BS in landscape horticulture from North Carolina State University. She is a certified arborist and holds a Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Designer & Installer Level 2 certification. She has completed numerous restoration projects, including designing and implementing buffers, tree plantings for parks and schools, de-paving and reforestation of previously paved areas, and rain gardens.

Saturday, November 4 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM | Session G

SAT-G.1: EJ Screen: Empowering Environmental Equity

Room: 151 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Introductory

This proposal underlines diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice's significance in environmental health. Dr. Im, director at the National Center for Community Mapping, will present their exposome research, relating it to health equity via participatory mapping. He will demonstrate GIS technology's efficiency, assessing public sites like EJ Screen and Climate Justice Screening Tools. Participants will learn to integrate their local data into EJ Screen for visualization and comparative analysis. The session also addresses the intersection of climate justice and health, fostering comprehension and empowering impactful action.

Dr. Wansoo Im is an Associate Professor at Meharry Medical College and Director of the National Center for Community Mapping, specializing in participatory Geographic Information Systems (GIS). His innovative work includes web/mobile GIS platforms for community-based research on social and environmental issues. He provides consultation on participatory mapping and GIS applications, impacting various sectors like environment, public health, and transportation. He founded the Community Mapping Center in Seoul and created imrivers.org, a web portal used by US environmental organizations. His impactful work, highlighted in The New Yorker and The New York Times, includes environmental health assessments and community projects. He teaches "Data Measurement" and "GIS in Public Health" at Meharry.

SAT-G.2: Less Litter: Producer Responsibility for Packaging

Room: 154 Instructional West | Workshop Level: All

Producer responsibility for packaging is a policy new to the U.S. California, Colorado, Maine and Oregon have adopted this approach and Maryland just passed legislation authorizing taking the first steps toward policy implementation. The policy, already in use in Europe, Canada and other countries, is intended to reduce the volume of plastic in packaging, the waste stream and in litter. The session will provide an intro into this exciting new program!

Shari Wilson is the Executive Director of Trash Free Maryland. She previously served as. deputy assistant administrator for enforcement at EPA and worked in several capacities at the Maryland Department of Environment including serving as Secretary from 2007 to 2010.

SAT-G.3: Organic Valley Sustainability in the Bay

Room: 160 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Intermediate

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is partnering with Organic Valley to provide cost-effective agriculture conservation practices to manage runoff, improve water quality, and address climate change on organic dairy farms in the Bay. The partnership's strong momentum has already led to the implementation of BMPs such as riparian forest buffers, silvopasture systems, and more. This success is driven by Organic Valley's robust commitment to sustainability. Organic Valley has aligned with the U.S. dairy industry's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050 has created a Carbon Insetting Program that will purchase carbon credits generated on its member's farms.

Mauricio Rosales is the Senior Agriculture Projects Manager for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay based in the Pennsylvania office. Mauricio leads the outreach strategy and works closely with farmers and multiple partners to implement best management practices in agricultural land.

Additionally, he is responsible for managing multiple grants and securing funding for projects. He works closely with corporations and other partners that are interested in water quality, restoring habitat, biodiversity, carbon sequestration and regenerative agriculture. Mauricio holds a Master's degree in Animal Science with focus in dairy from University of Minnesota. In addition, he has worked in dairy farms in the Midwest and worked as Extension Educator for Penn State Extension.

Mat Haan is the Mid-Atlantic Regional Pool Manager with Organic Valley. He works directly with approximately 120 small family dairy farms across south east Pennsylvania and north east Maryland.

Garland Mason serves as the Farm Funding Specialist on Organic Valley's Sustainability Team. Her primary role is to assist farmers by identifying and applying for grants and other funding opportunities that support sustainability goals.

SAT-G.4: Harnessing AI for Ecology and Conservation

Room: 161 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Introductory

AI is revolutionizing modern life, but applications for wildlife biology and conservation have only begun to emerge. Here we present a new partnership between the U.S. Geological Survey and non-governmental organizations to empower anglers with AI to identify individual fish from images they submit online. Participants then are notified when "their" fish is caught again, thus promoting a conservation ethic and deepening an appreciation of the resource. Moreover, analysis of the crowdsourced data by researchers enables fish population assessments at an unprecedented scale. We demonstrate the feasibility of this approach for brook trout in the Chesapeake Bay headwaters.

Dr. Nathaniel "Than" Hitt is a Research Fish Biologist at the USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center in West Virginia. His research investigates freshwater fish ecology and conservation from a landscape perspective, focusing on stream ecosystems in the Appalachian highlands.

SAT-G.5/H.5: A Safe Space for Student Presentations

Room: 105 Instructional East | Workshop Level: Introductory

Students gain valuable experience at conferences by developing and delivering oral or poster presentations. However, for many students, the first opportunity they have to present their research in a formal setting is at large conferences where they may feel overwhelmed or unwelcome in the professional community. This session is designed to provide students with the opportunity to present their research orally in a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment and receive gentle feedback from their peers and field professionals. Students will be able to present their research in a traditional conference format (10-12 minutes) and receive both oral and written feedback.

Dr. Tom Ihde is a research scientist at PEARL. He is a fishery biologist specializing in the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay, which he has studied for the past 25 years. His students and staff focus on environmental and fisheries monitoring, and modeling the ecological effects of human impacts on the system in the context of a changing climate.

Dr. Amanda Knobloch is the Environmental Education Coordinator at the Morgan State University Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (PEARL). She has a PhD in Chemical Oceanography from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, with a focus on marine organic biogeochemistry. At Morgan State, she has focused primarily on science education, with a special emphasis on diversifying the geosciences through marine and coastal science educational experiences.

SAT-G.6: Improvements in Nature Based Wastewater Solutions

Room: 114 Instructional East | Workshop Level: All

Nature Based Wastewater solutions are a low carbon, low energy approach to improving the treatment of on-site wastewater and centralized wastewater systems which mimic natural processes of nitrification, denitrification, filtration and phytoremediation and can greatly reduce the net losses of nutrients and other pollutants. They also perform well for reducing bacteria and novel compounds including pharmaceuticals. Example systems have been tested by UMASS, Stony Brook University and University of Hawaii. Nitrogen, phosphorus and both TSS and bacteria reductions can exceed 87%, 83% and 95%, respectively, while sequestering carbon. Meanwhile both centralized wastewater systems and ATUs are high energy users.

Paul Sturm is a restoration ecologist and founder of the nonprofit Ridge to Reefs in 2011. He leads an interdisciplinary team of ecologists, engineers and agronomists to work on driving nature-based solutions for water and wastewater pollution and to address food security challenges in a changing climate. His projects include work in Hawaii, Palau and American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the Chesapeake Bay with a strong focus on reducing coastal water pollution by using techniques that mimic natural processes like wetlands and denitrification and sediment attenuation.

Phal Mantha is a dedicated professional with a strong background in agriculture and sustainability. As the Director of Agriculture and Sustainability at Ridge to Reefs, Phal focuses on implementing nature-based solutions to wastewater treatment and promoting regenerative agricultural practices. With a passion for environmental stewardship, Phal has made significant contributions to the field through his expertise and innovative approaches.

Phal's academic journey began with a Bachelor of Science in Agriscience from Michigan State University, where he gained a solid foundation in agricultural sciences. He later pursued a Master's degree in Natural Resources from Virginia Tech, further expanding his knowledge and understanding of sustainable practices.

One of Phal's notable accomplishments includes his involvement in the design and construction of a Bioreactor Garden at the East Honolulu Wastewater Treatment Plant. This groundbreaking project underwent testing for NSF 40 and NSF 245 standards (water quality and nitrogen removal respectively). The project exceeded expectations by removing over 87% of Total Nitrogen, 83% Phosphorus and 95% of TSS and featured use of materials from the waste stream including woodchips and biochar from invasive species and sand from a local aggregate. His contributions to this project have played a crucial role in advancing the field of nature-based wastewater treatment. Subsequent to that project, Phal has helped construct Bioreactor Gardens in Palau, Maui and in Coastal Virginia.

SAT-G.7: Restoration: The "Paying for Success" Model

Room: 201 Instructional East | Workshop Level: Advanced

The Chesapeake Bay watershed has long been a leader in attempting to address the national issue of nutrient pollution. Maryland and Pennsylvania have recently implemented the first statewide programs in the country that use Pay for Success (PfS) contracts to directly purchase the most cost-effective pollution reductions, often from private entities with private investments. The PfS model emulates the consumer-driven expectations of our economy: payments are based on the outcomes of nutrient reductions rather than the method. This presentation will highlight the programs, discuss their benefits to improving water quality, and explain how attendees can utilize these funding sources.

Mike Hardesty is the Chesapeake Agricultural Policy Associate at the Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC). He works to promote and implement cutting-edge policy to enhance restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Hardesty has over a decade of experience teaching environmental policy in higher-education and developing large-scale restoration projects on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Saturday, November 4 | 4:30 - 5:30 PM | Session H

SAT-H.1: Friday Night Fishing on the Anacostia

Room: 151 Instructional West | Workshop Level: All

Anacostia Riverkeeper has partnered with fellow nonprofits and two private funders to offer Friday Night Fishing the past eleven summers in Washington DC, engaging and educating over 500 participants each year. Through this program we introduce families and other participants to their Anacostia River, teach and facilitate catch-and-release fishing, and educate the public about toxic contamination in fish. #ComeToTheRiver

Trey Sherard grew up in the ocean in coastal North Carolina but has lived in Washington DC for over eleven years where he is now the Anacostia Riverkeeper. He serves as DC Vice-Chair of the Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee and serves on Mayor Bowser's Leadership Council for a Cleaner Anacostia River. An experienced community organizer, Trey coordinates Anacostia Riverkeeper's Clean Waterways cleanup series, Friday Night Fishing, management of eight Bandalong litter traps in DC and MD, and ARK's green infrastructure program. USCG 100 ton Captain's License, B.S. Biology Duke University.

SAT-H.2: Developing the Frederick Douglass Park Plan

Room: 154 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Introductory

This session will discuss planning efforts behind the Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe, which will memorialize the area near where he was born and spent much of his youth. In addition to its cultural significance, the site also features a prominent natural heritage which has been incorporated into the plan. Focal elements include education, increased public water access along Tuckahoe Creek, hiking trails and boardwalk, creation of native meadow habitat, protection of two endangered species of freshwater mussel, forest succession following Emerald Ash Borer devastation, and preservation of wetlands, high quality forests, and Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) habitat.

Will Saffell is an environmental scientist with 10 years of experience focused on ecological restoration and natural resources management. He specializes in watershed assessments, planning, wetland delineations and mitigation, forestry, FIDS assessments, water quality monitoring, geomorphic assessments, stream restoration, and permitting. He routinely works with interdisciplinary teams and collaborates with civil engineers, hydrologists, soil scientists, legal council, and regulatory experts. He works with a diverse client base including nonprofit, commercial, federal, DoD, state, local, and private projects.

Mark Burchick, an expert botanist, specializes in the development and implementation of natural resource management plans and supporting studies and surveys including wetland delineations, natural resource inventories, forest stand delineations, rare plant surveys, stream and watershed assessments, and wildlife and fisheries studies. Mr. Burchick is currently responsible for the management of multi-disciplinary natural resource scientists, support personnel and projects, providing environmental, natural resource management and ecological restoration services to civil engineering, legal, governmental and land development clients.

Cassandra Vanhooser directs the services and daily activities of Talbot County's Department of Economic Development and Tourism, including the expansion and diversification of employment and tourism opportunities. A former travel writer at Southern Living Magazine, her strong writing and communications skills position Talbot County for the highest outcomes in

jobs, fiscal impact, and tourism activity. A champion of the Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe since its conception, Cassandra has been an active member in the park's development, from property acquisition and stakeholder engagement to concept development and opening the park to the public.

SAT-H.3: The Solution to Road Salt Pollution

Room: 160 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Introductory

Salt Watch works to mobilize community scientists across the country to monitor local waterways for road salt pollution and to advocate for smarter road salting practices. Testing kits are free, and data is crowdsourced and available to anyone, allowing our ever-growing network of partner organizations to use data to educate and promote advocacy actions in local communities. Salt Watch campaigns have sparked across the country, with monitors' voices being heard in national newspapers and prompting state legislators to write salt reduction bills in four states in 2023. Learn how you can join Salt Watch and start a grassroots campaign!

Abby Hileman is the Salt Watch Coordinator at the Izaak Walton League of America. In her role, Abby leads the efforts of the Salt Watch program, expanding the project into new regions across the country, reaching new groups of volunteers, and providing resources to make lasting change—from data to action. Abby grew up in Western Pennsylvania, where she began her journey as a lifelong conservationist. She has a passion for connecting people to their communities and to nature and believes that small scale actions add up to make a big impact on conservation success.

SAT-H.4: Empowering Frontline Communities to Fight Pollution

161 Instructional West | Workshop Level: Introductory

It's more important than ever to empower everyone to take action when they experience water pollution in their communities, especially for communities that have experienced and continue to experience environmental racism. This is why we developed the Clean Water Act Playbook for Frontline Communities for easy access to the Clean Water Act's tools and resources to enforce the law when the government fails to do so. This online resource offers Clean Water Act basics, video stories of how local communities have dealt with water pollution, links to tools and organizations that can help, and ways to report pollution.

Alex Villazon is a native of Alexandria, Virginia. Alex grew up near the Potomac River and attended George Mason University, earning a B.A. in Government & International Politics. In 2022, he completed his law degree at the Howard University School of Law and joined Waterkeepers Chesapeake as a Climate & Justice Legal Fellow. His previous experience includes working on housing and workplace discrimination issues at the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, as well as taking part in domestic and international biodiversity initiatives at the Environmental Law Institute. In his spare time, Alex enjoys all things soccer related as well as enjoying the local trails and waterways he strives to protect.

Betsy Nicholas, Vice President of Programs has more than 25 years of experience in environmental law and policy. Her experience includes private practice in law firms, trial work with the U.S. Department of Justice, and more than 15 years working as an advocate and policy-maker in Riverkeeper organizations. She has extensive experience in administrative advocacy, challenging permits and regulations relating to construction stormwater, NPDES

discharge permits, RCRA exemptions, industrial stormwater and animal feeding operations permits. but her greatest talents lie in policy in legislative work, primarily at the state level.

SAT-H.6: Community Water Monitoring 101

Room: 114 Instructional East | Workshop Level: Introductory

Community Water Monitoring 101, led by the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative, introduces water monitoring fundamentals and methods for engaging community scientists. The session aims to promote accessibility in citizen science initiatives. Participants will learn key monitoring techniques and strategies for effective collaboration with community members, fostering an inclusive, citizen-led approach to water quality monitoring. Ideal for newcomers and experienced individuals seeking to deepen community engagement in environmental conservation.

Matthew Kierce is with the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) in Gaithersburg, MD as the Chesapeake Monitoring Coordinator. His main role is to coordinate the work the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) is achieving with community groups and individuals across the watershed. As a native to Maryland, Matthew is excited to bring his marine science and environmental studies educational background to the continued mission of conservation and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Specifically, how community science and water monitoring can play a key role in this goal.

SAT-H.7: Bay Restoration Beyond 2025

Room: 201 Instructional East | Workshop Level: All

What's the road ahead for the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership? The CBP's Executive Council charged the partnership with assessing the progress towards meeting the 10 goals and 31 outcomes of the 2014 Watershed Agreement (including the Bay TMDL) and with developing recommendations for the critical path forward for the partnership beyond 2025 (the target date for most outcomes). This session will provide the results of the assessment and of the partnership's plans to mobilize and develop recommendations that integrate science and new strategies into the Watershed Agreement beyond 2025—including significant outreach to include stakeholder perspectives.

Martha Shimkin, Deputy Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, brings a diverse and varied background from over 25 years at the Environmental Protection Agency to the Chesapeake Bay Program. She has worked for the past three years in the Office of Water at EPA headquarters, serving as acting Deputy Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, and Office of Wastewater Management, as well as in the Office of Water Immediate Office where she led preparation for the Presidential transition in 2020 and served as acting Deputy Assistant Administrator during the transition. Martha has also served as acting Director, Land and Chemicals Division, in EPA's MidAtlantic Regional office (Region3) for 5 months in 2017-2018. Throughout her EPA career, Martha has created and managed many programs and policies, led regulatory development, and developed agency plans for implementing new laws.

Greg Barranco, Government Affairs, Partnerships Team, leads the Chesapeake Bay Program's efforts for coordinating federal, state and local actions to improve water quality, habitat and living resource conditions in the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers. His team coordinates within and between Chesapeake Bay Program governance bodies, partner teams and committees, and helps implement a decision support structure to allow for adaptive management to protect and restore the Chesapeake watershed. Working in both the public and private government affairs

sectors, Greg has nearly 30-years experience coordinating, integrating and monitoring high profile and mission-critical projects and initiatives.