

**MAWWG-NEBAWWG Joint Meeting**  
**November 12-14, 2024 | Northampton, MA**

**Speaker Bios**

**Katheryn Barnhart** is the EPA Region 3 lead contact for the Watershed Resources Registry, a spatial analysis tool to reflect the restoration and preservation goals of each state. She has been with the EPA for almost 5 years, first at the Chesapeake Bay Program in Annapolis in its Partnerships and Accountability branch, and now in Philadelphia on the Enhancing State and Tribal Program team. Both roles have involved a heavy focus on building partnerships across federal, state, tribal, and non-governmental organizations to optimize data communication and accessibility for all parties, including the public.

**Taylor Bell** is the Mitigation Program Manager with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers at the New England District. He received a bachelor degree in Parks in Recreation Management from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, in Wilmington, North Carolina. Shortly thereafter he started working in Birmingham, Alabama for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division in Mobile District. In 2014 he finished his Master of Science in Environmental Management from Samford University, in Birmingham, Alabama. In 2015 he transferred to New England District as a project manager for Connecticut and Rhode Island permitting. In 2019 he began his position as the Mitigation Program Manager for the New England District. In this current position he oversees five In-Lieu Fee Programs, two Special Area Management Plans (Vernal Pools), and the Atlantic Salmon Restoration and Conservation Program in Maine. In addition to third party mitigation, he oversees programmatic mitigation policy for New England District, and is the stream subject matter expert for the district.

**Gardner Bent** is the surface-water specialist for the U.S. Geological Survey New England Water Science Center. During his career he has been involved in a number of surface-water related studies in Massachusetts and Rhode Island and also oversaw surface-water, groundwater, and water-quality data collection in these two states for several years. The surface-water studies have involved state-wide equations for estimating streamflow statistics and bankfull channel geometry, sediment transport assessments, watershed assessments, flood-documentation, and more recently this stream crossing hydraulic modeling tool.

**Mark Biddle** is a lead wetland scientist with more than 30 years of experience working for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Located within the Watershed Assessment Section, Mark manages the Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program, the Watershed Management Program, Stream Habitat and Biology Program, and the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Program. Mark has been involved in Delaware's regulatory and permitting responsibilities for tidal wetlands, subaqueous lands, 401 water quality certification, and drafting legislation and regulations for non-tidal wetlands. His work has involved the Delaware Wetlands Conservation Strategy, wetland restoration, compensatory mitigation and wetland banking, assessing restored wetlands for nutrient assimilation, serving as team leader for Delaware Whole Basin Management, and on various ecological and green infrastructure initiatives. Mark has participated on statewide and regional planning groups and represents

Delaware on national wetland mapping and mitigation issues. Mark continues to produce reports on status and changes of Delaware wetlands using updated statewide wetland mapping efforts in partnership with the National Wetlands Inventory. Mark holds degrees in Natural Resource Management and Soil and Water Management and attended both Delaware State University and the University of Delaware.

**Dave Davis** is the manager of the Office of Wetlands & Stream Protection at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Dave is responsible for Virginia's independent nontidal wetland regulatory program, non-regulatory wetland program, and surface water investigation and stream gauging programs. He is the chief technical expert for DEQ on wetland and stream ecology issues; drafts regulations and guidance on State wetland policy; serves as a liaison with federal agencies regarding Clean Water Act Section 404/401 issues and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 issues; represents DEQ on wetland issues related to the multi-state Chesapeake Bay Restoration Agreement; and manages several federally-funded wetland research grants. Dave also represents DEQ on several state and federal interagency wetland committees, taskforces, and work groups – state-wide, nationally and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Dave holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology (Music minor) from The College of William & Mary and a Master of Environmental Studies degree in Environmental Policy and Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). He is a Senior Professional Wetland Scientist (SPWS), a Virginia Certified Professional Wetland Delineator (CPWD), and a Virginia State Waters Delineator (VSWD).

**Jen Dietzen** is an Environmental Protection Specialist with the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), where she manages the development of the District's Wetland and Stream Regulatory Program. She serves as DOEE's aquatic resources expert and oversees the District's stream and wetland permitting program. She has an extensive background in federal and state natural resource permitting, wetland and stream delineations, mitigation, bat surveys, benthic macro-invertebrate studies, fish studies, and arboriculture throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

**Megan Fitzgerald** is the new Enhancing State and Tribal Wetlands Program (ESTP) team lead in the Wetlands Branch at EPA's R3 Philadelphia office. Megan leads outreach efforts to promote aquatic resource assessment, restoration and development strategies with state and tribal partners. Megan advises on implementing program policies and priorities through the national grant competition process. Prior to be in this role, Megan was the regulatory lead in Maryland and reviewed proposed 404 impacts to aquatic resources - providing comments to encourage avoidance and minimization opportunities, where possible. In her free time, Megan enjoys hanging with her cats (Nuggett and Luna), traveling, biking, and bird watching.

**David Hilgeman** is a professional engineer and wetland scientist employed with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in the Boston Wetlands Program. He has supervised the Major Projects and Policy Unit for the past three years. His wetland career started as wetland naturalist and has worked since as an environmental consultant and a hydrologic and hydraulic design engineer at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers specializing in wetland and stream projects. His technical experience includes wetland & stream delineations,

botanical surveys, wetland mitigation implementation, bank stabilization and culvert design, and wastewater & stormwater treatment.

**Chuck Horbert** started his career in Rhode Island DEM's Freshwater Wetlands Program in 1989 as a wetland biologist reviewing wetlands applications immediately after graduating from the University of Rhode Island with a B.S. degree in Wildlife Biology and Management. He took over as Supervisor of the Freshwater Wetlands Permitting Program in 1992, overseeing numerous challenges and changes in the Program over the next 27 years until 2019, when he accepted a promotion to Deputy Administrator for Groundwater and Freshwater Wetlands Protection in the Office of Water Resources. He continues to assist the Freshwater Wetlands Program at a policy level, but is primarily focused now on stormwater permitting programs, Water Quality Certification, and groundwater protection programs. In his spare time, you can usually find him out canoeing and camping with his wife and their dog or working in their extensive wildflower and rhododendron gardens at home.

**Scott Jackson** is Extension Professor in the Department of Environmental Conservation at UMass Amherst, where he teaches courses and workshops on wildlife conservation and wetlands ecology, assessment, and conservation. Scott's research interests include aquatic connectivity, wetland assessment and monitoring, and the use of Unoccupied Aerial Systems (drones and sensors) to assess the vulnerability of salt marshes to sea level rise and other stressors. With colleagues in the UMass Landscape Ecology Lab, he developed landscape assessment tools and approaches including the Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System (CAPS), Designing Sustainable Landscapes (DSL) and Critical Linkages. Jackson also coordinates the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC), a network of practitioners in the 13-state North Atlantic region working to enhance river and stream connectivity.

**Kylie Joins** began working for the WV Department of Environmental Protection as an intern in 2014 during her undergraduate studies in Biology at the University of Charleston and master's degree studies in Environmental Science at Marshall University. She was eventually hired on full-time in late 2020. At the DEP, through 2022, she worked with the rest of the Watershed Assessment Branch on stream and lake sampling, taking part in national and state-level projects. She joined the wetlands program, a branch of the same department, in 2022. She has just completed her third field season with the wetlands program and enjoys being able to study wetlands after a lifelong fascination with these unique ecosystems.

**Laura Lapierre** has over 15 years of experience evaluating wetland and terrestrial ecosystems throughout northeastern North America. She has been the Manager of the DEC Vermont Wetlands Program for over 10 years. The Vermont Wetlands Program administers the Vermont Wetland Rules, assesses the State's wetland health, maps wetlands, and assists voluntary restoration. Laura's work involves state regulatory permitting, wetland mapping, testifying on state legislation, and leading rule changes and guidance efforts. Laura has a Master's in Biology from McGill University, Montreal Qc, Canada.

**Jeff Lapp** is the Senior Science Policy Advisor at the National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM). Prior to joining NAWM he spent over 32 years with the Environmental Protection Agency, primarily in the wetlands program. Starting out in the wetlands enforcement program in Region 3, he conducted many wetland inspections and has testified as both an expert and fact witness in civil and criminal federal cases. For the past 12 years, Jeff has been the Chief of the Wetlands Branch at EPA Region 3 overseeing both the regulatory and non-regulatory wetlands programs, the oceans disposal program and the Watershed Resource Registry (a Geospatial tool to identify potential restoration and preservation sites.) He has also had a host of acting positions including the Deputy Director for the Environmental Assessment and Innovation Division, the Deputy Director for the Office of Public Affairs, the Wetlands Regulatory Branch Chief at EPA Head Quarters and the Wetlands Technical Enforcement Lead at EPA Head Quarters. His technical skills include conducting wetlands identification training for both novice and experienced delineators from state and federal programs. In addition to teaching wetlands delineation, he has taught cases in hydric soils and plant identification and been a guest lecturer at Penn and Temple University on wetlands and horticultural issues.

**Todd Lutte**, *Field Scientist* with the EPA Region III Field Services Branch. Todd has over 20 years experience as an EPA compliance officer for the CWA Wetlands Enforcement Team and FIFRA Pesticide Teams, and he has spent the last 7 years as a field scientist specializing in wetland and aquatic resource sampling. Todd considers himself very fortunate to work not only across EPA divisions in conducting sampling, but also with outside partners, including EPA's tribal partners, in environmental monitoring and data collection. Todd lives in Jim Thorpe, PA with his wife, two college student daughters, 3 tuxedo cats, and 2 medium dogs. In addition to his family, Todd loves disc golfing, wetlands, and all things Lehigh River.

**Pamela Mason** is a Senior Research Scientist at the Center for Coastal Resource Management at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary. She has a BA in Biology from the University of Delaware and MS in Marine Science from William & Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. She has been working on coastal resource issues for several decades with a focus on integrated coastal management of shorelines, wetlands and coastal community resilience. Her current research interest is multiple benefits of nature-based solutions including tidal and non-tidal wetlands, environmental policy and coastal management. She currently serves as Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Program Wetlands Workgroup and is on the Virginia Coastal Policy Team.

**Sara Miller** has 8.5 years of experience working for the WV Department of Environmental Protection, with a year and a half working in Environmental Enforcement, four years in stream assessment, and three years in the wetlands program, for which she is now the program lead. Sara has a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources from West Virginia University and field experience working with birds, small mammals, and vegetation in West Virginia and Wyoming. Throughout her life, Sara has always had a love for the outdoors, from growing up playing in the forests of West Virginia to sharing her love of those woods as a seasonal naturalist in Kanawha State Forest, to helping to protect West Virginia's wetland resources in her current work. She feels ever grateful and indebted to her predecessors for this dream opportunity.

**Dr. Joshua Moody** is a coastal wetland and restoration research scientist in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Science & Research. His focus areas include: the current conditions and trajectories of NJ coastal wetlands; the state of the science regarding coastal wetland resilience tools and monitoring methodologies; and field-based research to fill data gaps regarding the ability of coastal wetlands to provide valuable ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, flood protection, and quality habitat for a variety of residential and transitory species.

**Amanda Pachomski** is the National Wetlands Inventory Program's Regional Wetlands Coordinator for the USFWS Northeast to Mid-Atlantic Region. Previously, she managed the National Audubon Society's bird and habitat conservation program on Long Island, New York. Amanda has a B.Sc. in Environmental Studies from Binghamton University (State University of New York) and a M.Sc. In Fish and Wildlife Biology and Management from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry (State University of New York). She is based in Hadley, MA.

**Alison Rogerson** is an environmental scientist for DNREC's Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program. Alison has been with DNREC for 15 years, working to increase the acreage and function of wetlands statewide. Alison's program focuses on research, field assessment methods, outreach and education, and restoration demonstration to improve the state of wetland conservation and management in Delaware. Alison's background is in wildlife ecology, ornithology and wetland ecology. She is an active member of several wetland work groups and collaborates with two estuary programs.

**Gregg Serenbetz** is an Environmental Protection Specialist in U.S. EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds in Washington, DC. He began his career at EPA working on smart growth and coastal wetland initiatives before shifting to his current focus on wetland monitoring and assessment programs. He has been the project lead for the National Wetland Condition Assessment for the past 10 years.

**Simone S. Whitecloud**, a native of New Orleans, is from the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa on her father's side, and of French and Cajun decent on her mother's side. She received a PhD in Ecology, Evolution, Ecosystems, and Society from Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH where she studied plant-plant and human-plant interactions in alpine and Arctic tundra. Since joining the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in 2017 as a Research Ecologist, she draws on her expertise in plant community ecology and ethnobotany to understand plants as biosensors for military and civil works applications. Dr. Whitecloud first engaged with Wetlands Regulatory Assistance Program (WRAP) as lead on a project evaluating the accuracy and validity of wetland indicator status ratings of 8 species in Alaska for the National Wetland Plant List. She assumed the temporary detail of Acting Program Manager of WRAP in July.

**Jon Woodruff** is a Professor of Earth, Geographic and Climate Sciences at the University of Massachusetts. He specializes in predicting how coastlines respond to the dual pressures of climate change and human development, focusing on factors like sea-level rise, storm patterns, and sediment supply. He is particularly interested in research that not only advances scientific

understanding but also tackles societal challenges through strategic mitigative approaches. Currently Jon serves as the University Co-Director of the USGS Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center and is a member of the Leadership Circle for the NSF Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledges and Science. Jon received his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Program (MIT/WHOI) in Marine Geology and Geophysics, his M.S. in Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering (also in the MIT/WHOI Joint Program), and a B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Tufts University.

**Ephraim Zimmerman** is the Science Director for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) at Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, where he has worked since 2003. With PNHP, Ephraim supervises a team responsible for planning and conducting ecological inventories, monitoring, management, and restoration. Ephraim received a Bachelors of Science in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University and a Masters of Science in Forest Ecology from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resource and Environment. He also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Carpathian Mountains of Western Ukraine.