

2013 Mid-Atlantic Living Shorelines Summit

Speaker and Moderator Biographies

December 10-11, 2013

Jeff Benoit, MS

President and CEO
Restore America's Estuaries
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Mr. Benoit has been with Restore America's Estuaries for over five years. RAE is a national alliance of community-based conservation organizations dedicated to restoring critical estuarine habitats. As a coastal geomorphologist, he started his career with the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Program. He also served as Director of NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. Mr. Benoit earned his master degree in geophysical science from the Georgia Institute of Technology/Skidaway Institute of Oceanography.

Donna Marie Bilkovic, PhD

Research Assistant Professor
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary
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Dr. Bilkovic is an ecologist with interests in the ecology of estuarine and coastal shallow-water environments, and the habitat use of coastal invertebrates and fishes. She investigates the effect of coastal stressors, such as land use, shoreline and climate change, on nearshore fish and macroinvertebrate communities and habitats. She is currently researching the ecological effects of traditional shoreline stabilization and alternative Living Shoreline approaches. Dr. Bilkovic earned her doctorate in marine ecology at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

Tony Bowron, MS

Director and Co-Founder
CB Wetlands & Environmental Specialists
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Mr. Bowron is a coastal marine ecologist and coordinates coastal wetland monitoring and restoration projects in Nova Scotia. He led the implementation of the first salt marsh restoration in Nova Scotia from 1999 through 2005 while working as Coastal Coordinator and Restoration Ecologist with the Ecology Action Centre. He was awarded a Gulf of Maine Visionary Award for this project in 2005. Mr. Bowron earned his master of environmental studies degree from Dalhousie University.

Jim Cahoon, BS

Vice President
Bay Environmental, Inc.
jim@bay-environmental.com

Mr. Cahoon is an Environmental Scientist with almost 20 years of experience in natural resource assessment, delineation and permitting. He designed, permitted and constructed many tidal Living Shoreline projects in the Tidewater region of southeastern Virginia, including two projects with over 700 linear feet of restored tidal marsh shoreline. He earned his bachelor degree in environmental science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Carolyn Currin, PhD

Research Scientist
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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Dr. Currin investigates the response of salt marshes to sea level rise and the effect of shoreline stabilization on estuarine intertidal habitats. This includes Living Shoreline assessments, participation in state and federal policy working groups, and outreach and training workshops. She also researches the trophic relationships in natural and restored estuarine systems, and the role of benthic primary producers in coastal and reef ecosystems. Dr. Currin earned her doctorate in marine sciences from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Margaret Davidson, MS, JD

Acting Director of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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Dr. Davidson has been involved in a range of coastal issues, from fish and hazardous waste management, to disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. She believes that Living Shorelines, in the broadest definition, is a critical element of natural defense against changing water levels and associated impacts. Dr. Davidson earned her master degree in marine policy and resource economics from the University of Rhode Island, and her juris doctoral degree in natural resources law from Louisiana State University.

Jana Davis, PhD

Executive Director
Chesapeake Bay Trust
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Dr. Davis is the Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust, a non-profit organization that funds Bay restoration and education. CBT manages funds from the Maryland "Treasure the Chesapeake" license plate program. Dr. Davis has worked on shoreline issues, including Living Shoreline restoration, through policy as well as research with Scripps, the Smithsonian, and Williams College. She continues to investigate shoreline restoration and ecology issues. Dr. Davis earned her doctorate degree in oceanography from Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

J.C. Douglass, BS, BA, PWD, LEED AP

Environmental Scientist
Clark Nexsen Architecture and Engineering
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Mr. Douglass has over 10 years of experience in environmental assessment, compliance, and permitting, including due diligence, National Environmental Policy Act, GIS/GPS, sustainable design, wetlands and streams. He is a Professional Wetland Delineator and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional. He participated in the design and permitting of Living Shorelines in Hampton Roads. Mr. Douglass earned bachelor degrees in ecosystem assessment, and policy and administration, at North Carolina State University.

Sadie Drescher, MS

Watershed Researcher and Planner
Center for Watershed Protection, Inc.
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Ms. Drescher has worked for over ten years in the environmental field for federal, state, university, and non-profit sectors. Her current responsibilities include research and development, community partnering and outreach, field assessments, and project management. She facilitates the Shoreline Management expert panel as a Sediment and Stream Corridor Restoration Coordinator for the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program. Ms. Drescher earned her master degree in environmental studies from the College of Charleston.

Kevin Du Bois, MS, PWS, PWD, CFM

Environmental Engineer, Wetlands Board
Bureau of Environmental Services, City of Norfolk
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Mr. Du Bois has over 15 years of experience reviewing, writing grants, designing, and building Living Shorelines. He is on Virginia's Living Shoreline General Permit Advisory Committee, and the Chesapeake Bay Program's TMDL Shoreline Management Expert Panel. He is certified as a Virginia Professional Wetland Delineator, and a Society of Wetland Scientist with the Professional Wetland Scientist Society. Mr. Du Bois earned his master degree in marine environmental research at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Fabien Dubas, MA

Marketing and Business Development
Ecocean
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Ecocean is a French company specializing in restoration of damaged aquatic ecosystems. Their core competency is the early life stage of fish in coastal environments. Working closely with coastal managers and aquatic stakeholders, Ecocean proposes innovative solutions to boost the recruitment and survival of native fish. In partnership with Biohabitats, Mr. Dubas shares his

experience and the expertise of Ecocean in North America, as well as France. He earned his master degree in innovative management project at the Montpellier School of Management.

Karen Duhring, MS

Coastal Advisory Scientist
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary
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Ms. Duhring is a coastal advisory scientist and outreach coordinator. She conducts training for local governments and marine contractors, and manages the Living Shorelines web site, and an on-line course about shoreline best management practices. She is also part of a team producing geo-spatial shoreline inventories and management models. In addition, Ms. Duhring tracks demonstration projects and is the caretaker for the Teaching Marsh, a public demonstration site. She earned her master degree in coastal management from the Florida Institute of Technology.

Dave Evans, MS

Director of the Wetlands Division
Environmental Protection Agency
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Mr. Evans leads EPA's Section 404 regulatory program, the Clean Water Act, as well as its efforts to build wetland partnerships and enhance State/Tribal wetlands programs. He heads an Interagency Coastal Wetlands working group, currently completing the first National Wetland Condition Assessment. He is also Acting Deputy Director of the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds. Mr. Evans earned his bachelor degree in geography at the State University of New York at Oswego, and his master degree in urban planning at the University of Arizona.

John Flood

Principal
Flood Brothers Marine Consultant Inc.
floodbros@yahoo.com

A lifelong resident of the South River, Mr. Flood was a pile driver/marine contractor for 20 years. He was a founding member of the South River Federation, and an ardent conservationist. He helped Anne Arundel County develop their criteria for non-structural erosion controls in the 1980s, and developed numerous model projects to demonstrate the efficacy of Living Shorelines. Mr. Flood successfully pioneered low-cost erosion control methods for protecting shorelines. He hopes someday to see robust sea grass beds and a healthy Bay.

C. Scott Hardaway Jr, MS

Director of the Shoreline Studies Program
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary
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Mr. Hardaway designs and constructs Living Shorelines around the Bay. These include planting existing substrate with marsh grass, using rock structures such as sills to protect more exposed shorelines for marsh creation, and developing guidelines for breakwater system design and installation. By assessing site conditions and landowner desires, Living Shorelines that provide habitat creation and enhancement, as well as long-term shore protection, can be developed. Mr. Hardaway earned his master degree in geology at East Carolina University.

Evamaria W. Koch, PhD

Associate Professor, Horn Point Laboratory
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
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Dr. Koch's researches the impact of shoreline erosion and coastal structures on submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the Chesapeake Bay. She also evaluates the inclusion of local ecology in coastal engineering projects, such as Green Bulkheads, and Breakwaters for SAV Habitat Creation. She contributed to "Mitigating Shore Erosion along Sheltered Coasts", by the National Academy Press, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' "Engineering with Nature" program. Dr. Koch earned her doctorate in marine science at the University of South Florida.

Derron L. LaBrake, BS, PWS

Director of Ecological Services
Matrix New World Engineering, Inc.
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Mr. LaBrake is a Certified Professional Wetland Scientist and a consulting ecologist. He specializes in wetland science, ecological risk assessment and ecological restoration. He designs and constructs wetlands for compensatory mitigation, as well as stormwater and wastewater treatment. Mr. LaBrake acted as representative for the Richard P. Kane Wetlands Mitigation Bank, the largest wetlands mitigation bank undertaken in New Jersey. He earned his bachelor degree in botany, with a concentration in ecology, at West Chester University.

Emily LeGrand, MA

Coastal and Water Educator
Ecology Action Centre
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Ms. LeGrand coordinates the Living Shorelines pilot project at the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She has a background in ecology and environmental studies, and brings a variety of hands-on restoration experiences to her position. Ms. LeGrand earned her bachelor degree in biology from Carleton College, and her master degree in library and information studies from Dalhousie University.

Rosmarie Lohnes, BS

Owner
Helping Nature Heal
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Ms. Lohnes' restorative landscaping business, "Helping Nature Heal", has been stabilizing the coastal slopes of Nova Scotia's South Shore region for over ten years. Her shoreline and bank stabilization techniques have been the primary focus of the Ecology Action Centre's Living Shorelines pilot project. Ms. Lohnes earned her bachelor degree in conservation and environmental studies, with a concentration in restoration ecology, from York University.

Kirk Mantay, MS, PWS

Wetland/Shoreline Project Manager
South River Federation
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Mr. Mantay is an ecologist involved in building coastal wetlands, an adjunct biology professor, and a Certified Professional Wetland Scientist. He has directly implemented wetland and shoreline projects throughout the Bay watershed for several agencies and non-profit groups. Mr. Mantay earned his master degree in geography and environmental planning from Appalachian State University.

Pam Mason, MS

Wetlands Program
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary
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Ms. Mason has been working on tidal wetlands, shoreline and coastal management for over 20 years. She authored a study for the Virginia General Assembly advocating opportunities to promote Living Shorelines and provide for tidal wetland sustainability with sea level rise. This legislation was subsequently passed. She is also on a Management Team promoting green and grey-green solutions to achieve risk reduction and resilience of coastal systems. Ms. Mason earned her master degree in marine science from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

F. Albert McCullough III, PE, PWS

Principal Ecological Engineer
Sustainable Science LLC
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Mr. McCullough has been involved in the design and construction of Living Shorelines for over 15 years. He holds professional engineering licenses in MD, DE, VA, PA, HI and Washington DC. He is also a Professional Wetland Scientist through the Society of Wetland Scientists. His specialty is shoreline forensics, design wave characterization, and stable bay prediction. Mr. McCullough has extensive experience in tidal marsh creation and tidal channel geomorphology.

Jon K. Miller, PhD

Research Assistant Professor
Stevens Institute of Technology
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Dr. Miller works on shoreline stabilization projects in New Jersey along open-ocean, as well as sheltered bay coastlines. He has worked with the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, coordinating the Hudson River Sustainable Shorelines project. Dr. Miller is currently involved in developing a research plan to understand possible green shoreline coastal infrastructure strategies in New York City. Dr. Miller earned his doctorate at the University of Florida.

Joe Rieger, MS

Deputy Director, Restoration
Elizabeth River Project
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Mr. Rieger has been with the non-profit Elizabeth River Project as a staff scientist for over ten years. He works on environmental policy issues and oversees on-the-ground restoration projects including wetland, oyster, and sediment restorations. His position allows him to collaborate with the citizens of Hampton Roads, waterfront industries, federal and state governments, and universities to restore the Elizabeth River. Mr. Rieger earned his master degree in aquatic ecology from Old Dominion University.

Bill Shadel, MS

Associate Director
Interstate Environmental Commission
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Mr. Shadel directs the Interstate Environmental Commission, a 77-year-old tri-state water and air pollution control commission. Most of his career has been spent in estuarine habitat restoration, working for entities such as American Littoral Society, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Save the Sound, and New Jersey Meadowlands Commission. Mr. Shadel was a key player in the development of a Living Shorelines program in New Jersey. He earned his master degree in plant ecology from the University of Vermont.

Tracy Skrabal, MS

Regional Manager
North Carolina Coastal Federation
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Ms. Skrabal is a coastal scientist and advocate. She has over 25 years experience in all aspects of Living Shorelines, including regulatory reform, project design, construction oversight, and training. She has been an environmental consultant in VA, MD, NC and GA, a regulatory manager for DE, and a marine contractor associate. Ms. Skrabal's background is in coastal

processes and geological oceanography. She earned her master degree in marine science from the College of William and Mary.

Gene Slear

Senior Vice President
Environmental Concern Inc.
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Environmental Concern's founder developed the protocol for wetland restoration in the early 1980s. More recently Environmental Concern has refined and expanded the original protocol to manage more erosive conditions. They have restored more than one thousand wetland acres, protecting more than 35 miles of shoreline in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. EC has designed, permitted, constructed, planted, monitored, and maintained hundreds of tidal wetland habitats, nontidal wetlands, tidal and nontidal buffers, and surface water management facilities.

Kevin M. Smith, BS

Director of the Habitat Restoration and Conservation Division
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
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Mr. Smith works with counties, municipalities, watershed groups and private property owners, to enhance and restore riparian and aquatic habitat, improving water quality in both tidal and freshwater systems. Mr. Smith earned his bachelor degree in resource conservation, fish and wildlife management, at the University of Maryland.

Court Stevenson, PhD

Professor, Horn Point Laboratory
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
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Dr. Stevenson's areas of study include ecology of marsh and sea grass systems, nitrogen cycling and productivity, and the effect of sea level rise on coastal ecosystems. He is also interested in the environmental history of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed, and has written an account titled "Colonial History of Horn Point". Dr. Stevenson earned his doctorate degree in botany from the University of North Carolina.

Jonathan Stewart, BS

Eastern Region Chief, Tidal Wetlands Division
Maryland Department of the Environment
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Mr. Stewart reviews project proposals, including shore erosion control projects, within the tidal jurisdiction of the State of Maryland. Previously, he worked with the Total Maximum Daily Load Program and the Water Quality Monitoring Section at MDE. His introductory position in state

service was with the Department of Natural Resources, Monitoring and Non-tidal Assessment Division. Mr. Stewart earned his bachelor degree in biology from Salisbury University.

Bhaskaran Subramanian, PhD

Shoreline Conservation Service Section Chief
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
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Dr. Subramanian currently manages the Shoreline Conservation Services providing technical and financial assistance to waterfront property owners, including zero-interest loans. He also consults with federal, state, and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and citizen groups about shoreline issues. Dr. Subramanian earned his doctorate degree in marine-estuarine-environmental sciences from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore.

Buck Sutter, MS

Director of Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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Mr. Sutter's focus is on landscape-scale and watershed conservation, supporting protection, recovery, and sustainability of habitats, promoting fishery resources, coastal resiliency and healthy ecosystems. His management focus addresses highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean, and integrated ecosystem assessment of the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Sutter earned his master degree in fisheries science from the University of Massachusetts.

Melanie Tymes, BS

Wetlands and Subaqueous Lands Section
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
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Ms. Tymes' areas of expertise include natural resources permitting, Living Shoreline design, stream and wetland restoration, water quality management, sustainable development, environmental justice, and community outreach. She has over ten years of experience providing environmental regulatory guidance to state and federal government agencies, municipalities, private individuals, and non-governmental organizations. Ms. Tymes earned her bachelor degree in environmental studies at the University of Maryland.

Keith Underwood, BLA

Founder and Principal
Underwood & Associates Ecological Restoration
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Over the past 20 years, Mr. Underwood designed or installed over 500 low impact stormwater management programs. His company created standards and specifications for Anne Arundel County's guidance on Coastal Plain Outfalls and Regenerative Stream Channel design. He has

co-authored articles on floodplain management, ecological restoration, stream rehabilitation, and stormwater management, and is a known expert on Atlantic White Cedar ecology. He earned his bachelor of landscape architecture degree at the University of Maryland.

Marguerite Whilden, BS

Founder
Terrapin Institute and Research Consortium, Inc.
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After retirement from the Maryland State Fisheries Administration in Commercial Fisheries Management, Ms. Whilden founded the Terrapin Institute and Research Consortium. The Institute advocates conservation of Diamondback Terrapins, with special emphasis on preservation, enhancement, and recovery of shoreline beach strand habitat critical for nesting Diamondback Terrapins. Ms. Whilden earned her degree from the University of Maryland.

Rob Young, PhD

Director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines
Western Carolina University
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The Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines researches coastal processes, storm impacts, and sea level rise, translating that science into management and policy recommendations. It also evaluates design and implementation of coastal engineering projects, such as Living Shorelines, and helps communities develop coastal adaptation strategies. In addition, Dr. Young consults with Sialia Environmental. He is coauthor of a White Paper critical of some Living Shorelines' design, and earned his doctorate at Duke University.

Cindy Zook, BA

President, Organization and Leadership Development
Cindy Zook Associates
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Ms. Zook works with leaders, executives and political appointees to create effective and compelling strategies for change, using collaborative processes and advanced technology. She challenges participants to identify and prioritize complex issues, creating action plans that have transformed organizations. Ms. Zook received the Exceptional Public Service Medal for a decade of unprecedented service to NASA. She earned her master degree in economics from George Mason University, and is certified in Human Resource Development.