



2nd Annual NW NJ Rivers Conference

2020 Workshops: Draft

Keynote address:

- **Climate change impacts and New Jersey's waters.**

Dr. David Robinson

Workshops:

- **What the HABs is going on? What causes, and how to prevent harmful algae blooms.**

Dr. Steve Souza

This session will cover the principal drivers and triggers of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in New Jersey's lakes and reservoirs. Dr. Souza will introduce the science and explain what sparks an advisory, how a bloom is monitored, and what measures can be taken to mitigate its recurrence.

- **Carbon defense strategies & the urban forest.**

Pam Zipse

All trees, in the forest and in the planted landscape, can contribute to carbon storage and sequestration goals and climate change resilience. This presentation will discuss the basics of how trees store and sequester carbon, how proper tree maintenance and management practices can help to optimize these benefits in trees and forests, and strategies for using trees and forests to address carbon defense goals.

- **Effectively managing lands for climate change.**

Dr. Leslie Sauer

Landscape management is the low-hanging fruit for enhancing carbon sequestration, and there is a role for each of us. Many of our past practices of exploiting natural resources are coming under review as we try to confront global warming, from farming and forestry to energy use and production. After wasting decades in denial, we now must react rapidly to face the disruptive rate of change in our climate and natural environment. This presentation will look at land management options in New Jersey, from regenerative agriculture to growing existing forests to their full ecological potential, building on success stories in this state, from the past LIP program to the new Forest Stewardship Plan options.

- **Discovering “eco” and “agro” tourism opportunities in the NJ Highlands.** John Donahue, Ben Spinelli & Frank Pinto

- Eco-Tourism opportunities in the Highlands, from a long-time National Parks Superintendent’s viewpoint.
- Grown In Warren: seeking to grow Warren County’s economy through the agricultural industry

- **Stormwater utilities: a proven way to address water quality and stormwater infrastructure concerns.**

Adrienne Vicari

Stormwater utilities are a proven way to engage community stakeholders in collaborating together to address water quality and stormwater infrastructure concerns in the most cost effective manner. This workshop will discuss the benefits of collaboration between all property owner types, and levels of government, to leverage funding and achieve meaningful improvement in the quality of New Jersey’s waterways. Case studies outlining regional and county-wide efforts will be discussed, along with how to begin a dialogue to achieve results in your community.

- **Volunteer monitoring: How to survey streams and build volunteer monitoring capacity.** Juniper Leifer & Erin Stretz

Come to this workshop to learn the key steps for establishing a stream monitoring program in your township. Participants will hear about the technical assistance and resources provided by the New Jersey Watershed Watch Network and develop an understanding of how to start their own water quality monitoring program using the Lopatcong Creek Watershed as a case study.

- **Acting locally to protect your rivers.**

Alex Ambrose & Jen Coffey

This workshop will help local officials learn how to implement protections for riparian buffers in their community. Riparian buffers, also known as stream buffers, are the most environmentally effective and economically efficient way to protect your rivers and streams. Having the strong local ordinances in place can make measurable differences in your drinking water quality. Come learn about how local officials can save money and lead the way in the fight for clean water!

- **Advocacy at the Municipal Level: Understanding Municipal Land Use Law.**

Alex Ambrose, Elliott Ruga & Chris Miller

TBC

- **New Jersey Conservation Blueprint: How land development trends can be used for more effective land conservation planning and decisions.**

Dr. John Hasse & Eric Olsen

This session will provide an overview of how the recently released NJ DEP 2015 Land Use/ Land Cover dataset is being employed to analyze recent land use changes, evaluate municipal development trends and support better conservation planning. The panel will introduce how the data has been made more accessible to non-GIS experts through the open access NJ MAP platform and how the Conservation Blueprint has incorporated the data into its freely accessible geospatial tools. The session will include a live demo and Q&A.

- **Introduction to Dam Removals in New Jersey.**

Beth Styler-Barry & Kyle Richter

Join us for a primer on dam removal in our state. Learn why dam removal is becoming a more common form of river restoration and why communities are also turning to dam removal to alleviate flooding, decrease liability, improve public safety and eliminate maintenance costs associated with aging infrastructure that has outlived its purpose.

- **"Drink, Fish, Swim": Water Quality and how we protect it.**

Nancy Roberts-Lawler & Ellen Kohler

TBC

- **Green Solutions for Addressing Stormwater Problems.**

Dr. Chris Obropta

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program has been designing and implementing green stormwater infrastructure throughout the State to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff. This presentation will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of various green stormwater infrastructure solutions. Examples will be provided of several successful installations of green stormwater infrastructure practices from planning, design, implementation, and maintenance.