



2023

Watershed Forestry Summit

June 13, 14, and 15

Conference Program





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8:45 am Continental breakfast, provided until 9:45 am

8:30 am Registration begins

Lobby

10:00 am Welcome

Room H

10:15 am Remarks from Leadership

Room H

Presentation of the Watershed Forestry Leadership Award

10:45 am Networking Break

Lobby

11:15 am Breakout Sessions

Trees For All!

Room F

How can you build capacity to encourage ALL landowners to plant trees, whether it's 5 or 500? The Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership is evolving to be more inclusive of all landowners. This presentation will share how you can plan and promote your own version of a "Tree for All" to encourage members of your local community to plant trees.

*Joe Hallinan, Kristen Hoke, and Ashley Spotts
Chesapeake Bay Foundation*

Highlights of Riparian Restoration: Encouraging Buffers plus Pre- & Post-Planting Considerations

Room G

When we focus only on landowners that own streamside areas, we miss educating and gaining support from people who do not live on a stream. The landowner thinks that what they own is "just a ditch with water running through it" won't think that they need to buffer it! This session will inspire you to talk to new people about riparian areas and is a primer for the more in-depth topics on riparian restoration covered in later sessions.

*Alysha Trexler
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy*

Vegetation Management Considerations and Challenges at Moderate Scale Sites

Room H

Many buffers, stream restorations, and other native landscapes have the advantage of scale in providing multiple ecological and hydrologic benefits. However, that scale also comes with challenges for vegetation management. What are some of the techniques and management strategies that we usually use on larger sites, and what are some limitations?

*Nick Myers
LandStudies, Inc.*

12:15 pm Lunch

Room H

Increasing maintenance capacity with Riparian Rangers volunteers**Room F**

The Riparian Rangers program trains volunteers on how to take care of tree plantings and pairs volunteers with a site to maintain. This presentation will give an overview, current status of, and key takeaways from the Riparian Rangers program from its growth over the past 4 years.

*Rebecca Lauver and Rob Frank
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay*

Organic Invasive Plant Control**Room G**

Have you struggled to restore spaces where species like lesser celandine pervade? In this interactive presentation, learn specific native plants allies that can help bolster biodiversity in the toughest planting sites with the added bonus of not needing petro chemical sprays! This session is welcome to all experience levels and best for practitioners seeking lawn conversion and riparian buffer restoration skills, how to outcompete invasives, and/or practicing more ecological design methods.

*Elyse Jurgen
Waxwing EcoWorks Co.*

**Funding 101 for Riparian Buffers and Lawn Conversion:
A Panel Discussion****Room H**

Bring your questions and your notebooks! This session will feature a panel of individuals representing several organizations that provide funding for riparian forest buffer and lawn conversion projects. Panelists will answer questions and discuss strategies for best leveraging various funding resources for project outreach, implementation, and maintenance/management.

Representatives from PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Association of Conservation Districts, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and others



Backyard Stream Repair: Engaging DIY Homeowners**Room F**

Penn State Extension's new Backyard Stream Repair program for small, residential stream owners and managers can help engage smaller landowners who don't qualify for larger assistance programs, but still want to make a difference in watershed restoration efforts. We will share the tools available and how we helped instigate streamside plantings across Pennsylvania without ever stepping foot on their properties. Come learn how to engage this new and eager audience of DIY-empowered citizens.

*Susan Boser, Penn State Extension
Tyler Groh, Penn State University*

Engaging Communities to Create Watershed Friendly Properties**Room G**

Changing perceptions within communities to achieve water quality goals is challenging. The presentation will discuss challenges and opportunities to achieve watershed management goals when working with communities. The resulting framework will help practitioners achieve greater success with homeowners and HOAs.

*Dr. John Scherer
Resident and Community Educator*

Recent Findings of Research Trials on Reforestation Methods**Room H**

Results of science-based trials of buffer methods in southeast PA, including stone mulch, NOT removing shelters, pre-emergence herbicide use INSIDE shelters, different shelter types, mowing frequency, buffers on legacy sediments and case studies of protecting multi-stem shrubs, overcoming multiflora rose and overcoming reed canary grass

*David Wise
Stroud Water Research Center*

Recent headlines about global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. To create landscapes that enhance local ecosystems rather than degrade them, we must 1) remove the invasives on our property and 2) add the native plant communities that sustain food webs, sequester carbon, maintain diverse native bee communities, and manage our watersheds. If we do this in half of the area now in lawn, we can create Homegrown National Park, a network of viable habitats throughout the U.S. that will provide vital corridors connecting the few natural areas that remain. This approach to conservation empowers everyone to play a significant role in the future of the natural world. It is also enormously restorative for those who take action.

*Dr. Douglas Tallamy
Entomologist and Author*

Tree-themed trivia with Ryan Davis, Jim Kauffman, and Marlin Graham!

6:30 am Continental breakfast, provided until 8:30 am Lobby

8:30 am Strategic Thoughts on Riparian Forest Buffers and Resiliency in Watershed Restoration Room H

Over the past 25 years, Pennsylvania has delisted a scant handful of streams impaired by non-point source issues. Reexamining impairment and causes of impairment provides an important first step towards altering our approach. If we've been unsuccessful, has our treatment been incorrect? Have we not created enough change? Have we underestimated the time necessary for recovery? Addressing watershed scale impacts to our rivers and streams requires watershed scale solutions and cannot be accomplished by simply working within the channel or riparian zone. As we develop restoration strategies and approaches for our stream networks and watersheds, we recognize the need for resilient and dynamic systems that can respond to changing landscape cover and the realities of climate change driven shifts in storm frequency and intensity.

*Matt Ehrhart
Stroud Water Research Center*

9:45 am Breakout Sessions

Vegetation Selection for Riparian Restoration Room F

The program identifies methods to evaluate riparian restoration design species with both onsite reviews and desktop evaluations. Use of tax maps, soil mapping, National Wetland Inventory Species indices and Google Earth are desktop tools. Onsite evaluation uses basic vegetation identification in reference reaches with review of the waterway cross sections, topography and hydrology impacts to species composition.

*John Levitsky
Luzerne Conservation District*

Buffers and Lawn Con: Where to Start? Room G

Join Justin Ulanoski as he talks with other landscape professionals regarding their interest or lack thereof for getting into riparian buffer, lawn conversion and conservation landscaping in PA. Topics discussed will include profit margins, what interests the private sector to bid on projects, what factors prevent professionals from pursuing conservation landscaping, and how conservation professionals can reach private landscapers.

*Justin Ulanoski, Native Creations Landscape Services, Inc
Jeremy Thorne, Thornecare Landscape Solutions
Christopher Auker, Auker Multitrade
Harrison Woytko, Boulder Landscapes*

Successful Partnerships with Non-profits, Government Agencies, and Private Industry Room H

The "Stream Team" in Northcentral PA is made up of a partnership between non-profit conservation organizations, gov't agencies, and private contractors. This partnerships has been successful working with landowners and implementing in-stream and riparian restoration. Grant funding available to private contractors has helped to significantly increase landowner contacts, number of projects, match dollars, landowner satisfaction.

*Reneé Carey
Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy*

Lessons Learned In 5 Years of Running a Reforestation Program**Room F**

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay started a new holistic reforestation implementation program in PA in 2017, and since then has planted over 425 acres of riparian and upland forests across over 150 sites. Join Ryan Davis, the busy beaver behind the effort, for strategies used, lessons learned, and insights on how we can collectively scale up our reforestation efforts around the Commonwealth.

Ryan Davis
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Seeds to Success**Room G**

When purchasing plants from a nursery, it's crucial to investigate the quality of their product to ensure the plants' survival in the landscape. Kevin will address considerations when talking to nurseries about their plants, including the importance of seed source and processing, propagation techniques, and water application from seedlings to mature plants.

Kevin Zuidervliet
Octoraro Native Plant Nursery

Native Plant Communities**Room H**

Most people understand that lawns are very detrimental environmentally. But what are the alternatives? Meadows have long been pushed as a viable alternative to lawn but the obstacles are many. Often they fail due to a lack of understanding of how to prepare and manage them or complaints from neighbors or local ordinances or from unrealistic expectations.

Ian Caton
Wood Thrush Native Plant Nursery



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Wildflower Meadows: What's all the Buzz?**Room F**

After reading Doug Tallamy's book, "Bringing Nature Home," in 2008, the Jacksons were inspired to grow native plants and research their many benefits. That led to planting about 3 acres of native wildflower meadows on their land. This presentation will illustrate various planting methods and maintenance challenges, as well as close encounters with wildlife.

*Laura Jackson
Landowner*

Making Buffers Work in Agricultural Landscapes**Room G**

Allowing a vegetated buffer to grow alongside waterways has many known benefits, including reducing sediment and nutrient pollution, streambank erosion, and property loss. On farms, sometimes concerns exist with planting trees along streams that border active fields, such as shade, leaf litter, and potentially reduced yield. We will discuss options for design, plant selection, and how to design a buffer to work better for you and your clients.

*Jennifer Fetter, Penn State Extension
Kristen Koch, Penn State Agricultural and Environment Center*

How to Build A Buffer From Start to Finish**Room H**

This intro-level session will detail Stroud's approach to designing and building a riparian forest buffer. We'll start with the fundamentals of site evaluation and planning, then go through planting and maintenance. Finally, we'll build a buffer with these concepts.

*Calen Wylie
Stroud Water Research Center*

Let's Talk About CREP**Room F**

This presentation will focus on basic information about the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). We will discuss what you need to know and understand about the program to help determine if CREP is a good fit for a project or landowner, plus what you can do to facilitate the process.

*Johanna Davis
USDA Farm Service Agency*

Growing Buffer Businesses**Room G**

This presentation will focus on the business aspects of installing & managing riparian buffers, including a review of learnings, challenges, and opportunities gleaned from the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional program's recent efforts to expand the network of trained professionals available to meet the growing demand for riparian buffer services.

*Beth Ginter
Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council*

Watershed Stewardship: The Riparian Buffer of Volunteerism**Room H**

In this session, you will hear how Penn State Extension's Master Watershed Steward Program works to protect local watersheds, connect volunteers with conservation partners, and how you can get involved. You will also experience a mini live stake workshop that covers the concept of live staking, as well as creating live stake nurseries.

*Travis Wingard and Amber Stilwell
Penn State Extension*

Room H

Agenda at a Glance

Wednesday, June 14

8:45 am	Continental breakfast (provided until 9:45 am) Lobby		
10:00 am	Welcome Room H		
10:15 am	Remarks from Leadership Room H		
10:45 am	Networking Break Lobby		
11:15 am	Breakout Sessions		
	Room F Trees for All!	Room G Highlights of Riparian Restoration: Encouraging Buffers plus Pre & Post Planting Considerations	Room H Vegetation Management Considerations and Challenges at Moderate Scale Sites
12:15 pm	Lunch (provided) Room H		
1:30 pm	Breakout Sessions		
	Room F Increasing Maintenance Capacity with Riparian Rangers Volunteers	Room G Organic Invasive Plant Control	Room H Funding 101 for Riparian Buffers and Lawn Conversion: A Panel Discussion
2:30 pm	Breakout Sessions		
	Room F Backyard Stream Repair: Engaging DIY Homeowners	Room G Engaging Communities to Create Watershed Friendly Properties	Room H Recent Findings of Research Trials on Reforestation Methods
3:15 pm	Networking Break Lobby		
4:00 pm	Nature's Best Hope Room H <i>Dr. Doug Tallamy</i>		
5:00 pm	Cash bar; TreeVia begins at 5:30 pm		

Agenda at a Glance

Thursday, June 15

6:30 am Continental breakfast (provided until 8:30 am) Lobby

8:30 am Strategic Thoughts on Riparian Forest Buffers and Resiliency in Watershed Restoration Room H
Matt Ehrhart

9:45 am Breakout Sessions

Room F
Vegetation Selection for
Riparian Restoration

Room G
Buffers and Lawn Con:
Where to Start?

Room H
Successful Partnerships
with Non-profits,
Government Agencies,
and Private Industry

10:30 am Networking Break Lobby

11:00 am Breakout Sessions

Room F
Lessons Learned In 5 Years
of Running a Reforestation
Program

Room G
Seeds to Success

Room H
Creating Native Plant
Communities

12:00 pm Lunch (provided) Room H

1:15 pm Breakout Sessions

Room F
Wildflower Meadows:
What's all the Buzz?

Room G
Making Buffers Work in
Agricultural Landscapes

Room H
How to Build A Buffer From
Start to Finish

2:15 pm Breakout Sessions

Room F
Let's Talk About CREP

Room G
Growing Buffer
Businesses

Room H
Watershed Stewardship:
The Riparian Buffer of
Volunteerism

3:00 pm Closing Remarks and Raffle Room H

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Doug Tallamy

*Entomologist, Author, and Co-founder
of Homegrown National Park*



Doug Tallamy is the T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 106 research publications and has taught insect-related courses for 41 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities.

His book *Bringing Nature Home* was published by Timber Press in 2007, *The Living Landscape*, co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014; *Nature's Best Hope*, a New York Times bestseller, was released in February 2020, and his latest book, *The Nature of Oaks*, was released in March 2021. His awards include recognition from The Garden Writer's Association, Audubon, The National Wildlife Federation, Western Carolina University, The Garden Club of America, and The American Horticultural Association. Doug lives with his wife, Cindy, on their restored property in Oxford, PA.

Matt Ehrhart

*Director of Watershed Restoration
Stroud Water Research Center*



In January 2013 Stroud launched their new Watershed Restoration Program. As Director, Matt is focused on building and managing a restoration program that integrates current science and technology into restoration and demonstrating how to maximize ecological and water quality outcomes while serving the needs of farms and communities. Further objectives include effectively leveraging federal and state resources and demonstrating how to improve public programs and public spending on conservation work. He is also active in state, regional and national policy issues.

Prior to moving to Stroud, Matt served as the Executive Director for the Pennsylvania office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) for over 18 years. Prior to working at CBF he worked as a private environmental consultant.

Mr. Ehrhart received his undergraduate degree in Environmental Resource Management and his Master of Engineering in Engineering Science from the Pennsylvania State University.

Speaker Biographies

Alysha Trexler

She/Her/Hers

Watershed Project Manager

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Alysha holds a BS in biology and a minor in chemistry. She has over 20 years of experience in biological and physical stream habitat assessment/monitoring, AMD remediation, ag BMPs, riparian improvement, education/outreach, and watershed project management. She and her family raise grassfed beef in Indiana County, demonstrating conservation practices and native plants on a working farm.

Amber Stilwell

She/Her/Hers

Master Watershed Steward Coordinator

Penn State Extension

Amber Stilwell is the Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Coordinator for Erie, Warren, and Crawford Counties. The program focus areas in Amber's region include aquatic invasive species, water quality, and native plant alternatives.

Ashley Spotts

She/Her/Hers

Restoration Biologist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Ashley Spotts has been serving Lancaster County in her capacity for the last 18 years working with the agricultural community to promote and implement riparian buffers. Prior to working with CBF, Ashley worked for NRCS.

Beth Ginter

She/Her/Hers

Executive Director

Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council

As CCLC's Executive Director, Beth leads training efforts across the region, through programs and publications which focus on conservation, green infrastructure, and workforce development.

Calen Wylie

He/Him/His

Watershed Restoration Assistant

Stroud Water Research Center

Calen has a BS in Environmental Biology from Millersville University. In the past 7 years, he has been working with Stroud to plan, design, and install roughly 275 acres of riparian buffers. More recently, he has started work on urban riparian buffers.

Colleen DeLong

She/Her/Hers

Conservation Landscape Biologist

Native Creations Landscape Services, Inc.

Colleen has been with Native Creations since January 2023. Before coming to work with Native Creations, Colleen was the Habitat Stewardship Biologist at ClearWater Conservancy for 7 years.

David Wise

He/Him/His

Watershed Restoration Manager

Stroud Water Research Center

David Wise is Watershed Restoration Manager for Stroud Water Research Center. His work included both ag BMPs & forested buffers. Dave also does trials to improve buffer restoration methods. Dave has degrees from Univ of Wisconsin & Penn State.

Speaker Biographies

Elyse Jurgen

She/Her/Hers

Owner and Founder
Waxwing EcoWorks Co.

Elyse Jurgen rebuilds ecological literacy and biodiversity through hands-on ecological gardening experiences. CBLP Certified, Ecological/Permaculture Designer, Mt. Cuba Center Ecological Gardening Certified, and Master's Degree in Environmental Ed.

Ian Caton

He/Him/His

Owner
Wood Thrush Native Plant Nursery

Ian Caton has been the owner/operator of Wood Thrush Native Plant Nursery since March of 2013. Previously Ian Caton had been an employee of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates (A Landscape firm specializing in the use and promotion of native plants in landscaping) since 2001. He graduated Delaware Valley College with a BS in Ornamental Horticulture and Environmental Design.

Jennifer Fetter

She/Her/Hers

Water Resources Educator
Penn State Extension

Jennifer Fetter is an Educator and Team Leader for Penn State Extension's Water Resources Program. She seeks innovative ways to educate audiences about watershed restoration, agricultural water issues, stormwater management, and safe drinking water.

Jeremy Thorne

He/Him/His

President
Thornecare Landscape Solutions

Jeremy has been working in the residential and commercial landscape field since High School. In 2014 he formed ThroneCare providing high end landscape designs and installations to a long list of clientele throughout Northeast and Central PA

Joe Hallinan

He/Him/His

Keystone Partnership Manager
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Joe Hallinan began as the Keystone Trees Partnership Manager in February 2023 but is no stranger to the program and supported it in his prior role as the Watershed Specialist for the Adams County Conservation District.

Johanna Davis

She/Her/Hers

Agricultural Program Specialist
USDA Farm Service Agency

Johanna Davis is an Agricultural Program Specialist with responsibilities for overseeing FSA conservation programs in Pennsylvania, including Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

John Levitsky

He/Him/His

Watershed Specialist
Luzerne Conservation District

John Levitsky consulted in wetland and watercourse delineation and mitigation design prior to his work as a Watershed Specialist for 8 yrs. His education includes Penn State Wildlife Technology and Survey Technology and worked 33 yrs in consulting.

Speaker Biographies

Dr. John Scherer

Resident and Community Educator

He/Him/His

John Scherer has a doctorate degree in Microbiology and is a lakefront property owner. He has observed the challenges of watershed management and considers community education as the key element to achieve success when working with HOAs.

Justin Ulanoski

President

He/Him/His

Native Creations Landscape Services, Inc.

Justin has worked in the conservation landscape field in 2005. In 2013, he formed Native Creations Landscape Services, Inc with a focus of conservation landscape practices mainly for residential, commercial, governmental and non-profit clients

Kevin Zuidervliet

Head Propagator

He/Him/His

Octoraro Native Plant Nursery

Kevin's passion for plants has taken him from farms on the Tasmanian shore to Longwood Gardens. He currently works as the Head Propagator at Octoraro Native Plant Nursery where he now focuses on producing the highest quality native trees and shrubs.

Kristen Hoke

Restoration Specialist

She/Her/Hers

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Kristen Hoke has been a Restoration Specialist for 9 years after previously working the Cumberland County Conservation and in private sector consulting for geo-technical and environmental engineering firms.

Kristen Koch

Program Manager

She/Her/Hers

Penn State Agricultural and Environment Center

Kristen Koch is a Program Manager for Penn State Ag and Environment Center. Her work focuses on building partnerships, outreach, developing educational resources, and coordinating volunteer events. She has interests in conservation landscaping, riparian buffers, and municipal stormwater. She has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Resource Management and a Master's in Public Administration from Penn State. Kristen is also a certified Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional trainer.

Laura Jackson

Landowner

She/Her/Hers

Laura Jackson is a retired environmental science and advanced biology teacher who loves to explore and photograph nature. She and her husband own a 120-acre mostly forested property in Bedford County and strive to establish diverse, sustainable wildlife habitats, including native wildflower meadows. Their property has been in a conservation easement with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy since 2010.

Nick Myers

Maintenance Supervisor

He/Him/His

LandStudies, Inc.

Nick has been with LandStudies for more than 10 years. He returned to LSI after finishing graduate school and living in five other states working for non-profit organizations, private industry, and municipal park systems.

Speaker Biographies

Rebecca Lauver

She/Her/Hers

Forests Projects Coordinator
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Rebecca works as the Forests Projects Coordinator for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay out of their Lancaster, PA office. She helps to plan and coordinate tree plantings, volunteer events, and maintenance of tree plantings.

Reneé Carey

She/Her/Hers

Executive Director
Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Reneé has been with the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy since 1994, becoming Executive Director in 1998. She is past President of WeConservePA, and still serves on the organization's board as well as its conference committee.

Rob Frank

He/Him/His

Forests Projects Coordinator
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Rob Frank is the Forests Projects Coordinator, out of the Lancaster office. He helps implement forest plantings and coordinates with volunteer efforts, including facilitating the Riparian Rangers program.

Ryan Davis

He/Him/His

Senior Forests Projects Manager
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Ryan joined the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's PA office in April 2017. He is the Senior Forests Projects Manager, where he focuses on reforestation, forest management, and education within the watershed in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York.

Susan Boser

She/Her/Hers

Water Resources Educator
Penn State Extension

Susan Boser is a Water Resources Educator with Penn State Extension. She graduated from West Virginia University, where she majored in Environmental Protection.

Travis Wingard

He/Him/His

Master Watershed Steward Coordinator
Penn State Extension

Travis Wingard, Master Watershed Steward Coordinator joined Penn State Extension in January 2021 and has a background in secondary education, staff management, writing, and editing. His favorite topics are land use history and ecology.

Tyler Groh

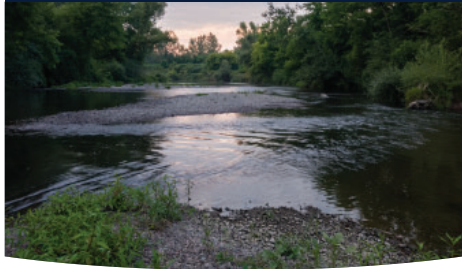
He/Him/His

Assistant Research Professor
Penn State University

Tyler Groh's research and extension programs at Penn State focus on agricultural water quality and stream health with a focus on how best management practices, such as riparian buffers, can impact water quality in various landscapes.



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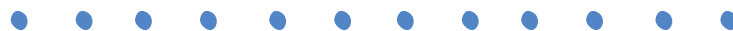


Notes and Ideas



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