Presenter Bios

Jose Alminana joined Andropogon Associates in 1983 and has been a principal since 1995. Trained as a landscape architect and architect, José excels at thinking outside the box, while still unearthing the realities of innovative construction techniques. With a passion for detail, José strives to create sensitive, sustainable designs that respond directly to each site’s unique environmental conditions. He has directed a diversity of design and planning projects, from restoring urban parks and designing corporate campuses to planning new mixed-use communities. José is a visiting lecturer at Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Design.

Mary Pat Appel, horticulturalist, ISA Certified Arborist and ISA Municipal Specialist, joined Brown Hill Tree Company as a plant health care specialist and arborist consultant. She received her education in Horticultural Technology in 2002 from Luzerne County Community College. She brings to the company 8 years of diagnostic experience from her previous work at Penn State Cooperative Extension. As part of the Penn State Master Gardener steering committee, Mary Pat was also responsible for updating training manuals and publications for Master Gardener training. Mary Pat created and wrote the horticulture newsletter called “Trowel and Leisure”, and is the recipient of several awards including the 2007 Watershed Stewardship Award from the Luzerne Conservation District and Outstanding Adult Learning Award from Luzerne County Community College.

Vinnie Cotrone is an urban forester for Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Christine Dettore is the Open Space Coordinator for Monroe County. She has the responsibility for the implementation of the County’s Open Space Program. Christine earned a B.A. in Geography with a concentration in Environmental Planning from Bloomsburg University. In her spare time Christine likes to spend time with her family, run, garden, and relax at her pool. Christine also serves as Vice Chairperson of the Dalton Borough (Lackawanna County) Planning Commission and Chair of the Northeast Section Council for the Pennsylvania Planning Association.
Paula DeVore has been in the landscape design and horticultural industry for over 30 years, and has been the Green Parks Coordinator for the State Park system for almost three. She graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture and worked as the landscape designer for four landscape nurseries as well as private consulting, before she started her own Landscape and Greenhouse business. In her current position as the Green Parks Coordinator, she works with the 117 state parks to promote green, sustainable practices. The practices become a management tool that not only lowers the parks’ carbon footprints, but also promotes practices that save money.

Rich Dolesh is the Senior Director of Public Policy for the National Recreation and Parks Association and has been involved in the national Sustainable Sites Initiative since its creation.

Tom Ford is the Chief of the Regional Customer Service and Policy Division for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (BRC). In this capacity, he oversees the operation of the six regional offices and the provision of technical assistance through these offices to potential grant recipients. Tom is heavily involved in the Department’s land acquisition program and BRC policy and planning work. Previously Tom worked for the PA Fish and Boat Commission as the Director of Policy, Planning and Operations and in the Policy Office in the Department of Environmental Resources as an Environmental Policy Specialist where he was heavily involved in program planning, development and implementation. His work experience has focused significantly on water related issues, wildlife and wildlife habitat and conservation funding. A Pittsburgh native, he attended Carnegie Mellon University from 1985 to 1990. He graduated with a BS in Industrial Management in 1989 and with an MS from the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management in 1990.

Kelleann Foster RLA, ASLA is an Associate Professor and Interim Department Head in Penn State’s Landscape Architecture Department. She has over 25 years of practice experience and 20 years teaching at Penn State. Her expertise includes community design and planning, with emphasis on the relationship between policies and the impact of their implementation, especially in how the public understands the results. Her recent work focuses on building awareness about the opportunities available for a career as a landscape architect. Kelleann recently authored a book, part of John Wiley & Sons, Careers in Design, series, titled “Becoming a Landscape Architect.”
Art Gover is a Research Support Associate with the Roadside Vegetation Management Research Project, of the Department of Horticulture at the Penn State University. His research projects include management of specific weed species, such as tree-of-heaven, Japanese knotweed and Canada thistle; evaluation of alternative plant species for roadside conservation plantings; and comparisons of equipment, herbicides and procedures for managing roadside vegetation. The Research Project also conducts two annual educational conferences, and provides continuing education training for PennDOT's personnel and contractors, as well as herbicide applicators in non-crop settings. Art is a member of the Pa. Invasive & Noxious Plant Working Group; a past-president of the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council; and served on the Executive Committee of the Northeastern Weed Science Society. He earned a B.S. in Plant Science for Penn State in 1985 and a M.S. in Agronomy in Penn State 2003.

Paul Grella is a Project Manager for the Watershed Management Program of the Department of Environmental Protection, Northeast Regional Office.

Dr. Jeffrey Keller is a restoration ecologist with nearly 25 years of experience. He holds a BS in biology from Penn State and masters and doctoral degrees in wildlife ecology from Cornell. Jeff has a wide range of ecological experience including landscape design to control nuisance species, stream channel restoration design and the design of created wetlands to filter stormwater runoff. His diverse list of clients includes Walt Disney Company, T. Rowe Price, Johnson & Johnson, the City of Philadelphia and the Trump Organization.

Paul Lumia is the Executive Director of the North Branch Land Trust, a land conservation non-profit that has conserved over 10,800 acres in eight northeastern Pennsylvania Counties. Mr. Lumia is a graduate of Lehigh University with a BA in Economics and The University of Pennsylvania with a Masters in Environmental Studies and Land Use Management. Paul has also worked in the financial sector and manufacturing, as well as serving eight years as a Field Artillery Officer in the United States Army and Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Go to www.nblt.org for additional information on North Branch and their work in NE PA.

John Mauser is a retired math teacher with over thirty years spent as a volunteer in various environmental organizations. He was the founding president of the Hokendauqua Chapter of Trout Unlimited as well as the Martins-Jacoby Watershed Association. John has recently completed a $1.2 million project which consisted of a visitor center, park and ride, and a trail system for Lower Mount Bethel Township in Northampton County. John's
favorite projects are fish habitat and stream bank stabilization projects along the banks of trout streams in Northampton County.

**Sister Anne Munley** IHM, Ph.D. was elected the 11th President of Marywood University in 2007. Prior to her presidency, Sister Anne served as the Executive Director of the African Sisters Education Collaborative. Sister Anne earned a bachelor's degree in sociology, history and government from Marywood. She also holds a master's degree in sociology from The Catholic University of America and a Ph.D. in sociology from Boston College. Her professional background includes service as the Director of Programs and Social Mission for the International Union of Superiors General in Rome, Italy, and as President of the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Sister Anne previously served Marywood as its Director of Planning and Institutional Research and Coordinator of Title III and also was an assistant professor of sociology. Sister Anne is also a prolific writer.

**Pamela Parsons** is currently Associate Professor at Marywood University, coordinator of painting programs and co-manager of the university’s Land Design/Environmental Remediation Initiative, or the *Mary’s Garden* project planned for campus. She studied art at Boston University and then Indiana University in Bloomington, IN, where she earned an MFA degree in painting. Parsons’ own works are inspired by the natural world. She maintains a studio in mid-coast Maine and is represented by the G. Watson Gallery in Stoningon. Notable awards include the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant for figurative painting, Montreal, Quebec, and regionally, the F. Lammot Belin Arts Scholarship, Waverly, Pa. Public collections include the Sheldon Swope Art Museum, Terre Haute and the Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, In.

**Linda Dugan Partridge** holds a Ph.D. in art history from the University of Delaware, where she specialized in art of the U.S. and wrote her dissertation on the work of John James Audubon. She is currently Associate Professor of art history at Marywood University. At Marywood she is also co-project manager of the Land Design/Environmental Remediation Initiative (design by Patricia Johanson) and co-directs the Fresh Perspectives-New Solutions Visiting Environmental Artist series. In both her research and teaching she continues to explore relationships between the natural sciences and the arts.

**Liz Ratchford** is the Director of Community Development for Factoryville Borough and Clinton Township. She has also held the position of Chairperson of The Factoryville Shade Tree Commission since the establishment of the commission in 1999. Since 2001, she has also filled the role of Administrator for the Clinton Township and Factoryville Borough Joint Municipal Park Board. She holds a B.S. from the University of Scranton.
Krista Schneider is a licensed landscape architect and a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) accredited professional. She is employed with Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. in Hazleton, Pa., where she designs parks, gardens and urban streetscapes. In 2008, she founded the Center for Landscape Design & Stewardship, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes environmental and community sustainability. Ms. Schneider is also a founding principal of Heritage Strategies, LLC., a professional consulting firm. Ms. Schneider’s prior academic experience includes the University of Kentucky where she served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and as an associate faculty member in the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation. Ms. Schneider has also received awards for her design work and published a book and several articles about landscape design, planning and preservation. She is a graduate of Penn State and Harvard University, and was an officer in the US Army Quartermaster Corps.

Richard (Dick) Snyder has been dedicated to the betterment of Milford since his permanent move there from Manhattan in 1991. An active member of the Historic Preservation Trust for many years (vice-president 2003 – 2007), he has chaired the Trust’s Milford Enhancement Committee since founding it in 1997. Dick co-owns the Hotel Fauchere and the Historic Milford Schoolhouse and owns Milford Professional Park and Sawkill Business Center. He also has a breeding herd of over 70 llamas. Dick’s past civic activities include the Pike County Conservation District, the Pike County Library Building Committee, American Readers Theater and Pinchot Institute for Conservation. Dick, born in Carlisle, Pa., is a Penn State graduate. A certified public accountant, he served in various executive management positions until 1991 when he retired from Philip Morris International where he was executive vice president, Europe-Middle East-Africa.

Bernard W. Sweeney is Director, President and Senior Research Scientist at the Stroud Water Research Center, an independent research institution focused on stream and river ecology in Pennsylvania. He is also Vice-President of the Asociacion Centro de Investigacion Stroud, a non-profit Costa Rican corporation established to facilitate research and educational programs on tropical stream ecology. He has an adjunct Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2008, he was appointed to co-lead the Freshwater section of the International DNA Barcode for Life project. He serves as board of directors President for the Georgia Farm Foundation and as an advisor on the Dept. of Environmental Protection’s Flood Protection and Storm Water Manual Committees and the Brandywine Conservancy’s Environmental Committee.
Craig Tod has been employed at the Monroe County Conservation District for over twenty-eight years, with twenty-one of those serving as District Manager. Craig has a B.A. in Environmental Sciences from East Stroudsburg University. He has served on the Delaware River Basin Commission’s Watershed Advisory Council, DEP Wetland Protection Advisory Committee and Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Stormwater. He also participated in the development of EPA’s Land Use Guide for Growing Communities and PA DEP Office of Policy Wetlands Protection Manual for Local Governments. He received the National Wetlands Newsletter Annual Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Wetlands Conservation by the Environmental Law Institute and the Mark Lichty Founders Award by the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce.

Kevin Wenner currently serves as Wildlife Management Supervisor for the Game Commission, overseeing all NE Region biologist activities and coordinating all wildlife management programs, identifying research needs, recommending management changes and overseeing a variety of regional wildlife management functions. Some activities and programs of note are: Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP), Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance, bear tagging research efforts and bird surveys. Previous to this Kevin was responsible for the Private Landowner's Assistance Program and the Barn Owl Conservation Initiative. Kevin has also provided technical assistance and referred landowners to the State Wildlife Grants Program (SWG) and Farm Bill Programs.

Todd Wescott joined Burkavage Design Associates in 2005 as a leading proponent for sustainable design. His ongoing research and design work contribute to continually-developing design standards for the firm’s architects, engineers and designers. With 12 years experience in locations around the country, Todd is responsible for projects across a wide range of project types and clients, with total project construction costs exceeding $55 million. His work balances a lifetime of interest in sciences and the arts, and supports his commitment to education. He lives in Dalton with his wife and three sons.