2018 Riparian Forest Buffer Summit
Ramada Inn and Conference Center
State College, PA
February 28 – March 1, 2018
Agenda and Session Details

February 28, 2018

9:00 am – 10:00 am  **Registration**  | Conference Lobby

10:00 am – 10:15 am  **Welcome**  | Grand Ballroom
Matt Keefer, Assistant State Forester, DCNR Bureau of Forestry

10:15 am – 11:00 am  **Considering Our Ways to Make a Difference in Improving Water Quality with Power, Inspiration and Encouragement**  | Grand Ballroom
The former Northeast Regional Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arkansas Hall of Famer will share her journey in the world of conservation. She will focus on our individual quantum leaps to great partnerships- human dynamics, listening, and straight talk.
* Mamie A. Parker, Ma Parker & Associates

11:15 am – 12:00 pm  **Breakout Sessions**

**Managing Weeds to Succeed: Invasive Plant Interventions**  | Chairman’s Room
Empowering managers with practices and principles to address interfering vegetation in riparian forest buffers. This course offers two (2) pesticide recertification training credits for the following categories: PC, 05, 10, 18, and 23.
* Ben Mummert, Stewardship Director, Central Pennsylvania Conservancy

**A Collective Landscape Approach- Practical Examples, Methods, & Training Options for Enhancing Properties with Buffers & Other BMPs**  | Director’s Room
How can we design riparian buffers as part of broader social-ecological systems to make them more effective? We will show an example in Mifflin County and present options for a collaborative landscape fund. There will be a focus on the integration of design elements with ecology while working with a local group of Amish in the Kish Valley.
* Frans J.G. Padt, Associate Teaching Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture & Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, & Education, Penn State University;
  * Andy Cole, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture & Ecology, Penn State University

**Buffer Funding 101- Options for Funding Buffers in PA**  | Executive Forum
From CREP to TreeVitalize, there are a variety of ways to fund riparian forest buffer plantings in PA. Discover the ins and outs of each type of funding and learn about how to find the best fit funding for your buffer planting sites.
* Kelly Rossiter, Rivers Program Specialist, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation;
  * Joel Semke, REAP Coordinator, State Conservation Commission;
  * Peter Hoagland, State Forester, USDA-NRCS;
  * Alexis Tirado, Agricultural Program Specialist, USDA-FSA Pennsylvania;
  * Mark Hockley, Tree Canopy Coordinator, DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Soil Bioengineering and Live Staking Buffer Planting | Grand Ballroom
Soil bioengineering is the practice of using living plant materials to structurally stabilize eroding stream banks, lake shores, and riparian area soils. The techniques vary from planting single cut-stems of quick-rooting woody species, known as live stakes, in the disturbed soils to more intensive practices using densely grouped bundles or layers of stems to physically reconstruct a failing bank. The technique can be used alone or in combination with other structural stabilization approaches, such as using logs and/or stone materials. There are many benefits of incorporating soil bioengineering practices into restoration projects, including adding long-term, self-sustaining structure to the soil and improving habitat value, biodiversity, and functionality of the buffer in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Kylie Maland, Watershed Manager, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm   Lunch | Atrium

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm   Breakout Sessions

Water Words That Work Part 1: The Perils of Preaching to the Choir | Director’s Room
Discover how to spot the signs of “preaching to the choir” and recognize when you are sending messages that miss the mark or antagonize your audience. This session spans two breakout sessions and you must attend from 1:00 pm to 2:45 pm.

Eric Eckl, Owner/Trainer, Water Words that Work

Planting Plan Development Basics | Chairman’s Room
Learn about regional and site-specific factors to consider when designing riparian buffers.

Jim Gillis, State Biologist, USDA NRCS;
Trevor Weaver, Watershed/Outreach Specialist, Mifflin County Conservation District

Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership (K10): Collective Action | Executive Forum
The Pennsylvania Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan, PA in the Balance, and Lancaster in the Balance are all forms of collective impact - collaboration across different agencies, businesses, and organizations to achieve lasting change on a state and county level through a common agenda. The Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership is launching with the same intention, to leverage these initiatives and to create systemic change across the state that leads to clean streams and healthy soils. The collective strength of our experience, initiative, and ideas is necessary for us to create change and plant 10 million trees in PA by 2025. This session will stimulate creativity, “out of the box” thinking, shared ideas and strategy on moving ahead.

Molly Cheatum, Restoration Manager, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Leveraging MS4 Permit Requirements to Plant More Buffers | Grand Ballroom
Non-profits and funding agencies are interested in participating in riparian buffer projects and many municipalities have a regulatory obligation to improve water quality. This presentation will explain how to tie the two goals together to engage local government and develop partnerships.

Erin G. Letavic, P.E., Civil Engineering Project Manager, Herbert Rowland & Grubic Inc;
Tyler Erb, MS4 Environmental Department, Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm  **Breakout Sessions**

**Water Words That Work Part 1: The Perils of Preaching to the Choir (continued) | Director’s Room**
Learn how to spot the signs of “preaching to the choir” and recognize when you are sending messages that miss the mark or antagonize your audience. **This session spans two breakout sessions and you must attend from 1:00 pm to 2:45 pm.**
Eric Eckl, Owner/Trainer, Water Words that Work

**The Hemlock Dilemma: Reforesting Streamides Impacted by Hemlock Wooly Adelgid | Chairman’s Room**
Learn best practices for replacing and supplementing riparian forest buffers that have suffered the impacts of the tree-destroying invasive pest, Hemlock Wooly Adelgid.
Nate Reagle, Fisheries Biologist and Forester, DCNR Bureau of Forestry

**Legacy Sediments & Buffers: Guidelines for Effective Practices | Executive Forum**
Historic (legacy) sediment is ubiquitous in mid-Atlantic valley bottoms, and often associated with high banks and rates of bank erosion. We use lidar DEM differencing to show where bank erosion rates are lowest to highest, and consider ways to use information on legacy sediment and its erosion to inform riparian buffer management and practices. In some cases, as documented at the Big Spring Run wetland-floodplain restoration site, removal of historic sediment and establishment of a sedge and grass riparian buffer leads to tremendous ecosystem benefits.
Dr. Dorothy Merritts, The Harry W. & Mary B. Huffnagle Professor of Geoscience, Department of Earth and Environment at Franklin and Marshall College; Jeffrey Hartranft, Water Program Specialist, Bureau of Waterways Engineering & Wetlands, DEP

**Getting from Planning to Planted: Working with Contractors, Volunteers, and Nurseries | Grand Ballroom**
Coordinating a riparian restoration project is more than just putting trees in the ground. Each planting project has its own set of challenges, and there are many things to coordinate and often months between the time of site identification and planting day. This session will offer tips and suggestions for how to best approach a riparian restoration project. Learn about tree selection and supply choices based on site conditions, how to coordinate volunteers or hire a contractor, the timing of when to place orders and when to plant. Plus, learn to estimate how much time it will take to plant a site.
Alysha Trexler, Wetland Scientist/Project Manager, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm  **Networking and Refreshments | Conference Lobby**

3:30 pm – 4:15 pm  **Breakout Sessions**

**It Takes a Village: Leveraging Partnerships for Successful Buffer Plantings | Chairman’s Room**
Wildlands Conservancy and Allegheny County Conservation District/Allegheny Watershed Alliance will each share case studies detailing how they have separately collaborated to group regional buffer planting projects to leverage funding and efforts in order to implement riparian forest buffers.
Kate Ebel, Senior Environmental Scientist, Wildlands Conservancy; Rebecca Zeyzus, Stormwater Program Lead, Allegheny County Conservation District/Executive Director, Allegheny Watershed Alliance
Involving Master Watershed Steward Volunteers in Your Buffer Projects | Director’s Room
Learn how the Master Watershed Steward program can assist with your riparian buffer projects and help advance your organization’s goals.
Rebecca Kennedy, Project Specialist, PENNVEST & President, Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley

How Buffers Will Play a Role in Chesapeake Bay Phase III WIP | Executive Forum
Over the coming year, Pennsylvania will be developing its Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL in coordination with local areas across the commonwealth. This presentation will highlight some of the data and tools available to Pennsylvania and local areas to identify and implement buffer opportunities as part of watershed planning efforts.
Emily Trentacoste, PhD, Environmental Scientist, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Findings from Stroud’s Research on Reforestation Methods | Grand Ballroom
This session presents results of trials on a variety of methods including: deer fencing, success on legacy sediments, initial stock type, "center hole" bird net method, methods to reduce vole damage, tree shelter options for shade, pre-emergence herbicide used inside shelters, overcoming multiflora rose/reed canary grass and new trials underway.
David Wise, Watershed Restoration Manager, Stroud Water Research Center

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm Voices of the Land | Grand Ballroom
What motivates farmers to do more to reduce erosion and runoff from their land into public waterways? And what are the telltale signs of a farmer who might be receptive to your offer? What does it take for you to close that deal? In this inspiring keynote, you will hear straight from Michigan’s successful conservation field staff, the most accomplished ambassadors to the MI farming community, what it takes to succeed and get more conservation practices in the ground. Learn about our upcoming focus in the Chesapeake Bay.
Eric Eckl, Owner/Trainer, Water Words That Work

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Networking and Riparian Social | Conference Lobby
Vendor fair and cash bar open

Dinner on your own
March 1, 2018

7:30 am – 8:30 am  **Breakfast | Restaurant**  
Provided by Ramada for overnight hotel guests only

8:30 am – 9:15 am  **Breakout Sessions**

**Water Words That Work Part 2: The Environmental Message Method, Steps 1-4 | Director’s Room**
You will learn a proven step-by-step method to translate professional-caliber information into messages for the general public. This session spans two breakout sessions and you must attend from 8:30am to 10:15am.
*Eric Eckl, Owner/Trainer, Water Words that Work*

**Fruits and Florals for Profit | Chairman’s Room**
While riparian buffers are promoted mostly for the good of the environment, landowners must see the value to them if they are to adopt buffers. Many landowners place high value on using land productively, either for own use or for income. We’ll explore integrating fruits and florals for human use within buffers, as a way of engaging landowners and increasing adoption.
*Austin Unruh, Owner, Crow and Berry Land Management; Kathy Demchak, Senior Extension Associate, Penn State University*

**Southwings: Using the Power of Flight to See Environmental Challenges and Inspire Creative Conservation Solutions | Executive Forum**
Founded in 1996, SouthWings is a non-profit conservation organization that advocates for the restoration and protection of the ecosystems and biodiversity of the Southeast through flight. Operating in the Chesapeake region since 2016, SouthWings focuses on revealing environmental challenges related to healthy watersheds, wetlands, and wildlife - with a particular lens in the Chesapeake on mitigating sea level rise, promoting coastal resilience, improving water quality, and understanding changes in wildlife distributions related to climate change. Learn how SouthWings flights have been used to target cells for wetland restoration in the Gulf and transform forestry practices in the Southern Appalachians - and how SouthWings flights may be used to highlight established riparian buffers for protection and identify new areas prime for riparian buffer installation in Pennsylvania.
*Shannon Lyons, Chesapeake Program Director, SouthWings*

**Prime Prospects: Prioritizing Private Riparian Buffer Restoration | Grand Ballroom**
Learn about how marketing analysis can improve conservation returns on outreach investments, and how you can partner with DCNR to utilize data obtained from the Prime Prospects project.
*Dr. Alexander L. Metcalf, Research Assistant Professor, W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana; Kelsey Miller, Riparian Forest Buffer Technician, DCNR Bureau of Forestry; Rick Conrad, Service Forester, DCNR Bureau of Forestry*

9:30 am – 10:15 am  **Breakout Sessions**

**Water Words That Work Part 2: The Environmental Message Method (continued) | Director’s Room**
You will learn a proven step-by-step method to translate professional-caliber information into messages for the general public. This session spans two breakout sessions and you must attend from 8:30am to 10:15am.
Eric Eckl, Owner/Trainer, Water Words that Work
**Riparian Forest Buffers for Pollinator and Wildlife Habitat** | Executive Forum
Learn how forested riparian corridors can be a lifeline to terrestrial wildlife, how to easily incorporate habitat into buffer plantings, and how pollinators and wildlife can be valuable persuasive tools to increase forest buffer implementation.
Ryan Davis, Forests Program Manager, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

**Precision Conservation in the Susquehanna River Watershed: Datasets and Tools for Parcel-Level Planning** | Chairman’s Room
Learn about Chesapeake Conservancy’s work in the Susquehanna River Watershed, and the tools they’ve developed to help plan for and prioritize riparian forest buffer conservation and restoration work.
Adrienne Gemberling, Susquehanna Technical Coordinator, Chesapeake Conservancy

**Planting Buffers on Non-Ag Lands: How to Sell Backyard and Urban Buffers** | Grand Ballroom
Riparian restoration projects can be designed to meet the needs of all landowners regardless of property size or stream width. This session will provide guidance on how to talk to non-agricultural and small tract landowners about riparian restoration. It will also offer talking points on how to communicate the benefits of riparian buffers to community planners.
Alysha Trexler, Wetland Scientist/Project Manager, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

10:15 am – 11:00 am  **Networking and Refreshments** | Lobby Area

11:15 am – 12:00 pm  **Lessons Learned: Sharing Contractor Insights for Successful Buffers** | Grand Ballroom
This session will share insights from a recent meeting of contractors and NGO’s involved in installing forested buffers. Hear about tips for success and pitfalls to avoid.
David Wise, Watershed Restoration Manager, Stroud Water Research Center

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  **Lunch** | Atrium

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm  **A Few Words from DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn** | Grand Ballroom
Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

1:30 pm – 2:15 pm  **Breakout Sessions**

**Use and Utilization of FieldDoc: A Platform for Tracking Restoration** | Director’s Room
Working in partnership with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Chesapeake Commons developed FieldDoc, an easy to use platform for reporting metrics associated with voluntary restoration efforts. This presentation will share how FieldDoc is changing the way practitioners collect, manage, and share information on grant funded restoration efforts as well as outline an exciting new set of features on deck for 2018.
R. John Dawes, Executive Director, Chesapeake Commons
Forest Buffer at Happy Hollow Farm: Our Land Management Learning Lab | Executive Forum
We will present the vision of, preparation for, and experiences with the first 7 years of our multifunctional forest buffer. We discuss what we did well as well as what we could have done better. We will include ideas for how TSPs can assist others seeking to install multifunctional buffers or limit herbicide use. Finally, we will share some thoughts on how to reach other landowners with similar interests.
Don and Ann English, Owners of Happy Hollow Farm in Stewartstown, PA

Landowner Decision Making: What inspires landowners to implement a buffer? A panel discussion | Grand Ballroom
An opportunity to hear from landowners and understand their unique perspectives.
Bill Chain, Senior Agriculture Program Manager, Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Panel of Central PA Farmers and Landowners with Riparian Forest Buffers

Boots on the Ground: Improving Technical Assistance for Farmers | Chairman’s Room
To meet water quality goals for Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, widespread adoption of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) is required. While most discussion of policy to achieve these goals has focused on support of the practices themselves, implementation will not be possible without the conservation professionals who advise farmers, write farm-specific environmental plans, engineer practices and guide their implementation.
Marel King, Pennsylvania Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm Networking and Refreshments | Conference Lobby

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm Buffer Maintenance Challenges, Best Practices, and Possible Solutions | Grand Ballroom
Presenters will discuss the critical importance of maintaining riparian forest buffers after your planting has been completed, and offer the latest best practices and solutions to challenges. Several different perspectives will be shared, followed by an open Q&A session for the panel.
Art Gover, Research Support Associate, Penn State Wildland Weed Management.; David Wise, Watershed Restoration Manager, Stroud Water Research Center; Hannah Smith-Brubaker, Executive Director of PASA and Farmer at Village Acres Farm in Mifflintown, PA

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm Why Riparian Forest Buffers are Worth It: Funders’ Perspectives | Grand Ballroom
Sharing visions for PA’s future riparian forest buffer restoration efforts.
Jake Reilly, Director, Chesapeake Bay Programs, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; Brion Johnson, Executive Director, PennVEST; John Dawes, Executive Director, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds