



**2008 Keystone Coldwater Conference
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Presenter Biographies

Meredith Bartron

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Northeast Fishery Center
PO Box 75
227 Washington Ave.
Lamar, PA 16848
(570) 726-4995 ext 5
Meredith_bartron@fws.gov

Meredith is the regional geneticist for the northeast region of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at the Northeast Fishery Center Conservation Genetics Lab in Lamar, Pennsylvania. She received her PhD from Michigan State University and BS from the University of Montana. The Conservation Genetics Lab is focused on the application of genetic principles and techniques to conservation and management issues. Focus areas of research include broodstock management, interaction between genetic population structure and habitat, and the use of genetics for management of threatened or endangered species.

Jason Detar

Habitat Biologist
PA Fish and Boat Commission
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 359-5119
jdetar@state.pa.us

Jason is a fisheries biologist with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. As a regional biologist, Jason works with both lotic and lentic systems throughout the north-central region of the state, with a large portion of his time focused on trout management. Before coming to the Commission, Jason earned a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Penn State University and an M.S. in Biology from Tennessee Tech University.

Rebecca L. Dunlap

W. Branch Susquehanna Restoration Project Manager
Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 27
Mill Hall, PA 17751
(570) 726-3118
rdunlap@tu.org

Becky's work with Trout Unlimited began as an intern with TU's Kettle Creek Home Rivers Initiative. Armed with the experiences gained through this program, she went on to receive her B.S. and M.S. in biology with a focus on aquatic ecology. Before coming back to TU she served as the Water Resources Coordinator for the ClearWater Conservancy located in the heart of Pennsylvania. Becky resides in the beautiful Appalachians, enjoys all things outdoors, and has even been known to tie a fly or two.

Matt Royer

Chesapeake Bay Foundation
614 N. Front Street, Suite G
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 234-5550
mroyer@cbf.org

Matt is the Pennsylvania Attorney for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the largest conservation organization dedicated solely to saving the Chesapeake Bay watershed. At CBF, Matt is directly involved in the organization's legal, policy, and outreach work in Pennsylvania. Matt is also a steering committee member of the Pennsylvania Campaign for Clean Water, a coalition of over 100 organizations proactively involved in water policy in Pennsylvania. Prior to joining CBF, Matt was a staff attorney for Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, specializing in watershed issues. He has also served as assistant counsel for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, an associate at the law firm of McNees, Wallace & Nurick, and law clerk to the Honorable Ernest C. Torres of the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island. Matt received his bachelor's degree in biology from Dartmouth College in 1993 and his law degree from Duke University School of Law in 1996.

Robert M. Ryder

Water Pollution Biologist
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality Assessment and Standards
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street, PO Box 8467
Harrisburg, PA 17105
(717) 783-7574
rryder@state.pa.us

Rob has been a Water Pollution Biologist with the PA DEP since 2001, and works out of the central office in Harrisburg. His primary responsibilities are assessing streams for inclusion into the High Quality and Exceptional Value Special Protection Program and helping design the scientific biomonitoring protocols that DEP biologists use statewide. Rob is currently involved with assigning acid-tolerance values to individual benthic macroinvertebrate genera. He obtained a BS in Ecology and Evolution from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Science in Biology from California University of PA. He is also a Chief Warrant Officer in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Larry Schweiger
President and CEO
National Wildlife Federation
11100 Wildlife Center Drive
Reston, VA 20190-6450
(703) 438-6455

Larry became President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) in March 2004 with a commitment to confront global warming to protect wildlife for our children's future, connect people to nature, and restore America's wildlife heritage. National Wildlife Federation is America's conservation organization, with 48 affiliates and more than four million supporters. Larry also currently serves as Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Climate Protection.

Previously, Larry served for eight years as President and CEO of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, where he pioneered and promoted a number of programs, including expanded ecological research and community outreach in high priority conservation areas.

Larry is an active community leader, having served on more than 40 governing boards, commissions and committees. He has received many awards for his efforts in conservation, including the Distinguished Service Award for Special Conservation Achievement from the National Wildlife Federation in June 1995, and the Conservation Service Award from the Christian Environmental Association in September 1995. He was selected as Pennsylvania's Environmental Professional of the Year in 2002. Larry is married to Clara Schweiger and has three adult daughters, two-son-in-laws, and one grandson, Thadius.

William E. Sharpe
Professor Emeritus of Forest Hydrology
Penn State University
312 Forest Resources Building
University Park, PA 16801
(814) 865 4244
WES@psu.edu

Bill is a Professor Emeritus of Forest Hydrology at Penn State University. Over the past 35 years he has worked on a variety of environmental and conservation projects, many of which involved cold water resources. Currently, he is working with graduate student Shawn Rummel on an investigation of trout movement following stocking in combination with a continuation of the trout distribution study on Sinking Creek.

Bernard Sweeney
Director and President
Stroud Water Research Center
970 Spencer Road
Avondale, PA 19311
(610) 268-2153, ext. 222
sweeney@stroudcenter.org

Berne is Director, President, and Senior Research Scientist at the Stroud Water Research Center, an independent research institution focused on stream and river ecology located 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 related to tropical stream ecology. He has an adjunct Professor appointment at the University of Pennsylvania in the Biology Department and School of Veterinary Medicine. His research interests include the ecology of stream

invertebrates, the role of streamside forests in the structure and function of streams, the genetic structure and secondary production of aquatic insects, stream pollution assessment, and stream restoration. He received the 2003 “National Award of Excellence in Conservation” from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service for his research and work on the restoration of streams and their riparian corridors. In 2006, he received the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the “Margaret Douglas National Medal” from the Garden Club of America for achievement in conservation education.

Shandor Szalay
Senior Project Manager
AKRF, Inc.
100 Center Blvd., Suite 102H/J
Marlton, NJ 08053
(856) 797-9930 x1628
sszalay@akrf.com

Shandor is an applied water resources scientist, watershed planner, and aquatic systems restoration designer with specialized training in applied fluvial geomorphology, ecological design, open channel hydraulics, and natural stream channel design. Mr. Szalay has designed and/or managed numerous stream restoration projects for a range of public and private clients in Pennsylvania and New Jersey involving the full range of restoration technologies: bioengineering and structural bank stabilization, in-stream habitat enhancement, dam removal, channel relocation and redesign, and riparian buffer enhancement.

Mr. Szalay is an active member of the American Water Resources Association and Pennsylvania’s Keystone Stream Team. He recently served as an invited peer-reviewer for the National River Restoration Synthesis Project. Mr. Szalay is Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Villanova University where he co-teaches a graduate-level course entitled River Mechanics and Engineering. Mr. Szalay is currently co-authoring portions of the New Jersey Flood Hazard Control Area Act Technical Manual addressing stream channel restoration. Mr. Szalay also serves on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Raritan River Basin Alliance’s River-Friendly Program for businesses and golf courses.

Bob Wendelgass
Clean Water Action
National Deputy Director
100 N. 17th Street, 9th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 640-8800
bwendelgass@cleanwater.org

Robert is Deputy Director for Clean Water Action, helping to direct the organization’s field offices around the country. He was Pennsylvania State Director for Clean Water Action for sixteen years, coordinating Clean Water Action’s campaigns to protect Pennsylvania’s rivers, streams and watersheds, to strengthen standards protecting drinking water, and to reduce toxic exposure and contamination.

Under his leadership, Clean Water Action organized a coalition of parents, teachers and public health activists that won passage of landmark legislation protecting children from pesticide use in public schools. Mr. Wendelgass helped form and chairs the Pennsylvania Campaign for Clean Water, a coalition of over 140 state, regional and local watershed groups that has helped dramatically improve state rules governing the management of stormwater and increasing protection for wetlands in the

state. Clean Water Action has led or participated in numerous campaigns to protect the health of the state's environment and residents, including the recent campaign to tighten standards for mercury emissions from power plants. Mr. Wendelgass also oversaw Clean Water Action's local organizing work which has secured improvements at Sunoco's South Philadelphia refinery, tightened standards for discharges into various local waterways.

Wendelgass has a BA from Syracuse University, with dual majors in Urban Studies and Economics.

Charles E. Williams

Western PA Conservancy

40 W. Main Street

Ridgeway, PA 15853

(814) 776-1115

cwilliams@paconserve.org

Chuck is Upper Allegheny Watershed Manager for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Ridgway Field Office. His professional interests include ecology and management of riparian forests, forest-stream linkages, and historical ecology of Allegheny High Plateau rivers and forests. Prior to joining WPC, Chuck was Professor and Chair of the Biology Department at Clarion University.

Mike Wilson

Southeast Montgomery Trout Unlimited Chapter

6216 Argyle Street

Philadelphia, PA 19111

(215) 342-5772

Wilson6216@verizon.net

Mike is the project coordinator for the Southeastern Montgomery County Chapter of Trout Unlimited, lives in Philadelphia and works as an Insurance Underwriter for Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. Mike joined Trout Unlimited in 1995 and became a member of the Southeastern Montgomery County Chapter in 1997. He was appointed Project Coordinator in 1999 and is active on the Banquet Committee, Youth Events Committee and is the unofficial "Chapter Trip Planner". He is also currently an appointee to the Board of Directors for the Chapter. He is married with 3 grown children.
