

List of Speakers

Nancy Agati

Arist - Philadelphia, PA

Nancy Agati is a Philadelphia artist whose multidisciplinary work includes painting and works on paper, sculpture, site-specific installation, and public art. Agati holds a BFA from Alfred University, School of Art & Design, NY, and an MFA from The University of the Arts, Philadelphia. She has exhibited her work throughout Philadelphia and nationally, with exhibitions at the Philadelphia Art Alliance and Fairmount Water Works; Hillyer Art Space, Washington, DC; and Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art, Staten Island, NY. Notable public art projects about nature and the environment include the FLOW exhibit at The Independence Seaport Museum and We All Fall Down at The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education. Recent awards from the Hemera Foundation and the Puffin Foundation funded her most recent installation, Aqua Terrace, at the DaVinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia. Water Table 2021 was created in partnership with NOAA, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the NJ Arts Council, and the Atlantic City Arts Foundation as part of the New Jersey Coastal Climate Resilience Project.

Jill Anderson

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection - Environmental Group Manager

Jill has been with DEP for 20 years, including 18 years in the Safe Drinking Water program. Her program experience includes work in the field as a sanitarian, conducting filter plant evaluations, providing compliance assistance, developing and delivering training, and development of regulations and guidance materials. She is currently Manager of the Technical Support Section, with a focus on unregulated and emerging contaminants, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and cyanotoxins. Prior to DEP, she worked in an environmental laboratory conducting analysis on drinking water and wastewater samples.

Sarah Bach

American Rivers - Associate Director, Clean Water Supply

Sarah Bach is the Associate Director of Clean Water Supply at American Rivers, a national organization that protects and restores rivers throughout the country. Based out of Reading, PA, she works with partner organizations and municipalities in the Delaware and Lower Susquehanna watersheds to advance stormwater policies and practices. Prior to working at American Rivers, Sarah engaged communities in southeastern PA and hosted experiential watershed education outings on the Schuylkill River as an education director.

Sam Carroll

Washington County Watershed Alliance - President of the Board

Sam has been involved with the Washington County Watershed Alliance since 2018 and President of the Board Since 2020. He received his BS & MS degrees in Civil Engineering from Penn State University where he focused on stream geomorphology and water resources. As a practicing Engineer at a small local firm, he brings to the Alliance experience working with local Municipal Officials and other community leaders.

Jeffry Dull

Friends of Toms Creek - President

Jeffry Dull is a retired clergyperson in the United Church of Christ and a retired United States Air Force Chaplain Colonel with thirty years of active duty service. His academic degrees include a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Master of Divinity, Master of Science in Counseling and a Master of Science in National Security Strategy. He is currently serving as president of Friends of Toms Creek, a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to protect, preserve, enhance and restore the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic resources within the Toms Creek watershed.

Vallie Edenbo

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources - Rivers Program Specialist

Vallie Edenbo is the Rivers Program Specialist with Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), where she manages the Commonwealth's Scenic Rivers Program, serves on the executive committee of the PA Water Trails Partnership, coordinates the River of the Year, and administers grants for watershed restoration and river access.

Katherine Fenstermacher

Allegheny National Forest - Recreation Technician

Kate Fenstermacher is a recreation technician for the Allegheny National Forest. She is also the ANF Artist-in-Residence coordinator. Kate has worked for the US Forest Service since 2018 working in Pennsylvania, Washington, and California.

Phoebe Galione

Dickinson College Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring - Outreach Manager

Phoebe Galione is the Outreach Manager at Dickinson College's Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM), in Carlisle Pennsylvania. With five years of experience in community science, she has a passion for science communication and is responsible for creating and disseminating informational resources to volunteers via infographics, newsletters, and social media. Additionally, Phoebe is working on strengthening the presence of diversity, equity, justice and inclusion in ALLARM's internal and external endeavors.

Beth Ginter

Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council - Executive Director

Ms. Ginter became CCLC's first executive director in January 2020. Based in Maryland, CCLC provides consistent training and practice standards for landscape professionals working across the mid-Atlantic, through various programs, publications, and events. She directed CCLC's Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) certification initiative from 2015-2019. Previously, Ms. Ginter was the founding principal of a landscape consulting & design firm, and she directed scientific communications programs in the corporate sector. She earned a Masters in Sustainable Landscape Design at The George Washington University and a B.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Kimberlie Gridley

Certified Professional Leadership Coach – Wellsboro, PA

Kimberlie Gridley is a Certified Professional Leadership Coach (CPC, ACC) and holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from the Evergreen State College. A native of Wellsboro, PA, Kim has spent the last two decades facilitating stewardship in natural resource management, watershed restoration, and green stormwater infrastructure. Kim seeks to foster a balance between community and environmental resources as a foundation for vibrant communities and resilient ecosystems. She previously served as Tioga County's Environmental Planner, the Executive Director of the Endless Mountains Resource Conservation & Development Council, and the Low Impact Development Program Coordinator for the Washington Stormwater Center. She specializes in collaborative group facilitation through strategic planning initiatives and leadership development.

Kelly Gutshall

LandStudies, Inc. – President

Kelly Gutshall is president of LandStudies, Inc., an ecological restoration and design firm providing engineering, construction, and maintenance services throughout PA and MD. Through her career as a landscape architect, Kelly has overseen the design and implementation of hundreds of sustainable restoration projects that focus on water resource protection. She particularly enjoys working collaboratively with community leaders at the local and state levels to help change perceptions about the landscape from purely aesthetic, to one of working, functional environments. In 2019, she was recognized by PennFuture with a Lifetime Achievement in Conservation for her contributions to the environment, community, water quality, land protection and conservation.

James Horton

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection – Compacts Commissions Office

James Horton works for the Department of Environmental Protection in the Compacts and Commissions Office where he's primarily focused on the creation of the State Water Plan, particularly the next update which is due in 2027. He lives in Harrisburg PA with his wife and son. He enjoys distance running and carries a handkerchief.

Hazel Keahey

Toms Creek Watershed

Hazel Keahey is a retired tax attorney living in the Toms Creek Watershed. She has 25 years of experience as staff attorney with the United States Tax Court, including 7 years as the Court's General Counsel. She was appointed Clerk of Court for the United States Court of Federal Claims in 2009 and served as Clerk until her retirement in 2016. Hazel is the Friends of Toms Creek Vice President and Grants Administrator. She is the primary drafter and administrator of grants and has served on multiple boards for nonprofit organizations.

Ashley Kyber

Rivers of Steel – Creative Leadership Coordinator

Ashley Kyber is a "placemaking alchemist" trained as a permaculture-wielding, site-specific public artist and landscape architect. Kyber's performative landscape installations reference oral traditions and environmental concerns while addressing wider social dynamics of post-industrial land/community redevelopment. She is currently Rivers of Steel Arts Creative Leadership Coordinator, serving communities in the MonValley to re-envision their neighborhoods, downtowns, and green spaces with public art, regenerative food systems, and creative economies for a more vibrant, environmentally, and socially conscious future. She received her Education: BLA & MS in Horticulture from Clemson University & a MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Lydia Martin

Donnegal Trout Unlimited

Lydia Martin has pursued her love of conservation through various nonprofit and for-profit entities for over 15 years. As a member of Donegal Trout Unlimited she has been an active volunteer serving on the Board of Directors, conservation and communications committees, and as a chapter grant writer. She also serves on the PA Council of Trout Unlimited Women's Diversity and Inclusion Committee and various state and local advisory and stakeholder committees to promote access to the outdoors, resource sharing, ecological design practices, environmental education, and advocacy for trails, green space, and waterways in central PA.

Mark McLaughlin

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission - Chief of Waterways & Marina Management

Mark McLaughlin is the Chief of Waterways and Marina Management with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, where he oversees grants for increasing fishing and boating access, Commission owned marinas, and the state's aids to navigation program.

Ron Ohrel

American Dairy Association North East - Director of Environmental Outreach

Having worked for environmental nonprofits, academia, consulting, the federal government, and now the dairy industry, Ron has extensive experience with environmental issues affecting the Mid-Atlantic and the Northeast. Throughout his career, Ron has partnered with public and private organizations to increase awareness of topics related to agriculture, water quality, endangered species, land use, and environmental policy. Ron has a bachelor's degree in marine science from Coastal Carolina University and a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University.

Kara Scott

Bowmanstown Area Residents Connected - President

Kara Scott has been volunteering in nonprofit organizations most of her life and community is her passion. She is serving her 4th term as a member of her borough council, is the chair and charter member of the Carbon County Council of Governments, and the founder and President of Bowmanstown Area Residents Connected (BARC). She also founded the Bowmanstown Area Action Committee to fight for local rights against a trash transfer station in her borough along the Lehigh River. Kara is certified by iPEC for both Professional Coaching and ELI - MP (Energy Leadership Index Master Practitioner) and has degrees in psychology, communication, and recreation, but it is through decades of service and volunteering that she acquired the skills to organize and fundraise for her community.

Athira Sivan

Saul Ewing LLP - Transactional Department

Athira Sivan is a member of the Transactional Department in Saul Ewing LLP's Philadelphia office. She focuses her practice in Corporate, Life Sciences, and Privacy & Security practices. She maintains a general corporate practice and assists with a variety of deals.

Amber Stilwell

Pennsylvania Sea Grant – Coastal Outreach Specialist

Amber Stilwell, Coastal Outreach Specialist working in the Lake Erie Region, joined Pennsylvania Sea Grant in August 2021. She is responsible for planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating regional outreach programs with a focus on healthy ecosystems and watershed restoration. Additionally, Amber is responsible for coordinating the Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward program in Erie, Crawford, and Warren Counties.

Chris Swartz

Franklin County Conservation District – Agricultural Conservation Technician

In her role as an Agricultural Conservation Technician with the Franklin County Conservation District, Chris is able to draw upon 30+ years of experience in production agriculture to aid with reviewing PA Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans, writing Chapter 91 Manure Management Plans, and writing PA Chapter 102 Agricultural Erosion & Sediment Control Plans. In addition to those responsibilities, Chris oversees the Streamside Grass Buffer Program. She and her husband Larry have two grown children and own & operate a 15 acre produce farm in Adams County.

Jessie Thomas-Blate

American Rivers – Director of River Restoration

Jessie Thomas-Blate is a Director of River Restoration at American Rivers, an organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of rivers for people and nature. Based out of Alexandria, VA, Jessie focuses on river restoration, primarily through the practice of dam removal. She has been a restoration practitioner for ten years, working throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

Beth Uhler

Center for Watershed Protection – Pennsylvania Director

Beth is the Pennsylvania Director for the Center for Watershed Protection. She has been working in water resources for over 20 years, specializing in stormwater management, watershed planning, applied GIS, and wetland science and permitting. Her expertise is in developing and implementing Stormwater Management Programs for local governments, NPDES MS4 permitting, and stormwater management policy and regulation. She has a Bachelor of Science in Geo-environmental Studies from Shippensburg University.

Kurtis Wagner

Pennsylvania Rural Water Association – Sourcewater Protection Specialist

Kurt has been employed by PA Rural Water Association since 2019 as a Sourcewater Protection Specialist. As a lifelong rural Pennsylvania resident, he is equally comfortable spending time in the woods, on the farm, or behind a computer. While originally studying Civil Engineering with an environmental focus at Penn State University, his background has taken many turns from non-profit work, teaching, coaching, and product evaluation and research. In his current position, a particular enjoyment is the flexibility to collaborate with drinking water utilities and their various partners for education and outreach efforts.

Bill Warren

Saul Ewing LLP - Real Estate, Construction, & Government Contracts

Bill Warren is a member of the Real Estate, Construction and Government Contracts practices at Saul Ewing LLP. He has worked extensively on governmental procurement of technology, equipment, commodities and services, and public, nonprofit and private construction programs, and as a commercial litigator in the federal Middle District of Pennsylvania, and in a wide variety of state administrative law matters.

Calen Wylie

Stroud Water Research Center - Watershed Restoration Program Assistant

Calen Wylie is a Watershed Restoration Assistant for the Stroud Water Research Center in Avondale, PA. Most of Calen's work revolves around providing on-the-ground technical assistance for forest buffer installation, care, and research in southeastern Pennsylvania. The primary focus of the research Calen conducts is on improving forest buffer establishment methods. Calen has a biology degree from Millersville University (BS) and lives in Chester County.

Hank Zielinski

Northampton Generating Company - Senior Management

For the past 2 decades, Hank has been part of the senior management team at Northampton Generating Co. LP overseeing AML reclamation projects that have restored over 500 acres of abandoned mine scarred lands. Currently he holds the title of Vice President of Reclamation and Fuel Services for the company and serves as Chairman of the Pennsylvania-Anthracite Section of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration. He is a member of ARIPPA's technical committee and had previously spent time in the Bituminous Coal Industry throughout central Appalachia.