NEW JERSEY WATERSHED CONFERENCE

The Watershed Institute

Your Water. Your Environment. Your Voice.

4ᵗʰ ANNUAL WATERSHED CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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Dr. Ben Strauss, CEO and Chief Scientist, Climate Central

NJ Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT) Rules
10:30 AM – 12 PM

Kati Angarone, Associate Commissioner for Science and Policy, NJ Department of
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November 3, 2020   Go Vote!   No Presentations (Election Day)

Analysis: 2020 Election Impact on the Environment
12 PM – 12:50 PM

Ed Potosnak, Executive Director, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

The 2020 Presidential Election is likely to have impacts on the environment and environmental protection. Ed Potosnak will use his years of experience in local, state, and federal government to analyze and discuss what we know about the election results and where we might be going.

Sustainability in environmental management: Moving beyond climate resiliency
1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Dr. Emile De Vito, Manager of Science and Stewardship, New Jersey Conservation Foundation

Elliott Ruga, Policy Director, NJ Highlands Coalition

Wynnie-Fred Victor Hinds, Executive Director, Stepping Stones Resources

Climate change is an unprecedented environmental stressor; however, our environment has been under immense pressure for generations because of agricultural practices, overabundant deer, alien species and pathogen invasions, deforestation and natural resource extraction, encroaching development, and urbanization. Climate change is revealing more clearly than ever how degraded and vulnerable some of the natural resources we depend on are and exacerbating their deterioration.

What is becoming increasingly evident is that environments need wide-ranging management strategies for the multitude of elements that make up a healthy ecosystem, if it is to be sustained. It will also be necessary to obtain far ranging, and universal commitments to restoring the vitality of our host environment and becoming a part of it, rather than its consumer. This workshop will take the example of the Passaic River Watershed, from its headwaters down to the Newark Bay, and assess the environmental conditions from an ecological, policy, and environmental justice perspective, exploring how enduring restoration of this environment could be achieved and what the future of environmental stewardship might look like.

Climate Safe Neighborhoods: Advancing Equitable Resilience Strategies
1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

John Evangelista, Director of Operations, Groundwork Elizabeth

Cate Mingoya, Capacity Building Director, Groundwork USA

Groundwork USA and five community-based Groundwork affiliates are embarking on a major project to reduce the heat- and flooding-related risks faced by vulnerable urban populations and advance equity in climate resiliency. The Groundwork organizations will map the historic origins of heat- and flooding-related vulnerability, identify solutions, and advance implementation through community engagement, advocacy, and training and employment programs.

Using the "redlining" maps produced by the federal Home Owners' Loan Corporation and urban heat index and flood risk data, Groundwork Denver, Groundwork Elizabeth (NJ), Groundwork Rhode Island, Groundwork Richmond (CA), and Groundwork RVA (Richmond, VA) will engage and mobilize local stakeholders to impact climate resilience policies, programs, and investment. The project is supported in part by a grant from the Kresge Foundation. This webinar will review outcomes of the project in GroundWork Elizabeth thus far where the project has undergone two phases of three, culminating in valuable mapping applications and data of Union County, NJ.

Helping Environmental Organizations Prioritize and Normalize Racial Justice
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Lisa Wolff, Executive Director of Friends, Hopewell Valley Open Space

Lee M. Clark, Environmental Justice Policy Manager, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

Olivia Le Warn, Engagement Coordinator, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, NJ Audubon

Bainy Suri, Executive Director, New Jersey Environmental Lobby

In past months many have seen environmental organizations release statements supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, committing their organizations to promoting racial equity as protests against police brutality were held across the country. From the low numbers of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) in the environmental sector compared to

White people, environmental injustices impacting Black and Brown communities at a disproportionate rate, and the discrimination that many folks with marginalized identities face when participating in outdoor recreation, it is clear that the commitment we are seeing from environmental organizations to racial equity is long overdue. So, after your organization has committed to improving equity and inclusion, what's next? Learn from four dynamic speakers that will share resources and case studies that will provide inspiration for your organization's next steps to tackling White Supremacy within the environmental movement.

Gadgets, Gizmos, and Good Science
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Michelle DiBlasio, Watershed Restoration Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy

Water quality can be directly impacted by climate change in a number of ways, most notably increased stormwater runoff and warmer in-stream temperatures. Using scientific data to document changes to water quality can be a powerful tool for demonstrating conservation project success as well as detecting priority areas for water quality improvements. Michelle DiBlasio will discuss her experiences with water quality monitoring in the Paulins Kill Watershed. The Nature Conservancy and partners collect scientific data using various types of equipment, methods, and technical expertise to fulfill TNC's commitment to a 10-Year Measures and Monitoring Plan for the Paulins Kill watershed. Michelle will give a program overview and zoom in on some of the newer technologies that create a 24/7 window on river conditions.

Changing the Subject
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

[Eric Eckl](#), Founder and owner, Water Words that Work, LLC

Among scientists, it is settled science that climate change is occurring, but among the public, it is a different story. Most surveys find that a substantial minority of the population remain unconvinced. The lack of public consensus presents a challenge to land trusts. Land Trust Alliance and the Open Space Institute engaged Water Words That Work to seek answers on how land trusts can best integrate climate change into their outreach. Our work involved a literature review and a supporter survey. In our workshop, we will provide our findings and recommendations on how to incorporate climate communication into your work as river/ocean conservation groups.

Increasing the effectiveness of your green infrastructure communications by applying insights from behavioral science
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

[Katja E. Luxem](#), Ph.D. Candidate in Geosciences and Graduate Student Environmental Policy Fellow, Princeton University

[Sophie Glovier](#), Municipal Policy Specialist, The Watershed Institute

Green infrastructure is a critical strategy for homeowners to adopt in order to reduce flooding and improve water quality in New Jersey. We can increase awareness and adoption among homeowners through effective communications by applying insights from behavioral science. In this session you will learn 13 behavioral tools that, when applied, get people's attention, engage their desire to contribute to the social good, make complex information more accessible and facilitate accurate assessment of risks, costs and benefits.

The results of a recent study of green infrastructure communications, conducted with volunteers from The Watershed Institute, will be shared along with lessons learned about best practices.

Protection of Soil Resources on NJ's Preserved Farmland
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Susan E. Payne, PP, AICP, Executive Director, SADC

Jeff Everett, Deputy Executive Director, SADC

Preserved farms are prioritized, in part, due to the quality of their soil resources – particularly the presence of highly productive agricultural soils – those that require the least amount of inputs and irrigation to yield a variety of crops. And as we all know, working farms often need some degree of infrastructure, including but not limited to barns, greenhouses, equine tracks and gravel lanes, to be successful. But where is the line between allowing needed infrastructure and protecting the soil resources that existed at the time a farm is preserved?

The NJ Supreme Court issued an important decision in 2018 directing the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) to develop standards for balancing these two equally important goals – protecting soil resources and supporting the viability of NJ farms. SADC's Susan Payne and Jeff Everett will discuss the history of soil protection on preserved farms and provide an overview of the agency's draft standards to guide the protection and use of soil resources on preserved farmland.

Connecting to our coasts: linking sea-level rise to the efficacy of green infrastructure
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Harrison Watson, Ph.D. student in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University

In this session, Harrison Watson will establish a bridge between information on global-warming-induced sea level rise and green infrastructure communication and implementation strategies through work previously conducted in the Gulf of Mexico. Harrison will introduce the concept of living shorelines and describe their effectiveness in combination with current inland green infrastructure strategies to reduce the effects of increased flooding caused by sea-level rise and increased storm frequency. This session will expand participants' communication capabilities in coastal protection and green infrastructure and equip them with resources

Green Infrastructure and Enhanced Stormwater Ordinance Presentation
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Michael Pisauro, Esq., Policy Director, The Watershed Institute

Sophie Glovier, Municipal Policy Specialist, The Watershed Institute

A Holistic Ecological Engineering Approach for Enhancing Community Flood Resilience
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Dr. Zeyuan Qiu, Professor of Environmental Science and Policy in Department of Chemistry and Environmental Science at CSLA with a joint appointment in School of Management at NJIT

Communities across New Jersey and beyond have been devastated from flooding caused by storm events. Although the major events such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and Superstorm Sandy had dominated headlines, there are countless small storm events that resulting in flooding across broad areas, which damage property and infrastructure, interrupt business and social lives, degrade environmental conditions and pose significant economic, social and environmental costs to the communities.

The presentation will discuss a new assessment framework to assess flooding mechanisms and community resilience to flood in selected municipalities in New Jersey in terms of their vulnerability and robustness to floods; develop a holistic ecological engineering framework that strategically optimizes the placements of ecological preservation and green infrastructure measures in communities based on upland-downstream hydrological connections to enhance community resilience to flood. A stakeholder engagement process will be proposed to engage the different stakeholders to assess how to implement such an approach to enhance community resilience to flood and to prepare them better for mitigating the impacts of future climate changes especially on community floods.

Speaker bios and backgrounds

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ben Strauss
President, CEO, & Chief Scientist, Climate Central

Dr. Benjamin Strauss serves as President, CEO and Chief Scientist at Climate Central. He is an expert on sea level rise and the architect of the Surging Seas suite of maps, tools, and visualizations. Strauss has testified before the U.S. Senate. His scientific research has been cited by the White House and two Secretaries-General of the United Nations, and has won coverage in U.S. and International publications, including the New York Times, Washington Post, AP, Reuters, Bloomberg, and other international outlets in at least 110 countries and 29 languages. He holds a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University, an M.S. in Zoology from the University of Washington, and a B.A. in Biology from Yale University.

Jim Waltman
Executive Director, The Watershed Institute

Jim has served as Executive Director of The Watershed Institute since April 2005. He regularly speaks at community events and municipal meetings throughout central New Jersey, serving as a go-to resource for government officials and community leaders on how to best protect clean water and the environment throughout the region.

Prior to joining the Watershed, Jim was director of the refuges and wildlife program for The Wilderness Society in Washington D.C. For 10 years he represented the Society on issues relating to the National Wildlife Refuge System, Alaska public lands, endangered species, and other wildlife matters. He spent five years as a wildlife specialist at the National Audubon Society before joining The Wilderness Society. Jim is also a member of the State Agriculture Development Committee, which oversees New Jersey's farmland preservation program and serves on the board of ReThink Energy NJ, a non-profit that seeks a rapid transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy. Jim has a biology degree from Princeton University and a Master of Environmental Studies from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Kati Angarone

Associate Commissioner for Science and Policy, [NJ Department of Environmental Protection](#)

Kati Angarone has worked at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for more than 20 years and currently serves at the Associate Commissioner for Science and Policy. In this role she ensures policy cohesion across the Department in furtherance of the Department priorities (e.g. Climate, Water and Public Health). She also oversees the Division of Science & Research who provides scientific support to all programs of the Department. In addition, her office includes the Offices of Environmental Public Health & Safety and the Office of Economic Analysis, which work closely with the Department of Health on environmental public health issues and provide support for economic analyses performed during policy development, respectively.

Prior to assuming the role of Associate Commissioner, Kati spent many years assisting with the development of New Jersey DEP's land use policies including stormwater management, habitat protection, flood hazard area controls and protection of the Highlands region. More recently she focused on drinking water policy, including the adoption of new maximum contaminant levels, management of harmful algal blooms and emergency response. Kati continues to work to develop policy that is protective of New Jersey's environment and public health.

Vincent Mazzei

Assistant Commissioner for Watershed and Land Management, Division of Land Resource Protection and Division of Watershed Protection & Restoration, [NJ Department of Environmental Protection](#)

Vincent Mazzei serves as Assistant Commissioner for Watershed and Land Management, overseeing the Division of Land Resource Protection and the new Division of Watershed Protection & Restoration. Selected to lead the WLM program in June, Vince previously supervised the Bureau of Inland Regulation, in the Division of Land Use Regulation.

Vince began his DEP career in 1988, following his graduation from Stevens Institute of Technology. He is a licensed professional engineer and is regarded as an expert in flood risk

analysis and mitigation. For more than 30 years, Vince has worked to support environmentally responsible planning, design, and construction of thousands of development and infrastructure projects throughout New Jersey.

Vince authored New Jersey's Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules, which are the most stringent statewide flood hazard area and stream corridor protection regulations in the nation. He has a leading role in the development of NJPACT, a targeted regulatory reform initiative aimed at modernizing many of the state's environmental regulations to protect against climate threats. He also serves as chairman of the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management.

Vince was named the 2018 Government Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Civil Engineers, North Jersey Branch, and the 2016 Civil Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Civil Engineers, Central Jersey Branch. He is a two-time recipient of the State of New Jersey Teamwork and Partnership Award. Vince earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Stevens and a master's degree in theology from Pennsylvania's Cairn University. His interests include hiking, traveling, volunteering, and composing music, as well as studying history, theology, and mathematical theory.

Vince lives in Hunterdon County with his wife (and fellow DEP employee), Becky, and their three children, Zachary, Evelyn, and Jonah.

Ed Potosnak
Executive Director, [New Jersey League of Conservation Voters](#)

Born and raised in New Jersey, Ed grew up fishing, swimming, and boating in the waters of the Garden State. After a decade in the classroom teaching Chemistry, Ed was awarded a highly competitive Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship to serve on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC where he crafted policies designed to improve our nation's health and competitiveness. Ed is Executive Director of New Jersey League of Conservation Voters and serves as Chair of the Keep it Green Coalition working to sustain funding for the preservation and stewardship of New Jersey's natural resources, and on the board of Sustainable Jersey. Ed recently served as President of the Franklin Township Board of Education, is a member of the Rutgers Glee Club Alumni Advisory Committee, and from time to time is a Part-Time Lecturer at Rutgers University.

Dr. Emile DeVito

Manager of Science and Stewardship, [New Jersey Conservation Foundation](#)

Emile is Manager of Science and Stewardship at the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. He develops management plans for NJCF's 20,000+ acres of holdings designed to protect and enhance biological diversity. Emile educates government officials, advocacy groups, land trusts, teachers and students on forest-interior habitat and migratory stopover needs of Neotropical songbirds.

Elliott Ruga

Policy Director, [NJ Highlands Coalition](#)

Elliott has over 25 years of environmental and historic preservation advocacy experience. Working with the Coalition since November 2007, Elliott leads the implementation of media and educational campaigns, advocates for Highlands resource protection with NJ and US legislators and regulators and at the Highlands Council, provides guidance and support to grassroots groups working to protect Highlands resources, and promotes municipal conformance with municipal officials and residents.

Wynnie-Fred Victor Hinds

Board Member & Executive Director, [Stepping Stones Resources, Inc.](#)

Wynnie is the Executive Director of Stepping Stones Resources. She was named to the City of Newark's Environmental Commission by Mayor Ras Baraka in 2015, where she now serves as co-chair. She is also a member of Green Leadership Trust, an organization, led by people of color, that "builds a more powerful environmental movement by expanding the impact and leadership of people of color and indigenous people serving on U.S. environmental nonprofit boards."

John Evangelista
Director of Operations, Groundwork Elizabeth

John joined the Groundwork Elizabeth Team as part of the More P.E.A.S. initiative funded in part by the NJDEP. In his role as Director of Operations, John manages all aspects of the Come Grow With Us! Urban Agriculture Initiatives as well as all the design/build projects for Groundwork Elizabeth. These projects include garden designs and garden builds to structures including Agricultural Learning Laboratories throughout the city and many different Green Infrastructure demonstration projects with a focus on youth development. He is also co-director of The Climate Safe Neighborhood project. As part of Groundwork Elizabeth, John built the first hydroponic greenhouse in the city of Elizabeth at the Portuguese Instructive Social Club.

John is a hydroponic specialist and educator, installing hydroponic systems and writing curriculum for these projects in schools throughout NJ. John has an extensive background in farming, hydroponic farm designs, construction, and Urban Agriculture. Outside of his work with Groundwork Elizabeth John is co-founder of a hydroponic farm in Denville, NJ as well as an author.

Cate Mingoya
Capacity Building Director, Groundwork USA

Cate Mingoya is Director of Capacity Building for Groundwork USA, working both to strengthen the Groundwork network and to provide technical assistance and support to nationwide brownfield remediation projects.

Originally from Queens, New York, Cate began her career teaching middle school science to students in the Bronx and Brownsville, Brooklyn. She transitioned to the policy side of working with low-income communities as the Director of Policy and Program Development for the Massachusetts Division of Public Housing.

Cate holds a Bachelors of Arts in Biology from Reed College, a Master of Science Education from the City University of New York, and a Master of City Planning from MIT. She lives with her husband, daughter, and cat in Somerville, MA, and loves coffee, bike riding, canoe trips, and travel.

Lisa Wolff

Executive Director, [Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS)](#)

Lisa Wolff is the Executive Director of Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space and was previously President of both the Mercer County School Board Association and the Hopewell Valley Board of Education. She co-authored an article in a statewide journal about starting conversations about equity and inclusion with students at a district and County level.

Upon commencing conservation work, her first observation was the lack of diversity of visitors to and staff members at public parks and open spaces. Aaron Watson, Executive Director of the Mercer County Park Commission, shared her concern and together they founded the Outdoor Equity Alliance - Mercer County Nature For All - a coalition of over 20 organizations committed to creating experiences and opportunities that attract and inspire people of all ages, ethnicities, and income levels to enjoy nature and the outdoors. The alliance pays special attention to removing barriers to participation.

Combining passions for education, conservation, and equity, FoHVOS initiated an internship known as "Building Conservation through Diversity & Teamwork," which is implemented by many partners in the Outdoor Equity Alliance, and offers high school students from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County and Hopewell Valley Regional opportunities in conservation. The pilot project is intended to provide a replicable framework for other organizations to offer similar programs.

Lee M. Clark

Environmental Justice Policy Manager, [New Jersey League of Conservation Voters](#)

Lee served on the Phillipsburg Town Council, becoming the first Councilman of color in the town's 158-year history, and served on the Phillipsburg Housing Authority as a Commissioner, appointed by Governor Phil Murphy in 2019. Prior to his current work with state and municipal environmental policy, Lee managed New Jersey League of Conservation Voters' and Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania's bi-state volunteer ladder of engagement program within the Delaware River Watershed.

Lee is a member of New Jersey LCV's racial, justice, and equity work group, a committee comprised of staff members dedicated to helping the organization foster a better understanding of racial justice work as a staff, and prioritize racial justice as an ongoing

learning experience. After formulating its internal systems on racial justice, and establishing a common understanding amongst staff, New Jersey LCV then created the equity and outreach subcommittee, which Lee chairs, devoted to developing meaningful and beneficial partnerships with diverse organizations so we can better tackle white supremacy and institutional racism within the environmental movement.

Olivia Le Warn

Engagement Coordinator, [Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, NJ Audubon](#)

Olivia Le Warn joined the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed in 2019, serving as the Engagement Coordinator. In this role they facilitate the organization's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Workgroup and coordinate major events. Alongside the DEIJ workgroup they created the first volume of CDRW's DEIJ Toolkit, focusing on internal organizational practices. They also serve on New Jersey Audubon's Staff DEIJ Workgroup.

Beforehand, Olivia had been with the Americorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors Program. As Ambassador, they worked to promote a deeper understanding and protection of the Saddle and Lower Passaic River watersheds through educational outreach, water quality assessments, and green infrastructure projects. That year they also spent time working as a GIS Intern at Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, and a Research Assistant with the Hudson River Foundation. Olivia earned a Bachelor of Science from Rutgers University New Brunswick in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, along with a minor in Environmental Geomatics, focusing on urban coastal toxicology and resiliency in their undergraduate thesis.

Bainy Suri

Executive Director, [New Jersey Environmental Lobby](#) (NJEL)

Bainy Suri is the Executive Director of the New Jersey Environmental Lobby, a grassroots activist, attorney, and single mother to a special needs child, Kai. For the past eleven years, she has worked on social and environmental justice issues in Princeton, across Mercer County and the State of New Jersey. As a first generation, Indian American, female and the parent of a special needs child, diversity, equity, inclusion and justice are relevant, important issues in her professional and personal life. Bainy served on the Princeton Zoning Board, the Board of Meals on Wheels of Mercer County, the Board of NJEL and the Board of the Princeton Community Democratic Committee.

Prior to joining NJEL, she managed the volunteer program at Capital Health in Trenton and Hopewell and the Investor's Bank Arts and Healing Gallery. To combat the lack of diversity in the summer student volunteer program, she partnered with Upward Bound a Mercer County Community College organization that helps to ensure the Gallery represented artists from diverse backgrounds, she held exhibitions with Artworks Trenton, Trenton High School's Art Program, Homefront and The Combat Paper Project. She currently volunteers for Capital Health at their Thrift store and is the Co-Chair of the Mental Health Committee. She also volunteers at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK).

Under her leadership in 2020, NJEL launched a program to expose Trenton high school students to careers in the social and environmental justice industries. She is hopeful this will help foster diversity among future leaders. Bainy has been invited to speak across the State on her work to stop plastic pollution and authored the first plastic pollution ordinance in New Jersey. She has lectured at Pratt Institute in Manhattan and at the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

Michelle DiBlasio
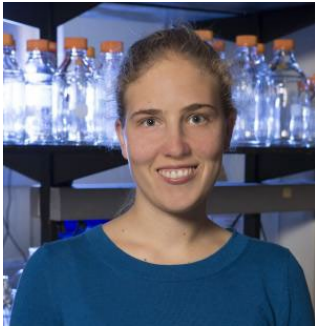**Watershed Restoration Coordinator,** The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Michelle joined The Nature Conservancy's New Jersey Chapter in 2015 and for the last five years has helped to lead the on-the-ground conservation efforts throughout NJ's northern freshwater systems. At TNC, she oversees the implementation of various freshwater conservation projects ranging from floodplain restoration management; including planning and designing reforestation projects, to collecting, managing, and assessing water quality data for watershed-scale monitoring. Michelle previously worked for TNC's New York Chapter as a Wetland Restoration Technician. She received her Associates in Communications from Sussex County Community College and earned her Bachelors of Science in Wildlife Science from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Eric Eckl
Founder and Owner, Water Words that Work, LLC

Eric founded Water Words That Work, LLC and oversees all the company's client projects. Eric has more than 20 years experience planning and executing environmental outreach and communications programs. Eric is a sought-after conference speaker and has appeared on CNN and been quoted in the New York Times. Before starting the firm, Eric worked for Beaconfire Consulting, American Rivers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Environmental Law Institute.

Katja E. Luxem

Ph.D. Candidate in Geosciences and Graduate Student Environmental Policy Fellow, Princeton University

Katja Luxem is a Ph.D. Candidate in Geosciences at Princeton University. Her research studies nitrogen fertilizer, methane and hydrogen gas production by natural and engineered microorganisms. As a Princeton Environmental Institute Science, Technology and Engineering Policy Graduate Fellow, she is also pursuing research aimed at improving science communication for local decision makers. Luxem is a recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, a former Fulbright Fellow, and a graduate of the California Institute of Technology.

Sophie Glovier

Municipal Policy Specialist, The Watershed Institute

Sophie has worked to protect and enhance the local environment for over two decades. She has served as Chair of the Princeton Environmental Commission and was Director of Philanthropic Support at D&R Greenway Land Trust, leading the effort to raise the funds necessary to preserve the St. Michaels Farm Preserve in Hopewell, NJ. Sophie has been a team member of C-Change Conversations, helping to educate others about the risks of climate change, and has served as a board member of D&R Greenway Land Trust, Friends of Princeton Open Space, Sustainable Princeton, and The Watershed Institute. Sophie is the author of *Walk the Trails in and Around Princeton* and is the recipient of D&R Greenway's Donald B. Jones Award and Sustainable Princeton's Leadership Award. She is a graduate of Princeton University and Columbia Business School and received a Post Masters Certificate in Sustainability Strategy from the New School.

She recently helped the Watershed Institute's Policy Director, Michael Pisauro, develop a model ordinance to help municipalities combat polluted stormwater runoff and comply with new requirements from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Alongside Mike, Sophie delivers presentations to environmental commissions and town councils across the state regarding this model ordinance.

Susan Payne, PP, AICP

Executive Director, NJ State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)

In her capacity as Executive Director of the NJ State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), Susan directs all aspects of the state's Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) and the NJ Right to Farm (RTF) program, as well as the work of the State Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Bank Board.   She has devoted her 30+ year career to the preservation of New Jersey's land and water resources, in particular, the Garden State's farmland. She has worked to create and implement preservation programs which are recognized as national models for the preservation of agricultural land.

Prior to assuming her current position in 2005 Susan worked for 16 years for the Burlington County Office of Resource Conservation as a staff planner, and then director, in the areas of farmland preservation, transfer of development rights (TDR), creation of the county's park system, water supply and water quality management planning, and implementation of the NJ State Plan. Susan holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Planning and Design from Rutgers University, Cook College and is a licensed NJ Professional Planner and member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Jeff Everett

Deputy Executive Director, NJ State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)

Jeff Everett joined the SADC staff in May 2012 and serves as Deputy Executive Director and Chief of Acquisition. For twenty-four years, Jeff has facilitated the acquisition and management of both private and public lands in New England, the Midwest, the Mid-Atlantic, and the South. He has worked in federal, state, and local government for natural, cultural, and agricultural agencies that include the National Park Service, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, and Carroll County, Maryland's Agricultural Land Preservation Program. He has also provided private consulting services to organizations and agencies that include the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the Agricultural Preserve Boards of Michigan, Historic Annapolis Foundation, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Jeff holds a B.A. in History from Mary Washington College and M.A. in Public Policy from the University of Delaware. The University of Virginia Press published his book on the landscape history and geography of his native Shenandoah Valley in 2016.

Harrison Watson

Ph.D. student in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University

Harrison Watson is a second year Ph.D. student in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University studying terrestrial carbon cycling and the roles of herbivores in terrestrial carbon cycling in the labs of Lars Hedin, Rob Pringle, and Corina Tarnita. During his undergraduate, Harrison worked with the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program surveying barrier islands and studying living shoreline projects along the gulf coast of Alabama.

Michael Pisauro, Esq.

Policy Director, [The Watershed Institute](#)

Prior to joining The Watershed Institute, Mike was a practicing attorney for 19 years and is licensed in NJ and PA. For the past ten plus years, he ran his own law firm concentrating on environmental work for citizen and environmental organizations before local land use boards, DEP, and in litigation.

His practice also included business and real estate law. He was the lobbyist for the New Jersey Environmental Lobby for nine years. Mike serves on the Hopewell Valley Green Team and is an appointed board member for the New Jersey Licensed Site Remediation Board. He recently developed a model ordinance to help municipalities combat polluted stormwater runoff and comply with new requirements from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Alongside Sophie Glovier, Mike delivers presentations to environmental commissions and town councils across the state regarding the model ordinance.

He lives in Hopewell Township with his wife, Terry, and two boys, cat, dog and several fish. Mike received his B.S. in Economics from James Madison University and a J.D. from the University of Richmond.

Dr. Zeyuan Qiu

Professor of Environmental Science and Policy in Department of Chemistry and Environmental Science, College of Sciences and Liberal Arts (CSLA)
Joint Appointment in School of Management, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)

Dr. Zeyuan Qiu teaches environmental studies and water resources management courses and conducts grant-funded research and publishes extensively in water resource and ecosystem management, natural resource conservation and environmental planning. His research group has developed and applied some sophisticated tools and methods for

assessing the impacts of future climate change and variability and land use changes on water resource availability and water quality as well as the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of various mitigation and adaptation strategies to ease such impacts. He is a pioneer researcher in precision conservation that creatively applies the concept of variable source area hydrology as a scientific basis for identifying hydrologically sensitive areas in landscapes and strategically and precisely placing conservation practices to reduce and/or prevent nonpoint source pollution, protect ecosystem integrity and enhance ecosystem services of landscapes.

His research has been funded by competitive sources including National Science Foundation, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA), National Center for Environmental Research (EPA) and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). He had served as an appointed member of the Ecological Processes Standing Committee of NJDEP Science Advisory Board for six years. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Research Award by College of Sciences and Liberal Arts of NJIT in 2016, the Excellence in Water Resources Protection and Planning Award by the Section of New Jersey of the American Water Resources Association in 2012, and the First Gail P. Carter Award on Best Application of Science and GIS by NJDEP Office of Science in 2011. NJIT Magazine featured his research and career in Fall 2011.