

NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY

# Rivers Conference

Connecting Community, Ecotourism, & Environment



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

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8:20	Coffee & Pastries	
8:50 - 9:15	Plenary and Welcome	<i>Sitnick Theatre</i>
9:30 - 10:45	Workshop I	<i>Various</i>
10:45 - 11:15	Break – visit tables/network	
11:15 - 12:30	Workshop II	<i>Various</i>
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch*	<i>Lackland Center Cafeteria</i>
1:30 - 2:15	Keynote speaker, Dr. Daniel van Abs	<i>Sitnick Theatre</i>
2:15 - 2:45	Break and Presentation of Posters	
2:45 - 4:00	Workshop III	<i>Various</i>
4:00 -	Networking Drinks  At the end of the day, registrants are encouraged to visit the Hackettstown breweries who have kindly promoted and sponsored this conference, because brewers “get it!” – the essential connection between great beer, and clean and abundant water.	<i>MAN SKIRT BREWING</i> 144 Main St. Hackettstown, NJ 07840  <i>CZIGMEISTER</i> 106 Valentine St. Hackettstown, NJ 07840  <i>JERSEY GIRL BREWING</i> 426 Sand Shore Rd, Hackettstown, NJ 07840

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\* Pre-purchased discount lunch tickets available next to registration until 9:30 A.M.

# WORKSHOP SESSION 1

9:30 – 10:45

## Environmental Commissions: the why and how of getting started in your community.



CLASSROOM I

This workshop will explore the community benefits of having an environmental commission drawn from ANJEC's members and others. It is intended for citizens and elected officials interested in starting or invigorating an existing Environmental Commission.

New Jersey's enabling statute for environmental commissions (NJSA 40:56A and amendments of 1972, 1975, 1989) and local ordinance preparation will be covered samples from DRWI Highlands Cluster. The Municipal Land Use Law's (40:55D) environmental commission provisions will also be covered. Basic requirements under the Open Public Records Act, and the Open Public Meetings Act will be outlined. Recommendations on how to operate effectively on an on-going basis will be provided.

Presented by Jennifer Coffey (ANJEC)  
Facilitator:

## The Benefits of Land Preservation



CLASSROOM II

An overview of the major land preservation programs in New Jersey. How they operate, how to qualify, what to expect and what the major benefits are for private landowners. We will cover municipal, county and state open space purchase programs and the NJ Farmland Preservation program. Discussion will include how property is valued, how land owners are paid, how properties are evaluated and other pertinent issues.

Presented by Ben Spinelli & Frank Pinto (Greener by Design)  
Facilitator: George Stafford



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### Using Ecotourism to Promote Economic Development



**BOARD ROOM**

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Protecting the environment doesn't have to be in conflict with economic development. Learn how Northern New Jersey officials are promoting the region's natural resources to drive growth in their counties. Participants will hear from several panelists who will provide examples of how their communities are using nature to encourage people to spend time and money in local municipalities while they explore the outdoors.

Through this workshop, attendees will develop a greater understanding of the multiple benefits of ecotourism to New Jersey's environment, society, and economy as they receive tips from the presenters about how to promote economic growth in their own towns.

**Presented by Michele Archie (Harbinger Consulting Group), Tammie Horsfield (Sussex County Chamber of Commerce) & Marc Saluk (Hunterdon County)**

**Facilitator: Kristine Rogers**

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### What to do with your Environmental Degree?



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Working towards a degree in the environmental sciences? Unsure of what you will do with your degree once you graduate? This panel will bring together professionals from different aspects of the environmental fields to give you an idea of what opportunities await you once you graduate.

**Presented by Dana Patterson (Princeton Hydro), Amanda Lotto (Americorps), Kevin Zerbe (Passaic River Initiative) & Bridgett Hilshey (North Jersey RC&D), & Kyle Richter (Musconetcong Watershed Association)**

**Facilitator: Kyle Richter**



# WORKSHOP SESSION 2 11:15 – 12:30

## The Benefits of Conforming with the Highlands Regional Master Plan



CLASSROOM I

The NJ Highlands Council will present a workshop on the benefits of conforming with the Regional Master Plan, with an emphasis on the Delaware River Watershed and its communities. Delaware Watershed specific topics could include dam removal, stream corridor restoration, stormwater management, Water Use & Conservation Management Plans, etc.

Presented by Lisa Plevin & Keri Green (New Jersey Highlands Water Protection & Planning Council)

Facilitator: George Stafford

## New Jersey Conservation Blueprint



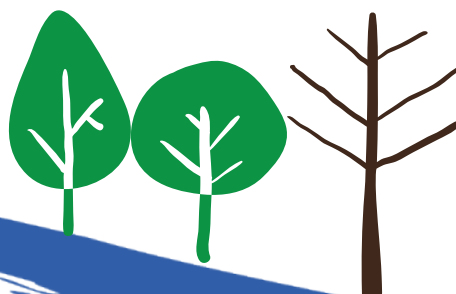
PCR

New Jersey's Conservation Blueprint is the most comprehensive prioritization mapping project ever undertaken in the state. Starting in 2015, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the GeoLab at Rowan University led a steering committee of 20+ organizations working within the state to create Priority Land Models for each of the Blueprint's four Themes: Water, Ecology, Agriculture and Community Green Space. This session will provide attendees with the opportunity to learn about the successful state-wide multi-stakeholder collaboration between funders, land trusts, state, county and municipal governments. The Blueprint is being used by planners, land conservation professionals, state agencies, environmental commission member and municipal green teams among others to easily access information that is often only available to GIS professionals.

The session will highlight and demonstrate how the newly enhanced Blueprint is being used for land management including farmland preservation, land stewardship and ecological land planning. In addition to sharing the history of the project, an introduction to the technology and an overview of the priority models, the presenters will also share specific conservation success case studies from users within New Jersey. New Jersey's Conservation Blueprint showcases how collaboration within the land conservation community can result in accelerating the pace and quality of preserving the best of the state's remaining lands.

Presented by John Haase (Rowan University), Eric Olsen (The Nature Conservancy) & Adam Taylor (NJ Green Acres)

Facilitator: Eric Olsen



### The Morris Canal Greenway: The intersection of history, recreation and water quality advocacy



BOARD ROOM

The story of the Morris Canal, how it transformed the NJ Highlands and influenced the development of northern New Jersey is multi-faceted and fascinating. With the ambitious plan for a 102 mile heritage and recreational trail connecting the Delaware River with the Hudson River across the State, the Morris Canal Greenway will provide new opportunities to raise awareness about the importance of protecting our water resources and to promote a watershed ethic.

This workshop will provide a history of the Canal; discuss the status of the Morris Canal Greenway; and offer tools to help connect recreational and heritage trail users with the importance of water resource protection.

**Presented by Joseph Macasek (President, Canal Society), Elliott Ruga (New Jersey Highlands Coalition) & Ben Spinelli (Greener by Design)**

**Facilitator: Elliot Ruga**

### Improving the Local Food System: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Waste Reduction



CLASSROOM II

Agricultural production can impact water quality, soil health, and climate resiliency. North Jersey RC&D recognizes local farms with positive environmental stewardship through the River Friendly Farm Certification. Learn how farms are improving their operations to be more environmentally and economically sustainable and how local communities can be supportive.

The Foodshed Alliance's LocalShare program addresses food insecurity and food excess by sending volunteers to local farms to "glean" or harvest food that would otherwise go to waste and deliver it to food pantries to feed those in need. In 2018, more than 90,000 lbs. of fresh fruits and vegetables were rescued and delivered to local food pantries.

**Presented by Bridgett Hilshey (North Jersey RC&D) & Lisa Kelly (Foodshed Alliance)**

**Facilitator: Laura Tessieri**



# WORKSHOP SESSION 3

2:45 – 3:30

## Protecting your local environment in the municipal process



CLASSROOM I

This workshop will deal generally with the importance of environmental planning and management at the municipal level. Environmental Resource Inventories (ERIs), Master Plans and Land use ordinances will be discussed from the perspective of protecting the local environment. Techniques to effectively carry out Community Outreach and Environmental Education will also be discussed.

**Presented by Jennifer Coffey (ANJEC)**

**Facilitator:**

## Working Together to Solve New Jersey's Stormwater Problems



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The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program has been working closely with NGOs throughout the State of New Jersey to further planning and development of stormwater infrastructure. This presentation will discuss several of these partnerships and the resulting green infrastructure projects that have been installed. The roles of the project partners, funding arrangements, and sharing of staffing resources also will be discussed.

Participants will learn about:

- The latest stormwater research from academia
- Identifying opportunities to install green infrastructure to better manage stormwater
- Designing green infrastructure projects
- Grant writing to secure funding to implement stormwater projects
- Providing construction oversight during project implementation
- Assisting with post-construction maintenance of stormwater infrastructure projects

**Presented by: Christopher Obropta (Rutgers Cooperative Extension)**

**Facilitator: Juniper Leifer**



### Wild Trout, Benthic Macroinvertebrates, and New Jersey Water Quality Policy in 2019



BOARD ROOM

Learn why the existence of wild trout, including NJ's official fresh water fish – the wild brook trout – in Highlands Open Waters is so important to 6.2 million NJ residents who depend on this irreplaceable public trust resource for basic human survival. The focus will be on two recent science-based regulatory initiatives that were supported by the results of carefully planned programs of field work and analysis. Last year's major overhaul of Wild Trout Stream regulations and the 2019 Category One stream list additions are key policy initiatives that serve the administratively independent functions of surface water quality management and fisheries management

Find out how the presence of self-sustaining populations of wild trout in a waterbody affects New Jersey's regulatory regimes for land use planning and fisheries management, and the relationship between land use planning and surface water quality in the NJ Highlands. Learn how the comprehensive research that documents the breeding success of wild trout in many NJ Highlands Open Waters led to the adoption of NJ's landmark 2018 Wild Trout Stream fishing regulations.

**Presented by Maria Berezin (Raritan Headwaters Assoc.), others TBC.**

**Facilitator: George Cassa**

### Stream Restoration Resources for Municipalities

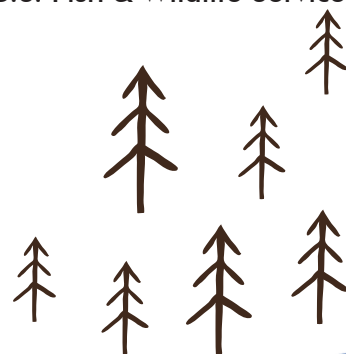


CLASSROOM II

In this workshop you will learn how municipalities can secure funding and materials to conduct stream restoration projects in their own townships. Participants will learn about The Nature Conservancy's Roots for Rivers program that provides funding for streamside tree planting projects in addition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program that offers technical and financial assistance for floodplain/wetlands restoration and wildlife habitat improvement projects.

**Presented by Michelle DiBlasio (The Nature Conservancy) & Marc Virgilio (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)**

**Facilitator: Kristine Rogers**



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To get involved with clean water efforts in your area,  
please contact your local Delaware River Watershed  
Initiative partner.

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