

PANEL TEAM PRESENTERS & CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Shimon Anisfeld, *PhD, Research Scientist and Senior Lecturer, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies*

Dr. Shimon C. Anisfeld received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1993. Since then, he has been at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where he is currently a Research Scientist and Senior Lecturer, teaching courses in water resources, environmental chemistry, and coastal ecology. Dr. Anisfeld's primary research interests lie in understanding human impacts on rivers and wetlands, especially in urban coastal settings. Areas of current interest include: the impacts of sea level rise and nutrient loading on tidal marshes; tidal marsh migration into upland landscapes; river and wetland restoration; and the assessment and control of nonpoint sources of nutrients.

William P. Bowman, *PhD, Senior Scientist, Land Use Ecological Services, Inc.*

William Bowman is a senior scientist at Land Use Ecological Services (Medford, NY) and an adjunct lecturer at Stony Brook University. Will specializes in the restoration of degraded ecosystems, particularly tidal and freshwater wetlands. Most of his current work involves the design and oversight of ecological restoration and invasive plant control projects, conducting natural resource inventories and ecological community mapping, and evaluating impacts to habitats of rare or protected species.

Wade Elmer, *Plant Pathologist, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station*

Chris Elphick, *Associate Professor, Dept of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut.*

Chris Elphick has been studying coastal marsh birds and their habitats on Long Island Sound since 2002 and is a Principal Investigator on the Saltmarsh Habitat and Avian Research Program (SHARP), a collaborative initiative to study the ecology and conservation of tidal-marsh birds along the Atlantic seaboard.

Sarah Fernald, *Environmental Analyst, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission*

Sarah Fernald is an Environmental Analyst for the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, where she serves as the Research Coordinator for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve in Staatsburg, NY. Sarah has a BS degree in Marine Science from Jacksonville University, and an MS degree in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina.

Chris Field, *PhD, University of Connecticut*

Kate Gehron, *Masters Student, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies*

Long Island Sound Tidal Wetlands Loss Workshop
October 22-23, 2014
Danfords Hotel and Marina, Port Jefferson, New York

Chris Haight, *Field Biologist, Natural Areas Conservancy, New York City*

Chris Haight is a Field Biologist with the Natural Areas Conservancy in New York City. Chris has an MA in Conservation Biology from Columbia University and a BA in Environmental Studies from Connecticut College. He has been conducting salt marsh research in Massachusetts and New York for the past 5 years focusing on plant community response to anthropogenic disturbance.

Ellen Kracauer Hartig, *Natural Resources Group, NYC Parks*

With more than twenty years of wetland experience, Ellen Kracauer Hartig currently manages salt marsh restoration projects in Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens at NYC Parks in their Natural Resources Group (NRG). As part of vulnerability assessments in NYC coastal habitats, she identified salt marsh loss trends and lead the installation and monitoring of the parklands network of Surface Elevation Tables (SETs). Earlier, at the Center for Climate Systems Research (CCSR), Columbia University, NASA/GISS, along with other co-authors including from NYSDEC, she documented island salt marsh loss in Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NY. The results, indicating significant and at the time surprising wetland losses since the 1950s due to erosion and inundation, were published in 2002 in the *Wetlands* journal. Ellen's practical experience combines applied science and public policy regarding wetland and adjacent upland resources.

Troy Hill, *Doctoral Student, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies*

Troy Hill is a doctoral student at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. His research explores how salt marsh accretion, flooding regimes, and vegetation have changed over the twentieth century. Troy's dissertation work is focused on marshes in Long Island Sound and New York City.

Marit Larson, *Director of Wetlands Restoration, NYC Parks, Natural Resources Group*

Nicole Maher, *PhD, Senior Coastal Scientist, The Nature Conservancy on Long Island*

Nicole works on wetland conservation and restoration projects by partnering with members of the scientific community, public agencies, and other conservation organizations. She is one of the founding members of coastalresilience.org, an online climate adaptation tool. She leads a project to assess whether salt marshes from New York City to eastern Long Island are keeping pace with sea level rise and collaborates with academic and government research partners to determine the reasons for elevation shortfalls. She is working with New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to assess marsh condition and vulnerability and identify priorities for protection and restoration within City limits. She has been offering guidance on the development of resilience plans to communities in the Superstorm Sandy-impacted region. She is also a member of the Regional Plan Association's Climate Change Working Group in preparation of the Fourth Regional Plan for the tri-state metropolitan area to identify the most important environmental goal for the region over the next 25 years. Nicole earned her B.A. in Biology and Environmental Studies from Bowdoin College. She earned her M.S. in Marine Environmental Studies and her Ph.D. in Marine and Atmospheric Sciences with a concentration in Biological Oceanography from Stony Brook University.

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Dawn McReynolds, *Section Head, Marine Habitat Protection, NYSDEC Bureau of Marine Resources*

Dawn McReynolds has held various positions within NYSDEC for the past 25 years. These positions all focused on the protection, management and restoration of marine habitat, including wetlands. Dawn is currently the Section Head for the Marine Habitat Protection within the Bureau of Marine Resources at NYSDEC. In this position, she administers and oversees NYSDEC's involvement in several national and state Estuary Programs, provides programmatic oversight for New York's Tidal Wetland Regulatory Program and manages the Artificial Reef and Marine Waterway Access Programs.

Jamie O'Connell, *Master's Student, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies*

Jamie O'Connell is completing her Master of Environmental Science degree at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Her thesis research focuses on salt marsh migration into upland habitats in Connecticut. Prior to enrolling at Yale, she worked as a climate change and sustainability planner in Boston, MA.

Victoria O'Neill, *Habitat Restoration Coordinator, NYSDEC, Long Island Sound Study*

Victoria O'Neill joined New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission as the LISS Habitat Restoration Coordinator at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 2013. As the Habitat Restoration Coordinator, Victoria is responsible for preparing and evaluating project applications for habitat restoration, assessment, monitoring, and research funding. She develops partnerships to restore LIS habitats; works with regional staff to help partners prepare project workplans; and coordinates NYSDEC activities associated with the LISS Habitat Restoration workgroup. Prior to working at NEIWPC, Victoria spent 3 years managing diadromous fish reintroduction, oyster reef restoration, and salt marsh restoration projects at NYC Parks Department's Natural Resources Group. She has also spent 3 years creating and managing a successful wetlands education program at Randall's Island Park for the Randall's Island Park Alliance. Victoria has an M.S. in Biology from the College of William & Mary and a B.S. in Biology from S.U.N.Y. Geneseo.

Rich Orson, *Consultant, Orson Environmental*

A paleoecologist with over 15 years of experience in tidal marsh restoration and environmental management, Dr. Richard A. Orson has degrees in biology and botany and received his Ph.D. in Ecology at Rutgers University in 1989. A former Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Sciences, he has had his own environmental consulting firm since 1995. His research interests include impacts of sea level rise on coastal marsh development, modelling heavy metal accumulations in wetland systems, and applications of paleoecology to managing coastal habitats. Dr. Orson was a member of the original team that helped establish the State of Connecticut's coastal marsh restoration program.

Amy Polaczyk, *Research Associate, Warren Pinnacle Consulting*

Amy Polaczyk joined Warren Pinnacle Consulting as a research associate in October 2010. During her career as environmental scientist she has worked as an Environmental Scientist at both the U.S. EPA in Cincinnati, Ohio and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. Amy added modeler to her resume while completing her PhD in Infrastructure and

Environmental Systems at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, where she wrote her dissertation of drinking water distribution system modeling. Since joining Warren Pinnacle Amy has become an expert in SLAMM application. Amy participated in the SLAMM study of Southern Louisiana published in the Journal of Coastal Research. She was the primary modeler in several studies in the Northern Gulf of Mexico, including Galveston, TX; Grand Bay, MS; Saint Andrews, FL. Amy was also the primary modeler in the applications of SLAMM to Long Island, NY and coastal Connecticut.

Patti Rafferty, *Coastal Ecologist, National Park Service*

Patti Rafferty is a coastal ecologist with the National Park Service, Northeast Regional Office. Patti has managed the Jamaica Bay marsh island restoration monitoring program since 2005.

Ron Rozsa, *Plant Ecologist – retired, Connecticut DEP Coastal Management Program*

Ron Rozsa is a retired plant ecologist (from CT DEP Coastal Management Program) residing in Ashford, Connecticut. Ron began studies of tidal marshes at Fire Island National Seashore in the early 1970's and continued to study tidal marshes in Connecticut from 1977 to the present. Locating state listed rare plants, describing the brackish and fresh tidal marshes of the Connecticut River, creating and coordinating the CT Tidal Marsh Restoration Program (since 1980) and development of a modern tidal marsh vegetation classification are examples of key projects and programs Ron developed or contributed to.

Robert Svadlenka, *GIS/Remote Sensing and Environmental Planning, Cameron Engineering & Associates, LLP, Woodbury, NY*

Robert Svadlenka has a Masters in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ) and received a certificate in Geographic Information Science from Lehman College (City University of New York). He provides technical support and analysis for planning and environmental studies on Long Island.

Rebecca Swadek, *Project Manager and Ecologist, NYC Parks, Natural Resources Group*

Rebecca Swadek is a botanist and certified ecologist with a background in plant taxonomy, and grassland and wetland ecology and restoration. At Parks, she serves as the project manager for a 43 acre grassland and salt marsh restoration at Gerritsen Creek in Jamaica Bay and spent most of 2013 traversing NYC's salt marshes for a citywide ecological assessment. Prior to working for Parks, she spent several years working for the Botanical Research Institute of Texas researching prairies, wetlands, and green roofs and managing biodiversity informatics projects. She holds a master's degree in environmental science, with a concentration in botany, from Texas Christian University and a bachelor's degree in biology from Texas A&M University.

Tristen Tagliaferri, *Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey New York Water Science Center, Coram, NY*

Tristen Tagliaferri has been operating and maintaining continuous tide and water-quality monitors throughout Long Island since 2008 in support of tidal wetland loss investigations, coastal flood warning systems, and improving the health of our bays. Other current projects include mosquito insecticide monitoring in water and sediment of Suffolk County and pathogen

monitoring in coastal shallow groundwater that discharges to bays with focus on areas that were heavily inundated by Hurricane Sandy.

Mark Tedesco, *Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Long Island Sound Study Office.*

The USEPA Long Island Sound Study office coordinates the Long Island Sound Study, administered by EPA as part of the National Estuary Program under the Clean Water Act. Mr. Tedesco is responsible for supporting implementation of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Long Island Sound, approved in 1994 by the Governors of New York and Connecticut and the EPA Administrator, in cooperation with federal, state, and local government, private organizations, and the public. Mr. Tedesco has worked for EPA for 27 years. He received his M.S. in marine environmental science in 1986 and a B.S. in biology in 1982 from Stony Brook University.

Ralph Tiner, *Regional Wetland Coordinator, USFWS NE Regional Office, National Wetlands Inventory Program*

Ralph Tiner is a wetland ecologist with more than 40 years of experience mapping wetlands. Since 1977, Tiner has directed wetland mapping in the Northeast U.S. as part of the Service's National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). As Regional Wetland Coordinator, Tiner works principally with other federal and state agencies interested in wetland conservation and with universities and private contractors doing the actual image interpretation. While wetland mapping is the focus of these activities, he has also conducted numerous studies of wetland trends and landscape-level assessments of wetland functions.

Scott Warren, *Connecticut College Temple Professor Emeritus*

Scott Warren has been studying tidal marsh and estuarine ecosystems for over 40 years. His research focus has included vegetation dynamics, macroinvertebrates and fish, marsh restoration, and the impacts of sea-level rise and nutrient enrichment on tidelands. While most of his work has been within Long Island Sound, he has also participated in multi-investigator projects at South Slough, OR and Plum Island Sound, MA.

Elizabeth Watson, *Atlantic Ecology Division of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Elizabeth Watson has spent the last 16 years working in the tidal marshes of Central and Baja California, and more recently the southern New England and Long Island region studying coastal wetlands and coastal hydrology, with a focus on plant distribution shifts, climate variability and change impacts, and sediment transport. Dr. Watson received an M.A. and Ph.D. in physical geography from the University of California, Berkeley, and has completed post-doctoral research positions in hydrology at the University of California, Davis, and in remote sensing at CICESE, in Ensenada, México, prior to taking up her present position at the Atlantic Ecology Division of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. Watson was a National Estuary Research Reserve Graduate Research Fellow, and has received awards from organizations such as the California Shore & Beach Preservation Association, and the Marine Conservation Biology Institute. Dr. Watson is most interested in understanding processes of marsh formation and deterioration.

Cathy Wigand, PhD, *Wetland Ecologist and Research Team Leader, US EPA, Office of Research and Development, Atlantic Ecology Division*

Dr. Cathy Wigand received her training at Iona College, Adelphi University, University of Maryland, and the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Prior to her position with the US EPA, she worked as a college instructor, environmental consultant, and high school chemistry teacher. Presently, she is working on multiple stressor effects on coastal habitats and climate-change adaptation strategies.

Steve Zahn, *Deputy Director, NYSDEC Region 2*

Steve Zahn was recently appointed as the Deputy Director for NYSDEC's Region 2 office, which encompasses the 5 boroughs of NYC. Prior to this appointment, Steve served as the Natural Resources Supervisor overseeing regional programs under DEC's Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources and the Division of Lands and Forests. For the decade prior to becoming Natural Resources Supervisor, Steve was the manager of the Region 2 Marine Habitat Protection Program. Having worked in Region 2 for his entire 20+ year career, Steve has extensive knowledge of the NYC waterfront and marine environment. Over the years, he has reviewed thousands of waterfront development proposals and has participated in numerous habitat preservation and restoration projects.

Roman Zajac, *Professor, Dept of Biology and Environmental Science, University of New Haven*

Roman Zajac's main areas of research are the landscape ecology of seafloor communities, and more recently changes in salt marsh patch/ landscape structure and faunal responses to such changes. Part of the salt marsh research involves assessing the usefulness of various imaging technologies to address questions of salt marsh change and faunal responses, including low level aerial imagery (obtained using kites, balloons and drones) and day and night videography.