

[Appalachian LCC Steering Committee Members and Alternates](#)

Gwen Brewer Chair



gwenda.brewer@maryland.gov

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Gwen Brewer has worked as Science Program Manager in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service for the past 13 years. Previously, she was an Associate Professor at Frostburg State University, where she worked for 11 years teaching courses in ornithology, ecology, and conservation biology as well as advising graduate students. In her current position, she leads a group of staff involved in inventory, monitoring, research, restoration, conservation planning, and conservation actions for rare and nongame species and natural communities.

Gwen represents the state on the Atlantic Flyway Nongame Migratory Bird Technical Section, Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Management Board and Nongame Technical Committee, and Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture Management Board. In 2008, she received the North American Bird Conservation Initiative award for her work with these partnerships and, in 2011 she was accepted as an Elective Member of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Gwen has done research on birds in Maryland, Argentina, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Chile, and has published her work on bird behavior and ecology in scientific journal articles and in species accounts in several books. She holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Ecology from the University of Minnesota and a B.S. degree in Zoology from Michigan State University.

Clyde Thompson Vice-Chair



cnthompson@fs.fed.us

U.S. Forest Service, Eastern Region

Clyde Thompson has over 30 years of service with the U.S. Forest Service. Clyde currently serves as the Forest Supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest. Prior to moving to the Monongahela National Forest in 2002, Clyde held numerous leadership positions including district ranger, deputy forest supervisor, and forest supervisor for both eastern and western forests. Prior to taking the line officer path in 1990, Clyde completed staff work in the fire, timber, and logging systems arenas. He also currently serves on the Regional Budget Team for the Eastern Region.

Given his diverse leadership and natural resource management experience, Clyde has developed a vision of forest management that entwines his views of public service with land stewardship, sustainability, and building and maintaining quality partnerships. Clyde has worked closely with numerous partners across West Virginia including West Virginia University, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Friends of the Blackwater, Trout Unlimited, and the National Wild Turkey Federation. He is currently an active member of the Isaac Walton League and the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture. Clyde received his BS in Forest Land Management from Northern Arizona University and also completed graduate work in public administration.

David Whitehurst
Executive Committee
Former Chair



david.whitehurst@dgif.virginia.gov

Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries

David Whitehurst has nearly 40 years of experience with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and over 40 years of experience as a fish and wildlife biologist. He is currently Director of the Department's Bureau of Wildlife Resources. He began his career with the Department as a district fisheries biologist in southside Virginia, and was a regional fisheries manager in Roanoke before moving to Richmond as assistant director of the Department's Fisheries Division.

Whitehurst moved from that position to Director of the Fisheries Division and was also asked by the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries in 1993 to serve as the Funding Initiative Coordinator for the Board's 1994 funding initiative. He has also served as Deputy Director of Operations, as Acting Director for Operations and Legislation, as Director of Planning, Policy, and Public Relations, as Director of Information and Education, and as Director of the Wildlife Diversity Division for the Agency and has been active in legislative initiatives at the state and federal level. He currently serves as Chairman of the Management Board for the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture, a 13-state cooperative effort to advance bird conservation in this portion of the Country, is as a member of the Refuge Partners Team for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and serves as Chair of the Steering Committee for the Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative. A North Carolina native, Whitehurst received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from North Carolina State University.

Paul Johansen
Executive Committee
Former Vice-Chair



paul.r.johansen@wv.gov

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

Paul is a Certified Wildlife Biologist with more than 33 years of service to the citizens of West Virginia. Throughout his professional career, Mr. Johansen has held various positions within the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, including Wildlife Manager at R.D. Bailey Lake Wildlife Management Area, Assistant District Biologist in Fairmont, Wildlife Planner at the Elkins Operations Center, and Assistant Chief of Game Management where he administered the statewide game management program, including District wildlife management operations and statewide wildlife research projects.

Mr. Johansen is currently the Chief of Wildlife Resources for the Division of Natural Resources. He is honored to work with some of the finest wildlife professionals in the country and to serve some of the most dedicated hunters and other wildlife-associated recreationalists in the nation.

Evan Crews
Executive Committee



ercrews@tva.gov

Tennessee Valley Authority

Evan Crews is Senior Manager of Natural Resources Management (NRM) in the Natural Resources and Real Property Services organization at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The NRM team is responsible for managing reservoir lands used for natural resource conservation and the protection of sensitive resources as well as being responsive to the public that use and value these lands. The management of sensitive resources includes the TVA designated habitat protection areas, a component of the Natural Areas Program, that are intended to protect wetlands and the habitat of state and federally listed plants and animals.

Evan has a BS and MS in Environmental Science with a focus on Biology and Geology from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. His career at TVA began as a contractor in the Aquatic Monitoring group conducting Stream Index of Biotic Integrity Assessments and various reservoir-monitoring activities. During his 15+ years at TVA, Evan has been project manager for watershed/water quality improvement partnership projects, worked as a program manager for TVA Reservoir Section 26a and Land Use permitting division, project manager leading the completion of multiple Reservoir Land Management Plans, and worked as a Watershed Team manager prior to his current position. He also serves as TVA's representative on the Executive Committee for the Southeastern Natural Resource Leaders Group.

Bill Jenkins
Executive Committee



jenkins.bill@epa.gov

Environmental Protection Agency

Bill Jenkins has over 30 years of experience with program development and management; data analysis and technical assistance; writing legislation, regulations and policies; and developing and delivering training, education and communication materials at the federal, state and local government level, and in the private sector. Bill currently serves as the Director of the Office of Environmental Information and Analysis within the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of the U. S. EPA. He is responsible for: working with federal, state and local agencies, and NGOs, to conduct integrated landscape, watershed and human health assessments and analyses; and developing and using data, information, indicators, and decision-support tools for decision-makers to strategically plan and focus policy development and implementation activities.

Prior to joining EPA in 2004, Bill spent 17 years with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, where he was responsible for leading the development of several assessments and tools such as Maryland's Green Infrastructure Assessment, Unified Watershed Assessment, Strategic Forest Lands Assessment, the Lower Eastern Shore Conservation and Restoration Action Strategy, and the

Chesapeake Bay Programs' Resource Lands Assessment. Bill has served on numerous national, regional and local committees; he is currently on the North Atlantic LCC Steering Committee and several Chesapeake Bay Program workgroups. Bill has a Bachelor's degree in Land Use Planning, and a Master's degree in Natural Resource Management and Planning, both from the University of Maryland.

**Thomas Minney
Executive Committee**



tminney@tnc.org

The Nature Conservancy

Thomas Minney is the State Director of West Virginia Chapter for The Nature Conservancy. He leads the Nature Conservancy's West Virginia staff and Central Appalachians team in protecting West Virginia's and the Appalachians important natural assets through cross-boundary assessments, planning, and cooperative partnerships for protection, restoration, and management actions to ensure effective landscape-scale conservation.

Thomas attended Shepherd College, in Shepherdstown, WV. After college Thomas spent several years living abroad, working in Japan and then taking a Master's degree in England. Thomas went on to work on international development issues in Africa and Central and South America. Thomas moved back to his native West Virginia to work for The Nature Conservancy in West Virginia in 2001, and was formerly the Conservation Programs Director for The West Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Thomas has worked closely with private landowners, timber and energy industry, the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Divisions of Natural Resources, researchers and scientists, and others to identify, prioritize, and protect West Virginia the Central Appalachians' most significant natural assets.

**Mark Thurman
Executive Committee**



mark.thurman@tn.gov

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Mark has worked for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) since 1986 and is currently a manager of a regional fisheries program. The program is responsible for the management of aquatic resources in the following ecoregions; Blue Ridge, Ridge and Valley, Cumberland Plateau and Interior Low Plateau. Mark has worked on restoration projects for native species such as lake sturgeon, muskellunge and brook trout. As the program manager he has also been involved in the management of commercial fishing and in developing strategies to address aquatic nuisance species.

Mark has worked in a conservation planning capacity with the TWRA since 2005 and has continued the work with his current position. Mark was a co-author of first State Wildlife Action Plan

submitted in 2005. Following the submittal of this nationally recognized plan he helped develop operational plans for the agencies biodiversity program. “Both of these processes helped me gain an understanding of the patterns of diversity in fauna and habitat within TN and their context at a regional scale”. Some of the planning projects he has been a part of are as follows; North Cumberland Forest Resources Habitat Conservation Plan, NRCS Forest Habitat Fund, and TN TNC Karst Plan.

**Perry Wheelock
Executive Committee**



Perry.Wheelock@nps.gov

National Park Service, National Capital Region

Perry Wheelock is the Associate Regional Director, Resource Stewardship and Science for the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, where she oversees the region’s Natural and Cultural Resource professional staff. From 2009 to 2011, Perry served as the National Capital Region’s Chief, Cultural Resources and from 2007 to 2009, she served as the Chief of Resource Management for National Mall & Memorial Parks, where she was directly involved with the planning for the Potomac Park Levee, the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool area, and for the National Mall Plan.

Prior to assuming those duties, Perry served as the Cultural Resource Manager, and briefly as the Chief of the Division of Resource Management and Visitor Services, for Rock Creek Park, where she worked on the development of several cultural landscape reports, the planning for an extensive preservation project at Meridian Hill Park, and the restoration of migratory fish passage along Rock Creek. Perry is the author or co-author of various cultural landscape studies for parks located within the Appalachian LCC (Harpers Ferry NHP, C&O Canal NHP, and Monocacy National Battlefield).

Ray Albright



ray_albright@nps.gov

National Park Service, Southern Region

Dr. Ray Albright is a research coordinator with the US Department of Interior, National Park Service. He serves as a federal representative within the Southern Appalachian Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU), a cooperative of universities and research associations that provide science to the National Park Service. Dr. Albright is a forest ecologist, specializing in forest hydrology and forest soils.

Jon Ambrose



Jon.Ambrose@dnr.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Jon is the chief of the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division's Nongame Conservation Section. As chief, Ambrose supervises an agency charged with conserving Georgia's rare and other nongame wildlife – those not legally fished for or hunted – plus native plants and the natural habitats these species need. The Nongame Conservation Section conducts research, surveys, education, land acquisition and habitat management, often partnering with other agencies and organizations.

Ambrose began his career as an ecologist with DNR in 1986, the same year he completed a doctorate in ecology at the University of Georgia. He later managed the Georgia Natural Heritage Program, coordinating biological research, conservation, surveys and a vital database that now tracks nearly 1,200 rare plant and animal species and more than 180 natural communities in the state. As assistant chief, he helped oversee Nongame Conservation Section projects statewide. Ambrose also served as State Wildlife Action Plan coordinator, guiding the creation with partner organizations of Georgia's first plan in the early 2000s.

Doug Besler



doug.besler@ncwildlife.org

Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

Doug Besler holds a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University and a MS in Biology from Tennessee Technological University. Doug has worked in various capacities as a fisheries biologist for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources since 1996 and currently is the mountain region fisheries supervisor. Doug has been involved in with the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture since 2004 serving on various technical groups and is currently the Steering Committee Chair.

Ashley Brown

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Ashley Brooke Brown is an employee of the U.S. Department of the Interior with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Cherokee Agency, Division of Real Estate Services, in Cherokee, North Carolina. The Realty Department upholds the Federal Trust responsibilities to all Federal Trust Land, for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Her main duty is with financing for the agency and assisting clients with all mortgage needs from the Bureau.

She has spent most of her life involved in cultural education with a strong emphasis on the environment and it's relation to tribal culture. As a newly appointed member of the Appalachian LCC, she is

looking forward to working with the Steering Committee in the future.

Rick Bennett



rick_bennett@fws.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Region

Dr. Richard (Rick) O. Bennett began working for the Service as chief of the contaminants program at the Annapolis, Md., field office in 1989. He then worked for the Washington, D.C., in fish and wildlife management assistance until he was selected as the deputy assistant regional director for fisheries in the Northeast Region. He subsequently served as one of two geographic assistant regional directors, working closely with all Service programs in six states, and then as the assistant regional director for migratory birds and state programs. Bennett was the region's deputy regional director for five years until being named regional scientist.

As regional scientist, Rick guides the region's efforts on topics such as strategic habitat conservation, climate change, National efforts on amphibian and reptile conservation, ocean science initiatives and science coordination across programs and agencies. Prior to working for the Service, Rick was a member of the faculty at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Pathology, in Baltimore. He has been with the Northeast Region since 1993 and science advisor since 2007.

Patrick Campbell



j_patrick_campbell@nps.gov

National Park Service, National Capital Region

Patrick is the regional Program Manager for the National Park Service, National Capital Region Inventory and Monitoring Program. Patrick has been with NPS for 10 years. Previously he coordinated multi-taxa inventory and monitoring projects for the Smithsonian Institution Monitoring and Assessment of Biodiversity Program. His interests and expertise include forest ecology and the conservation of large mammals.

Pat's work with the Smithsonian Institution as well as other natural resource agencies and NGOs has taken him to tropical forests and deserts and he is now focusing his efforts on the eastern deciduous forests of North America. Patrick holds a BS degree in Wildlife Science, from the Pennsylvania State University and an MS in Wildlife Conservation from the University of Minnesota.

Dick Cole

Richard.A.Cole@usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Dick Cole is an Environmental Planner and ecologist at the Institute for Water Resources, U. S. Army Corp of Engineers. He received a B. S. in Forestry and an M. S. in Forest Zoology (Wildlife Science) at the N. Y. State College of Forestry at Syracuse University and a Ph. D. in Zoology (Aquatic Ecology) at The Pennsylvania State University. He is Emeritus Professor of Fish and Wildlife Sciences at New Mexico State University and has been a Federal employee at IWR since 2003.

His work at IWR is focused on environmental benefits measurement, approaches to achievement of environmental sustainability, and application of ecological principles to Corps activities. Dick is presently leading a study of National Corps engagement with the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives.

Bridgett Costanzo

Bridgett.Costanzo@va.usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Bridgett is the NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife East Coordinator. Prior to this position, Bridgett worked for over 20-years for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), having spent most of her career in Ecological Services Division as a State Coordinator for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife habitat restoration program in Virginia. Under her leadership, the Virginia program grew to manage \$3-6M annually and is one of the largest and most accomplished in the U.S.

In recent years, Bridgett has served on a number of regional task forces: she represented the Fish and Wildlife Service on the 202d report on climate change adaptations prepared under President Obama's Chesapeake Bay Executive Order No. 13508, and was an active member of USFWS Northeast Region's Strategic Habitat Conservation and Climate Change Team from 2005-2010. She also worked as the Science Coordinator for the Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative for several years.

Diana Day

Diday@pa.gov

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

As Conservation Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Diana administer grant programs and several special funds for the Commission. Since 2013, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Game Commission Conservation Planning Coordinator, she has directed development of the 2015 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan; a blueprint for conserving Pennsylvania's declining and imperiled species. Together, the two Commissions' will lead implementation of this revised plan. Much of her career has focused on watershed management & research, with an emphasis on river and stream fisheries ecology.

Rick Durbrow



durbrow.rick@epamail.epa.gov

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

Rick Durbrow works for the Planning Analysis Branch of the Office of Policy and Management at the US EPA Region 4. He recently was part of the team developing the EPA Southeastern US Ecological Framework Project. Rick completed his Master's degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Public Policy and has been a Program Analyst with the US Environmental Protection Agency in Atlanta, Georgia for the past 19 years.

He focuses his energies on developing innovative approaches to more efficient and effective decision making to protect ecosystem functions and their services. Projects include the Southeastern Ecological Framework which is a hub and corridor landscape linkage across the 8 states in the southeast. He is currently leading the development of a GIS decision support tool for the Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG). The SENRLG project is being developed to assist federal agencies in targeting existing resources across agencies in order to support landscape conservation and restoration efforts and build resilience into the landscape which can assist on-the-ground efforts addressing climate change.

Ken Elowe



ken_elowe@fws.gov

U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Region

Ken Elowe joined the Service in 2010 after 23 years with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. As director of resource management beginning in 1997, he was responsible for fish and wildlife programs. He began his career with the Utah Division of Wildlife working with bears, mountain lions and furbearers. Elowe initiated Maine's Beginning with Habitat program, working with communities and agencies to conserve landscape-scale habitat for all species. Elowe also worked with the United Nations and the Jordanian government on a cooperative landscape-scale rangeland restoration program.

Elowe coordinates the Northeast Region's work on landscape-scale conservation and climate impacts to fish and wildlife. Elowe received a bachelor's degree in biology from Bowdoin College. He earned both a Master's degree and a doctorate in wildlife biology from the University of Massachusetts for his work on ecological behavior and reproductive physiology of black bears.

Stephen Faulkner



faulkners@usgs.gov

U.S. Geological Survey

Steve Faulkner is a supervisory research ecologist at the Leetown Science Center in Kearneysville, WV. Growing up exploring the forests of central Maryland led him to pursue his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Forestry from Louisiana State University. He received his Ph.D. in wetland biogeochemical ecology at Duke University. After graduate school, he held faculty positions at LSU before joining USGS in 2002.

Steve has studied various aspects of forest and wetland ecosystem sustainability and restoration including soil redox chemistry, carbon and nitrogen biogeochemistry, and the effects of climate and land-use change on ecosystem services. He currently serves as Chief of the Aquatic Ecology Branch at Leetown where he leads a team of seven scientists with research programs in genetics, aquatic ecology, and landscape ecology.

Todd Fearer



tfearer@abcbirds.org

Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture

Todd Fearer joined the AMJV in 2010 as the Science Coordinator, and became Coordinator in 2012. Prior to working with the AMJV, he was an assistant professor at the University of Arkansas' School of Forest Resources. He received his B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science with minors in Forest Science and International Agriculture from Penn State University. He then went on to obtain both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Wildlife Science from Virginia Tech, conducting research as part of the Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project and evaluating population-habitat relationships of forest breeding birds at multiple spatial and temporal scales, respectively.

Catherine Haffner

chaffner@pa.gov

Pennsylvania Game Commission

Cathy joined the Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Diversity Division team in July 2011 as a Wildlife Biologist in the Planning and Grants Administration Section. As the Wildlife Diversity Conservation Planning Coordinator, Cathy works with Game Commission colleagues and agency partners to implement and amend the Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan, the state blueprint for proactive wildlife conservation.

Shortly after receiving her master's degree and moving to Pennsylvania, Cathy worked at a county Conservation District implementing watershed conservation initiatives by building inter-agency partnerships, motivating volunteers, and soliciting financial support for grassroots projects (2005-2010). She has been engaged in wildlife research and management efforts for the Pennsylvania Game Commission in various capacities since 2008. Most recently she coordinated the agency's wind energy program (2010-2011), working with companies to avoid and minimize impacts to birds and mammals from wind project development. She also spent several years coordinating waterbird surveys as a part-time biologist aide (2008-

2010) and served as a technical expert for Game Commission Piping Plover recovery planning efforts.

David Hartos



dhartos@osmre.gov

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Dave is the Deputy Regional Director of the Department of the Interior - Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement - Appalachian Region. He has worked for the Department of the Interior for over 36 years in the capacity as a manager, supervisory physical scientist, and scientist. Most of his career has been devoted to issues involving the environmental effects of coal mining and enhancing mine reclamation. He has been an active member of the Appalachian LCC since September 2011. He received his Bachelors of Science Degree in Earth Science from Pennsylvania State University and Masters of Art Degree in Physical Geography from the University of Pittsburgh.

Jason Henegar



jason.henegar@tn.gov

Southeast Aquatics Resources Partnership

Jason Henegar is the Statewide River and Streams Coordinator for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. In this role he schedules and coordinates fish rearing and stocking activities, field sampling, and day to day administrative duties with hatchery staff and field crews throughout the state of Tennessee. He also oversees database management of statewide aquatic species database, statewide fish stocking records, and field sampling surveys statewide. Finally, he manages and assists with multiple state and federal agencies workgroups and special interest groups daily to coordinate funding and monitor progress of projects.

Prior to this, he was the Assistant District Fisheries Biologist and Natural Resource Specialist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department where he collected, organized, and analyzed fish population data, scheduled and led fish sampling surveys, investigated routine fish kills to determine cause and impact to resource, performed monthly safety training seminars, provided pertinent safety materials, and maintained current MSDS catalogs onsite as Operational Safety Officer for the district office.

Mike LaVoie



michlavo@nc-cherokee.com

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Mike LaVoie has approximately 10 years of experience working in the field of natural resource management. He has been in his current position as a fish and wildlife biologist for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Fisheries and Wildlife Management program since 2007.

LaVoie was born and raised in upstate New York and has resided in North Carolina since his graduation with a B.S. in Biology from Wake Forest University in 1999. He completed his M.S. in Biology at Western Carolina University with a research assistantship through the North

Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. His thesis involved assessing the impacts of a low-head dam on larval fish dispersal and native fish restoration efforts in western NC. LaVoie worked for a variety of federal and state natural resource management agencies in Alaska, New York, North Carolina, and Tennessee prior to beginning work with the EBCI. He has published peer-reviewed papers on both terrestrial and aquatic conservation topics as well as numerous technical reports. LaVoie is also currently a member of the American Fisheries Society, The Wildlife Society, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society and the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network.

Danny Lee



dclee@fs.fed.us

U.S. Forest Service, Southern Region

Danny is Director of the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center of the USDA Forest Service's Southern Research Station in Asheville, NC. Previously, he worked as a Research Ecologist at the Pacific Southwest Research Station and was involved with the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project and the Sierra Nevada Framework, where he served as science integration team leader. His interests are in population viability, risk assessment, Bayesian statistics and large-scale assessment and planning.

Daniel Odess



daniel_odess@nps.gov

National Park Service, Headquarters

Daniel Odess is the Chief Scientist for Cultural Resources with the National Park Service in Washington DC. An archaeologist whose expertise focuses on Arctic prehistory, he has lead research in Canada, Alaska, and Russia. Prior to joining NPS in 2007, Dr. Odess was Associate Professor of Anthropology and Curator of Archaeology at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. In addition to providing technical assistance to parks and programs on wide range of resource management and policy issues, and overseeing the cultural resources management portion of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response for the U.S. Coast Guard, he works on several national-level issues for the Department of Interior, including climate change adaptation, landscape-scale approaches to conservation and preservation, hurricane Sandy recovery, and large-scale disaster response.

Harold Peterson



harold.peterson@bia.gov

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Harold Peterson works as the Natural Resources Officer at the Bureau of Indian Affairs- Eastern Region in Nashville, TN. He previously worked as a NASA contractor in Huntsville, AL after graduating with a degree in Atmospheric Science.

Mike Piccirilli



mike_piccirilli@fws.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast

Mike Piccirilli is currently the Division Chief of Wildlife Sportfish Restoration for the Southeast Region. He has been in the position since April of 2004. Mike is responsible for administering 15 different grant programs in the 10 Southeast states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands with a cumulative total of over \$170 million annually for the conservation and protection of wildlife, sportfish, and their habitats. Mike began his career with the Fish and Wildlife Service as an Assistant Refuge Manager at Erie National Wildlife Refuge in 1991. In 1997, he moved to Atlanta to work as a Biologist in the Division of Wildlife Sportfish Restoration and in 2002 was selected as Wildlife Branch Supervisor.

Pat Ruble



pruble@wildlifemgt.org

Wildlife Management Institute

Pat Ruble is the Midwest Field Representative for the Wildlife Management Institute. He works with the region's Cooperative Wildlife Research Units and works on issues ranging from waterfowl and wetlands to the Farm Bill. Before joining WMI, Pat was the Executive Administrator for the Wildlife Management and Research Section of the Ohio Division of Wildlife for 21 years. Pat also served as program coordinator for the Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Lab, Ohio State University School of Natural Resources and as director of government relations for the Bowhunting Preservation Alliance and Arrowsport foundations.

Karl Schrass



SchrassK@nwf.org

National Wildlife Federation

Karl Schrass serves as Climate Adaptation Manager for the NWF's Mid-Atlantic Regional Center. Previously he worked at the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security and the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative in Bonn, Germany where he focused on climate change adaptation, resilience, and insurance in developing countries. Karl is a geographer by training and studied at both the University of Delaware and the University of Bonn.

Originally from Wilmington, Delaware, he is passionate about helping the wildlife and residents of the Mid-Atlantic region address the challenges posed by a changing climate. Outside of work he enjoys cycling the backroads of Maryland's Eastern Shore and exploring the local hiking trails.

Andy Shiels**Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission**

Andrew Shiels is currently the Director of the Bureau of Fisheries for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). Mr. Shiels has steadily moved up through the ranks of the agency first as a seasonal employee in the Shad program from 1986 to 1988. Next, he held the position of Fisheries Technician in the Southcentral Region of Pennsylvania from 1988 to 1993 where he assisted in the sampling and management of rivers, streams, lakes and the Juniata and middle Susquehanna River drainages.

In 1993 he was promoted to Leader of the Nongame and Endangered Species Unit. While there, his major duties included management of nongame species of fish, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic macroinvertebrate species such as fresh water mussels. In 2002 he was promoted to Chief of the Fish Production Services Division. While in the Chief of Fish Production Services role, Mr. Shiels was the lead staff member on oversight of the American Shad restoration program and the PFBC's lead negotiator during the license amendment for the Holtwood Hydroelectric Project and the relicensing of Conowingo, Muddy Run and York Haven hydroelectric facilities on the Susquehanna River. From 2002 to 2011 he was the PFBC's representative to the Susquehanna River Anadromous Fish Restoration Cooperative (SRAFRC) Technical Committee. In 2011, he was appointed to be Deputy Director for Field Operations from 2011 to 2016.

Tom Shope

tshope@osmre.gov

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Tom Shope is the Appalachian Regional Director at the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

John Stark**Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership**

Over the course of his 28 year career in water conservation, John has worked professionally as both a fisheries biologist and water resources conservation manager. Mr. Stark has served as The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Ohio Freshwater Conservation Director since 2007 overseeing a staff of conservation scientists and mitigation providers and has been an integral part of several multi-disciplinary,

jstark@tnc.org

interagency freshwater conservation efforts in the Lake Erie and Ohio River basins.

Within the past few years, John was part of a team that developed an Ohio River Basin-Scale Climate Change Adaptation Report for the Institute for Water Resources that identified climate change hotspots within the basin and appropriate adaptation actions. In his current capacity, Mr. Stark is part of a TNC team of Mississippi River Basin scientists and conservationists that have developed an nutrient reduction approach to reduce the extent of the “dead zone” in the Gulf of Mexico.

Scott Warner

Scott.A.Warner@wv.gov

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

Assistant Wildlife Resources Section Chief for the Division of Natural Resources.

Kendrick Weeks



Kendrick.weeks@ncwildlife.org

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Kendrick began his career with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in 2006 as a temporary biologist and helped to set up and implement the North Carolina Amphibian Calling Survey Project and assist with statewide reptile and amphibian conservation projects. In 2007, he was hired as a Wildlife Diversity Biologist and worked in the Coastal Plain to inventory and monitor reptiles and amphibians. Kendrick then joined the mountain region Wildlife Diversity team in 2009 as regional supervisor and currently administers projects throughout the region. He supervises three outstanding Wildlife Diversity Biologists who are responsible for inventory, monitoring, research, technical guidance, and management of nongame species in the region.