

# 2019 GREAT LAKES Coastal Wetlands Symposium

Maumee Bay • Oregon, Ohio • September 19-20



## Plenary Speakers List

**Contact for Interviews:** Marnie Urso, 216-246-7150, [urso@audubon.org](mailto:urso@audubon.org)

### **Dennis Albert**

Dr. Dennis Albert is Assistant Professor (Senior Research), Landscape and Wetland Ecologist at Oregon State University. His research focus began with the development of a state-wide eco-regional classification for Michigan, and then expanded to multi-state collaboration with state and federal agencies in Minnesota and Wisconsin to develop a three-state regional map and classification. A recent focus of Dr. Albert's research has been exploring alternative uses of invasive wetland plants, especially along the Great Lakes shorelines. These studies have led to experimental harvest of hybrid cattail, documenting the response of native plants to the harvest. Dr. Albert expanded the study to include sites along the St. Marys River, northern Lake Huron, and Saginaw Bay in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Refuges, Cheboygan City government, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and biologists from the Sault Ste. Marie tribe. Dr. Albert holds a PhD and MS in Forest Ecology from University of Michigan, and BS in Botany from University of Michigan.

### **Kristi Arend**

Kristi Arend is the Research Coordinator / Fisheries Biologist at Old Woman Creek, Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

### **Dr. Matt Cooper**

Dr. Matt Cooper is an Assistant Professor and Associate Director of the Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation at Northland College in Ashland, WI. Matt got his BS and MS degrees from Grand Valley State University and PhD from the University of Notre Dame. He has been conducting research in the Great Lakes for 18 years with an emphasis on coastal wetlands. One of Matt's primary research activities is helping to

run the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program with colleagues from across the Great Lakes Basin.

### **Christie Deloria**

Christie Deloria is a founding member and co-chair of the Great Lakes Coastal Assembly. She's worked for 25 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is currently the coordinator of their Great Lakes Coastal Program. Having grown up in the Upper Peninsula and spent almost all her adult life within an hour of the lakes, the Great Lakes are definitely home to Christie. She appreciates the opportunity to work with partners and organizations to protect and improve the place she calls home.

### **Eric Ellis**

Eric Ellis, Project Manager at Great Lakes Commission, manages the Coastal Conservation and Habitat Restoration program area focusing on a variety of habitat projects including the NOAA-GLC Regional Habitat Partnership to restore habitat in Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Additional projects focus on restoring priority Great Lakes coastal wetland habitat outside of Areas of Concern. Eric also represents GLC as a member of the Great Lakes Coastal Assembly. Eric has a diverse background in habitat restoration, collaborative natural resource management and grant writing. He has worked as a wildlife biologist for the Ruffed Grouse Society and Conservation Resource Alliance and was the Manager of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority. He lived in Mongolia for a number of years volunteering with the Peace Corps as a parks/wildlife specialist and later guiding fly fishing and horse-riding trips for a travel company. He has previously served on the board of the Ohio Conservation Federation and on the Pigeon River Advisory Council. Eric is a native Michigander who received his bachelor's degree in resource ecology and management from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from the University of Idaho's College of Natural Resources.

### **Tony Friona**

Tony Friona serves as a USACE Regional Working Group co-lead for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). This Interagency partnership has provided Great Lakes (GL) Districts and ERDC with the opportunity to take on a number of complex applied science and engineering challenges over the last eight years. Current projects and research interest include: (1) Incorporation of Engineering With Nature (EWN) principles into Interagency near-shore strategies across the GL basin; (2) Promoting the beneficial use of dredged material to enhance coastal resiliency and reduce the cost of ecosystem restoration and environmental dredging projects; (3) Design and application of landscape scale wetland systems designed to optimize the reduction of phosphorous inputs and related harmful algal blooms to the GL. To contact Mr. Friona, please email him at: [anthony.m.friona@usace.army.mil](mailto:anthony.m.friona@usace.army.mil)

**Drew Gronewold**

Dr. Drew Gronewold is Associate Professor, School of Environmental and Sustainability, University of Michigan. His research interests lie in hydrological modeling, with a focus on propagating uncertainty and variability into model-based water resources management decisions. His specific research areas include predicting runoff in ungauged basins, monitoring and understanding water quality dynamics in coastal areas, and incorporating probability theory and Bayesian statistics into watershed-scale data sets and forecasting tools. He holds an adjunct appointment in the U-M Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Prior to his appointment in SEAS, he worked in the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory as a hydrologist and physical scientist.

**Jason Hill**

Jason Hill is the Director of Conservation Programs, Wisconsin and Michigan, at Ducks Unlimited.

**Wade Kapszukiewicz**

Wade Kapszukiewicz is the 58th mayor of Toledo Ohio. Creating a regional water system, increasing the size and diversity of the police force, improving educational opportunities for Toledo's youngest residents, and improving city services are among Mayor Kapszukiewicz's top goals. During his first year in office, the city of Toledo passed a balanced budget (the first unanimously passed since 2013), hired 80 new police officers, resurfaced more miles of roads than any year in the past two decades, created a bike share program, secured funding to clean up the long-blighted former Champion Spark Plug site, and helped lead a neighborhood coalition to save historic St. Anthony Catholic Church from demolition. This was accomplished while ending the year roughly \$1 million under budget. Most importantly, Mayor Kapszukiewicz's proposal to create a regional water system was approved by both City Council and the voters of Toledo, thereby ensuring long-term affordable water rates while sharing decision-making authority with suburban partners. Mayor Kapszukiewicz was Lucas County Treasurer, served one term on the Lucas County Board of Education and a Toledo city councilman. Mr. Kapszukiewicz received a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from Marquette University and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Michigan in 1996.

**Scudder Mackey**

Scudder Mackey is Chief, the Office of Coastal Management, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Dr. Mackey manages and coordinates coastal resource protection and management activities within the Lake Erie coastal region. This includes implementation of the Ohio Coastal Management Program and providing environmental and economic information and guidance -- with Program partners -- to coastal constituents.

**Greg Mayne**

Greg Mayne works with Environment and Climate Change Canada's Great Lakes Ecosystem Management Section. He works with staff and partners in Canada to coordinate activities under the Habitat and Species Annex of the Canada-Ontario Agreement. He works with other federal and provincial partners to support science, restoration and protection efforts on the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. Projects of interest to this group are: a five-year project entitled: Assessing and Enhancing the Resilience of Canadian Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands; and a survey of coastal habitat along the Canadian shoreline Great Lakes.

**Mary Mertz**

Mary Mertz is the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. She was the First Assistant Attorney General under Attorney General Mike DeWine where she oversaw both the legal and administrative operations of the office. She has extensive legal experience in both the private and public sectors. Prior to her appointment at the Attorney General's Office, Mertz practiced law at a large, multi-national law firm. Mertz also served as chief of staff to Mike DeWine while he was Lt. Governor; as the legislative director for Congressman Bob McEwen; in the office of legislative affairs in the White House; and worked with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, while working for Ohio Gov. George V. Voinovich. Mertz is an avid sailor and outdoorsperson.

**T. Kevin O'Donnell**

T. Kevin O'Donnell is Physical Scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Daniel Rokitnicki-Wojcik**

Daniel Rokitnicki-Wojcik is a Coordinator/Officer of Environmental Programs with Environment and Climate Change Canada's Strategic Policy Branch. He has spent the past decade with the Federal Public Service on files related to wildlife and habitat assessment, water resource management, and policy development with a focus on boundary waters, freshwater protection and Great Lakes coastal wetlands.

**Michelle Selzer**

Michelle Selzer is Lake Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy.

**Dave Sherman**

Dave Sherman is the Wetland Habitat Coordinator with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

**Chad Wilsey**

Dr. Chad Wilsey is interim Chief Scientist and Vice President of Conservation Science for the National Audubon Society. Chad leads a team of scientists conducting analyses in support of Audubon's national initiatives on Climate, Coasts, Water, and Working Lands. Recently, Dr. Wilsey was principal investigator on Audubon's North American Grasslands and Birds report, Future of Birds in Our National Parks study, and Water and Birds in the Arid West: Habitats in Decline report. His research generally focuses on the impacts of climate and land-use change on birds and ecosystems. Dr. Wilsey commonly works with big data collected by volunteer scientists along with tools such as GIS, machine learning, and systematic spatial prioritization. He has a PhD from the University of Washington, an MS from the University of Wisconsin, and a BS from the University of Puget Sound.