

**Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies
22nd Annual Forestry and Wildlife Conference
Clean Water Grows on Trees
Saturday, March 12, 2019**



Dr. Peter Petokas, "The Eastern Hellbender Salamander as an Indicator Species for Healthy Pennsylvania Streams" Office phone: 570-321-4006 Email: petokas@lycoming.edu

The Eastern Hellbender salamander is uniquely North American, a denizen of rivers and large streams throughout the central Appalachians, and an amphibian colossus that can attain lengths of more than 24 inches. Conservation biologists are greatly concerned that most hellbender populations are in decline and that many are already extirpated. Healthy aquatic habitat is key to survival of the hellbender and the species serves as an indicator of clean water, aquatic biodiversity, and the ecological connections between land and water. In an effort to restore the species to portions of its historic range, we are creating and restoring hellbender habitat, improving the health of streams, and rearing hellbenders in captivity with subsequent release to the wild. All of the newly-released salamanders carry microchips for identification and monitoring using space-age technologies. Our long-term goal is to establish healthy, self-sustaining hellbender populations in the Susquehanna River watershed.

Dr. Peter Petokas is a Research Associate with the Clean Water Institute at Lycoming College and an Assistant Professor of Biology at Lock Haven University. He earned his doctorate in Ecology from Binghamton University and a Master of Science in Wildlife Ecology and Management from the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry. His research interests include the study of amphibians and reptiles, conservation biology, vernal pool and wetland ecology, crayfish ecology, and the restoration of streams and watersheds.

Andrew Yencha, "Woodlands and Watersheds: How Forest Stewardship Protects and Improves Pa's Streams and Groundwater" Email: Azy30@psu.edu

You probably knew that forests are good at protecting creeks, rivers and lakes. But do you know why? This talk will explore the connections between forests and water quality. We'll see how trees function as stormwater management machines, define how watersheds help land managers measure the benefits of forest buffers, learn how woodlands influence the water cycle including groundwater, and see how cities are increasingly planting trees and other vegetation to help fix their growing, and expensive, stormwater management problems.

Andy Yencha is a Water Resources Educator with Penn State Extension. He helps Pa. residents, businesses and local governments find answers to water related questions to protect the Commonwealth's shared natural resources. His work focuses on private drinking water supply; water testing; water treatment; agricultural water use; municipal stormwater control; and pond, wetland and small lake management. Andy was born and raised in Northeast Pennsylvania, but only recently returned to PA after a 30-year visit to Wisconsin where he held several natural resource related jobs including, County Conservation Technician, Extension Water Specialist, and Senior Land Manager for a 40-acre public garden. He holds an undergraduate degree in Biology from Northland College, and a M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Because his livelihood for so many years depended on the residents of Wisconsin, he had no principled choice but to become a fan of the Green Bay Packers. (Editor's note: Go Steelers!!!)

Kelsey Miller, "What are Riparian Buffers, What Grows there, and How Do I Start one?"

Office Phone: 717-346-0079 Cell Phone: 814-977-3532 Email: c-kelmille@pa.gov

Clean water grows on trees and, by extension, so do healthy communities of plants, animals, and humans. This session will present riparian forest buffers and why you should care about them, the splendid flora and fauna that thrive in them, and how you can get one yourself. If you're ahead of the game and already have a riparian forest buffer, best management practices will also be presented.

Kelsey Miller is a Riparian Forester with the DCNR Bureau of Forestry and the Western PA Conservancy. She helps landowners of all types plant and maintain streamside woodlands by connecting them with funding opportunities, providing technical assistance, and advising on maintenance. As an ecologist, she sees buffers as opportunities to restore connectivity between the land, water, and floral, faunal, and human communities. Kelsey is passionate about land management and is a licensed pesticide applicator, conducts prescribed burns, and leads volunteers in caring for the land.

Brad Michael, "How to Help Fund What You Do in Your Woods" Brad is Supervisory District Conservationist,

USDA/NRCS Email: brad.michael@pa.usda.gov Phone: 814-623-7900 x 116

A number of funding programs for forest landowners and the application process for those programs will be explained.

Dave Scamardella, "Willow Cuttings" Dave is our DCNR Service Forester in Bedford and Fulton Counties.

Dave will show how easy and simple it is to use willow cuttings to quickly vegetate a streambank.

Pennsylvania Game Commission Update:

Bert Einodshofer, Wildlife Conservation Officer Supervisor Info. & Education Southcentral Region, PGC

Email: reinodshof@pa.gov

Jeannine Fleegle, Deer and Elk Biologist, Pennsylvania Game Commission

Email: jefleegle@pa.gov Office Phone: 717-433-8750

Dave Scamardella, "The Forest Stewardship Plan of the Sulzbacher Demonstration Forest"

Email: dscamardel@pa.gov Office Phone: 717-485-3148

Dave will share the Forest Stewardship Plan in progress, and describe the activities that have occurred.

Dave is the Service Forester with the Bureau of Forestry for Bedford and Fulton Counties. As a boy in Pottstown, PA, Dave was a Boy Scout and found a love of the outdoors early on. He pursued the study of forestry at Pennsylvania State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Forest Science in 1993. Dave went to the state of Maine where he worked for the USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit for two seasons. Wanting to be more involved with forest management, he moved to Wisconsin, where he worked on the 60,000 acres of the Fort McCoy Military Reservation. In 2000, Dave finally found his way back to his home state as a forester on Buchanan State Forest. In 2003, seeking new challenges, Dave jumped at the chance to take over where departing Service Forester, Roy Brubaker, left off. When not in the woods, Dave can be found with his wife, Sheila and son, Jason, or hiking, caving, or playing French horn in the Mercersburg Community Band. Dave currently serves as President of the Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies.

