



DEP 2024 HAB SUMMIT SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES





► **Kati Angarone** is the Assistant Commissioner for Watershed and Land Management. Kati has worked at DEP for more than 25 years. Before becoming an Assistant Commissioner, Kati served as Associate Commissioner for Science & Policy, where she managed science, environmental health and economic analysis programs, while developing policy protective of New Jersey's environment and public health. She was responsible for ensuring policy cohesion across DEP to further its priorities, including climate, water and environmental health. Kati also launched the NJDEP Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force, which she continues to lead; coordinated efforts to address PFAS contamination across multiple media; facilitated the development of New Jersey's forthcoming Natural and Working Lands Strategy; and served as a steering committee member on the Offshore Wind Research and Monitoring Initiative, a role in which she continues to serve.

► Earlier in her career, Kati spent several years focused on water policy, including the adoption of new drinking water standards, which involved first-in-the-nation PFAS standards and water supply emergency response. More than half of her DEP career was spent assisting with the development of New Jersey's state land use policies, including stormwater management, habitat protection, flood hazard area controls and protection of the Highlands region. As Assistant Commissioner for Watershed and Land Management, she has returned to this work.

► Kati focuses on advancing watershed initiatives, including integration of New Jersey-specific climate change science into watershed policy; building local government capacity to manage watersheds through education; and the development of resources and tools; and working to ensure that watershed management efforts across DEP and the state are coordinated. A passionate advocate of the environment, Kati is dedicated to DEP's mission to protect the environment and public health in service to the people of New Jersey.

Kati Angarone
Assistant Commissioner
Watershed and Land Management
NJDEP



► **Chelsea Brook** advises and assists Water Resource Management (WRM) Assistant Commissioner Patricia Gardner on matters of policy and operations. Specifically, she oversees and coordinates cross-program issues pertaining to WRM's four divisions: Division of Water Supply & Geoscience (DWSG), Division of Water Quality, Division of Water Monitoring, Standards, and Pesticide Control, and Division of Water Enforcement. She is also an essential member of the Department's Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Task Force, ensuring that New Jersey is prepared to address HAB related issues in drinking water. In this capacity, she has played a key role in the development and implementation of Department's HABs in drinking water planning and response program. Chelsea started her NJDEP career in 2004, after working for several years in environmental consulting. She spent several years as an environmental specialist in the DWSG's Bureau of Water Allocation & Well Permitting. She later joined the Division's Director's office assisting with critical issues such as drought planning and emergency response before joining the Assistant Commissioner's office. Chelsea has a bachelor's degree in environmental health from Salisbury University and a master's degree in environmental science from Rutgers University.

Chelsea Brook
Executive Assistant
Water Resource Management
NJDEP



► **Vic Poretti** is the Director of the Division of Water Monitoring, Standards, and Pesticide Control. The Division regulates pesticides and assesses New Jersey's waters to protect and manage public drinking water supplies, recreational uses, shellfish harvesting, and the health of aquatic organisms. To accomplish its mission of protecting public and ecological health, the Division collects and analyzes water quality data, coordinates the development of water quality standards and the restoration of impaired waters, ensures compliance with pesticide regulations, and provides public education and outreach.

Vic started his DEP career over 30 years ago in the Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring, advancing to Bureau Chief. As Bureau Chief he ensured the Bureau sampled and analyzed freshwater monitoring throughout the State to serve as a sound scientific foundation for water resource management and to meet federal Clean Water Act requirements. Vic was also instrumental in the creation and implementation of NJ's Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Freshwater Response including strategy development, sampling and analysis, and communicating data and alerts to the public. As Division Director, Vic continues to serve on the Department's Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Task Force.

Vic Poretti
Director of Water Monitoring, Standards and
Pesticide Control
NJDEP



► **Ann Grimm** is an Assistant Director for the Center for Environmental Measurement and Modeling, in the Office of Research and Development at the US EPA. Her work supports the Safe and Sustainable Water Resources program and she is a coordinator for harmful algal blooms research.

Ann Grimm
Assistant Director for the
Center for Environmental Measurement and
Modeling in the
Office of Research and Development
USEPA



► **Brannon Walsh** is an environmental scientist in the US EPA's Office of Water, where he works on nutrient criteria and HAB related issues. Brannon has over 15 years' experience in water quality science and policy. Prior to EPA, his work included sampling cruises with the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Monitoring program, fisheries research with the California Department of Fish and Game, and collaborative watershed management with a Resource Conservation District. He received his B.S. in Biology at Old Dominion University and a Master of Environmental Science and Management from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Brannon Walsh
Environmental Scientist
Office of Water
US EPA



Chris Kunz is the harmful algal bloom response coordinator and Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring within NJDEP's Division of Water Monitoring, Standards and Pesticide Control. As Bureau Chief, Chris oversees all chemical and biological monitoring activities. Chris graduated from Richard Stockton College in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. He is a 2020 fellow of the New Jersey Conservation Leadership Program and in 2023, became a Certified Public Manager through Rutgers University. Chris was co-lead for the sampling and analysis subgroup for the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) team for microplastics. He is currently a member of the Monitoring Advisory and Coordination Committee (MACC) for the Delaware River Basin Commission and frequent presenter and steering committee member for the New Jersey Water Monitoring Council. Chris also participates in several internal workgroups involving mercury, 1,4-dioxane, PFAS and other contaminants of emerging concern.

Chris Kunz
Bureau Chief of Freshwater &
Biological Monitoring
NJDEP



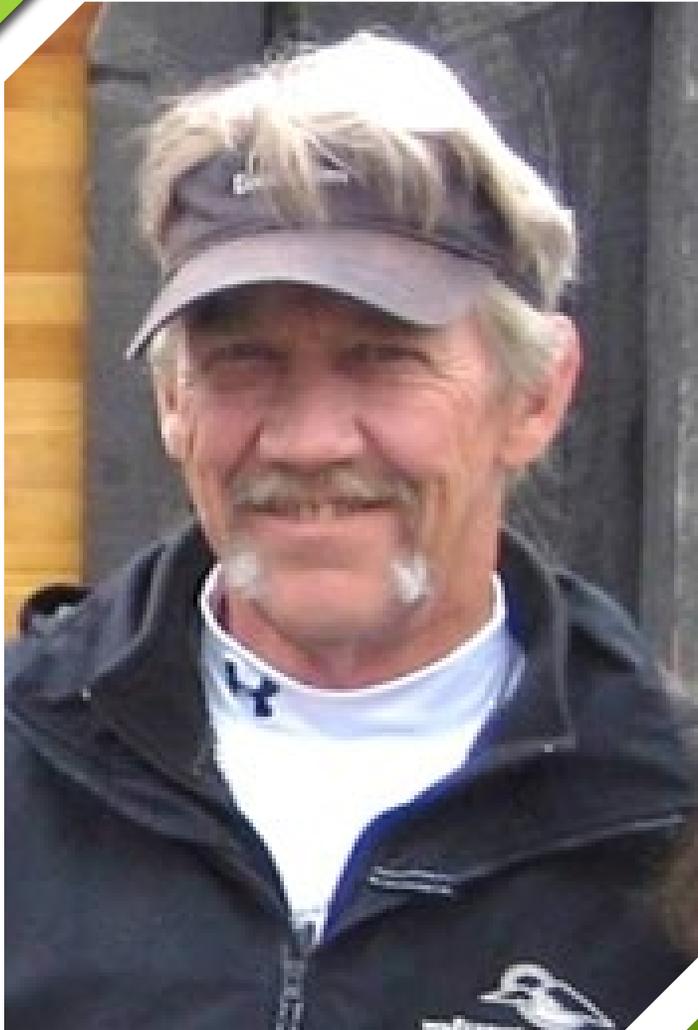
► **Michael J. Danko**, Assistant Director of Extension and Marine Recreation Agent for Fisheries and Boating. Mr. Danko began his career in marine biology serving as a USCG licensed captain aboard research vessels owned and operated by the New Jersey Sea Consortium. He has led numerous water quality, sediment and fisheries related projects in the coastal zone for both research and outreach purposes. He has extensive experience working with stakeholders to reach consensus on important coastal issues and interpreting scientific results to help coastal businesses implement measures to reduce their impact to the environment. In addition, he supports early student research at the high school level and currently serves on the executive committee of the New Jersey Southern Junior Science and Humanities Symposium.

Mike Danko
Assistant Director of Extension
Marine Recreation Agent:
Fisheries and Boating
New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium



► **Jason Earl Adolf**, Endowed Professor of Marine Science. BS, Roger Williams University; MS, University of Hawaii Manoa; PhD, University of Maryland College Park. Dr. Adolf's research interests include phytoplankton ecology and physiology, Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), real-time continuous water quality monitoring, and eDNA approaches to aquatic community analyses. Dr. Adolf's research uses combined field and laboratory approaches to address the impacts of environmental variability, including climate change, on ecosystems. He currently teaches within the Monmouth University B.S. program in Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy and highly values the inclusion of undergraduate students in his research.

Jason Adolf, Ph.D.
Endowed Associate Professor of Biology
Marine Science
Monmouth University



► **Dr. Kortmann** is an applied limnology specialist with over 40 years of experience for restoration and management of lakes and water supply systems. Dr. Kortmann has conducted cooperative research projects with Environmental Engineering Companies, Water Utility Companies, University of Connecticut, Kent State University, Canada Ministry for the Environment, and Regulatory Agencies.

► Dr. Kortmann is a life member of AWWA and has received several research publication awards including two Dexter Brackett Awards, Quarternary Transatlantic Award (England), and three Past President's Awards. Dr. Kortmann has conducted water supply resource research and consulting nation-wide and as far away as Sao Paulo, Brazil. He founded Ecosystem Consulting Service in 1980, now a Division of GZA. Under the direction of Dr. Kortmann, the research performed by ECS, Inc. has led to the development of new diagnostic techniques and innovative lake-reservoir restoration methods including four US patents. He received the Lake Restoration Project Award for innovative restoration techniques employed at Lake Waramaug, CT; and the Environmental Technology Innovation Award for the development of Layer Aeration from the EPA New England.

Bob Kortmann, Ph.D.
Senior Consultant – Applied Limnologist,
GZA Geoenvironmental, INC



► **Cathryn Schaffer** is the Manager of the Bureau of Watershed Management, in the Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration at the NJDEP. The Bureau includes the Water Quality Restoration Grants Unit, as well as the Endangered and Threatened Species Unit (ETSU) and the Wetlands Mitigation Unit. Both ETSU and the Mitigation Unit coordinate with the Department's permitting units in the Division of Land Resource Protection providing recommendations associated with potential species impacts as well as guidance on required restoration. Cathryn began the first day of her career at the DEP exactly 25 years ago today (March 27), as an Environmental Specialist in the Division of Land Resource Protection.

Cathryn Schaffer
Bureau Chief,
Watershed Management
NJDEP



► **Robert Schuster**, Watershed Coordinator, Office of the Assistant Commissioner Watershed and Land Management, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bob Schuster is the Watershed Coordinator at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Office of Assistant Commissioner, Watershed and Land Management. He has over 30 years in sample collection; and chemical, biological, and microbial analysis, as well as data assessment of all State waters. This includes data from ambient and routine monitoring networks, real-time continuous monitoring, beach testing, and NJDEP special projects (storm water monitoring and microbial source tracking) and the EPA National Aquatic Resource surveys, with a focus on utilizing data for remediation actions and management policy decisions.

Bob Schuster
Watershed Coordinator
Watershed and Land Management
NJDEP



▶ **Jennifer M. Coffey** joined the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) in July 2014 as Executive Director. Jennifer serves as a member of the New Jersey State Water Supply Advisory Council and as an advisor to the New Jersey State Clean Water Council. She serves as a member of the Hamilton Township (Mercer) Planning Board, Rutgers University Climate Change Alliance steering committee, and is president of the board of the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation. She serves on numerous NJ Department of Environmental Protection advisory stakeholder taskforces for climate change, water quality, flooding, and equitable access to open space.

▶ She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Stockton University and dual Master's Degrees in Environmental Policy and Environmental Science from the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Jennifer M. Coffey
Executive Director
ANJEC



► **Rob Newby, Ph.D.** is a Research Microbiologist with the NJDEP's Division of Science and Research. Rob joined NJDEP in 2017 and has worked on several critical environmental microbiology projects for the State. Rob's primary research focus at NJDEP has been on characterizing and analyzing the dynamics and driving factors of freshwater cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms. Rob has served on many NJDEP led HAB expert panels, served as co-chair of the Management Practices section on the ITRC Harmful Cyanobacteria Bloom document, and serves as one of the state representatives to EPA Consortium for HABs. Rob maintains an active research interest in a number of areas related to environmental microbiology outside of HABs; including *Legionella*, the use of eDNA for invasive species detection and characterization; and other novel technologies and techniques for rapid detection.

Rob Newby, Ph.D.
Research Microbiologist
Division of Science and Research
NJDEP



► Dr. Fred S. Lubnow is the Senior Technical Director of Ecological Services at Princeton Hydro, and the office manager of the Exton, Pennsylvania office. Dr. Lubnow received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Susquehanna University (1988), his Master's degree in Environmental Sciences (1992) and his Ph.D. in Limnology (1994), both from the University of California Davis. Dr. Lubnow has been an environmental consultant for 30 years. His areas of expertise include the management of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and their associated cyanotoxins, in-lake management strategies and the development of watershed-based management plans. Dr. Lubnow is an adjunct professor at Delaware Valley University, Doylestown, PA where he has been teaching a course and laboratory on Watershed Management since 2016. He is also an adjunct professor at Villanova University, PA where he teaches a graduate course on Freshwater Ecology.

► In addition, Dr. Lubnow developed a professionally-credited course for PA DEP on the Management and Monitoring of HABs and Cyanotoxins in Raw Water Supplies. Dr. Lubnow is also one of the members of New Jersey's HAB Expert Team who are conducting data and literature reviews on HABs in order to develop strategies on how to holistically address such conditions in freshwater systems in New Jersey.

Fred Lubnow, Ph.D.
Senior Technical Director
Ecological Services
Princeton Hydro



► **Nima Pahlevan** is with Science Systems and Applications Inc. (SSAI), where he leads the Freshwater Sensing Program (FSP) at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), supporting a wide range of government-funded remote sensing projects. Over the past 10 years, Pahlevan has been leading the formulation, development, and validation of water-quality attributes from current and future government and commercial satellite missions over global freshwater and nearshore coastal ecosystems. FSP's mission is to enable a swath of applications and services focused on monitoring harmful algal blooms (HABs), and water-relevant applied science practices (e.g., biodiversity, episodic events, aquaculture, fisheries). Pahlevan has served on PACE, Landsat, Terra/Aqua/SNPP, and EMIT science and applications teams and contributed to the Surface Biology Geology (SBG) mission studies.

► Formerly trained in geospatial engineering and remote sensing, Pahlevan earned a Ph.D. in Imaging Science from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), where he received extensive training in optical/thermal imaging from scene acquisition to image processing/reconstruction. Prior to joining SSAI/GSFC, Dr. Pahlevan finished a two-year postdoctoral term working on *in situ* and satellite-based ocean color measurements at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Nima Pahlevan, Ph.D.
Science Systems and Applications Inc. (SSAI)
& NASA Goddard Space Flight Center



► **Katrina McCarthy** is the Director of the NJ MAP project developed by the Geospatial Research Lab at Rowan University. Katrina holds a M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning and has a passion for supporting environmental advocacy efforts using Geographic Information Systems to tackle a myriad of NJ specific topics including affordable housing, open space preservation, conservation, land stewardship and land use change. Serving as the Director of the NJ MAP project, Katrina strives to share NJ MAP (launched in 2012) as a platform that simplifies access to the principles of sound planning to foster better decision making for all 564 municipalities in the state.

Katrina McCarthy
Director of NJ MAP
Rowan University



Matt Cerami is a dedicated water professional, with fourteen years experience. Matt holds T2, W1, Commercial pesticide applicator, and aquatic pesticide applicator license's through NJDEP. As a Watershed Manager at Veolia Water – New Jersey, he brings a unique blend of experience when solving ecological problems. Matt uses lab analysis, operations, instrumentation, and maintenance skills to manage the Hackensack River Watershed. His passion for the environment continues to drive change and innovation to better manage source water.

Matt Cerami
Watershed Manager
Veolia Water – New Jersey



► **Mat Titus** received his Ph.D. in mathematics from Oregon State University, Mathew has worked as a complex systems scientist and software developer. His degree was focused on probability and random processes; this training informs his research on emergent behavior in social and natural systems and his approach in designing ClearWater. His other major interests include fractals, language, and coffee

Mat Titus, Ph.D.
Managing Member
Clearwater Analytics



Emily Mayer serves as a Research Scientist 3 at NJDEP, where she is responsible for the identification and enumeration of phytoplankton samples, algal toxin analysis and comprehensive data management. With over a decade of experience within the lake management sector, Emily specializes in lake macrophyte mapping, water quality analysis, and project management. Emily earned her B.S. degree in Biology from Centenary University. She continued her studies at University of Florida while working and earned her M.S. in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in May of 2020. She serves on the board of directors as Editor for NEAPMS (Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society), is an aquatic technical advisor for the NJISST (NJ Invasive Species Strike Team) and is an active member of other related lake management societies and NJDEP workgroups.

Emily Mayer
Research Scientist 3
Bureau of Freshwater & Biological Monitoring
NJDEP



► **Dr. Lori Lester** serves as Chief of the Bureau of Risk Analysis in the Division of Science and Research at NJDEP, where she manages a team of research scientists with expertise in topics ranging from chemistry to toxicology to ensure that the DEP's decision-making is based on sound science. Lori has extensive experience in statistical and geospatial analysis, interpretation, and presentation of environmental data. Furthermore, she co-leads the Department's efforts to develop scientific reports on the effects of climate change in New Jersey and performs research on the effects of sea-level rise on tidal wetlands.

Lori Lester, Ph.D.
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Risk Analysis
Division of Science and Research
NJDEP



► **Pat Gardner** serves as the Assistant Commissioner of Water Resource Management, overseeing Water Monitoring and Standards, Water Quality, Water Compliance, Enforcement, and Water Supply And Geoscience. She has worked in environmental protection for more than 30 years, starting her career with the DEP in the Radiation programs. She joined the Water Resource Management program seven years ago. In Water Resource Management, Pat served as Director of the Division of Water Supply & Geoscience for 4½ years and Director of the Division of Water Monitoring & Standards for 1½ years. Her efforts in Water Resource Management have focused on the revision of the long-term monitoring strategy; restoration grant program; assessment of the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water regulations, with an emphasis on the Lead and Copper Rule; emergency response; water supply planning; water infrastructure; and the development of maximum contaminant levels. She has served on various councils and boards, including the Delaware River Basin Commission, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, and the Drinking Water Quality Institute. As a career DEP employee, Pat has a strong belief in public service and the protection of public health, safety, and the environment.

Patricia Gardner
Assistant Commissioner
Water Resource Management
NJDEP