



THE 4TH ANNUAL PATUXENT RIVER CONFERENCE

# CLIMATE CHANGE & THE PATUXENT RIVER:

LOCAL IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBAL ISSUES

## CONFERENCE AGENDA AND SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

**9:00am**            **Registration & Networking**

**9:30am**            **Conference Welcome**

*Aldo Leopold Auditorium*

Opening Speaker: Diane Benedetti, 2018/2019 PAXCON Planning Committee Chair

Introduction to Patuxent Research Refuge: Brad Knudsen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**10:00am**            **Keynote Presentation**

*Aldo Leopold Auditorium*

**Dr. Melissa A. Kenney, Associate Research Professor, University of Maryland**

Dr. Kenney's research broadly addresses how to integrate both scientific knowledge and societal values into policy decision-making under uncertainty. Her research expertise includes conceptual modeling and decision structuring, indicators, systems analysis, multi-attribute methods, and evaluation of decision support to address environmental policy decisions. These methods have been applied to a range of topics including participatory global change indicators, setting environmental policy criteria, economic analyses for restoration alternatives assessment, expert elicitation, and value of information of indicators.

**10:45am**            Break

**11:00am**            **Session 1 Speakers**

**Dr. Jordan Fischbach & Dr. Krista Grocholski, RAND Corporation**

*Aldo Leopold Auditorium*

[Learn about NOAA's MARISA Program](#)

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (MARISA) program was established in September 2016 through a five-year grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). MARISA supports integrated, flexible processes for building adaptive capacity to climate variability and change in diverse settings in the Mid- Atlantic region, with an initial focus on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

**Catherine McCall, Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

*Rachel Carson Room A*

Maryland's Strategies for Addressing Climate Change

Join this session to learn how state and local partners can make effective decisions and plan for future development, conservation and restoration of coastal resources while reducing vulnerability to future storm events, shoreline change and sea level rise.

**Dr. Patricia Delgado, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary**

*Rachel Carson Room B*

Uncovering Signs of Climate Change at the Jug Bay Patuxent River Estuary

Join this session to uncover the signs of climate change in the tidal freshwater marshes of Jug Bay. Is salinity increasing? Are vegetation communities changing? Are the marshes keeping up with increased flooding? How vulnerable and resilient are our marshes to sea level rise? This talk will explore early signs of a wetland system responding to a changing climate based on over ten years of local monitoring data collected by scientists and volunteers.

**12:00pm**

**Lunch and Student Poster Presentations**

*Rachel Carson Room A and Hallway*

**1:00pm**

**Local Perspectives Panel**

*Aldo Leopold Auditorium*

Moderator: Coreen Weilminster, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Speakers: Al Tucker, Friends of Jug Bay; Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper; Greg Kearns, Patuxent River Park M-NCPPC; Chris Perry, Bourne Environmental

**1:50pm**

**Session 2 Speakers**

**Megan Anderson & Gillian Reily, National Aquarium**

*Aldo Leopold Auditorium*

Climate Change Communication at the National Aquarium

At the Aquarium we talk about climate change with 1.4 million visitors annually. Our conversations focus on community level solutions and use research based communication methods developed and tested through grant work. We will share those communication techniques as well as the scripts and toolkits created with those techniques in mind.

**Mark Symborski, Montgomery County Planning Department**

*Rachel Carson Room A*

Road Salt-Related Issues in the Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed

This presentation considers impacts of road salt on the environment, infrastructure, and public health, including chloride and sodium trends in the two drinking water reservoirs in the upper Patuxent River watershed. Also covered are lessons learned from various jurisdictions working to manage road salt applications for water quality while maintaining public safety, recent recommendations of the Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed Technical Advisory Committee, and a summary of the WSSC Salt Summit held in December 2018.

**Stephanie Sperling, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission**

*Rachel Carson Room B*

Disappearing History: Patuxent River Archaeology Sites Threatened by Climate Change

Archaeologists have identified thousands of sites in the Patuxent River drainage spanning over 10,000 years of human history. The effects of climate change are rapidly destroying many of these irreplaceable treasures, including ancient Native American villages, colonial plantations, and early American industrial sites. Learn what professionals are doing to salvage history and how you can help.

**2:50pm**

**Session 3 Speakers**

**Sandy Spencer, US Fish and Wildlife Service Patuxent Research Refuge**

*Meet in Hallway*

Patuxent Research Refuge Hiking Tour

Highlights of the walk would be the Refuge's ambitious forest inventory, what they are finding, discussion of tree diversity, and some cool facts about the trees on the Refuge. The tour will also include a discussion of the ecosystem functions of the riparian forest and floodplain forests along the Patuxent River, the challenges we are facing regarding these functions, and then some free time for Q&A. Feel wear shoes you will feel comfortable walking on gravel or dirt paths, and binoculars are encouraged!

**Coreen Weilminster, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**

*Aldo Leopold Auditorium*

Speaking with Confidence about Climate Change: Lessons Learned

Still feeling reluctant to talk about climate change with family, neighbors or colleagues? This session explores several tools and resources to help build confidence in climate change communication. Come learn about what social science says regarding our collective beliefs and values around climate change and consider the use of art as a means to empathy and its influence in connecting climate science to action and solutions.

**Sarah Lane, Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

*Rachel Carson Room A*

WIP-ing Climate Change; WIP it, WIP it real good

The final Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) acknowledges the impact of climate change and sets the framework for addressing these impacts. Come learn how MD is beginning to WIP climate change and help us brainstorm future approaches.

**3:45pm**

**Closing Remarks**

*Aldo Leopold Auditorium*