

PAXCON

Water Quality: Issues & Solutions

Thursday, February 1, 2024 | Patuxent Research Refuge

AGENDA

8:00 Set Up

9:00 Doors Open (Registration/Coffee)

9:30 Conference Welcome: **Jennifer Greiner**, *Patuxent Research Refuge Manager*

9:40 Keynote Speaker: **Mayor Noah Waters**, *Town of Eagle Harbor Maryland*

Morning Breakout Session IA: Science and Research

10:30 **Jonathan Craig**, Department of Environmental Science, American University
Title: *Concentration of Microplastics and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary Region of the Patuxent River, Maryland*

10:50 **Michael Gonsior**, UMCES-CBL

Title: *Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in Maryland Waters*

11:10 Break

11:30 **Jessica McGlinsey**, UMCES - CBL

Title: *Climate Ecology & Conservation: The State of the Diamondback Terrapin*

11:50 **Erik Michelsen**, Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works

Title: *Can we use tools to model the water quality benefits of beaver to create incentives for landowners and local governments to embrace their return?*

Morning Breakout Session IB: Activism/Citizen Participation & Communication, Engagement and Education

10:30 **Alison Zak**, Human-Beaver Coexistence Fund

Title: *How to Coexist with Beavers*

10:50 **Becky Swerida**, CBNERR MD/DNR and Kaitlin Scowen, MD DNR

Title: *SAV Watchers: From the Chesapeake Bay to the Patuxent River*

11:10 *Break*

11:30 **Mary Hoover**, American Chestnut Land Trust

Title: *Citizen-led Water Quality Monitoring in Calvert County*

11:50 **Elizabeth Brown, Dr. Stella Liu**; College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University

Title: *Good for students, good for scientists: Beneficial outcomes of a water quality citizen science project in a high school classroom*

12:15 Lunch / Student posters

1:15 Panel: Patuxent Preservation: Past, Present and Future

Potential Panelists: Dr. Tom Miller, Dr. Ralph Eshelman, Dr. Walter Boynton,, Richard Dolesh, Greg Bowen, Fred Tutman, Gary Hodge

Patuxent Preservation: Past, Present and Future

A watershed conversation. Long ago, on a river not so far away, Southern Maryland activists launched a movement to save the Patuxent River. They filed lawsuits, lobbied the legislature and demanded action from regulators. It was a movement that eventually sparked the Maryland Chesapeake Bay program, bringing all sorts of regulatory reforms, preservation promises, and a white-hot citizen movement that still endures today. Yet the Patuxent River remains in trouble with a sub-par water quality grade, plus spiraling population growth that brings new challenges and burdens not imagined when the Patuxent movement started. To know the future of this river, perhaps we need to first look at its past? Our distinguished panel includes scientists, activists, elected officials and others, all with a history of involvement and engagement with the movement to save the Patuxent River exploring lessons learned, opportunities ahead, and charting a course for the conservation future for our river.

2:15 *Break*

2:30 Young Professionals Panel: Engaging Younger Diverse Audiences in Patuxent River Research and Restoration

3:30 *Conference Ends*