2015 Patuxent River Conference

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory
Meeting Room
10515 Mackall Rd
St. Leonard, MD 20685
June 18-19, 2015

JUNE 18th, 2015

Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory Conference Room

8:30 - 9:00am **Registration / Coffee**

9:00 – 9:15 **Welcome and Introduction:** Sasha Land, CBNERR-MD

9:15 – 9:45 **Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Walter Boynton, UMCES-CBL

9:45 – 10:45 **Session I: Water Quality in Patuxent Streams and Reservoirs**

1. **Freshwater Stream Conditions in the Patuxent River Basin**: Dan Boward, MD-DNR
2. **Water Quality in Calvert County Streams**: David Brownlee, Calvert County, Community Planning and Building
3. **WSSC Patuxent Reservoirs Water Quality Monitoring Program:** Dr. Martin Chandler, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

10:45-11:00 **Break**

11:00-11:30 **Session II: Water Quality in the Patuxent**

1. **Changes in Water and Habitat Quality in the Patuxent River**: Renee Karrh, MD-DNR
2. **Early Lessons from Monitoring in Tidal Creeks of the Lower Patuxent:** Dr. Lora Harris, UMCES-CBL

11:30- 12:00 **Group Discussion of Morning Sessions**

12:00 – 12:45 **Lunch** (provided)

12:45 – 2:00 **Session III: Linking Watershed Impacts to Tidal Habitat and Species**

1. **Land Use, Shoreline Hardening, and Hypoxia: Understanding Effects on Fish and Shellfish Species**: Dr. Denise Breitburg, SERC

2. **Good Fish in Bad Habitats: Conceptual Challenges in Linking Fisheries to Patuxent Watershed Recovery,** Dr. David Secor, UMCES-CBL
3. **Understanding Vulnerability to Climate Change: An Analysis of Salinity, Water Levels, Marsh Elevation, and Plant Species Communities in a Tidal Freshwater Marsh**: Dr. Patricia Delgado, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

2:00 – 3:15 **Session IV: Tidal Habitat and Species**

1. **Feedbacks between Sediment and Vegetation Dynamics at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary**: Dr. Cindy Palinkas, UMCES-Horn Point
2. **The Role of Plants, Soil, and Human Disturbance in Shaping Tidal Freshwater Microbial Community Composition and Function**: Dr. Stephanie Yarwood, UMD College Park
3. **Habitat Use, Diet, and Movement of Invasive Blue Catfish in the Patuxent River**: Dr Matthew Ogburn, SERC

3:15 – 3:30 **Break**

3:30 – 4:00 **Session V: Citizen Science**

1. **Lessons Learned Comparing Citizen Science Water Quality Data with Adjacent NERRS Sensors**: Dr. Jeffrey Campbell, Environmental Informatics and Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary
2. **Two SqFt of Prime Waterfront Property: Providing Nesting Boxes to Re-establish Barn Owls in Calvert County**: Andrew Brown, Calvert County, Natural Resources Division

4:00- 4:45 **Synthesis / Wrap Up:** Dr. Walter Boynton & Dr. Lora Harris, UMCES-CBL

Review of the presentations and group discussion. What was missed?

Morgan State University Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (next door)

4:45 – 6:00 **Networking / Poster Session**: Refreshments will be served.

6:00pm **Adjourn**

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8:30 - 9:00am **Coffee**

9:00 – 9:15 **Agenda for the Day: Goals and Process**

This day will be facilitated by the Community Mediation Center of Calvert County.

MAC Lab and Morgan State University Conference Rooms

9:15 – 10:30 **Small Group Discussion: Facilitated Breakout Sessions**

Questions to be asked of each breakout group:

1. What is the single most fundamental scientific question concerning watershed / upland habitat and species that would enhance our understanding of the Patuxent River ecosystem?

   Identify two research projects that might be elements of an overall research strategy to address this question and influence research - management / restoration / conservation decisions over the next 5 years.

2. What is the single most fundamental scientific question concerning tidal habitat and species that would enhance our understanding of the Patuxent River ecosystem?

   Identify two research projects that might be elements of an overall research strategy to address this question and influence research - management / restoration / conservation decisions over the next 5 years.

3. What is the single most significant conservation / restoration / management / monitoring strategy that would enhance water quality in the Patuxent River over the next 5 years?

   Identify two research / conservation / restoration projects that might be elements of an overall strategy to address this question and influence research - management / restoration / conservation decisions over the next 5 years.

10:30 – 10:45 **Break**

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10:45 – 12:15 **Large Group Discussion: Sharing Outcomes from Breakout Sessions and Identifying Priorities**

12:15 – 1:00 **Lunch** (provided)

1:00 – 2:30 **Brainstorm: What Would a Research / Monitoring / Management Plan Look Like? Next Steps?** Use the outputs and priorities of the morning session to begin to formulate ideas on how and who will move those ideas forward.

2:30 **Adjourn**