

# 2017 Patuxent River Conference

## Speaker Bios

### **Chris Becraft**

*Supervisor/Coordinator, Underwood & Associates*

From contract award through final construction, Chris supervises and coordinates the planning, design/permit, and construction of all ecosystem restoration projects to ensure they are completed on time and within budget. In particular, Chris works collaboratively with clients, inspectors, client engineers, project partners, and all Underwood & Associate staff to ensure all expectations are met and all deliverables are achieved. Prior to joining Underwood & Associates, Chris worked for Maryland Department of Natural Resources managing the design and implementation of nature-based restoration projects throughout the state.

### **Sadie Drescher**

*Director of Programs for Restoration, Chesapeake Bay Trust*

The Chesapeake Bay Trust has been a leader in piloting new ideas and practices such as living shorelines throughout Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay. At the Trust she leads the restoration programs that include implementation projects, research efforts, and innovative county watershed and citizen engagement grant programs. She has background in environmental science with a M.S. in Environmental Studies from the College of Charleston (SC) and a B.S. in Environmental Biology from Tennessee Technological University. Sadie's work focuses on watershed restoration and stormwater management to support policy, training, and outreach initiatives.

Prior to joining the Trust, Sadie was as a Watershed Researcher and Planner for the Center for Watershed Protection, Inc. (the Center) where she coordinated the Shoreline Management Panel for the USEPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office. Before working at the Center, Sadie was a Research Specialist for SC's state coastal management program, worked at the USDA Center for Forested Wetlands in SC, and was an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education fellow for the US Department of Energy in Tennessee.

### **Beth Ginter**

*Coordinator, Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) Program*

As Coordinator of the CBLP certification initiative since 2015, Ms. Ginter is responsible for overseeing all aspects this new program which aims to ensure consistent training and practice standards for landscape professionals working in the Chesapeake Bay region. CBLP is an advanced credential system and network of sustainable landscaping professionals who design, install, and maintain sustainable landscapes. The credential emphasizes small-scale stormwater retrofit best management practices and conservation landscaping with native plants to benefit the environment.

Following a 15-year career in the pharmaceutical industry, where she directed global medical education and scientific communications programs, Ms. Ginter founded a landscape consulting and design firm, The Honeybee Group, in 2005 to provide sustainable design solutions for residential clients and schools in the Washington, DC area. Ms. Ginter holds a Masters degree in Sustainable Landscape Design from The George Washington University and a BA in English from Virginia Commonwealth University. Ms. Ginter has served on the Boards of the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council, two independent schools, and several local nonprofits. She previously served on the program committee for the DC Landscape Designers Group, and she is currently an advisor to Urban Ecosystem Restorations. She lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, and enjoys spending time at her family's home where the West River meets the Chesapeake Bay.

### **Kim Rice**

*Program Manager, Plant Protection & Weed Management Section  
MD Department of Agriculture*

Kim Rice's background is in survey work focusing on invasive and exotic pest species. Some of the pests she has worked with include: red imported fire ant, emerald ash borer, Sirex noctilio, exotic woodboring beetles and native crop pests. She is also the chair of the Invasive Plant Advisory Committee. She has a bachelor of science degree in entomology from the University of Delaware and has worked with MD Dept of Agriculture for 17 years.

### **Dr. Bhaskaran Subramanian**

*Program Manager, Shoreline Conservation Service, MD Department of Natural Resources*

Dr. Bhaskaran Subramanian is from India. He received his BS (Chemistry) and MS (Environmental Chemistry), from India. He came to the United States in 2000 for his Ph.D. in the Marine-Estuarine- Environmental Sciences program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. His dissertation was on heavy metal remediation, a topic that is completely unrelated to what he is working on now!! After he graduated, in an effort to earn his stripes, Bhaskar worked as an intern researching shoreline projects and practices that are effective in shoreline protection and erosion control. He visited over 200 living shoreline projects in MD and compiled an assessment of the performance and conditions of these projects. He has presented his findings and shared the lessons learned in numerous platforms- panels, meetings, workshops, conferences, etc. Currently, Bhaskar heads the Shoreline Conservation Service for MD Department of Natural Resources. In his current position, he works with various stakeholders (federal, state, local governments, private sector, and citizens) providing technical assistance for habitat creation/restoration projects.

In addition to the technical assistance, Bhaskar also administers Maryland's zero-interest loan program to implement shoreline restoration projects for private and public projects. He is also assisting Maryland Department of the Environment (State's regulatory authority) in implementing Maryland's Living Shorelines Law. Bhaskar is constantly working on

opportunities to push the envelope on implementing innovative living shoreline projects in Maryland and likes to come up with interesting names for the techniques!!! In recognizing the crucial role that outreach programs plays in filling the knowledge gap, Bhaskar conducts workshops on living shorelines for various stakeholders to enable and enhance communication between different groups. He also conducts workshops exclusively for the living shoreline professionals (marine contractors, engineers, etc.), who play a pivotal role in implementing environmentally-sensitive projects.

### **Keith Underwood**

*Founder and Principal, Underwood & Associates*

Mr. Underwood has more than 30 years of experience in ecological restoration design. Under his guidance Underwood & Associates were the creators of many of Anne Arundel standards and specifications for Anne Arundel County official guidance for Coastal Plain Outfalls (CSO) and Regenerative Stream Channel (RSC) design. He has co-authored many articles about floodplain management, ecological restoration, stream rehabilitation and stormwater management. He is a nationally recognized expert in Atlantic White Cedar ecology and co-chaired the 2003 Atlantic White Cedar: Ecology Restoration & Management symposium. He has designed and/or installed 500+ residential low impact stormwater management projects.

### **Deborah Weller**

*Manager, Department of Environment's Community Outreach Promoting Empowerment (COPE) Section, Sustainability Division, Prince George's County*

Deborah Weller has worked in the environmental field for thirty years on watershed restoration, urban ecology, education, outreach and innovation. Deborah has been with the County since 2006, first as program manager for DoE's Watershed and Assessment Program then as section head of the Community Outreach Promoting Empowerment (COPE) Section. The primary goal of COPE is to help people become aware of behaviors that impact our built and natural environment and to adopt more environmentally sustainable behaviors. In this position, Ms. Weller has launched numerous programs to increase Tree Canopy including Arbor Day Every Day, Scoop the Poop Campaign to reduce pet waste, and Clean Water Clear Choices to reduce to storm water pollution.

Before taking the reins of this brand new section, Deborah created the Department's Watershed Assessment and Planning Program. She has been with the County since 2006. Prior to working for DoE, she managed MD Dept. of Planning's Watershed Planning and Chesapeake Bay Restoration section. She has worked in the environmental field for thirty years on watershed restoration, urban ecology, education, outreach and innovation. She received her B.A (1978) from Knox College in Galesburg, Ill and a Master's Degree (1981) in Ecology from University of Tennessee, Department of Ecology.