



Meet the Presenters & Workshop Leaders

Keynote Presenter

Peter Kasabach

Executive Director, New Jersey Future

Peter has been actively engaged in the areas of housing and sustainable development and community revitalization for the past 25 years. Before taking the helm of New Jersey Future in December 2007, he was chief of policy and community development for the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, where he guided investment programs and developed a comprehensive state housing policy for use by the Department of Community Affairs.

Prior to joining the HMFA, Peter oversaw all planning and real estate development activities for Isles, a private nonprofit community development organization in Trenton. He holds a B.S. in Economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Opening Plenary

Olivia C. Glenn

Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Appointed in July 2021, Olivia is responsible for prioritizing the advancement of New Jersey's environmental justice and equity goals. Olivia previously led the DEP's Division of Parks and Forestry, serving since 2018 as its director and managing its 450,000 acres of natural and historic resources. From 2003 to 2009, she worked as the Division's Urban Initiatives and Outreach Coordinator and subsequently served as special assistant to the DEP Deputy Commissioner. Olivia later was a member of the DEP's Environmental Justice Advisory Council, leading its efforts in outreach, education and land management.

Olivia also has worked with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, making outdoor spaces and trails more readily available to Greater Philadelphia residents, especially people living in Camden. In 2018, the Camden Collaborative Initiative honored her with the Camden Environmental Hero Award.

Olivia earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Dartmouth College. She holds a master's degree from the Yale School of the Environment, where she wrote her master's thesis on park revitalization in Camden.

Workshop Presenters

Alex Ambrose

Association of Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)

Alex is the Policy Associate at the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions since 2019. She works on the Delaware River Watershed Initiative in the New Jersey Highlands Cluster as well as on statewide policy issues including plastic reduction, stormwater, and clean energy. Before coming to ANJEC, Alex was the Policy Assistant at New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, where she worked on statewide legislation such as the Flood Defense Act, the Preserve New Jersey Act, and the Clean Energy Act. She studied Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at Rutgers University with a minor in Geospatial Information Systems.

Emily Baldauff

Mid Atlantic Organizer for Trout Unlimited

Emily supports, organizes, and trains TU members and other sportsmen to advocate on behalf of coldwater fisheries conservation. She also assists in monitoring and analyzing state-level policy and legislation.

Emily is a native of Northeast Pennsylvania and has worked extensively throughout the state and mid-Atlantic region. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Resource Management from Keystone College, LaPlume, Pa. Emily's professional career has dabbled in all forms for conservation including climate, watershed management, water quality and restoration, permitting, environmental education wildlife, policy, and habitat conservation. Most notably, before joining TU she worked for Berks County Conservation District, Pike County Conservation District, and PennFuture. She is also currently the Susquehanna North Branch Water Trail Coordinator for Endless Mountains Heritage Region in Towanda, Pa and an Adjunct Professor at Keystone College in LaPlume, Pa teaching Environmental Science and Environmental Management & Policy.

Marsha Benovengo

Chair, New Jersey State Council of Trout Unlimited

Marsha Benovengo is the Chair of Trout Unlimited's New Jersey State Council and the interim president of TU's Central Jersey chapter. She serves on the TU National Leadership Council's Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup, is a past president of the Joan Wulff Fly Fishers Club, and served as a program coordinator for Casting for Recovery, an organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of women with breast cancer by connecting them to each other and nature through fly fishing.

Kelly Elizabeth Buchta

National Leadership Council Representative in NJTrout Unlimited

Kelly is a lifelong Trout Unlimited volunteer. She is a member of East Jersey TU, NJ State Council TU and the National Leader Council (NLC) representative for New Jersey. In addition, she is the Co-Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion workgroup and sits on the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) planning team for Trout Unlimited National. She is also the co-owner of Dette Flies located in the Catskills.

Jennifer Coffey

Executive Director, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)

Jennifer Coffey is Executive Director of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), an organization that supports the states' many municipal environmental commissions in protecting natural resources through the local government planning and permitting processes. Prior to assuming this position, Ms. Coffey worked for 10 years as the Policy Director for the Watershed Institute, then known as the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association. She is a member of the New Jersey State Water Supply Advisory Council and the New Jersey Society of Women Environmental Professionals.

Barbara Heskins-Davis

Vice President, Programs, The Land Conservancy of New Jersey

Barbara Heskins Davis, PP, AICP, is Vice President of Programs at The Land Conservancy of New Jersey. Under Barbara's leadership, The Land Conservancy has completed 170 land conservation plans to protect open space, farmland, and land for flood mitigation. Barbara served as Chair of Randolph Township's Open Space Committee for 15 years and their 16-mile trail system through 2,000 acres of open space is a highlight of their program. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biology and English from Franklin and Marshall College and earned her Masters of Environmental Management in Water and Air Resources from the Duke University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Keith Fritchie

Habitat Restoration Coordinator, Trout Unlimited

Keith is Trout Unlimited's habitat restoration coordinator in northwestern New Jersey. In addition to planning and implementing projects that benefit NJ's wild trout fisheries, Keith is working with the regional [Great Waters partnership](#) to map and protect important recreational waters.

Joe Getz

Principal, JGSC Group LLC

The founding principal of JGSC Group, Joe Getz has spent over 25 years helping communities large and small develop strategies for revitalization and economic growth. He has created marketing campaigns and strategic plans for shopping malls, retailers, real estate developers, and consumer products companies. He developed the company's principal product, Community Insights®—an economic analysis/strategic recommendation process for revitalization. He conceived and executed a regional economic planning analysis for the communities of Gloucester County, NJ.

Joe has served as counsel on economic revitalization to Main Street New Jersey and Main Street Delaware. He has provided instructional sessions for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the New Jersey Downtown Revitalization & Management Institute, and has served on the Technical Advisory Committee of the NJ Highlands Council for economic development issues. He has been a featured speaker at regional and national conferences where he shares his insights on destination marketing and stimulating economic growth in downtowns.

Maryjude Haddock-Weiler

Planning Manager, New Jersey Highlands Water Protection & Planning Council

Maryjude Haddock-Weiler is the Planning Manager for the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council. She has been practicing environmental and regional planning in New Jersey for more than 35 years.

Prior to joining the Highlands Council staff, Maryjude was a private consultant for The Fellows Read Organization and ACT Engineers, Inc., where she worked with a broad range of clients including the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Protection, Mercer County Improvement Authority, and other county and municipal agencies. As a consultant, Maryjude was Project Manager of the Duck Island Master Plan, and primary author of a Waterfront Public Access Manual prepared to guide development along the New Jersey coast.

Maryjude received a B.S. in Environmental Planning and Design from Rutgers University, Cook College. She earned a Master of City and Regional Planning from Rutgers School of Policy and Planning, now known as the Bloustein School. Maryjude is a licensed Professional Planner and certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Jane Heeckt

Policy Assistant, Musconetcong Watershed Association

Jane brings over 20 years of experience managing projects at companies across a range of industries, and as an independent consultant. Jane has a Bachelor of Arts in Literature from Fordham University. An introductory class in environmental science, taken to fulfill her college science requirement, sparked her interest in environmental protection. Jane's research on

contamination at the Diamond Aerosol site not far from her home inspired her to join the Sierra Club, and her research paper earned her the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. as a volunteer lobbyist.

Alan Hunt Ph. D.

Policy & Grants Director, Musconetcong Watershed Association

Alan works on implementing the Musconetcong Wild and Scenic River Management Plan, watershed protection policies, reviews development proposals and prepares public comments, recreational resource development, managing the Historic Asbury Mill's restoration and interpretation, and writing and managing grants. Alan grew up along the Musconetcong River, and is bringing up the fourth generation on his family's farm.

Evan Madlinger

Acting State Resource Conservationist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Evan currently serves as Acting State Resource Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Management from The Ohio State University. His career with NRCS started as a summer intern in 1998 while still in college. Upon graduation, in February 2002, Evan was hired full time as a Soil Conservationist in the Freehold Service Center covering Monmouth, Mercer, and Middlesex Counties. In fall 2005, Evan was transferred to the Frenchtown Service Center where he covered Hunterdon, Somerset, and Union Counties until December 2008. In January 2009, Evan was selected to serve as NRCS Biologist and was responsible for all NRCS wildlife and wetland work conducted in Northern New Jersey. His primary duty was to assist NRCS field staff with implementation of Farm Bill program practices related to wildlife, wetlands, fisheries, and forestry. In Evan's current position as Acting State Resource Conservationist, he oversees the Resources Shop, which includes 6 technical specialists. Responsibilities also include all aspects of agronomy, urban agriculture, livestock, forestry, and wildlife.

Hillary Mohaupt

Social Media & Inclusion Director, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

Hillary Mohaupt is the Director of Social Media and Inclusion for New Jersey League of Conservation Voters and Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania. She's spent over a decade helping small non-profit and cultural organizations tell their stories in print and online. A native of the Midwest, she enjoys exploring natural wonders across the US but prefers the restored prairies and woodlands of central Illinois. Hillary studied public history and the French resistance at Macalester College and the University of Delaware, and she holds an MFA in fiction from Pacific University in Oregon.

Kevin O’Leary

Deputy Mayor Township of Lafayette & Lafayette Township Open Space Committee

Kevin K. O’Leary works as a Paralegal primarily engaged in civil litigation defense work. He attended Villanova University receiving two degrees—a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts-Honors Program. He has served on the Lafayette Township Open Space Committee since its inception back in 2004. He is also an active member of the Lafayette Township Land Use Board serving since 2005 and was the Chair for ten years before being elected to the Lafayette Township Committee. Kevin currently serves as the Deputy Mayor. He has actively promoted Open Space preservation in Lafayette Township from the inception of the program and was heavily involved in the processes of establishing a local Open Space Trust, drafting the initial Open Space and Recreation Plan and the recent Update to that Plan, and preparing Planning Incentive Grant submissions to Green Acres. Lafayette has completed three preservation projects comprising just under 170 acres along with facilitating other preservation projects including multiple State direct acquisitions and farmland preservation projects that have allowed 1,790 acres to be preserved under the Farmland Preservation program in the Township. Kevin is also a longtime Treasurer of the organization charged with running all the local sports programs.

Linda Patterson

Land Use Planning & Water Quality Educator, Lake Champlain Sea Grant

Linda joined LCSG in August, 2015. She is responsible for coordinating education programs to target professional groups and municipal board members on the impacts of land use on water quality. Her life-long devotion to the health and welfare of Lake Champlain inspired her transition from a social work career to working for the Lake. She is co-founder of Ahead of the Storm, a local tri-town collaborative providing education and resources for private and public landowners concerned with stormwater runoff. Linda’s involvement with local watershed initiatives includes her role as Lake Wise Leader through the Department of Environmental Conservation and Blue Green Algae tracker with the Lake Champlain Committee.

Emily Pindilli Ph. D.

Director of the Science & Decisions Center and Economist at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia.

Emily leads a research portfolio on environmental and informational economics topics including: the value of scientific information; ecosystem services assessment and valuation; methods to integrate multi-disciplinary analyses to support land use decision-making; lifecycle analyses of resource development and conservation; and environmental markets. Emily's team is working on ecosystem services in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the value of cyanobacteria harmful algal bloom science, integrated hydrologic-economic decision support for irrigation in the Mississippi Alluvial Plain, cost-benefit analyses of flood mitigation in the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River watershed, among others.

Emily is co-chair of A Community on Ecosystem Services (ACES) conference 2021 & 2022 and is managing guest editor for a special issue on “Valuing Earth and Environmental Science” in *Frontiers in Environmental Science*.

Adele Starrs

Mayor of Knowlton, NJ

Adele Starrs is currently serving her seventh year as Mayor of Knowlton Township, a rural community in northwest New Jersey. Mayor Starrs is a passionate advocate for issues disproportionately affecting rural residents. She first became involved in local government after noticing the unusually high number of children in her town with asthma, the result of downwind pollution from a coal plant. Thanks to collaboration by a wide network of state and local officials, that facility has now closed and the region's air quality has improved significantly. Mayor Starrs has made access to better Internet another driving focus of her tenure, helping to secure federal grants to improve Internet service to residents in her municipality.

Having earned her bachelor's degree in English at the College of William and Mary, in 2021, Mayor Starrs earned her master of science degree from Columbia University in human capital management. Her professional experience includes 20 years as a copy editor for Random House and she now works for Blair Academy in Blairstown, New Jersey, as the senior writer and editor. She is a co-founder, past president and trustee of the Warren County Governing Officials Association and a volunteer with the Land Conservancy of New Jersey and the Delaware National Water Gap Recreation Area. She and her husband, Tom, have four children.

Jennifer Tabanico

President & Owner of Action Research

Action Research is a firm that specializes in changing behavior for the public good by applying marketing and social science research to outreach programs that promote safe, healthy, and sustainable communities.

Jennifer has a Master of Arts degree in Experimental Psychology and more than 19 years of experience developing behavior change programs for public and private agencies, including 15 years of work on stormwater and watershed protection programs. Beyond this she has authored or co-authored works in academic outlets including the *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, *Social Influence*, and *Social Marketing Quarterly*. Most recently, she authored a book chapter on behavior change in the *Handbook on Household Hazardous Waste*. Jennifer also currently serves as an instructor for the University of California San Diego (UCSD) Extension's *Behavior Change and Sustainability* certificate program.

Elsa Todd

Co-Founder PEACE NJ

Elsa was born and raised in Lima, Perú where she worked in Human Resources and as an ESL and Spanish Teacher before moving to New Jersey in October of 2000. Elsa is an experienced bilingual online marketing & social media professional in several business industries and helps organizations expand their cross-cultural communications and connect with the Spanish speaking communities. She also works as a translator and interpreter in the public and private sector.

Elsa enjoys volunteering in her community and is an active member of the Hackettstown Elks. She currently volunteers in the Hackettstown Cub Scouts, Trinity Church missions and ministries, offers free Spanish lessons a couple of times a year and is one of the movers and shakers behind PEACE NJ.

Alexandra Tranmer

Senior Project Manager, Camoin Associates

Alex is Senior Project Manager at Camoin Associates, where she leads complex strategic planning efforts in geographies ranging from bustling urban centers to pastoral villages. She works with clients to balance the competing interests of stakeholders, while helping the client develop a plan that is ambitious yet achievable under their existing organizational capacity. Prior to working at Camoin Associates, she worked in the fields of architectural preservation and community organizing. Alex holds an Honors Bachelor of Arts and a Master's of Science in Planning (MScPI) from the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada.