

## 2022 Conference Presenter Biographies

**Saturday September 17, 9:00am – 4:00 pm**  
**The Lackland Center, Centenary College**  
**715 Grand Ave., Hackettstown, NJ 07840**

### **Michael Muckle**

Director

NJ Youth Corps of Phillipsburg

Michael Muckle found his way to the Service & Conservation Corps movement through his own term of service as an AmeriCorps member in 1997. During that time, he caught the public service bug and never looked back. Oftentimes you can find him working alongside his Corpsmembers on a variety of environmentally-themed service projects; he never misses an opportunity to turn service into a teachable moment.

His passion for the Corps Movement runs deep. Michael has unique insight into the dynamics of crafting programs for the youth he serves gained through his own corps experience providing advocacy, removing systemic barriers, and creating equitable spaces for youth to learn and grow.



### **Kyle Richter**

Executive Director

Lake Hopatcong Foundation

The Lake Hopatcong Foundation dedicates itself to protecting the environment and experience of New Jersey's largest lake by bringing together public and private resources to encourage a culture of sustainability and stewardship. The Foundations works to achieve its mission through initiatives under 4 core pillars: Advocacy, Environment, Education, and Community.

Kyle joined the Foundation in 2021 and brings a decade of experience in the conservation field. Before joining the Foundation team, Kyle served as the Watershed Programs Manager at the Musconetcong Watershed Association for 7 years. Kyle led the Association's education and outreach programs and managed restoration projects throughout the watershed. Originally from Naples, Florida, Kyle came to New Jersey for college and has called it home ever since. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Marine Science from Rutgers University and a professional certificate in Watershed Management from Michigan State University. Kyle is also a 2017 Senior

Fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program. When not at the lake, Kyle enjoys traveling, hiking, kayaking, snowboarding, and spending time with his family, especially his dog, Phoebe!



**Kerry Kirk Pflugh**

Executive Director

New Jersey Conference of Mayors

Kerry Kirk Pflugh is the Executive Director for the New Jersey Conference of Mayors. She brings with her extensive experience as the former director for local government at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and former Manager for the Office of Watershed Education, Estuaries and Monitoring. She is also the current president of the Friends of the New Jersey

School of Conservation, which has been providing teachers and students with environmental education experiences and training for over 70 years. She is currently spearheading efforts to restore the historic CCC education center.

Ms. Pflugh's area of expertise is strategic communication planning focusing on citizen participation in environmental management decision-making. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the New Jersey Conference of Mayors Cabinet Liaison of the Year Award and the George Hammell Cook Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in Professional and Civic Matters.



**Zac Cole**

Long-Distance Trails Program Coordinator

New York-New Jersey Trails Conference

Zac joined the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in 2022 as the Long-Distance Trails Program Coordinator. Zac grew up in northern Italy with plenty of opportunity to hike and visit the Alps. These experiences and his commitment to environmental conservation set him on the path to a career advocating for the natural environments we all love to recreate in. Prior to joining the

Trail Conference, Zac was Outreach & Education Program Director at the New Jersey Highlands Coalition and gained ample experience in environmental policy and advocacy. Before that, Zac held several positions in the UK and Austria working on projects related to urban sustainability and corporate environmental and social responsibility.

Since moving to New Jersey, Zac has devoted the last few years to exploring his local trails and cycling throughout the region and is proud to call the New Jersey Highlands home. Zac holds a BA in English Literature and an MSc in Environment & Sustainable Development.