

# Introducing Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience

Save The Bay, Providence, RI | May 25, 2017, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

## SPEAKER INFORMATION

### **Caitlin Chaffee, CRMC** | [cchaffee@crmc.ri.gov](mailto:cchaffee@crmc.ri.gov)

Caitlin has been a policy analyst with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council for over 10 years. She is responsible for coordinating the Rhode Island Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund, and chairs the Fund's technical advisory committee. In addition, she manages habitat restoration projects and develops and implements policy, guidance materials and training programs related to coastal buffer preservation and restoration, invasive plant management, and stormwater management using green infrastructure practices. Chaffee received her master's degree in environmental science and management from the University of Rhode Island.

### **Wenley Ferguson, Save The Bay** | [wferguson@savebay.org](mailto:wferguson@savebay.org)

Wenley is Save The Bay's Restoration Coordinator. She has worked at Save The Bay since 1990 on a variety of habitat and water quality assessment and restoration projects throughout Narragansett Bay and its watershed. Projects have included salt marsh, anadromous fish, eelgrass and coastal buffer restoration projects, salt marsh assessments, coastal adaptation assessments, and habitat monitoring. Wenley has worked with a number of coastal municipalities on the identification, planning, design and implementation of stormwater infiltration projects including rain gardens, bioretention areas and infiltration and filtration areas. Wenley has experience developing conceptual plans and planting plans for stormwater infiltration projects and conducting planting with the support of volunteers and interns. Most recently, Wenley has designed, permitted and overseen the implementation of stormwater filtration and infiltration structures at low lying, coastal roads that are susceptible to tidal flooding and erosion in three coastal communities.

### **Philip Hervey, Town of Barrington** | [phervey@barrington.ri.gov](mailto:phervey@barrington.ri.gov)

Phil, AICP, Town Planner for Barrington, has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland at College Park (1990) and a Master of Regional Planning degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2000). From 2000 to 2005 he was a long-range planner in the Town of Chapel Hill, NC, Planning Department. During his 11 years as Barrington's Town Planner, Mr. Hervey worked with the Planning Board to complete two State-approved Comprehensive Plans: the 2010 and the 2015 Comprehensive Community Plans. Barrington won the 2015 RIAPA award for "Outstanding Comprehensive Plan" and 2016 RIAPA award for "Plan Implementation" (for implementation of 2015 Comprehensive Plan). Currently working on energy efficiency and solar projects, streetscape improvements, a park improvement and shoreline stabilization project, hazard mitigation planning, etc.

### **Kate Michaud, Town of Warren** | [kmichaud@townofwarren-ri.gov](mailto:kmichaud@townofwarren-ri.gov)

Kate is the Director of Planning & Community Development in Warren, RI – one of the American Planning Association's "Great Places in America". Kate is AICP certified and has worked in municipal government for more than 15 years. She is a member of the RI Flood Mitigation Association's Board of Directors and is very active in local hazard mitigation and infrastructure planning.

### **John Rozum, NOAA Office for Coastal Management** | [john.rozum@noaa.gov](mailto:john.rozum@noaa.gov)

John is the Senior Coastal Management Specialist at the Baldwin Group for NOAA's Office for Coastal Management. John works on numerous climate change-related trainings and projects, with a primary focus on the integration of geospatial tools and analysis into climate adaptation planning activities and the use of green infrastructure for coastal community resilience. He also has considerable experience helping communities integrate green infrastructure practices into their plans

and regulations. John is a certified land use planner with over 20 years' experience working at the local level as a consultant, a planning commissioner and a university educator.

**Pam Rubinoff, URI Coastal Resource Center/RI Sea Grant | [rubi@crc.uri.edu](mailto:rubi@crc.uri.edu)**

Pam is a Coastal Resilience Specialist at the Coastal Resources Center and RI Sea Grant, at URI's Graduate School of Oceanography. Over the past two decades at URI, Rubinoff has combined her skills in engineering and coastal policy to advance an interdisciplinary coastal resilience portfolio in Rhode Island and developing nations throughout the world. In collaboration with a diverse group of partners, Pam facilitates the use of climate science for effective policy, planning and action by coastal communities, state governments, and private sector stakeholders. Current projects include municipal training, green infrastructure in coastal environments, and supporting RI Preparedness efforts through physical modeling and social science research.

**Suzanne Giles Simon, Restore America's Estuaries | [ssimon@estuaries.org](mailto:ssimon@estuaries.org)**

Suzanne is the Strategic Programs Manager for Restore America's Estuaries, where she is the lead for the living shorelines program and for the biennial National Summit program. She has more than 20 years of coastal experience in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. She has a B.S. from Bates College and an M.S. from Western Washington University.

**Edward Tanner, Town of Bristol | [etanner@bristolri.us](mailto:etanner@bristolri.us)**

Ed is the Principal Planner and Zoning Officer for the Town of Bristol, a position he has held for the past 12 years. Previously he was employed as Environmental Planner for the City of Attleboro, Massachusetts and also worked in private environmental consulting. Ed is responsible for building and development plan reviews, is the Town's Phase II stormwater coordinator, and manages grant funding for several drainage and stormwater improvement projects. He holds a B.S. from the University of Rhode Island and is currently a candidate for a M.P.A. at Roger Williams University.

**Jennifer West, Narragansett Bay Research Reserve | [jennifer@nbnerr.org](mailto:jennifer@nbnerr.org)**

Jen has been the Coastal Training Program Coordinator with the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve since 2005. Her primary responsibility is the development and delivery of training events and technical assistance programs for municipal officials and other decision-maker audiences on topics related to water quality, habitat protection, and climate change. She also provides facilitation assistance to a variety of groups, from municipal advisory committees vetting and adopting new zoning ordinances to strategic planning for conservation groups. Jennifer has conducted numerous needs assessments, market analyses, and program evaluations and has expertise in planning and implementing collaborative methods and stakeholder engagement and facilitation techniques. Jennifer has a MS in Environmental Sciences from the University of Rhode Island and a BS in Environmental Biology from the State University of New York College at Oneonta.

**Scott D. Wheeler, City of Newport | [swheeler@cityofnewport.com](mailto:swheeler@cityofnewport.com)**

Scott is the Buildings & Ground Supervisor/Tree Warden with the City of Newport Public Services Department. Scott has worked for the City of Newport since 1994 and is currently the Grounds Supervisor and Tree Warden. With over three decades in the field, Scott brings his expertise as an arborist, urban forestry, and land use planning to municipal programs. He currently oversees the development, maintenance and capital improvements for parks and other city's properties, as well as the city's urban forestry program. Serves as an ex-officio member on city commissions and coordinates open space improvements with neighborhood associations and other private civic organizations. Scott has a bachelor's degree in Urban Forestry and studied Land Use and Regional Planning at the University of Massachusetts. Scott is the recipient of several awards, the most recent in 2016, from Scenic America.