

PA Aquatic Resource Restoration Training 2026

Past, Present, and Future

March 3 and 4th, 2026



Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College PA

Day 1 March 3rd Agenda

8:00	Registration Opens
9:00 - 9:05	Welcome and Purpose
9:05 - 10:00	Keynote Speakers: Dorothy Merritts, Franklin and Marshall College and Ellen Wohl, Colorado State University
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 11:30	Technical Session 1: Understanding the Past 1. Landscape Memory – (Past Episodes) – Ben Hayes, Bucknell Univ. (35 min) 2. Historic Unaltered/Natural Conditions and Processes – Robert Walter, Franklin and Marshall College (35 min) 3. Relevance of Past Conditions: Retentive Condition and Hydrodynamic Drivers – Chris Williams, Franklin and Marshall College (20 min)
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch
12:30 - 2:00	Technical Session 2: Characterizing the Colonial and Modern Past 1. Historic Watershed Alterations (Regional Patterns) – Ben Hayes, Bucknell Univ. (35 min) 2. Stratigraphic Investigation Techniques – Justin Spangler, LandStudies and Robert Walter, Franklin and Marshall College (35 min) 3. Tools for Locating Historic Changes – TWI, Geomorphon, Breached Dam Data – Dave Goerman, DEP DWET (20 min)
2:00 - 2:15	Break
2:15 - 3:45	Technical Session 3: Design Considerations 1. Evidence-Based Approach – Dave Goerman, DEP (10 min) 2. Principal and Key Restoration Design Considerations – Art Parola, Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., Drew Altland, Straughan Environmental, Inc., and Ward Oberholtzer, LandStudies (80 min)
3:45 – 4:30	Panel A Session: Restoration Frame of Reference - Systems Approach Panelists: Ellen Wohl, Dorothy Merritts, Jeff Hartranft, Art Parola, Drew Altland

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Day 2 March 4th Agenda

8:00	Registration Opens	
9:00 - 9:15	General Session CWA Update and Future of Watershed Restoration Permitting – Dave Goerman, DEP	
9:15 - 10:15	Breakout Session A Design and Evaluation Tools 1. Reliability of Two-Dimensional Hydrodynamic Models in Stream Restoration – Jesse Robinson, Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (30 min) 2. USACE Stream Design Evaluation Tool – Matt Gilbert, Pittsburgh District USACE (30 min) Ecological Considerations 3. Key Design Considerations for Ecological Benefits – Jeff Hartranft, DEP DWET (40 min) 4. Use of Restoration Community Predictor Tool – Ephraim Zimmerman, Western PA Conservancy (20 min)	
10:15 - 10:30	Comparing Project Costs 5. NSCD and Floodplain Reconnection Cost Comp – Michael Sachs, RES (20 min) 6. NSCD Cost Comparisons, Christy Mower , Civil & Environmental Consultants (20 min) 7. BMP Cost Effectiveness – Jake Lamb, Franklin and Marshall College (20 min)	
10:30 – 12:00	Break Breakout Session B Monitoring and Research 1. Big Spring Run Continuing Research and Other Regional Findings – Julia Carr, Shuyu Chang, and Joe Galella, Franklin and Marshall College (45 min) 2. Robinson Fork Longterm Monitoring – Speakers TBA, Ohio University (45 min) Performance Measures, Outcomes and Long-Term Maintenance 3. Beyond the Channel – Dynamic Alluvial Valley Performance Standards – Sam Leberg, Ecosystem Planning and Restoration (30 min) 4. Observed Project Outcomes – Monitoring Large Scale Projects and Results – Shawyn Yeamans, RES (30 min) 5. Vegetation Management in Restored Floodplain/Wetland Complexes – Nick Myers, LandStudies (30 min)	
	Project Organization 6. Coordinating a Large-Scale Project's Community Engagement and Funding - Little Conestoga Creek Blue Green Connector Experience – TBA, The Little Conestoga Creek Foundation (45 min) 7. Building Monitoring Partnerships and Communicating Outcomes the Conewago Experience – Invited Monique Dykman, Lancaster Clean Water Partners (45 min)	

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12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
Day 2 March 4th Agenda Cont.	
1:00 - 2:30	Technical Session 4: Demonstration Case Studies 1. Little Arnot Large Wood Reintroduction – Ben Hayes, Bucknell University (30 min) 2. Good Spring (aka Devil's Hole) – Dave Goerman, DEP (30 min) 3. Comprehensive Legacy Sediment Removal and Multi-Benefit Outcomes – Andrew Donaldson, Johnson, Mirmiran, & Thompson, Inc. and Ben Ehrhart, LandStudies (30 min)
2:30 - 2:45	Break
2:45 – 3:45	Technical Session 5: Watershed Scale Project Case Studies 1. Robinson Fork Mitigation Bank – Dave Goerman, DEP, Art Parola, Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. and Ward Oberholtzer, LandStudies (40 min) 2. Cocalico Creek Watershed – Invited, Su Fanok, PADE The Nature Conservancy and TBA (20 min)
345-415	Panel B Session: Future of Restoration Project Planning, Development, Implementation and Watershed Restoration Permitting Panelists: Dave Goerman, DEP; Jack Hill, DCNR; TBD; TBD; TBD