



2022 Chesapeake Oyster Science Symposium

Thursday, September 29, 2022 | 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET

Welcome



**Tanner Council, Chesapeake Oyster Alliance Manager,
Chesapeake Bay Foundation**

Tanner manages the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance (COA) with an ambitious goal to add 10 billion oysters to the Bay by 2025 through widespread cooperative advocacy, restoration, and public outreach. COA is a coalition currently consisting of over 85 partners, including regional and national non-profits, aquaculture operations, academic institutions, businesses and more, all supporting a restored oyster population and robust oyster industry in the waters of Chesapeake Bay.

Will Smiley, Resident Ecologist, The Tides Inn



Will Smiley attended Washington College in Chestertown, MD, where his love of the Chesapeake Bay started while earning his Bachelor of Science in Biology. He went on to attend graduate school at Antioch University in Keene, NH, where he received his Master of Education in Sustainability.

At the Tides Inn, Smiley lends his expertise to working on the water and informing guests of the living aspects of Carter's Creek and the Rappahannock River. Presently, he is the Head of the Waterfront and Oyster Program at Christchurch School. He also works with the Rappahannock Oyster Company. Smiley currently resides in Hartfield, VA with his three children, Abigail, Owen and Walker.



Richard Keurajian, Director of Marketing & Resort Programming, The Tides Inn

As the newly appointed Director of Marketing & Resort Programming, Richard Keurajian brings over 25 years of experience in hospitality sales and marketing to the Tides Inn. Keurajian joins the resort with an abundance of regional experience, having lead the marketing efforts for Kingsmill Resort and Lansdowne Resort and Spa over the last 11 years. In addition to independent hotels, Keurajian has worked for larger hotel brands during his career, including Hyatt and Wyndham. Born in Old

Tappan, New Jersey, Keurajian lives in Williamsburg with his wife and three children.

Panel 1: The Abundant Oyster: Increasing Our Yields



Steve Pattison, Business Director, Solar Oysters

Steve is the Business Director for Solar Oysters responsible for bringing the Solar Oyster Production System (SOPS) to market. Solar Oysters is a start-up company developing a new innovative oyster production technology. SOPS is a floating, high density oyster production system powered by solar energy. Solar power provides energy to automate the grow process and ancillary systems. Solar energy powers a basket rotation system, navigation lighting, platform surveillance, spray wash system, water quality monitoring, oxygenation, product sorting equipment, upweller and ship-to-shore communication. A prototype has been developed and is deployed in the Baltimore Harbor. The technology is envisioned to be used by the oyster aquaculture industry as

well as organizations focused on oyster restoration. Depending on the jurisdiction, nutrient credits can be generated for sale or offsets. Steve has Master Degrees from Syracuse University and the State University of New York's College of Environmental Science & Forestry. He also has a B.S. in wildlife management from Purdue University.



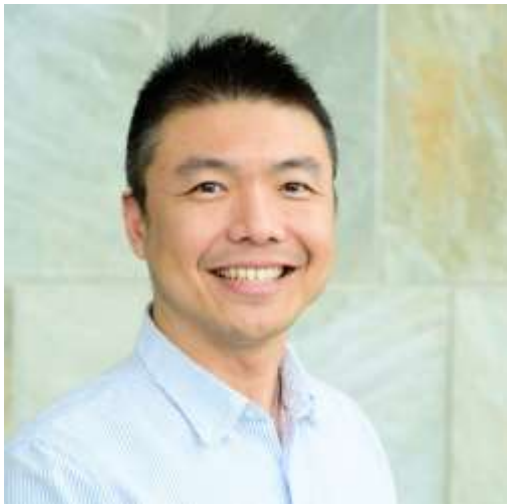
Bill Walton, Acuff Professor of Marine Science and Shellfish Aquaculture Program Coordinator, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)

Bill Walton is the Acuff Professor of Marine Science and Shellfish Aquaculture Program Coordinator at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary. His work focuses on applied research questions related to understanding how different choices on shellfish farms affect product quantity and quality, as well as farm profitability and sustainability.



Rom Lipcius, Professor of Marine Science, VIMS

Rom Lipcius is a professor of Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and William & Mary. Lipcius's research emphasizes eastern oyster restoration, blue crab ecology and fishery management, and marine conservation and restoration issues in general.



Dr. Ming Liu, Shellfish Geneticist and Breeder, Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (PEARL) of Morgan State University

Dr. Ming Liu is a shellfish geneticist and breeder, he is leading oyster and soft-shell clam breeding programs at Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (PEARL) of Morgan State University. Prior to joining in PEARL, he did a post-doctoral research at Haskin shellfish Research Laboratory working on improvement of oyster's disease resistance.

Panel 2: Knowing Our Oysters: Advancements in Monitoring



Scott Budden, Partner, Orchard Point Oyster Co.

Scott Budden is a Partner at Orchard Point Oyster Co. He has farmed oysters for nearly a decade in the Chesapeake and currently serves on the board of the Oyster Recovery Partnership, MD Sea Grant External Advisory Board, Chesapeake Oyster Alliance Steering Committee, and is the Treasurer for ShoreRivers. He serves at the Governor's behest on the MD Tidal Fish Advisory Commission and the MD Aquaculture Coordinating Council.



Dr. Matt Ogburn, Senior Scientist, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Dr. Matt Ogburn is a Senior Scientist and leads the Fisheries Conservation Lab at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. His research combines the latest technologies and traditional oyster metrics to advance our understanding of oyster reef ecology, management, and restoration in Chesapeake Bay. When he isn't studying oyster reefs, he's often conducting research on blue crabs, river herring, shark and rays, and a variety of other species and ecosystems.



Willy Reay, Director, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve VIMS

Dr. Willy Reay is Director of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia, and Research Associate Professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. As Director of CBNERR-VA, and past President of the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association, Dr. Reay strongly promotes conservation-based research, education and stewardship of our nation's estuaries while actively engaged in the development and implementation of shallow-water monitoring programs, their integration into ocean and coastal observation systems, and more recently the development of climate-change sentinel sites. At the more local level, he is a County Commissioner for the

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission and serves on the Virginia Coastal Policy Team and Management Team for the Chesapeake Bay Sentinel Site Cooperative.



Olivia Caretti, Coastal Restoration Program Manager at Oyster Recovery Partnership

Olivia Caretti is a marine ecologist interested in understanding how humans interact with coastal ecosystems, and how ecosystem structure and function respond to environmental change. Olivia is the Coastal Restoration Program Manager at Oyster Recovery Partnership, where she works with a variety of stakeholders and partners to enhance oyster

production, ecosystem function, and health of the Chesapeake Bay through restoration.

Panel 3: Converging Currents: Cooperation Across Sectors



Bryan Hoffman, Deputy Director, Friends of the Rappahannock

Bryan Hofmann joined Friends of the Rappahannock in 2013 and is currently their deputy director. He has bachelor degrees in political science and economics from Xavier University and a masters degree in environmental science from the Miami University's Institute for Environment and Sustainability. Bryan serves on multiple boards and technical advisory committees including the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP), Virginia Agricultural Cost-share Program (VACS), the Rapidan Institute, currently is the coordinator for the Rappahannock River

Roundtable. He loves Rappahannock River oysters and loves fly fishing the local streams in Orange County, Virginia.



Zack Greenberg, Officer, PEW Charitable Trusts

Zack Greenberg manages policy development and outreach for Pew's efforts to conserve ocean and coastal resources on the U.S. East Coast. Before joining Pew, Zack spent five years as a campaign manager with a national consulting firm, where he worked on political and a variety of issue-based campaigns across the country ranging from the environment, health care, education, and national security. Zack holds a dual bachelor's degree in environmental studies and history from Northeastern University and a master's in environmental law and

policy from Vermont Law School.



Erin Shields, Lead Marine Scientist, VIMS

Erin Shields is a Lead Marine Scientist at the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia at VIMS, where she leads the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) monitoring program. Over the past 4 years, Erin has been working on a project investigating impacts from floating oyster aquaculture on SAV.



Andrew Button, Deputy Chief of Shellfish Management Division and Head of the Conservation and Replenishment Department (CRD), VMRC

Andrew Button is currently the Deputy Chief of the Shellfish Management Division and Head of the Conservation and Replenishment Department (CRD). He has been with VMRC since 2014. The CRD has been in the business of large scale oyster restoration and replenishment since its inception in 1929. The Division maintains and monitors both harvest and sanctuary areas on more than 240,000 acres of public oyster ground in the waters of the

Commonwealth, manages a leasing and aquaculture permitting program on more than 130,000 acres of private ground, develops harvest regulations on both public and private oyster grounds, and coordinates with or is directly involved in a multitude of oyster and shellfish focused activities with multiple governmental and non-governmental groups.

Panel 4: Oysters Unlimited: Visions of the Future



Dr. Allison Colden, Maryland Senior Fisheries Scientist, CBF

Dr. Allison Colden is the Maryland Senior Fisheries Scientist for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). She develops the Foundation's state and federal fisheries policy initiatives and manages the Maryland Oyster Restoration Program. Allison serves on the Maryland Oyster Advisory Commission, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and as an

advisory panel member for the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council. She also volunteers as the Vice Chair of the Annapolis Environmental Commission and is a certified Master Watershed Steward.

Brent Hunsinger, Tidal Programs Manager, Friends of the Rappahannock



Based out of the tidal office in Tappahannock, Brent helps to carry out our restoration, education and advocacy programs in the lower river basin. He lives near Fredericksburg with his wife Beth, stepson Jackson and dog Layla. He enjoys waterfowl watching and exploring the marshes and forests during the winter months when no one is around.



Ward Slacum, Executive Director, Oyster Recovery Partnership

Ward Slacum leads Oyster Recovery Partnership's strategic growth initiatives to improve the regions blue infrastructure and coastal communities through oyster restoration and sustainable fishery initiatives. Ward has a broad background in marine and estuarine science and has been supporting Bay restoration for the past 30 years through applied research and cooperative programs. He earned a master's degree in Fisheries Science from the University of Maryland MEES Program and a bachelor's degree in environmental science from the UMD Eastern Shore campus.



Tommy Kellum, Partner, W. E. Kellum, Inc

Thomas (Tommy) Kellum is a partner with W. E. Kellum, Inc, a fifth family generation oyster processing company located on the Rappahannock River in Virginia. He serves on the Virginia Marine Resources Shellfish Advisory Committee, was a member of the Virginia Blue Ribbon Oyster Panel, as well as the Virginia Oyster Heritage Foundation. Tommy is Vice President of The Virginia Seafood Council, is a past

VIMS Council board member, and serves on the board of directors for Chesapeake Bank and Chesapeake Financial Shares.