

2023 WV Educational Conference on Litter Control & Solid Waste Management

Speaker Biographical Information

Chris Cartwright - Chris has been employed by the WVDNR and then the WVDEP for the last 23 years. During this time, he has served as state coordinator for the WV Make It Shine Program, and as Project Manager for REAP's Pollution Prevention Open Dump Program, Western Region. He recently took on the responsibilities of State Coordinator for the Adopt A Stream Program and is head of REAP's County Litter Control Officer Training Program.



Dan Conant is founder and CEO of Solar Holler and is a native of Shepherdstown, West Virginia with over a decade of clean energy industry experience. Before launching Solar Holler in 2013, Dan helped start the largest solar installer in Vermont and was a technical advisor to the US Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative. He has an MS in Energy Policy and Climate from Johns Hopkins. In the past decade, Dan's company has delivered energy independence to more than 1,400 Appalachian families, businesses, and nonprofits, while also paving the way to a new energy economy in West Virginia. Solar Holler is a Benefit-Corporation with approximately 110 employees located across the state. As head of the company, Dan's favorite role is dreaming up the latest innovations to bring to the industry and our state.

Niki Davis, a native of Kanawha County, has been with the WV Department of Environmental Protection for twelve years. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at WVSU and a short stint in medical laboratories, she began her career at DEP in 2010 with the Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) as an entry level Environmental Resources Specialist working with recycling and litter grants.

Driven by interest in program development, Niki joined the WVDEP's Environmental Enforcement as an Inspector in the newly formed Aboveground Storage Tanks Program but later returned to REAP to take on a more diversified role to supervise multiple programs. Outside of work, Niki stays quite busy with an energetic 5-year old daughter trying to make the most of each fleeting moment.

Baleigh “Bay” Epperly from Charleston, West Virginia, is Coalfield Development’s Associate Director of Creative Reuse. Bay graduated from Marshall University in 2021 with a bachelor’s degree in Sociology. In her current role, she is passionate and driven about all things reuse and creative place making; from upcycling workshops to facilitating best strategies to divert waste from landfills in Appalachia to be reused, upcycled, and recycled. Bay spends her free time enjoying nature, working on art and photography, and being engaged in the local music and art scene of Huntington.



Mark D. Holstine became the executive director of the Solid Waste Management Board in November 2010. Prior to joining the SWMB, Mark was employed by the WVDEP’s Division of Mining and Reclamation as an engineer in the Program Development Division.

He was employed by GAI Consultants, Inc. in the early 2000’s as a project manager, consulting with the WVDEP on Landfill Closure Assistance Program (LCAP) projects. He also managed the design and construction of various water and sewer projects throughout WV and PA.

Mark was employed by the City of Charleston throughout the 1990’s, first as assistant city engineer and then as Public Works director. As assistant city engineer, he assisted in the design and construction of the City of Charleston Landfill. As Public Works director, he was responsible for all aspects of the city’s solid waste collection and disposal, as well as the Street Department, Equipment Maintenance and Fleet Management, Public Grounds, city engineer, traffic engineer and Spring Hill Cemetery.

Mark has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the West Virginia Institute of Technology and is a West Virginia Licensed Professional Engineer. He and his wife of 34 years, Tammy, have two sons, David 27 and Chad 22. In his spare time Mark enjoys the outdoors with his family hunting, boating, and riding off road vehicles.

Annette Hoskins has been employed with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection for over 16 years. She attended The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she majored in Criminal Justice. She returned to WV and continued her career in Communications and Sales for the next 10 years. Annette enjoys educating children about the environment and our natural resources which lead her in the path of becoming the Youth Environmental Program Manager. She lives in Charleston with her husband, AJ, and daughter, Audrey, where she enjoys hiking, baking and traveling, especially family trips to the beach.

Traci Knabenshue - Director of Sustainability West Virginia University
Traci's work includes spearheading supporting development of recycling programs at regional campuses, spearheading the plan for single stream recycling and empty-your-own trash on the main campus.

Current focal points of the office include energy conservation and surplus management. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in integrated marketing communications, both from WVU. She is a former Adventure WV Program Leader and became interested in sustainability through her travels around the state with first-year university students in the program. Prior to working on sustainability full time, Traci served on the sustainability committee in a volunteer capacity as an employee in the Provost's Office. Her concern for the planet extends beyond the university through her love of cycling, skiing, running, and West Virginia whitewater.



Scott Mandirola is Deputy Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. Mandirola joined the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), Division of Water and Waste Management in April 2006 as an Environmental Resources Program Manager 2 to manage the state-wide Water Quality Standards Program. He became Acting Director of the division in September 2008 and was named Director in March 2010. While he continued to hold that position, Mandirola was appointed Deputy Cabinet Secretary of WVDEP in June 2015 and served in both roles until July 2018. He is now the Deputy Cabinet Secretary for External Affairs, as well as the Chief Science Officer. Mandirola serves as the liaison between the WVDEP and outside groups such as the state legislature, federal legislators, other West Virginia State agencies, the Department of Commerce, Environmental Council of the States, EPA, USACE and the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO).

Prior to joining the WVDEP, Mandirola worked for 17 years with SGS Environmental Services Inc., the largest testing and certification company in the world. In his capacity as Production Manager, he managed 30 plus laboratory employees, performed technical review of data and aided sales and marketing with technical issues.

Prior to joining WVDEP, Mandirola worked for the Connecticut Department of Health Services, Water Supplies Section as a Planning Analyst where he collected, analyzed and organized water supply data. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry/Geology and an Associate in Arts degree in General Studies from Keene State College. Mandirola lives with his wife in Elkview WV where they raised their three children.

Kate Marshall is the Executive Director of HoH-Share, Inc., a 501(c)3 located in Wheeling, WV. HoH-Share is an extensive non-profit that encompasses projects such as The Mother Jones Center for Resilient Communities, UpLift WV, The FUN-Raiser Urban Mobile Playground, and Trash Talkers.

Trash Talkers is a project committed to beautification in the Ohio Valley by providing clean-up services to people experiencing homelessness in Wheeling. They offer donation-based services for community members. Trash Talkers mobilizes volunteers to reinvest in the local community needs by providing lawn mowing, landscaping, and odd jobs for people in need. They focus heavily on waste reduction by recycling, repurposing, and up-cycling.

Kate is also the facilitator of House of Hagar Catholic Worker community that is dedicated to serving people in need in Wheeling, WV. House of Hagar is dedicated to building up the local community through companionship with people on the margins and by providing volunteer opportunities to engage with social justice issues.

Matt Rafa is a pharmacist and a lifelong volunteer for organizations like the Boy Scouts and the Lions. In his time as VP and President of the Ohio County Virtual Lions Club, Matt alongside his father helped to launch a plastic recycling program through Trex. They have grown the program to include dropoff locations throughout the county and beyond, including Ohio County and Wetzel County Solid Waste Authority.

Michael Rafa is a retired award-winning educator who spent most of his time at Brooke County High School where he acted as Science Department Chair or Co-chair. A graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in Biology Education and General Sciences, he was Brooke High School Teacher of the Year and Brook County Teacher of the Year, in addition to being named West Virginia Biology Teacher of the Year by the National Association of Biology Teachers in 2005. He is the current Chair of the Ohio County Virtual Lions Environmental Club and the Safety Director, a board member of Grow Warwood Pride, Co-chair of the Warwood Farmers Market, a board member of Wheeling Creek Watershed Alliance and a former Boy Scout leader.

Paula Riethmiller – Paula is the project coordinator for Trash Talkers, a project of Hoh-Share, Inc. in Wheeling, WV. Paula was a co-founder of the project along with Kate Marshall. Together they collaborated to provide services for people experiencing homelessness including camp clean-ups, and personal property storage & management. Additionally, Paula helps people experiencing homelessness and low income to gain valuable work experience and confidence through volunteerism and community beautification projects. Paula and her crew assist

community members with cleaning out their homes and increasing access to proper waste disposal to people who otherwise, could not do so. Another large part of the program is recycling. Paula and her crew have been found in the creeks removing dumped appliances, picking up cans from the streets, and taking calls from the community to pick up unwanted scrap metal for recycling. Trash Talkers feel recycling is important.

When Paula is not busy as the “trash queen” she can be found spending time with her granddaughters and family in Martins Ferry enjoying a nice bonfire with s’mores or at competitive dance competitions.



Luke Stevens serves as an environmental manager for the Beckley Sanitary Board and Stormwater Utility in Beckley, WV. He holds a BS in Environmental Geoscience from Concord University and an MS in Geology from East Carolina University. Luke’s work is focused on enhancing water quality and creating sustainable opportunities in the Beckley urban watershed. He is passionate about partnership with community members, families, and young people in the exciting work of understanding and protecting our WV lands and waters. Luke and his wife live in Beckley with their three beautifully energetic kids.

Dennis Stottlemeyer is a nearly 20-year veteran of the DEP. He resides in South Charleston and is a father, as well as a grandfather. He is a WV native and a graduate of South Charleston High School and the Environmental Protection program in the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design at WVU. He is also a Marine Corps veteran. Dennis enjoys hiking, mountain biking, hunting, and kayaking, or for that matter any outdoor activity.

Dennis has worked at numerous environmental consulting companies performing environmental investigation, remediation and permitting. Upon his arrival at the WVDEP Dennis has worked in the Executive Office, for the Division of Mining and Reclamation, and is currently the Deputy Environmental Advocate with responsibilities for the Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan and Youth Environmental Program. As the Deputy Environmental Advocate Dennis has been involved in many hot environmental topics such as mountain top removal mining and Marcellus shale drilling activities. The Office of the Environmental Advocate assists the public, environmental groups, and other agencies to solve ongoing environmental issues.

Dennis’ recent involvement with the REAP and YEP programs is a natural evolution of his care for the environment and desire to educate others. Dennis now has a legitimate reason to

explain at great length the intricacies of the environment to young people and their responsibilities to care for it. And you can count on finding Dennis on the river picking up trash and tires every chance he gets.

Joe Smith, a native of Caldwell, Ohio, has been with the City of Moundsville for 11 months as the Stormwater Coordinator. Joe has a bachelors of arts in business and got his start selling safety equipment that eventually led to being the Safety Director for Quality Environmental Services. This company performed sampling of streams and water sources to provide a base if the coal industry took water from the area. Joe started doing dam/impoundment inspections at that time, which led to a great deal of interaction with DEP and MSHA. From there Joe worked at the coal mine for 5 years as a boss on the surface of one of the impoundments he previously inspected weekly. This job led Joe to The City of Wheeling as the Stormwater Coordinator for two years. While there, Joe worked closely with West Liberty Professor James Wood and worked to combat litter, pollution and creating a better atmosphere overall for the environment. Joe has taken the same position in Moundsville Treatment Plant to create a better environment for where his now home is with his wife and three kids.



Stephanie Toothman - assists in expanding daily recycling services and utilizing data to make the business and environmental case for recycling at WVU.

While collaborating with other WVU departments and community partners, Stephanie organizes numerous sustainability programs such as Mountaineers Recycle, Ecolympics, and the Blue & Gold Mine Sale. As a West Virginia native, Stephanie has always admired her state's natural beauty and is committed to helping make it a great place to work, live, and play in for future generations.

Terri L. Tyler - Terri is the Executive Director of the Wetzel County Solid Waste Authority. She began working for the Wetzel County Solid Waste Authority in December 2012 as a part time position. After just a few months Terri realized that this job deserved full-time attention and after working in the insurance industry for twenty-eight years made a career change. Terri introduced the current one day a week four hour drop off recycling program which has proven to be very successful with it growing from the first year of 116,000 pounds to a high of 386,000 pounds pre COVID.

Terri was instrumental in getting recycling introduced in Wetzel County schools. Various other activities have been introduced since 2012 including the current summer litter cleanup program

which is a group effort with five different agencies all working together to clean up Wetzel County and providing educational information to various groups in the community. Wetzel County SWA just recently started their monthly tire collection.

Terri has been active in the Association of West Virginia Solid Waste Authorities, first a Board of Director and currently serves as the Chair of the Association of Solid Waste Authorities. Terri serves on the Legislative Committee of the Association.

Terri is active in the community by volunteering with various charities in her area. Terri lives in Paden City with her husband Danny.



James L. Wood, PhD. is an associate professor of ecology at West Liberty University since 2017, where he teaches a variety of ecology and biology courses. He has been working with the City of Wheeling Water Pollution Control Division on ways to improve water quality and reduce litter in Wheeling Creek since 2018. He is a founding member and the current president of the Wheeling Creek Watershed Alliance and is passionate about working to improve water quality and reduce litter in the watershed.