

**URBAN HABITAT SYMPOSIUM  
JANUARY 22 – 23, 2009**

**BIO'S FOR SPEAKERS**

Name: **Brenda Axon**  
Title: Manager, Watershed Planning Services, Conservation Halton  
Education: B.S. in Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo, Ontario

Brenda Axon is currently Manager, Watershed Planning Services with Conservation Halton. In this position, Brenda is responsible for watershed planning, environmental studies, ecological monitoring programs, and overseeing a landowner stewardship program. She is also Project Manager for the Hamilton Harbour Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project. Brenda was a member of the initial Stakeholders group, representing the Conservation Authority, and assisted in the preparation of the Remedial Action Plan for Hamilton Harbour. She currently sits as a member of the Bay Area Implementation Team which is composed of representatives from all agencies and major partners responsible for implementing the RAP. Brenda has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo, Ontario.

Name: **Keith Bowers**  
Title: Founder and President, Biohabitats, Inc.  
Education: B.S. in Landscape Architecture, West Virginia University

Keith Bowers is the founder and president of Biohabitats, a conservation planning, ecological restoration and regenerative design firm. Keith has applied his unique expertise to more than 500 projects throughout North America. These projects have spanned the scale from watershed management planning to site specific environmentally sustainable design. Keith is also the president and founder of Ecological Restoration and Management, Inc., a restoration construction and land management firm that complements the talents of Biohabitats by providing professional installation and management services for restoration projects.

Keith actively volunteers for organizations supporting ecological restoration. He served two terms as Chair of the Society for Ecological Restoration International, has been appointed by the Governor of Maryland to the State of Maryland Wetlands Restoration Steering Committee, and is currently on the board of several local and regional environmental organizations. Keith is a registered Landscape Architect and a Professional Wetland Scientist. He holds a B.S. in Landscape Architecture from the West Virginia University.

With more than 26 years of experience, Keith has been instrumental in integrating conservation planning, ecological restoration and regenerative design initiatives throughout the country.

Name: **Jennifer Bowman**  
Title: Restoration Ecologist, Royal Botanical Gardens – Hamilton, Ontario  
Degrees: B.A. in Marine and Freshwater Biology – University of Guelph  
M.S. – University of Waterloo

Ms. Bowman studied Marine and Freshwater Biology at the University of Guelph. During her time at Guelph she assisted in a rehabilitation study of abandoned quarries spearheaded by Dr. Gerry Mackie. A

Masters of Science was obtained at the University of Waterloo through work with Dr. Michael Power. Thesis work investigated food web dynamics in the Bay of Quinte and Oneida Lake, and specifically involved the effect that zebra mussels have had on walleye (*Sander vitreum*) and yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) diets. Previous experience also includes field work with Ohio State University on smallmouth bass in western Lake Erie, and fish population monitoring in the Bay of Quinte with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. More recently Ms. Bowman has been working in the Conservation Department at the Royal Botanical Gardens with emphasis on wetland restoration. Primarily, she is involved in satisfying objectives set by *Project Paradise*, a part of the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan, which is the largest restoration project of its kind in North America. Much of her job experiences have come from lessons learnt in the field and are associated with managing the many challenges of a large restoration project in an expanding urban area.

Name: **Graham Bryan**  
Title: Biodiversity Issues Coordinator, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Degrees: B.E.S. – University of Waterloo, M.S. – University of Toronto

Graham Bryan is the Biodiversity Issues Coordinator, and also currently acting Head of the Landscape Assessment and Planning Unit, for the Ontario region of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Graham holds a BES from the University of Waterloo and a M.Sc. from the University of Toronto. Through positions with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Parks Canada and volunteer groups he has been engaged in habitat restoration, conservation volunteer management, environmental advocacy, land acquisition and donation, habitat monitoring, and nature education.

Name: **Dale Burkett**  
Title: Sea Lamprey Control Program Director, Great Lakes Fishery Commission  
Degrees: B.S. in Ecology, Ethology and Evolution – University of Illinois

Dale is currently the Sea Lamprey Control Program Director of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, where he has worked since 2002. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission was established by a treaty between the Governments of Canada and the United States to undertake a program of sea lamprey control and to coordinate fisheries research on the Great lakes. The Commission also facilitates cooperative fisheries management in the Great lakes. Dale is responsible for all elements of the sea lamprey program for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission including:

- guiding, administering, and delivering the sea lamprey control program;
- coordinating development of agent-generated sea lamprey research needs and priorities, in cooperation with the Science Director;
- evaluating the programmatic and fiscal recommendations of the Sea Lamprey Integration Committee and its task forces and developing and presenting sea lamprey control program and budget recommendations to the Commission;
- monitoring lampricide use, projecting demand for lampricide formulations, recommending inventory policies, making purchase recommendations, working with the Administrative Officer to develop bid invitations, and overseeing lampricide purchases, quality assurance testing, and deliveries;
- monitoring synthetic pheromone use, projecting demand for pheromone components, recommending inventory policies, making purchase recommendations, working with the Administrative Officer to develop bid invitations, and overseeing purchases, quality assurance testing, and deliveries; and,
- coordinating registration-oriented research on lampricides and synthetic pheromones and activities required for registration, re-registration, or re-evaluation of lampricides and synthetic pheromone compounds.

Following the completion of a BS in Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution from the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign in 1978, Dale worked for the Illinois Natural History Survey at its Ridge Lake Laboratory doing research on factors affecting hook and line vulnerability of largemouth bass while simultaneously earning his MS in Environmental Biology, with emphasis on aquatic ecosystems, from

Eastern Illinois University in 1981. Dale joined the Illinois Department of Conservation in 1982 as District 7 Fisheries Biologist, was promoted to Fisheries Research & Operations Unit Administrator in 1985 and to Assistant Director, Office of Resource Management in 1989. In 1993, Dale moved to the US Fish and Wildlife Service as Deputy Great Lakes Coordinator and, in 1995 became Deputy Assistant Regional Director for Region 3 – Geographic Area 1 and the Fisheries Program. In 1999, Dale left the US Fish & Wildlife Service and accepted a promotion to become the Assistant Director of Fish and Water Conservation for the USDA Forest Service in Washington, DC. At the request of the Executive Secretary of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the USDA Forest Service and the US Fish & Wildlife Service collaborated to enable Dale to serve as Sea Lamprey Control Program Manager – Operations beginning in 2002. In 2007, Dale became the Sea Lamprey Control Program Director and currently serves in this capacity via Memorandum of Agreement between the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

As an active member of the American Fisheries Society, Dale has served as Illinois Chapter President, North Central Division President, Constitutional Consultant, and Chair of the Fisheries Action Network. Dale currently chairs the North American Agenda for Aquatic Resources, is chairman of the board of the Fisheries Conservation Foundation, and co-chairs the American Eel Task Group for the Council of Lake Committees as the U.S. federal co-chair.

Name: **Bill Culligan**  
Title: New York Department of Environmental Conservation

Bill has been employed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the last 36 years. He currently serves as the Great Lakes Fisheries Section Head, Chair of Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Review Committee, and New York's representative to the Lake Erie Committee.

Name: **Amy Freeze**  
Title: Chief Meteorologist at Fox News Chicago.  
Education: B.A. in Communications – Brigham Young University  
B.S in Geosciences – Mississippi State University  
M.S. in Environmental Science – University of Pennsylvania

She was previously with NBC 10 Philadelphia as a Meteorologist and host of NBC 10's daily live, local show 10! She been on the plaza in New York City as a weathercaster for the "Weekend Today" show. She is one of a few woman in the world with a **Certified Broadcast Meteorology** accreditation from the American Meteorological Society.

Freeze has Seals of Approval from both the *AMS and National Weather Association*.

Amy's educational background includes a B.A. in Communications from Brigham Young University, with an emphasis on Broadcast Journalism. She has a B.S. in Geosciences from Mississippi State University, with an emphasis in Severe Weather and Forecasting. She also has a Certificate of Broadcast Meteorology from MSU.

She has a Master Degree from University of Pennsylvania in Environmental Science. Amy also studied abroad in both South Africa and Germany.

She is a two time Emmy winner for Best Weathercaster and Outstanding Host. Beyond forecasting, Amy has covered movies and entertainment, reported on the Olympic Games in Salt Lake and Atlanta, and was the first female sideline reporter for Major League Soccer.

Amy is an avid runner and has completed five marathons, (CO, IL, NY, PA, and CA) including the Chicago Marathon in 2000.

Oh yes! She's also scuba certified and has taken a swim with the dozen or so 300 pound sharks that reside at the New Jersey State Aquarium.

Prior to joining NBC 10, she worked in Denver, Colorado for at the ABC affiliate in the Channel 7 KMGH weather department. Freeze's previous experience includes working as the morning meteorologist for

KWGN Denver, "WB Today" in Denver where she both provided weather reports and co-hosted the morning news.

In addition, Freeze spent three years working on the Pacific Coast in Portland with the KPTV's original local morning news program "Good Day Oregon.

Amy got her first full time job in news as general assignment reporter for a local news magazine in Portland called "East Metro Edition." Her schooling began at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. After a year of general studies at WSU, Amy took a cheerleading scholarship at Brigham Young University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcasting.

It was at BYU on the nightly "KBYU Report," Amy learned to shoot, edit, write, and package stories. It was also the scene of her first "weather wall" report where she actually disappeared from the green screen during the weathercast!

After graduation from BYU, she spent time in Los Angeles, CA at KTLA working with both the Morning News and Marta Waller's live coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial.

A member of the Radio and Television News Director Association since 1994, Amy was chosen to participate in the 1996 RTNDF/RIAS German Journalism Exchange which included study of German politics, the European Union and NATO. Before leaving Berlin, Amy produced two documentaries which aired on cable.

She also studied international politics in Johannesburg during the election of Nelson Mandela.

She has interviewed hundreds of entertainers and athletes - - some of her favorites are Jon Bon Jovi, Ed McMahon, Bette Midler, Glenn Close, Howie Mandel, Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Dick Clark, Kim Bassinger, Seth Green and William Hurt. Freeze had a cameo role on the sitcom "Scrubs" in 2005.

Although she never played soccer herself she is a huge fan of Major League Soccer and was the league's first ever female sideline soccer reporter.

Her love for sports and fitness led her to become a 1999 Body for Life Fitness Champion. Her fitness story can be seen in the movie Body For Life Success Stories 2. She has been featured in issues of "Energy" magazine, "Muscle Media," and "Ladies Home Journal."

Freeze does donate her time speaking to school children about weather and attending charitable functions. She was the first honoree chair person for the Philadelphia Wellness Community race team, she remains the honorary chairperson for Colorado's Miles to Fight Melanoma started in 2000.

Amy was born in Utah, raised in southern Indiana, and she has lived in seven states.

Name: **George Gann**  
Title: Scientist, Institute for Regional Conservation  
Degrees: B.A. with distinction in Environmental Conservation and International Affairs –  
University of Colorado

A native of South Florida, USA, George earned a B.A. with distinction in Environmental Conservation and International Affairs from the University of Colorado in 1984. That same year he co-founded IRC, resulting in a five-month study tour of the Brazilian Amazon in 1985. In 1986, he founded Ecohorizons, Inc., a private environmental consulting and contracting firm based in Miami, Florida, and from 1986 to 1995 he conducted more than 200 projects comprising floristic inventories, rare species surveys, the preparation of management plans for public and private conservation areas, and the implementation of ecological restoration projects in both the public and private sectors.

In 1994, George proposed the Floristic Inventory of South Florida (FISF) and in 1995 became executive director of IRC. At IRC, he has both conducted extensive field research and managed large multi-faceted research and conservation projects such as the FISF, the Floristic Assessment of Puerto Rico, and Natives for Your Neighborhood, a web-based resource for native plant gardening and restoration in urban and suburban areas. Since 1987, he has published nearly 100 articles, technical reports, websites, and the book *Rare Plants of South Florida: Their History, Conservation, and Restoration*, a 1056 page volume that received positive reviews in the journal *Ecological Restoration*.

George has given numerous presentations to both the general public and technical audiences at venues including Yale University, the University of East London, and Seoul National University (Republic of Korea). He has been active in several professional societies, including a 10 year term on the board of the Florida Native Plant Society. He currently serves as Chair of the Board of the Society for Ecological Restoration International (SER), for whom he previously served as Chair (1997-1999). He has received several awards for his work, including the Conservation Colleague Award from The Nature Conservancy, as well as the John Rieger Award for service and the Golden Trowel Award for special service to the Chair of the Board of Directors from SER.

Name: **John E. Gannon**  
Title: Senior Scientist, International Joint Commission Great Lakes Regional Office  
Degrees: B.A. in Biology - Wayne State University  
M.A. in Fisheries – University of Michigan  
Ph.D. in Zoology – University of Wisconsin

Dr. John Gannon is a limnologist and fisheries research biologist. He received his undergraduate degree in Biology at Wayne State University (Detroit), Master's in Fisheries at the University of Michigan, and Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of Wisconsin. He has broad interests in aquatic ecology, fisheries, and water pollution biology, and special interests in Great Lakes limnology, zooplankton ecology, water quality protection, and environmental communications. He has authored over 80 papers on the limnology and fisheries biology of the Great Lakes and inland waters of the Great Lakes basin and on field-oriented approaches to environmental education.

John has worked on the Great Lakes all of his career, beginning with shipboard experience aboard passenger and research vessels on Lake Erie. Following graduate school, he was resident scientist for six years at the University of Michigan Biological Station near the Straits of Mackinac where he taught summer and winter courses and conducted research on lakes Michigan, Huron, St. Clair and northern Michigan inland lakes with emphasis on zooplankton ecology and eutrophication problems. Then he spent six years as Associate Director of the State University Research Center at Oswego (NY) where he was involved in teaching and research on Lake Ontario with emphasis on toxic substances problems. He joined the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Regional Office in Windsor, Ontario in 1983 and was appointed Assistant Director in 1984 and Acting Director in 1987. In addition to administrative duties, John was responsible for oversight of the Great Lakes International Surveillance Plan (GLISP).

From 1987 to 2002 John was a Science Coordinator (often also Acting Center Director) at the Great Lakes Science Center of the U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Resources Division (formerly U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Biological Survey) in Ann Arbor, Michigan where he managed over 90 staff conducting research on fishes and other biological resources of the Great Lakes.

John has now (Fall 2002) returned to the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Regional Office in the capacity of Senior Scientist. He continues to have broad research interests in invasive species, habitat restoration, emerging toxic substances, and the linkages between science, management, and policy.

John is married to Susan Gannon and has three children: Aron, Aura and Alene. Susan is a former research assistant in biochemistry, ran a tailoring/interior decorating business, and currently is a certified music therapist.

The family enjoys water-oriented vacations, especially at their cottage on Mullett Lake in northern Michigan. John is a specialist in winter ecology and likes to combine his academic interests with his favorite recreational activity, cross-country skiing. He is also an avid organic gardener.

Name: **Dr. John Hartig**

Title: Refuge Manager, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

Dr. John Hartig is trained as a limnologist with 30 years of practical experience in environmental science and natural resource management. He currently serves as Refuge Manager for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. From 1999 to 2004 he served as River Navigator for the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative established by Presidential Executive Order. Prior to becoming River Navigator, he spent 12 years working for the International Joint Commission on the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. John has been an Adjunct Professor at Wayne State University where he taught Environmental Management and Sustainable Development. He has authored or co-authored over 100 publications on the Great Lakes, including co-editing two books. John has received a number of awards for his work, including the 2003 Anderson-Everett Award from the International Association for Great Lakes Research and the 1993 Sustainable Development Award for Civic Leadership from Global Tomorrow Coalition.

Name: **Todd Hogrefe**  
Title: Assistant Director, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Central Partnership Office  
Degrees: B.S. in Biology – Pennsylvania State University  
M.S. in Fisheries & Wildlife – Utah State University

Todd Hogrefe is the Assistant Director for the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Central Partnership Office based in Minneapolis. He began his work with the Foundation in 2008 and his primary responsibilities include administering special grants programs, strategic planning for the Foundation's Central Region, conducting outreach, and providing technical assistance to grant applicants. Prior to holding his position at the Foundation, Todd worked for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Utah Department of Natural Resources, where he coordinated programs that focused on a wide range of wildlife and habitat issues, such as piping plover protection, shoreline conservation, wolf management, and the conservation of rare desert fishes. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the Pennsylvania State University and his Master of Science degree in Fisheries & Wildlife from the Utah State University.

Name: **Sadhu Johnston**  
Title: Deputy Chief of Staff, City of Chicago

Sadhu Johnston is the Deputy Chief of Staff for the City of Chicago, functioning as Chief Environmental Officer in the Mayor Richard M. Daley's Office - the first position of its kind in the nation. He will be responsible for implementing the City's environmental agenda across all areas of City government. Before being named Chief Environmental Officer, Mr. Johnston served as the Commissioner for the Department of Environment. Prior to joining the Department of Environment he served as Assistant to the Mayor, responsible for green initiatives. Before joining City government, Mr. Johnston was the founder and Executive Director of the Cleveland Green Building Coalition in Cleveland, Ohio.

Name: **Mary Khoury**  
Title: Aquatic Ecologist/Conservation Planner, Great Lakes Project, The Nature Conservancy  
Education: Dual major in History and Studies in the Environment – Yale University  
M.S. in Resource Ecology and Management – University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment

Mary Khoury has been with The Nature Conservancy since 1995. She was first hired as an aquatic ecologist for the Great Lakes Program to develop a pilot aquatic community classification. Mary then joined the Conservancy's Freshwater Initiative, where for five years she focused on freshwater ecoregional priority setting, including co-authoring the report establishing freshwater conservation priorities for the

Upper Mississippi River basin. She rejoined the Great Lakes Program in July 2004 to lead implementation of the freshwater priorities in the Conservation Blueprint. Mary is a graduate of Yale University where she majored in History and Studies in the Environment, and holds a M.S. in Resource Ecology and Management from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. She resides in Chicago with her husband Robert and young children William and Eloise.

Name: **Paul Labus**  
Title: Northwest Indiana Region Director – The Nature Conservancy

Paul Labus serves as The Nature Conservancy's Northwest Indiana Region Director. He oversees protection, science, stewardship and community relations in the northwest Indiana region, which includes TNC's Southern Lake Michigan Rim Project and the Kankakee Sands Project. Paul has been instrumental in habitat restoration and reintroduction of the federally endangered Karner Blue butterfly in the West Gary Recovery Unit (Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago Indiana).

He also serves on the Citizen's Advisory Boards for the Grand Calumet River and Indiana Ship Canal Remedial Action Plan and the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

Paul is a native of northwest Indiana; he currently resides in Whiting.

Name: **Bruce Manny**  
Title: Research Fishery Biologist – US Geological Survey – Great Lakes Science Center  
Degrees: Ph.D. in Botanical Limnology, 1973. Michigan State University  
M.S. in Zoology, 1969, Rutgers – The State University.  
B.A. in Biology, 1966, Oberlin College

Bruce Manny has advanced degrees from Oberlin College, Rutgers the State University, and Michigan State University. He has been a Research Fishery Biologist at the USGS Great Lakes Science Center for over 30 years. Since 1980, he has surveyed plant and animal populations and their habitats in the Huron-Erie Corridor, with emphasis on early life history of lake sturgeon, walleye, and lake whitefish. In 1999, he and Jerry McClain showed that sturgeon were not spawning at any of the nine historic, reputed spawning sites in the Detroit River and postulated that reproduction of the small, remnant lake sturgeon population in the Detroit River was limited by available spawning habitat. During 2002-2005, he collaborated with Michigan Sea Grant and others as lead scientist in the design and construction of 1,080 square meters of sturgeon spawning habitat at Belle Isle in headwaters of the river. In 2005, Manny and his collaborators discovered that lake whitefish were spawning in the Detroit River, for the first time in 80 years and found the first known spawning ground of walleye and white sucker in the Detroit River. During 2006-2008. He collaborated with Essex Region Conservation Authority and others as lead scientist on the design and construction of 3,300 square meters of spawning habitat for native fishes at Fighting Island in Canadian waters of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Together, these two constructed, spawning grounds have enhanced reproduction of 14 native fishes, including lake whitefish, walleye, and yellow perch that are intensively managed downstream in Lake Erie for sustained sport and commercial fisheries worth over \$2 billion annually.

Name: **Gord McPherson**  
Title: Manager of Restoration and Environmental Monitoring Projects –

Restoration Service Division - TRCA

Gord MacPherson is the Manager of Restoration and Environmental Monitoring Projects in the Restoration Service Division at TRCA. Progressively over 25 years, Gord and his colleagues are responsible for strategic habitat planning, design, implementation and reporting of a number of restoration and environmental monitoring projects. Recent efforts have focused on wetland, riparian and woodland restoration projects within the TRCA watersheds and aquatic habitat projects along the Toronto Waterfront.

Name: **Philip B. Moy, Ph.D.**  
Title: Fisheries and Non Indigenous Species Specialist – University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute  
Degrees: Ph.D. in Zoology – Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

Phil has been the Fisheries and Non Indigenous Species Specialist for the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute since 1999. In that role, he works with Great Lakes commercial, sport and charters anglers, as well as inland lake groups to address fisheries and aquatic invasive species concerns and to provide research information to Great Lakes user groups. He holds a doctorate in zoology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Before coming to Wisconsin, Phil was the Fisheries Biologist for the Chicago District Army Corps of Engineers and remains involved with the Chicago dispersal barrier project as Co-Chair of the Dispersal Barrier Advisory Panel.

Name: **John Perrecone**  
Title: RAP/AOC Liaison, Great Lakes National Program, Environmental Protection Agency  
Education: B.A. in Sociology – Southern Illinois University at Carbondale  
M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning – University of Houston

John joined the Region 5 US EPA office based in Chicago in March, 1980. He started in the Air Quality Program as a project manager working with local transportation planning agencies to control air pollution from vehicles and other mobile sources. In 1983, he was a charter member of the Superfund Community Involvement program and was very active at working with community members, local government officials, other state and federal agencies and industry members at negotiating acceptable cleanups at abandoned hazardous waste sites. In 1995, John served as the regional contact for EPA's Community Based Environmental Protection Program; a program that was developed so EPA could better deal with community environmental needs that were not always addressed within EPA's basic clean water, air and land programs. In 1998, John was chosen as the Regional Team Manager for Critical Ecosystems Team with the goal of identifying the highest quality ecosystems or watersheds in the Midwest so they would not be degraded any further. In 2007, John joined the Great Lakes National Program Office and is now working with Lake Michigan communities to address long-standing pollution issues as well as protecting and restoring other natural areas in those communities.

John was born on April 14, 1951 in Rockford, IL, attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (BA in Sociology) and the University of Houston at Clear Lake (MA in Urban and Regional Planning). He is a current District 12 School Board member in Roselle, IL and formed the Roselle Nature Savers that protected a local wetland—this project also won the EPA/Chicago Wilderness Conservation Award in 2001. He is married and has three children, Anna (18), Charlie (16) and Joey (12).

Name: **Robert Rejman**  
Title: Director of Capital Construction, Chicago Park District  
Degrees: Master of Architecture, University of Illinois

As Director of Capital Construction for the Park District, Mr. Rejman oversees construction of park landscapes, natural areas, recreational trails, field houses, fitness centers, swimming pools, playgrounds, and other parks projects. Prior to his current position, Mr. Rejman specialized in the planning and construction of lakefront projects, including a multi-year project to reconstruct eight miles of threatened Lake Michigan shoreline, long-range planning for the Chicago Harbor System, development of Gateway and 31<sup>st</sup> Street harbors, and phase-one reclamation of Northerly Island, an 80-acre park adjacent to Chicago's downtown museum campus. Mr. Rejman holds a Master of Architecture degree from University of Illinois at Chicago and worked for six years in private practice prior to entering the public sector. He is honored to carry on the long tradition of park development in Chicago.

Name: **The Honorable Georges Rioux**  
Title: Consul General of Canada, Canadian Consulate - Chicago

Mr. Rioux joined the Public Service of Canada in 1982. As an employee of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Rioux was first posted to the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., in 1983. In 1985, he was assigned to Saudi Arabia. Returning to Ottawa in 1987, Mr. Rioux served in the Department's Media Relations Office, and later worked two years as Legislative Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. From 1990 to 1993, Mr. Rioux was assigned to the Canadian Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israël, where he was responsible for issues relating to the West Bank and Gaza. In September 1993, he was posted back to Washington, D.C., as Counsellor, Media Relations, and Official Spokesperson for the Embassy. Mr. Rioux also held several shorter assignments.

In 1998, he joined the Department of National Defence as Director General of Public Affairs, where he was responsible for leading national communications for Defence and the Canadian Forces and advising the Minister, Deputy Minister and Chief of the Defence Staff. He became Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Affairs, in June 2003.

Mr. Rioux joined the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) in November 2003 as Assistant Secretary, where he was given overall responsibility for all communications related to Government-wide initiatives on public-sector management. He was also instrumental in ensuring TBS had provided full support to the Gomery inquiry. Among his ministerial-affairs duties, he supervised and ensured the proper functioning of the Treasury Board Cabinet Committee, as well as its subcommittee on the Service Canada initiative. He was also leading an initiative to strengthen the Government of Canada's presence in the regions by creating enhanced capacity for Federal Regional Councils and Ministers' Regional Offices.

Mr. Rioux was appointed Consul General of Canada and arrived in Chicago, Illinois to assume his duties on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006. He is actively engaged in the three-state area for which he is responsible -- Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

He is married to Sharon Gray and they have two teenagers, Mathieu and Catherine.

Name: **Jeff Schaeffer**  
Title: Research Fishery Biologists, Great Lakes Science Center  
Education: Ph.D. – University of Michigan

Jeff Schaeffer received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He has worked as a consultant, a regulatory biologist for the State of Florida dealing with growth management and land use planning, and a college professor. For the past 10 years he has been a research fishery biologist with the USGS Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, MI. His research interests are acoustic assessment of deepwater fish communities, and development of models that predict how stream fish communities will respond to future changes in climate and land use.

Name: **Greg Smith**  
Title: Center Director – U.S. Geological Survey’s National Wetlands Research Center

Dr. Gregory Smith currently serves as Center Director of the U.S. Geological Survey’s National Wetlands Research Center (NWRC), Lafayette, Louisiana. The NWRC develops and disseminates scientific information critical for managing and restoring our Nation’s wetlands, coastal habitats, and associated plant and animal communities. The NWRC is on the forefront of science addressing wetland restoration and protection in the highly modified Mississippi River Basin. The center also provides global leadership in understanding and coping with hurricanes and coastal storms. For work in search-and-rescue during hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Smith and his colleagues at the NWRC received the Service to America Medal.

Dr. Smith has more than 25 years of ecological research and management experience, with a background in population dynamics and environmental toxicology. He has worked in Federal research, with a non-governmental organization, and in the private sector where he has gained broad international science experience. In 1998, Dr. Smith joined the USGS headquarters office in Reston, Virginia. In 2001-2002, he served on a special assignment as the science advisor to the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Washington, D.C.

Prior to joining the USGS Headquarters Office, Smith served as the acting Eastern Regional Chief Biologist (1997-1998) and as the Center Director at the USGS Great Lakes Science Center (1996-1997). As the Director of the Great Lakes Science Center, he managed an ecological research program that included fisheries, wetlands, ecosystem processes, and invasive species. From 1989-1996, he was a Laboratory Manager and later Laboratory Director for a private environmental toxicology corporation in Maryland that provided scientific studies on marine and freshwater organisms and terrestrial wildlife species to assess the ecological impacts of chemicals for registration by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Drug Administration.

From 1988-1989, Dr. Smith managed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s analytical chemistry program providing support for research and field investigations involving environmental contaminants. He began his Federal research career at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland, following a post-doctoral fellowship with the University of Wisconsin – Madison, also conducted at Patuxent.

Dr. Gregory J. Smith was born in Marquette, Michigan and currently resides in Lafayette, Louisiana, with his wife, Kathy and two children, Jennifer and Andrew.

Name: **Gildo M. Tori**  
Title: Director of Public Policy – Ducks Unlimited  
Degrees: B.S. Michigan State University, Wildlife Biology and Management 1978;

Personal Bio: Gildo Tori is DU’s Director of Public Policy for the Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office. He has worked for DU since June of 1997, previously serving as regional biologist and regional biological supervisor. Currently he is responsible for coordinating DU’s public policy issues in the region that effect waterfowl and wetlands, including the Farm Bill, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay Restoration, and wetland regulatory issues. He also oversees state public policy issues in the 18-state region. Gildo also coordinates conservation programs with various state and federal agency partners. Prior to working for DU he was the Wetland Wildlife Project Leader for the Ohio Division of Wildlife, responsible for waterfowl research and hunting regulations, wetland wildlife research and management, and wetland protection and restoration programs for the Division. His experience with the Division of Wildlife included bald eagle, river otter, trumpeter swan and osprey reintroduction projects. He received his Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University in 1978, and a Masters of Science degree from The Ohio State University in 1982. Gildo has been married 25 wonderful years to Jane; they have 3 children and reside in Pinckney, MI.

Name: **David A. Ullrich**  
Title: Executive Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Education: B.A. in English – Dartmouth College  
University of Wisconsin Law School

David Ullrich is the Executive Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. His responsibilities include working with U.S. and Canadian mayors from across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin to advance the restoration and protection of the resource. The Initiative shares best practices among the cities, towns, and counties so that all have the benefits of the successful efforts of each other. The Initiative also works on restoration legislation, planning, and implementation.

Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Ullrich served for thirty years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes regional office in Chicago, working on environmental issues in the six states of the upper Midwest. He worked in many capacities over the years, including Acting Regional Administrator, Deputy Regional Administrator, Waste Management Division Director, Deputy Regional Counsel, Air Enforcement Chief, and Water Enforcement Attorney. For six years, he was the U.S. Chair of the Water Quality Board for the International Joint Commission, and was a founding member and chair of the Midwest Natural Resources Group. He continues to serve on the Water Quality Board, and in 2006 was appointed by the President to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. In 1986, he completed a six month executive exchange assignment with the German Interior Ministry. U.S. EPA recognized Mr. Ullrich for a number of his accomplishments during his public service career.

Mr. Ullrich graduated from Dartmouth College in 1970 with a degree in English and received his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1973, with an emphasis in environmental law. He is a runner and outdoor sportsman. He is married to Polly Ullrich, an art critic, curator, and ceramic artist, and their son Eric is a student at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Name: **Francis M. Veraldi**  
Job Title: Study Manger/Environmental Plan Formulation  
Education: B.S. Ecology, Ethology & Evolution - University of Illinois, 1998

Professional Experience: In 1998, Frank began with the US Army Corps of Engineers as a Biologist in the Environmental Formulation Section. Assignments included data collection, NEPA Compliance, restoration design, regulatory support, greenways and impact assessment. In 2004, his duties increased as a Study Manager / Plan Formulator in the Environmental Formulation Section; which include regulatory support, feasibility-level plan formulation and restoration design. He is also the team leader for ecosystem restoration at the Chicago District for the Great Lakes portion of the Division.

Frank is currently responsible for the formulation and design of the 15 ecological restoration projects. Some of these are the Grand Calumet River Environmental Clean Up, the Red Mill Pond Preservation, the Hoffman Dam Removal, Orland Tract Grassland Restoration, Waukegan River and Costal Restoration, and the Ft. Sheridan Coastal and Ravine Restoration. All of these projects seek to restore natural hydrology and natural processes to reestablish self-sustaining and functioning habitats. Frank has also published several papers on the distribution of fishes, dam fragmentation, and is preparing a manuscript on the Fishes of the Chicago Wilderness Region.

Name: **Karen E. Vigmostad, PhD**  
Job Title: Director of the International Joint Commission Great Lakes Regional Office  
Education: PhD – Michigan State University  
M.S. – Environmental Policy - University of Michigan

Karen E. Vigmostad, Ph.D., is the director of the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Regional Office in Windsor, Ontario. The Commission is an independent international governmental organization established by the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty between Canada and the United States. The purpose of the Commission is to help prevent and resolve disputes relating to the use and quality of boundary waters, and to advise Canada and the United States on related questions. The Great Lakes Regional Office was established in 1972 by the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to assist the two federal governments implement and assess progress under the Agreement. The two principle functions of the Great Lakes Regional Office are to support the Water Quality and Science Advisory boards—the principle advisors to the Commission under the Agreement—and provides public information on Great Lakes issues. The Agreement was amended in 1978 and 1987, and the two federal governments are currently determining whether to amend or replace the Agreement thus bringing it fully into the 21st Century.

Dr. Vigmostad came to this position in 2005 with 20 years Great Lakes policy experience. She specializes in Great Lakes ecosystem restoration, water quality management, and coastal policy, and she leads a binational collaborative for the conservation of Great Lakes islands. Most recently, she was Great Lakes policy analyst with the Northeast-Midwest Institute in Washington, D.C. Previously she held similar positions with the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes and Michigan Sea Grant. She holds a doctorate from Michigan State University and a Master of Science from the University of Michigan in environmental policy, and her publications include *the State of the Great Lakes Islands* and *Large-scale Ecosystem Restoration: Lessons for Existing and Emerging Initiatives*.

Links:

International Joint Commission: [www.ijc.org](http://www.ijc.org)

Boundary Waters Treaty and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement: [www.canamglass.org/glwqa](http://www.canamglass.org/glwqa)

Large-scale ecosystem restoration study: [www.nemw.org/restoration.htm](http://www.nemw.org/restoration.htm)

Name: **Joel Weiner**  
Title: Senior Advisor to the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission  
Education: B.Sc. in Physiology and Biochemistry – McGill University  
M.A. in Economics and Political Science – McGill University

Joel Weiner has a B.Sc. in Physiology and Biochemistry and an M.A. in Economics and Political Science from McGill University in Montreal • Prior to entering the public service, Mr. Weiner had a varied career encompassing journalism, academia and business. Among other things, he served in the Parliamentary Press Gallery for CTV and was an assistant professor at Carleton University • In 1974, Mr. Weiner went overseas, first as a foreign correspondent and then as a consultant to science-based industries in marketing, technology transfer and investment • Mr. Weiner returned to Canada in 1988 and entered the federal public service. He held senior positions in the Departments of Finance and Industry before joining Health Canada in 1993. Over the next 11 years he filled a number of senior positions, including:

- Director General of Communications and Consultations
- Executive Director of the Office of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs
- Director General of Policy, Planning and Coordination in the Health Protection Branch
- Regional Director General for Ontario and Nunavut

During his term as Regional Director General, Mr. Weiner also served as Vice Chair of the Ontario Federal Council, which comprises more than thirty federal departments and agencies operating in Ontario. In addition, he acquired substantial experience in transboundary water governance as a member of the Binational Executive Committee for the Great Lakes and the Great Lakes Water Quality Board. He was also a member of the Management Committee for the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem • In November 2004, Mr. Weiner was appointed Senior Adviser in the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission.

Name: **William Weaver**  
Title: Vice-President and Senior Principal Engineer, AECOM  
Education: B.A. & M.S. – New Jersey Institute of Technology

Mr. William Weaver, P.E., D.WRE is a Vice-President and Senior Principal Engineer with 32 years of experience in the water resources engineering field. He is the lead principal for coastal and marine engineering in the Midwest region of AECOM, a 43,000 person multi-disciplinary engineering consulting firm with offices located throughout the world. He has an undergraduate and a Masters degree, majoring in water resources engineering and environmental issues, from New Jersey Institute of Technology.

He has served as chief engineer and project manager for the planning and design of several miles of new and restored shoreline, flood control and harbor projects located throughout the Great Lakes.

Name: **James White**  
Title: Executive Director, Cuyahoga River Plan (RAP), Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization. River Navigator – Cuyahoga – American Heritage River Initiative (AHR)  
Degrees: Bachelor's degree Muskingum College, New Concord, OH.  
M.S. - The University of Virginia

Jim White is native and resident of Brecksville, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. Mr. White has nearly 30 year's of senior level management in the public, private and non-profit sectors • He has served as County Administrator in two Virginia Counties • He was the C.F.O for a National Computer Service Company • He was partner in a small-business management, finance and acquisition consulting business in Maryland • He managed a large private community in the Tidewater Virginia, area. Mr. White is responsible for: The overall direction and management of the organization, implementation and coordination of RAP and AHR programs, management of projects, staff supervision, grants, budget management and fundraising; and, leading the Restoration of the Cuyahoga River and its Tributaries. Known as a skilled analyst and creative problem solver, he is highly regarded for developing effective long-term implementation strategies. Jim created CLEERTEC (Cuyahoga/Lake Erie Environmental Restoration Technology Enterprise Center) as a place-based business and job incubator for emerging environmental restoration technologies. He was awarded the 2006 Lake Erie Award by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission for his work on CLEERTEC and Green Bulkheads. Jim has two sons; both are soldiers in the United States Army.

Name: **Dr. Doug Wilcox**  
Title: Empire Innovation Professor of Wetland Science, SUNY - Brockport  
Degrees: B.S. and M.S. in Biochemistry – SUNY – College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
Ph.D. in Aquatic Ecology – Purdue University

Dr. Douglas Wilcox received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in biochemistry at SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry and his Ph.D. in aquatic ecology at Purdue University. After a long career in the federal government, he retired from the U.S. Geological Survey last year to accept a new position as the Empire Innovation Professor of Wetland Science at SUNY-Brockport in his native western New York State. He also recently relinquished his role as Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal Wetlands after 20-year tenure. His research on wetlands has spanned the Great Lakes basin and focused primarily on interactions of wetland plant communities and hydrology, including the role of climate change and the effects of lake-level regulation. He was a major contributor to the recently completed International Joint

Commission study on regulation of Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River levels and flows, and his future research plans include developing wetland restoration methodologies for use in Lake Ontario wetlands.

Name: **Warren Yerex**  
Title: Supervisor of Aquatic Resources, Grand River Conservation Authority  
Education: B.S. – University of Guelph

**WARREN YEREX** is Supervisor of Aquatic Resources with the Grand River Conservation Authority. He received his B. Sc. from the University of Guelph in 1977. He has been employed with the GRCA for more than 28 years as a specialist in water quality and fisheries and fish habitat management in the Grand River watershed.

He previously worked as an Aquatic Biologist with MOE and was seconded to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Burlington Office as a Habitat Biologist for 11 months.

Warren steers a team of aquatic biologists and field staff that are involved in river assessment, drain classification, stream rehabilitation, plan input and permit review, dam removal and the overall implementation of the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan.

Name: **Zhanna Yermakov**  
Title: Natural Areas Manager, Chicago Park District  
Degrees: B.S. dual majors in Biological Science and Environmental Earth Science – University of Illinois. Dual M.S. in Forestry Ecology and Evolutionary Biology – Michigan State University, Department of Natural Resources

I received my Bachelor of Science degree in 2001 from the University of Illinois at Chicago with dual majors in Biological Science and Environmental Earth Science. I also have a dual Masters of Science degree in Forest Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Michigan State University, Department of Natural Resources, which I received in 2003 where I did research on ecosystem processes in managed Michigan *Pinus banksiana* forests. Prior to joining the Chicago Park District, I worked as a research assistant for the Terrestrial Sciences Group at Argonne National Laboratory, Biological Sciences Division where we investigated the effects of changes in climate and land-use on soil processes. Currently, I am the Natural Areas Manager for the Chicago Park District. In my current role, my primary responsibilities are to enhance the ecological and aesthetic quality of 520+ acres of nature areas, pursue projects that will facilitate better management of our nature areas and increase our opportunities to acquire, sustain and enhance more natural habitat within Chicago's parks.