

*The SER Mid-Atlantic Chapter,
together with the SER New England Chapter,
presents*

**RESTORATION ON THE EDGE:
Exploring the Frontiers of Restoration, Collaboration, and Resilience
in Changing Ecosystems**

Thursday, March 22 – Saturday, March 24, 2012

Brooklyn College Student Center

THREE-DAY OVERVIEW *(Details on following pages)*

THURSDAY, MARCH 22 – Pre-Conference Workshop

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

(Additional fee; limit 35 attendees)

NOAA Restoration Planning Framework

FRIDAY, MARCH 23 – Main Conference Day

8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Conference Sessions and Poster Pub

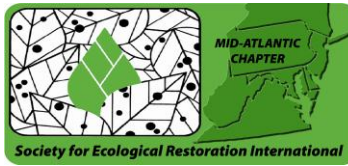
SATURDAY, MARCH 24 – Field Trips

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

(Additional fee; choose one trip)

- ✓ **NYC Triple Treat**
- ✓ **The Bronx River**
- ✓ **Staten Island Bluebelt**
- ✓ **Brooklyn Urban Oases**

(Check www.ser.org/midatl for updates)



THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

NOAA Restoration Planning Framework Pre-Conference Workshop

Note: Space in workshop is limited to 35 participants, on a first-come first-served basis. See registration form for fee, which includes continental breakfast and lunch. Workshop to be held in Brooklyn College Student Center.

Have you ever implemented a restoration project that didn't quite meet its intended outcomes? (Be honest!) This interactive, full-day workshop offers restoration practitioners valuable knowledge, skills, and tools to design targeted projects with successful outcomes. Participants will gain insight into restoration project design using a "logic model"-based framework. Interactive exercises will enable participants to build a logic model, create measurable objectives, performance indicators, and outcomes for their own restoration projects. Applying this thoughtful planning approach, you will avoid some of the pitfalls that restoration practitioners often encounter during project implementation.

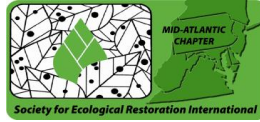
After completing this course, participants will be able to:

- **Describe** how project design and evaluation support agency and organization missions, strategic plans, and established program niches.
- **Apply** appropriate design frameworks and practices to project development.
- **Explain** the role of logic models in restoration project design and evaluation.
- **Create** logic models for their projects.
- **Use** meaningful performance indicators as part of project evaluation.
- **Assess** types and levels of evaluation that can be applied to restoration projects.

This training will be conducted by experienced NOAA Coastal Services Center staff. To help adapt the content most closely to restoration practitioners in the Northeast U.S., representatives of the SER Mid-Atlantic and SER New England chapters will assist with the training. The workshop is not intended to present the nuts and bolts of restoration planning, but rather a planning framework that will increase project success. (For more information, visit www.csc.noaa.gov.)



This year's conference is jointly supported by Brooklyn College (CUNY) and NYC Parks & Recreation.



FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2012

RESTORATION ON THE EDGE:

Exploring the Frontiers of Restoration, Collaboration, and Resilience in Changing Ecosystems

Conference & Poster Pub

Note: See registration form for fees. Conference to be held in Brooklyn College Student Center.

- 8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast** [5th Floor – Lobby & Occidental Lounge]
- 9:00 Welcome** [6th Floor – Gold Room]
Michael Leff, President, SER Mid-Atlantic Chapter, and Northeast North America SER Regional Rep
William A. Tramontano, Ph.D., Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Brooklyn College
Bram Gunther, Chief of Forestry, Horticulture, & Natural Resources Group, NYC Parks & Recreation
- 9:15 Session I – Edges of Ecological Restoration** [6th Floor – Gold Room]
Ecological Engineering of the Best Kind: Creation and Restoration of Wetlands, Rivers, and Estuaries
William J. Mitsch, Distinguished Professor of Environment and Natural Resources, Director, Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park, Ohio State University
Ensuring Resilience Under Rapid Change: Lessons and Warnings from the World's First National Park
Erica Smithwick, Assistant Professor of Geography and Ecology, Department of Geography and Intercollege Graduate Program in Ecology, Pennsylvania State University
West Virginia, the Heart of the Central Appalachians Whole System Project
Thomas Minney, Central Appalachians Project Director, The Nature Conservancy
- 10:45 Break and Displays** [5th Floor – Occidental Lounge]
- 11:00 Session II – Habitats on the Edge** [6th Floor – Gold Room]
The Eel River Headwaters Project: Exploring the Frontiers of Restoration Theory and Practice in Massachusetts
Alexander M. Hackman, Restoration Specialist, Division of Ecological Restoration, Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game
Wildlife Protection and Restoration Strategies of a Power Delivery Company (PHI)
Cristina A. Frank, Senior Environmental Scientist, Pepco Holdings, Inc.
Salt Marsh Loss and Restoration in an Urban Estuary: Jamaica Bay, Gateway National Recreation Area, New York
Patricia S. Rafferty, Coastal Ecologist, National Park Service, Northeast Region
- 12:30 Lunch and SER-MA & SER-NE Chapter Meetings**
[6th Floor – Maroon Room for all lunch pickup, plus open seating and Mentor Network tables]
[5th Floor – State Lounge for SER-MA Chapter Annual Lunch Meeting, open to all]
[4th Floor – Maroney/Leddy Room for SER-NE Chapter Board Lunch Meeting, open to all]
- 1:45 Session III – Concurrent Contributed Papers on Assorted Topics**
Room A: Coastal Restoration [4th Floor – Jefferson/Williams Room]
- 1:45 *Hudson River Sustainable Shorelines Project: Promoting Ecological Resilience and Sustainable Shorelines in an Era of More Rapid Sea Level Rise***
Betsy Blair, New York State DEC, Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve

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- 2:06 ***The Theory and Practice of Seagrass Restoration: Lessons Learned over the Last 20 Years in New York***
Chris Pickerell, Cornell Cooperative Extension
- 2:27 ***A Case Study of Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park and Achieving Breeding Success for Threatened and Endangered Species***
Ken Thoman, Monmouth County (NJ) Park System
- 2:48 ***Salt Marsh and Seaside Sparrows of Saw Mill Creek Park, Staten Island***
Nate McVay, NYC Parks & Recreation, Natural Resources Group
- 3:09 ***Sand as a Substrate for Restoring Coastal Upland Habitat Mosaics including Grassland, Scrub, and Forest***
Michael Feller, NYC Parks & Recreation, Natural Resources Group

Room B: Urban Restoration [4th Floor – Alumni Lounge]

- 1:45 ***Green Roofs as Habitat for Wild Bees in City Landscapes***
J. Scott MacIvor, Ph.D. candidate, York University
- 2:06 ***Integrating Habitat Restoration with Urban Stormwater Treatment***
Phillip M. Rury, Ph.D., FLS, Bioengineering Group, Salem, MA
- 2:27 ***Urban Forest Restoration Effects on Diversity and Composition of Vegetation in NYC Parks***
Sanpisa Sritrairat, Columbia University, New York
- 2:48 ***Responses of Multiple Taxa to Exotic Vegetation in a Northeastern Urban Forest***
Ellen Pehek, NYC Parks & Recreation, Natural Resources Group
- 3:09 ***Native Seed Production in New York City: Supporting Ecological Restoration through Urban Agriculture***
Tim Chambers, NYC Parks & Recreation, Greenbelt Native Plant Center

Room C: Successes, Challenges, and Current Status of Restoration Projects [6th Floor – Gold Room]

- 1:45 ***Reestablishing Landscape Connectivity via Dam Removal and Stream/Adjacent Plant Community Restoration in Western Massachusetts***
Tom Touchet, AECOM
- 2:06 ***Mulhockaway Creek Stream Restoration: Using Monitoring to Gauge Success and Implement Adaptive Management***
Kathy Hale and Rick Anthes, NJ Water Supply Authority, Watershed Protection Programs
- 2:27 ***Using Historical Data to Guide Wetland Restoration Designs***
Ryan Crehan, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- 2:48 ***Integrated Remediation and Ecological Restoration: A Case Study in Woodbridge, NJ***
Michael Parkes, Great Ecology
- 3:09 ***Novel Ecosystems and the Forgotten Food Web***
Marilyn Jordan, The Nature Conservancy

3:30 **Break and Displays** [5th Floor – Occidental Lounge]

3:45 **Session IV – Advancing the Edges** [6th Floor – Gold Room]

Living Infrastructure: Ecological Engineering Approaches for Decentralized Water Treatment and Reuse

Erin English, P.E., Associate Engineer, Natural Systems International

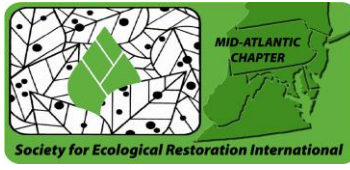
Soils for Ecological Restoration: The New Essentials

Sally Brown, Research Associate Professor, University of Washington

4:45 **Poster Pub – Research Posters and Wine & Cheese Networking Reception**
[5th Floor – Occidental & International Lounges]

6:00 **Adjourn**

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SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012

RESTORATION ON THE EDGE:

Exploring the Frontiers of Restoration, Collaboration, and Resilience in Changing Ecosystems

Field Trips

Note: See registration form for field trips fee, which includes lunch and bus/van transport. When registering, please indicate your first choice and also a second and third choice in case space fills. All trips will leave from Brooklyn College Student Center promptly at 9:30 am sharp and return approximately 3:30 pm.

Triple Treat: Major NYC Restoration Sites

Urban ecological restoration at its most challenging – and most impressive! Guided by leading restorationists Mike Feller, Chief Naturalist of NYC Parks & Recreation's Natural Resources Group, and John McLaughlin, NYC DEP's Director of Ecological Services, we'll see: **(1) Willow Lake MillionTreesNYC Reforestation**, a 10-acre forest planting on a freshwater wetland along a constructed lake that had once been a coal-ash dump on a salt marsh, **(2) Pennsylvania & Fountain Ave Landfills**, nearly 400 acres atop former sanitation landfills restored to a mosaic of coastal forest, shrubland, and grassland communities, including white cedar swamp, destined to be a public park, and **(3) Gerritsen Creek Ecosystem Restoration**, a phragmites-dominated 1950s landfill restored to a 20-acre salt marsh, a 22-acre coastal grassland, and a 10-acre forest.

The Bronx River: Collaborations in the Watershed

Thoughtful planning and unexpected partnerships have aligned to restore habitat and stormwater infrastructure along the Bronx River. We'll walk through **Old Growth Forest and Floodplain Restorations** where efforts include understory restoration, a MillionTreesNYC planting, in-water and riparian restorations, and invasive species control. Robin Kriesberg, Ecology Director at the Bronx River Alliance, and Ferdie Yau, from NYC Parks & Recreation's Natural Resources Group, will be our guides. Then, ecological artist Lillian Ball and Adam Green, Executive Director of the youth group Rocking the Boat, will show us their design/build **Waterwash ABC** project which establishes a wetland/grassland to process runoff from a parking lot, opens up riverfront access, and provides education. At our final stop, **Soundview Salt Marsh Ecosystem Restoration**, Kathleen McCarthy, also from NYC Parks & Recreation's Natural Resources Group, will show us their ongoing collaborative project with the US Army Corps of Engineers to excavate 15 feet of urban fill and reconstruct the 3-acre underlying tidal marsh and 6-acre adjacent uplands.

Staten Island Bluebelt: Stormwater Management

The NYC DEP's award-winning Staten Island Bluebelt Project provides ecologically sound and cost-effective stormwater management for approximately one-third of Staten Island's land area by filtering and directing stormwater via its wetlands and streams. We'll visit some of the 55 restoration sites along natural drainage corridors: the stormwater wetland integrated into **Bloomington Park**, several varied pocket wetlands at **Blue Heron Park**, including a retrofitted existing wetland, and a stream daylighted and combined with a stormwater treatment wetland at **Conference House Park**. The trip will highlight stormwater wetland design, plant salvage techniques, and the advantages of avoiding use of topsoil in restoration projects, among others. It will be hosted by NYC DEP Bluebelt Project Manager Rob Brauman and colleagues in the Bluebelt group.

Brooklyn Urban Oases: Old, New, and Future

Restoration in its expanding definitions! At **Prospect Park**, where restoration has been ongoing since the mid-1990s, Director of Landscape Management Anne Wong and her staff will show us the recent woodland restoration on Lookout Hill, including an area heavily impacted by Hurricane Irene, and then the in-progress restoration of a portion of lake previously filled to build an ice-skating rink. Moving on to **Brooklyn Bridge Park**, which is being built mostly on former cargo-ship piers, we'll see the "water gardens" that collect rainwater into underground cisterns for use in irrigation amid a thick planting of native vegetation, and a small salt marsh built on the edge of a pier. A representative of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates will lead the tour, joined by Park Horticulturist Rebecca McMacklin. Then, at the site where the pilot project of the **Gowanus Canal Sponge Park** will begin installation later this year, a representative of dlandstudio will tell us about the plans that will convey stormwater across a city intersection, use phytoremediation in street-end bioretention basins, and create a micro-habitat, all while improving the streetscape and water access.

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