

Speaker Bios:

Technical Session 1

Anna Vietmeier is a first-generation college student and PhD candidate at Duquesne University where she works within the Laboratory of Dr. Nancy Trun. She is co-founder and co-coordinator for the Bayer Association of Graduate Students Mentor-Mentee Program and vice-president for Graduation Students of Biological Sciences. She has been involved in multiple science outreach programs including those through the Women in STEM career day, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, and Ramsey Elementary School. She participated as a Fellow and project lead for the Advanced Science Communication Outreach Training program this past summer. Anna is a member of South Fayette Conservation Group. She has received funding from the Geological Society of America to support her research on iron and manganese remediation within passive remediation systems and the search for microbes and microbial metabolism driving these processes.

Eric Oliver is a Mineral Resources Program Specialist with the Pa DEP Bureau of Mining Programs. He is a graduate of Clarion University of PA with BS in Earth Science. He has completed a Post Graduate Certificate in GIS from Penn State University and is currently pursuing a Masters in GIS at Northwest Missouri State University.

Eric has been involved with mine reclamation for a few decades starting when he worked as a teenager for his family's mine reclamation company in the mid-1980s. He has experience in active and abandoned mine reclamation in both coal and industrial mineral environments. In 2006, he joined the Pa DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation and then moved to District Mine Operations as a Surface Mine Conservation Inspector.

Eric represents the Commonwealth as a member of the ARRI Core team where he also functions as the state team leader, collaborating with other reclamation professionals from PA, OH, MD, VA, WV, KY, TN and AL.

Jeffrey J. Ream, PE, Civil Engineer, OSMRE, Pittsburgh Technical Support Division

For the past 6 years, Jeff has worked for the Engineering and Mine Map Services Branch of the Technical Support Division of the Office of Surface Mining and Enforcement (OSMRE), located in Pittsburgh PA. At OSMRE, Jeff has served as the project manager for the AMDTreat re-write project, with team members from multiple OSMRE offices and several state partners. Jeff's professional interests involve the engineering side of abandoned mine land reclamation and acid mine drainage abatement, and he enjoys finding new creative solutions to old problems. He's a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Engineering, and served as a search and rescue aircrewman in the United States Coast Guard prior to beginning his Engineering career. Prior to working for OSMRE, he was employed by the Mine Safety

and Health Administration in the Mine Waste and Geotechnical Engineering Division, managed a regional office of a national civil and environmental engineering consulting firm, and owned and operated his own consulting firm. He enjoys spending time with his wife, sons, and grandson on the beach and on the ski slopes when he can.

Technical Session 2

Charlotte Brett

Charlotte has 20 years of environmental consulting experience serving public, private, and non-profit clients on economic development, energy, transportation, and municipal projects across multiple states. She has developed a permittee-responsible compensatory stream, wetland, and adjacent area mitigation projects in New York State that included coordination with multiple agencies.

Mike Fishman

Mike has over 30 years' experience in natural resource inventory surveys, including threatened and endangered species, wetlands, and ecosystem services assessment. He uses a creative approach to plan conservation measures to avoid and minimize adverse impacts, and develops mitigation for unavoidable impacts to achieve net conservation benefits, which has earned him respect among regulatory agencies, clients, colleagues, and communities.

Andy Johnson

Andy has a BS in Civil Engineering and a MS in Water Resources & Environmental Engineering from SUNY-ESF & Syracuse University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer with 16 years of experience specializing in water and environmental projects including stormwater, green infrastructure, ecological engineering, mining, site development, wastewater treatment, streambank/shoreline restoration, flood control, drinking water, environmental assessments, and brownfield remediation.

Brad Mudrzynski

Brad has an MS in Environmental Science and 10 years of natural resources experience working in academia, public, and private sectors. His focus has been on wetlands, including management, restoration, and mitigation, as well as addressing water quality and wildlife habitat concerns. His focus at Working Lands Investment Partners has focused on helping to deliver permittee responsible wetland mitigation projects.

Iuri Lira Santos is a doctoral Student at WVU with a B.S in Civil Engineering from UPE – Brazil and M.S. in Civil Engineering from WVU and. He works with WVU's GeoEnvironmental Engineering group with mining reclamation. Iuri's interest are to continue helping the environment through engineering and improve people's quality of life.

Technical Session 3

Dr. John D. Quaranta is an Associate Professor with the Wadsworth Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at West Virginia University. Dr. Quaranta teaches and performs research specialized in geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering and encompasses slope stability and seepage analysis for landform design, dam safety, and groundwater impacts resulting from mineral, and oil and gas lifecycle phases.

Dr. Leslie Hopkinson is an Associate Professor in the Wadsworth Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at West Virginia University, specializing in water resources. She received her B.S. in Biological and Agricultural Engineering at Louisiana State University and her Ph.D. in Biological Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech. Her research focus is on hydrology, reclamation, and ecological engineering.

Nathan Parks, regional engineer for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Special Reclamation.

Rick Pino, technical analyst for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Special Reclamation

Erik Sanders, Environmental Resource Specialist 2 for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Special Reclamation

Gary Downen graduated from Southern Illinois University- Carbondale with a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science. In August, 1978 he began working for Consolidation Coal Company at the Burning Star #4 mine in Cutler, IL., as a reclamation foreman, later transferring to Burning Star #5 mine. In 1989, Gary was transferred to the Southern Illinois Divisional office for Consolidation Coal Co., in Pinckneyville, IL as a Reclaimed Land Resources Manager. In this capacity, Gary supervised the final reclamation activities of all Consol mines in Illinois. Gary formed a landscaping/construction company in 1996. Besides doing commercial and residential landscaping, the company also performed various reclamation activities for Consol, AMAX Coal Co., and Arch of Illinois at various sites throughout southern Illinois. In 2007, Gary took a position as Horticulture Instructor at Rend Lake College in Ina, IL. In 2010, Gary began working as a Land Reclamation inspector for Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals, Land Reclamation Division. Gary was promoted in 2014 to a Bond Specialist III, a position he currently holds.

Kristi Dodson has been with the Land Reclamation Division in Illinois for 7.5 years, first as an inspector, then a wildlife technical specialist, and now serves as the bond unit and GIS unit manager. Kristi also works closely with the soils and agriculture productivity unit. Kristi has a background in biology and wildlife management.

Dean Spindler

- BS Geology - SIU Carbondale
- MS Plant and Soil Science SIU Carbondale
- Licensed Professional Geologist in Illinois

- Certified Soil Scientist

Dean worked for the Land Reclamation Division of Illinois DNR, Office of Mines and Minerals, from 1976-2018 Responsibilities include: the soil scientist overseeing the Prime farmland Reclamation program in the coal regulatory program, GIS/Bond Unit manager; Development of the educational outreach programs, geologist, and in the past as the Non- Coal Reclamation program manager. Adjunct Geology instructor for Lincoln Land Community College for 10 years. NASLR Sec/Treasurer 15 years more or less.