



SOUTHERN
NEW ENGLAND
CHAPTER

Soil and Water Conservation Society

HEALTHY FORESTS, HEALTHY HABITATS 2018 WINTER CONFERENCE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Lois Bruinooge is Executive Director of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor and Coordinator of the Southern New England Heritage Forest Project. She has a biology degree from Tufts University and a law degree from Boston College Law School. Lois previously worked for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in a variety of roles, including Senior Regional Counsel in Worcester and Director of the Wetlands and Waterways Program in Boston. She has taught environmental law at local universities, practiced environmental law in a private firm, and began her career working with Massachusetts Conservation Commissions. Lois loves living in rural Woodstock, CT with her family and their dog.

Michael Downey is a Service Forester and Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator for the Massachusetts Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry (DCR). Michael works with landowners and municipalities throughout the commonwealth to sustainably manage their woods. Before coming back to Massachusetts in 2005, Michael previously worked as a Service Forester for the Kentucky Division of Forestry. Michael became interested in agroforestry while working with landowners in western Kentucky. More recently, in Massachusetts, Michael has observed an increasing landowner interest in agroforestry—especially forest farming and silvopasture.

Jennifer Fish is the head of the Service Forestry Program at the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Service Forestry Program is responsible for the administration of the Cutting Practices Act (Ch132) and the forestry current use program (Ch61). In addition, she administers the Working Forest Initiative, which is a suite of outreach programs geared toward private landowners including; Estate Planning, Foresters for the Birds, and Forest Stewardship. She is also a co-author of the 2013 edition of the Massachusetts Best Management Practices Manual. She holds a B.S. in Forestry from Penn State University and a Master's degree in Natural Resource Conservation from the University of Massachusetts.

Fern Graves is a Forester and Stewardship Coordinator for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Division of Forest Environment. Fern received her Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Auburn University in her home state of Alabama. In 2016, she completed a Master of Science degree in Entomology at Penn State University. After moving to Rhode Island, she worked as a consultant writing forest management plans for private landowners. She began working for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management in 2017, where she now coordinates the Forest Stewardship Program. In her personal time, she maintains an increasing collection of beetles and enjoys hiking, kayaking, and cooking Cajun cuisine.

Douglas Hutcheson has been a MA DCR Service Forester for 9 years. Prior to serving the Commonwealth, he was the Conservation Land Manager/Watershed Forester for the Town of Amherst and Forestry Technician with WD Cows. He received a MS in Forest Resource Management from UMass-Amherst and a BA in Economics from the University of Tampa.

Dr. Steve Johnson manages projects associated with rare plant and animal species, including organismic surveys, habitat assessments, translocations, monitoring, conservation plans, permitting, and other research. He specializes in birds, freshwater mussels, plants, reptiles, amphibians, odonates, and mammals throughout the Northeast region. He has conducted rare species – related work for over 20 years. Steve has Advanced SCUBA certification and has over fifteen years of experience conducting underwater surveys and monitoring in both fresh and saltwater habitats.

Christopher Martin is Connecticut's State Forester and Forestry Director for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) since 2008. DEEP Forestry administers numerous USDA Forest Service's Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act programs addressing identified needs within Connecticut's Forest Action Plan <http://www.forestationplans.org/> and is charged with sustainably managing over 170,000 acres of State Forests held by the Agency in public trust. Chris also currently serves as chair for the National Association of State Foresters <http://www.stateforesters.org/> Forest Science and Health Committee and is active in many national forest policy matters including Wildfire Disaster Funding Act and a multi-federal agency strategic plan to combat invasive forest pests.

Chris is a certified and licensed forester in Connecticut and Maine, and the Society of American Foresters. Prior to serving in Connecticut. Chris was a Senior Planner and Water Resource Forester for the Maine Forest Service where he coordinated statewide monitoring of timber harvests and helped develop protocols to analyze forest practice effects on water quality, biodiversity, and residual forest stand quality.

John Scanlon is the Habitat Program Supervisor for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife) and is responsible for identifying, prioritizing, and administering habitat restoration & management operations designed to benefit rare and declining species across 200,000 acres of state wildlife lands. He also oversees technical assistance to private landowners interested in improving habitat on their lands, and works in the MassWildlife Land Acquisition Program. John has a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Maine at Orono, and a Master's degree in Wildlife Science from Virginia Tech. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist through The Wildlife Society, a Certified Forester through the Society of American Foresters, and a Massachusetts Licensed Forester.

Thomas E. Worthley has authored or co-authored several scholarly articles. He is the Associate Extension Professor at the University of Connecticut and teaches classes in Dendrology and Forest Management at UConn. He has worked with private landowners, forest industry, researchers and academics and extensively on tracts in the UConn Forest.

Healthy Forests, Healthy Habitats | 2018 Winter Conference | Friday March 16 | Sturbridge, MA

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