



## MACC Fall Conference 2019 Workshop Descriptions

### Morning Workshops (9:05 – 11:55 am)

#### **Urban Forests: Improving Our Communities While Building Climate Change Resilience**

Urban forests are the trees, plants, and associated ecosystems found wherever people are—country roads in rural towns, new subdivisions in the suburbs, or paved neighborhoods in cities and old mill towns. The health of our urban forests can greatly impact our lives, as they provide measureable economic, social, and environmental benefits, such as: combating the heat island effect, reducing year-round energy consumption, improving mental and physical health, improving stormwater management, and reducing localized flooding. After discussing these benefits and services, presenters will share tools and techniques available for expanding and managing our urban canopies, building stronger communities during this time of changing climate.

- Robert O'Connor, Director, Division of Conservation Services, MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- Mathew Cahill, Program Manager, Greening the Gateway Cities, Urban and Community Forestry Program, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Neil Angus, AICP CEP, LEED AP BD&C, ND, Environmental Planner, Devens Enterprise Commission
- Tennis Lilly, Project Manager, Groundwork Lawrence; Conservation Commissioner, Lawrence

Moderator: Sandra Brock, PE, CFM, LEED AP BD + C; ENV SP Vice President and Chief Engineer, Nitsch Engineering; Chair, Grafton Conservation Commission; MACC Director

#### **Managing Buffer Zones in Massachusetts: Considering the Science While Applying the Regulations**

Funding provided by the Massachusetts Environmental Trust gave MACC the opportunity to produce the MACC buffer zone guidebook – the definitive Massachusetts resource on managing activities in the buffer zones of wetlands and other water resources under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and local bylaws and ordinances. Topics to be covered in this workshop include: the current science on buffer zones, reviewing a project in the buffer zone, decision-making under the WPA regulations and existing local bylaws and ordinances, climate change and other considerations, writing wetland bylaws and ordinances, and developing science and performance-based standards for buffer zones. Attendee will have the chance to participate in a case study exercise.

- Gillian Davies, PWS, SSSNE, NHCWS, CESSWI, Senior Ecological Scientist, Associate, BSC Group
- Ingeborg Hegemann, PWS, Senior Consultant, BSC Group; Conservation Commissioner, Stow

Moderator: Jennifer Hughes, Environmental Program Manager, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission; Chair, Ipswich Conservation Commissioner; MACC Director



## MACC's Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners Certificate Training Program

### **Fundamentals Unit 103: Plan Review and Site Visit Procedures**

Topics covered include: understanding how to read maps and plans, site visits-what to bring and what to check—soils, slopes, wetland lines, and erosion and sedimentation controls.

- Greg Hochmuth, PWS, CWS, RS, Environmental Consultant, Williams & Sparages LLC; MACC Director
- Michael Howard, PWS, CWS, Principal, Epsilon Associates, Inc.; MACC President

Moderator: Cynthia O'Connell, Manager, Stormwater Division of Braintree Department of Public Works; MACC Director

Moderator: Lana Spillman, PhD, Former Conservation Administrator, Topsfield; Former Conservation Commissioner, Boxford; MACC Director

### **Fundamentals Unit 204: Managing Conservation Land: Inventories, Goals, and Conflicts**

Topics covered include: natural resource evaluation, land management plans, management case studies (e.g., invasives, trails, grasslands, agriculture, beavers)

- Jordan McCarron, Conservation Stewardship Coordinator for the Town of Lexington Conservation Division

Moderator: Sally Zielinski, PhD, Botanist; Environmental Journalist; Artist

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## Afternoon Workshops (1:30 – 4:15 pm)

### **Native Plants and Pollinators: Making Connections for Conservation**

Wild pollinators have declined in abundance, diversity, and geographic distribution at an alarming rate in recent years, posing a significant threat to ecosystem health and biodiversity, and challenging our efforts to develop effective conservation and restoration strategies for threatened species. Learn how conserving native plants in the wild and incorporating them in designed spaces helps to protect and enhance the resilience and diversity of our landscapes throughout the state. Case studies from Southeast, Metro-West, and Western Mass will share how land stewards of all stripes—gardeners, landscape designers, conservation commissioners and conservation land stewards, municipal planners, DPW directors, land trust staff, and others—are creating pollinator networks—making connections for conservation.

- Uli Lorimer, Director of Horticulture, Native Plant Trust



- Freddie Casey Gillespie, Chair, Southborough Open Space and Preservation Commission; Member, Southborough Stewardship Committee
- Anna Hanchett, Chair, Plainfield Agricultural Commission; Western Massachusetts Pollinator Networks

Moderator: Margaret (Peg) Stolfa, Esq., Partner, Gordon & Rees LLP; MACC Director

### **CULVERTS – Assessing, Designing, and Funding Culvert Replacements (with case studies and lessons learned)**

With more than 20,000 aging culverts in Massachusetts that are in need of repairs or replacement, our municipalities are also facing more severe storms that require larger culverts to handle the increased floodwaters. Are you wondering how to prioritize your culvert repairs; how to design the culverts for wildlife passage; where to find funding; and as importantly, how to learn from others' cases studies? Wonder no more! MACC's culvert workshop will provide information from experts at DER, DOT, and case studies from your peers in this not-to-be-missed workshop at Fall Conference 2019!

- Carrie Banks, Stream Continuity Restoration Planner, Mass Division of Ecological Restoration
- Angela Panaccione, Conservation Agent and Stormwater Coordinator, Town of Palmer

Moderator: E. Heidi Ricci, Assistant Director of Advocacy, Mass Audubon; MACC Director

### **MACC's Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners Certificate Training Program**

#### **Fundamentals Unit 102: Wetlands Protection Act Fundamentals, Process, and Procedures**

Topics covered include: Interests of the Act, jurisdiction, permit submittal requirements, forms, identifying resource areas, limited projects.

- Jennifer Steel, Chief Environmental Planner, City of Newton; MACC Director

Moderator: Nick Nelson, Regional Director, Inter-Fluve; MACC Director

#### **Fundamentals Unit 105: Writing Effective Orders of Conditions**

Topics covered include: the parts of an Order of Conditions, protecting Interests of the Act, boilerplate and special conditions, denials and appeals, amendments and extensions, Certificates of Compliance.

- Michele Grzenda, Conservation Administrator, Town of Weston; Vice President, Mass Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals



Moderator: Jennifer Hughes, Environmental Program Manager, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission; Chair, Ipswich Conservation Commissioner; MACC Director

**Fundamentals Unit 207: Fundamentals of Wetlands Enforcement**

Topics covered include: enforcement options under the Wetlands Protection Act and local bylaws/ordinances, enforcement procedures, obtaining access to a property, compliance monitoring, and remedies.

- Rebekah Lacey, Esq., Attorney, Miyares and Harrington LLP; MACC Officer

Moderator: Matthew Schweisberg, PWS, Principal, Wetland Strategies and Solutions, LLC; MACC Officer