

A MATTER OF BALANCE:
Perceptions, Engagement and Partnerships for On-Farm Conservation
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Linda Prokopy, Professor

Department of Forestry and Natural Resources and
Co-Director of the Natural Resources and Environmental Science
Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Program
Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana

Dr. Prokopy is an interdisciplinary social scientist who is recognized nationally and internationally for her work incorporating social science into the fields of agricultural conservation, agricultural adaptation to climate change, and watershed management. She has developed a highly successful integrated program focused on the role of human decision making in water resources management. Dr. Prokopy has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles in consistently high-tier journals, she has generated over \$19 million in competitive research funds, and she has graduated and mentored numerous graduate students and postdocs.

Dr. Zachary Curtis

Hydrosimulatics Inc.
Lansing, Michigan

Zach, a Michigan native, recently completed a dual Ph.D. at Michigan State University in Environmental Engineering and Environmental Science and Policy. His research focus is groundwater modeling and applications addressing sustainability issues in Michigan. He also studies hydrologic phenomena associated with groundwater-surface water interactions and groundwater-dependent ecosystems. He is currently a postdoctoral research associate at Hydrosimulatics, Inc. based out of Lansing, Michigan.

Paul Sachs, Director

Planning and Performance Improvement
Ottawa County, Michigan

Paul is responsible for implementing innovative, pragmatic solutions that positively impact quality of life and economic growth in the County. Paul is a passionate, creative-thinker who thrives on building effective relationships where the talents and energies of individuals are united to achieve necessary results. A Michigan native, Paul was born and raised in Royal Oak, MI, attended Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo (B.S. Earth Sciences '98), and currently lives in Holland, MI with his wife Lisa, and two daughters (Helen – 12, and Ruby – 7). Paul previously worked as a Researcher for the Federal Highway Administration's Research and Technology Center in McLean, Virginia, and as a Planning Analyst for Michael Baker Engineering under contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Washington D.C.

Jim Isley, Sunrise Farms, Inc.

River Raisin Watershed, Lenawee County
Palmyra, Michigan

Jim Isley is the fifth-generation farmer and operator of Sunrise Farms, Inc., in Lenawee County. His farm is located in the Lake Erie basin and Jim has adopted many conservation practices to manage and protect his soil, water and nutrient resources. He feels strongly about sharing his conservation philosophy and practices with both farmers and non-farmers. Jim is a member of the River Raisin Watershed Council Farmers Advisory Committee, and the Supervisor of Palmyra Township.

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Mary Fales, Director

Saginaw Bay Watershed Conservation Partnership
The Nature Conservancy
Lansing, Michigan

Mary Fales has served as the Program Director for Michigan's Saginaw Bay Watershed since 2012. The program relies on using online decision tools, innovative financing mechanisms, an expansive public private partnership that engages the agricultural supply chain, education initiatives and behavior change strategies to deliver agricultural conservation where its most needed. Her work has led to several multi-million dollar projects, including the \$10M Regional Conservation Partnership Program, focused on targeting agricultural best management practices to the fields that need them most to reduce nutrient and sediment laden runoff and increase groundwater recharge for the benefit of people and nature.

Mary has over 15 years of experience in watershed management in both urban and agricultural landscapes. She has previously worked in environmental consulting, for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Water Bureau and for the Macatawa Watershed Project (Holland, MI). Mary previously served as the president of the Michigan Soil and Water Conservation Society and was awarded the 2014 Friend of Conservation Award from the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts. She was a participant in the 2015 cohort of The Nature Conservancy's Science Impact Project and is completing a Soil Health and Nutrients Coda Fellowship for The Nature Conservancy's Midwest Division.

Wendy Ogilvie, Director of Environmental Programs

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
Lower Grand River Watershed Habitat Restoration

Wendy joined GVMC in 2013 as the Director of Environmental Programs. Her career has focused on water resource management projects, with over 25 years of experience in watershed and stormwater management. Current initiatives include the Regional Prosperity Initiative, facilitating NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permits in Kent and Ottawa County communities, implementing the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) strategic plan, and assisting the project team in restoring the rapids to the Grand River. Originally from Maryland, Wendy came to Michigan to pursue a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Michigan and later earned a M.S. in Resource Development from Michigan State University.

DJ Shook, Fish, Wildlife and Soil Conservationist

Natural Resources Department
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

DJ is a conservationist with field experience in cold-water stream restoration work spanning 14 years and two states: Washington and Michigan. During these 14 years, DJ has served NRCS clients from positions at the Washington State Department of Ecology, Kittitas County Conservation District, Missaukee Conservation District, as well as, in his current position at the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. DJ's field experience includes planning and implementing riparian forest buffers, irrigation diversion structure improvements, aquatic organism passage improvements, and in-stream habitat projects. DJ is a graduate of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources with a focus in Resource Ecology and Management.