

## Impact Through Knowledge– BIOS

Land to Lake Conference – September 28, 2017



**Jamie Gerken** received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from The Ohio State University and a Master's in Public Health degree through the Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health, which offers the degree as a joint effort through University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University. Jamie has worked for Defiance County Public Health for 14 years. Jamie started at Defiance County Public Health as a public health nurse. She also occupied the role of public health planning and promotion coordinator before recently being appointed as Health Commissioner for Defiance County Public Health. Jamie and her husband Brandon and their three children live just outside of Defiance. Jamie has a passion for helping the community and enjoys assisting the community in any capacity she is able.

**John Urbahns** is the Executive Vice President for Economic Development of Greater Fort Wayne Inc. John previously served as the Director of Community Development for the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana. John began his career with the City in 1996. John holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Design and a Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development degree from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Mr. Urbahns holds accreditation as a certified planner from the American Institute of Certified Planners. John has worked previously as a planning and community development consultant and has taught undergraduate and graduate level coursework at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. John is very engaged in the Fort Wayne community currently serving on numerous level community boards.

**Scott Carpenter** is director of public relations for Metroparks Toledo, a 12,000-acre park system in Lucas County that operates 15 parks, including five on the Maumee River. A sixth riverfront park, on the east bank opposite Downtown Toledo, is in the planning stages. His presentation, "What if Tomorrow Were Different," highlights how five cities around the country have used their parks, trails and waterfronts to change their image and improve their quality of life. It will also provide an overview of Metroparks ambitious plans to place a park within 5 miles of every resident of the county, and connect those parks with trails.

**Karl Gebhardt** serves as the Executive Director for the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and Ohio EPA Deputy Director for Water Resources. His career has spanned over forty-four years in natural resource management, public policy development and community relations in both the private and public sectors. Prior to joining Ohio EPA Mr. Gebhardt was Deputy Director for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), where he over-saw water quality and water resource issues, Ohio's Coastal Management Office, Division of Soil & Water Resources and the Division of Wildlife. In addition, he has also held various management positions for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and also served as the first executive director for the Ohio Office of Farmland Preservation at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. His experience, includes private sector experience as the owner of Teater-Gebhardt & Associates, a natural resources consulting, lobbying and community relations firm. Mr. Gebhardt earned a master's degree in public policy and management from The Ohio State University, a bachelor's degree in business administration from Franklin University and an associate degree in natural resources from Hocking College. He is also in his second term as a township trustee in Genoa Township, a 26,000 resident township in southern Delaware County. Mr. Gebhardt was recently awarded the Cardinal Award by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for his work in natural resources management and policy. Karl and his wife Susan are the parents of two daughters. But his most prestigious job and title is that of "Pa" to 5 grandsons and one "princess" grand-daughter.

**Chris Collier** is the Conservation Manager for Black Swamp Conservancy, an accredited land trust working to protect northwest Ohio's natural areas and family farms. He received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Science in Ecology from the University of Toledo. At Black Swamp Conservancy, Chris has worked to; protect land through fee title acquisition and conservation easements, restore wetlands and other native ecosystems, and improve water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin. Chris lives in Toledo with his wife and enjoys running, camping, hiking, and kayaking.

**Sharon Partridge** joined The Nature Conservancy's Western Lake Erie Basin Project in May of 2017. She is the Agriculture Project Manager. Her work in conservation began in 1992 when she joined the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Soil Conservation. Over the years, she has worked on agricultural and urban water quality problems through state and local governments and as a consultant. Seven years of her career have been spent in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

**Laura Johnson** is director of the National Center for Water Quality Research at Heidelberg University where she works on watershed sediment and nutrient export. Prior to joining the NCWQR in 2013, Laura received her Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame in 2008 and was a postdoc at Indiana University in Bloomington. Aside from working with the long-term Heidelberg dataset, her recent research also focuses on examining the influence of agricultural nutrient management on nutrient export, identifying sources of nutrients within watersheds, and contributing to the seasonal harmful algal bloom forecast for western Lake Erie.

**Tyler Miller** is the District Technician at Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District. He is married to Briana and they have 3 sons Gage (7), Dylan (5), Barret (2 months). He is a graduate of Bowling Green State University with a major in History Education and minor in Political Science. Tyler worked for Natural Resources Conservation Service from 2010-2012. He designs conservation practices such as grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, blind inlets, surface drains, controlled drainage, and implements programs including cover crops, structures, gypsum, blind inlets, and fertilizer placement. He farms corn and soybeans with his father and family.

**Kris Barnswell** is a Water Quality Planner with the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG). He has more than 10 years of experience in environmental remediation and restoration. He assists with maintaining the TMACOG Areawide Water Quality Management Plan and provides coordination with two of TMACOG's Water Quality Council subcommittees: Public Water Supply and Wastewater. Kris is currently working on a nutrient source inventory project to identify critical unsewered areas within the western Lake Erie basin where potential failing septic systems may contribute elevated nitrogen and phosphorus loads to surface waters. Before joining TMACOG, Kris was a research assistant professor at the University of Toledo, where he was responsible for managing water quality research projects and preparing proposals for external funding. He also was an environmental specialist at Watterson Environmental & Facilities Management, where he performed phase I & II site assessments, underground storage tank removals, and asbestos surveys. Kris holds master's and doctoral degrees in biology (ecology-track) from the University of Toledo.

**Doug Kane** is a Professor of Biology in the Division of Natural Sciences, Applied Sciences, and Mathematics at Defiance College. His research interests lie in plankton and benthic invertebrate ecology, as well as effects of invasive species on communities and ecosystems, causes and consequences of cultural eutrophication, and ecosystem integrity of Lake Erie. Doug's recent research has focused on effects of the Maumee and Sandusky River systems on the recent re-eutrophication of Lake Erie. He recently has been funded by a Ohio Lake Erie Commission grant to look at nutrients exported from created wetlands on former farm fields in Defiance County and by Ohio Department of Higher Education and Ohio Water Resources Center grants dealing with buoy technology for detecting CHABS (Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms). This past year Doug spent his sabbatical as a Visiting Professor at São Paulo State University in Brazil and as a Visiting Researcher at the University of Toledo's Lake Erie Center. Further, Doug has participated as a Visiting Scientist mentoring students in Stone Lab's Research Experience for Undergraduates program for the past decade. Doug has published peer-reviewed papers in *Journal of Great Lakes Research*, *Ecological Indicators*, *Freshwater Biology*, *Water*, *Harmful Algae*, *Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management*, *Aquatic Invasions*, and *Ohio Journal of Science*. Finally, Doug is current Chair of the Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership and a board member of the Ohio Academy of Science.

**Mike McKay** "Growing up near the shores of Lake Erie, Mike McKay's career has come full circle working on Lake Erie water quality as a member of the faculty of Bowling Green State University for the past 20 years. A resident of Napoleon, Mike holds the Ryan Professorship in Biology and serves as Director of the BGSU Marine Program. Mike received a baccalaureate degree in Biology from Queen's University at Kingston (Canada) followed by a PhD in Biology from McGill University in Montreal in 1992. Upon completion of his doctoral work, he held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and with the Graduate College of Marine Studies at the University of Delaware where he served concurrently at the Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, NY. It was during this period that Mike became active in research on aquatic nutrient cycling and carbon sequestration through his involvement with the ecosystem-scale ocean iron fertilization projects being conducted by scientific personnel from Brookhaven at that time. Mike was awarded a German Humboldt Fellowship in 2005 spending part of the year at IfM-GEOMAR, a marine institute in Kiel on the Baltic Sea and in recent years his research has expanded to include large lakes where he studies the biogeochemical cycling of nutrients, algal blooms and more recently, winter limnology involving research coordination with ice-breaking programs of Canadian and U.S. Coast Guards. The latter project, which is bi-national and multi-institutional in scope, has led to insights on how climate warming is affecting Lake Erie's ecosystem."

**Abigail King**, President & Founder of Save Maumee Grassroots Organization Inc. is currently managing Save Maumee Riparian Buffer Initiative to reforest 4.13 acres of land next to the most degraded streams in Allen County. She administers this Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant through the USDA Forest Service for \$180,000, with volunteer hours match to exceed \$230,000 of services provided. Her research began in 2001 after purchasing a house on the Maumee River in 2001, by 2005 facilitation of ecosystem restoration projects began. She has sat as Treasurer of the Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership from 2009-2014 and then Environmental Consultant for the Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor: Region 1 from 2010-2015. Awards include; Woman of Northeast Indiana (NBC News-Center, 2016), Green Light Legacy Hall of Fame (Sustainable Indiana, 2016) and Save Maumee: 2017 Environmental Excellence Award (Indiana Division of Isaac Walton League) and Organization of the Year 2011 (Hoosier Environmental Council). Abigail holds a Bachelor of Arts in Interpersonal and Public Speaking with a Minor in Government and Business from Purdue University. Her additional coursework includes over 100 hours in Secondary Education. In 2009, she was certified as a *Watershed Coordinator/Watershed Expert* from Purdue W. Lafayette: Watershed Leadership Academy. She holds an *Indiana Master Naturalist Certificate*, a *Real Estate License*, a *DNR Volunteer Water-Testing License* and recently completed an *Indiana Tree Steward* course through Indiana DNR. For her "pay job," she teaches Drivers Education for a private company with a *Traffic and Safety Drivers Education Endorsement*; Special Education focus from Indiana State University and retains a *Driver Examiner Licensure* from the State of Indiana.

**Tom Spiess** is an educator, arts administrator, community economic development proponent and past village administrator. In short, he was (and is) an advocate for local community engagement. He is a Jennings Scholar, founder of the Fayette Community Fine Arts Council and the Community Development Corporation of Fayette, past president of the Fulton County Community Improvement Corporation, past consultant for the Ohio Arts Council and inaugural member of the OAC's Presenter/Touring Panel and part of the local team that sent fresh unfrozen pork to the Pacific Rim in the early 90's. During his seven year tenure as Fayette's Village Administrator, the public sector successfully addressed a major environmental contamination issue that resulted in the relocation of the public school and community's water supply, reversed a pre recession economic crisis that allowed the community to expand employment during the Great Recession and have nearly 0% vacancy rate in its industrial park. Spiess received his Bachelor's degree from the Defiance College, Master's from Siena Heights University with additional studies at Carlton College in Minnesota. He currently serves on numerous community non-profit boards and is one of the principals in the Normal Project. That initiative explores the underlying issues that lead to disengagement, disenfranchisement and diminished home rule. The Normal Project seeks to develop innovative ways to combat the inertia that plagues non-governmental centers, rural communities and local neighborhoods.