



Annual Learning Exchange – Speaker Bios

1. **Oyster Restoration Session:** This session focuses on Seatuck's Half Shells for Habitat, concentrating on an island-wide program partnership to recover oyster shells from restaurants for use in oyster and habitat restoration efforts. This workshop will be an opportunity to discuss topics around permitting challenges, current regulations, curing sites, and engaging with restaurant owners/community partners.

❖ **Maureen Dunn** - Maureen is a Water Quality Scientist at Seatuck Environmental Association, specializing in the assessment and remediation of aquatic habitats for Long Island wildlife. She is also the Director of Seatuck's Half Shells for Habitat, an island-wide, oyster shell recovery program. This program provides cured oyster shells to local environmental groups involved in spat-on-shell based oyster restoration.

Before joining the staff at Seatuck, Maureen was employed for 20 years as an Oceanographic Associate in the Environmental Sciences Department at Brookhaven National Laboratory where she examined biological-physical interactions in the marine environment. Maureen has a Masters degree in Marine Environmental Science from Stony Brook University. She is an active member of a number of local environmental advisory boards. Maureen grew up on the Great South Bay, Long Island and loves to kayak.

2. **Environmental Justice and Educational Stewardship Session:** This session focuses on projects with an environmental justice concentration and discusses ways in which stewards are engaged from the community. Authentic inclusion of community members and partners is critical when doing environmental justice work. Learn more at this workshop on how to engage people from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, experience levels, and incomes in order to create a project that is truly community-led.

❖ **Dr. Philip McAdoo** - Dr. McAdoo is a seasoned Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) expert with a rich history of advancing inclusivity, equity, and

understanding across various sectors. With a career spanning over 15 years, he has been instrumental in driving meaningful change, most notably as the Vice President of DEI at a leading environmental law organization and as the Director of Equity, Justice, and Community at a prestigious educational institution in Washington, D.C. His tenure in these roles has been marked by significant strides in enhancing staff diversity, developing data-informed support initiatives for students and alumni, and leading transformative professional development programs.

Dr. McAdoo's commitment to DEI extends beyond organizational boundaries. As an openly gay educator and LGBTQ+ advocate, he has tirelessly worked to dismantle homophobia and promote inclusivity through legislative advocacy, notably contributing with the late Congressman John Lewis to the Every Child Deserves a Family Act. His literary contributions, including 'Independent Queers' and the children's book 'Every Child Deserves', further underscore his dedication to fostering understanding and acceptance from a young age.

Holding advanced degrees from prestigious institutions, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The California Institute of Integral Studies, and The University of Pennsylvania, Dr. McAdoo's academic background enriches his practical approach to DEI. His diverse experiences, from performing in Broadway productions to being recognized as a Coca-Cola Scholar, add unique dimensions to his DEI work, making him a dynamic and empathetic leader in the field.

Dr. McAdoo's DEI philosophy is rooted in a blend of strategic planning, empathetic engagement, and a commitment to current best practices. His work is driven by a passion for creating environments where diverse identities are celebrated and all individuals have the opportunity to thrive.

- 3. Water Quality Session:** This session focuses on water quality projects and case studies from Save the Sound. If you are currently doing a project related to water quality or plan on doing one in the future, the workshop will discuss permitting, QAPPs, challenges/successes, along with communicating findings with the community.

❖ **Peter Linderoth** - Peter is the Director of Water Quality working out of Save the Sound's Larchmont office. He has a B.A. in Environmental Studies from the University of California Santa Barbara and a M.S. in Environmental Science and Management from Sacred Heart University. Peter worked in the Education and Science Departments at the Bruce Museum prior to joining the team at Save the Sound. He is a member of the Town of Greenwich Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency in addition to serving on the Long Island Sound Study Water Quality Monitoring Workgroup, and Interstate Environmental Commission Technical Advisory Committee. Peter spends as much of his free time as possible with friends and family on, in, and around Long Island Sound.

4. **Green Infrastructure Session:** This session focuses on building and maintaining green infrastructure projects in New York and Connecticut. The workshop will address the benefits of rain gardens, communicating benefits to community members and decisionmakers, along with addressing maintenance challenges. If your current or future project focuses on green infrastructure, this is an ideal workshop for you to find out more on ways to measure success.

❖ **Nicole Davis** - Nicole is the Watersheds Project Manager for Save the Sound's Ecological Restoration program, working to advance watershed planning, green stormwater infrastructure, and community resilience projects in the Long Island Sound Region since 2007. Nicole has worked with municipalities, watershed organizations and local residents to complete large and small green infrastructure projects and to provide hands-on opportunities for people to learn about nature based solutions to stormwater management. She has degrees in marine and environmental science and has completed postgraduate work in urban planning.

5. **Invoicing/Recordkeeping Session:** This session focuses on invoicing for project and programmatic costs. In addition, best practices will be reviewed for general recordkeeping and recordkeeping to EPA federal standards. This workshop seeks to strengthen the financial health of organizations through a discussion of policies and procedures.

- ❖ **Sara Smith** - Sara is the RAE Grant Administrator. Sara comes to us from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks where she spent eight years managing a state-wide grant program. She also coordinated the agency's recreational boating education program, taught women's outdoor skills classes on various topics, and was involved in many special projects focused on responsible outdoor recreation in Montana.

Sara attended the University of Montana where she earned a degree in Anthropology with minors in Geology and Irish Studies. She enjoys working with people from different cultures and backgrounds and hearing their stories. Water has always played an important role in Sara's life, and she enjoys spending time on the many lakes and rivers near her home in Helena, Montana. She also enjoys gardening, sewing and hiking with her husband and two dogs.

6. **Communications Session:** Learn to use various communication techniques to amplify your project to the target audience. Use social media and learn about which photos/images work efficiently to engage community members and funders to support your work. Formulate blogs, newsletters, and implement website design techniques to further your organization's mission.

- ❖ **Brad Williamson** - Brad is the Manager of Government Affairs and Communications for Restore America's Estuaries, managing RAE's policy objectives with stakeholders on the Hill, in the administration, and throughout states. Brad graduated from the University of Georgia where he earned a degree in Political Science with a minor in Communications. Since graduating, he has spent more than seven years working in both the public and private sector representing the people of his home state and leading advocacy campaigns championing federal projects that reduce emissions.

Brad grew up exploring the woods and coastline of Georgia before moving to DC where he continues exploring the waterways around the city by rowing on the Potomac most mornings.

7. **Building a Fundraising Plan Session:** In continuing the Fundraising workshop the Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund held earlier this year, this requested

session focuses on how to build a fundraising plan. Connor Yakaitis shares his advice and expertise on the importance of organizations having a fundraising plan in place, who should be involved in the process, and how often a committee should meet to reach its target fundraising goal.

❖ **Connor Yakaitis** - Connor is the Development Director for the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, a statewide environmental nonprofit based in Hartford. He has been there for four years and has written and secured countless grant proposals at a variety of funding levels, from a few hundred dollars into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. He also developed the organization's four-year strategic plan that outlines the vision, goals and mission of CTLCV's work. His prior experience includes working for a number of political campaigns where he both fundraised and helped shape their respective campaign platforms. He volunteers as the Fundraising Coordinator for Jericho Circle Project, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit dedicated to trauma healing and the successful reentry of incarcerated citizens.

8. **Volunteer Management Session:** This session focuses on volunteer management, concentrating on how to increase interest for current or future projects while sharing challenges that arise in engaging different age groups. Strategies will be discussed around consistently engaging and maintaining volunteers, tracking numbers, and showing appreciation.

❖ **Edna Roquez** - Edna has worked with the Wildlife Conservation Society since she was a teenager. She has worked at the Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium and is currently the Coordinator of Volunteers and Visitor Engagement at the Queens Zoo. There, she manages teen and adult volunteers as well as the Youth Environmental Advocates and Visitor Engagement Associates. Her love for wildlife has stemmed from early childhood and will continue to inspire her career.