



# From the Branches to the Confluence: The Upper Susquehanna River Basin and its Communities

**Saturday, Sept. 23 from 8 a.m - 6 p.m.  
Bucknell University - Langone Center**

## Keynote Addresses

**Will Baker, President Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Ann Swanson, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission**

## Theme Sessions & Discussions

- 1. Environmental Science on the River**
- 2. Environmental Protection and Restoration**
- 3. Connections Between the River and Community Vibrancy**
- 4. Environmental Humanities in the River Basin**

**-- Panels from academia, government, community, & private groups**

## Poster Session, Poetry Reading, & Reception

**Hosted by the Bucknell University Environmental Center**

**Sponsors: Bucknell University, Bucknell University Environmental Center, Susquehanna Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies, Geisinger Center for Health Research**

---

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

---

*All conference activities will take place on the second floor of the Langone Center at Bucknell*

**7:30AM – Registration: Terrace Room  
Poster set-up: Center Room**

### CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND COFFEE AVAILABLE IN THE TERRACE ROOM

#### I 8AM - Opening Event – Forum

- 8:00 – 8:05: Welcome by Craig Kochel and Peter Wilshusen, Directors of Bucknell's Environmental Center
- 8:05 – 8:10: River images from WVIA
- 8:10 – 8:15: Remarks by Bucknell President Mitchell or Provost DeCredico
- 8:15 – 8:20: Remarks by Geisinger Health System President Glenn Steele
- 8:20 – 8:50: Morning Keynote Address: Will Baker, President, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- 8:50 – 9:00: Skip Wieder, Geisinger Health System and the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies, introduces session topics and conference goals
  - Define the route to a regular "State of the River" report.
  - Establish communication links between participants to improve understanding of all dimensions of the State of the River and the State of the River itself.
  - Establish working groups to follow up on ideas generated in the sessions.

**9:00AM – Break** (keynote speakers and institutional representatives available to take questions from the press in 241D)

## **II 9:15AM - Environmental Science on the River –Forum**

Moderator: Matt McTammany, Bucknell Biologist

- Presentations:
  - North Branch-fishes and other environmental indicators (Brian Mangan, King's College Biologist)
  - West Branch–implications of key pieces of data from monitoring projects (Mel Zimmerman, Lycoming Biologist)
  - Emerging data on link between acid mine drainage and nutrient processing (Steven Rier, Bloomsburg Biologist)
- Discussion topics:
  - What key indicators should we be tracking?
  - What's missing: what kinds of studies need to be carried out to round out our understanding of the river?
  - What can we do to fill the gaps (in terms of research, communication and funding)?
  - What should we hope to be able to report on at the next forum?
  - Commitments.

**10:45 AM – Break** (coffee, cookies and juice available)

## **III 11:00AM - Environmental Protection and Restoration – Forum**

Moderator: Renee Carey, Northcentral PA Conservancy

- Presentations followed by discussion to set an agenda for further initiatives.
  - Physical behaviors of streams that pose challenges for restoration (Craig Kochel, Bucknell Geologist)
  - State government regulations and work with watershed groups (Joan Sattler, PA Dept. of Env. Protection)
  - Stormwater management on a watershed basis (David Heicher, Susquehanna River Basin Commission)
  - How private funders are promoting restoration (John Dawes, Western PA Watershed Program)
- Discussion topics:
  - Potential and limitations of current strategies/ what else needs to be done.
  - How to better integrate science and policy.
  - Benchmarks to aim for (environmentally, organizationally).
  - What should we hope to be able to report on at the next forum?
  - Commitments.

**12:30PM - Lunch – Terrace Room**

**IV 1:15PM - Lunchtime Keynote Address:  
Ann Swanson, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission**

## **V 2:00PM - Connections between the River and Community Vibrancy - Forum**

Moderator: Bob Hormell, SEDA-COG

- Presentations followed by discussion on additional work needed to understand the community-river connection.
  - Economic development impacts of waterfront restoration: focus on Williamsport (Jerry Walls, Lycoming Co Planning Director)
  - Community design considerations in relating to the river: focus on Selinsgrove (Caru Bowns, Penn State Landscape Architect)
  - Using the river to enhance quality of life (Brian Auman, SEDA-COG and Susquehanna Greenways)
  - Historical context of river-town relations (Ben Marsh, Bucknell University Geographer)
- Discussion topics:
  - What additional work needs to be done to better understand the community-river connection?
  - How should work in this arena be communicated to and from the broader public and public officials?
  - What should we hope to be able to report on at the next forum?
  - Commitments.

**3:30 PM – Break** (coffee, cookies and juice available)

## **VI 3:45PM - Environmental Humanities in the River Basin - Forum**

Moderator: Alf Siewers, Bucknell English Professor

- Presentations followed by discussion to set an agenda for further scholarship.
  - Humanities scholarship in Centralia and Selinsgrove (Ed Slavishak or Karol Weaver, Susq Univ Historians)
  - Early contact between Europeans and North Americans (Katie Faull, Bucknell German/ Humanities Professor)
  - The Susquehanna's Role in the Underground Railroad (Scott Duncan, SEDA-COG)
  - Planned Humanities Journal on the Susquehanna (Jerry Wemple, Bloomsburg English Professor)
- Discussion topics:
  - How does humanities scholarship relate to and complement the scientific, restoration and community development work discussed in the earlier sessions?
  - What other work needs to be done/ what areas of inquiry look rich and promising?
  - How can/ should work in this arena be communicate do the broader public?
  - What should we hope to be able to report on at the next forum?
  - Commitments.

## **VII 5:15PM - Concluding Remarks by Peter Wilshusen and Craig Kochel, Bucknell Environmental Ctr Directors**

## **VIII 5:30PM – RECEPTION, POSTER VIEWING AND POETRY READING**

- Food and drinks will be served in the Center Room
  - Posters and tables will be set up in the Center Room
  - The Poetry Reading will begin at 6:00PM in Rooms 241a,b&c (combined into one room)
- Artwork featuring the Susquehanna River will also be on display in Rooms 241 a,b&c.