

## Speaker Biographies

**David Conrad** is Senior Water Resources Specialist at the National Wildlife Federation. Conrad has been with the National Wildlife Federation for 18 years. Conrad's major areas of activity have included the water resources development programs of the Army Corps of Engineers and federal river protection and floodplain management programs. He has been involved in legislation and a range of policy-related activities regarding flood hazard mitigation and floodplain management—with a focus on helping communities seeking assistance to relocate high-risk residences and businesses out of flood-prone areas, and expanding opportunities for nonstructural flood damage reduction. He has also been actively involved in Congress' Water Resources Development Acts, authorizing projects and programs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Conrad has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia.



**Pam Dashiell** is a long-time civic activist in the Holy Cross neighborhood of New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward. Raised in Roxbury, Massachusetts, she has lived in Holy Cross/Lower Nine for 17 years. She is Board Chair of the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, a founding member of Citizens Against Widening the Industrial Canal, board member of Smart Growth Louisiana and the Alliance for Affordable Energy, an advisor for the Gulf Coast Fund and a director of the Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development. Pam is employed by the Louisiana Bucket Brigade.

**Don Davis** is Administrator of Louisiana Applied and Educational Oil Spill Research and Development Program at Louisiana State University, as well as an authority on the cultures of Louisiana's wetlands. In his words, "I'm just Don. If you want to know anything about me, just ask my mama, she will tell you everything you need to know!"

**Mark Davis** is a Senior Research Fellow at Tulane University Law School and Director of the Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy at the Law School. He comes to the Institute after 14 years as the Executive Director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana where he was extensively involved in shaping laws, policies and programs at the state and federal level dealing the restoration and stewardship of coastal ecosystems. Prior to that time he practiced law in Indianapolis, Washington DC, and Chicago. Mark has a JD, with honors, from Indiana University and an MLT from the Georgetown University Law Center. He presently serves as a member of the Louisiana Recovery Authority's Environmental Task Force, which provides advice and guidance in connection with the State of Louisiana's efforts to recover from the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Mark has lectured widely on the topic of water resource management and stewardship and has testified numerous times before Congress on the need for a focused and effective commitment to the viability of coastal Louisiana and other vital natural treasures.

**Carlton Dufrechou** is Executive Director for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. During Carlton's 14 year term, LPBF has become one of the leading environmental organizations in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and preserving the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. In June 1992, Carlton became Executive Director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. As director, Carlton coordinates the overall planning and implementation of efforts to restore and preserve the ecology of the 10,000 square mile Pontchartrain Basin surrounding metro New Orleans. The Foundation's projects have received numerous recognitions including The National Watershed Award, two EPA Environmental Excellence Awards, and a Presidential Environmental Education Award. From December 1986 through early June 1992, Carlton was a planner and project manager with the New Orleans District of the Corps of Engineers. Carlton received both his BS degree in civil engineering and his MS degree in civil/environmental engineering from Tulane University. He is recipient of the Young Leadership Council of New Orleans Role Model Award, *Gambit* Best of New Orleans Award, and Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana Coastal Stewardship Award.

**Steve Ellis** is Vice President of programs at Taxpayers for Common Sense (TCS), where he oversees programs and serves as a leading media and legislative spokesperson. A persistent critic of the mounting budget deficit and federal fiscal policy, Steve has testified before numerous Congressional Committees and has appeared on national network news programs. Steve formerly served as an officer in the Coast Guard for six years including tours of duty as a department head and deck watch officer aboard Coast Guard Cutter Sorrel, managing the Coast Guard's inland waterway fleet, and managing a small boat acquisition contract. After leaving the Coast Guard, Steve worked at American Rivers and the Coast Alliance on Mississippi River and coastal subsidy issues, respectively. Steve received a B.S. in Government from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He has earned both the Coast Guard Commendation Medal and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal.



**Jeff Grimes** is the Assistant Director of the Water Resources Program for the Gulf Restoration Network. In this position, Jeff advocates for healthy waters and wetland protection with a primary geographic focus on the state of Mississippi. His work involves reviewing various government policies and permits, providing technical assistance to communities, and educating the public on water-related issues. Jeff holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Duke University and a B.S. in Environmental Science from Allegheny College.



**Susan Raleigh Kaderka**, is the Regional Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation's Gulf States Office. Since 1999 she has overseen NWF's conservation and environmental education initiatives in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Missouri, with a particular focus on the conservation and restoration of water resources. In 2001, she launched the Texas Living Waters program, a multi-year collaborative effort (with Environmental Defense and the Sierra Club ) that has



successfully advanced more sustainable water management and use in Texas. Ms. Kaderka has also led NWF's advocacy on behalf of the restoration of coastal Louisiana, where 25 square miles of coastal wetlands are disappearing annually. Since 2003 she has served on the Louisiana Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Restoration and Conservation, and has sought federal support for an ecosystem-scale restoration program for the area. Over the past year, Ms. Kaderka has spearheaded NWF's new initiative to help river and watershed groups, particularly in the western United States, to advocate for appropriate management of water resources in the face of climate change. She holds a Master's degree in Journalism and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, both from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Dr. Hassan S. Mashriqui** is Assistant Extension Professor-Research of Coastal Engineering at Louisiana State University and the LSU Agricultural Center. He is also a Professional Engineer with the LSU Hurricane Center, focusing on research topics such as Coastal and Inland Flooding Modeling, Water Quality Modeling, and Wetland Restoration. Recent publications by Dr. Mashriqui have addressed issues such as flood and wind hazard mitigation planning and landscape and watershed modeling in the Mississippi River delta. His work at the LSU Center for the Study of Public Health Impacts of Hurricanes takes a field and model-based approach to studying Hurricane Katrina effects in order to assess levee and infrastructure safety as well as developing concepts for using wetlands and ecosystem restoration for flood control solutions.



**Joan Mulhern** is Senior Legislative Counsel for Earthjustice and has been with the organization 1999. She represents Earthjustice on environmental quality issues including clean water, public health, and environmental justice. Her expertise on Clean Water Act issues includes the scope of waters protected by the Clean Water Act, the law's watershed clean up program, wetlands protection, mountaintop removal coal mining, water quality standards, and Clean Water Act enforcement. Ms. Mulhern has a B.A. from the University of Vermont and a J.D. *magna cum laude* from the Georgetown University Law Center.

**Major General Don Riley** became the Director of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC, on July 1, 2004. As such, he manages the Army's \$5 billion annual Civil Works Program, the Nation's primary planner, designer, builder, and operator of flood control, navigation, environmental restoration, and multiple-purpose water resource projects. As Director, General Riley is also the President of the U.S. Section of the International Navigation Association (PIANC), President of the Corps' Coastal Engineering Research Board, and Executive Director of the Inland Waterways User Board. General Riley came to Corps of Engineers Headquarters following command of the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) in Vicksburg, Miss.



where he received a Presidential appointment as President of the Mississippi River Commission. There he oversaw the work of six Engineer Districts that maintained the Mississippi River – the Nation's busiest inland waterway and port complex - and its tributaries for navigation, flood control and other purposes from the headwaters in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. Prior to commanding MVD, General Riley was the Deputy Chief of Staff (Engineer) of U.S. Army

Europe, headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany. A native of Hayward, California, General Riley is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in 1973. He earned a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in California. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College and holds a Masters of Military Arts and Sciences from the School of Advanced Military Studies.

**Matt Rota** is the Director of the Water Resources Program at the Gulf Restoration Network. In this position, Matt leads GRN efforts to educate and assist residents of Mississippi and Louisiana in obtaining state and federal agency action to reduce polluted runoff and to protect wetland resources. Matt has a Master's Degree in Earth and Environmental Resources Management from the University of South Carolina and a B.S in Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology from Tulane University.



**Melissa Samet** is Senior Director of Water Resources at American Rivers where she directs American River's Corps of Engineers Reform Campaign and Natural Flood Protection initiative. Melissa is also the Co-Chair of the Corps Reform Network. Prior to joining American Rivers in 2001, Melissa worked for six years at Earthjustice where she had dual roles as a litigating attorney and Director of Earthjustice's Marine Biodiversity Program. Prior to joining Earthjustice, Melissa was a litigating attorney in private practice. Melissa is the author of an essay on the Corps of Engineers in the book *Rivertown: Rethinking Urban Rivers* (2007); and has co-authored and directed several reports including: *Unnatural Disasters*, *Natural Solutions: Lessons from the Flooding of New Orleans*; *Costly Corps: How the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Uses Your Tax Dollars To Destroy the Environment*; and *Saving the Oceans: A Litigation Strategy*. She is currently working on *A Citizen's Guide to the Corps of Engineers*. Melissa received her J.D. from the New York University School of Law, and holds a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Vermont.



**Cynthia (Cyn) Sarthou** is Executive Director of the Gulf Restoration Network. She has been with the GRN since 1995. Cyn is responsible for the day to day operations of the GRN. She also works to elevate regional issues in Gulf of Mexico States to a national level. Cyn serves on the Steering Committee of the Corps Reform Network, National Clean Water Network and Endangered Species Coalition. Cyn received her B.A. from the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, her law degree from the University of Mississippi in 1983, and her Masters of Law in Law and Marine Affairs from the University of Washington in 1992.



**Dr. Robert Stearns** is an independent consultant with extensive background in transportation economics. He has, notably, served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). His twenty years of federal employment also included service with the Department of Transportation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His post government research includes transportation studies of the Red River (Louisiana), the Delaware River, and the Inland Waterway System as a whole. He also worked as a senior research fellow for the National Academy of Public Administration for its recent study of the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works budget development process. Dr. Stearns taught economics for ten years at Connecticut College, Ohio State University, and most recently at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. He holds a B.A. in mathematics from Swarthmore College, and an M.A. and PhD in economics from Yale University.

**Barry Sulkin** is an independent Environmental Consultant from Nashville, TN. He has a BA in Environmental Science from the Univ. of Virginia, and an MS in Environmental Engineering from Vanderbilt. For about 14 years he worked for Tenn. Water Pollution Control in wastewater and drinking water programs in field offices and as chief of Enforcement and Compliance. Since 1990 he has been an independent consultant in numerous states, primarily working on water-related issues for environmental groups, as well as individuals, government, business, and industry. He is also the director of the Tennessee office of PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility), and on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Environmental Council. Projects include citizen suits, water sampling, river studies, permit review, TMDLs, and training in numerous states, for clients including Southern Environmental Law Center, Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, Western Environmental Law Center, Sierra Club, various Riverkeepers, Natural Resources Defense Council, Clean Water Network, Georgia Legal Watch, Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest, Alaska Clean Water Alliance, Neuse River Foundation, Attorney General Office of NY and TN, City of Nashville, Sysco Foods, the Univ. of Tennessee, Turner Environmental Law Clinic at Emory University, WSMV News (Nashville NBC affiliate), River Network, Amigos Bravos (New Mexico), and many others.



**Dr. Ivor van Heerden** has been deputy director of the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center since 1999 and director of the Center for the Study of Public Health Impacts of Hurricanes, a Louisiana Board of Regents Health Excellence Fund Center, since 2001. He is a faculty member of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. A native of South Africa, he received his undergraduate degree in geology from the University of Natal in South Africa, and a masters and doctorate in Marine Sciences from Louisiana State University (LSU). He is a former Assistant Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources where he ran a very successful coastal wetlands restoration program. Ivor has been involved in natural disaster research projects in various parts of the world and played a key part in the dissemination of information on the impacts of Katrina during the emergency. Presently he is leading the State of Louisiana's official forensic data gathering team as concerns the failure of the levees in New Orleans and the consequences for those who lost their homes. He has undertaken thousands of interviews and appeared in Spike Lee's HBO Katrina documentary as well as in documentaries done by amongst others; NOVA-PBS, History Channel, Discovery Channel, National Geographic and



BBC. He is the author of "*The Storm - What Went Wrong and Why during Hurricane Katrina - the Inside Story from One Louisiana Scientist*" (with Mike Bryan) published by Penguin/Viking.

**Brad Webb** has served the Institute for Conservation Leadership as Program Associate in the Western office located in Bozeman, Montana since September 2001. He currently manages the Great Lakes Executive Director Program in addition to smaller programs in the Pacific Northwest. Prior to joining the Institute, Brad's professional work revolved around developing alternative educational experiences for a wide range of participants. Some of those experiences included developing educational travel programs for Elderhostel, directing Professional Development Programs for the Colorado Outward Bound School, and a few forays into consulting in the corporate world. He has also been a member of boards and committees for conservation and community groups. Brad's personal interests revolve around his family and the outdoors. He enjoys climbing, camping, skiing, hiking, and fishing; often with his three children in tow.

**Ann Yoachim** earned a BA in Environmental Studies from Dickinson College and moved to New Orleans to work as an environmental educator at the Audubon Louisiana Nature Center. For the past eight years, she has worked as a fundraiser, educator, and program manager for a number of non-profit organizations working on health, environment, and community development issues. In 2004, Ann earned a Master's in Public Health from Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Her research built on her work in New Orleans on the interconnections between people, health, and their environment. Post-Katrina, Ann served as the Assistant Director of the Center for Environmental Communications at Loyola University and in this role she assisted the Holy Cross Neighborhood in their planning and recovery efforts. Currently, Ann is working on a project focused on green building/energy efficiency and sustainable neighborhood development in the Lower 9.