

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

BAYS & BAYOUS



SYMPOSIUM 2014

The Building Blocks of Coastal Resilience

December 2-3, 2014

Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center, Mobile, AL

OVERVIEW

The Alabama-Mississippi Bays & Bayous Symposium is a biennial event held alternately in Mississippi and Alabama to provide an opportunity for the community to learn about the state of our coastal environment. The symposium will provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information and experiences regarding water quality, habitat management, living resources, and resilient communities for the northern Gulf of Mexico.

Members of community action groups, scientists, resource managers, industry, public offices and others are invited to highlight their efforts and accomplishments through oral presentations or poster presentations at the Alabama-Mississippi Bays and Bayous Symposium 2014.

Oral presentations will be 15 minutes; a 5-minute question-and-answer session will follow each presentation.

Preference will be given to presentations and posters that complement the symposium's themes or that apply to one of the four sessions.

- **Water Quality:** Assessing and improving water quality to support economic, ecosystem service, cultural, and community resilience
- **Living Resources:** Understanding the flora and fauna of coastal ecosystems and their contributions to coastal resilience
- **Habitat Management:** Conservation and restoration for resilient ecosystem service provision and community resilience
- **Resilient Communities:** Adapting to environmental changes, maintaining cultural values and building community stewardship

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Water Quality: Assessing and improving water quality to support economic, ecosystem service, cultural, and community resilience



Many of the economic, environmental, aesthetic, and recreational benefits provided by bays, bayous, and other estuarine systems depend on the presence of pristine, quality water. Water quality impairment through either natural or anthropogenic input alters the livelihood of people who live and work in estuarine

watersheds. Therefore, assessing water quality and developing methods to reduce water impairment are essential steps in building resilient and sustainable coastal communities. In this session, we invite researchers, resource managers, policy makers, and community outreach members to give presentations addressing a variety of topics related to coastal water quality including water quality assessment and evaluation, processes or activities that alter water quality, improvement or remediation strategies to address water quality stressors, community outreach or education of the public and policy makers, and other topics concerning water quality. Topics dealing with the interaction between water quality and estuarine benefits are particularly encouraged.

Habitat Management: Conservation and restoration for resilient ecosystems service provision and community resiliency



Population growth along Alabama's coast has led to profound changes in the environmental quality of coastal habitats. Pressure from this growth often produces negative effects on ecosystem services that coastal habitats provide, such as the provision of food and refuge for many

commercially and recreationally-important species of fish and shellfish. Other services, such as shoreline stabilization and protection of coastal communities against storms, filtration of point and non-point source pollution, and sequestration of atmospheric carbon can also be compromised due to coastal development. In turn, this may have dire consequences on the economy, sustainability, and well-being of coastal communities. Conservation of "hot spots" and restoration of important habitats are two widely used practices to mitigate the extent and impact of humans on coastal degradation. Recently, the concept of "resiliency restoration" has gained some traction. Under this concept, restoration efforts focus on regaining ecosystem function, as well as making the regained functions resilient to further human pressures. In this session we invite conservation and restoration practitioners, including but not limited to academia, the private sector, state and federal agencies, and NGOs, to share their latest experiences to improve our collective understanding of what constitutes effective "resilient ecosystem service restoration," as well as methods devised to implement such practices in projects along the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere.

Living Resources: Understanding the flora and fauna of coastal ecosystems and their contributions to community resilience



This session focuses on the living coastal marine resources of the northern Gulf of Mexico and their role in supporting resilient coastal systems and communities within the region. Northern Gulf coastal ecosystems are highly complex and dynamic systems characterized by a rich diversity of living resources

that provide immense environmental, economic and social value to the region. These resources function to provide important ecosystem and community-based services ranging from lucrative fisheries to the first line of defense for coastal communities against powerful storms. Studies of these resources help us to better understand and separate the effects of natural and anthropogenic changes and often have direct applicability in support of resource management, ecosystem protection and comprehensive planning for community resilience from the perspective of awareness, preparation and recovery following perturbation. This session encourages a broad range of presentations focused on the region's living resources as critical to defining and securing coastal resiliency. The session aims to stimulate dialogue and sharing of knowledge among the multiple stakeholders, including coastal resource managers, community decision-makers, resource users, researchers, educators, students, and the private sector.

Resilient Communities: Adapting to environmental changes, maintaining cultural values and building community stewardship



This session will encompass the topic of natural, anthropogenic and social impacts to coastal natural hazard resiliency and communities' adaptation to these impacts. This session will encourage a broad range of presentations focusing on state and local efforts to minimize environmental impacts while enhancing

economic opportunity and improving resiliency to both natural and technological hazards. This session will also include education and outreach efforts aimed at raising awareness and understanding of climate and hazard challenges. Topics may include land use policies; innovative floodplain management strategies; sustainable building design techniques and methodologies; community response and adaptation activities related to climate change, sea level rise, and inundation events; and cultural and sociological impacts associated with coastal hazards, both natural and anthropogenic. Submissions discussing innovative data analysis methods employed to study these issues such as engineering, living shorelines, modeling, remote sensing, field-based experiments, social vulnerability indexing and other topically relevant behavioral science, are also encouraged.

KEYNOTE HIGHLIGHTS

C. Scott Hardaway, Jr.

Marine Scientist Supervisor

Specializing in shoreline erosion along the Chesapeake Bay and ocean shorelines of Virginia and Maryland, Scott is the Senior Marine Scientist and Head of the Shoreline Studies Program in the Department of Physical Sciences at the Virginia Institute of

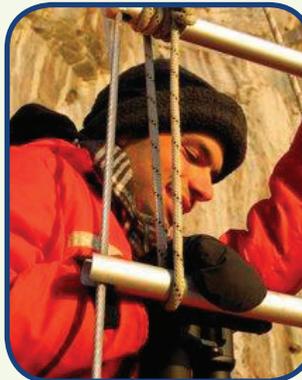


Marine Sciences (VIMS). Having worked for VIMS since 1979, Scott was designing and building living shorelines long before the term was coined in the early 2000s. Much of his expertise has involved restoring and protecting wetlands from damage due to erosion and sea level rise in the mid-Atlantic region.

Scott has pioneered technologies to stabilize and enhance shorelines and developed restoration strategies employing rock sills and headland breakwaters to protect and restore wetlands and uplands. He was a featured presenter at the New York Sea Grant-hosted Living Shorelines for Coastal Erosion Protection in a Changing World workshop in 2013. With extensive practical experience in designing, building, and monitoring living shoreline projects around the country, he and other nationally recognized experts provided attendees with information and resources to make informed decisions on appropriate use of living shorelines in New York. Scott is a member of the Virginia Board of Geology, the North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists, and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Ari Daniel

Independent Science Reporter and Multimedia Producer



Ari Daniel is an award-winning freelance science journalist based in Boston, Massachusetts. He has an undergraduate degree in Biology from Boston College, where he graduated summa cum laude. He earned a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue a Master's degree

at the University of St. Andrews where he worked on grey seal vocalization, and he later received a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute for his dissertation research on Norwegian killer whales.

Dr. Daniel's journalism work has appeared in a variety of media, including National Public Radio (NPR), Public Radio International, *The New York Times*, and Nova. His appearances on NPR programs include contributions to NPR's *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered* and *Weekend Edition Sunday*; Radiolab; PRI's *The World*; *Living on Earth* and *Studio360*; and, APM's *Marketplace*. He and his colleagues have produced numerous podcasts and various other multimedia presentations to convey science to a curious public. Recently, this has involved work on the northern Gulf of Mexico coast to convey the science of impacts to our regional ecosystem of the BP/Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

Ari is well-known for being an engaging speaker with a unique ability to convey complex scientific issues to people from a wide range of educational backgrounds and experiences, and we are honored to have him contribute these abilities to the 2014 Bays and Bayous symposium.

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

- 1. Title:** The title of the presentation should be written title case (not all caps). Do not use italics, underline, or bold to distinguish other headings or subheadings, with the exception of scientific names (which should be italicized).
- 2. Type names in upper/lower case** as you would like them to appear in the program.
- 3. Institution(s) and email:** Type all authors' institutional affiliations and the e-mail address of the presenting author only.
- 4. Maximum length:** 500 words.
- 5. Spacing:** Single spaced.
- 6. Paragraphs:** Paragraphs must be separated by a blank line and not indented.

POSTER SUBMISSIONS

Follow the Guidelines for Abstracts above. The maximum poster size will be 36" X 48". Submissions should provide case studies or offer innovative solutions that spark interactive discussion.

Abstracts are due by close of business August 29, 2014.

The Program Committee will provide you with its recommendation by September 26, 2014. Presenters must register for the symposium and are responsible for registration costs.

Online registration will begin June 15, 2014 at <http://ambbs.mobilebaynep.com>

Any questions about abstracts should be directed to ambbs@mobilebaynep.com.



REGISTER ONLINE
<http://ambbs.mobilebaynep.com>

