Sustainability symposium and EXPO

Sustainability INNOVATION Entrepreneurship

Keynote and Panel Speakers

PLENARY SESSION
MORNING SPEAKER

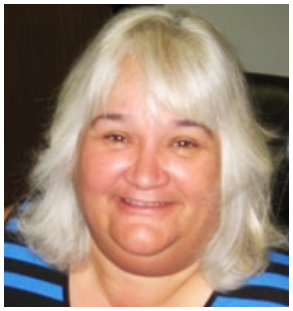
John Janes
CATERPILLAR

John is currently Caterpillar's lead professional to the US Compost Council. As part of his responsibilities he interfaces with the sustainable market places in the US and Canada to include composting, the green industries and adverse weather relief services. John has had this position since 2006 and for Caterpillar he has worked in a variety of locales to include Singapore, Australia, Peru, Chile and South Africa. John has earned degrees in engineering from NCSU and MBA from Duke University.

PLENARY SESSION
LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

Tom Rhodes
ncgreentravel

Tom Rhodes is Program Manager for NC GreenTravel Initiative and Environmental Specialist with the North Carolina Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service. He has a 27 year background in sustainability, having developed two local government recycling programs and serving on the DEACS Local Government Assistance Team. In addition to his role as grant administrator and consultant to local government sustainability programs, Tom manages the NC GreenTravel Initiative recognition program for sustainable destinations



Theresa Carter

Theresa is the Onslow County Tourism Director. During her tenure she has started many programs, events, and partnerships. These include Hospitality Training with NC Cooperative Extension, the Service Rewards Program with area businesses, the Arties with Area Festivals, and the Green Sustainability Program with the Hotel/Motel Association. She serves on several boards – NCF&EA, Brigade Boys & Girls Club, New River Roundtable, and NC Coast Host.

Phil Kirk

Phil Kirk is currently serving as Director of Business and Leadership Development for Brady, a comprehensive energy solutions company headquartered in Greensboro with offices in Raleigh, Wilmington, Charlotte, Durham and Fayetteville. He is involved in business development, marketing, governmental relations, community relations, public relations, energy efficiency, and performance contracting for the company which was started 53 years ago as a heating and air conditioning firm. Kirk joined the firm in July 2009 and works out of the Raleigh office. Prior to becoming associated with Brady, Kirk was Vice President for External Relations at his alma mater, Catawba College in Salisbury. In addition to serving as a consultant with the Yadkin Valley Winegrowers Association, National Search & Education Consulting, and Shelco, Inc.

Tim Gasper

Tim Gasper is a Solutions Engineer on the Energy Services Team at Brady Trane Service, Inc. and has over 31 years of applied energy efficiency experience. Tim presently serves North Carolina state and local governmental units by delivering guaranteed savings energy performance contracts. Tim has a BSME from the University of Wisconsin, an MBA from Xavier University, is a registered North Carolina PE and is also a LEED-AP. Additional professional activities include: Advisory Council member of the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center, former Secretary and Co-Chair of the NC Chapter of the Energy Services Coalition.

BREAKOUT SESSION SPEAKERS

Evan Folds

Evan Folds is the founder and president of Progressive Gardens, a retail gardening store specializing in hydroponic and beyond organic gardening techniques. Evan's companies perform educational workshops for the Wilmington, NC area, grows a robust commercial wheatgrass & microgreen farm, and operates a seasonal Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program with over 70 members. He is passionate about healing the Earth through nutrient dense food production and healing people through vibrant local food economies. He has worked to develop the method of Bio Energetic Agriculture, which seeks to increase the life force of living systems through physical, mineral, biological and energetic influence. Evan performs lectures and workshops for gardening & wellness groups, and is a contributing writer for reputable international publications, including Maximum Yield, Garden Culture, Urban Farm and many more. He has a BS in Biology and a minor in Religion from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Gary Williams

Gary is the president of the Carolina Energy Associates & Sustainability Consultants, LLC He has 25 plus years of combined experience in the engineering profession, energy management training, and renewable energy business. As Chairman of the ICMEESA (Institution of the Certificated Mechanical and Electrical Engineers of South Africa), he engaged engineers to deliver measurable results in the engineering and energy efficiency sectors. This passion led to his appointment to establish and manage Eskom's Industrelek Energy Test and Demonstration Center in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Since moving to the USA in 2001, Gary has worked closely with many Industrial and commercial organizations to improve their production efficiencies in the usage of energy. Most notable is his leadership with Continental Tire (RSA & U.S.) to improve their energy efficiency and clean up the environment by reducing CO2 emissions, resulting in huge savings for the Company. Gary has a MBA in Sustainability / Renewable Energy, is a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, and Pr. Cert Eng. - GCC (Electrical - RSA).

Bryan Wuester

Bryan Wuester is the General Manager, Sampson County Landfill. He has 15 years of landfill management experience dealing with both construction and demolition debris and municipal solid waste. From 2006 to current, Mr. Wuester has managed the Sampson County Landfill, a 5,400 ton a day MSW landfill in Roseboro, North Carolina. He oversees all aspects of the daily landfill operations from safety, environmental compliance, outside sales and operational efficiency. Prior to that position he worked as the Landfill Manager at Old Kings Landfill in Jacksonville, Florida holding similar responsibilities.

Gus Simmons, P.E.

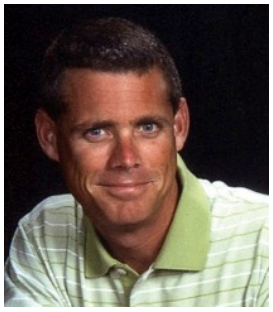
Gus is the Vice President and Director of Bioenergy for Cavanaugh & Associates, P.A. Gus is a passionate advocate for the beneficial reuse of water, nutrients, and carbon associated with organic waste streams. He is a specialist in using innovative approaches to cultivate better stewardship of these organic resources. His efforts in harvesting energy and valuable co-products from organic wastes span globally in the agricultural, food processing, and municipal sectors. Gus has a B.S. in Biological & Agricultural Engineering from North Carolina State University, with a concentration in biological waste treatment.

Hilary Davidson

Hilary Davidson serves as sustainability director for Duke Energy and is responsible for directing the company's sustainability outreach strategies. Before joining the company, Davidson was an information specialist for Geo-Resource Consultants, an environmental regulatory consulting firm in Washington, D.C. Davidson currently serves on the Duke University Energy Development and Global Environment Center Advisory Board, as well as the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's (UNCC) Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Board, the UNCC Center for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education, and the UNCC IDEAS (Infrastructure, Design, Environment and Sustainability) Center. Davidson served as an advisor for the Clinton Global Initiative, chair of the Balfour Beatty Expert Stakeholder Panel and stakeholder panel member. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from Emory University and a Master of Science degree in civil engineering (with a focus on environmental engineering) from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Jake Vares- MPA, CZO

Jake Vares is the Cape Fear Council of Government Regional Planning Manager. He has extensive experience in preparing FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plans, Comprehensive Land Use Plans, Land Use Master Plans, grant administration, implementation, parks and recreation master plans, transportation planning studies, public opinion surveys, sidewalk inventories, and utility rate structure studies. Other areas of expertise include GIS analysis and mapping, writing, administration, managing the NC Data Center Affiliate functions and US Census appeals/information. Jake holds a Master of Public Administration in Urban and Regional Planning from UNC-Wilmington and is a Certified Zoning Official.



Jerry Helms

Jerry is the Brunswick Forest Director of Sales, and former Vice President of St James plantation Resort Operations. Jerry has been in master planned community development since 1998. He has worked in planning, leading, organizing, and directing a vision to create lifestyles that merge community living with outdoor living throughout a community development plan. Jerry's experience has been centered on understanding the active adult buyer living harmonious with Nature. About 5 years ago their development team won a stewardship award for the development methods and high maintenance standards used in water quality, soil and erosion. James is a licensed Broker, was appointed to the Brunswick County Tourism Development Authority, and has been president of the US Open King Mackerel Tournament.

Kirstie Dixon

Kirstie Dixon is a Senior Planner for Brunswick County. Mrs. Dixon has worked on many GIS, zoning and subdivision related projects. She facilitated the development of the Brunswick Nature Park (that included a kayak launch) and is working on drafting the Brunswick County's Greenway and Blueways Plan. Mrs. Dixon graduated with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Geography with a concentration in Urban Planning from the University of North Carolina – Charlotte. She has also worked for the City of Concord and Iredell County. Outside of work, Mrs. Dixon enjoys spending time with her family and kayaking.

Kris Ward

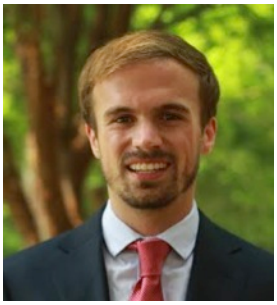
Kris Ward serves as ATMC's Residential Development Manager where he works as a liaison between the company and area builders, developers, community organizations and realtors to expand the reach of ATMC's fiber optic communications network. Kris Is a 15 year veteran of the telecommunications industry. ATMC was the first "Certified Fiber-To-The-Home Provider" in North Carolina as awarded by the National Fiber-To-The-Home Council, and currently provides service to more fiber-to-the-premise developments than any other entity in the state.

Leo John

Leo John is Investor and Business Outreach Legal Specialist at N.C. Department of Secretary of State, Securities Division. The state agency registers legal entities, administers and enforces state securities laws and performs various other functions that intersect with business and commerce. An attorney and a former business journalist, Leo closely tracks the state's business climate and in particular entrepreneurial activity to help generate economic growth and new jobs in the state.

Michael Green

Mike Greene is the Business Development Specialist for the NC Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC). Mike is active in the Recycling Business Development Grant program and specializes in work with independent collection companies. Mike's past experiences include: Business Development Specialist with the City of Greensboro's Field Operations Department, where he worked on a variety of recycling endeavors including commercial customer services, multi-family residential and ABC recycling services, grant writing, project management and reporting.



Michael Terreri

NC CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Michael is the Clean Transportation Technical Specialist at the NC Clean Energy Technology Center. He joined the Center in June 2014 after previously working with the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program, in cooperation with Argonne National Laboratory in Upstate NY and East Tennessee. He has received a Master of Public Administration degree and a Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Brockport and Geneseo, respectively. Previous to working in clean transportation, Michael was a National Park Service Ranger and performed a range of stakeholder engagement work at four National Parks across the country."

Nicky Nance

BRUNSWICK ELECTRIC Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Nicky is the Southport Operations and Maintenance Supervisor. He started with the co-op in 1987 in operations and construction as 1st class Lineman for 14 years and then worked in BEMC's Engineering Department for six years. Currently his duties include the Distributive Energy side of BEMC with background and knowledge of Solar, Bio-Energy, and Electric Vehicles. He is also instrumental in project management of government contracts at Military Ocean Sunny Point as well as the City of Southport under BEMC Utility Contract.

Parker Scott Grissom

RENEWABLE RECREATION

Parker is the founder of Renewable Recreation, LLC. He is a certified American Council and Exercise (ACE) personal trainer and has provided training for 3 years. Parker is bringing together revolutionary small scale wind turbines, solar energy, and energy creating cardiovascular exercise equipment to make gyms self-sustaining. He is completing his degree in Exercise Science and Entrepreneurship from UNCW and certifications in Strength and Conditioning Coach Specialist (CSCS) and Health and Fitness Specialist (HFS).

Paulanne Page

ncmbc CONNECTING BUSINESS AND MILITARY

Paulanne Page has been a Military Construction Specialist since 2009. Her charter with the NCMBC is to provide resources, training and support of NC companies to succeed in procurement and proper execution of Federal Construction Contracts. She has 20 years of Federal and Military Construction experience with Department of Navy, NAVFAC and the Department of Army, USACE, as well as holding senior construction management positions with federal construction and base operations and support contractors. Her experience includes base and facility planning and operations, funding and acquisition processes, project design, engineering and construction, quality control implementation and safety management. Her background includes utilization of organizational leadership, operational risk management, process streamlining, best business practices and quality improvement.

Peter Ledford

NC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION

Peter serves as Regulatory Counsel at the NC Sustainable Energy Association, where he represents NCSEA before the North Carolina Utilities Commission. Prior to joining NCSEA, he served as a staff attorney with the North Carolina General Assembly's Research Division. Peter received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his law degree from Wake Forest University.

Raymond Reyes

SEA TRAIL®

Resort. Golf. Sunset Beach.

Raymond Reyes is the golf general manager for Sea Trail. Originally from Corunna, Michigan. Raymond grew up playing golf, beginning at the age of 4. Raymond has worked at Oyster Reef Country Club in Hilton Head, Baltimore Country Club in Timonium, MD, Mystic Creek Golf Club and Captain's Club at Woodfield in Michigan, Devils Ridge Golf Club in Holly Springs, NC. Raymond has a Bachelor of Science in Business from Ferris State University, (Marketing and Professional Golf Management). He became a member of the Professional Golfers Association in October 1996

Sandy Brady
Co-owner

EarthStone

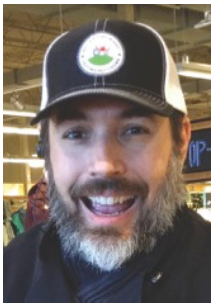
EarthStone specializes in turning waste from granite countertop installations into high quality patio pavers and fire pits. Earth Stone Products was started in 2007 by 5 partners. They invented the granite stamping machine to make patio pavers. The company was sold in 2009 to Rosemarie Williams and then in October 2013 to Patrick and Sandy Brady. Earth Stone gets their granite from granite fabricators across North Carolina and surrounding states. Their recycled product is marketed locally and nationally through their own distribution. They are now the official recycled granite paver for Panera Bread restaurants outdoor gathering areas.

Jane Steigerwald

FEAST DOWNEAST

Bringing Local Farmers to Market

Jane Steigerwald, RD, LDN, is the Executive Director of Feast Down East. Jane is a NC State Licensed and Registered Dietitian with a Master of Science Degree in Nutrition Education. Jane has had an extensive career in clinical dietetics and foodservice management. Jane has been committed to local food systems work since 2008 in an effort to connect local farms to communities to improve the supply of and access to local healthy farm food.



Dan Wisner

Dan Wisner is Whole Foods Market's Produce Team Leader. He has been with Whole Foods Market since the Wilmington store opened in 2012. Prior to joining Whole Foods Market, Dan worked in the restaurant business for over 16 years. In his role with Whole Foods Market, Dan enjoys making personal connections with local suppliers & customers. He is passionate about great tasting produce & the positive benefits fresh fruits and vegetables have on our health. His favorite produce include pluots, Swiss chard, and local Thomas Produce heirloom tomatoes!

John Donoghue

After a career in the aerospace industry abroad, John, in 2007, established Cape Fear Solar Systems, LLC, a company designing and installing solar systems for homes and businesses in Southeastern NC. To date, Cape Fear Solar Systems has installed over 250 solar systems in our area and employs a team of 15 outstanding individuals. John obtained his MBA in Marketing and Finance from the University of Bridgeport and Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering from Villanova University. Throughout his professional training and education, he has obtained multiple certifications related to renewable energy systems and is a North Carolina Licensed General Contractor. John is one of four people in the United States to have achieved triple NABCEP Certification™ in Solar PV, Solar Thermal and Solar PV Technical Sales.

Brian B. Koh

Mr. Koh -AIA, USGBC LEED Faculty, LEED BD+C- directs design projects and manages several large projects at Innovative Design, and has spoken at numerous conferences teaching green building design and energy & water issues. Mr. Koh is a LEED Faculty of U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) where he has served since 2006 as director of the board, as Chair of the North Carolina USGBC Triangle Chapter, and as representative of the chapter to the Southeast Regional Council of USGBC. In addition, he contributed to the Regional Priority Task Force for LEED 2009 and LEED 2012. He is a lifetime member and a board member of Korea Green Building Council. He is also a member of American Solar Energy Society and North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association. Mr. Koh holds a Master of Architecture degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, and a Bachelor of Architectural Engineering degree from Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea. Brian Koh has experience in institutional, commercial and multi-family projects.

Chef Keith Rhodes

Chef Keith Rhodes, with "Catch Modern Seafood Restaurant" and "Catch the Food Truck", in Wilmington NC is a North Carolina native and has a unique take on new Southern cuisine with international flair. Crediting his grandfather for his "farm-to-table" approach. His roots are from the Cape Fear Coastal Community where he supports local purveyors, fishermen and farmers. Chef Rhodes has hosted many of the Movie & Television personalities who have visited the Wilmington are.He has also been voted Wilmington's Best Chef 4 years in a row, won the "NC Goodness Grows Best Dish" for fine dining and casual dining restaurants, represented the NC Dept. of Tourism in New York City, was a 2011 James Beard finalist for "Best Chef of the Southeast", and competed on Bravos "Top Chef " Season 9. Chef Rhodes gives back to his community by traveling across the Nation visiting Local Schools, Colleges, and Military Bases in the US and abroad, where he constantly promotes a Positive NC Lifestyle. Chef Rhodes ideology focuses on fresh, healthy, seasonal cooking & lifestyles.

Christine Lawson

Christine Lawson is the Animal Feeding Operations Program Manager in DENR's Division of Water Resources where she serves as the technical expert. She coordinates compliance and permitting activities for all animal operations including permit drafting, rule development, and working with other federal and state agencies. Christine also serves as the engineer that evaluates innovative animal waste technologies including waste-to-energy systems. Christine has spent the last nine years in the Animal Feeding Operations program. Christine has a BS in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Georgia and a Master of Science in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Kentucky.

George Howard

George Howard is the General Manager of the brand new Shallotte River Swamp Park. George has devoted his life to offering unique outdoor experiences. George has spent the last 15 years in the zipline and ropes course industry whether it be building canopy tours, facilitating groups in team building activities or managing facilities like the Swamp Park. He is truly passionate about the outdoors and all that it has to offer to individuals and the community alike.

Lisa Rider

Lisa is the Assistant Director of the Solid Waste Department for Onslow County, NC with a focus on proper resource management including proper disposal, marine debris prevention and removal, environmental education, waste reduction, and recycling infrastructure. Lisa initiated and coordinates the NC Marine Debris Symposium and the Earth and Surf Fest. In her spare time, Lisa writes conservation articles for Beach Carolina Magazine and Coastinista.com, and volunteers for the local Surfrider Foundation Chapter, scuba diver for the Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium and the Plastic Ocean Project. Lisa is part of the expedition crew this year and will be sailing from Recife, Brazil to Georgetown, Guyana collecting ocean plastic samples for research. Lisa has received several awards during her career, including the North Carolina Environmental Educator of the Year in 2011 and the Carolina Recycler of the Year in 2014.