

# GAEP *Informant* July 6, 2016


News, Events, and Announcements from the Georgia Association of Environmental Professionals

Is it time to renew your GAEP membership?  
Contact Membership Director, Betsy Jorgensen  
[Elizabeth.Jorgensen@ch2m.com](mailto:Elizabeth.Jorgensen@ch2m.com)

## UPCOMING EVENT – JULY 15<sup>th</sup>!



**GAEP Presents**  
**Atlanta Beltline Arboretum Walking Tour**  
**Led by Trees of Atlanta**



*Come enjoy a leisurely walk and  
learn about the Beltline!*

Event is  
**FREE!**

**Where:** Meet at picnic tables behind Parish Café (240 N. Highland Ave, Atlanta, GA 30307)

- Parking is recommended at the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Skate Park or along N. Highland Ave

**When:** Friday, July 15 9:00 – 10:30 am  
Please RSVP to Stephen Holland  
([stephenEholland@gmail.com](mailto:stephenEholland@gmail.com)) by  
Wednesday, July 13.

Photo Credit:  
Jacobs Engineering

## COMING SOON: FALL 2016



*If you would like to be involved in planning this important event to benefit the GAEP Scholarship Fund, please email Karen Trujillo [karen.trujillo@aecom.com](mailto:karen.trujillo@aecom.com) for more information!*

**Do you have suggestions for GAEP Social Events or Lunch 'n' Learn topics? Please email Social Events Directors Stephen Holland [stephen.holland@cardno.com](mailto:stephen.holland@cardno.com) and Elaine Ceccacci [ececcacci@croyengineering.com](mailto:ececcacci@croyengineering.com) to share your ideas!**

## MEET THE BOARD

*GAEP has had some recent changes in our board. Please find contact information for each board member at the bottom of each issue of the Informant.*



### **President: David Bell**

David Bell was recently elected GAEP president. He has worked for the previous eight years as an environmental scientist with CH2M's water resources and ecosystem management (WREM) group. David's primary work includes NPDES permit compliance, Section 404 permitting, GAEPD Stream Buffer Variance permitting, USACE Mitigation Banking and stream and wetland restoration design. David graduated from the University of North Carolina at Asheville in 2006 with a B.S. in

Environmental Studies. With free time, David enjoys running, cycling, canoeing, birding and watching Bob Ross reruns.

**Immediate Past President: Jennie Agerton**

Jennie Agerton is the immediate past president of GAEP. She is a Professional Wetland Scientist and Environmental Services Manager with Southeastern Engineering, Inc. (SEI). Jennie has worked in the environmental industry for over 16 years performing a wide variety of environmental services and project management for both public and private sector clients. When not at work, she can usually be found in a pile with her two dogs or volunteering with Keep Roswell Beautiful (KRB).



**Vice President: Jon Russell**

Jon Russell is a program management professional with over 10 years' experience in environmental consulting and management. His projects have included large scale energy transmission and linear transportation throughout the United States. Currently, Jon is focusing on evaluating effectiveness of organizations disseminating information pertaining to regulated species populations, and how to refine strategies to improve stakeholder communications.

**Secretary: Laura Dawood**

Laura Dawood is an environmental planner for AECOM with more than 15 years of experience in environmental planning and ecology, primarily associated with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and 404 Permitting. She has conducted NEPA environmental documentation requirements, conducted public involvement in both English and Spanish, and performed ecological field work. Ms. Dawood works closely with project engineers to account for environmentally sensitive resources by incorporating avoidance and minimization measures into plans to develop context sensitive solutions.





**Treasurer: Jean Brown**

Jean Brown is an Environmental Analyst at Georgia Power with more than 10 years of experience in natural resources and policy, focused primarily on water. In the past, Jean has worked for DeKalb County's Planning & Development Department and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Watershed Protection Branch. At Georgia Power, she is responsible for developing, communicating and implementing water-related environmental programs, guidelines, and compliance strategies. Her position focuses on construction-related compliance programs, especially those involving the Georgia NPDES Construction Storm Water Discharge General Permits and the Georgia Erosion & Sedimentation Act. Jean has a B.S. in Forestry & Natural Resources from The University of Georgia, a Graduate Certificate in Natural Resources Management from Georgia State University and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering Sciences from the University of Florida. In addition to her work at Georgia Power, she is a Council Member in the City of Clarkston, where she is responsible for the legislative functions of the City, including establishing policy, voting on local ordinances and appropriations as well as developing an overall vision for the City.

**NAEP Chapter Representative: Bruce Hart**

Bruce Hart is a NEPA Specialist with Cardno involved with the preparation of NEPA documentation and the execution of ecology related activities, including protected species surveys and Section 404 permitting. Bruce has worked in a variety of technical and management positions for the Georgia Department of Transportation, the City of Atlanta at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the Florida Department of Agriculture, and consulting firms in Georgia, Texas, and Ohio. He received a B.S. in Microbiology from The Ohio State University and an M.S. in Aquatic Ecology from The University of Akron (Ohio). Bruce is a graduate of the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute.



**Membership Director: Betsy Jorgensen**

Betsy Jorgensen is an environmental scientist at CH2M in Atlanta where she has worked since 2006. Betsy regularly works with commercial and federal clients and interfaces with USACE regulators, USFWS, and state regulatory agencies to facilitate the client's environmental compliance within current regulations. Betsy received her Bachelor's in Biological Sciences from Roanoke University and worked as a field biologist in Florida prior to moving to the Atlanta area.

**Newsletter Director: Laci Coleman**

Laci Coleman is Project Ecologist with Eco-Tech Consultants specializing in endangered flora and fauna studies. Her regular duties include surveys for various threatened and endangered species, jurisdictional waters determinations, GIS analysis, and technical report preparation. Prior to working for Eco-Tech, Laci received two years of training in soils and water quality and stable isotopes ecology, and conducted her Master's research on the impacts of white-nose syndrome on a previously stable bat community. When she isn't working, Laci can usually be found in close proximity to her yoga mat and her rescue dog.



**Social Co-Director: Stephen Holland**

Stephen Holland is an environmental consultant with Atkins. Stephen assists with the environmental permitting process primarily for linear projects. Stephen received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and his Master's degree in Soil Science from North Carolina State University. Stephen enjoys traveling and has lived in five states over the last four years. A fun fact about Stephen is that he is related to Pocahontas.

**Social Co-Director: Elaine Ceccacci**

Elaine Ceccacci is a Certified Ecologist with an education and background primarily in terrestrial biology. Specifically, her experience includes: performing detailed field studies including wetland delineations and protected species surveys; preparing environmental documents for project compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act (ESA); preparing ecology documents in accordance with the Georgia Department of Transportation Environmental Procedures Manual; conducting and facilitating agency consultations including ESA Section 7; preparing Clean Water Act Section 404 permit applications, and Georgia Environmental Protection Division Stream Buffer Variance applications; performing project management tasks, working independently and as part of a team; and preparing proposals, cost estimates, and scopes of work.





### Scholarship Director: Josh Jamell

Josh Jammell is an Ecologist with CH2M. He has worked in the environmental consulting profession for over 15 year, and feels very fortunate to do what he loves as a career: to be outdoors and explore the environment. Josh has worked all over the country delineating wetlands and streams, conducting wildlife surveys, and rare and endangered plant surveys. He also has a large amount of experience with NEPA, permitting, NPDES, and environmental compliance. Josh enjoys birding and recently added the scissor-tailed flycatcher to his life list.

## OTHER NEWS & EVENTS



### 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO

 [Tell a Friend](#)



 7/10/2016 to 7/13/2016

**When:** July 10-13, 2016

**Where:** Savannah International Trade & Convention Center  
One International Drive  
Savannah, Georgia 31402  
United States

**Contact:** Mara Cooke  
 [mcooke@gawp.org](mailto:mcooke@gawp.org)  
(770) 618-8690

For more Information: <http://www.gawp.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=673471&group>



**NAEP Webinars**  
**Registration available at [WWW.NAEP.ORG](http://WWW.NAEP.ORG)**

***July 13, 2016, 12:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m. ET - Effective Community Management***

The second part in the 2016 APU & NAEP Webinars Series will focus on Effective Community Engagement. Speakers will address all aspects of community engagement starting in the classroom, moving through application in the business world, and offering insights from first hand experiences through case study. From the student focus relating community engagement to career success to those already working in the environmental field, speakers will discuss how public engagement is part of policy and regulation and must be part of best professional practices. Speakers will reflect on lessons learned from the public when they have an interest or are impacted by environmental projects. There will also be a section on tips and techniques for in person meetings and online venues to include some of the more practical day-to-day components of community engagement.

***August 3, 2016 - Cohen NEPA Summit Summary Report***

The August 3 webinar will summarize the dialogue and proposed results of the Cohen National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Summit and related sessions held at the National Conference, including key themes that resulted from input provided by Summit participants. The panel will discuss the challenges posed by the current organizational structure in most federal agencies in relation to the consideration of the environment in the decision-making process. The panel will provide an overview of recommendations that have been identified for addressing staffing and training needs in key federal agencies. The panel will also explore the successful use of NEPA to solve environmental issues and blend environmental goals with social, economic, security, and other needs that occurs when senior managers take a leadership role in the environmental review process. The speakers will be Ted Boling, Associate Director for NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality, Shannon Stewart, Principal Technical Associate, ESA and NAEP Board Member and Fred R. Wagner, Principal, Beveridge & Diamond. The moderator will be Ray Clark, President, RiverCrossing Strategies.



# An Environmental Crossroads: Navigating Our Ever-Changing Regulatory Landscape

## National Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference

**March 27-30, 2017**  
Durham, North Carolina

### Call for Papers

Abstracts will be accepted for oral presentations, posters, workshops, and special sessions focused toward the following topics:

Air Quality  
Climate Change  
Coastal Resiliency  
Cultural Resources  
Ecological Restoration  
Endangered Species  
Energy  
Environmental Technology

Mountains to Sea: NC Issues  
NEPA  
Policy / Regulatory Updates  
Public Involvement  
Remediation & Brownfields  
Sustainable Development  
Transportation  
Water Resources

Please submit abstracts to [www.naep.org/2017-conference](http://www.naep.org/2017-conference)

Questions? Contact Lynn Mcleod at [naep2017@battelle.org](mailto:naep2017@battelle.org)  
or 781-681-5510

The submission deadline is September 15, 2016

Photos Courtesy of  
Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau  
and Peter Lamb & the Wolves



### **NAEP 2017 Conference Training Sessions**

NAEP is also soliciting proposals for Training Sessions to be held on Monday, March 27, 2017. Training Sessions should be either four or eight hours long and need to be pertinent to the topics normally covered by the conference.

#### **REQUIREMENTS**

- A syllabus or detailed description of what will be taught and by whom is required. This will be used for advertising as well as PDH certification approval purposes.
- A CV or Biosketch of each trainer is required.
- Benefits received by the trainers are dependent upon number of paid course registrations. (Benefits are per course not per instructor.)
- Instructors will be asked to commit to teaching the course(s) four (4) weeks prior to the course date.
- Courses will be chosen from those proposals received, and if enough registrations are not received to conduct the course, it will be cancelled prior to the conference.

Direct questions to Lynn McLeod, CEP, PMP, at [naep2017@battelle.org](mailto:naep2017@battelle.org).

## **Corps Releases Proposal to Modify and Reissue Clean Water Act Nationwide Permits**

*“On June 1, 2016, the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published a proposal to reissue and modify the nationwide permits (NWP). 81 Fed. Reg. 35,186 (Jun. 1, 2016) (Proposed Rule). To comply with the Clean Water Act (CWA), projects with minimal adverse environmental effects can obtain authorization for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States through the Corps’ streamlined NWP process. NWPs authorize such activities as utility line installation (including pipelines and electrical transmission), agricultural production, industrial development and general maintenance. With the current permits set to expire on March 18, 2017, the Corps proposes to reissue all 50 of the NWPs with some revisions, issue two new permits, revise some of the general conditions (GCs) and add a new GC. Comments must be submitted within 60 days of publication or by August 1, 2016.”*

Read the rest of the article here: <http://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=c9a9e194-1605-4cba-b72d-ff749511d977>

## **Clean Water Act Client Alert: US Supreme Court Concludes US Army Corps of Engineers Wetland “Jurisdictional Determinations” Subject to Judicial Review**

**June 2, 2016**

The US Supreme Court unanimously concluded that wetland determinations by the US Army Corps of Engineers (“Corps”) under the Clean Water Act constitute final agency action, meaning that landowners can immediately seek judicial review of such determinations. All eight justices agreed in *Army Corps of Engineers v. Hawkes Company Inc.* that the Corps’ “jurisdictional determination” regarding the presence of wetlands on three Minnesota peat mining companies’ properties was an appealable “final agency action.” Adding insult to injury for the U.S.

government, the court's unanimous opinion was accompanied by a sharp concurring opinion by Justice Kennedy assailing the broad and unpredictable reach of the Clean Water Act.

### **Background**

Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, property owners are required to obtain a permit from the Corps prior to discharging dredged or fill material into "waters of the United States" covered by the Act. Prior to commencing dredge or fill activities, landowners are required to obtain a "jurisdictional determination" from the Corps – specifically a determination that a wetland or other waterbody is or is not a "water of the United States" ("WOTUS") subject to the provisions of the Clean Water Act. If a waterbody is determined to be WOTUS, then a Clean Water Act permit from the Corps is required to fill or disturb the waterbody, and there are severe criminal and other penalties for not obtaining a permit.

The U.S. government argued that the Corps' jurisdictional determinations relating to the presence of wetlands on private property could not be challenged in court because such determinations were not "final agency actions" that were appealable under the Administrative Procedures Act. Rather, the government asserted the Corps' determinations were more like informal agency guidance that had no legal effect.

This argument put landowners in a very difficult situation. Unable to challenge the Corps' WOTUS decision, landowners had to choose between going through the full permitting process – an expensive process that can take years to resolve – or risk criminal and financial penalties.

### **SCOTUS Unanimous**

The justices wholly rejected the government's rationale. In its decision, written by Chief Justice John Roberts, the Court concluded that the peat mining companies had a right to immediately challenge in court the Corps' jurisdictional determination that their lands included WOTUS and were, therefore, subject to the Clean Water Act. In the concurring opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy renewed concerns regarding the Clean Water Act, calling the law's reach "notoriously unclear" and stating that the law "continues to raise troubling questions regarding the government's power to cast doubt on the full use and enjoyment of private property throughout the nation."

The Supreme Court's decision now gives landowners and others who wish to fill or disturb waterbodies that they believe are not WOTUS under the Clean Water Act a quicker, less expensive, and much less risky avenue to challenge the Corps' jurisdictional determinations. That's a big win from our perspective.

For more information, see: <http://www.stoel.com/clean-water-act-client-alert-us-supreme-court-concludes-us-army-corps-of-engineers-wetland-jurisdictional-determinations-subject-to-judicial-review>

## Upcoming Training & Workshop Opportunities



**Adrian Collaborative, LLC Downtown Duluth**  
***New training scheduled!***

Four core topics, divided into 2 sessions of 3 days each. Learn details and register:  
<http://adriancollaborative.com/training>



planning + communications for sustainable growth

*We never stop learning, so why should you?*

- New format: 2 topics in 3 days, great for busy professionals who may be new to transportation NEPA or refocusing from other environmental disciplines.
- **Not your typical training class:** we combine **media, group discussions,** and **hands-on case studies.**
- **GDOT-approved training for prequalification**—our courses focus on **transportation projects**, with an **emphasis on GA approaches including the latest procedures.**
- **Great food already is included in our costs:** breakfast from local restaurants and a downtown Duluth 'open tab' lunch or catering from local restaurants, plus breaks.
- Learn practical tools for your environmental career in a fun and engaging format!

## Summer/Fall 2016 Training Sessions

\*Discount code available for multiple topic registrations\*

**Effective NEPA Analysis and Documentation for Transportation Projects:**

**Date: August 16 & 17, 2016**

**Assessing Indirect and Cumulative Effects of Transportation Projects:**

**Dates: August 17 & 18, 2016**

**Public Involvement Approaches for Transportation Planning and Projects:**

**Dates: September 13 & 14, 2016**

**Addressing Environmental Justice in Transportation Projects:**

**Dates: September 14 & 15, 2016**

Hosted in our offices on Main Street, Duluth

**Free shuttle from the GDOT deck**

## Blueline Environmental

Protecting and restoring water resources through assessment, design, and education

Blueline Environmental will host their 2016 Stream Class from October 11-13th at Panola Mountain State Park. This 3-day course will focus on the North Carolina methodology for identifying streams. Register here: [http://bluelineenv.com/?page\\_id=57](http://bluelineenv.com/?page_id=57)

## ***Ecologist Seeking Employment***

My name is Doug Hart. This spring I graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Georgia with a B.S. degree in Ecology. I'm currently seeking a job in the environmental consulting field. My coursework at UGA was primarily focused on plant ecology/identification and the use of ArcGIS in the natural sciences. My work experience during my undergraduate degree included a healthy mixture of field and lab work, including a National Science Foundation funded internship as a field assistant in Coweeta basin, North Carolina, an internship at the UGA herbarium, and a laboratory assistant for a research group in the ecology department. In my final semester at UGA I completed my senior thesis, a task which exposed me to data management and analysis, technical writing, and public presentation of scientific findings. I look forward to hearing about opportunities that may be fit to my background and qualifications; feel free to contact me by phone or email as listed below. Thanks.

Doug Hart  
(770)-676-8468  
hartdp4@gmail.com



<http://www.shingleygroup.com/>

Applying the NEPA Process & Writing Effective NEPA Documents  
Jul 12, 2016 – Jul 15, 2016

Clear Writing for NEPA Specialists  
Jul 19, 2016 – Jul 21, 2016

Overview of the NEPA Process  
Jul 26, 2016

Overview of the NEPA Process / Overview of the Endangered Species Act / Overview of the National Historic Preservation Act - Section 106  
Jul 26, 2016 – Jul 28, 2016

Overview of the Endangered Species Act  
Jul 27, 2016

Overview of the National Historic Preservation Act - Section 106  
Jul 28, 2016

Cultural & Natural Resource Compliance  
Aug 9, 2016 – Aug 11, 2016

Environmental Risk and Public Involvement  
Aug 16, 2016 – Aug 18, 2016

# Duncan & Duncan

## Wetland and Endangered Species Training

<http://www.ddwest.com/>

Interagency Consultation for Endangered Species \$500  
October 11 - 12 Atlanta, GA

Wetland Delineation Regional Supplement \$450  
Eastern Mountains/Piedmont: December 12 - 13, 2016 Atlanta, GA

Basic Wetland Delineation \$950  
October 3 - 7, 2016 Atlanta, GA

Endangered Species Act Overview \$250  
September 27, 2016 Atlanta, GA

Advanced Hydric Soils, Atypical Wetlands, and Hydrology \$450  
Piedmont: November 14 - 15, 2016 Atlanta, GA

Hydrophytic Vegetation \$450  
Piedmont: August 8 - 9, 2016 Atlanta, GA

Identification of Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes \$450  
September 12 - 13, 2016 Charleston, SC

## 2016 GAEP Executive Committee

**President:** David Bell, Environmental Scientist, CH2M  
Email: [David.Bell@CH2M.com](mailto:David.Bell@CH2M.com)

**Immediate Past President:** Jennie Agerton, Manager of Environmental Services, SEI  
Email: [jagerton@seengineering.com](mailto:jagerton@seengineering.com)

**Vice President:** Jon Russell, Env. Scientist/NEPA Specialist  
Email: [jon.russel@live.com](mailto:jon.russel@live.com)

**Secretary:** Laura Dawood, NEPA Project Manager, AECOM  
Email: [laura.dawood@aecom.com](mailto:laura.dawood@aecom.com)

**Treasurer:** Jean Brown, Env. Specialist, Georgia Power  
Email: [JEABROWN@SOUTHERNCO.COM](mailto:JEABROWN@SOUTHERNCO.COM)

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**Director, Scholarship:** Josh Jamell, Ecologist, CH2M  
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To post announcements for lectures, events, and news-you-can-use, email or call Laci Coleman at:  
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