

SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS  
24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPT. 3-7, 2014



NEW ORLEANS

*Risk and Resilience*

"We *Dance* even if there's no radio.

We *Drink* at funerals.

We *talk* too much and *laugh* too loud and *live* too large,  
and, frankly, we're suspicious of others who don't."

✂ CHRIS ROSE, *I Dead in Attic*



# THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA LOSES A FOOTBALL FIELD OF LAND EVERY HOUR.

BUT WE HAVE SOLUTIONS TO RESTORE IT. JOIN US.

## RESTORE

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA



COMPRISED OF CONSERVATION, POLICY, SCIENCE & OUTREACH EXPERTS FROM



JOIN US AT OUR **RECEPTION**

Thursday  
5 pm  
Napoleon Ballroom - **3rd floor**



VISIT OUR **EXHIBIT BOOTH**

to **meet our staff** and learn more about our work to reconnect the Mississippi River with its wetlands to protect people, wildlife and jobs.



Stop by for more information on the newly released book

***Perspectives on the Restoration of the Mississippi Delta***

or our latest report

***Achieving Resilience in Coastal Communities: Resources and Recommendations.***



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MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU, MAYOR  
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Welcome!

As Mayor of New Orleans, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our city for the Society of Environmental Journalists' 24th annual conference. I want to thank you all for your commitment to meeting in New Orleans where you will all experience the warm hospitality and unique culture our city has to offer.

We trust that New Orleans will serve as the perfect backdrop as you network, learn and advance as leaders with renowned experts and accomplished colleagues in the field of environmental journalism. We hope that through exchange of ideas and new information, you are also able to discover the innovative ways in which New Orleans has grown as a city and as a leader in disaster recovery and resiliency. When others thought New Orleans would never recover, you and your colleagues told the story and aided in bringing our city back better than before.



New Orleans has experienced disasters ranging from hurricanes to oil spills, but we've never given up. Since 2010, we have made critical investments in infrastructure— \$63 billion in new roads, parks, playgrounds and community centers; over 56 miles of new bikeways; and \$1.8 billion to rebuild, renovate, or refurbish schools. We're tearing down blight faster than any city in America and we will soon invest nearly \$1 billion in a new airport terminal and \$3.3 billion in sewage and water upgrades. New Orleans is America's greatest comeback story.

From Medellin, Columbia to the New York Coastline to Haiti to the Philippines and to New Orleans, responding to devastation is a shared responsibility between local, state and federal officials, journalists, the private sector, and individuals and communities.

I know that while you are here, you will take advantage of all the interesting panels and tracks that are offered by this conference. I also hope that at the end of the day you will take time to relax and explore New Orleans, dine in our incomparable restaurants, enjoy our great music scene, tour the historic French Quarter and neighborhoods, and shop in our antique and specialty shops throughout the city, including the bustling Magazine Street corridor.

Again, thank you for choosing New Orleans for this year's conference and we hope you enjoy your stay and return often to our wonderful city.

Mitchell J. Landrieu

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch".

Mayor  
City of New Orleans

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PHONE 504-658-4900 | FAX 504-558-4938



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On behalf of my colleagues at NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune and our other co-sponsors, a warm welcome to New Orleans to members of the Society of Environmental Journalists and conference attendees!

When Alexis de Tocqueville passed through here in 1831, he described a city we would still recognize today: "Noisy, bustling, gossiping, and a thousand leagues from the United States."

That would be us in a nutshell. A great news town, lovingly garrulous and self-absorbed, filled with cabals and intrigue. On a scale from stern Anglo Saxon duty to reckless Caribbean abandon, we're off-the-charts Caribbean.

Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the BP oil spill in 2010 added another dimension to our collective personality. With our very survival as a city at stake, we became fiercely protective of this place, astonishingly knowledgeable about the vulnerabilities of its geography, unstoppably determined to revive it.

The vibrant city you see today owes a lot to the billions of federal dollars in improved flood protection and the massive and sustained influx of big-hearted volunteers from around the U.S. But the most valiant were the New Orleanians who returned to face unspeakable personal and physical challenges in rebuilding our beloved city.

As SEJ holds its 24th annual conference here, we hope you will both enjoy our celebratory culture and understand how recent history has shaped us. As the news organization that has chronicled this city for 177 years and is the largest in the region, The Times-Picayune and NOLA.com are proud of our longstanding commitment to environmental reporting. It was the source in 1997 of the first of our four Pulitzer Prizes. Our understanding of and commitment to environmental issues is longstanding, and predates Katrina and the BP spill by decades. The first time we were finalists for a Pulitzer Prize, in 1991, was for Louisiana in Peril, a series of articles on Louisiana's toxic pollution troubles, which Mark Schleifstein co-authored. The first time we won a Pulitzer, in 1997, it was for a series about the environmental threats of overfishing the world's oceans. Mark also co-authored that series. With that commitment still strong, we're honored to co-sponsor SEJ's conference in our city.

Sincerely,



Jim Amoss  
Editor  
NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

## ❖ WEDNESDAY ❖ SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

SEJ's 2014 annual conference officially begins Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 3, with our opening reception, followed by dinner, special welcomes and surprise guests, and SEJ's awards program.

Before the official beginning, we offer these two all-day workshops below.

All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will be at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, Two Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (504) 561-0500, unless otherwise indicated.



### ALL-DAY WORKSHOP 1

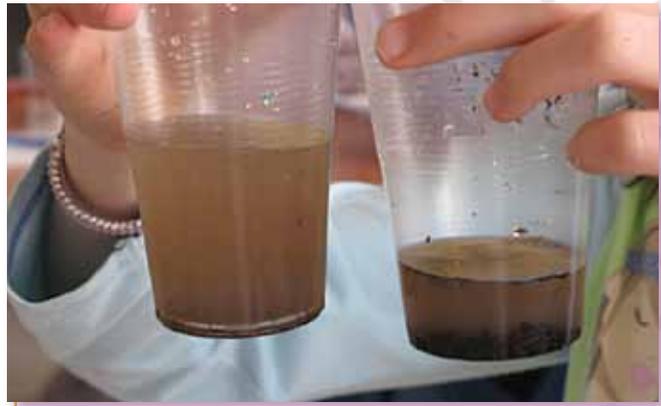
#### DISASTERS AND EXTREME WEATHER: GATHERING THE NEWS AND KEEPING SAFE 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Rosedown, 3rd Floor

Disasters challenge even the best reporters. Events are chaotic, answers are hard to come by, and sources are obscured by bureaucracies. Still, the demand for news is insatiable. How can we hit the ground running? Veteran reporters and freelancers share their experience and advice, while first responders explain how and why government functions the way it does. Sessions will cover industrial infrastructure; sourcing; protecting our own psyche; and the common classes of contaminants. We'll examine industrial disasters and extreme weather at home and overseas, with help from international journalists. **SEJ members only. Pre-registration and \$70 fee required. Breakfast and lunch included.**

❖ **BREAKFAST SERVED** 7:30 a.m.

❖ **GENERAL OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS** 8:00 a.m.



❖ **DISASTERS: THE SCIENCE — CONTAMINANTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT** 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

What are the general classes of contaminants, how do they behave in the environment, how are they contained/cleaned up? Learn how to find independent sources of scientific information on contaminants and learn where to look for information on weather patterns that affect the spread of contaminants. Conclude with an inside look at spills and cleanups, using the Deepwater Horizon as an example.

**Moderator:**

**Bill Kovarik**, Professor of Communication, Unity College

**Speakers:**

**Ken Graham**, Meteorologist-in-Charge, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Charlie Henry**, Director, Disaster Response Center (Mobile, AL), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Lead Scientific Support Coordinator, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

**Wilma Subra**, Environmental Scientist; President, Subra Company; Vice-Chair, National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Member, U.S. EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council; and Recipient, MacArthur Fellowship Genius Award

❖ **BREAK** 9:30 - 9:45 a.m.



❖ **DISASTERS: THE CRAFT — GETTING THE STORY** 9:45 - 10:30 a.m.

When the call comes, a journalist must get to the truth in nearly real-time. How can this be done when even official sources don't know yet what happened, or aren't particularly helpful; or when social media and bad reporting are spreading rumors and nonsense that, inevitably, your editors seize

upon? At the same time, how can a journalist establish a unique niche in the first 48 hours? Two longtime EPA public-affairs officials — one deeply involved in forming crisis communication procedures and the other a former emergency response supervisor — talk about what happens on the inside and answer journalists' questions about access and information. A veteran disaster reporter discusses getting around official and unofficial roadblocks with accuracy and speed.

**Moderator:**

**Randy Lee Loftis**, Environmental Writer, *The Dallas Morning News*

**Speakers:**

**Nancy Grantham**, Director, Office of Public Affairs, Region 1, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**David Gray**, Director, Office of Public Affairs, Region 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and former EPA On-Scene Coordinator

✦ **OPEN DISCUSSION 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.**

All speakers participate in a wide-ranging discussion and question-and-answer session.



✦ **AFTERSHOCKS: TRAUMA, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM**

**Noon - 1:15 p.m. Lunch**

From its earliest modern roots in the reporting of Rachel Carson and other pioneers, environmental journalism has shed light on the overlooked victims of ecological catastrophe. What do today's environmental reporters need to know about the new science of trauma, psychological injury and resilience — how the individuals, families and communities we cover are changed in enduring ways by overwhelming events? Are environmental journalists in all media vulnerable to psychological injury from covering today's most urgent environmental crises, and what do we know about trauma and resilience in news professionals? Join us for a discussion linking trauma and environmental science, journalism craft and strategies for practical self-care.

**Moderator:**

**Mike Casey**, Reporter, *Fortune* and former Reporter, Asia and the Middle East, *The Associated Press*

**Speaker:**

**Bruce Shapiro**, Executive Director, Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, Columbia University; Contributing Editor, *The Nation*; U.S. Correspondent for *Late Night Live*, *Radio National*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation.



✦ **THE ESSENTIAL TOOLKIT FOR REPORTING DURING A DISASTER 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.**

What do you need to know before you go into the field? What must-haves should you be sure to bring with you? In this session, panelists and the audience will have an interactive discussion on how to develop contact lists, prepare credentials ahead of time, pitch and market stories, set pay rates, and more.

**Moderator:**

**Emily Gertz**, Freelance Journalist and Editor

**Speakers:**

**Scott Dodd**, Editorial Director, Natural Resources Defense Council

**James Schwab**, Manager, Hazards Planning Research Center, American Planning Association, and Senior Research Associate and Co-Editor, *Zoning Practice*, American Planning Association

✦ **BREAK 2:45 - 3:00 p.m.**



✦ **DISASTERS KNOW NO BORDERS 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.**

The devastation wrought by natural disasters in developing countries can be so overwhelming it defies description. But today we are immediately connected to faraway catastrophes, and the global conversation about them can change the political agenda. How can U.S. reporters accurately convey both the on-the-ground reality of these events and report the ripple effects in their own regions? How do reporters based in vulnerable countries approach disaster reporting, and what unique challenges do they face? A group of international journalists will join the conversation as speakers share lessons learned from covering last year's Typhoon Haiyan and tips for covering the upcoming 10th anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

**Moderator:**

**Meaghan Parker**, Writer/Editor, Environmental Change and Security Program, Wilson Center

**Speakers:**

**Imelda Abano**, President, Philippine Network of Environmental Journalists

**Winifred Bird**, Freelance Journalist

**Mike Casey**, Reporter, *Fortune* and former Reporter, Asia and the Middle East, The Associated Press



**ALL-DAY WORKSHOP 2**

**FROM NAIROBI TO NEW ORLEANS:  
REPORTING ON RESILIENCE, CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND POPULATION DYNAMICS**

**9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Location:** Oak Alley, 3rd Floor

Across the globe, from megacities to small coastal communities, people are confronting the challenges of climate change. These changes, both rapid and slow, are putting more people at risk than ever before as urban and coastal areas grow. From villages in the Philippines to UN forums, the calls for increasing the resilience for the most vulnerable people are deafening. But reporting on resilience requires pushing the boundaries of the traditional environmental beat and looking beyond national borders. This workshop of reporters and experts from Africa, Asia, and the United States will share story tips, demonstrate data tools, and compare cross-border approaches to reporting on resilience, climate, and population dynamics.

❖ **BREAKFAST SERVED 9:00 a.m.**

❖ **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS 9:15 a.m.**



❖ **RISKY CITIES AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

**9:45 - 11:00 a.m.**

What makes a community resilient? We'll discuss the complex connections between climate change and population dynamics, including urbanization, migration, gender and health, and how to turn this complexity into compelling stories about cities around the world.

**Moderator:** TBA

**Speakers:**

**Roger-Mark De Souza**, Director of Population, Environmental Security, and Resilience, Woodrow Wilson Center

**Toyosi Ogunseye**, Editor, *Sunday Punch* (Nigeria)

**Ken Weiss**, Grantee, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting



❖ **BIG QUESTIONS NEED BIG DATA:**

**POPULATION AND CLIMATE 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

Experts will demonstrate new tools for understanding how population dynamics affect climate change predictions, and how to measure and model resilience at local, national, and international levels.

**Moderator:**

**Lisa Palmer**, Freelance Reporter and Editor

**Speakers:**

**William Butz**, Senior Research Scientist, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

**Joyce Coffee**, Managing Director, Notre Dame Global Adaptation Institute

**Kathleen Mogelgaard**, KAM Consulting

ESRI speaker (invited)

❖ LUNCH DISCUSSION 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.



❖ STORYTELLING IN THE ANTHROPOCENE:  
PICTURING PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Visual media — film, video, and photography — have proven especially powerful for conveying people's lived experience and their capacity for resilience in the face of change. Videographers and photographers will share some clips from their work documenting the connections between climate, population, and human rights.

**Moderator:**

**RhITU Chatterjee**, Reporter, PRI's The World

**Speakers:**

**Gladys Kalibbala**, Features Writer, New Vision (Uganda)

**Sean Peoples**, Multimedia Editor and Program Associate, Environmental Change and Security Program, Woodrow Wilson Center

**Steve Sapienza**, Senior Producer, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting

❖ DISASTERS KNOW NO BORDERS 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Join "Disasters and Extreme Weather" workshop's 3:00 p.m. session (see page 5).

❖ REGISTRATION 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** 1st Floor Registration Counters  
(across from escalators in the conference area)

If you didn't sign up ahead of time for a Thursday tour, the Saturday night party, or Sunday breakfast at the Audubon Zoo, there may still be room — please check with registration.

❖ SEJ INFORMATION TABLE 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Next to registration

Sign up here for Mini-tours and Beat Dinners. Read up on SEJ Board candidates, and find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services. Pick up copies of *SEJournal* and other SEJ information.



OPENING RECEPTION, DINNER  
AND AWARDS

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Napoleon Ballroom, 3rd Floor

It's New Orleans, folks, so the bar will open early, the music will be playing, and everyone will be able to share their "where y'at" stories. Look for a Katrina retrospective — 2015 will mark the ten-year anniversary — and media perspective from **Jim Amoss**, editor of NOLA.com | *The Times-Picayune*.

We'll hear progress reports on recovery of the Gulf four years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill from **Geoff Morrell**, senior vice president of U.S. Communications and External Affairs for BP; with equal time for questions. Actors, musicians and others with ties to New Orleans will add their voices and stories to the mix, along with **Michael Blum**, director of the Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research, who's been tracking effects of the spill. Best of all, we'll celebrate the year's best reporting and photojournalism on the environment — great work that's changing the world, one story, one photo, one book at a time.

**Emcees:**

Conference Chair **Mark Schleifstein**, Environment Reporter, NOLA.com | *The Times-Picayune*; **Natalie Allen**, Anchor, CNN International; **Jeff Burnside**, Senior Investigative Reporter, KOMO 4 News, Seattle

## ✧ THURSDAY ✧ SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

*Tour bus staging, registration and SEJ table for sign-ups, as well as evening receptions, will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, Two Poydras Street, New Orleans.*

### ✧ REGISTRATION 6:00 - 10:00 a.m. and Noon - 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** 1st Floor Registration Counters  
*(across from escalators in the conference area)*

If you didn't sign up ahead of time for the Saturday night party or Sunday breakfast at the Audubon Zoo, there may still be room — please check with registration.

### ✧ SEJ INFORMATION TABLE 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Next to registration

Sign up here for Mini-tours and Beat Dinners. Read up on SEJ Board candidates, and find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services. Pick up copies of *SEJournal* and other SEJ information.

## TOURS IN THE FIELD

*Advance registration and a fee are required for all Thursday tours. Registered tour attendees should report to the staging area no later than 15 minutes before their scheduled departure time. All tours depart promptly at times listed below and return to the Hilton New Orleans Riverside about 5:00 p.m.*

*Buses will stage and depart from the Hilton New Orleans Riverside just across from SEJ Registration on Side Drive. If you've not registered yet, stop by registration near the ballroom to pick up your conference materials, then exit through the doors between the Gift Shop and escalators.*

*Due to morning-of cancellations or available space, some tours may be able to take standby passengers. Standby passengers should report 15 minutes prior to departure and have the tour fee available. Standby passengers will be admitted on a first-come/first-served basis, after those already on a waiting list.*

*For breakfast options, the River Blends Café, located in the Hilton, opens at 6:00 a.m. If you're on the first tour, that probably only gives you enough time to grab a coffee and a roll, but the rest of you would have time to sit and eat. Le Croissant, also in the Hilton, opens at 6:30 a.m. Numerous other options are within walking distance of the Hilton. Check your registration packet for a list of restaurants and breakfast suggestions.*



### 1. AFTER BP: ARE WE REALLY PREPARED OFFSHORE? (6:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

The four years since Deepwater Horizon have been about improving our readiness for spills and raising offshore drilling safety standards, but as Gulf drilling keeps expanding and

pushing limits, U.S. regulators remain reactive rather than proactive, contractors still escape scrutiny and violations still get covered up. With that in mind, we will go behind the scenes at a leading spill response outfit, hear directly from offshore regulators, visit with a whistleblower who sacrificed his livelihood to expose offshore criminal activity and, finally, jump on a boat to witness a rig in action and see for ourselves the safety challenges and unpredictability of working on an oil rig. **Total drive time – 5 hours.**

#### **Tour Leaders:**

**David Hammer**, Investigative Reporter, WWL-TV Channel 4 (CBS), New Orleans

**Jennifer Larino**, Business Reporter, NOLA.com | *The Times-Picayune*

#### **Speakers:**

**Donald Boesch**, Professor, Marine Science and President, Center for Environmental Science, University of Maryland

**Michael Bromwich**, Managing Principal, The Bromwich Group

**Randy Comeaux**, Terminated Whistleblower, ATP Titan, Mississippi Canyon 941; Terminated Whistleblower, W&T Offshore, Ewing Banks 910

**Charlie Williams**, Executive Director, Center for Offshore Safety; Chief Scientist, Well Engineering and Production Technology, Shell



### 2. REBUILDING BARRIER ISLANDS AND RESTORING MARSHES

*(7:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)*

Studies show that most of southeast Louisiana will be drowned by the Gulf of Mexico before 2100 because it is sinking at one of the world's fastest rates, while at the same time, seas are rising. The state and federal wetlands restoration community is fighting that fate by using Mississippi River and offshore sediment deposits to rebuild vanishing marshes and barrier islands. Attendees will visit two restoration sites, including a barrier island rebuilding project and a marsh restoration project south of New Orleans in Plaquemines Parish. The trip includes two boat rides, a seafood lunch at Woodland Plantation, and opportunities to see coastal restoration, both in progress and complete. Over 10 wetland experts will be on hand for the tour and during the winding two-hour bus ride across some of the most vulnerable coastal wetlands on the planet. **Total drive time – 4 hours.**

#### **Tour Leaders:**

**Gloria Gonzalez**, Senior Associate, Carbon Program, Ecosystem Marketplace

**Bob Marshall**, Staff Writer, The Lens

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### KNIGHT-WALLACE FELLOWS

Exceptional journalists from the U.S. and abroad receive a **\$70,000 STIPEND, PLUS ALL TUITION AND FEES**, to pursue studies at the University of Michigan and grow as journalists. Fellows attend twice-weekly seminars led by experts in journalism, business, politics and culture. Past speakers include Jill Abramson, George Soros, David Carr, Steve Kroft and Madeleine Albright. Fellows go on foreign news tours of Istanbul, São Paulo and Buenos Aires.

To apply, visit [kwfellows.org](http://kwfellows.org) or email [kwfellows@umich.edu](mailto:kwfellows@umich.edu).

Serving as headquarters is the **Mike and Mary Wallace House**, a graceful, spacious home, given to the University of Michigan by the late CBS newsman and his wife.

## Win the Top Prize for Young Journalists



The  
**LIVINGSTON**  
Awards for Young Journalists

**\$10,000 PRIZES ARE AWARDED** to journalists under 35 years of age for outstanding achievement in local, national and international reporting. The largest all-media general reporting prize in the country, the Livingston Awards judge print, broadcast and online against one another.

The Livingston Awards recognized the early talent of many of today's top journalists, including David Remnick, Ira Glass, Christiane Amanpour, Thomas Friedman and Michele Norris.

For information and entry forms, visit [livawards.org](http://livawards.org) or email [livingstonawards@umich.edu](mailto:livingstonawards@umich.edu).

**JUDGES:** *Christiane Amanpour*, CBE, ABC News and CNN; *Ken Auletta*, *The New Yorker*; *Dean Baquet*, *The New York Times*; *Ellen Goodman*, author and columnist; *John F. Harris*, POLITICO; *Clarence Page*, *Chicago Tribune*; *Anna Quindlen*, author; *Kara Swisher*, Revere Digital and Re/code

**Entry deadlines: February 1, 2015**

Wallace House at the University of Michigan:  
Nurturing the Talents of Journalists



**Speakers:**

**Kenneth Bahlinger**, Coastal Restoration Project Manager, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

**Virginia Burkett**, Chief Scientist for Climate and Land Use Change, U.S. Geological Survey

**Darryl Clark**, CWPPRA Coordinator and Project Manager, and Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Louisiana Ecological Services Office, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Brad Inman**, CWPPRA Chairman, Planning and Evaluation Committee and Senior Project Manager, Restoration Branch, Protection and Restoration Office, New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Paul Kaspar**, Project Manager for the "Mississippi River Sediment Delivery System – Bayou Dupont" Project, Environmental Engineer and Chief, Permits Oversight Section, Region 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Quin Kinler**, Resource Conservationist, Water Resources Planning, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Mel Landry**, Marine Fisheries Habitat Specialist, Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Sarah Mack**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Tierra Resources LLC

**Cherie Price**, Planner for LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamics and Delta Management Study, Restoration Branch, Protection and Restoration Office, New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**George Ricks**, Charter Captain and President, Save Louisiana Coalition

**Kevin Roy**, Project Manager for the "Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation Project" and Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Louisiana Ecological Services Office, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Susan Testroet-Bergeron**, CWPPRA Public Outreach Coordinator, National Wetlands Research Center, U.S. Geological Survey

**Eugene Turner**, Boyd Professor, Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, School of the Coast and Environment, Louisiana State University



**3. IF THE GATORS DON'T GET YOU... THE SINKHOLE WILL**

*(7:15 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)*

What are ya, wimps? We'll take you to the heart of Louisiana's swampland to visit the Atchafalaya Basin and the Bayou Corne-area sinkhole. U.S. Geological Survey scientists will lead a morning boat trip into the million-acre basin, the largest river swamp in the United States. Here we'll see alligators, wintering waterfowl, invasive nutria and huge cypress trees. Then, in the afternoon, you'll see the sinkhole for yourself. The 26-acre hole emerged from cypress forest in August

2012 because a salt dome cavern failed deep underground. Hear from parish and Texas Brine Co. officials and residents about the environmental disaster. **Total drive time – 4 hours.**

**Tour Leaders:**

**Randy Lee Loftis**, Environmental Writer, *The Dallas Morning News*

**David Mitchell**, Reporter, *The (Baton Rouge) Advocate*

**Speakers:**

**John Boudreaux**, Director, Assumption Parish Office, Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

**Jacoby Carter**, Research Ecologist, National Wetlands Research Center, U.S. Geological Survey

**Patrick Courreges**, Communications Director, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

**Sonny Cranch**, Spokesman, Texas Brine Company

**Dan Kroes**, Floodplain Ecologist, Louisiana Water Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey

**Dennis Landry**, Resident and Local Business Owner, Bayou Corne

**Mike Schaff**, Departing Resident of Bayou Corne

**Wilma Subra**, Environmental Scientist; President, Subra Company (New Iberia, LA); Vice-Chair, National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Member, U.S. EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council; and Recipient, MacArthur Fellowship Genius Award

**Christopher Swarzenski**, Wetlands Hydrologist and Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey



**4. CHEMICAL CORRIDOR: INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS**  
*(7:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)*

The boom in North American oil and gas extraction is fueling expansion in Louisiana's petrochemical industry, with nearly \$84 billion in new plant construction planned. We will visit petrochemical and refining facilities and their surrounding communities to learn how the plants operate and what the expected expansion will mean for the surrounding environment and neighboring communities' health. We will hear from industry experts, environmental health and justice advocates, occupational health and safety experts to learn how environmental safety and health are addressed and how adjacent communities have been grappling with these issues. **Total drive time – 3 hours.**

**Tour Leaders:**

**Elizabeth Grossman**, Freelance Journalist

**Amy Wold**, Reporter, *The (Baton Rouge) Advocate*

**Speakers:**

**Dan Borne**, President, Louisiana Chemical Association

**Celena Cage**, Enforcement Administrator, Louisiana State Department of Environmental Quality

**Chris John**, President, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (invited)

**Kim Nibarger**, Health and Safety Specialist, United Steelworkers

**Marylee Orr**, Executive Director, Louisiana Environmental Action Network

**Anne Rolfes**, Founding Director, Louisiana Bucket Brigade

**Wilma Subra**, Environmental Scientist; President, Subra Company (New Iberia, LA); Vice-Chair, National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Member, U.S. EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council; and Recipient, MacArthur Fellowship Genius Award

**Tegan Treadaway**, Air Permits Administrator, Louisiana State Department of Environmental Quality

Louisiana Economic Development representative TBA



**5. OYSTER REEFS AND FISHERIES IN THE AFTERMATH OF BP AND KATRINA**

*(8:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)*

We'll head to Empire, near the Mississippi River's mouth, and hop on boats to examine oyster reefs. Oysterers and scientists will discuss how oyster beds are seeded and harvested, and why the brackish mix of salt and fresh water is needed to grow the Gulf of Mexico's large mollusks. We'll also hear about impending new freshwater diversions that are expected to build wetlands, but also could doom existing oyster reefs. We'll also discuss the effects of Katrina, the BP oil spill, changes in the oyster industry, and the low-oxygen "dead zone" along Louisiana's coast on local oyster harvesting. We might even taste some oysters from the boat. **Total drive time – 3 hours.**

**Tour Leaders:**

**Benjamin Alexander-Bloch**, Staff Writer, NOLA.com | *The Times-Picayune*

**Robert Thomas**, Professor and Director, Center for Environmental Communication, School of Mass Communication, Loyola University New Orleans

**Speakers:**

**David Muth**, Director, Mississippi River Delta Restoration Program, National Wildlife Federation

**John Tesvich**, Chair, Louisiana Oyster Task Force

3rd speaker TBA



**6. FRACKING, AND ALL THAT OIL AND GAS**

*(8:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)*

Louisiana is enjoying its biggest industrial boom since the oil bust in the 1980s, and decisions on new plants and expansions of existing ones are being driven by ample supplies of cheap natural gas, thanks to advancements in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing technology. Manufacturers who use the clean-burning fuel to power their facilities are reaping the benefits, particularly along the 70-mile corridor between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Hear what experts on all sides of this issue have to say during a visit to a drilling site in Amite County, Miss., in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale formation, an emerging oil and gas play. **Total drive time – 4 hours.**

**Tour Leaders:**

**Bobby Magill**, Senior Science Writer, Climate Central

**Ricky Thompson**, Staff Writer, *The (Baton Rouge) Advocate*

**Speakers:**

**David Allen**, Melvin H. Gertz Regents Chair in Chemical Engineering, McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering and Director, Center for Energy and Environmental Resources, Cockrell School of Engineering, University of Texas-Austin

**Don Briggs**, President, Louisiana Oil and Gas Association

**David Dismukes**, Professor and Executive Director, Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana State University

**Stephanie Houston Grey**, Anti-Fracking Activist and Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Culture, Department of Communication Studies, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Louisiana State University

**Steve Murchie**, Campaign Director, Gulf Restoration Network

Encana representative TBA

Environmental Defense Fund representative TBA





## 7. LOUISIANA'S GREAT LAKES, CYPRESS SWAMPS AND WOODPECKERS

*(9:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)*

We'll visit the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station on Lake Maurepas for a pontoon boat ride through cypress swamps, followed by a dip-netting exercise and a delicious lunch of local seafood. Then we'll visit the Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge, a gem on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, where we may catch a glimpse of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. All along the way, we'll hear from experts about the natural and unnatural history of the Pontchartrain Basin and learn about efforts to restore this important ecosystem. **Total drive time – 2.5 hours.**

### Tour Leaders:

**Christopher Johnston**, Freelance Videographer

**Sara Shipley Hiles**, Freelance Journalist and Assistant Professor, School of Journalism, University of Missouri

### Speakers:

**Pon Dixon**, Refuge Manager, Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge

**Melanie Driscoll**, Director of Bird Conservation, Gulf Coast/ Mississippi Flyway, National Audubon Society

**Ioannis Georgiou**, Associate Professor of Coastal Processes, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences and Director, Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of New Orleans

**John Lopez**, Executive Director, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

**Robert Moreau**, Manager, Turtle Cove Environmental Research Center

**Alisha Renfro**, Staff Scientist, Mississippi River Delta Restoration, National Wildlife Federation



## 8. RISKY BUSINESS: HOW NEW ORLEANS' REBUILT LEVEE SYSTEM IS SO MUCH BETTER, BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH

*(9:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)*

We tour the post-Katrina hurricane storm surge risk reduction system — the Army Corps of Engineers' new name for the flood protection system — and learn how dramatic improvements in design requirements and new technology make New Orleans the best-protected city in the nation. But, we'll also learn how that protection still won't save the city from being flooded by the Big One. The tour will view new earthen levees, a 2-mile-long, 26-foot-high storm surge barrier, and a new pump station that could drain all the water out of an Olympic-sized swimming pool in five seconds. **Total drive time – 2 hours.**

### Tour Leaders:

**Jeff Adelson**, Reporter, *The New Orleans Advocate*

**Juliet Pinto**, Associate Professor, School of Journalism & Mass Communication, Florida International University

### Speakers:

**Ezra Boyd**, Hazard Geographer and Disaster Scientist, and Co-Founder, Disastermap.net

**Susan Maclay**, President, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - West

**Sandy Rosenthal**, Founder and Executive Director, Levees.org

**Stevan Spencer**, Chief Engineer, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative TBA

**UNDER THIS  
HOOD IS THE  
SOLUTION TO  
OUR OIL  
ADDICTION.**

**( BUT SOMEONE WANTS  
TO KEEP IT A SECRET. )**



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## 9. THE LONG ROAD HOME: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, ADAPTATIONS, AND LEGACIES FROM AMERICA'S BIGGEST REBUILD

*(10:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)*

Each New Orleans community took its own road home. We'll look at what determines who comes back, efforts to rebuild better, and what others can learn from our disaster experiences. We'll tour the Lower 9th Ward to check in on Brad Pitt's Make It Right houses and more traditional church-run renovation projects. We'll look into the replanting going on at Bayou Bienvenue, and have lunch with the Vietnamese fishing and farming communities. We'll return via the Lakefront and discuss efforts to re-connect residents with water. We'll end in Broadmoor — the geographical heart of the city and its latest rebuild efforts — and send you home singing New Orleans style. **Total drive time – 3 hours.**

### Tour Leaders

**Adam Glenn**, Educator, Graduate School of Journalism, City University of New York; Digital Media Consultant, a2g Media; Editor, *SEJournal*, Society of Environmental Journalists; Editor, AdaptNY

**Julia Kumari Drapkin**, Executive Producer, iSeeChange and Multimedia Reporter/Producer, NOLA.com | *The Times-Picayune*

**Tom Thoren**, Freelance Journalist and Open Data Reporter, The Lens

**Loretta Williams**, Freelance Producer/Editor

### Speakers

**Karen Gadbois**, Co-Founder and Staff Writer, The Lens

**Michael Hecht**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater New Orleans, Inc.

**Arthur Johnson**, Executive Director, Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement & Development

**Darryl Malek-Wiley**, Senior Organizing Representative, Environmental Justice and Community Partnership Program, Sierra Club

**Daniel Nguyen**, Environmental Justice Coordinator and Viet Village Urban Farm Sustainable Aquaculture Park Project Manager, MQVN Community Development Corporation

**Allison Plyer**, Executive Director, The Data Center and Author, "The New Orleans Index"

**Michelle Pyne**, Green Building Program Associate, Global Green USA

**Taylor Royle**, Director of Communications, Make it Right Foundation

**Jason Stopa**, Recovery Planner, Department of Community Development, St. Bernard Parish Government, and former Neighborhood Development Manager, Beacon of Hope Resource Center

**David Waggoner**, Principal, Waggoner & Ball Architects

**Emily Wolff**, Director of Community Programming, Wilson Charter School and Broadmoor Improvement Association

**Beverly Wright**, Professor of Sociology and Director, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Dillard University

**Peter Yaukey**, Professor of Geography, College of Liberal Arts, University of New Orleans

## ✂ INDEPENDENT HOSPITALITY RECEPTIONS

**5:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Napoleon Ballroom, 3rd Floor

Looking for networking opportunities? After spending all day out on tours, meet with hosts of independent receptions. Reception hosts will have experts, displays, information, and, of course, great food and drink. Check the Independent Receptions Flyer in your conference bag.

*Stop by the Octavia Bookstore while you're enjoying the receptions, and don't miss the book-signing event at 8:00 p.m.*

## ✂ FRIDAY ✂ SEPTEMBER 5, 2014

*As a journalism organization that believes in an open society, SEJ each year welcomes a diverse group of attendees to our annual conference. Attendees include representatives of business, government and environmental groups, as well as working journalists, academics and students.*

*Because non-journalists are here, you may see or hear presentations or responses to presentations that you might not expect from mainstream journalists. The presentations and any responses do not necessarily reflect the views of SEJ or any of its members.*

*As our guest, please respect our interest in open discussions of environmental issues by not disrupting presentations of views you disagree with.*

*Finally, please respect our rule that SEJ members are given preference during question-and-answer sessions.*

*All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will be at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, Two Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (504) 561-0500, unless otherwise indicated.*

*Breakfast on your own in the Big Easy. The River Blends Café, located in the Hilton, opens at 6:00 a.m. Le Croissant, also in the Hilton, opens at 6:30 a.m. Numerous other options are within walking distance of the Hilton. Check your registration packet for a list of restaurants and breakfast suggestions.*

## ✂ REGISTRATION 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** 1st Floor Registration Counters (across from escalators in the conference area)

If you didn't sign up ahead of time for the Saturday night party or Sunday breakfast at the Audubon Zoo, there may still be room — please check with registration.

## ✂ SEJ INFORMATION TABLE 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Next to registration

Sign up here for Mini-tours and Beat Dinners. Read up on SEJ Board candidates, and find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services. Pick up copies of *SEJournal* and other SEJ information.

## ✂ SEJ EXHIBITS 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Grand Salon, 1st Floor

Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2014 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, educational opportunities, see some great displays and add to your source list.

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Go here for in-depth content and additional contacts:

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[www.nutrientstewardship.org](http://www.nutrientstewardship.org) – A resource on agricultural practices for the sustainable management of nutrients

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Suite 950  
Washington, D.C. 20024  
(202) 962-0490

✦ **BOOKSTORE 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.****Location:** Chemin Royale Foyer

New Orleans' own Octavia Books is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

**OPENING PLENARY****COVERING DISASTERS:  
GETTING THE STORY  
AND STAYING ALIVE****9:00 - 10:30 a.m.****Location:** Grand Ballroom

From parachuting in and leaving, to living there and staying, we'll explore the full spectrum of news coverage of major disasters and consider ways reporters can better cooperate to both deliver the news and stay safe. This panel of journalists will share their stories from past disasters and emergencies, both domestic and international, and their thoughts on how we can all do a better job.

**Moderator:****John Snell**, Anchor, Fox 8 WVUE-TV, New Orleans**Speakers:****Natalie Allen**, Anchor, CNN International**Jim Amoss**, Editor, NOLA.com | *The Times-Picayune***Suzanne Goldenberg**, U.S. Environment Correspondent, *The Guardian***Bryan Norcross**, Senior Executive Director of Weather Content and Presentation, and Senior Hurricane Specialist, The Weather Channel✦ **BEVERAGE BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS****10:30 - 11:00 a.m.****Location:** Grand Salon✦ **VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY DEMO**

Sign up in Chemin Royale foyer to test-drive new technology in the auto industry and to talk with experts.

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1****11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**✦ **THE CRAFT 1  
FOIA CLINIC: ASK THE GUMSHOES****Location:** Grand Salon, Room 4

Got a pending FOIA request? A question about how to manage a new one? A problem with your FOIA strategy? Want to file your first FOIA? Experienced journalists will offer advice tailored to your individual needs. What methods help agencies be less recalcitrant? We can address your issues privately or confidentially. We will offer tips, discuss strategies, share model letters, and more. This will be a back-and-forth conversation, not a lecture. Bring your laptop.

**Moderator:****Joseph A. Davis**, Freelance Journalist and WatchDog Project Director/*TipSheet* Editor, Society of Environmental Journalists**Speakers:****Robert McClure**, Executive Director, InvestigateWest

2nd speaker TBA

✦ **THE CRAFT 2  
WHO'S COVERING THE ENVIRONMENT TODAY?  
FROM AL JAZEERA'S RISE TO NEWSPAPERS' DEMISE****Location:** Grand Salon, Room 10

Television, print and online journalism is in upheaval, and it's all affecting who covers the environment. We look at the ups — Al Jazeera — and the downs — onlining of newsrooms — to see what the future holds. A veteran whose accomplished career stretches back to pre-cable news and two-newspaper towns will compare notes with a young rising star in environmental journalism.

# We're in the Gulf



Photo © Erika Nortemann/TNC

## Restoring

Bringing back shorelines and wetlands that provide vital natural defenses against storms and hurricanes.

## Protecting

Advocating for restoration that protects the natural areas, coastal waters, and wetlands that Gulf families depend on for their livelihoods.



Photo © Ami Vitale



Photo © Hunter Nichols

## Preserving

Ensuring coastal wetlands, oyster reefs, and other natural areas that contribute to a unique culture and richly interesting set of Gulf Coast traditions are preserved.

[nature.org/gulf](http://nature.org/gulf)  
Contact: Andrew Blejwas  
[ablejwas@tnc.org](mailto:ablejwas@tnc.org) 617-785-7047

The Nature Conservancy   
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**Moderator:**

**Peter Dykstra**, Publisher, Environmental Health News and The Daily Climate

**Speakers:**

**Randy Lee Loftis**, Environmental Writer, *The Dallas Morning News*

**Kate Sheppard**, Senior Reporter and Environment and Energy Editor, The Huffington Post

**THE CRAFT 3**  
**CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR JOURNALISTS:**  
ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT FELLOWSHIPS, MENTORING, MOOCS AND COMPUTER-BASED JOURNALISM TRAINING BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 13

In the uncertain financial times of journalism in the 21st Century, we'll learn all the ins and outs of low-cost and no-cost journalism training available. We'll hear about the SEJ mentoring program. We'll talk to the program leaders about short-term and long-term fellowship opportunities. We'll also delve into computer-based training.

**Moderator:**

**Lana Straub**, Freelance Journalist/Radio Producer, KXWT

**Speakers:**

**Jane Braxton Little**, Environment & Science Writer/Photographer, and Co-Coordinator, SEJ Mentor Program

**Lauren Klinger**, Interactive Learning Producer, The Poynter Institute

**Michael Kodas**, Associate Director, Center for Environmental Journalism, University of Colorado Boulder

**Lise Olsen**, Instructor, Massive Online Open Courses, Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas

**Dave Spratt**, Chief Executive Officer, Institutes for Journalism & Natural Resources

**OCEANS AND COASTS**  
**EXTREME WEATHER AND HURRICANE SCIENCE:**  
IMPROVING FORECASTS



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 7

Explore the frontier of hurricane science. With satellites, aircraft and computer models, we've achieved a remarkable level of warning time compared to the days when hurricanes would loom over coastal towns without notice. But forecasters still blow it when predicting their intensity. Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina showed the public what experts already knew: The big killer is the storm surge. A new storm surge warning system debuts this year. And how could global warming change the hurricane threat?

**Moderator:**

**David Fleshler**, Environment Reporter, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*

**Speakers:**

**Jesse Feyen**, Manager, Storm Surge Roadmap, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Sharan Majumdar**, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director, Meteorology and Physical Oceanography, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami

**Ben Strauss**, Vice President for Climate Impacts and Director of the Program on Sea Level Rise, Climate Central

**THE LAND**  
**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** IF WE CAN'T SAVE CHARISMATIC BIG CATS, WHAT CAN WE SAVE?



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 12

According to a recent Animal Planet poll, tigers are the world's most popular animal, yet just 3,200 wild tigers remain and numbers continue to dwindle. Likewise, snow leopards,

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lions, jaguars, Florida panthers — as well as other charismatic predator species — are also declining. We'll explore the confluence of threats facing these animals, including conflict with burgeoning human populations, shrinking habitat, poaching for black market trade, the growing luxury market for endangered species products, and more — and we'll discuss the types of bold initiatives needed to save them.

**Moderator:**

**Sharon Guynup**, Freelance Journalist and Author, "Tigers Forever: Saving the World's Most Endangered Big Cat"

**Speakers:**

**Laurie Macdonald**, Director of Florida Programs, Defenders of Wildlife

**Judy Mills**, Author, "Blood of the Tiger: A Story of Conspiracy, Greed, and the Battle to Save a Magnificent Species"

**Kristin Nowell**, CAT and Red List Coordinator, Cat Specialist Group, International Union for Conservation of Nature

**POLLUTION**

**DEAD ZONES, HYPOXIA AND NUTRIENT LOADING: IS POLLUTION TRADING THE ANSWER?**



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 6

With nutrient pollution forming massive "dead zones" in the Gulf of Mexico, Chesapeake Bay and coastal waters practically everywhere, fish and shellfish populations are depleted and once-productive fisheries crippled. The sources are legion — farm fertilizer, sewage plants, urban and suburban runoff. Federally led efforts are under way to reverse the tide of decline, but face political and legal challenges. Can our waters be cleaned up more efficiently at a lower cost by unleashing the marketplace rather than imposing stricter regulations? Or will buying and selling pollution "credits" simply enrich some while leaving the waters starved of life?

**Moderator:**

**Tim Wheeler**, Reporter, *The Baltimore Sun*

**Speakers:**

**Ellen Gilinsky**, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

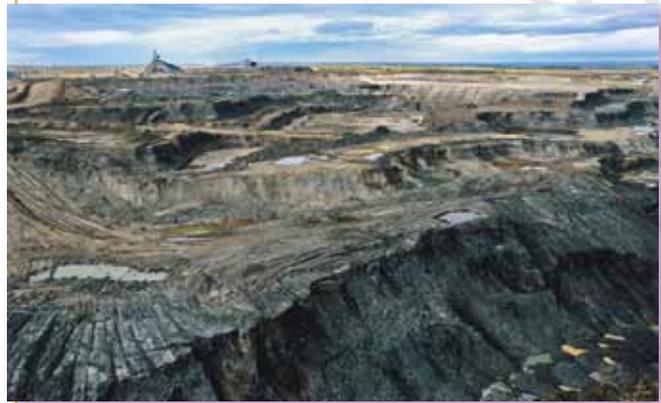
**Patrick Parenteau**, Professor of Law and Senior Counsel, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, Vermont Law School

**Michelle Perez**, Senior Associate, Water Quality, World Resources Institute

**Nancy Rabalais**, Professor and Executive Director, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium

**ENERGY**

**OIL TRUCKIN' AND PIPIN': WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR BACKYARD?**



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 9

The boom in oil production in the Bakken shale fields of North Dakota and the tar sands of Canada's Alberta province has raised the stakes for public safety and environmental protection throughout much of North America. Getting crude oil to refineries means delivery by rail networks or pipelines that go through the communities you cover. This panel will look at the big picture of balancing the benefits of domestic oil production against the risks to the public and environment, as well as the local perspective of communities in the path of pipelines and unit trains loaded with crude oil.

**Moderator:**

**Michael Martz**, Staff Writer, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

**Speakers:**

**Lois Epstein**, Engineer and Arctic Program Director, The Wilderness Society and Vice President of the Board, Pipeline Safety Trust

**Bob Greco**, Group Director, Downstream and Industry Operations, American Petroleum Institute

**Jessica McDiarmid**, Reporter, *Toronto Star*

**THE GLOBE**

**FEEDING EIGHT BILLION PEOPLE IN A WARMING WORLD**



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 3

With 842 million undernourished people worldwide today, providing food for the world's rapidly growing population is already a major challenge without the impacts of climate change. As drought, desertification, and floods threaten yields of key crops from the Midwest to the Middle East, new

methods will be necessary to avert a severe, global food crisis. The challenge is only growing more pressing as the global population soars past eight billion by 2025. This panel will explore emerging stories at the intersection of food, agriculture, and climate. We'll identify which areas and populations are most at risk, and discuss what scientists, policymakers and businesses are doing to address this serious issue.

**Moderator:**

**Tim McDonnell**, Associate Producer, Climate Desk

**Speakers:**

**Christine Chemnitz**, Department Head, International Agricultural Policy, Heinrich Böll Foundation North America

**Barbara Ekwall**, Senior Liaison Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**David Fischhoff**, Chief Scientist, The Climate Corporation

**Rebecca Shaw**, Associate Vice President of Ecosystems and Senior Lead Scientist, Environmental Defense Fund

✦ **NETWORK LUNCH 12:15 - 1:45 p.m.**

**Location:** Grand Ballroom

Choose a discussion table on a wide range of timely topics and reporting tips, or join one of three nearby breakout sessions. Consult your Network Lunch flyer in your conference packet for details. Additional flyers will also be available at the SEJ Information Table.

Concurrent with the table discussions are the following three breakout sessions:

**1. IN-DEPTH STORIES OF OUR TROUBLED SEAS**

**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 15

The only resource not fully exploited in our ocean may be good under-reported stories about its vast problems and some of the innovative solutions now emerging. There's been some excellent reporting on the world's cascading marine disasters resulting from industrial overfishing, pollution, coastal sprawl and fossil-fuel-fired climate change. Our panelists are top experts on these problems and world-class innovators in providing solutions. This panel will be a story-rich habitat.

**Moderator:**

**David Helvarg**, Author, Founder and Executive Director, Blue Frontier and Co-Founder, Peter Benchley Ocean Awards

**Speakers:**

**Marcus Eriksen**, Co-Founder and Director of Research, 5 Gyres Institute

**Jeremy Jackson**, Marine Ecologist and Paleontologist; former Ritter Professor of Oceanography and Founder and Director, Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, Scripps; and former Senior Scientist, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

**Nancy Rabalais**, Professor and Executive Director, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium

**2. ACADEMIC MEMBERS' BUSINESS SESSION**

**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 16

Academic members will discuss how they can best advance SEJ by setting goals for this membership category for the coming year. Want to revive the student story contest? Coordinate a multi-institutional investigation? Create a critical mass of student-produced work? Coordinate research proposals and exchange? Facilitate the sharing of teaching strategies. Bring ideas for this

goal-setting session to produce a plan that raises our profile within SEJ and enhances our influence on the frontiers of environmental journalism.

**Moderator:**

**David Poulson**, Associate Director, Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, Michigan State University

**3. DUST-UP OVER DITCHES AND OTHER WATER ISSUES**

**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 18

Are EPA's new water regulations a "power grab" over farmers' drainage ditches and ponds, or just a clarification of the government's existing authority to protect streams and wetlands? **Ellen Gilinsky**, senior policy advisor to EPA's Office of Water, will talk about the rules and the pushback. Here's your chance to quiz a real live EPA official, on the record, on this and other water-related issues.

**Moderator:**

**Tim Wheeler**, Reporter, *The Baltimore Sun*

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2**

**1:45 - 3:00 p.m.**

✦ **THE CRAFT 1  
FREELANCE PITCH SLAM**



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 4

Tired of waiting for editors to reply to your pitches? Wish the story-selling process could be more informative? Wondering how to break in? Join seasoned freelancers and newcomers alike at SEJ's annual pitch slam, where journalists put their best one-minute queries to a panel of editors. Benefit from the editors' critiques, explaining why — or why not — the story could work for their publication. They also offer tips for improving the pitch and information about which sections of their publication are open to freelancers and what they pay. Present your own pitch and you might just walk away with an assignment.

**Moderator:**

**Peter Fairley**, Freelance Energy/Environment Journalist

**Speakers:**

**Scott Dodd**, Editor, OnEarth.org

**Robert Kunzig**, Senior Environment Editor, *National Geographic*

**April Reese**, Associate Editor, *Discover Magazine*

**Peter Thomson**, Environment Editor, The World-PRI/BBC (invited)

**THE CRAFT 2**  
**BETTER REPORTING THROUGH SMARTPHONES**



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 10  
Find yourself in the field with this new gadget and wondering how to make it work for your reporting agenda? Join your fellow SEJ'ers as we talk techie and geek out with gearheads to learn some tips for better audio, video and social media reporting via smartphone.

**Moderator:**  
**Ashley Ahearn**, Environment Reporter, KUOW - NPR (Seattle)

**Speakers:**  
**Andrew Boyd**, Photo/Video Manager, NOLA.com | *The Times-Picayune*

**Adam Glenn**, Educator, Graduate School of Journalism, City University of New York; Digital Media Consultant, a2g Media; Editor, *SEJournal*, Society of Environmental Journalists; Editor, AdaptNY

**THE CRAFT 3**  
**COLLABORATION: MARRYING ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH WITH ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM**



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 13  
Learn how journalism and mass communication faculty members and researchers can assist investigations into environmental problems and policies. The panel will explore strategies for environmental journalism faculty to collaborate with non-journalism faculty in the sciences and environmental studies on mutually beneficial research, grant proposals, projects, curriculum, professional development and instruction.

**Moderator:**  
**Eric Freedman**, Director, Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, Michigan State University

**Speakers:**  
**Sharon Friedman**, Professor and Director, Science and Environmental Writing Program, Department of Journalism and Communication, Lehigh University  
**Michael Kodas**, Associate Director, Center for Environmental Journalism, University of Colorado Boulder  
**Juliet Pinto**, Associate Professor, School of Journalism & Mass Communication, Florida International University

**OCEANS AND COASTS**  
**THE BP SPILL'S UNTOLD ECOLOGICAL TOLL**



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 7  
What environmental harm really came of the millions of barrels of crude leaked from BP's runaway well into the Gulf of Mexico? Four years after the Deepwater Horizon disaster, a robust research effort is under way to answer that important question. Scientists will discuss what we know and don't know about one of the nation's largest oil spills.

**Moderator:**  
**Matthew Tresaugue**, Environment Reporter, *Houston Chronicle*

**Speakers:**  
**Lucinda Jacobs**, President and Principal Aquatic Scientist (BP consultant), Integral Consulting Inc.

**Natalie Peyronnin**, Director of Science Policy, Mississippi River Delta Restoration Campaign, Environmental Defense Fund

**Lori Schwacke**, Chief, Oceans and Human Health Branch, Hollings Marine Laboratory, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**THE LAND**  
**LEVEE SAFETY AND FLOOD RISK: NEW RULES FOR NEW FLOODS**



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 12



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Levees aren't what they used to be. The Army Corps and FEMA are working together as never before to manage the risk to communities behind levees, and to better explain those risks to the public. This could increase costs for flood protection and bring new land development restrictions. But is it enough? This panel explains new developments in floodplain management and flood insurance and looks at what's ahead.

**Moderator:**

**Matt Weiser**, Senior Writer, *The Sacramento Bee*

**Speakers:**

**Tammy Conforti**, Levee Safety Program Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Windell Curole**, General Manager, South Lafourche Levee District

**David Rogers**, Karl F. Hasselmann Chair in Geological Engineering, Department of Geological Sciences & Engineering, Missouri University of Science & Technology

**POLLUTION**  
**WHAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT CHEMICALS MAY HURT US**



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 6

When the water supply of 300,000 West Virginians was contaminated by a spill this year, scientists and government officials knew little about the potential health effects of the chemical. How can we as journalists make sense of this for our audience? Where can we go for information on health effects? Why is there so little data on many chemicals? What are industries and government agencies doing to give the public the information they need? We'll include some background and an update on the Toxic Substances Control Act.

**Moderator:**

**Marla Cone**, Editor-in-Chief, Environmental Health News

**Speakers:**

**Wendy Cleland-Hamnett**, Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Richard Denison**, Lead Senior Scientist, Environmental Defense Fund

**Scott Masten**, Director, Office of Nominations and Selection, National Toxicology Program Division, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (invited)

**Andrew Whelton**, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering and Environmental and Ecological Engineering, Purdue University

**ENERGY**  
**NUCLEAR POWER IN FUKUSHIMA'S WAKE**



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 9

Seen by proponents as a promise and opponents as a peril, nuclear power and its global prospects have fundamentally changed after the triple meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Or have they? Nations like Germany and Italy have decided to give up on the atom altogether, while others such as the U.S. and Japan and developing economies like China and Vietnam have decided to stick with their nuclear energy programs. Amid tightening safety rules, increasing competition from currently cheaper natural gas and elevated concerns over greenhouse gases, the panelists will discuss the outlook and issues for nuclear power in the U.S. and abroad.

**Moderator:**

**James Simms II**, Freelance Writer/Television and Radio Commentator

**Speakers:**

**Steven Kraft**, Senior Technical Advisor, Nuclear Energy Institute

**Dave Lochbaum**, Director, Nuclear Safety Project, Union of Concerned Scientists

**Hannah Northey**, Energy Reporter, Greenwire  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission representative TBA

**THE GLOBE**  
**SKATING ON THIN ICE:**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE AT THE POLES**



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 3

Currently observed rates of environmental change are unprecedented. Though changing climates have historically changed social and economic structures, the current rates

pose especially novel challenges in polar regions, where temperature increases have been three times greater than the global average. Melting ice will affect industry, trade, ecosystems, and Arctic communities. Speakers in this session will discuss local to global effects of polar warming, and identify some of the most important issues to be resolved.

**Moderator:**

**Sunshine Menezes**, Executive Director, Metcalf Institute for Marine & Environmental Reporting, Office of Marine Programs, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island

**Speakers:**

**Melanie Bahnke**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kawerak, Inc.

**Marilyn Heiman**, Director, U.S. Arctic Program, The Pew Charitable Trusts

**Tatiana Rynearson**, Associate Professor of Oceanography, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island

❖ **BEVERAGE BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS**

**3:00 - 3:15 p.m.**

**Location:** Grand Salon

❖ **KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR SALLY JEWELL

**3:15 - 4:15 p.m.**

**Location:** Grand Ballroom

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will join us in person this year. Secretary Jewell plans to speak about Interior's efforts to address climate change, and how the agency's stewardship of healthy lands, water and wildlife strengthens the nation's economy. Following her presentation, she'll take questions from the audience.

**Facilitator:**

**Randy Loftis**, Environmental Writer, *The Dallas Morning News*

❖ **SEJ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**4:30 - 5:30 p.m.**

**Location:** Grand Ballroom

All are welcome. Members of the Society of Environmental Journalists, please attend for brief reports, discussion and an election to fill open seats on the SEJ Board of Directors. Non-members are invited to browse exhibits in the Grand Salon.

❖ **BEAT DINNERS 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Back to the scene of the crime... SEJ's beat dinners began at the New Orleans conference in 2003 and they've remained popular ever since. Consult your Beat Dinner flyer in your conference packet, or the web agenda, for details. Space may still be available on some dinners. Check at the SEJ Information Table.

❖ **SATURDAY** ❖

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2014**

*As a journalism organization that believes in an open society, SEJ each year welcomes a diverse group of attendees to our annual conference. Attendees include representatives of business, government and environmental groups, as well as working journalists, academics and students.*

*Because non-journalists are here, you may see or hear presentations or responses to presentations that you might not expect from mainstream journalists. The presentations and any responses do not necessarily reflect the views of SEJ or any of its members.*

*As our guest, please respect our interest in open discussions of environmental issues by not disrupting presentations of views you disagree with.*

*Finally, please respect our rule that SEJ members are given preference during question-and-answer sessions.*

*All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will be at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, Two Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, (504) 561-0500, unless otherwise indicated.*

*Breakfast on your own in the Big Easy. The River Blends Café, located in the Hilton, opens at 6:00 a.m. Le Croissant, also in the Hilton, opens at 6:30 a.m. Numerous other options are within walking distance of the Hilton. Check your registration packet for a list of restaurants and breakfast suggestions.*

❖ **REGISTRATION 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Location:** 1st Floor Registration Counters

*(across from escalators in the conference area)*

If you didn't sign up ahead of time for the Saturday night party or Sunday breakfast at the Audubon Zoo, there may still be room — please check with registration.

❖ **SEJ INFORMATION TABLE 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Location:** Chemin Royale Foyer, near registration

Sign up here for Mini-tours. Find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services. Pick up copies of *SEJournal* and other SEJ information.

❖ **SEJ EXHIBITS 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Location:** Grand Salon, 1st Floor

Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2014 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, educational opportunities, see some great displays and add to your source list.

❖ **BOOKSTORE 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Location:** Chemin Royale Foyer

New Orleans' own Octavia Books is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

❖ **VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY DEMO**

Sign up in Chemin Royale foyer to test-drive new technology in the auto industry and to talk with experts.



## CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3

9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

### THE CRAFT 1 WHEN THE BIG STORY BREAKS ON YOUR WATCH — PRYING INFORMATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 4

We've all been there: A big environmental story breaks and you're scrambling, and you are not getting cooperation from the EPA or the FDA or some other agency. Find out what reporters who covered some of the biggest breaking stories did when they handled the Deepwater Horizon and the explosion in West, Texas. If you have your own tips, feel free to share!

**Moderator:**

**Robert McClure**, Executive Director, InvestigateWest

**Speakers:**

**Randy Lee Loftis**, Environmental Writer, *The Dallas Morning News*

**Lise Olsen**, Investigative Reporter, *Houston Chronicle*

**Barbara Reynolds**, Director, Division of Public Affairs, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### THE CRAFT 2 CROWDSOURCING AND SENSORS: CITIZEN SCIENCE TOOLS FOR JOURNALISM



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 10

While there has been a lot of focus on citizen journalism, advances in technology are making it ever easier and cheaper for journalists of all stripes to adopt the tools of citizen science to improve environmental coverage. The advance of sensors and other data collection tools has enabled reporters and communities, including those in the Gulf, to engage in civic

monitoring, and has the potential to radically localize and decentralize the gathering of data on pollution and environmental health. Crowdsourcing now enables journalists and media organizations to get news and information from many more sources, annotate it and create new media platforms that engage the public on climate change and other issues. We've brought together leading innovators who are using tools and data from NASA, NOAA, USGS, EPA, Silicon Valley and the general public to try and revolutionize how we cover the environment.

**Moderator:**

**James Fahn**, Executive Director, Internews' Earth Journalism Network and Lecturer, Graduate School of Journalism, University of California, Berkeley

**Speakers:**

**Shannon Dosemagen**, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Public Lab

**Adam Glenn**, Educator, Graduate School of Journalism, City University of New York; Digital Media Consultant, a2g Media; Editor, *SEJournal*, Society of Environmental Journalists; Editor, AdaptNY

**Julia Kumari Drapkin**, Executive Producer, iSeeChange and Multimedia Reporter/Producer, NOLA.com | *The Times-Picayune*

**Willie Shubert**, Senior Program Coordinator, Internews' Earth Journalism Network

### THE CRAFT 3 MAKING SUSTAINABILITY STICK: COMMUNICATING COMPLEX TOPICS WITHOUT LOSING YOUR AUDIENCE



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 13

Sustainable seafood, sustainable cities and even sustainable laundry detergent? The word "sustainable" has been so greenwashed, it's hard to know what it even means. How do we define it and why is it worth covering? From food systems to climate change to biodiversity, three reporters will share secrets they've learned about covering sustainability topics on the radio, in print and online. They'll reveal why sustainability coverage is not only important, it's still one of the richest types of environmental journalism.

**Moderator:**

**Lindsey Hoshaw**, Coordinating Producer, QUEST

**Speakers:**

**Cally Carswell**, Contributing Editor, *High Country News*

**Brian Howard**, Editor & Producer, NationalGeographic.com

**Lauren Sommer**, Science and Environment Reporter, KQED

## OCEANS AND COASTS

### BP SPILL — THE RESTORATION: HOW ARE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS BEING SPENT?



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 7

Billions of dollars in criminal and civil fines have been dedicated to restoration projects following the 2010 BP oil spill. In this panel, we will discuss the status of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment investigations and projects, and ask critical questions about how that money should be prioritized and spent. Our expert group represents a variety of viewpoints on this subject.

**Moderator:**

**Kate Sheppard**, Senior Reporter and Environment and Energy Editor, The Huffington Post

**Speakers:**

**Justin Ehrenwerth**, Executive Director, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

**Michelle Erenberg**, Policy Analyst, Ocean Conservancy

**Kyle Graham**, Executive Director, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, State of Louisiana

**Tanner Johnson**, Director, Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

**Colette Pichon Battle**, Director and Attorney, Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy

## THE LAND

### BEYOND THE WATER WARS



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 12

Epic drought in California, increasing aridity in the southwest, depletion of the High Plains aquifer, water strife in the wet east. How can journalists move beyond the political rhetoric of “water wars,” toward helping their audiences

understand scarcity and solutions? We’ll explore covering freshwater in ways that expose underlying climate and water-management truths, as well as equity issues on water for industry, agriculture, ecosystems — and us, the public. We’ll also show off some new tools for reporting on the state of our surface waters and the aquifers beneath our feet.

**Moderator:**

**Cynthia Barnett**, Author, “Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.,” “Blue Revolution: Unmaking America’s Water Crisis” and “Rain: A Natural and Cultural History” (forthcoming, April 2015)

**Speakers:**

**Jay Famiglietti**, Senior Water Scientist, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Professor of Earth System Science, School of Physical Sciences, University of California, Irvine

**Christiana Peppard**, Assistant Professor of Theology, Science and Ethics, Fordham University and Author, “Just Water: Theology, Ethics and the Global Water Crisis”

**Matt Weiser**, Senior Writer, Environment and Natural Resources, *The Sacramento Bee*

## POLLUTION

### CLEANING UP THE AIR AND CARBON TOO



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 6

Disputes brought by industry, environmental advocates and the states challenging Clean Air Act rules are a rich source for news stories. Join us in a discussion about the potential legal issues of the Obama administration’s proposal to regulate GHGs from power plants and recent court decisions in Clean Air Act cases involving GHG permits for stationary sources and EPA efforts to address air pollution that crosses state lines, reduce mercury and other air toxics, implement stricter air quality standards and enforce existing rules. Learn from panelists the broad implications of these rules on state governments, the economy and the environment, plus what legal issues, unresolved or new, must be sorted out.

**Moderator:**

**Carolyn Whetzel**, Staff Correspondent, Bloomberg BNA

**Speakers:**

**Richard Alonso**, Environmental Strategies Group, Bracewell & Giuliani LLP

**Vicki Arroyo**, Executive Director, Georgetown Climate Center, Georgetown Law

**William Becker**, Executive Director, National Association of Clean Air Agencies

**Vickie Patton**, General Counsel, Environmental Defense Fund

## ENERGY

### TURNING TREES INTO WOOD PELLETS: BIOMASS ENERGY AND SOUTHERN FOREST HEALTH



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 9

Ambitious goals set in Europe for reducing greenhouse gas emissions have led to a huge increase in shipments of wood pellets used to fuel power plants that once burned coal. Much of that wood is coming from North America, especially the southeastern United States where forests are plentiful and regulations are lax. But can the region's forests sustain the demand from Europe? And what will be the effects on wildlife habitat, water and forest resources?

**Moderator:**

**Bruce Ritchie**, Editor, FloridaEnvironments.com

**Speakers:**

**Janaki Alavalapati**, Professor and Head, Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, College of Natural Resources and Environment, Virginia Tech

**Seth Ginther**, Executive Director, U.S. Industrial Pellet Association and Attorney/Co-Managing Partner, Energy and Infrastructure Group, Hirschler Fleischer

**Danna Smith**, Executive Director, Dogwood Alliance

provides vital insights into health effects of chemical exposure. Given that children's health is of universal concern, efforts to protect children's health have also been a driver of public policy. From a journalism perspective, it also offers an answer to the perennial editorial question of "Why would our audience care?" On this panel, leading experts in environmental health science and policy will discuss cutting-edge issues in children's environmental health, highlighting stories that need telling and new ways of engaging the public on these issues.

**Moderator:**

**Elizabeth Grossman**, Freelance Journalist

**Speakers:**

**Rhithu Chatterjee**, Reporter, PRI's The World

**Bruce Lanphear**, Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University

**John McLachlan**, Celia Scott Weatherhead and Albert J. Weatherhead III Distinguished Chair in Environmental Studies; Professor, Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine; and Adjunct Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, School of Science and Engineering, Tulane University

**Nsedu Witherspoon**, Executive Director, Children's Environmental Health Network

## BEVERAGE BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS

**10:15 - 10:45 a.m.**

**Location:** Grand Salon

## VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY DEMO

Last day for test-drive. Sign up in Chemin Royale foyer.

## THE GLOBE

### CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: LATEST TRENDS



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 3

Because children are uniquely vulnerable to environmental contaminants, research into children's environmental health

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS 4

10:45 a.m. - Noon

### THE CRAFT 1 ARE THOSE YOUR JAMMIES? WRITER/EDITOR RELATIONSHIPS IN THE WIFI AGE



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 4

Remember that great scene in “All the President’s Men” when Ben Bradlee shouts “Woodstein!” to his intrepid reporters typing away in the middle of the newsroom? Nowadays he’d Gchat or Skype with them instead. As more newsrooms go virtual and freelancers work with editors they’ve only ever met via email or a webcam, how is the relationship between journalism professionals changing, and does it affect the way we’re keeping readers informed? Learn some smart strategies that disconnected reporters and editors can use to keep in touch and develop a strong virtual working relationship. Bonus: Find out which of our intrepid panelists can spend a whole day working without ever taking off the sweatpants.

**Moderator:**

**Scott Dodd**, Editorial Director, Natural Resources Defense Council

**Speakers:**

**Lindsey Konkol**, Staff Writer, Environmental Health News

**Timothy Morris**, Metro News Manager, NOLA.com | *The Times-Picayune*

**Michelle Nijhuis**, Independent Journalist

### THE CRAFT 2 SEED-BY-SEED: FUNDING THE FREELANCE LIFE



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 10

Join two accomplished freelance journalists as they share their experiences pursuing stories about the environment and finding the editors and organizations — both in the US and internationally — to help fund those stories. Learn about collaborative funding, subscriber driven, nonprofit sources, grants, fellowships, book publishing, speaking, and new long-form publishing models. Look also for truth talk about the Venn diagram of freelancing, where some projects are for money, some for prestige, and some for passion. It’s OK to support your journalism habit with other forms of research, editing, teaching, or writing — as long as you make careful ethical decisions about each project. Joining smaller writers’ groups online also helps for brainstorming, resources, and editor-contact sharing. Bird-by-bird is how the stories get written. Seed-by-seed is how we financially feed the precarious life of a freelance journalist.

**Presenters:**

**Erica Gies**, Freelance Environmental Journalist

**Meera Subramanian**, Independent Journalist

### THE CRAFT 3 ENVIRONMENT JOURNALISM REVOLUTION IN THE CLASSROOM



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 13

Innovative academics are making a revolution when it comes to teaching environmental journalism. Hear how journalism professors in small and large programs are using technology to train students for multi-platform environmental journalism. Also, learn how academics are using new media for both reporting and for providing an outlet for student work. This is a “grab bag” session that will also explore field trips for fledgling environmental reporters, experiences that include scaling power plants, zip-lining through the rain forest, kayaking rivers or just wading through the local creek. Bring your own tips and ideas for a revolutionary exchange on what’s happening now in environmental journalism instruction.

**Moderator:**

**Don Corrigan**, Professor of Media Law, Global and Environmental Journalism, Department of Communications and Journalism, Webster University - St. Louis

**Speakers:**

**Annie-Laurie Blair**, Freelance Journalist and Clinical Professor of Journalism, Miami University of Ohio

**Marc Seamon**, Assistant Professor of Journalism, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Youngstown State University

**Sara Shipley Hiles**, Freelance Journalist and Assistant Professor, School of Journalism, University of Missouri

**Robert Wyss**, Associate Professor of Journalism, Department of Journalism, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Connecticut

## OCEANS AND COASTS BP SPILL — THE PEOPLE: HEALTH STUDIES AND CLAIMS PROGRAMS



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 7

We'll examine the NIEHS worker study, other health studies, creation of clinics by claims program, status of health claims payments and more.

**Moderator:**

**Rebecca Catalanello**, Health Reporter, NOLA.com | *The Times-Picayune*

**Speakers:**

**George Barisich**, President, United Commercial Fishermen's Association and Board Member, Louisiana Shrimp Association

**James Diaz**, Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, and Program Director, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Program, Health Sciences Center, School of Public Health, Louisiana State University

**Emily Harville**, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Tulane University

**Patrick Juneau**, Attorney and Claims Administrator, BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

## THE LAND EVERGLADES RESTORATION UPDATE: BILLIONS SPENT, BUT WILL IT DO ANY GOOD?



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 12

Once hailed as the largest ecosystem restoration in history, the Everglades Restoration has run into bureaucratic bungling, budgetary shortfalls and political grandstanding. Yet it's beginning to show some progress in repairing the River of Grass — amid questions about whether climate change could make it all moot.

**Moderator:**

**Craig Pittman**, Reporter, *St. Petersburg Times*

**Speakers:**

**John Adornato III**, Regional Director, Sun Coast Regional Office, National Parks Conservation Association and former Co-Chair, Everglades Coalition

**Nicholas Aumen**, Regional Science Advisor - South Florida, U.S. Geological Survey

**Howard Gonzales Jr.**, Ecosystem Branch Chief, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Julie Hill-Gabriel**, Attorney and Director of Everglades Policy, Audubon Florida

## POLLUTION WASTE IN THE 21ST CENTURY



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 6

Exposure to polluted soil, water and air killed 8.4 million people in 2012, according to an analysis using World Health Organization data, more than any other cause of death in the developing world and three times more people than died from HIV, malaria and tuberculosis combined. Yet many of the sources and industrial processes that caused it remain underreported. Experts from both the environmental community and industry will lead a robust discussion of how E-waste, rare earth mining, plastics, oil and gas waste and other sources of pollution present significant and new challenges to air, water, land and health in the years ahead.

**Moderator:**

**Abrahm Lustgarten**, Energy Reporter, ProPublica

**Speakers:**

**Jack Caravanos**, Associate Professor, School of Public Health, Hunter College, City University of New York and Senior Science Advisor, Blacksmith Institute

**Tom Carpenter**, Director of Sustainability Services, Waste Management, Inc.

**Kate Sinding**, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council

**ENERGY**

**OBAMA AIR:** GREENHOUSE GASES, CLEAN COAL, POLLUTION TRADING AND CARBON CAPS



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 9

From the public health impacts of new diseases moving northward to farmers' use of crop insurance to compensate for changes in the conditions for growing food, the impact of fossil fuels on the atmosphere is costing taxpayers billions of dollars. After decades of discounted and subsidized energy, how do we devise a price for carbon which ensures that the consequences of climate change are paid by those responsible, and actually triggers a significant shift away from fossil fuels? We'll consider these and related regulatory and financial questions as we dive into the premier economic challenge of our time.

**Moderator:**

**Mark Schapiro**, Journalist; Author, "Carbon Shock;" Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of Journalism, University of California, Berkeley; and former Senior Correspondent, Center for Investigative Reporting

**Speakers:**

**Gary Gero**, President, Climate Action Reserve

**Patrick Parenteau**, Professor of Law and Senior Counsel, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, Vermont Law School

**Mark Trexler**, Chief Executive Officer, The Climatographers

Go past the politics of climate change and get practical: Learn what's technologically feasible in remaking our energy systems and slowing global warming. Find out what can make our cities and natural areas more resilient to the climate change impacts that are coming. And explore the potential — and risks — of climate engineering on a planetary scale.

**Moderator:**

**Adam Glenn**, Educator, Graduate School of Journalism, City University of New York; Digital Media Consultant, a2g Media; Editor, *SEJournal*, Society of Environmental Journalists; Editor, AdaptNY

**Speakers**

**Doug Beard**, Chief, National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey; Director of Science Activities, Climate Science Centers, U.S. Department of the Interior

**Emmanuel Guerin**, Associate Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network, United Nations; Manager, Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project; Senior Staff Associate, Earth Institute, Columbia University

**Jane Long**, Senior Contributing Scientist, Environmental Defense Fund; Visiting Researcher, University of California, Berkeley; Co-Chair, Task Force on Geoengineering, Bipartisan Policy Center; Chairman, California's Energy Future Committee, California Council on Science and Technology

**Alex Washburn**, Founding Director, Center for Coastal Resilience and Urban Xcellence, Stevens Institute of Technology; Author, "The Nature of Urban Design"

**THE GLOBE**

**CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION, ADAPTATION AND GEOENGINEERING:** WHAT'S BEING DONE, CAN BE DONE, WON'T BE DONE?



**Location:** Grand Salon, Room 3



## LUNCH AND PLENARY SESSION

REAL RISK AND RESILIENCE IN A CLIMATE-CHANGED WORLD

Noon - 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Grand Ballroom

From Katrina to Sandy, polar melting to equatorial desertification, we'll explore how climate change will increase and alter environmental risks in the near future. A panel of experts will discuss governments' and industries' plans to prepare for more frequent and more severe natural disasters, and how to minimize the environmental effects of energy extraction, whether from shale formations or deep drilling in the Gulf, with a special focus on vulnerable coastal cities like New Orleans.

### Moderator:

**John Schwartz**, National Correspondent, *The New York Times*

### Speakers:

**Margaret Davidson**, Senior Advisor for Coastal Inundation and Resilience Science and Services, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Gerald Galloway Jr.**, Research Professor, Glenn L. Martin Institute Professor of Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Maryland

**Major General John Peabody**, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and former Mississippi Valley Division Commander and President, Mississippi River Commission

**David Pritchard**, Successful Energy Practices International and Deepwater Horizon Study

**U.S. Congressman Steve Scalise**, House Majority Whip, Republican, Louisiana (invited)

**U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse**, Democrat, Rhode Island (invited)

## ❖ MINI-TOUR ADVENTURES 2:15 - 5:30 p.m.

Sign up on-site at the SEJ Information Table beginning Wednesday afternoon for SEJ's popular mini-tours. Consult your Mini-tour flyer in your conference packet for details. Additional flyers are available at the SEJ Information Table.

**Departure:** Buses will stage and depart from the Hilton New Orleans Riverside just outside from SEJ Registration on Side Drive. Exit through the doors between the Gift Shop and escalators. Buses will line up on Side Drive in numeric order, so note the number of your tour. SEJ staff will be on hand to help you find your bus.



## ❖ SEJ PARTY AT THE ROCK 'N' BOWL

7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Good food and great music help to define all that is New Orleans, and Saturday night we'll have a large portion of both. Join us for a fun night at the legendary Rock 'n' Bowl, where we'll eat some Crawfish Etouffee in what's likely the only place in the country where you can bowl, dance and eat, all at the same time. We'll have ten lanes open for bowling, and rhythm and blues music from the New Orleans Nightcrawlers, a local favorite with a big brass sound. Reflecting the conference theme of Risk and Resilience, the Rock 'n' Bowl not only survived Katrina, but came out of it stronger than ever. Learn their story, and just have a rockin' good time with us Saturday night. **Preregistration and \$35 fee required.**

### Logistics:

Shuttle buses will stage and depart from the Hilton New Orleans Riverside just outside from SEJ Registration on Side Drive beginning about 6:30 p.m. Exit through the doors between the Gift Shop and escalators. Buses will continue to loop between the Hilton and the Rock 'n' Bowl until final bus departs Rock 'n' Bowl at 11:00 p.m.

❖ SUNDAY ❖  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2014



**BREAKFAST AND BOOKS AT THE ZOO**

7:30 a.m. – Noon

6500 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70118  
800-774-7394

**Logistics:** Shuttle buses will stage and depart from the Hilton New Orleans Riverside just outside from SEJ Registration on Side Drive beginning at 7:30 a.m. Exit through the doors between the Gift Shop and escalators. You'll have a choice between an airport bus that will go directly to the airport following conclusion of the program at noon, or a bus that will return to the hotel, also departing at noon.

There is no better venue in New Orleans for our final session than the Audubon Tea Room. Located at the entrance to the Audubon Zoo, the Tea Room offers gleaming wood floors, soaring ceilings and silk drapes — a perfect backdrop while we explore literary pursuits that celebrate the Mighty Mississippi and how the river has tied our country and culture together. The Tea Room is near the river, which has been credited with providing inspiration for writers, poets, singers and wayward travelers for hundreds of years. Enjoy a full Creole-style breakfast before the discussion begins, then enjoy a walk through the world-renowned Audubon Zoo. **Pre-registration and \$25 fee required.**

❖ **BOOKSTORE 9:00 a.m. – Noon**

**Location:** Tea Room

Want something to read on the plane? Last chance to purchase SEJ members' and speakers' books from New Orleans' own Octavia Books.

❖ **BREAKFAST AND WELCOME 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.**

**Location:** Tea Room

❖ **MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND ITS ENVIRONS AUTHORS**

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** Tea Room

The Mississippi River has inspired writers from the days of John James Audubon, Henry David Thoreau and Samuel Clemens to the poets, songwriters, novelists and observers of today. This panel will discuss humanity's attempts to control the great river, with our book authors examining the decisions and consequences of altering the course of the water, and with it, history. Our authors have looked at the river from the headwaters at Lake Itasca, Minnesota, to the Gulf of Mexico as it has suffered disasters both natural and human-made over the centuries.

**Moderator:**

**Mark Neuzil**, Author, "Views on The Mississippi: The Photographs of Henry Peter Bosse"

**Speakers:**

**Richard Campanella**, Professor of Geography, School of Architecture, Tulane University, and Author, "Geographies of New Orleans"

**Oliver Houck**, Professor of Law, Tulane University and Author, "Down on the Batture"

**Christine Klein**, Chesterfield Smith Professor of Law, Levin College of Law, University of Florida; and Author, "Mississippi River Tragedies: A Century of Unnatural Disaster" and "Natural Resources Law: A Place-Based Book of Problems and Cases"

❖ **ZOO TOURS**

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Zoo staff will explain tour options during breakfast.

❖ **SO YOU WANT TO WRITE A BOOK?**

11:00 a.m. - Noon

**Location:** Tea Room

Join successful authors and an environmental book publisher for frank discussion about the ins and outs of book publishing, including navigating agents, choosing a publisher, considering an ebook and figuring out a marketing plan. You'll hear what publishers are looking for, and not looking for, and what all a book query should include. Finally, if time allows, they'll hear a few pitches.

**Moderator:**

**Dan Fagin**, Associate Professor and Director of the Science, Health and Environmental Reporting Program, New York University, and Author, "Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation," 2014 Pulitzer Winner for General Nonfiction

**Speakers:**

**Cynthia Barnett**, Author, "Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.," "Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis" and "Rain: A Natural and Cultural History" (forthcoming, April 2015)

**Sharon Guynup**, Freelance Journalist and Author, "Tigers Forever: Saving the World's Most Endangered Big Cat"

**Joni Praded**, Senior Editor, Chelsea Green Publishing Company

NOON: CONFERENCE ADJOURNS.  
**Board bus to airport or back to hotel.**  
**See you next year!**



The Society of Environmental Journalists is grateful to all whose financial support and personal efforts made this conference possible.

- ✦ **MAJOR GRANTS TO UNDERWRITE ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM 2014** and other work to strengthen media coverage of Gulf Coast issues were provided by:
  - The Walton Family Foundation**
  - blue moon fund**
  
- ✦ **ADDITIONAL GRANTS** supporting this conference were provided by:
  - Orange County Community Foundation**
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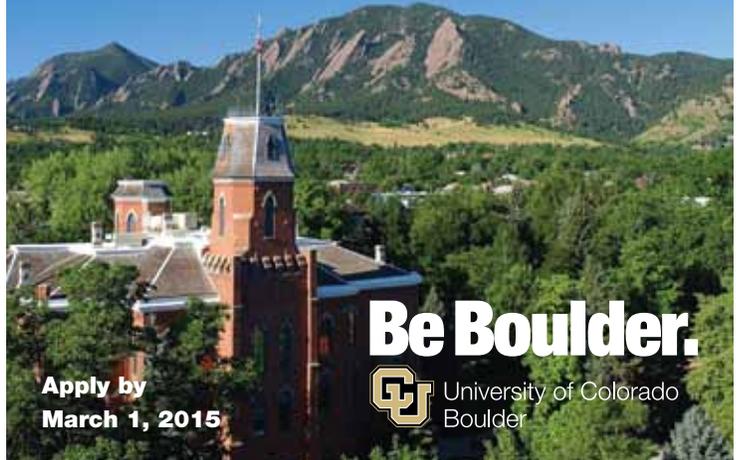
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