

## **“Forests for Fish” MSAF Spring Conference Presenter Biographies**



**James Dexter**

**Fisheries Division Chief, Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

[DexterJ1@michigan.gov](mailto:DexterJ1@michigan.gov)

Jim Dexter has worked for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Division since 1987. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries Management from Michigan State University (MSU). Jim began his career with the DNR as a fisheries habitat biologist in Plainwell and held that position until his promotion to Unit Manager in 1999. Jim supervised the Southern Lake Michigan Management Unit for two years before his promotion to the Lake Michigan Basin

Coordinator, a position he held until his appointment as Fisheries Division Chief in May 2013. Previous to the DNR, Jim worked in several fisheries positions throughout the Midwest and east coast. These included seasonal positions in Indiana, and technician positions for MSU and the Shenandoah National Park. Since becoming Fisheries Chief, Jim has a renewed appreciation of the extent of public passion for aquatic resources. Jim continues to live in Plainwell and enjoys fly fishing small trout streams and BBQ.



**Dr. Casey Huckins**

**Professor of Biological Sciences**

**Michigan Technological University**

[cjhuckin@mtu.edu](mailto:cjhuckin@mtu.edu)

Dr. Casey Huckins is a Professor of Biological Sciences at Michigan Technological University in the Great Lakes Research Center. He is an ecologist and biologist with professional experience focused on aquatic community ecology, ecosystem monitoring, ecology and control of invasive species, effects of watershed degradation on stream systems; and the biology of fish and aquatic organisms in lakes, rivers, and marine systems. After working for 3 years as a marine ecologist at the Smithsonian Institution, he earned his PhD at Michigan State University and was a Post-doctoral Lecturer at the University of Florida before coming to Michigan Tech in 1998.



**George Madison**

**Fisheries Manager, Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

[MADISONG@michigan.gov](mailto:MADISONG@michigan.gov)

George Madison began his career in fisheries management 39 years ago, working in 1978 and 1979 as a summer intern for the Hiawatha National Forest in Munising. Following his stints with the Forest Service, George worked as a summer-worker park ornithologist with the Cape Cod National Seashore and then as a fall-winter fisheries seasonal worker for the National Park Service in the northwest Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. George returned to the Forest Service in Munising and worked till 1986 when he was hired by the Michigan DNR Fisheries Division at the Rose Lake field station in Lansing. In 1987 George transferred to the Escanaba DNR

office as a management biologist. He later transferred to the Baraga Customer Service Center where he remains working today. George and his wife live in a small log cabin tucked in the woods north of L'Anse. They enjoy operating a little hobby farm, fishing, kayaking, snow skiing, and participating in all of the outdoor recreational opportunities that the UP offers.



**Mark Fedora**  
**Ottawa National Forest, Ironwood, Michigan**  
[mfedora@fs.fed.us](mailto:mfedora@fs.fed.us)

Mark is a Supervisory Hydrologist for the Ottawa National Forest, managing the botany, fisheries, soil, water and wildlife programs. He has worked for the Forest Service for 27 years, with a focus on fish passage at road/stream crossings. He holds an MS in Forest Engineering from Oregon State

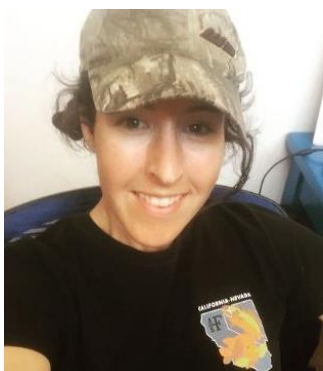
University and a BS in Forest Resources from the University of Minnesota. His wife teaches silviculture at Gogebic Community College and his two daughters are currently attending the University of Wisconsin, Madison.



**Bill Racine P.E.**  
**Environmental Manager**  
**Verso Escanaba LLC**  
[William.racine@versoco.com](mailto:William.racine@versoco.com)

Bill is the Environmental Manager at the Verso Escanaba, Michigan Paper Mill. He is responsible for overseeing all environmental aspects of the mill including potable water, wastewater, storm water, groundwater, solid and hazardous waste, air compliance, beneficial use, and recycling. He has been working at the Escanaba Mill for 17 years. Bill is originally

from the Ontonagon area and graduated in 1995 with a B.S. in Environmental Engineering from Michigan Tech University. He worked in environmental consulting in Green Bay, Wisconsin for six years prior to joining to the mill.



**Elizabeth Montgomery**  
**PhD Forest Science Student, MTU**  
[amontgom@mtu.edu](mailto:amontgom@mtu.edu)

Elizabeth Montgomery is a PhD Forest Science graduate student at Michigan Technological University, currently in her first semester. Previously, she earned her M.S. degree in Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University. While earning this degree online, she worked in the outskirts of Los Angeles as a field biologist in the Santa Monica Mountains. There, she wrote a Community Wetland Restoration grant and managed a project to bring 200 LAUSD school students to Topanga State Park to plant trees, reforest riparian forests, and improve habitat for the locally endangered steelhead trout. Elizabeth is

originally from Wausau, WI and completed her undergraduate degree in Political Science and Environmental Studies at Grinnell College, IA.



**Mitch Koetje**  
**Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**  
**Water Resources Division, UP District Office**  
[koetjem@michigan.gov](mailto:koetjem@michigan.gov)

Mitch Koetje is an Environmental Quality Analyst with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) Water Resources Division. Mitch is a graduate of the Grand Valley State University Natural Resources Management Program. During his 14 years with the DEQ Mitch has administered the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC), Construction Site Storm Water, Non-Point Source Pollution Control, and

Industrial Site Storm Water Programs for seven eastern Upper Peninsula counties. He also served 10 years as the DEQ Project Manager for the Dead River Flood Recovery effort following the 2003 failure of a recently installed flood control safety device in northwestern Marquette County.



**Patrick Riley**  
**Forester, Weyerhaeuser**  
**Michigan Operations- L'Anse, MI**  
[Patrick.riley@weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:Patrick.riley@weyerhaeuser.com)

Patrick Riley is a Forester 4 for Weyerhaeuser Corporation formerly Plum Creek Timber, out of the L'Anse, Michigan office. He assists with harvesting activities including harvest layout, permitting, road building, inventory management, and log merchandizing / grading. After graduating from UW-Stevens Point in 2004 with a BS in Forestry Management and minor in GIS, he was hired on with Plum Creek Timber which in 2016 merged with and became Weyerhaeuser. He spent the first five years of his career managing company lands in northern Wisconsin and the last seven years in the Upper Peninsula.



**Dr. Amy Marcarelli**  
**Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences**  
**Michigan Technological University**  
[ammarcar@mtu.edu](mailto:ammarcar@mtu.edu)

Dr. Amy Marcarelli is an aquatic ecosystem ecologist, and has been a faculty member in Biological Sciences at Michigan Technological University since 2009. Her expertise lies in nutrient cycling and energy flow in stream, river and shallow lake ecosystems. Her research program and interests range from terrestrial-stream-lake interactions, to understanding the ecological role of small nutrient fluxes, to ecosystem insights on restoration and invasive species management.



**Danielle Shannon**  
**USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub Coordinator**  
**Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, Houghton MI**  
[dshannon@mtu.edu](mailto:dshannon@mtu.edu)

Danielle Shannon is a specialist at the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS), the USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub, and Michigan Tech; located in Houghton, MI. She has a B.S. in Environmental Chemistry from SUNY Oswego, NY; and a M.S. in Forest Hydrology and Watershed Management from the University of Minnesota. Danielle specializes in climate change science delivery and outreach related to climate change adaptation for forests and natural resources across the Midwest and Northeast region.



**Brian Sugden**  
**Forest Hydrologist, Weyerhaeuser**  
[Brian.sugden@weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:Brian.sugden@weyerhaeuser.com)

Brian Sugden is a forest hydrologist for Weyerhaeuser based in Kalispell, Montana and has 25 years of experience working in the industry (with both Plum Creek and now Weyerhaeuser). He has a B.S. in Forest Engineering ('90), and an M.S. in Forest Hydrology ('92), both from the University of Washington. Over his career, he has had an opportunity to work with company foresters across the country on the design and implementation forestry BMP programs for water quality protection. He has also conducted research on the effectiveness of BMPs and SMZs related to road sediment delivery to streams, SMZ effectiveness for water temperature control, fish habitat, and dissolved oxygen. A key accomplishment has been the development, implementation, and monitoring of a Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan that guides company land management in western Montana for the protection of bull and cutthroat trout. Brian is an avid trail runner, and is working to improve his Spanish and learn the drums in his spare time.





**Mike Smalligan**

**Forest Stewardship Coordinator, Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

[SmalliganM@michigan.gov](mailto:SmalliganM@michigan.gov)

Mike Smalligan is the Forest Stewardship Coordinator for the DNR, based in the Lansing office. Prior to joining the DNR in 2014, he operated Smalligan Forestry LLC providing consulting forestry services for private forest landowners in the Lower Peninsula from 2008 through 2013. Mike also worked concurrently as a Research Assistant at the MSU Department of Forestry between 2001 and 2013. Mike has been a member of SAF since 2007 when he completed his M.S. in Forestry at MSU. He is the 2017 Chair of the Lower Peninsula Chapter of Michigan SAF, serves on the board of the Michigan Forest Foundation and is the Vice-Chair of the Michigan Tree Farm Committee.



**Andrew Kozich**

**Environmental Science Department Chair**

**Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College**

[andrew.kozich@kbocc.edu](mailto:andrew.kozich@kbocc.edu)

Andrew Kozich has been the Environmental Science Department Chair at Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College since 2011. He completed a Ph.D. in Forest Science in 2016 and a Masters in Environmental Policy in 2009, both from Michigan Technological University. He studies human dimensions of natural resource management, having published research on the management of wetlands, watersheds, and private forests. His current research involves human-water relationships in light of changing environmental conditions.



**Jason Richardson, P.E.**

**Weyerhaeuser Company- Coos Bay, OR**

[Jason.richardson@weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:Jason.richardson@weyerhaeuser.com)

Jason Richardson is the Area Engineer for the Weyerhaeuser Coos Bay Tree Farm in Oregon. He is responsible for overseeing the road infrastructure on a 345,000 Tree Farm. Jason graduated from Oregon State University in 2001 with a B.S. Forest Engineering and then became a licensed Engineer in 2006. He started his career working for Willamette Industries in Dallas, OR working with a team of engineers laying out roads and harvest settings. For the past 15 years Jason has worked for Weyerhaeuser Company in Coos Bay and has led the Coos Bay Engineering team since 2007. In 2015 Jason became the leader of the Weyerhaeuser “Western Timberlands Functional Engineering Team” working with Engineers in Oregon, Washington and Montana on developing best management practices.



**Laura B. Heier**

**Private Forest Management Operations Director**

**Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc.**

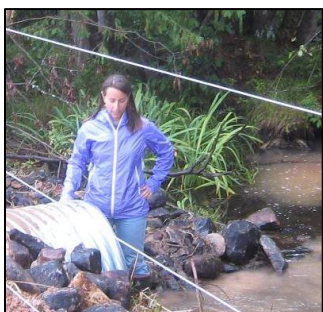
[Laura.Heier@steigerwaldt.com](mailto:Laura.Heier@steigerwaldt.com)

Laura earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management and Urban Forestry from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2009. She is a member of the Society of American Foresters and Association of Consulting Foresters. Laura’s current job duties at Steigerwaldt Land Services include overseeing forest management activities for private landowners. In addition to working with private landowners, Laura has a lead role working on forestry Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation monitoring projects in Minnesota and Michigan. In her free time, Laura enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons on their small hobby farm in Tomahawk, Wisconsin.



**Misa Cady**  
**District Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Marquette Field Office**  
[Misa.cady@mi.usda.gov](mailto:Misa.cady@mi.usda.gov)

Ms. Cady has over 15 years' experience in the field of environmental science and natural resource management. She works directly with the Forestry Assistance Program and the local Conservation Districts to provide conservation outreach, education, and best management recommendations to the private landowners of Marquette and Alger counties. Forest management planning, forest stand improvement, tree plantings, wildlife enhancements, and pollinator plantings are just a few examples of the conservation activities that NRCS can assist in implementing on non-industrial private lands.



**Amy Bastone**  
**Area Engineer, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Marquette Area Office**  
[Amy.Bastone@mi.usda.gov](mailto:Amy.Bastone@mi.usda.gov)

Ms. Bastone has over 15 years' experience in civil engineering and natural resources. As the Area Engineer for NRCS, she provides conservation engineering guidance, technical assistance, and outreach across the U.P. Her work with NRCS has focused largely on stream restoration, livestock watering systems, aquatic organism passage, and aquaculture.



**Bryan Burroughs, Ph.D**  
**Executive Director**  
**Michigan Trout Unlimited**  
[bryanburroughs@michigantutu.org](mailto:bryanburroughs@michigantutu.org)

Bryan Burroughs is Executive Director of Michigan Trout Unlimited. He received his Ph.D. in Fisheries Science from Michigan State University, focusing on stream fisheries and their habitats. In his position, he engages with research, stream enhancement efforts, public engagement, and natural resources policy. Michigan Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect and restore Michigan's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds; the organization has 20 local chapters throughout the state, and approximately 7,500 individual members.