



# 2023 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CLIMATE SUMMIT

## PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Wesley Brooks** ([Wesley.Brooks@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:Wesley.Brooks@eog.myflorida.com))

Dr. Wesley Brooks has served as the Chief Resilience Officer for the state of Florida since November 2021. Previously, he was the Director of Federal Affairs for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for nearly two years, developing and implementing strategies to accomplish legislative and regulatory goals for the state including Clean Water Act 404 assumption, expedited construction of the Everglades projects, and reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act. Before joining state government, he was a senior policy advisor for three members of Florida's Congressional delegation during a six-year stint on Capitol Hill, including for Senator Marco Rubio, where he advised on agriculture, energy, environment, trade, and water resources policy. He earned his B.S. in Biology and B.A. in Political Science from Duke University, and his PhD in Ecological Science from Rutgers University.

**Keeli Carlton** ([kcarlton@mywinterhaven.com](mailto:kcarlton@mywinterhaven.com))

Keeli Carlton is the Water Program Administrator at City of Winter Haven Water Department, with 14 years of career experience between Natural Resources, Water and Education. Ms. Carlton is also the current chair of the Water Use Efficiency Division of the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association and truly strives to be the voice for water resources in Florida. She is a native Floridian, with a deep passion for natural resources and public outreach and education. She graduated from Rollins College in Winter Park Florida with a degree in Environmental Studies/Growth Management.

**Brad Cornell** ([bcornell@audubon.org](mailto:bcornell@audubon.org))

Brad Cornell took the position of Southwest Florida Policy Director for Audubon Florida in 2005, though started directing policy for Audubon of the Western Everglades in 2001. His policy work focuses on land use, wetlands, coastal habitats, and Western Everglades restoration issues with special focus on wetlands and the protection and recovery of imperiled species including the

Florida panther, nesting shorebirds, Wood Storks, and Burrowing Owls. He has degrees from Oberlin College and the University of Texas at Austin.

**Erin Deady ([erin@deadylaw.com](mailto:erin@deadylaw.com))**

Erin Deady, is a president of the law firm of Erin L. Deady, P.A., which specializes in sustainability, climate, environmental, land use, water law and securing grants for clients. Clients include local governments, Special Districts, private sector, agricultural and Tribal entities specializing in climate planning issues, Gulf of Mexico & Everglades Restoration, code development and all types of land use issues as well as Federal and state litigation on energy, water resources management and environmental regulatory matters. Ms. Deady previously served as Environmental Counsel to Audubon of Florida and has worked for the Village of Wellington, the Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection and the SFWMD. She holds a Bachelors from University of Miami, Masters of Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University, as well as a J.D. from Nova Southeastern University's College of Law.

**Natalie De La Torre Salas ([ndelatorresalas@fau.edu](mailto:ndelatorresalas@fau.edu))**

Natalie A. De La Torre Salas is the public archaeology outreach coordinator for Florida Public Archaeology Network's Southwest region. She is certified as a member of the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA), a member of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Women for Disaster Risk Reduction (LAC) and a member of Randell Research Center's Advisory Board. She is also the founder and co-host of the podcast Ecos Patrimoniales which has become a one-of-a-kind online space for people from Latin America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean to share stories about topics related to cultural heritage, archaeology and lessons learned for reducing disaster risk of cultural heritage and communities. She earned her M.A. in Public Archaeology from University College London, UK, and her B.A. in Anthropology from University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus, PR.

**Shannon Estenoz ([tasha\\_l\\_robbins@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov))**

Shannon Estenoz is the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks for the U.S. Department of Interior. Prior, she was most recently the Chief Operating Officer of The Everglades Foundation. Previously, Shannon served as Interior's Director of Everglades Restoration Initiatives and Executive Director of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. Shannon's twenty four-year career in conservation includes roles with the World Wildlife Fund and the National Parks Conservation Association, and appointments by three Florida Governors including to the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District. Shannon is a fifth generation native of Key West, Florida, and holds degrees in International Affairs and Civil Engineering from Florida State University.

**Clyde Fraise, Ph.D ([cfraise@ufl.edu](mailto:cfraise@ufl.edu))**

Clyde Fraise is a Professor at the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department, University of Florida. Dr. Fraise's work experience includes academia and private industry. His extension and applied research program focus on developing and providing climate information and decision support tools to help agricultural producers better cope with risks associated with

climate variability and change. He has a B.S. Dual degree in Civil Engineering and Cartography and a M.Sc. Department of Agricultural Engineering, as well as a Ph.D from the Department of Agricultural and Chemical Engineering at Colorado State University.

**Jennifer Hecker** ([jhecker@chnep.org](mailto:jhecker@chnep.org))

Jennifer Hecker is the Executive Director of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership, part of the US EPA National Estuary Program. She serves as a Science Advisory Committee member to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, as well as the Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee for the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Prior to joining CHNEP, Jennifer was the Director of Natural Resource Policy for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida for 13 years, as well as an environmental scientist for government and the private sector. She holds an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science as well as a graduate degree in Tropical Biology and Conservation, serving on several boards including the Everglades Coalition and the national Great Waters Coalition.

**Nicole Iadevaia** ([niadevaia@chnep.org](mailto:niadevaia@chnep.org))

Nicole Iadevaia currently serves as the Director of Research & Restoration of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP). This role oversees CHNEP's work on research and restoration project management as well as public engagement to protect water resources and habitat in Central and Southwest Florida and serves as the staff liaison to the CHNEP Technical and Citizens Advisory Committees. Her prior experience was in research science, serving as a principal investigator for the Florida Wildlife Research Institute – Fisheries Independent Monitoring and smalltooth sawfish research programs. Her experience in water quality includes project management, data collection and analysis for several surface water quality projects, including stormwater and seagrass monitoring for the EPA NPDES program. Nicole has degrees in ecology and biological anthropology from the University of Colorado.

**Ernesto Lasso de la Vega, Ed.D.** ([lassodelavega@lchcd.org](mailto:lassodelavega@lchcd.org))

Ernesto Lasso de la Vega is the Water Quality Laboratory Manager at the Lee County Hyacinth Control District for more than 30 years, where he works to minimize aquatic weeds in public waters and educate the public to that effect as well. He also has been teaching environmental science, biology, and microbiology at area universities since the early 90s. Ernesto got a Bachelor's in science in biology from the University of Panama, a Master's in science in aquaculture from Auburn University, and an Educational Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from University of Central Florida. He serves as a member of the Citizen and Technical (Co-chair) Advisory Committee of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership and Advisory Board of the Florida Sea Grant.

**Carolina Maran** ([cmaran@sfwmd.gov](mailto:cmaran@sfwmd.gov))

Dr. Carolina Maran, P.E. is the District Resilience Officer with South Florida Water Management District. In her role, she is responsible for advancing the District's resilience planning and projects. Carolina has nearly 20 years of experience working on water resources planning,

management, and regulation; water and climate resiliency; water allocation rules and conflict resolution; hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, decision support systems and GIS. Prior to joining SFWMD, Carolina was the Water Manager at Broward County, worked over 10 years as a Water Resources Specialist for the Federal Water Agency in Brazil, and collaborated with International Organizations as part of technical consulting teams. She holds a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering – Water Resources from Colorado State University and a Master’s Degree in Water Resources Engineering from Parana Federal University in Brazil.

**Sheila McNamara ([smcnamara@cfrpc.org](mailto:smcnamara@cfrpc.org))**

Sheila McNamara serves as the Regional Resiliency Manager for the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, where her responsibilities include working with members of the Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition and community partners on vulnerability assessments and the development of a Regional Resiliency Action Plan. Sheila also serves as a coordinator for the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape. Her more than 25 years of service leadership includes her leading the Sustainability Office for Hillsborough County, FL, sustainability and resiliency strategic planning efforts as the Program Manager for the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Agricultural & Silvicultural Program in Virginia, and being the Director of Hartwick College’s Environmental Campus in New York. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh.

**Bob Nave ([bnave@floridataxwatch.org](mailto:bnave@floridataxwatch.org))**

Bob Nave is a Senior Vice President of Research for Florida TaxWatch, where he provides high-quality, independent research on issues that are important to Florida taxpayers. Prior to joining Florida TaxWatch, Bob spent 27 years with the State of Florida as an executive level policy advisor, developing and executing state policy in the fields of emergency management, growth management, and other topics. As Director of Florida’s Division of Community Planning and Chief of Florida’s Bureau of Local Planning, Bob worked closely with state and local government officials to develop policies designed to implement Florida’s 1985 growth management act. As Director of Florida’s Division of Emergency Management, Bob coordinated response and recovery operations for numerous emergencies, including Hurricane Andrew. Bob received a master’s degree in Urban & Regional Planning from Florida State University.

**Ana Puszkin-Chevlin, Ph.D ([AnaP@GrowingClimateSolutions.org](mailto:AnaP@GrowingClimateSolutions.org))**

Dr. Ana Puszkin-Chevlin is Regional Director of Growing Climate Solutions, a joint initiative of the Collier Community Foundation, Collaboratory, Florida Gulf Coast University, and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. Growing Climate Solutions provides diverse climate education programs and supports climate engagement efforts and research of civic organizations and other NGOs. An urban planner with over 35 years of experience, Ana’s lived in south Florida for 20 years and previously served as the Sustainability Officer for the City of Delray Beach, and as a Senior Research Fellow and Visiting Scholar at Florida Atlantic and Lynn University, where she published and taught on climate and environmental topics. Originally

from New York, she holds a Master's and Ph.D. in Urban Planning from Columbia University, and a BA from Oberlin College.

**Janet Reimer, Ph.D** ([janetr@udel.edu](mailto:janetr@udel.edu))

Dr. Janet Reimer is a Program Co-Coordinator for the Southeast Ocean and Coastal Acidification Network (SOCAN) and a biogeochemist at the University of Delaware working for Dr. Wei-Jun Cai with a focus on coastal acidification, the marine carbonate system, and CO<sub>2</sub> air-sea exchange. Her research focuses on the state of ocean acidification along the South Atlantic Bight shelf, in the coastal region and inland waters of the US Southeast and Gulf of Mexico Regions. Recently, her research has been devoted to long-term increases in surface-water CO<sub>2</sub> and related increasing acidity. She also has expertise in data acquisition and management as well as synthesis projects combining spatial and temporal data.

**Marco Rubio** (<https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>)

Senator Marco Rubio has served Florida since 2010 in the United States Senate and is a member of the Senate Climate Caucus. Senator Rubio is a member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and served as the former Chairman. He is also a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and as Member of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issue, Senator Rubio continues to fight for human rights and to uphold democracy around the globe. Senator Rubio is Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, where he provides oversight over the U.S. government's Intelligence Community and national security apparatus. Additionally, Senator Rubio is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for allocating federal funding.

**Jennifer Shafer, Ph.D** ([jennifer@shaferconsulting.com](mailto:jennifer@shaferconsulting.com))

Jennifer Shafer is co-owner and President of Shafer Consulting with two decades of experience in issues research, analysis, and stakeholder engagement that has led to insightful and creative strategies for protecting the environment. Recent work has focused on Florida red tide impacts and emergency response, local impacts of climate change and sea level rise, stormwater and water quality, and Gulf estuary resource planning and assessments for National Estuary Programs from Mobile Bay to Charlotte Harbor. She also serves as part-time Co-Executive Director of the Science and Environment Council of Southwest Florida, a consortium of 40 science-based environmental organizations. In addition to conducting projects for non-profits, public agencies, advisory groups, and task forces in southwest Florida for over 15 years, she spent a decade practicing fisheries ecology, management, and policy consulting in Hawaii.

**Ed Sherwood** ([esherwood@tbep.org](mailto:esherwood@tbep.org))

Ed Sherwood has served as Tampa Bay Estuaries Program's (TBEP) Executive Director since 2018. He has previously worked as a fisheries and environmental scientist in the region since 2001. Ed is currently responsible for maintaining TBEP's strong interlocal partnership and continuing the bay's science-based restoration and recovery strategies. He directs TBEP's

technical and public outreach initiatives and serves as the primary policy liaison between its many public and private partners. Ed holds a B.S. degree in Marine Biology from the University of West Florida, and a M.S. degree in Marine Fisheries and Ecology from the University of Florida.

**Dawn Shirreffs** ([dshirreffs@edf.org](mailto:dshirreffs@edf.org))

Dawn Shirreffs is the Florida Director based out of Environmental Defense Fund office in St. Petersburg. Environmental Defense Fund. Dawn works with a growing Florida-based team to mobilize key influencers and constituencies to reach and build relationships with members of Congress and key in-state constituencies to develop policy solutions that mitigate climate change threats and build long-term resilience to Florida's communities, economy, and environment. Prior to joining EDF, Dawn held roles at the Miami Foundation, Clean Water Action, National Parks Conservation Association, and the Everglades Foundation working on restoration of America's Everglades. Dawn holds B.A. in Growth Management and Environmental Studies from Rollins College, a M.P.A. from Florida International University, and a Nonprofit Management Executive Certificate from Georgetown University.

**John Stamm, Ph.D.** ([jstamm@usgs.gov](mailto:jstamm@usgs.gov))

John Stamm became a Supervisory Hydrologist with the USGS Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center in 2015. His work focuses on geomorphology and related fields such as fluvial hydrology, sediment transport, stream and wetland restoration, and computer modeling simulations of global climate. He previously served as a faculty member at California State University and Western State College, teaching geomorphology and hydrology. In 2008 he joined the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) South Dakota Water Science Center. His research included dynamical climate modeling, hydrology, and geomorphology. Dr. John Stamm received his B.A. in Geology from the State University of New York, his M.S. in Geology from The Pennsylvania State University, and his Ph.D. in Applied Geology from Kent State University, with his Ph.D. research focusing on downscaling of global climate models to local scales.

**Michael Savarese, Ph.D.** ([msavares@fgcu.edu](mailto:msavares@fgcu.edu))

Michael Savarese is a Professor of Coastal Geology, Climate Resilience, & Preparation within Florida Gulf Coast University's Water School. He has degrees in geoscience with background in coastal geology. Mike's teaching and research interests concern the history of environmental change in coastal settings, particularly in response to human development, climate change, and sea-level rise. Throughout his years at FGCU, he has served as a liaison for scientists and managers, helping ensure best science is made available for decision making.

**Brian Smoliak, Ph.D.** ([brian@twodegreesadapt.com](mailto:brian@twodegreesadapt.com))

Dr. Brian Smoliak is a climate scientist and principal at Two Degrees Adapt, a climate tech consulting firm based in St. Paul, MN. His work involves curating, analyzing, and interpreting climate observations and projections across timescales, scenarios, and applications. Prior to co-founding Two Degrees Adapt, Dr. Smoliak served in corporate R&D roles at NextEra Energy and

The Climate Corporation, academic roles at the University of Minnesota and the University of Washington, and an operational meteorology role at NOAA's National Weather Service. Dr. Smoliak earned the certified consulting meteorologist (CCM) designation from the American Meteorological Society in 2020. He also holds a BS in atmospheric sciences from Creighton University and an MS and PhD in atmospheric sciences from the University of Washington.

**Michael Wehner, Ph.D. ([mfwehner@lbl.gov](mailto:mfwehner@lbl.gov))**

Michael F. Wehner is a senior staff scientist in the Computational Research Division at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Dr. Wehner's research concerns the behavior of extreme weather events in a changing climate, especially heat waves, intense precipitation, drought, and tropical cyclones. Prior, Wehner was an analyst at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, He has authored or co-authored over 250 scientific papers and reports, including being the lead author for the 2013 Fifth and 2021 Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th US National Climate Assessments and is currently a lead author on the 5th US National Climate Assessment. Dr. Wehner has a Master's degree and Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of Delaware.

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