

Community Forum: Harmful Algal Blooms in the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound

Aug. 24, 2019 - Public Presentations: 8:30 am to 11 am
College of the Albemarle, 118 Blades Street, Culinary Arts Building, Edenton, NC

<p>8:30 – 8:40 am Arrival</p> <p>8:40 – 8:50 am Welcome Gloria Putnam, North Carolina Sea Grant</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Overviews</u></p> <p>8:50 – 9:00 am Occurrence & Causes of Blooms Elizabeth Fensin, NC Department of Environmental Quality</p> <p>9:00 – 9:15 am Blooms in the Chowan River & Albemarle Sound Nathan Hall, UNC Institute of Marine Sciences</p> <p>9:15 – 9:30 am Why are Blooms Harmful? Kennedy Holt, NC Department of Health and Human Services</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Responding to Blooms</u></p> <p>9:30 – 9:50 am How to Report Blooms & Fish Kills (Short-term Response) Leigh Stevenson, NC Department of Environmental Quality</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Managing Blooms through Water Quality Programs (Long-term Response) Brian Wrenn, NC Department of Environmental Quality</p> <p>9:50 – 10:00 am <i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Current Research</u></p> <p>10:00 – 10:10 am Nutrients Matter Colleen Karl, Chowan Edenton Environmental Group Nathan Hall, UNC Chapel Hill Institute of Marine Sciences</p> <p>10:10 – 10:20 am Cyanotoxins in Water, Fish & Clams Astrid Schnetzer, North Carolina State University Charlton Godwin, NC Division of Marine Fisheries</p> <p>10:20 – 10:30 am Cyanobacterial Monitoring in the Albemarle Sound via Remote Sensing Chris Holland, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration</p> <p>10:30 – 11:00 am Question & Answer Session</p> <p>11:00 am <i>Forum Adjourned</i></p>	<div style="text-align: center;">      </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; color: blue; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;"><u>Forum and Research-related Website</u></p>
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BIOSKETCHES (in order of agenda)

Gloria Putnam, is an Extension Specialist with North Carolina Sea Grant with over 2 years of experience working on coastal natural resource conservation issues. She has successfully spearheaded collaborative projects that range from citizen based aquatic plant monitoring to leadership training for local elected officials. Most recently she has been working on marine debris and sustainable coastal landscaping initiatives. - Email: gputnam@ncsu.edu

Elizabeth Fensin has been a NC Division of Water Research algal ecologist for over twenty years and loves to talk to people about algae. Her expertise extends from freshwater to marine algal communities. - Email: elizabeth.fensin@ncdenr.gov

Nathan Hall is a phytoplankton ecologist and aquatic biogeochemist who studies the causes, consequences, and prevention strategies for HABs in coastal and inland waters. - Email: nshall@email.unc.edu

Kennedy Holt is a chemical risk assessor for the NC Department of Health and Human Services and responsible for responding to chemical and toxic incidents across the state and determining potential health impacts to people who are exposed during an incident. Mr. Holt, has been a part of North Carolina's public health response to major chemical events such as the Dan River coal ash spill, GenX release into the Cape Fear River, and multiple harmful algal blooms. He routinely assists North Carolinians with understanding how their personal exposures from private wells, indoor environments, and the local environment can affect their health. - Email: Kennedy.Holt@dhhs.nc.gov

Leigh Stevenson is an Environmental Specialist with the North Carolina Division of Water Resources where she coordinates monitoring and response to algal blooms across the state. Prior to joining NC DWR in 2017, Leigh obtained a MS in Environmental Science from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. Leigh also holds a MA in Science Education and a BS in Chemistry from Ball State University. - Email: Leigh.Stevenson@ncdenr.gov

Brian Wrenn is a native North Carolinian with over 23 years of experience in environmental work including 18 years with the NC Division of Water Resources. He has significant experience with many water quality programs including CAFO inspections, spray irrigation and land application inspections, 401 certifications and buffer authorizations, stormwater, and NPDES permitting. He currently supervises the Ecosystems Branch coordinating programs such as algal and aquatic plants, state-wide ambient monitoring system, water quality monitoring coalitions, statistical water quality analysis, quality assurance, and wetlands program development. Email: brian.wrenn@ncdenr.gov

Colleen Karl is a science education specialist working with rural schools, community organizations and North Carolina State University. She currently chairs the Chowan Edenton Environmental Group (CEEG) supporting environmental education and citizen science data collection to guide local management decisions. - Email: ckarl2010@gmail.com

Astrid Schnetzer has studied Harmful Algal Blooms for over 20 years with an emphasis on toxin producers that started with marine taxa and has, since she joined NC State in 2012, expanded to the study of estuarine and freshwater blooms dominated by cyanobacteria. She has expertise in the analyses of algal assemblages, and conducts toxin analyses in water, animal samples and other matrices. She has studied toxin dynamics in the Chowan River since 2017 and has engaged in public forums with stakeholders and concerned citizens in the past. Schnetzer, together with NC Sea Grant, initiated and spearheaded the organization of this forum. - Email: aschnet@ncsu.edu

Charlton Godwin has been with the Division of Marine Fisheries since 2004. Research out of the Elizabeth City field office focuses on monitoring the population status of important recreational and commercial species in the Albemarle Sound and its tributaries, including blue crab, striped bass, white perch, flounder, catfish, river herring, and American shad. Research also includes collecting data on water quality, submerged aquatic vegetation distribution, and shoreline habitat. Charlton is a lifelong resident of Bertie County and lives on the Chowan River just south of Colerain with his wife and children. - Email: charlton.godwin@ncdenr.gov

Chris Holland is an oceanographer working for NOAA's National Ocean Service in Beaufort North Carolina for over 15 years. Chris received his Master's degree in Biological Oceanography from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Chris has been working with the Chowan Edenton Environmental Group for about 3 years, processing chlorophyll a samples from their five stations and helped create the website that uses OLCI satellite images to monitor locations for algal blooms designated by the NOAA HAB program. - Email: Chris.Holland@noaa.gov