

2012 MN AIS Symposium Speaker Biographies

March 19 and 20
Kelly Inn | St. Paul

Tom Casey

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

Tom Casey has been a practicing attorney for over 36 years, focusing on the conservation of natural resources, building sustainable communities, protection of archaeological and historic sites, and renewable energy. He served on Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's Rule-Making Task Force and presently chairs its Citizens Advisory Committee. He also serves on the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts' Policy/Resolutions Committee and is vice president of the West Metro Global Warming Action Group, Inc. Mr. Casey's past community service includes: Metropolitan Council's Permanent Agriculture Task Force; board member of Envision Minnesota (formerly known as 1,000 Friends of Minnesota); Minnesota Land Trust (West Metro Chapter); and the City of Mound Park and Open Space Commission. Mr. Casey is a member of the Environmental, Natural Resources, and Energy Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association.

Eric Dibble

Mississippi State University

Dr. Eric Dibble is a Professor and Fisheries Ecologist in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at Mississippi State University, where he has taught applied aquatic ecology and advanced fisheries ecology for the past 16 years. Eric received his Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas, and his B.S. and M.S. at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He has conducted research on lakes for almost 30 years with emphasis on the relationship between aquatic plants and fish, and its relevance to habitat management and restoration. Prior to his faculty position at MSU, he worked as a research biologist for the U.S. Corps of Engineers in fisheries on their national program on Aquatic Plant Management. He coordinates an international agreement research exchange program between his university, and management agencies in Brazil on the study of aquatic plants and fisheries. Eric has published close to 100 peer-reviewed science papers on his research and along with his students presented hundreds of presentations and workshops on the ecology of fish and plants.

Mark Gaiowski

U.S. Geological Survey

As a research physiologist in the U.S. Geological Survey's Fisheries Management Chemical and Aquaculture Drug team, Mark leads a research work group to describe the efficacy, animal safety and environmental safety of aquaculture drugs that are vital to federal and state efforts to manage the nation's fisheries. As part of the USGS's efforts to increase the availability of safe and effective aquaculture drugs, he serves as the Co-Leader of the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture's National Aquaculture Drug Research Forum (NADRF). He also serves as technical project team co-team leader on its Environmental Effects team and am active in its Efficacy and Target Animal Safety team.

William T. Haller

University of Florida's Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

Dr. William (Bill) Haller holds a B.S. from Cornell University and a PhD in weed science, Agronomy from the University of Florida. He has worked as a professor at Florida since 1974, working in research, teaching and extension within the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the UF. He has been affiliated with the University of Florida's Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants since its formation in 1978, and currently serves as the Acting Center Director. Dr. Haller and graduate students under his direction have published more than 100 scientific journal articles on many aspects of aquatic plant biology and control. He has also developed a zebra mussel control effort in Nebraska, exotic island apple snail control project in Florida and has served on the exotic mussel task force for the Department of Agriculture in Idaho. He has served on the Board of Directors of several state societies, the Aquatic Plant Management Society and the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology.

Timothy J. Keane

Malkerson Gunn Martin LLP

Timothy Keane is an attorney with Malkerson Gunn Martin LLP. He has worked in the legal field since 1983, with affiliations with Leanord Street and Deinard; Larkin, Hoffman, Daly & Lindgren Ltd.; and Scotland Companies. He has practiced primarily in areas of real estate, land use, development, municipal, and eminent domain law. He served as the Director of Planning for the City of Shakopee, a City Planner for the City of Coon Rapids, and a Planning Assistant for the City of Tucson, Arizona. He serves on the boards of the Sensible Land Use Coalition, American Planning Association and has served on a variety of past boards and committees, including the American Institute of Certified Planners and The International Association of Corporate Real Estate Executives.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D)

U.S. Senate

Sen. Amy Klobuchar has represented Minnesota in the U.S. Senate since 2006, when she became the first woman elected to represent Minnesota in the Senate. She recently co-sponsored a bill with Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN) to stop the spread of Asian carp in the Mississippi River. She sits on the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee; Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee; Judiciary Committee; and the joint Economic Committee. Before joining Congress, Klobuchar served as the Hennepin County Attorney for eight years. She graduated from Wayzata High School, the University of Yale and the University of Chicago Law School.

Charles LeFevere

Kennedy & Graven, Chartered

Charles LeFevere is a director in the Minneapolis law firm Kennedy and Graven. He is a 1975 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School. He practices exclusively in the representation of local government clients including cities, economic development authorities, housing and redevelopment authorities, towns, port authorities, and watershed management organizations. Since 1978, he has been the attorney for the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District, which has been very involved in control of AIS.

John D. Madsen

Mississippi State University's Geosystems Research Institute and Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

Dr. John D. Madsen is an Associate Professor of Research and Extension in the Geosystems Research Institute and the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State University. Dr. Madsen is responsible for coordinating research projects on invasive species in Mississippi, the southeastern US, and around the country; and specifically for research, education and outreach on invasive aquatic plants. Dr. Madsen has a Bachelor of Science (1980) degree from Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, and Master of Science (1982) and Doctor of Philosophy (1986) degrees in Botany from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is currently an Associate Editor for the journals *Invasive Plant Science and Management* and *Journal of Aquatic Plant Management*; and on the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Freshwater Ecology*. He is currently on the Board of Directors for the Aquatic Plant Management Society, the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, and the Weed Science Society of America.

Randy Maluchnik

Association of Minnesota Counties

Commissioner Randy Maluchnik was elected to the Carver County Board in 2006 and represents the third district, which includes Victoria, Carver and portions of Chaska. In addition to his service as a Commissioner, Randy serves on a number of committees including the CAP Agency Board of Directors, Carver County HRA, Eastern Community Leaders, Metropolitan Inter-County Association, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the Transportation Advisory Board and the Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition. Commissioner Maluchnik also serves on the AMC Public Safety Policy Committee and the NACO Transportation Steering Committee. Commissioner Maluchnik was recently elected to serve as president of the

Association of Minnesota Counties. Prior to being a Carver County Commissioner, Randy served on the Chaska City Council, Carver County Planning Commission and Carver County Parks Commission.

Cortney Marquette

EnviroScience

Cortney Marquette holds a B.S. degree in Aquatic Ecology from the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. She has completed numerous scientific fish surveys using a variety of methods in freshwater, brackish and marine environments from the Midwest to the Gulf Coast. She has been a staff biologist for EnviroScience, Inc. since 2002 working on various aquatic surveys, freshwater mussels and fisheries. In 2005, she assumed responsibility for managing EnviroScience's Milfoil Solution® program and other various lake studies. She is responsible for many essential business activities within the division and oversees general operations for multiple facilities.

Steve McComas

Blue Water Science

Steve McComas has spent more than 25 years helping watershed districts, lake associations, and cities manage and protect clean water. He is known around the Twin Cities as "The Lake Detective" and has published two books on lake management. His consulting business, Blue Water Science, helps organizations with things like AIS assessments, aquatic plant management, and fishery manipulations. He is trained as both an engineer and biologist, and holds Masters Degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota and Aquatic Ecology from Texas Christian University.

Dan McElroy

Hospitality Minnesota

Dan McElroy has an impressive background in government, business and tourism. He comes to the Associations in January, 2011, from the Pawlenty administration, where he served as Chief of Staff, Commissioner of Finance and, most recently, as the Commissioner of Employment and Economic Development from 2007-2010.

Dan has also served as an elected official, as city councilmember (1983-87) and mayor (1987-1995) in Burnsville, as well as a state representative (1995-2003). While known for his work in the public sector, Dan also has experience in the private sector that includes serving as CEO for Travel Agency Management Solutions, Inc., president of Mainline Travel, and Chief Financial Officer of Travel Professionals.

Rep. Denny McNamara (R)

Minnesota House of Representatives (District 57B)

Representative McNamara is representing Hastings for a fifth term in the Minnesota House. He is the chair of the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee and also serves on the Energy Subcommittee and the Legacy Funding Division, Rules and Legislative Administration, and Ways and Means Committees. Representative McNamara is also a member of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Dan Molloy

Molloy and Associates

Dr. Daniel Molloy is the inventor of the biological control method now being commercialized under the product name Zequanox™ -- a biopesticide with significant promise for the environmentally safe control of zebra/quagga mussels. Marked by a passion for environmental protection, his international research activities over the last three decades have resulted in over 80 scientific publications focusing on evaluating ecologically sound methods for controlling aquatic pests, in particular zebra/quagga mussels. He recently left his position as Director of the New York State Museum's Field Research lab to found Molloy & Associates, LLC, -- a consulting firm specializing in the transfer of scientific information to the public relating to the biology, ecology, and control of zebra/quagga mussels. He is also currently a Research Scientist and Adjunct Professor at the State University of New York at Albany.

Mike Netherland

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Dr. Michael Netherland is a Research Biologist for the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center. He researched impacts of plant growth regulators on hydrilla and Eurasian watermilfoil while pursuing an M.S. degree at Purdue University. Upon graduation in 1989, Mike took a research position with ERDC in Vicksburg, MS, and worked on improving chemical control methods for invasive submersed plants. In 1999 Mike earned a Ph.D. from the University of Florida with research focusing on the biology and management of hydrilla. Mike went to work in private industry for the SePRO Corporation and managed aquatic research projects from 1999 to 2003. In December 2003, he returned to the Engineer Research and Development Center and was stationed at the University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants in Gainesville, FL. Mike was President of the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) in 2009 and Editor of the Journal of Aquatic Plant Management from 2004 through 2010. He is currently Vice-President of the APMS.

Dick Osgood

Aquatic Ecologist/Minnesota Waters

Dick Osgood has more than 30 years of experience researching, analyzing and managing lakes, reservoirs and ponds. He is the executive director of the Lake Minnetonka Association and the owner of Osgood Consulting LLC, where he assists with AIS management, lake management plans, alum applications, and policy analysis. He is a Certified Lake Manager with the North American Lake Management Society, has served as Director of Surface Water Programs for the Freshwater Society, Environmental Planner for the Metropolitan Council, President of the North American Lake Management Society, Vice President and Board Member of Minnesota Waters, and been involved with numerous other organizations. He holds an M.S. in Aquatic Ecology/Geology from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

John Rodgers

Clemson University

Dr. John Rodgers is a professor of environmental toxicology at Clemson University in the School of Agriculture, Forest and Environmental Sciences. In his career of over 30 years, Dr. Rodgers had published more than 100 peer reviewed papers and several books on topics related to aquatic toxicology and water quality. Dr. Rodgers manages an active research program that involves characterization and mitigation of ecological risks from potential pollutants in aquatic ecosystems. He has worked on nuisance algal problems throughout the world.

Luke Skinner

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Luke Skinner is the supervisor of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Invasive Species Program. For nearly two decades, Luke has worked on the prevention and management aquatic and terrestrial invasive species including purple loosestrife, Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, Asian carp, buckthorn, garlic mustard and several others. A key role includes forming policy and regulation around invasive species issues in the state. Luke received his Ph.D. in Entomology, specializing in biological control of invasive plants. He is also Adjunct Asst. Professor in the Department of Entomology at the University of Minnesota.

Peter Sorensen

University of Minnesota

Dr. Peter Sorensen has over 20 years of experience working with invasive fish and is a Professor in the University of Minnesota's Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology. He is a leading researcher in the physiology and behavior of fish and credited with identifying several pheromones in fish and in particular a migratory pheromone used by the sea lamprey. This is presently being tested in lamprey control. He has mentored over a dozen graduate students in Conservation Biology, Ecology, Evolution & Behavior, Neuroscience, and Water Resources Science. Peter has authored over 120 peer-reviewed publications and 20 book chapters. His present focus is the common carp. He holds a Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island.

Donald Stubbs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Donald Stubbs spent 36 years at the Environmental Protection Agency until his retirement in 2009, mainly in the Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) handling the registration of pesticides. He served as the Associate Director of the Registration Division from 2005 to 2009. He also with the State FIFRA Issues and Research Evaluation Group, served as the chairman of the Office of Pesticide Program's Label Committee, and worked in the Agency's Special Review program. He worked closely with the Corps of Engineers' Aquatic Research and Development Center and with the Florida Center for Aquatic Diversity on invasive aquatic weed issues. He holds a Liberal Arts degree with a major in biology from Knox College (1970), Galesburg, Illinois and a Master of Environmental Science degree from Hood College (1977), Frederick, Maryland.

Tom Suerth

Waterfront Restoration

Tom Suerth founded Waterfront Restoration, LLC in 2003 to serve a largely unmet and growing demand for effective, nonchemical aquatic nuisance control services. WR specializes in providing pragmatic, innovative control methods for both pioneering and established infestations of aquatic invasives such as Eurasian Watermilfoil, Flowering Rush, and Zebra Mussels. Through more than nine years of sustainable growth, Tom has lead Waterfront Restoration to become the nonchemical service provider of choice for lakeshore homeowners, municipalities, public beaches, lake associations, and commercial facilities throughout Minnesota.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL)

Minnesota House of Representatives (District 62B)

Representative Wagenius was first elected to the Minnesota House in 1986 and is serving her thirteenth term representing South Minneapolis. Representative Wagenius is the DFL Lead on Environment in the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee. She also serves on the Legacy Funding Division and the Ways and Means Committee.

Michael Welch

Smith Partners, PLLP

Michael Welch is an associate in Smith Partners' water resources and strategic partnership practice. His practice includes watershed planning and protection, wetlands protection, land use and general public law. He also supports the firm's public-private partnership work for sustainable redevelopment, transit and revitalization of neighborhoods. In 2005-06, he served as law clerk for Associate Justice Helen Meyer of the Minnesota Supreme Court, after graduating from William Mitchell College of Law. Prior to his clerkship, Michael directed the Resources for Redevelopment program, which supported dozens of nonprofit property-redevelopment and green-space restoration projects. Michael has served as Minneapolis' representative to the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission since January 2000 and was chair of the commission from February 2006 to February 2010. Michael is a member of council of the Minnesota State Bar Association's Environment, Natural Resources and Energy Section and has written and presented on water-resources law topics at numerous workshops, seminars and legal-education events.

Chip Welling

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Chip Welling has been the Coordinator of Aquatic Invasive Species Management at the DNR since the fall of 2008. From 1993 to 2008, he was the Coordinator of the Eurasian Watermilfoil Program at the DNR. Before joining the DNR, Chip worked as a researcher at the University of Minnesota. He was involved in studies of seed bank and seedling recruitment in purple loosestrife as well as possible effects on non-target wetland wildlife of two insecticides, esfenvalerate and methoprene. He previously studied aquatic vegetation dynamics in an experimental marsh complex in Manitoba. He is an author along with others on several publications in peer-reviewed journals. Chip earned an M.S. (1987) in Botany with an emphasis in Ecology from Iowa State University, Ames. He received a B.S. (1980) from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.