

## **Backyard Stream Repair: Engaging DIY Homeowners**

Join us for an overview of Penn State Extension's new Backyard Stream Repair program for owners and managers of small streams. We will share the successes of working with this new and eager audience of DIY empowered citizens. We will explore the available resources on small scale streambank restoration including the physical tools and techniques we incorporated into our guidance manual and companion 5-part webinar series, and how we helped instigate riparian buffer plantings, live staking, and streambank stabilization across Pennsylvania without leaving our computers.

This webinar series helped to empower landowners to take action and gave them resources to be successful with a backyard stream repair project that would not only improve their individual landscape, but also contribute to improving the local watershed as a whole.

We will share evaluation data from individual learning sessions administered in the Backyard Stream Repair program as well as overall course evaluation data and implementation of conservation practices in the 6-8 months following course completion.

This presentation will provide an overview of the guidance manual and webinar series we created, and how these resources could be adapted to other states, conservation practices and audiences, including green industry professionals. This session would be helpful for anyone looking for ways to increase their reach and implementation of best management practices, particularly with smaller scale landowners who are not willing or ineligible to participate in publicly funded programs.



### **Susan Boser**

Susan Boser is a Water Resources Educator with Penn State Extension based in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. She is a graduate of West Virginia University where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a major in Environmental Protection.

Susan interacts with clientele throughout Western Pennsylvania via educational programs focusing on the areas of private water supply education, pond management, stormwater, youth water education and pesticide education.

### **Danielle Rhea**

Danielle is a statewide water resources educator for Penn State Extension, based in Jefferson County. She provides educational programming and products related to private drinking water, pond management, agriculture and water, stormwater management, and watershed protection and restoration. Danielle has a Master of Science degree from Duquesne University in Environmental Science and Management.

**Jennifer Fetter**

Jennifer is the Penn State Extension Water Resources Program Team Leader and educator based in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Biology from Villanova University.

Her programs focus on water quality education that helps to protect and restore Pennsylvania's abundant waterways and groundwater supplies. Programming includes collaborative watershed restoration efforts, agricultural and urban stormwater management education, safe drinking water clinics, and more.

Jennifer specializes in developing timely and critical water education programming specifically for youth audiences. She also has an interest in programming that engages Pennsylvania's citizens as water conservation volunteers.

**Andy Yench**

Andy Yench is a water resources educator with Penn State Extension based in Cumberland County in Carlisle, PA.

He offers consultation and assistance to individuals and groups on surface and groundwater protection with an emphasis on private drinking water supply, testing and protection; and rural pond management. His experience includes developing educational products and outreach initiatives focused on water quality protection, as well as organizational support and planning assistance for locally lead watershed restoration projects.