



**Riccardo Valentini** is a full professor of Forest Ecology at the University of Tuscia, Italy. His expertise concerns the role of land use changes and forestry in the carbon cycle, biodiversity and bioenergy. He is a coordinator of several EU projects aiming to understand and quantify the terrestrial carbon budget and greenhouse gas emissions. Dr. Valentini is a Nobel Peace Prize winner and member of the IPCC board. Full Bio Link: <https://www.cmcc.it/people/valentini-riccardo>

**Session Name:** Urban Soils & Ecology  
**Presentation Title:**



**Luis Hernandez** is Soil Survey Regional Director for Soil Survey Region 12. In this position he provides overall leadership for soil survey quality control & assurance in the glaciated northeast. He possesses 26 years of experience mapping, classifying, and interpreting soils. He was responsible for leading the NYC Soil Survey Program from 1994 – 2001.

**Session Name:** Urban Soils & Ecology  
**Presentation Title:**



**Stephen Zahn** is the Regional Director of Region 2-New York City at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Steve has spent all of his 24+ years with NYSDEC working out of the Region 2 (NYC) office. With two decades spent in natural resource management, and the balance in regional direction, Steve has engaged in regional planning, land use regulation, site remediation, habitat restoration as well as air and water quality and materials management programs. Full Bio link: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/steve-zahn-7a4675ba/>

**Session Name:** Urban Soils & Ecology (inventory, climate change)  
**Presentation Title:** Illegal dumping of contaminated soils



**Peter M. Groffman** is a Professor at the City University of New York Advanced Science Research Center at the Graduate Center and Brooklyn College Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. He has research interests in ecosystem, soil, landscape and microbial ecology, with a focus on carbon and nitrogen dynamics. Full Bio link: <http://www.asrc.cuny.edu/about/people-profiles/peter-groffman/>

**Session Name:** Urban Soils & Ecology

**Presentation Title:** The potential for microbial nutrient cycling processes in urban soils



**Richard Shaw** is a NJ State Soil Scientist at the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service. His responsibilities include providing technical soils assistance to internal and external customers in NJ and NYC, serving as liaison to National Cooperative Soil Survey partners, and overseeing the management and distribution of local soils information. Dr. Shaw received his M.S. & Ph.D. degrees from the Department of Soils and Crops at Rutgers University. Full Bio link: <http://www.usi.nyc/richard-shaw.html>

**Session Name:** Urban Soils & Ecology

**Presentation Title:** Urban soil survey applications



**Olga Stepanovna Bezuglova** a Professor of Soil Science and Land Resources at Southern Federal University in Rostov-na-Don, Russia. Dr. Bezuglova's achievements include patents for a new coal-humate fertilizer. Research interests include soil science, biochemistry of soils, and ecology of soils. She is the Author of 470 publications on soil science, including 28 - textbooks and monographs. Full Bio link:

[http://sfedu.ru/www/stat\\_pages22.show?p=RR/per\\_eng/D&params=\(p\\_per\\_id=%3E46\)](http://sfedu.ru/www/stat_pages22.show?p=RR/per_eng/D&params=(p_per_id=%3E46))

**Session Name:** Urban Soils & Ecology

**Presentation Title:** Transformation of the morphology of chernozems in urban conditions and the problem of soil standards



Donald C. Parizek is a Soil Scientist at USDA-National Resources Conservation Service with soil survey experience in Alaska, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Puerto Rico. He is a Certified Professional Soil Scientist with more than 25 years of experience and was awarded the Million Acre Mapper Award by the USDA-NRCS. Full Bio link:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/donald-parizek-90730b65/>

**Session Name:** Urban Soils & Ecology

**Presentation Title:** Coastal Zone Soil Survey, Jamaica Bay, NY

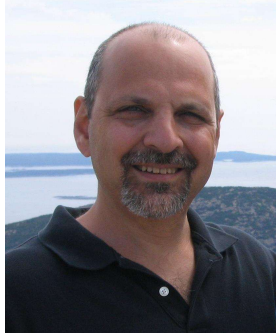


**Edward Toth** has been the director of the Greenbelt Native Plant Center (GNPC) since 1998. The 13-acre nursery, greenhouse, bulk

seed, and seed bank facility is owned and operated by the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation. The GNPC, through its range of local and global partnerships, works towards the conservation of the region's native flora. In 2012, Edward initiated the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank (MARS-B) as a regional partner of the national Seeds of Success program. He views seed as a critical natural resource, with its wise management being essential to mitigating climate change.

**Session Name:** Urban Soils & Ecology

**Presentation Title:**



Steve Parisio is the Solid Waste Geologist at the Region 3 Office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's in New Paltz, a position he has held since 1989. He worked previously as a geologist at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (1982-1989) and was Curator of Science at the Staten Island Museum from 1980 to 1982. He has a Bachelor's degree in Geology from Hunter College (1978) and a Master's Degree in Soil Science from Rutgers University (1982).

Full Bio link: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/steve-parisio-37940467/>

**Session Name:** Urban Soils & Ecology (inventory, climate change)

**Presentation Title:** Upstate impacts and issues relating to export of NY fill material



**Lori Fontanes** is a writer, backyard farmer, and citizen scientist. Lori Fontanes raises ducks, plants and a daughter on a 1/4 -acre plot in Westchester County, New York. She grows over twenty kinds of fruits, vegetables, various cover crops and heritage waterfowl on land previously used for lawn. Her work on agriculture and on the environment has appeared in publications such as Backyard Poultry, Countryside, Acres, Grit and EcoWatch. She's a commissioner on the City of Rye Conservation Commission/Advisory Committee, serves on the Rye YMCA Cross-District Wellness Committee and is a board member of the Food and Environment

Reporting Network. Full Bio link: [www.whattheducks.com](http://www.whattheducks.com)

**Session Name:** Urban Soils & Ecology (inventory, climate change)

**Presentation Title:** Lead Contamination in Backyard Poultry: Highlights from a N.Y. Case Study