

SEA GRANT WEEK 2016

October 11

Newport, Rhode Island

OPENING PLENARY

Rhode Island Sea Grant is very proud to have been chosen as the host for Sea Grant Week Newport—the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Sea Grant Program. After Dr. Athelstan Spilhaus wrote his seminal article in *Science* in 1964 about the need for a National Sea Grant Program based on the Land Grant model, it was the University of Rhode Island's Dr. John Knauss and Senator Claiborne Pell who convened the first national conference to promote the concept at the Viking Hotel in Newport in 1965. Just one year later, with remarkable bipartisan support, the National Sea Grant College Act became a reality.

This plenary session will begin with a look back at what Sea Grant has accomplished here in Rhode Island over the past 50 years, with comments from state and university officials. Following those remarks, we will move to a national perspective with thoughts from our leadership at the Sea Grant Association and the National Sea Grant Office. Finally, we will reflect on the hopes that were expressed by Senator Pell when he created the program, and see how they match those of his successor in the U.S. Senate, Sheldon Whitehouse, who has been asked to comment on what challenges he sees ahead for us in the next 50 years.

At the conclusion of our presentations, we will take a short break and then begin our welcome reception in the hotel atrium. Rhode Island Sea Grant Director Dennis Nixon will introduce Bill Silkes, the President of American Mussel Harvesters, for brief remarks about his business and his history of working with Sea Grant.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Janet L. Coit, director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), has worked in the environmental field for more than 20 years.

As director of DEM since 2011, Coit has focused on efforts to promote local agriculture and seafood, provide opportunities to connect families and tourists to nature, and improve customer service and business processes to support environmental and economic interests. She recently received the Mary Brennan Tourism Award from the Rhode Island Hospitality Association for her role in attracting and executing the Volvo Ocean Race Newport Stopover event in 2015; the event was the most successful North American stopover in the race's history, drawing more than 130,000 fans and contributing some \$47 million to the local economy.

In 2015, Coit was honored with Sail Newport's President's Award and the Leadership Award from Rhode Island Salt-water Anglers Association. She was also recognized as one of Rhode Island's most powerful women by Rhode Island Monthly in 2014 and received the prestigious John H. Chafee Conservation Leadership Award from the Environment Council of Rhode Island.

Prior to DEM, Coit worked for 10 years as the state director for The Nature Conservancy, one of the world's leading environmental nonprofits; in this role, she oversaw some of Rhode Island's largest land conservation projects. Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy, she was counsel and environmental coordinator in the Providence office of the late Senator John Chafee and, subsequently, then-Senator Lincoln Chafee. She moved to Rhode Island in 1997, making a transition from her position as counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works, where she worked on national environmental policy.

A magna cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College, Coit holds a Juris Doctor from Stanford Law School, where she was president of the Environmental Law Society and a member of the Environmental Law Journal. She enjoys spending time outdoors, learning about nature and from people, and exploring Rhode Island's waterways, historic sites, and wild places. She is married with two children and lives in the East Bay area.

Bruce H. Corliss joined the University of Rhode Island (URI), Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) as dean in September 2012. Corliss has executive responsibility for the school and provides leadership for its academic, research, and outreach activities. Prior to joining URI, Corliss was Professor of Earth and Ocean Sciences in the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University and Director of the Duke/University of North Carolina Oceanographic Consortium that consists of five universities in North Carolina that operated the R/V Cape Hatteras research vessel. He also was interim chair of the Division of Earth and Ocean Sciences, senior associate dean of the Nicholas School of the Environment, and chair of the Department of Geology at Duke. Earlier he served on the scientific staff at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Corliss served as chair of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System, an organization of 61 academic institutions and national laboratories that coordinates the activities of the United States oceanographic research ships. He is well known for leading the organization's efforts in "greening" the Academic Fleet to help make existing and future research vessels more environmentally sustainable. Throughout his career, Corliss' research has focused on paleoceanography, deep-sea biodiversity, benthic microorganisms, and the development of paleoclimatic proxies. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Vermont and both his Master of Science and Ph.D degrees in oceanography from the University of Rhode Island.

Sylvain De Guise is director of the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program, professor of pathobiology and veterinary science at the University of Connecticut, and president of the Sea Grant Association. He currently serves as the Sea Grant representative on the NOAA North Atlantic Regional Team, is past-chair of the Northeast Sea Grant Consortium, an entity consisting of the Sea Grant programs from Maine to New York, and is a member of both the Management and Science and Technical Advisory Committees of the EPA-funded Long Island Sound Study, one of the National Estuary Programs. He is one of three Science Directors of the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation. He has a degree in veterinary medicine (1988) and a residency in veterinary pathology (1993) at the Université de Montréal, as well as a Ph.D. in immunotoxicology at the Université du Québec à Montréal (1996). As the president of the Sea Grant Association, De Guise is an ex-officio member of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board.

Andy Moffit became Rhode Island's inaugural First Gentleman on January 6, 2015, when his wife Gina Raimondo was sworn in as Governor of Rhode Island. They live in Providence with their two children, Ceci and Tommy.

Moffit is the Director of Industry Learning for McKinsey & Company, a leading management consulting firm. He is a member of the Firm Learning leadership team, which is responsible for learning programs and capability-building opportunities for over 10,000 consultants globally. Prior to this role, he was a consultant for 13 years, during which he co-founded McKinsey's Global Education Practice and served clients in K-12 and higher education.

The First Gentleman serves as chair of Rhode Island's Outdoor Recreation Council, which is dedicated to increasing awareness about the use and enjoyment of recreational and environmental assets. He is also an advocate for healthy eating, literacy and combating food insecurity.

Moffit earned a Juris Doctor from Yale Law School, a Master of Science from Oxford University, and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan.

Dennis Nixon, University of Rhode Island Professor of Marine Affairs, has served as the director of the Rhode Island Sea Grant Program since July 2013. In that role, he leads a multi-million-dollar research and education program devoted to using scientific knowledge to improve the management of Rhode Island's coastal waters. Prior to that, he served for four years as the Associate Dean for Research and Administration at the Graduate School of Oceanography at URI, where he was responsible for the administration of the 200+ acre campus, pier, and the 185-foot R/V Endeavor. He served the previous eight years as the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the College of the Environment and Life Sciences, also at URI. He has been a faculty member at the University of Rhode Island for the past 40 years, teaching courses in the area of marine and coastal law. A marine lawyer by training, he is a member of the Maritime Law Association of the United States and the Rhode Island Bar. Under a grant from the National Science Foundation, he is also the legal advisor and risk manager for the University National Oceanographic Laboratory System, and has been providing advice to all of the U.S. academic research vessel fleet for three decades.

Nixon earned his bachelor's degree in history at Xavier University, his law degree at the University of Cincinnati, a Master of Marine Affairs at the University of Rhode Island, a Certificate on International Institutions at the University of Geneva, and a Certificate in Ocean Law from Harvard Law School.

M. Teresa Paiva Weed (D – District 13, Jamestown, Newport) was first elected to the Rhode Island Senate in 1992. In January 2009, Senator Paiva Weed was first elected by her colleagues to serve as President of the Senate. She is the first woman in Rhode Island's history to serve in this capacity. Paiva Weed was re-elected President in 2011, 2013, and 2015.

Before becoming Senate President, Paiva Weed served as Rhode Island's first female Senate Majority Leader, a position she held for five years. She had previously served as vice chairwoman of the Senate Finance Committee from 2002 through January 2004. From 2000 to 2002, she served as deputy chair of the Finance Subcommittee on Public Safety and the Environment. From 1997 through 2000, she served as the Senate's first woman chair of the Judiciary Committee. Prior to her election to the Senate, Paiva Weed was chairwoman of the Newport Affordable Housing Commission, and she has served as a member of the Newport Democratic City Committee since 1988.

She has been recognized by the Governor's Council on Disabilities, the Governor's Council on Tourism, the National Association of Social Workers, the Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy, the Newport County NAACP, the United Way, the Rhode Island Council of Community Mental Health Centers, the Rhode Island Ambassador of Hospitality and Tourism, and the Newport and Jamestown Business and Professional Women's Club.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Providence College and a Juris Doctor degree from Catholic University. Paiva Weed is an attorney from Newport.

Christopher T. H. "Toby" Pell, retired executive director, The Preservation Society of Newport County, is chair of the Graduate School of Oceanography Advisory Council, Christopher Pell retired in 1998 as executive director of the Preservation Society of Newport County, where he is credited with modernizing the society and turning it into a more

streamlined operation and expanding alternative lines of business through licensing and reproductions. He is a member of the John A. Hartford Foundation board of trustees and has served on multiple other local boards, including that of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum. He was previously a partner at Barclay Investments, where he specialized in institutional fixed income investments. Pell has a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University and a Master of Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island.

Jonathan Pennock is the director of the National Sea Grant College Program. Prior to joining NOAA, Pennock was the director of the New Hampshire Sea Grant Program and the deputy director of the School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering at the University of New Hampshire. He is a nationally known coastal scientist with expertise in oceanography and estuarine sciences. His research has focused on understanding human impacts on coastal marine food webs. Pennock has a Ph.D. in oceanography and Master in Marine Studies from the University of Delaware and a bachelor's degree in biology from Earlham College.

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW), plays a key role in crafting policies addressing environmental protection and climate change. In 2011, he joined with Democrats and Republicans to form the Senate Oceans Caucus to increase awareness of and find common ground on issues facing the oceans and coasts. The caucus helped gain Senate approval of four international fisheries treaties and passage of the IUU Fishing Enforcement Act that will prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Whitehouse has worked to boost federal support for fisheries science and cooperative fisheries research as well as efforts to improve transparency and efficiency in the commercial and recreational fisheries management process.

Whitehouse has long advocated for a dedicated fund to support ocean and coastal research, restoration, and conservation. In 2015, the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund was created to provide grants that support work for the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. He also led the successful bipartisan effort to reauthorize the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuaries Program to protect and study coastal habitats.

A graduate of Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law, Whitehouse served as United States Attorney and Attorney General of Rhode Island before being elected to the Senate in 2006. In addition to EPW, he is a member of the Budget Committee; the Judiciary Committee; the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee; and the Special Committee on Aging.

He and his wife Sandra, a marine biologist and environmental advocate, live in Newport. They have two children.

Michael J. Yelnosky became the dean of Roger Williams University School of Law on July 1, 2014.

Dean Yelnosky is a founding member of the RWU Law faculty. He served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for four years, and he was named Distinguished Service Professor in 2011. He has also taught as a visitor at Seton Hall University School of Law, Chicago-Kent College of Law/IIT, and Villanova University School of Law.

Yelnosky is an expert in employment and labor law, and much of his scholarship explores alternatives or adjuncts to traditional enforcement of employment discrimination law. He is a research fellow with NYU Law School's Center for Labor and Employment Law. He has served as president of the Rhode Island chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, and he was the neutral arbitrator in a major interest arbitration between the State of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers.

Another focus of Yelnosky's scholarship involves the judicial selection process, both in Rhode Island and nationally. He

has written several articles and hosted a major symposium about Rhode Island's merit selection system, and the major findings of his research into the role of the ABA in the federal judicial selection process were summarized in a Washington Post op-ed he wrote in 2013. He is regularly quoted in the local and national media on these and other topics, and he has published several op-ed pieces in the Providence Journal.

Yelnosky graduated cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law and magna cum laude from the University of Vermont. Before he began teaching he served as a law clerk for the Honorable Edmund V. Ludwig in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and worked for two law firms: Mellon, Webster & Mellon; and Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius.

Yelnosky and his wife Laurie Barron are the parents of 15-year-old twins. Yelnosky has completed seven marathons, including Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.