

The Northeast Sun Grant Regional Feedstock Summit Speaker Bios

November 11-13, 2007
Statler Hotel, Cornell University,
Ithaca, NY



Cornell University

Margaret Brennan, Associate Director New Jersey Agricultural Experimental Station, Rutgers University. Dr. Brennan is an Agricultural Economist with expertise in economic development strategies, bioenergy, and agricultural biotechnology. She is responsible for the development and implementation of new economic growth initiatives. She was the project director for an assessment of the biomass energy potential for New Jersey. The results of this assessment will be included in the 2007 New Jersey State Energy Master Plan. Dr. Brennan is also responsible for administrative oversight for several Rutgers centers, as well as technology transfer for the NJAES.



William Chernicoff, US DOT Research & Innovative Technology Administration. Mr. Chernicoff holds a B.S. in Materials Engineering from MIT, an M.S. in Manufacturing Engineering from Boston University, and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at Tufts University. He currently serves as the program manager for the Hydrogen, Biofuels, and climate change programs, where he is also the technical lead on alternative fuel and clean/advanced vehicle propulsion technology and sustainable transportation systems. His work focuses on vehicle and infrastructure safety and operations through the development and implementation of codes, standards, and practices for vehicles and infrastructure.

Mark Downing, Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Mark is Senior Scientist and Agricultural Economist at ORNL. The staff of the ORNL Bioenergy Program provide support to the DOE Office of the Biomass Program in the areas of Feedstock Resource Analysis and Engineering Logistics Modeling. Specific areas of support include managing the Regional Feedstock Partnership activities with the Sun Grant partners and support to the DOE Golden Field Office Project Management Center.



John Ferrell, US DOE Office of the Biomass Program under Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Mr. Ferrell has served as the designated Federal officer for the Biomass Technical Advisory Committee which oversees programs at agencies with biomass program activities. He currently leads the Feedstock Interface R&D, as well as the Thermochemical Conversion (gasification and pyrolysis) and Sugar Platforms (fermentation-based) that form the foundation for the development of high-valued products and fuels with the ultimate goal of developing integrated biorefineries. Mr. Ferrell has also been actively involved with developing a closer partnership between USDA and DOE.

Thomas Fretz, Dean Emeritus, University of Maryland. Dr. Fretz received his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland in 1964, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in 1966 and 1970 from the University of Delaware in horticulture and plant science. He retired from the University of Maryland and the position of Executive Director of the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors in March 2007. He currently serves as a member of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics. Dr. Fretz has published more than 90 journal papers, and numerous research reports, book reviews, extension bulletins and popular articles from his research activities, and received various prestigious awards for his contributions in agriculture.



Larry P. Walker, Conference Chair, Cornell University. Dr. Walker holds a B.S. in Physics, M.S. and Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from Michigan State University. He is the Director of the NE Sun Grant Institute of Excellence- leading a fourteen-state regional research and economic development program focused on biofuels and bio-products. Dr. Walker has been involved in a number of biomass to energy projects while at Cornell, including an assessment of NYS biomass resources available for ethanol production, farm-scale methane production and co-generation, the application of nanotechnology to discover and study important biocatalysts for biofuels and industrial biotechnology, and the optimization of solid-state fermentation for the production of natural products.



Tristram West, Research Scientist, Environmental Sciences Division, ORNL. Dr. West holds a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Kentucky, and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Agronomy from Ohio State University. His research areas include the impacts of human activities on the carbon cycle and on net greenhouse gas emissions, influences of policy on terrestrial carbon dynamics, and the use of GIS and remote sensing to improve our understanding of terrestrial ecosystems and net carbon flux. His current research focuses on spatial prediction of biomass feedstocks and on net carbon flux estimates for US agriculture.

Peter Woodbury, Research Associate, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Cornell University, conducts research on the sustainable management of agricultural and forest ecosystems, terrestrial carbon and nutrient cycling, and effects of air, soil, and water pollutants. His current research includes modeling nitrogen cycling in the Upper Susquehanna River basin, modeling effects of management techniques on soil carbon stocks in Nepal, and identifying methods to assess current and future risks from invasive species and fire on forest and rangeland ecosystems.



We thank our sponsors

Platinum



Cornell University
Agricultural Experiment Station



Gold



Cornell University
Biological and Environmental Engineering

Silver



Corinne Rutzke, Executive Director, Northeast Sun Grant Institute of Excellence, Cornell University. Dr. Rutzke has a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences from The Ohio State University, a M.S. in Seed Technology, and a Ph.D. in Horticultural Physiology from Cornell University. Corinne lives in Ithaca with husband Mike and two children Mikey and Ella, ages 4 and 1.



Steve St. Martin, Professor, Department of Horticulture and Plant Science, Ohio State University. Dr. St. Martin has degrees from the University of Minnesota, University of Nebraska, and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University. He is the leader of the soybean breeding project and has research interests in breeding methods, statistical methods, and use of germplasm. He teaches a graduate course in design of experiments.

Lawrence Smart, Associate Professor, SUNY-ESF. Dr. Smart received his Ph.D. in Genetics at Michigan State University and was a NSF Postdoctoral Fellow at UC-Davis. He is a plant geneticist and physiologist and a leader of efforts in genetic improvement of willow. He has assembled a large and diverse collection of willows, produced hybrid families through controlled pollination, selected high-yielding individuals, and transferred those to a commercial nursery for production of planting stock. In addition to *Salix* genetics, His research includes studies of cuticular wax biochemistry, stomatal physiology, and drought tolerance.



David Specca, Acting Director, Rutgers EcoComplex. Mr. Specca has a B.S. degree in Horticulture and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Plant Science at Rutgers University. He has worked for the past ten years on small and large scale bioenergy projects at the Rutgers EcoComplex. His responsibilities include identifying, demonstrating and promoting appropriate renewable energy technologies. Currently, the facility is working on technologies in landfill gas cleanup, micro-turbine co-generation, anaerobic digestion, ethanol production, biodiesel and biomass gasification. As part of the environmental business development activities of the EcoComplex, Dave is the secretary of the NJ Business Incubator Network and a member of the Clean Energy Alliance. He also directs the activities of a one-acre hydroponic vegetable and aquaculture greenhouse facility powered by two landfill gas to energy technologies.

Gerald F. Stack, Partner, Hiscock & Barclay LLP. Mr. Stack garners his expertise from LeMoyne College (B.A.); Syracuse University College of Law (J.D., summa cum laude); University of Florida (L.L.M. in Taxation, 1981); and is experienced as an Adjunct Professor at the Syracuse University College of Law; a Contributing Author, New York and Delaware Business Entities (West Publishing Co.); and is widely-read author of articles in the New York State Bar Journal and other legal publications and is regular speaker and panelist for the New York State Bar Association. Hiscock & Barclay is a dynamic team of 185 attorneys in seven major metropolitan areas in New York, Massachusetts and the Province of Ontario, Canada with a unique understanding of issues that drive business solutions.



Brent Gloy, Associate Professor, Applied and Economics Management, Cornell University. Dr. Gloy received his M.S. and Ph.D. from Purdue University. He teaches and conducts research in the areas of agricultural finance and agribusiness management. He recently led the development and creation of a renewable fuel company focused on harvesting the energy available in livestock wastes. In addition to his activities at Cornell, Brent remains involved in the family farm business located in Southwestern Nebraska.

Nathanael Greene, Senior Policy Analyst, Natural Resources Defense Council. Nathanael received his B.A. in Public Policy from Brown University and a M.S. in Energy and Resources from University of California Berkeley. He is responsible for working on energy policy and related issues including utility restructuring, energy taxes, energy efficiency, renewables, and low-income services. His area of expertise is in clean energy technologies including wind, solar and biomass energy, fuel cells, combined heat and power and energy efficiency and in regulations and policies to promote these technologies. For the last few years he has focused on assessing the sustainable potential for biofuels and developing policies to advance them.



Rick Handley, Director Regional Energy Programs CONEG Policy Research Center Inc., Program Director, Northeast Regional Biomass Program. Mr. Handley is a summa cum laude graduate of the State University of New York College of Technology. As director for regional energy programs, Mr. Handley advises The Center's executive director on energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy and directs staff in research and analysis of federal and state energy policy. As director of the NRBPP, Mr. Handley leads an eleven-state coalition that is focused on regional approaches to the expansion and sustainable use of the region's biomass resources for bioenergy, biofuels and biobased products.

Jason Hill, Research Associate, Department of Applied Economics and Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, University of Minnesota. Dr. Hill received his A.B. in biology from Harvard College and his Ph.D. in plant biological sciences from the University of Minnesota. He is part of an interdisciplinary team conducting integrative analyses of the technological, environmental, economic, and social aspects of sustainable bioenergy production from current and next-generation feedstocks.



Michael Hoffman, Director NYS IPM Program, Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Hoffmann received a B.S. in Ecosystems Analysis from the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, a M.S. in Entomology from the University of Arizona, and a Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of California, Davis. Dr. Hoffmann directs the activities of regional and campus based IPM specialists and oversees a grants program that supports the efforts of researchers and Cooperative Extension specialists. The goal of the NY IPM Program is to develop and deliver a sustainable approach to managing pests that combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimize economic, health and environmental risks. This goal is achieved in cooperation with Cornell University personnel and through continuous dialogue with stakeholders in the agricultural and non-agricultural sector of our society. The Program helps address IPM needs in agriculture and in the urban environment.

Sam Jaffe, Business Development, Copea Energy. Sam Jaffe is a consultant with a specialty in next generation energy technologies. He has worked closely with Solix Biofuels, Inc. and Colorado State University of Fort Collins, CO to design a new photobioreactor technology that promises to make the cultivation of algae for biofuels production economically feasible. He has research ties to Cornell University. He is 38 years old and lives in Evergreen, CO.



David Kay, Extension Associate with the Community and Rural Development Institute, Department of Development Sociology, Cornell University. Mr. Kay earned a M.S. from Cornell's Department of Agricultural Economics. His current research and extension programming are focused on land use planning and landscape management. He is currently working on a multi-college Cornell project using GIS to analyze how residential preferences influence rural sprawl. He has completed a number of economic impact analyses and has worked for many years with the Minnesota IMPLAN Group's regional economic modeling software, as well as with other "off the shelf" regional economic models.

Yi Li, Professor, Department of Plant Science, University of Connecticut, and Director and Principal Investigator for the New England Center for Invasive Plants. Dr. Li obtained a B.S. from Beijing Forestry University, China and a Ph.D. from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY. Dr. Li's current research interests include development of gene confinement technologies for genetically improved crops, genetic improvement of bio-energy crops, and breeding of sterile cultivars of economically important but highly invasive ornamental crops. The Li laboratory has recently developed an internationally recognized 'gene-deletor' technology which may address the environmental and food safety concerns over genetically improved crops.



Hilary Mayton, Extension Associate, Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Cornell University. Dr. Mayton is the Project Coordinator and of a perennial grass and legume biofuel feedstock project. Her research involves the fields of control of plant pathogens through plant breeding and evaluation of biological and chemical control methods. Dr. Mayton has also worked on projects involved with low input sustainable agriculture, green manures, soil microbial diversity and bioremediation of contaminated soils.

John MacKenzie, Associate Professor, Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Delaware. Dr. MacKenzie earned a B.A. in English from Harvard University, a B.A. in Economics from Trinity Hall, Cambridge University, a M.A. from Cambridge University, and a Ph.D in Resource Economics from the University of Rhode Island.



Matthew McArdle, President, Mesa Reduction Engineering and Processing, Inc. Mr. McArdle has over 17 years of experience in developing renewable energy projects and environmental compliance programs in both the public and private sector. His expertise includes the engineering, design, and computer modeling of the entire biomass production and conversion value chain. Mr. McArdle has developed and patented size reduction and fuel blending technologies and leads a group of companies that provide turnkey material handling systems. Government and industry partners include the Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, utility companies, combined heat and power industries, biofuel facilities, engineering companies, and universities.

Charles D. Ray, Assistant Professor, Wood Products Operations, Penn State University. Dr. Ray earned a B.S.F. from Stephen F. Austin State University, and a Ph.D. in Forest Resources Management (Operations Research) from Texas A&M University. His specialty is in the area of operations research, specifically those operational issues that confront the majority of the wood products sector. He is interested in the operational problems that are unique in some aspect to the hardwood industry, but related to his past wood research, such as wood drying, perational simulation and analysis, and process and quality control.



Christopher Recchia, Executive Director, Biomass Energy Resource Center. Mr. Recchia holds a B.S. from the University of Vermont, a M.S. in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School, and a M.S. in Natural Resource Policy and Management from Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He has more than 20 years of experience as an environmental leader in the development of state and federal environmental policy and the implementation of programs managing air, land, and water resources. He joined BERC after a four-year tenure as executive director of the Ozone Transport Commission in Washington, DC, where he directed a commission of 12 mid-Atlantic and NE states and the District of Columbia, coordinating air pollution reduction programs and policy.

Greg Roth, Professor, Penn State University. Dr. Roth is a grain crops specialist, who develops educational programs for extension agents, agribusiness groups and producers on timely issues such as managing crops during drought stress, GMO issues, potential of specialty corn hybrids, managing for grain quality, organic grain production and producing corn for silage. His key research focus has been on managing corn for silage production using different hybrids and management strategies and then using various models to estimate the profitability of the these practices on dairy farms.



Johnathan Rubin, Associate Professor, University of Maine. Dr. Rubin's research focuses on using economic mechanisms (tradable credits, taxes, information programs) to assist with the attainment of environmental goals. Recent publications investigate the potientialeconomic and environmental impacts from trading greenhouse gases and fuel efficiency credits for automobiles and light-duty trucks. Dr. Rubin is a long-time active member of the Transportation Energy and Alternative Fuels Committee of the Transportation Research Board, National Research Council.