

# 2018 SUMMER SEMINAR SERIES

at the



THOMAS MORE  
COLLEGE

Biology Field Station

When: Thursdays | 7-8 p.m.

Where: The Lodge

8330 Mary Ingles Hwy.,  
California, KY 41007



Free and open to the public

Join us and explore a diverse range of topics presented by five experts. These topics are all of importance to environmental conservation and stewardship efforts.

## May 31



**Heather Mayfield** Director, Foundation for Ohio River Education (FORE)

*"Bridging Science, Civics and Stewardship through River Education"*

FORE is a non-profit supporting organization of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) which empowers people of all ages to become environmental stewards through hands-on programs.

As Director of FORE, Heather oversees the development of education, outreach and training programs, and can often be found teaching the Water Quality Station aboard FORE's River REACH floating classroom. Her other responsibility is ensuring that FORE's programs are adequately promoted and funded. Heather's background includes organizing citizen monitoring programs for Sierra Club, researching drinking water viruses at USEPA, and conducting algal taxonomy work for Ohio River drinking water utilities. In addition to working in river education, Heather also works with regional collaborators on the Ohio River Harmful Algae Risk Management Task Force.

## June 14



**George Schewe** Principal Consulting Meteorologist, Trinity Consultants

*"Severe Weather in the Mid-Latitudes"*

Mr. Schewe is a Certified Consulting Meteorologist as well as a Qualified Environmental Professional who has over 40 years of dispersion modeling and air quality management experience throughout the U.S. and prominently in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. He has used

modeling approaches for emergency as well as routine releases of air contaminants and modeling studies covering plant wide point-source emissions, as well as plant wide fugitives from roadways, materials handling, waste and scrap areas or other process related fugitive emissions. While with the U.S. EPA, he performed dispersion modeling in support of emission standards development and helped develop and improve industrial source dispersion models. He has conducted numerous workshops, seminars, and technical classes over the past 25 years for the U.S. EPA - Air Pollution Training Institute, Trinity's annual course offerings, CenSARA, Ohio EPA, and other regional air agencies.

## June 28



**Annette Rowe** Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences, University of Cincinnati

*"Eating Rocks! Microbes that utilize minerals and electrodes for energy"*

Dr. Annette Rowe received undergraduate degrees from UC Berkeley in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Microbiology. She attended graduate school at Cornell University working in the lab of Dr. Ruth Richardson on

chloroethene degrading microbial communities. She received her Ph.D. in Microbiology, with minors in Genomics and Environmental Engineering. Working in the lab of Ken Nealson as a Center for Dark Energy Biosphere Investigations postdoctoral fellow, she pursued understanding the mechanisms of extracellular electron uptake in microbes—basically how bacteria and archaea eat rocks. As a postdoctoral fellow for the NASA Astrobiology Institute, she continued her work in Electromicrobiology until she started at the University of Cincinnati in Jan 2018.

## July 12



**Robert Bilott** Partner, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

*"Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance (PFAS) Contamination in the Ohio River Basin: Legal, Regulatory, and Scientific Challenges"*

For more than 27 years, Robert Bilott has worked as an environmental lawyer and handled a wide variety of

matters involving federal, state and local environmental laws. With a combination of innovative litigation, scientific understanding, and extraordinary perseverance, he has achieved one of the most significant victories for environmental law and corporate accountability of this century. In a legal battle lasting 19 years, he represented 70,000 citizens whose drinking water had been contaminated with Perfluorooctanic acid (PFOA) by the chemical giant DuPont. Expanding upon the concept of class-action litigation, he set up a seven-year toxicological study of the 70,000 victims, which contributed significantly to the scientific understanding of the global health risks associated with Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). This class of substances, which do not break down in the environment or the human body, are ubiquitous in our societies today. At a time when environmental regulation is under serious threat of being watered down in the United States and elsewhere, Bilott successfully won compensation for his clients and continues to call for better regulation of toxic substances.

## July 26



**Quinton Phelps** Assistant Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries, West Virginia University

*"Life in the Fast Lane: Big River Fisheries Management and Ecology"*

Dr. Quinton E. Phelps joined West Virginia University in 2017. He received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries from South Dakota State University in 2003 and 2006, respectively. Quinton earned his doctorate in Zoology with a specialization in fisheries science from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 2011. Quinton's research focuses on basic and applied research to answer important fisheries management questions. Specifically, his research has focused on fisheries management and ecology with primary interests in population dynamics, fish movement patterns, life history attributes, trophic ecology, and stable isotope technology. Ultimately, Quinton's research focuses on merging ecological theory across disciplines (e.g., fish management, fish ecology, and statistics) to thoroughly understand aquatic ecosystem

dynamics on broad spatiotemporal scales.

8330 Mary Ingles Highway, California, KY, 41007 | For directions, visit: [tmcky.us/bfsdirections](http://tmcky.us/bfsdirections)