

Environmental Professionals Network

Annual Report September 2022 - July 2023



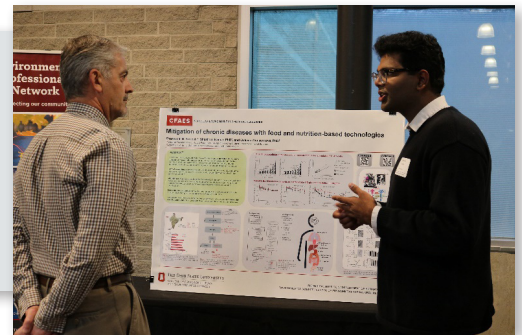
This year marked the Environmental Professionals Network's (EPN) 10th year of programming!

Since 2012, the EPN seeks to **connect**, **inspire**, and **grow** a community of environmental professionals and enthusiasts around compelling topics. The EPN's 22-23 series touched a wide range of critical environmental topics, from building healthy soils below to taking a sky-high view of aviation sustainability, while passing a milestone of 130 unique programs hosted. In addition to its in-person breakfast and signature events, the EPN offers opportunities for networking through its online membership portal where over 2,000 participating online users share job postings, reports, and event announcements connecting participants across Ohio and beyond.

This year, a sample of program feedback surveys indicate that nearly 95 new social connections were made in-person at EPN Breakfast events. Responses strongly affirmed that EPN's featured experts inspired new knowledge, skillsets, and perspectives from unique programs including breakout sessions and workshop offerings. Check out highlights from an excellent year of programming at the video link on the following page, and please join us in 2023 and 2024 as we continue to connect our community and grow who we know and what we know!

Connect

Prior to a panel dialogue featuring globally renowned soil, food, and nutrition experts, Shanvanth Arnipalli (Environmental Science major '22) and dozens of graduating students displayed their capstone research to professionals, project clients, and EPN network members at *Soil for Food!* An evening event in December exploring the data, technologies, and collaborations that build healthy soils and enhance human nutrition.



Grow

In February, the EPN, Ohio State's Parasite and Pathogen Ecology Lab, and Dr. Risa Pesapane hosted a discussion on medically relevant tick and mosquito-borne diseases in the Ohio River Valley region addressing emerging and critical issues arising from environmental research, public health surveillance, natural resource management, and perspectives from the medical sciences.

Inspire

Following a program on community science, conservation stewardship, and the healing power of nature, July's *Breakfast with the Birds* summer field tour program showcased the wetland, prairie, forest, and river habitats of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center located in the heart of downtown Columbus.



SEPTEMBER 2022 - JULY 2023 EVENT ATTENDANCE

- In total, 1,794 unique attendees, including 859 overall in-person attendees, and 935 live virtual participants joined for EPN breakfast programs.
- For each of EPN's 10 programs this year, on average, 90 participants joined in-person and 94 concurrent viewers tuned in live via the EPN YouTube livestream feature.
- Of these in-person attendees, 367 current Ohio State University students joined for breakfast throughout the year and interacted with a total of 528 in-person professionals collectively representing 358 different governmental, non-profit, and business entities.
- Each EPN hybrid program is posted on the EPN YouTube channel for later viewing. On average, programs during this year were uniquely viewed 2,774 times as of July 2023.

The EPN connects Ohio's environmental professionals to help them expand their network, grow professionally and be more effective and inspired in their careers. The EPN is a service of the School of Environment and Natural Resources within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). Co-sponsored events this year included partnerships with various local, state, regional, and national organizations. The EPN thanks the organizations that served as event sponsors and partners, and the following individuals who chose to sponsor a student registration.

Nuris Acosta
Thomas Bihari
Claire Bollinger
Bob Campbell
Pallavi Chandna
S. Rao Chitikela
Lori Crabtree
Mark Dilley
Steve Ealy
Jim Estep
Debra Gamble
Vicki Garrett

Lisa Goldsand
Bill Habig
David Hanselmann
Harold Harlan
Terry Hermsen
John Heywood
Jane Huber
Henry Kaibunga
Eben Kent
Don Kloss
Jim Kossow
Polly Kossow

Jacob Kuss
Marie McConnell
Marty McTigue
Anthony Mughan
Glen Needham
John O'Meara
David Poole
David Pritchard
Dorothy Pritchard
Rebecca Rose
Kristina Slagle
Craig Smith

Neeraj Tayal
Rachel Tayse
Mark Tranovich
Thomas Tugend
Robert Vertrees
Amy Wald
Carolyn Watkins
Melissa Weber
Brook White
Joshua White
Peggy Williams
Jaly Young

Additional support for student registration was provided by numerous Ohio State entities including the CFAES Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Environment and Natural Resources Alumni Society, the Sustainability Institute, and the Office of Sustainability and Strategic Services, as well as non-university entities such as the Friends of the Lower Olentangy River, the Ohio Groundwater Association, USGS, the Water Management Association of Ohio, and Wessler Engineering.

EPN HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023

Click here or scan the QR code to view our Annual Report Highlight video!



As we move into the 2023-2024 Academic Year, stay connected, be inspired, and grow professionally with the EPN. Please reach out to discuss program topics and join the EPN at epn.osu.edu/Join_Today to view and post events, job opportunities and notices on the EPN website.

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