

Environmental Professionals Network

Annual Report September 2023 - July 2024

A Year of Connecting, Growing and Inspiring.



Join us in reflecting on the EPN's 11th year of supporting a network of over two thousand environmental professionals, students, and enthusiasts.

In **April**, our Signature Earth Day event featured 157 undergraduate and graduate students presenting 55 unique sustainability research projects to 510 in-person attendees proposing solutions to local environmental and natural resource issues. Over 400 native pollinator plants were donated to participants at this program in our broader goal to enhance our community's stewardship of healthy ecosystems.

In **December**, our evening event highlighted the conservation of Ohio's treasured eastern hemlock tree. In **September**, we centered ourselves within Franklin County's five

waterways through the RAPID 5 initiative to connect residents to nature and each other. Our two-part series in **October** and **November** focused on circular economy approaches to managing materials in the textiles and fashion industries and regional plastic pollution with experts from Columbus, California, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

The EPN network extends beyond the latitudinal boundaries of the Ohio River and Lake Erie connecting the environmental professionals of the Buckeye State with global leaders and innovators. In **February**, we learned about Rocky Mountain animal migration, from Yellowstone to Yukon, through the use of remote sensing and international conservation. In **January**, Dr. Gail P. Myers assisted our community in recognizing historical injustices in agriculture and the importance of environmental experiences for racial healing through the stories of farmers, sharecroppers, and gardeners.



The EPN's summer field trip programs connect participants directly with Ohio's natural resources, wildlife, history, culture, and ecology. In **July**, EPN members, along with scholars from the Global Coal Transitions Network, explored reclamation and restoration strategies in historically coal-producing areas of eastern Ohio.

Our **March** Breakfast focused on managing water, habitat, and fisheries along "Ohio's North Coast" aka Lake Erie. This event generated major excitement for our **June** field trip three months later to explore Ohio State's Island campus, Stone Lab, on Lake Erie where participants experienced water quality research and education at America's oldest freshwater biological field station.

On average, these programs hosted 206 in-person attendees and 84 livestream attendees per event.



This year the EPN was designated a **Program of Excellence in Engaged Scholarship** by Ohio State's Office of Outreach & Engagement.

The EPN's 2023-2024 event series paves the way for enhanced engagement in the years to come. In our 2024-2025 EPN series, participants will benefit through access to local environmental leaders and globally influential natural resource management professionals as well as to cutting-edge research and conservation strategies emerging across Ohio and beyond.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

September 2023 – July 2024 Program Statistics

- Hosted 2,058 attendances from **1,390 unique in-person attendees** and **668 unique livestream viewers** at the conclusion of each program.
- September through March EPN Breakfast programs hosted **113 in-person attendees** and **94 virtual registrants**, on average. The April Signature Earth Day Event welcomed **667 in-person attendees** including guests, exhibitors, and students, and **46 virtual registrants**.
- Of these unique in-person attendees, **378 were students** who interacted with **1,012 professionals** representing **331** different governmental, non-profit, academic, and business entities.
- The EPN's September-April programs were hosted "hybrid" (simultaneous livestream audience participation together with in-person attendees) and posted on the EPN YouTube channel where they remain for future viewing. As of July 2024, these programs have gathered **1,974 views** with an average of **246 views per program**.
- The EPN hosted over **100 guests** for a film screening of *Rhythms of the Land* at the Grandview Theater. Our two-part Summer Field Trip Series, which took place at learning sites away from Ohio State's Columbus campus in June and July, attracted **65** and **80** participants, respectively.

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Organizational Sponsors: Ohio State's School of Environment and Natural Resources, Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Gardens, Translational Data Analytics Institute, University Libraries, CFAES DEI, and Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Sustainability Institute, Office of Sustainability and Strategic Services, and Facilities Operations and Development at Ohio State, ODNR's Division of Wildlife, and Rumpke.

If you're not a member already sign up at epn.osu.edu/getting-started and connect with a "community" of people who share your passion for our world and its environment, natural resources, people, and communities -- local to global. As we move into the 2024-2025 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.



A special thanks to Callia Téllez, outgoing EPN Program Assistant, for her tremendous support of the EPN during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Academic Years. We wish her the best as she begins her journey at the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State.

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



CONTACT: Joe Campbell, PhD
campbell.844@osu.edu
(614) 247-9611

WELCOME TO THE EPN TEAM!
Harrison Fried and Hallie Stelzle
EPN@osu.edu