

# Learning from the Ramsar Designation of the Niagara River Corridor

## *Honoring the International and Local Importance of Environmental and Cultural Treasures*



**Wednesday,  
October 2, 2019**

## **Speaker Biographies**

Attorneys who attend may receive **2.0 NYS CLE credits** in the area of Professional Practice (non-transitional credit).  
The University at Buffalo School of Law has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York for the period of March 11, 2017 - March 10, 2020. The University at Buffalo School of Law has a financial hardship policy. For further information on our policy, contact Lisa Mueller, CLE Coordinator at 716-645-3176.

**Kim Diana Connolly** is a Professor of Law, Vice Dean for Advocacy and Experiential Learning, and the Director of the Environmental Advocacy Clinic at the University at Buffalo School of Law. One of Professor Connolly's areas of academic interest is wetlands, and she has published and lectured extensively in the area. To that end, she has researched, written on, and spoken about the Ramsar Convention for more than a decade and a half. Yet because she also likes working on real-world matters, along with clinical student attorneys, she has successfully provided legal and policy support for three nominators and community partners seeking Ramsar designations in the United States. She also served chair of the U.S. National Ramsar and has participated in two Ramsar Convention Conferences of the Parties. Professor Connolly spent many happy hours of her childhood in the wetlands of Cape Cod, and her favorite opening line of any article or chapter she has ever had published is "Wetlands are nifty."



**Professor Max Finlayson** is a wetland ecologist with extensive experience internationally in the science and management responses to water pollution, mining and agricultural impacts, invasive species, climate change, and human well-being and wetlands. He has participated in global assessments such as those conducted by the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Global Environment Outlook, and Water Management in Agriculture, and since the early 1990s he has been a technical adviser to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. He has been actively involved in environmental



NGOs and science organizations, and is currently President of the Society of Wetland Scientists, and has worked with government, community-based organizations and industry to investigate the causes of ecosystem change and management responses, including restoration and the participation of local communities. He has contributed to over 400 journal articles, reports, guidelines, proceedings and book chapters on wetland ecology and management, and participated in many local-community wetland initiatives, and advocacy.

**Royal C. Gardner** is a Professor of Law and Director of the Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida. He served as chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for the Ramsar Convention for two terms from 2013-2018. He also served on the Ramsar STRP as North American representative (2006–2008) and invited expert (2009–2012). He was chair of the U.S. National Ramsar Committee (2005–2008) and participated in the Ramsar Convention Conferences of the Parties held in Spain (2002), Uganda (2005), Korea (2008), Romania (2012), Uruguay (2015), and the United Arab Emirates (2018). Along with Dr. Max Finlayson, he was a coordinating lead author of the Global Wetland Outlook, Ramsar's flagship report on the state of the world's wetlands.







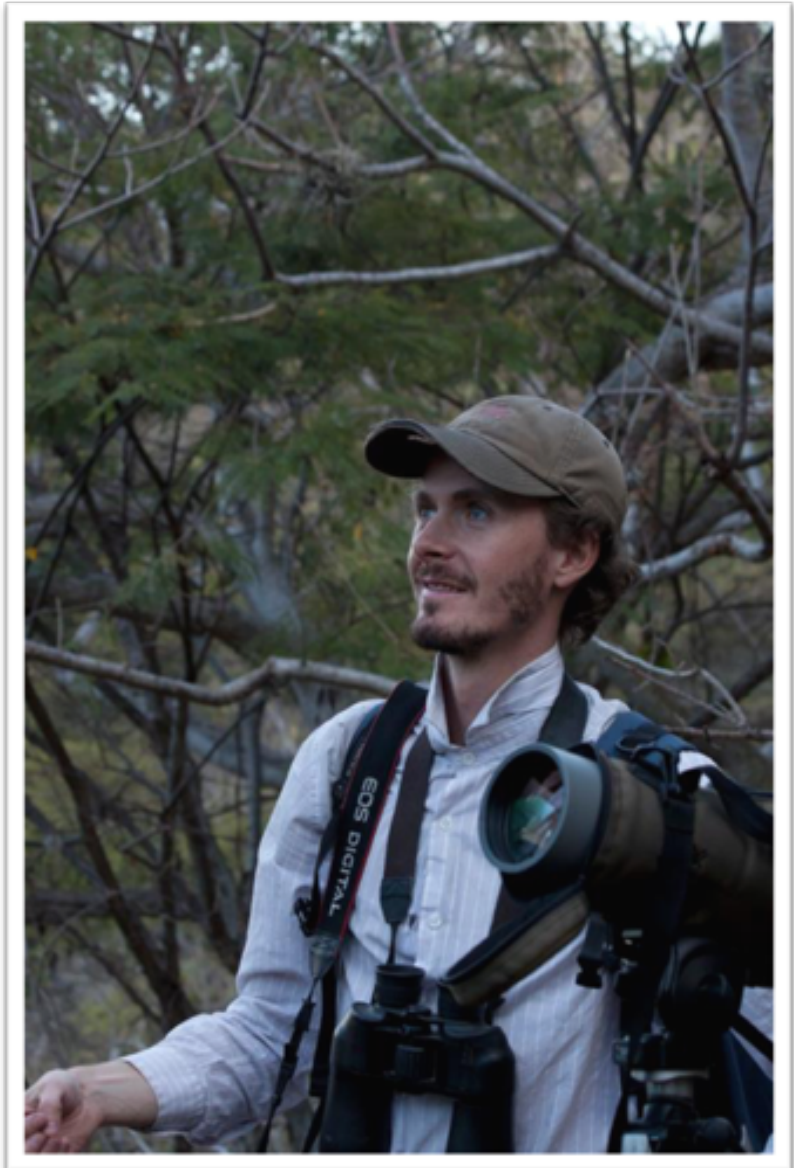
**Francis J. Marrano, Esq.** is admitted to practice law in New York State, earning his J.D. from the University at Buffalo School of Law in 2018. Born and raised in West Seneca, a suburb of Buffalo, Mr. Marrano spent 15 years working in the landscape and horticulture field of the residential development industry before returning to school to pursue a legal degree. Mr. Marrano is committed to Western New York and the Greater Buffalo Niagara Region and protecting its beautiful

environmental resources.

**Eamon J.P. Riley, Esq.** is an interdisciplinary professional with a keen awareness for how development and the law interact, and its impact on the natural, social, and economic environment. He has applied this passion and experience in both the public and private sectors, dealing with matters such as land use, economic development, sustainability, energy, resilience, infrastructure, real estate finance, and health. Currently Eamon serves as the Senior Manager of Economic Development for the Buffalo Niagara Partnership. Previously, he served as a fellow with University at Buffalo's Research and Education in eNergy Environment and Water (UB RENEW). He earned his Juris Doctor and Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University at Buffalo.



**Jajeon Rose-Burney** is the Deputy Executive Director of the Western New York Land Conservancy, a not-for-profit regional land trust headquartered in East Aurora, NY. Jajeon was born and raised in Buffalo. He has a bachelor's degree in environmental design and a master's degree in urban planning, both from the University at Buffalo (UB). After graduating in 2007, he worked at the Urban Design Project, a research center at UB, on several local planning efforts, environmental coalition building, and non-profit development. As a graduate student, Jajeon studied in the Sustainable Futures program in Costa Rica, and taught in the same program while working for the Urban Design Project. From 2010 to 2012 he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer stationed with Mexico's federal environmental agency in Puebla, a large city in southern Mexico, along with his wife Ana. There, he helped protect a large wetland from rapid and unplanned urban development, a project that led to an international Ramsar Site designation for the wetland and a new state park. This project won the 2013 International Planning Award from the American Planning Association (APA). Jajeon has written numerous articles and books on environmental topics, leads bird and nature tours, and has worked with several environmental organizations.



**Lynda H. Schneekloth**, Professor Emerita from the UB School of Architecture and Planning, has connected activism, design/planning practice, applied research, teaching, scholarship, and academic service with deep theoretical work on the fundamental dynamics of professional and citizen engagement in the practice of “placemaking.”

Schneekloth has found many ways to re-imagine and to care for the place she has made her home – Buffalo and its region. Her legacies include Buffalo

Niagara Riverkeeper, a potent organization devoted to repairing and protecting waterfronts, waterways, and watershed; the Western New York Environmental Alliance, now an active voice for regional



environmental issues; a broad public appreciation of the value of Buffalo’s massive ensemble of riverfront grain elevators; the currency in Buffalo Niagara planning of the idea of “green infrastructure;” and the growth of the Niagara Greenway Trail, a result of the community negotiations for the FERC relicensing of the Niagara Power Project.

On each project practice has translated into knowledge and knowledge into practice. Schneekloth is author or editor of six books and many articles on topics including *Placemaking: The Art and Practice of Building Community* with R. Shibley, *Ordering Space* with Karen Franck, and three books on regional history.



**David Stroud** has had a long involvement with the Ramsar Convention, having been involved (in various capacities) with the UK's implementation of the Convention and related EU legislation since the mid-1980s. He currently Chairs the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and has previously served the Panel in various other capacities mainly in the context of the designation and management of



Ramsar Sites. His background is waterbird conservation and he previously chaired the Technical Committee of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). He has had wide involvement in multiple other international processes related especially to waterbirds and wetlands. In March he stepped down from

employment as a senior advisor to UK government after 34 years with its statutory nature conservation agency for the UK. He continues to undertake personal long-term research and promote the conservation of the critically endangered Greenland race of White-fronted Goose, working in all its Range States.