

Environmental Evaluator's Networking Forum

Co-sponsored by:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency &
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Thursday, June 22, 2006

8:00 am **Sign-in:** Continental Breakfast; Meet and Greet

8:30 am **Introductory Comments** Carlton Owen, *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors, Chairman of the Evaluation Committee*

Outline of Day's Schedule and Goals

Katherine Dawes, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Matthew Birnbaum, *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

9:15 am **Plenary 1:** Trends & Issues in Evaluation: Applications for Environmental Evaluators

Keynote Speakers:

Robert Shea, *Deputy Director for Management, U.S. Office of Management and Budget*

John B. Stephenson, *Director, Natural Resources & Environment, U.S. Government Accountability Office*

Michael Patton, *Former President, American Evaluation Association*

Moderator: Jeff Trandahl, *Executive Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

10:30 am **Break**

10:45 am **Plenary 2:** Assessing the Current State of Environmental Evaluation

Presenters:

Andy Rowe, *GHK International, Inc.*

Shelley Metzenbaum, *University of Maryland*

Richard Margoluis, *Foundations of Success*

Moderator: Molly Engle, *Oregon State University*

Noon **Lunch**

Thursday, June 22, 2006 (continued)

1:15 pm **Breakout Session A:** Reflections on Lessons Learned in the Morning; Fleshing Out Key Priority Issues to Address during the Remainder of the Forum
(Individuals have been assigned to the breakout group color placed on their name tag.)

Breakout Group Red (Room 1117A): co-facilitated by Shawn Morford, *Benchmark Consulting*, and Gail Achterman, *Oregon State University*

Breakout Group Green (Room 1133A): co-facilitated by Shelley Metzenbaum, *University of Maryland*, and Lori Benneer, *Duke University*

Breakout Group Blue (Room 1151): co-facilitated by Andrew Schwarz, *Industrial Economics*, and Jared Hardner, *Hardner and Gullison*

Breakout Group Yellow (Room 1155): co-facilitated by John McLaughlin, *Managing for Results*, and Brian Gratwicke, *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

2:30 pm **Break**

2:45 pm **Continuation of Breakout Session A:** In addition to the above topics, this session will address barriers and opportunities for making progress on key priority issues.

4:00 pm **Break**

4:15 pm **Roundtable Panel Presentations:** Drilling into Key Issues Affecting Evaluation Capacity

Panel A (Room 1117A): Complexities of Scaling: Meeting Needs at Multiple Scales of Geography, Governance, and Purpose

Presenters: Robin O'Malley, *Heinz Center*
Per Mickwitz, *Finnish Environmental Institute*

Panel B (Room 1133A): Challenges to Evaluation's Influence: Data, Theory and Policy Frameworks

Presenters: Ted Heinz, *U.S. Council on Environmental Quality*
Hans Bruyninckx, *Catholic University, Belgium*

Panel C (Room 1151): Balancing the Use of Evaluation for Accountability vs. Improvement

Presenters: John Sherman, *Headwaters Group*
Michael Mason, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Panel D (Room 1155): Designs and Methods for Linking Outputs to Outcomes

Presenters: Jared Hardner, *Hardner and Gullison*
Gail Achterman, *Oregon State University*

5:15 pm **Day 1 Wrap-Up**

Michael Patton

5:30 pm **Adjourn** (Rooms reserved for drinks at 8pm at Chef Geoff's, 1301 Penn. Ave NW)

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Friday, June 23, 2006

8:00 am **Continental Breakfast**

8:30 am **Day 2 Introduction:** Emerging Themes from Day 1's Breakout Sessions;
Overview of Day 2 Activities

Katherine Dawes, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Matthew Birnbaum, *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

9:00 am **Breakout Session B:** Establishing the road map for making progress on the priority
issues over the next 1-5 years

(Re-form Breakout Groups Blue, Green, Red and Yellow from Day 1)

10:15 am **Break**

10:30 am **Next Steps Working Session**

Moderators: Katherine Dawes, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Matt Birnbaum, *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

- Summarize key lessons from breakout sessions
- Discuss developing a framework to facilitate ongoing networking

11:45 am **Break**

Noon **Roundtable Presentations: Scoping the Next Generation of Third-Party
Program Evaluations**

Program partners will discuss their needs for evaluation and ideas for framing the
evaluation with Q&A from interested third-party evaluators and other interested
parties.

(Buffet lunch will be served)

Room 1117A:

Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watershed Grant Program: Amanda Bassow,
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Kellogg-NFWF Sustainable Agriculture Initiative: Donn Waage, *National Fish
and Wildlife Foundation*

Room 1133A:

Pulling Together Initiative: Jonathan Mawsdley, *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program: Andrew Purkey, *National Fish and
Wildlife Foundation*

1:00 pm **Adjourn and Celebrate!**