



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

Meet our Conservation Forum 2022 Speakers



Joe DiNardo is a retired personal care products toxicologist, formulator and regulatory affairs professional with more than 45 years experience. DiNardo worked for Revlon and Almay. He was co-founder of Pharma Cosmetix Research, a research and technology company that consulted and developed various technologies for a range of personal care product companies, including Allergan, Elizabeth Arden, and Burt's Bees and several small independent medical professional groups. DiNardo retired in 2013 and has since pursued environmental toxicology concerns associated with various chemicals, including PFAS.

DiNardo holds a master's in toxicology from St. John's University in New York, wrote a textbook used to train estheticians along with various chapters for scientific books, published several manuscripts in the areas of sunscreen, reproductive and general toxicology, dermatology, in vivo/in vitro photobiology, comedogenicity, alpha hydroxy acid and antioxidant safety/efficacy. He also holds several domestic and international patents for various technologies. DiNardo has worked with several industry groups over the years and has served on numerous task force/committees for the personal care industry.

Dr. Robert C. Hale's primary research interests are environmental chemistry, biosolids, fate and availability of man-made compounds in aquatic environments.

Recent projects include identification of pollutants released via water, air and to soil following sludge (biosolids) applications and associated effects; bioavailability of sludge-associated chemicals to terrestrial and aquatic organisms; sources, analysis, fate and effects of brominated flame retardants and non-ionic detergents in the environment; consequence of plastic debris in terrestrial and aquatic environments.

Invested in educating his students on emerging environmental issues, Hale uses his passion for solving global health challenges in and beyond the classroom. He began his career as an environmental chemist at Mobil Oil. He is now a professor at VIMS. He consistently engages with industries, NGOs, and students on real-world issues. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles in journals such as Environmental Science & Technology and remains one of the most frequently cited active faculty at William & Mary.





Kathleen Hohweiler is a second-year master's student in biological systems engineering at Virginia Tech where she is currently advised by Dr. Leigh Anne Krometis. She graduated from Towson University Honors College in Spring 2021 with a degree in geology. Kathleen plans to pursue her Ph.D. in biological systems engineering in the future.



Leigh-Anne Krometis, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor and Elizabeth and James E Turner Jr. Fellow in biological systems engineering at Virginia Tech. She has more than a decade of experience in quantifying water and wastewater infrastructure needs and human health impacts in the Central Appalachian Coalfields, with in-region projects funded by USGS, USDA, NIH, NSF, NOAA, the Virginia Environmental Endowment, the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Appalachian Research Initiative for Environmental Science.

Erin Ling is a Senior Water Quality Extension Associate at Virginia Tech in the Biological Engineering Department. She has a B.A. from Virginia Tech in international development and two masters degrees from Penn State in environmental pollution control and rural sociology. Currently, she coordinates the Virginia Household Water Quality Program with Virginia Cooperative Extension, which offers affordable water testing and education to Virginia's 1.6 million well and spring users and works with collaborators on applied research projects related to this program.



William J. Mann Jr., M.D., spent more than 35 years in academic medicine as a gynecologic oncologist, and was active in teaching, research and clinical care for women with cancer of the reproductive organs. He is now a governor appointee to the Potomac Aquifer Recharge Oversight Committee, participated in the first working group on PFAS in 2021 and has an abiding interest in water quality and equity. He continues to study marine science at VIMS.