



BREAKING DOWN PLASTIC

Thursday, March 30th, 2017

South Carolina Aquarium Plastic Pollution Summit | The Charleston Gaillard Center

Hosted in collaboration between the South Carolina Aquarium, 5 Gyres Institute, and Lonely Whale Foundation, this public-facing community engagement summit will bring together leading experts, Aquarium Conservation Partnership collaborators, community practitioners, and other stakeholders from across the nation (via live stream) to generate solution-oriented discussions necessary to effectively address our most pressing plastic pollution challenges.

- **ALL DAY: Plastic Solutions Pavilion (open to the public)** -

8:00 am **Registration and Coffee Social**

9:00 am **Welcome to the 2017 Plastic Pollution Summit**
Kevin Mills, President and CEO, South Carolina Aquarium

9:10 am **Welcome Keynote Address**
Adrian Grenier, Co-Founder, Lonely Whale Foundation

9:20 am **Welcome to the City of Charleston**
Carolee Williams, Project Manager, Department of Planning, Preservation and Sustainability, City of Charleston

9:30 am **Panel 1 – Grassroots Policy: Citizens Implementing Solutions at the Local Level**
Inspirational leaders in this regionally-focused discussion will elucidate opportunities for effective citizen engagement in the legislative process and inform on South Carolina’s current collaborative efforts to minimize plastic pollution.

Moderator: *Albert George, Director of Conservation, South Carolina Aquarium*
A. Peter Shahid, Jr., Charleston City District Nine Councilmember
Angela Howe, Legal Director, Surfrider Foundation
Dana Beach, Founder, Coastal Conservation League
Omar Muhammad, President, Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities
Kathy Kent, Isle of Palms Citizen and “Ban the Bag” Leader

10:00 am **International Youth Summit**
In collaboration with 5 Gyres Institute, 140 regional South Carolina high school students will engage in an interactive, three-hour educational event focused on the development and implementation of cutting-edge solutions to plastic pollution. Student peers around the globe will connect with on-site programming through distance learning technology.

Dr. Marcus Eriksen, Co-Founder and Director of Research, 5 Gyres Institute
Danni Washington, Co-Founder, The Big Blue & You
Keyla Correia, Co-Founder, Plastic Free Mermaids
David Stover, Co-Founder, Bureo Inc.

10:30 am **Coffee Break**



ADRIAN GRENIER
Actor, Filmmaker, Entrepreneur
and Co-Founder of
Lonely Whale Foundation



DANNI WASHINGTON
Co-Founder,
The Big Blue & You

10:45 am

Spotlight on Innovation – Keynote Speaker

Entrepreneur David Katz has implemented an innovative and compassionate global business model that reveals the value in plastic waste and, in doing so, empowers individuals to transcend poverty by combatting plastic pollution.

David Katz, Founder and CEO, The Plastic Bank and Social Plastic



DAVID KATZ
Founder & CEO, The Plastic Bank and Social Plastic

11:30 am

Concurrent AM Plenary Sessions

Plenary Session 1 – Citizen Science: An Effective Tool to Counteract Plastic Pollution

You can help solve our plastic pollution issues by participating in an environmental research project! Engage with thought leaders in the citizen science field during an interactive discussion focused on terrestrial and marine debris projects that crowdsource environmental data and employ innovative methods to build empowering partnerships among community members, educators, policy makers, and scientists.

Moderator: *Brian Howard, Senior Writer, National Geographic*
Dr. Marcus Eriksen, Co-Founder and Director of Research, 5 Gyres Institute
Christi Hughes, Conservation and Research Specialist, South Carolina Aquarium
Dr. Jane Disney, Senior Staff Scientist, Director of Education, Director of Community Environmental Health Laboratory, Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory



MARCUS ERIKSEN
Co-Founder & Director of Research, 5 Gyres Institute

Plenary Session 2 – Social and Economic Costs of Aquatic Debris

Aside from aesthetic disruption, the true costs of improperly discarded plastic waste are substantial and often unrecognized. Components comprising the economic support structure of many communities (tourism, shipping, fishing, agriculture, etc.) can experience significant economic loss as a result of insufficient waste management infrastructure, while costs associated with remediation undertaken by municipalities may be borne by taxpayers. Interact with leading experts in this field to reveal these costs and explore solutions.

Moderator: *Brian Thill, Director of Education, South Carolina Aquarium*
Noah Chesnin, Policy Program Manager, New York Seascape at Wildlife Conservation Society
Rick DeVoe, Executive Director, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium
Lia Colabello, Community and Partnerships Director, 5 Gyres Institute

Plenary Session 3 – Government Vanguarders of the Aquatic Debris Movement

Environmental champions in state, regional, and federal government agencies are employing innovative techniques to reduce reliance on plastics and resolve environmental plastic leakage. Connect with accomplished agency representatives eager for public feedback as they share their efforts to conserve and protect our environment.

Moderator: *Daniel Burger, Director, Coastal Services Division, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)*
Dr. Jo Ann Ratto Ross, Polymer Research Engineer, U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center
Sarah Latshaw, Southeast Regional Coordinator, NOAA Marine Debris Program/IMSG
Molly Martin, Region 9 Coastal Watershed Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

12:30 pm

Spotlight on Corporate Innovation - Lunch Seminar

Join our guest speakers for a buffet lunch that will include a keynote address from Cox Enterprises, a diversified private company. Vice President of Environmental Sustainability, Keith Mask, will share insights from the company, including how they successfully implemented a scalable sustainability model to send zero waste to landfill and the company's ambitious future plans to become carbon and water neutral.

Keith Mask, Vice President of Environmental Sustainability, Cox Enterprises

2:00 pm

Concurrent PM Plenary Sessions

Plenary Session 4 – Correlations between Human and Environmental Health

A concerning paucity of knowledge exists in regard to potential impacts of environmental plastic leakage on the health of humans and wildlife. Join cutting-edge researchers in the emerging fields of plastics toxicology and environmental psychology to explore our current state of knowledge and learn about the potential long-term repercussions of unmitigated plastic litter.

Moderator: *Dr. Chelsea Rochman, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto
Dr. John Weinstein, Professor and Interim Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, Citadel Department of Biology
Dr. Patricia Fair, Adjunct Professor, Medical University of South Carolina
Dr. Kayleigh Wyles, Environmental Psychology Lecturer, University of Surrey*



DR. CHELSEA ROCHMAN
Assistant Professor,
University of Toronto

Plenary Session 5 – Plastics: The Next Predator of Wildlife

Persistent and pervasive, plastic litter in the environment is responsible for a host of unintended, yet potentially fatal, consequences for a wide array of wild species. Engage with experts who will share stories of research, rescue, and innovation to help save wildlife from harm caused by plastic debris.

Moderator: *Kelly Thorvalson, Conservation Programs Manager, South Carolina Aquarium
Elizabeth Hogan, Campaign Manager for Oceans and Wildlife, World Animal Protection
Dr. Grantly Galland, Senior Associate - Global Tuna Conservation, The PEW Charitable Trusts
Dr. Pamela Plotkin, Director, Texas Sea Grant College Program & Associate Research Professor, Texas A&M University*

Plenary Session 6 – Consumer Engagement and Emerging Tools

Empowered by consumerism, all citizens can “vote” to support companies that embrace stewardship of our interconnected global environment. Come interact with progressive non-profit and business pioneers implementing economically viable strategies to encourage producer responsibility and provide consumers with options that counteract plastic waste.

Moderator: *Media Correspondent TBA
Dr. Dune Ives, Executive Director, Lonely Whale Foundation
Scott Cassel, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Product Stewardship Institute
David Stover, Co-Founder, Bureo Inc.*



DAVID STOVER
Co-Founder,
Bureo Inc.

2:45 pm

Coffee Break

3:00 pm

Panel 2 – Market-Driven Innovations and Solutions

Delve into solutions initiated by proactive businesses and corporations embracing a more sustainable plastics economy in this nationally-scaled dialogue, which will focus on producer responsibility, technological breakthroughs, innovative source reduction strategies, and effective collaborations as integral components of the solution to environmental plastic pollution.

***Moderator:** Aimee David, Director of Ocean Conservation Policy Strategies, Monterey Bay Aquarium; Aquarium Conservation Partnership Chair of Executive Steering Committee*

Andrew Falcon, CEO, Full Cycle Bioplastics

Chris Gove, President and Co-Founder, Saltwater Brewery

Scott Cassel, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Product Stewardship Institute

Rachel Hazaray, Assistant General Counsel & Assistant Senior Manager, Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc.

Lia Colabello, Kick Plastic Cause Ambassador, Costa Del Mar

4:00 pm

Spotlight on Innovation – Culminating Keynote

A global leader in marine environmental stewardship, Ocean Recovery Alliance Co-Founder Douglas Woodring has fostered world-class collaborations and leveraged innovative technologies and policies to generate large-scale positive effects on the health of our ocean.

Doug Woodring, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Ocean Recovery Alliance

4:20 pm

Closing Remarks

Albert George, Director of Conservation, South Carolina Aquarium

Complementary Summit Events

Wednesday, March 29th, 2017

South Carolina Aquarium Plastic Pollution Summit Workshop | Morris Island, SC

Charleston Water Taxi will host a limited number of guests on a scenic cruise through Charleston Harbor to uninhabited Morris Island, a strategic Civil War site accessible only by boat. During the 30-minute cruise, Dr. Barbara Beckingham from the College of Charleston will lead guests in using 5 Gyres Institute plastic pollution technology to actively sample for microplastics in Charleston Harbor. Upon arrival to Morris Island, celebrate the South Carolina Aquarium's launch of the Aneccdata citizen science app with us by using this innovative tool during a sweep of beautiful Morris Island. Created by the MDI Biological Laboratory, Aneccdata.org is an online citizen science community ingeniously designed to crowdsource meaningful, actionable environmental data to help build a bigger picture of our changing environment. Space is limited for this two-hour interactive workshop.

2:00 pm **Morris Island Aneccdata Plastics Workshop**
Dr. Barbara Beckingham, Assistant Professor, College of Charleston

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Holland Lifelong Learning Finale | Francis Marion Hotel

6:00 pm **Plastic Planet: Turning the Tides on the Plastic Pollution Crisis**
Featuring internationally renowned experts on the threat of plastic pollution, this panel will explore diverse and innovative perspectives on approaches to address this growing threat to our planet's health from perspectives of global and domestic policy, marine science, corporate innovation and grassroots mobilization.

***Moderator:** Vipe Desai, Board Member, Ocean Champions; CEO, HDX Hydration Mix
Dr. Marcus Eriksen, Co-Founder and Director of Research, 5 Gyres Institute
Dr. Chelsea Rochman, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto
Doug Woodring, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Ocean Recovery Alliance
John Bradburn, Global Manager of Waste Reduction, General Motors
Judith Enck, Environmental Policy Expert*

7:30 pm **Annual Watershed Dinner**
We will convene our panelists, internationally renowned plastic pollution experts and honored guests at our Annual Watershed Dinner to further discuss progressive and collaborative solutions to plastic pollution alongside members of the Aquarium's highest level donor society.