



**Erik Michelsen**  
**Anne Arundel County Watershed Protection and Restoration Program**  
**Maryland, USA**

How Can Research on the Effects of Beaver Activity Inform Better Stream  
and Wetland Restoration Design?

Over the course of the past 30 years, there has been a rich and varied scientific effort focused on better understanding the ways that *Castor canadensis* manipulates the landscape in a way that affects nutrient processing, habitat creation, and flood attenuation, among other things. By and large, this work has been ignored by the stream restoration community and, if even considered, disregarded as inapplicable to the design and implementation of conveyance-focused projects.

A deeper look at that research illuminates not only an alternative path forward for stream and wetland restoration work, but one that very likely is more effective at helping us meet our stated goals than are conventional approaches. This presentation will compare and contrast both sets of restoration approaches as well as discuss the anticipated outcomes of each.