

2009 Mid-Atlantic Stream Restoration Conference
Researcher and Practitioner Workgroup: Practical Tools to Further the Science
November 3, 2009

Background: In the stream restoration and fluvial geomorphology professions, both academics and practitioners work to develop and apply the best fluvial practices to improve natural and human environments. At times, they disagree on the best methods or approaches for restoring rivers and streams. At the most recent Mid-Atlantic Stream Restoration Conference and South East Stream Restoration Conference, the two professions began discussions to resolve the disagreement. However, at each conference, just when real progress is being made, the conference is over.

Proposal: Create an Academic/Practitioner Stream Restoration Work Group

The Work Group would identify a list of stream restoration and fluvial geomorphology topics that pose points of contention between academics and practitioners.

The work group will meet annually or bi-annually. The first meeting will take place at the Mid-Atlantic Stream Restoration Conference on November 3, 2009. The meeting will be a half-day session consisting of a small, invited group of practitioners and academics that are open-minded and wish to further the science of fluvial geomorphology and the practice of stream restoration. A facilitator will be provided.

The Work Group will have a specific mission. Below is an initial list of potential goals. The list is ambitious for a half day session. A private web forum will be created so that Work Group participants can exchange information and ideas before to the first meeting and continue the discussion afterwards. Much of the groundwork will be laid on the web forum prior to the first meeting.

Mission:

- To promote collaboration between academics and practitioners in the science of fluvial geomorphology and the practice of stream restoration.
- To provide networking opportunities and forum for on-going discussion.
- To create tools to further the science of fluvial geomorphology and practice of stream restoration. This group will focus on watersheds in the eastern United States.

Goals:

1. Develop a list of fluvial principles and practices agreed upon by both groups?
2. Develop a list of questions/research topics of fluvial principles and practices that need to be researched and/or tested
3. Develop a list of needed assessment and design tools
4. Produce a summary of the session outcomes.
5. Form a Work Group that will meet annually at either the Mid-Atlantic Stream Restoration Conference or the Southeast Stream Restoration Conference. A second annual meeting may also be scheduled. Smaller topic specific, sub-groups may be formed pursuant to the session outcomes.