

# PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

## **Nathan Burrell – City of Richmond, VA, Department of Parks and Recreation**

Nathan Burrell is the trails manager for the city of Richmond, Virginia's Department of Parks and Recreation, where he maintains, develops and plans trails throughout the city. Richmond's trail system has received a number of accolades, including Best Urban Trail System in the Southeast in 2006 and 2007 from *Blue Ridge Outdoor* magazine. Most recently, as a result of Burrell's work, the city of Richmond has received the designation as Trail Town USA for the Southeast by *Trail Runner* magazine.

## **Jeff Ciabotti – Rails-to-Trails Conservancy**

Jeffrey Ciabotti has worked with Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) for 14 years, initially staffing RTC's Florida Field Office and now as vice president of trail development at the National Office in Washington, D.C. Ciabotti oversees RTC's trail-building programmatic services, including the Urban Pathways Initiative and the organization's four regional offices. He provides extensive training and education for the trails movement, manages a national technical assistance program and is a member of the Pedestrian Committee on the Transportation and Research Board. Ciabotti has presented on active transportation issues at national and international venues and continues to consult on urban and regional trail projects in communities across the country.

## **Steve Clark – Transit for Livable Communities, St. Paul, MN**

Steve Clark is the Walking and Bicycling Program Manager for Transit for Livable Communities, based in St. Paul, Minnesota, administering a 4 year, \$22.5 million pilot program to improve conditions for walking and bicycling. He is the past president of the League of American Bicyclists, former bicycle coordinator for Boulder, Colorado and cofounder of the Minnesota Coalition of Bicyclists.

For many years he worked as an independent bicycle and pedestrian planning consultant while operating a 37-acre organic farm known as the BikeFarm. He has also manufactured utility bicycle trailers/garden carts, operated an alternative treatment facility for at risk youth and was the public information director for the Land Stewardship Project. Known for his entertaining style, Clark has been a keynote speaker and workshop leader at many national, state and regional conferences.

## **Miquela Craytor – South Bronx Greenway, New York, NY**

Miquela Craytor is the executive director of Sustainable South Bronx (SSBx), an organization dedicated to creating environmental justice solutions through innovative, economically sustainable projects that are informed by community need. Recognized for her work in both local and national circles, she has contributed to the Presidential Climate Action Plan, served as Global Green Urbanism Leader and as an Institute for Design contributor. Initially joining SSBx in November 2006 as deputy director, Craytor has overseen initiatives that have helped improve the organization's

effectiveness and reputation within the community. Opening the Bronx waterfront—one of SSBx's signature crusades—is a personal priority for Craytor.

**Sergeant Christopher Davala – International Police Mountain Bike Association**

Christopher M. Davala is a sergeant with the Maryland State Police, assigned to the eastern shore of Maryland. Tasked as community liaison in a high drug crime area and seeking a way to curb the influx of criminal activity, Davala sought out the training and experience of the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA). He assembled the first bike patrol for the Maryland State Police. In 2002, he took a seat on the IPMBA Board of Directors. He is an IPMBA Police Cyclist, Security and EMS Cyclist instructor and has been a spokesman for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to educate police officers on the importance of enforcing vehicle laws pertaining to cyclists. Davala has been a member of the Maryland Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Council (MBPAC) and has testified in Annapolis on enhancing traffic laws.

**Heather Deutsch – Metropolitan Branch Trail, Washington, D.C.**

Heather Deutsch is the trail planner for the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, where her major project is a rail-with-trail that runs from Union Station to Silver Spring, Md. She has worked on trail development for the last five years, including previously with RTC, where projects took her throughout the country. Deutsch's prior urban planning work focused on underserved communities in redeveloping historical neighborhoods. She has a degree in Urban Planning from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and has been an avid cyclist since she was young, counting a trans-America trip at the age of 13 as a highlight.

**James Dills – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

James Dills is a research fellow with the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. His work focuses on health effects of built environments, particularly in respect to physical activity and chronic disease. Part of this work includes developing capacity for Health Impact Assessment (HIA) in the US through trainings, partnerships, and evaluation. He has worked extensively with walkability analysis and has presented on the topic at the American Public Health Association annual meeting and other national conferences. Prior to his current position, James worked as a health communicator for CDC's Emergency Communication System, where he developed strategies for two-way communication between clinicians and the CDC regarding emergent health issues ranging from natural disasters to hospital-acquired infections. He has also worked for a non-profit pedestrian advocacy group in Atlanta and the Georgia Division of Public Health. He has graduate degrees in public health from Emory University and in urban planning from the University of Louisville.

**Billy Fields – University of New Orleans**

Dr. Billy Fields is the Director of the Center for Urban and Public Affairs and Associate Director of the Gulf Coast Research Center for Evacuation and Transportation Resiliency at the University of New Orleans. His research background includes extensive work on the intersection of land use and transportation, including work on the quantification of the health and transportation benefits of walking and biking. Before joining the University of New Orleans, Dr. Fields was the Director of Research at the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in Washington, DC.

**Jeanette Gustat- Tulane University**

Jeanette Gustat, PhD MPH, is the Principal Investigator of the core research project for the Prevention Research Center (PRC) at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical. The PRC studies the impact of the social and physical environment on obesity and collaborates with community partners through policy, education and communication strategies to build healthier communities in New Orleans. Dr. Gustat is currently principal investigator on the Lafitte Greenway Project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Active Living Research program to examine the effects of the Greenway on physical activity in the surrounding neighborhoods. Additionally, she has spent many years examining the environmental determinants of physical activity in parks and playgrounds in New Orleans. She is also a member of the Physical Activity and Policy Research Network funded by the CDC. Previously, she has spent several years as the epidemiologist/program administrator for the Bogalusa Heart Study, which examines risk factors for cardiovascular disease in young to middle aged adults.

**Peter Harnik – Trust for Public Land**

Peter Harnik is director of the Center for City Park Excellence at the Trust for Public Land. Among his publications are *Inside City Parks*, a book about the park and recreation systems of the largest U.S. cities; *The Excellent City Park System: What Makes it Great and How to Get There*; and *Measuring the Economic Value of a City Park System*. Previous to TPL, Harnik was co-founder and vice president of RTC. He was also co-founder of the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail in Washington, D.C., and president of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. Harnik's newest book, *Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities* (Island Press), is scheduled for publication this spring.

**Keith Holt – Mayor Taylor Trail, Chicago, IL**

Keith Holt has been advocating for trail development and bicycling in large urban communities for almost a decade. Working for more than five years for the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation (now Active Transportation Alliance), Holt faced trail challenges and successes with the Major Taylor Trail, Burnham Greenway, the southern end of the Lakefront Trail, and the Cal Sag Trail. He currently lives in Milwaukee, where he chairs the Milwaukee Bike/Ped Task Force and serves as a board member for the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin. He is focused on starting Milwaukee Bicycle Works, a community-level nonprofit bicycle organization.

**Ursula Lemanski – National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program**

Ursula Lemanski has 25 years of experience in the fields of community planning and natural resource management, specifically in areas of trail and greenway planning, river conservation, floodplain and watershed management, and outdoor recreation planning. She is currently a project manager for the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, and a past board member of the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail and Friends of the Washington & Old Dominion Trail

**Robert Ping – Safe Routes to Schools National Partnership**

Robert Ping directs the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) State Network Project in the District of Columbia and 19 states. He oversees two State Network Managers and the Florida State Network Project, provides program development and training, attends network meetings, and gives conference presentations. A Portland, Oregon resident, Robert provided three years of SRTS technical services to Oregon communities and the Oregon Department of Transportation. He was formerly chair of the Oregon Walk+Bike to School Committee, is a member of Portland's SRTS Technical Advisory Committee, and is a liaison to the Oregon Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee. He co-designed and managed Portland's SRTS program, providing comprehensive services to 19 schools. Robert was appointed to the National SRTS Task Force in 2006 to represent local and state programs. Formerly, in San Francisco, Robert was administrative and communications director of the Bay Area's Transportation and Land Use Coalition and worked as director of the Bicycle Community Project. He was director of Pedal Power youth education programs and the associate director of Trips for Kids-Marin, focusing on serving low-income youth.

**John Renne - University of New Orleans**

Dr. John L. Renne is an Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Transportation Studies at the University of New Orleans. He is also the Director of Transportation Studies and the Associate Director of the University of New Orleans Transportation Center and the Managing Director of The TOD Group, a Transit-Oriented Development company. Dr. Renne is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. His research focuses on transportation and land use planning, including smart growth, sustainable development, and evacuation planning. He is affiliated with research centers in Australia and Europe, including the Urban Sustainability through Environmental Design (UStED) research network, the Planning and Transport Research Centre of Western Australia, the Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy at Murdoch University, and the Planning Research Centre at the University of Sydney. He has also written extensively and lectured around the globe on these issues. He led two projects on transit-oriented development for the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. He has worked with state and local government on smart growth and transportation planning across the United States and Australia.

**Jeff Schwartz – Broad Community Connections, New Orleans, LA**

Jeffrey Schwartz is an urban planner and self-described flâneur who is in love with the Crescent City. He is currently the Director of Broad Community Connections, a neighborhood development organization and urban Main Street working to revitalize the neighborhoods lining Broad Street. Jeff has a Master's degree in Urban Planning from MIT, with a focus on urban design and community economic development, and he is interested in the relationship between the built environment of a community and the health, engagement, and vibrancy of its citizens. He believes the Lafitte Greenway is a vision for a sustainable New Orleans, and is anxious to play a part in bringing it to fruition.

**Kartik Sribarra - Rails-to-Trails Conservancy**

Since 2006, Kartik Sribarra has been policy outreach manager at RTC, where he manages the organization's advocacy efforts and the Campaign for Active Transportation, a federal transportation reform initiative. Prior to his employment at RTC, Sribarra received his master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University in 2006, and his bachelor's from the University of Rochester in 2000. He has a background in a wide variety of cause-based work, including human services, civic engagement and environmentalism. His careers stops prior to RTC include Alta Planning + Design and the Oregon Community Foundation.

**Joseph W. Thompson, MD, MPH- Surgeon General for the State of Arkansas**

**Director, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity**

**Director, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement**

**Associate Professor in the Colleges of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences**

**Practicing General Pediatrician at Arkansas Children's Hospital**

Dr. Joe Thompson's work is centered at the intersection of clinical care, public health and health policy. He is responsible for developing health policy, research activities and collaborative programs that promote better health and health care in Arkansas. Dr. Thompson works closely with the Governor's office, the Arkansas legislature and public and private organizations across the state on relevant health policy topics. Nationally, as Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity, he is leading a strategic partnership with PolicyLink that serves as the linchpin of RWJF's strategy to reverse the epidemic of childhood obesity by 2015.

Dr. Thompson has led vanguard efforts in planning and implementing health care financing reform, tobacco- and obesity-related health promotion and disease prevention programs. He was the lead architect of the Tobacco Settlement Act of 2000, at the forefront of Arkansas's nation-leading efforts against childhood obesity and instituted the Arkansas Health Insurance Roundtable. Under his leadership, ACHI

helped pass the Clean Indoor Air Act of 2006, documented the state's success in halting progress of the childhood obesity epidemic, and helped implement ARHealthNetworks, Arkansas's health care benefits waiver for low-income workers.

He currently serves on the Arkansas Board of Health and is past President of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Nationally, Dr. Thompson serves on the board of AcademyHealth and on the Health Care Financing and Organization National Advisory Panel. He is author of numerous articles and publications that reflect his research interests in the areas of health and health care including access, quality and finance.

Dr. Thompson earned his medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He served as the RWJF Clinical Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Luther Terry Fellow in Preventive Medicine advising the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Health in Washington, DC, and the Assistant Vice President and Director of Research at the National Committee for Quality Assurance in Washington, DC. In 1997, he served as the First Child and Adolescent Health Scholar of the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (then the U.S. Agency for Health Care Policy and Research) before returning to Arkansas.

**Jacob VanSickle – Morgana Run Trail, Cleveland, OH**

As the active living coordinator for Slavic Village Development, a nonprofit community development corporation serving the Slavic Village neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio, VanSickle is responsible for working with community residents to promote, program and advocate for the Morgana Run Trail. In addition to recruiting and managing volunteers for trail clean-ups and trail upkeep, he also plans and implements public art projects and opportunities to increase the number of greenway connections in the community. Some of his other job assignments include working with local community gardens, skateboard groups, bicycling organizations and parks and event programming.

**Yves Zsutty – City of San Jose, CA, Trails Program**

Yves Zsutty serves as program manager for development for the city of San Jose's 100-mile trail network that serves recreational and commuting objectives. His background in traffic engineering, technology and design contributes to the city's efforts to deploy a trail network that meets the needs of Silicon Valley residents in an efficient and aesthetically pleasing manner. The city's vision of becoming a national leader in trail development is well documented by the many awards and recognition received for program accomplishments.