A Rising Tide: Complex Water Challenges in the Mid-Atlantic Propel Scholarship, Research, and Engagement

Dr. Stephen H. Schoenholtz

Sustainable management of water resources has been identified as one of the key environmental, economic, engineering, and social challenges for the 21st century. Meeting these challenges requires unprecedented interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to scholarship, research, and engagement. This seminar will provide a brief overview of some of the complex water-resources challenges in the Mid-Atlantic Region, the role of the Virginia Water Resources Research Center in addressing these challenges, and an overview of innovative approaches at Virginia Tech to train the next generation of water-resource professionals.

Dr. Stephen H. Schoenholtz is Director of the Virginia Water Resources Research Center and Professor of Forest Hydrology and Soils at Virginia Tech. As Director, he oversees a federal- and state-funded center whose mission is to facilitate collaborative research, extension, and education programs to develop solutions to water resource challenges. His research and teaching program focuses on interactions between land management and water and soil resources. His current research has a strong interdisciplinary approach, emphasizing the development of water-quality standards for headwater streams impacted by surface mining in the central Appalachians, and has a significant policy component involving regular communication with government regulatory agencies, elected officials, non-governmental organizations, and the coal-mining industry.

Dr. Schoenholtz is coordinating a new interdisciplinary undergraduate degree program in “Water: Resources, Policy, and Management” at Virginia Tech, which is the first of its kind in the U.S. He earned a BS degree in Biology and Forest Science from Penn State and MS and PhD degrees in forest soil science from Virginia Tech.

Video streaming of the seminar can be viewed at: https://www.facebook.com/uhseagrant/