



Battenkill Conservancy's Winter Speaker Series

The Value of Source Water Protection

Land Conservation, Healthy Watersheds & Water Quality Protection



Dr. Chi Ho Sham with Steve Pick, former Remsen Water Utility Director at the site of an innovative native planting project to reduce nitrate levels in the municipal wells.

The Battenkill Conservancy is proud to bring Dr Chi Ho Sham, Chief Scientist with The Cadmus Group, Inc. (Cadmus) of Waltham, Massachusetts and an expert in Source Water Protection to speak on Sunday, Feb 28, 2016 at 3:00 PM at The Elks Club in Greenwich, New York.

Dr. Sham will speak on the value of protecting the water supply at its source and the connection between land conservation, maintaining healthy watersheds and ensuring quality drinking water.

As an active member of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the current Chair of its Water Resource Sustainability Division, Dr. Sham has spearheaded numerous research projects on watershed and source water protection, worked with the U.S. Forest Service to determine the connection between watershed conditions and water quality. He has also developed source water protection courses and workshops for the U.S. EPA, AWWA, and various states drinking water programs.

A project that Dr. Sham uses as an example of an innovative and collaborative success story revolves around the relatively small water system of Remsen, Iowa. When high levels of nitrates were discovered in the municipal well, a coordinated effort was mounted to implement a “pro-active and out of the box” public/private partnership to plant native grasses and reduce

nitrate levels. Dr. Sham uses the Remsen project as an example of what can be done to improve water supplies across the country using creative partnerships and habitat restoration.

In 2013, Dr. Sham was the recipient of the OASIS ((Outstanding Achievement, Service and Initiative in Sustainability of Water Resources) Award which recognizes an individual's "contribution, initiatives and dedication to advancing sustainable water resources". The award is given by AWWA, the nation's largest nonprofit, scientific and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the world's most important resource. As a life-long educator and dedicated scientist, Dr Sham travels the country to speak to hundreds of groups both large and small on the value of source water protection. When he is not mentoring and training the next generation of Cadmus thought leaders, he serves as adjunct professor and is a research fellow at Clark University in Worcester, MA.

When Battenkill Conservancy's Director, Lorraine Merghart Ballard and Board Member, Dan Bleier heard Dr. Sham speak at the Hudson River Watershed Alliance's Conference last October, they decided his message was a strong fit with their organization's mission of watershed protection and land conservation. Given the unfortunate events that have transpired in both Flynt, Michigan and closer to home in Hoosick Falls, the importance of protecting source water supplies has become all the more topical.

Dr. Sham's presentation is part of Battenkill Conservancy's Winter Speaker Series and is open to the public free of charge. All those interested in learning more about this important topic are encouraged to attend. For more information go to www.battenkillconservancy.org or email bkc@battenkillconservancy.org.