

# Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium 2020 Buffer Summit Program



**When:** Thursday, October 15th, 2020

**Where:** The Buffer Summit will be held virtually on Thursday, October 15, 2020 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm (with breaks)

The Summit will be held virtually on Zoom

Register here: [www.t.ly/v4P8](http://www.t.ly/v4P8) for details and registration



**9:00 - 9:40 am**

**Welcome and State of our Buffers in the James Watershed - an update on WIP III progress**

With James Martin, Virginia DEQ



**9:40 - 10:15 am**

**Flash networking session**



**10:15 - 11:00 am**

**Panel: Buffers Beyond the Teenage Years: Stewarding your Buffer into Adulthood**

With Amber Ellis, JRA  
Patti Nylander, DOF and  
Lara Johnson, DOF



**11:10 - 11:55 am**

**Panel: Why Conservation Makes Sense: Stories from the Field**

With Bill Braford, a farmer in the Upper James and  
Matt Ehrhart, Stroud Water Research Center



**11:55 am - 12:20 pm**

**Alluvial/Riparian Natural Plant Communities of our Region: Biodiversity Assessment, Restoration, and Stewardship**

With Devin Floyd, Center for Urban Habitats



**12:50 - 1:05 pm**

**Celebrating riparian restoration through the SWCDs VACS program**

With Jim Echols, DCR



**1:05 - 2:00 pm**

**Panel: Reimagining the Conservation WorkForce: Restoring Communities and Water Quality and Closing**

With Christopher Rashad Green, Free\*Dome Unlimited and  
Shea Zwerver, PA DNR

## About the Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium

Vision Statement: **“Growing partnerships to create healthy streamside ecosystems for clean water in the James River today and tomorrow.”**

The Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium is a network of partners working together strategically and collaboratively to achieve their goals in riparian buffer implementation in order to improve water quality within the James River watershed. We work to achieve our vision through a holistic approach to riparian restoration that involves five areas of focus: riparian forest buffers, agricultural infrastructure, streambank stabilization, wildlife habitat, and buffer protection. The Consortium has four Action Teams that support the Vision through associated goals.

**Visit us online: [www.jamesriverconsortium.org](http://www.jamesriverconsortium.org) to learn how to get involved!**



# Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium 2020 Buffer Summit Agenda




## How to join on October 15th, 2020 -- Welcome!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89477712495?pwd=bitsbUZOZ1lsTjBJcnFLTGd0N0pXUT09>  
Phone dial-in (if needed) 1-646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 894 7771 2495 Passcode: 52431

After you have registered at the registration link on the flyer, you can join via Zoom online or by dialing in. Zoom tips on page 5. Contact Emily Carlson with any technical difficulties: [emily@dialogueanddesign.com](mailto:emily@dialogueanddesign.com) or 570-506-1207 (texts if possible, please)

9:00 am	<b>Buffer Summit and goals, Consortium overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome, agenda review, logistics, introductions - Christine Gyovai, Dialogue + Design Associates</li><li>Consortium overview - Amber Ellis, James River Association</li><li>Coordination Tool: <a href="http://www.jrapt.cicapps.org">www.jrapt.cicapps.org</a></li><li>Streamside Report Tool: <a href="http://www.jamesriverconsortium.org/programs">www.jamesriverconsortium.org/programs</a></li></ul>
9:25 am	<b>State of our Buffers in the James Watershed - an update on WIP III progress</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>James Martin, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality</li></ul>
9:40 am	<b>Flash networking session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Name, affiliation, what is one threat to streamside ecosystems in your area, and what solutions or programs have been helpful to address it?</li></ul>
10:15 am	<b>Panel 1: Buffers Beyond the Teenage Years: Stewarding your Buffer into Adulthood</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Patti Nylander, Department of Forestry</li><li>Amber Ellis, James River Association</li><li>Lara Johnson, Department of Forestry</li></ul>
11:00 am	<b>Break</b>
11:10 am	<b>Panel 2: Why Conservation Makes Sense: Stories from the Field</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bill Braford, Blue Chip Forestry and Farmer in the Upper James</li><li>Matt Ehrhart, Stroud Water Research Center</li></ul>
11:55 am	<b>Presentation: Alluvial/Riparian Natural Plant Communities of our Region: Biodiversity Assessment, Restoration, and Stewardship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Devin Floyd, Center for Urban Habitats</li></ul>
12:20 pm	<b>Break for Lunch:</b> we'll leave zoom open if you want to stay in chat.
12:50 pm	<b>Welcome and DCR perspective</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jim Echols, VA DCR - Celebrating riparian restoration through the SWCDs VACS program and upcoming changes</li></ul>
1:05 pm	<b>Panel 3: Reimagining the Conservation WorkForce: Restoring Communities and Water Quality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Amber Ellis, James River Association</li><li>Christopher Rashad Green, Free*Dome Unlimited</li><li>Shea Zwerver, PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources</li></ul>
1:50 pm	<b>Closing and reflections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Click <a href="#">here</a> to complete an evaluation for the Buffer Summit</li></ul>
2:00 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>



Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium --  
2020 Buffer Summit Evaluation

Thank you so much for participating! Your feedback is very helpful in planning future Buffer Summits! If you have any questions about the Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium, please see the website: <https://jamesriverconsortium.org>.

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What were the most valuable elements of the Buffer Summit?

Long answer text

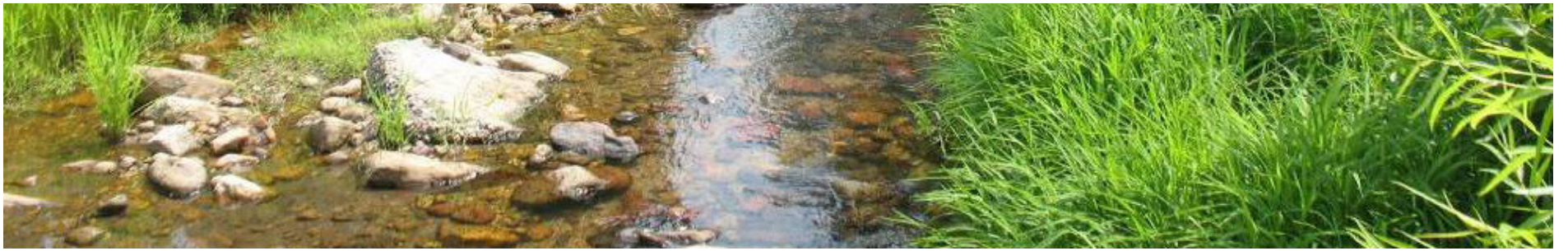
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What were the least valuable elements of the Summit?

Long answer text

# Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium

## About the Panelists & Presenters



### **James Martin, Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator**

James provides management of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan, including tracking and reporting programmatic and project implementation activities. He assists in guiding the development and delivery of the Commonwealth's programs to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act, Chesapeake Bay TMDL and WIP. [james.martin@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:james.martin@deq.virginia.gov)

### **Patti Nylander, Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Senior Area Forester in Upper James**

Patti Nylander is a Senior Area Forester for the Virginia Department of Forestry, overseeing the Mountain Valley Work area. She has worked for the agency for 19 years, serving as an Area Forester and supervisor in the counties of Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Highland, and Rockbridge. Patti has helped with the establishment of many riparian buffers on public and private lands. Her work with buffers has included developing planting plans, planting trees, cleaning up after flooding events, adding bird nets, removing tubes, and cutting back invasives. [patricia.nylander@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:patricia.nylander@dof.virginia.gov)

### **Amber Ellis, James River Association, Senior Watershed Restoration Manager**

Amber is the Senior Watershed Restoration Manager for the James River Association. From riparian buffers, to stormwater, to living shorelines; building diverse partnerships to get more projects on the ground is at the heart of her work in the James River watershed. [aellis@thejamesriver.org](mailto:aellis@thejamesriver.org)

### **Lara Johnson, Dept. of Forestry, Program Manager of Urban & Community Forestry**

Lara is the Program Manager of Urban & Community Forestry at Virginia Department of Forestry. She is an ISA Certified Arborist and a Fire GIS Specialist. In her spare time, she manages a sheep farm with her family in Central Virginia. [Lara.Johnson@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:Lara.Johnson@dof.virginia.gov)

### **Bill Braford, Blue Chip Forestry Consultant, Farmer in the Upper James**

Bill retired from the Virginia Department of Forestry in 2002 (Water Quality Specialist). He is the owner of the Braford family farm and produces calves, feeder cattle and hay. He currently has a part time forestry consulting business (Blue Chip Forestry). [brafordw@comcast.net](mailto:brafordw@comcast.net)

### **Matt Ehrhart, Stroud Water Research Center, Director of Watershed Restoration**

Matt is the Director of Watershed Restoration at Stroud Water Research Center. His work is focused primarily on water quality, watershed restoration, agricultural conservation and preservation, and the associated policy and implementation issues. [mehrhart@stroudcenter.org](mailto:mehrhart@stroudcenter.org)

### **Devin Floyd, Center for Urban Habitats, Founder & Director**

Devin provides expertise and leadership for inventory, monitoring, and management of natural resources for public entities in Central Virginia. With CUH he continues to be a pioneer in the place-based learning movement, inspiring the next generation of stewards to build knowledge from the ground up, rooted in local contexts. [devin.floyd@gmail.com](mailto:devin.floyd@gmail.com)

### **Jim Echols, Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Western Area Manager**

Jim is the Western Area Manager at Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation's Division of Soil and Water Conservation. He supervises three offices covering the western half of Virginia. The work of these offices is to implement programs to improve water quality. [jim.echols@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:jim.echols@dcr.virginia.gov)

### **Christopher Rashad Green, Free\*Dome Unlimited, Founder**

Christopher Rashad Green is a community advocate and activist, a motivational speaker, and the founder of Free\*Dome Unlimited, Inc., a reentry initiative. He is a formerly incarcerated individual who now, as a political organizer and health-equity advocate, is on a journey to empower men, women, and children in overcoming the challenges and injustices of the criminal justice system. Mr. Green is the Lead Organizer at New Virginia Majority, where he leads their criminal justice campaigns. [christopherrashad47@gmail.com](mailto:christopherrashad47@gmail.com)

### **Shea Zwerver, PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Policy Specialist**

Shea created a pilot program that trains inmates nearing release at state correctional institutions in natural resources. This endeavor required coordinating with the PA Department of Corrections, and leveraging the expertise of external organizations needed to teach the subject matter. [szwerver@pa.gov](mailto:szwerver@pa.gov)

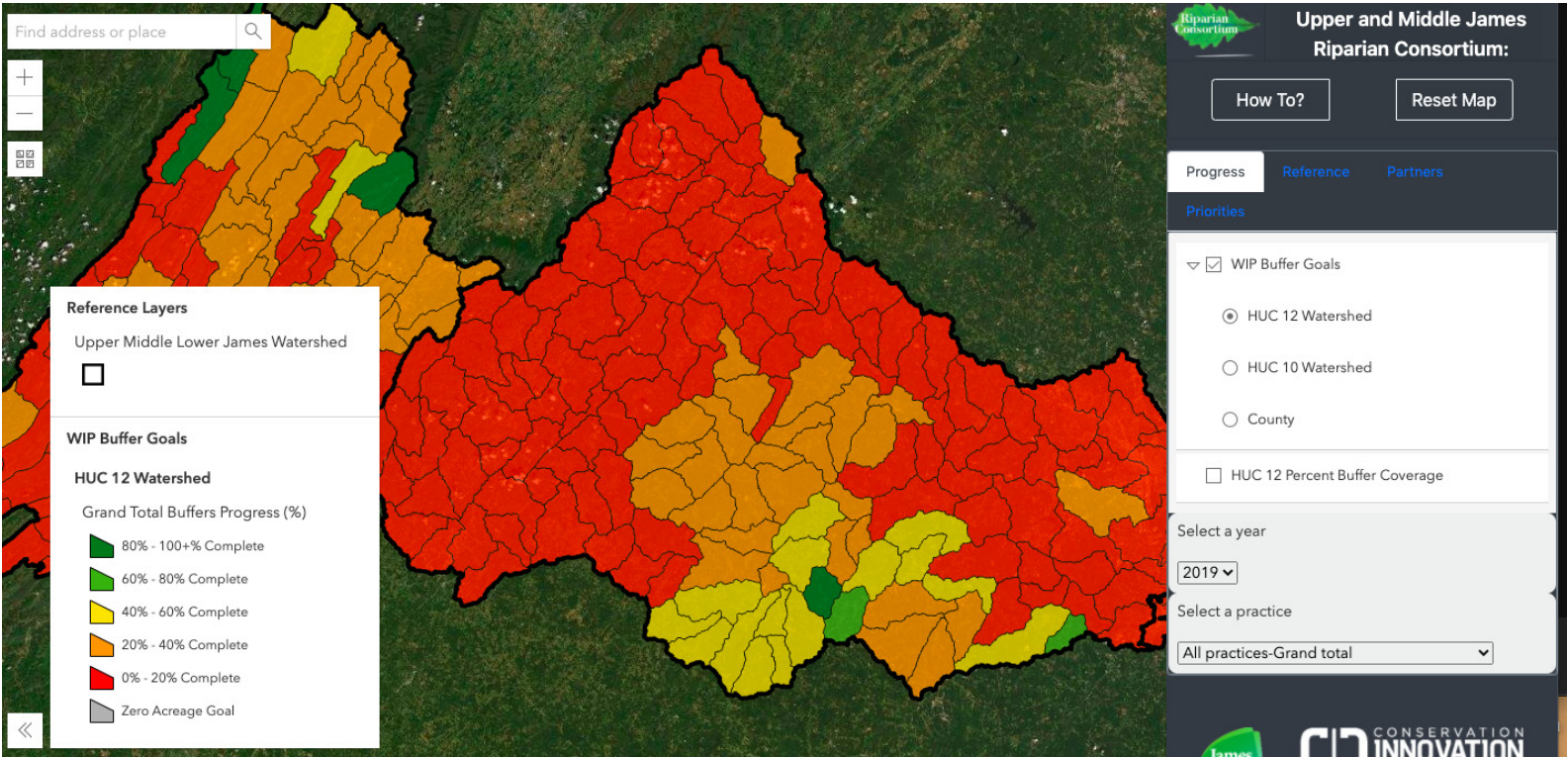


# Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium Resources and Tools



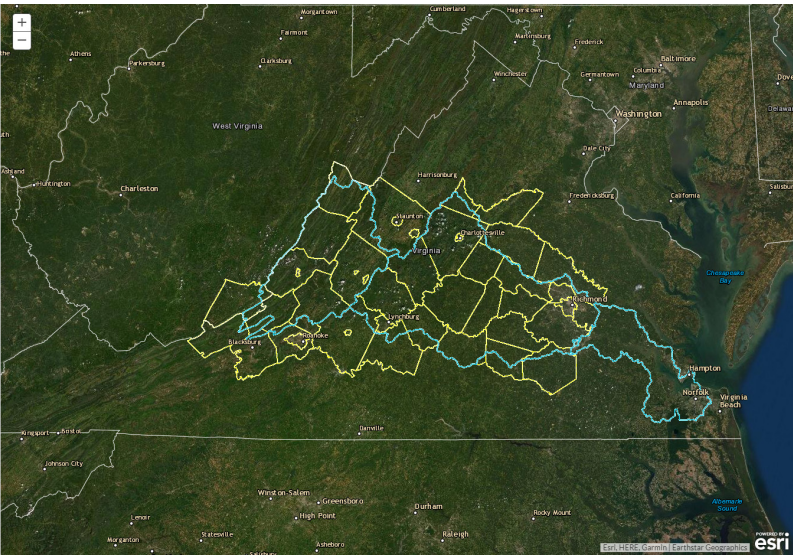
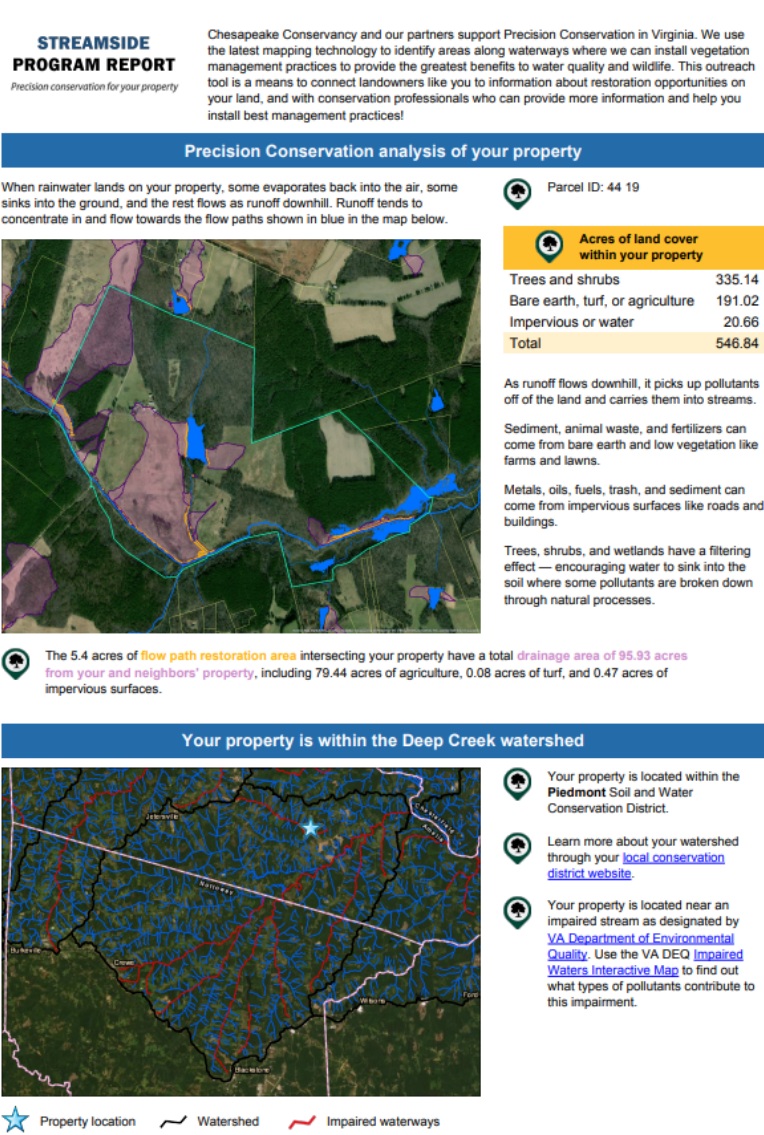
## Coordination Tool

This tool was created for the Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium by the Chesapeake Conservancy’s Conservation Innovation Center to facilitate coordination and collaboration among implementation partners across the James River watershed. The layers within the Coordination Tool provide spatial information and landscape context to support collaborative decision-making for members of the Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium. You can also access the Coordination Tool by visiting the Riparian Consortium website and selecting the orange button on the homepage. To explore the tool, visit [www.jrapt.cicapps.org](http://www.jrapt.cicapps.org).



## Streamside Program Report

If you are a landowner in the Upper or Middle James Watershed, this free tool can help you get information about streamside opportunities on your property that can improve the ecological conditions you care about. Using state-of-the-art data analysis, Streamside Program Reports generates a customized report for your property, including the watershed you are a part of, the land cover composition of your property, and conservation programs that you may qualify for. You can select the riparian management focus areas you are most interested in, for example, riparian forest buffers or agricultural infrastructure. To explore the tool visit [www.jamesriverconsortium.org/programs](http://www.jamesriverconsortium.org/programs).



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# Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium

## Zoom Pro Tips



### Virtual Meeting How-to

Our platform for the Buffer Summit will be Zoom. Prior experience is not required. The Summit agenda contains a main session link to use if you need to leave and return. Instructions for joining every session are:

#### To join the Summit:

1. Go to the session link in your calendar or the agenda above.
2. Enter your full name and email address if requested.
3. Enter the meeting ID and passcode if requested.
4. Click “Join”.
5. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

\*Watch this one-minute video to learn everything you need to know to download and join a Zoom meeting. <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting>

### Claim Your Space

Think about where you will be most comfortable during the workshop – sitting, standing, or some combination of both. Quiet places will help you concentrate and keep background noise to a minimum when you are speaking. Participants are encouraged, but not required to share their video, so check that whatever will be behind you is also okay to show to others.

### Check Your Connection

Take a moment before the workshop begins to click on the links to ensure they open correctly. You will see a message that the meeting has not started yet. When the session is active and you are provided the opportunity, test the audio and video options on your device and adjust any settings as necessary. Something’s not working? Check out these troubleshooting tips and frequently asked questions.

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206175806-Frequently-asked-questions>

### It’s Summit Time!

Remember you are joining a virtual Summit. The facilitation team will invite you to introduce yourself via audio or chat and to participate using other tools during each session. Your active engagement is critical to a successful outcome. Please do not be shy but do be courteous to other participants by muting your audio line whenever you are not speaking. Raise your hand or use the chat board to signal to the facilitators you have something to add or a question and use respectful language when addressing other participants and acknowledging their comments. If you join late or have to leave a session early, let the facilitators know via the chat feature.

### Participant View

Below is an example of what you will see when you join the workshop space. The toolbar icons along the bottom of the main screen allow you to turn audio and video on/off as well as view the participant list, chat board, and reactions. If you have a weak or unstable internet connection, turning your video off will help reestablish a clearer audio connection.



### Non-verbal Communication Tools

At the bottom of the participant box are additional tools to send non-verbal communication to the workshop facilitators. These include raising your hand, a green check mark, a red “x”, and more. We may at times call on you to give us a quick response using these buttons.

### Chat

Before you send each chat message, make sure you are sending it to your desired recipient – all participants (recommended), the facilitators, or privately to another individual participant.