

Wildrock Map Guide (see front schedule for details)



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The Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium 2022 Buffer Summit & Celebration

Thursday, October 20th from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Wildrock - 6600 Blackwells Hollow Rd, Crozet, VA 22932

Join Consortium partners to inspire new connections and opportunities around buffer creation and workforce development, and celebrate the benefits of buffers.

Buffer Summit 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

9:00 - 9:30 am

Registration & Refreshments

9:30 - 9:50 am

Welcome + Introductions

9:50 - 10:15 am

Session 1 - Riparian Forest Buffers in Virginia

- State of Buffers in the James - Kevin McLean, DEQ
- Statewide Buffer Plan - Caitlin Verdu, DOF

10:15 - 10:30 am

Networking in Small Groups

10:30 - 11:00 am

Session 2 - Business of Buffers

with Shereen Hughes, CBLP & Wetlands Watch; W. Lowrie Tucker, Conservation Services; & Aaron Linas, Future Habitats

11:15 - 11:45 am

Session 3 - Partnering with a Conservation Corps to Advance Restoration

with Elwood York and Zach Foster of Conservation Legacy

11:45 am - 12:00 pm

Closing and Next Steps

Celebration 12:30 - 5:00 pm

12:00 - 12:30 pm

Lunch

A 12:30 - 1:00 pm (see map on back)

Welcome and Benefits of Buffers

1:00 - 1:45 pm

B Stream Walk on the Discovery Trail w/ Kip Mumaw, Ecosystem Services

C Bird Walk w/ Steve Living, Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources

D Buffer Tour + Maintenance (or planting) w/ Joey Shelton, JRA (until 2:00 pm)

2:15 - 3:15 pm

E Ecotherapy Session w/ Carolyn Schuyler, Wildrock

2:30 - 3:15 pm

B Stream Walk on the Discovery Trail w/ Kip Mumaw, Ecosystem Services

C Bird Walk w/ Steve Living, DWR

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Lounge Hour: Music with Holy River

- Plus snacks & wildcrafted beverages!

About the Panelists & Presenters



Zach Foster, Appalachian Conservation Corps Corps Director and founder

Appalachian Conservation Corps is a Conservation Legacy program based in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Zach's work at ACC is centered on creating opportunities for the next generation of conservation stewards while making a positive impact on public lands through watershed improvement, recreational access, and managing for resilient ecosystems. Prior to his role at ACC, Zach worked with Corps programs in Colorado, Vermont, and Tennessee.



Shereen Hughes, Wetlands Watch, Asst Director & the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) VA Coordinator

Shereen collaborates with organizations and individuals across the Chesapeake Bay Region and throughout Virginia to engage, train, align and grow a network of green infrastructure professionals focused on climate resilience and watershed health through sustainable landscapes, natural and nature-based stormwater and shoreline management practices. She is a member of the James River Riparian Buffer Consortium Steering Committee and coordinates the Knowledge Network Team.



Aaron Linas, Future Habitats Owner

Future Habitats, new small business, primarily small scale residential and business property focusing on invasive removal and naturalized landscaping. Goal is to be a full service design, installation, and maintenance firm. Exploring buffer business opportunities through CBLP-Buffers certificate training. Longtime environmental activist and educator. Certified Virginia Master Naturalist, host of Richmond Environmental Salon, and Masters Degree in Political Theory and Public Policy.



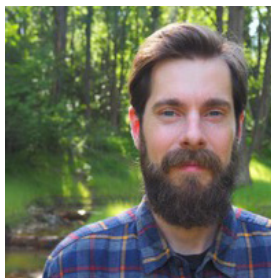
Steve Living, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources Habitat Education Coordinator

Steve works to promote beneficial habitat practices across the Commonwealth and highlight the excellent habitat work of the Department and its partners. Stephen has been with the agency for 16 years and has previously served as a Regional Lands and Access Manager and as a Biologist in the Watchable Wildlife program. Stephen completed his MS in Biology at Southern Connecticut State University.



Kevin McLean, Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality, Chesapeake Bay Program Manager

Kevin is responsible for coordinating Bay clean-up efforts for the State of Virginia. He previously served as the State Coordinator for the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) with the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD). He holds a B.S. in Natural Resources Conservation and M.S. in Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation from Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and the Environment.



Kip Mumaw, Ecosystem Services Principal Engineer and Cofounder

Ecosystem Services is a natural resource consulting firm based in Charlottesville, Virginia. Kip graduated from Virginia Tech earning a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Kip is an alumnus of the North Carolina State University Stream Restoration Program and the Virginia Natural Resource Leadership Institute. Kip leads a team of engineers, designers, and scientists seeking to advance and apply the practice of ecological restoration in the Mid-Atlantic region.



Carolyn Schuyler, Wildrock Founder and Co-executive Director

Wildrock is a nonprofit dedicated to promoting nature play on its twenty-eight acre Blue Ridge Foothills Nature Play and Discovery Center. Through its outreach work, Wildrock works collaboratively with local nonprofits and public schools to create play zones in city schoolyards and underused urban green spaces. Drawing on her experience as a psychotherapist specializing in trauma recovery, she presents on topics related to mental wellness and nature connection.



Joey Shelton, James River Association Riparian Stewardship Coordinator

Joey has always had a passion for the outdoors and working to restore the natural beauty of our commonwealth. His journey began when he graduated from Longwood University after which he went to work for DCR for 5 years. After which he began working for James River Association in 2019 and has had the pleasure of planting riparian buffers all over the Middle James Watershed since then.



W. Lowrie Tucker, Conservation Services President & Sales Manager

Lowrie started in this industry as a forestry technician for the USDA Forest Service. He then worked for Virginia's Conservation Districts and County Governments, specifically in Erosion and Sediment Control. In September 2010, he joined the Conservation Services team. He spends most of his day consulting with customers, discussing and fulfilling their needs. He graduated from Emory and Henry with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and received a M.S. in Organizational Leadership.



Caitlin Verdu, Virginia Department of Forestry Watershed Program Manager

From meeting the Chesapeake Bay restoration goals to improving access to clean, affordable drinking water, Caitlin believes "trees are the answer" to many of the world's challenges. Prior to her role with DOF, she served as the Arlington 4-H Agent and Unit Coordinator for Virginia Cooperative Extension. Caitlin has a M.P.A. from Virginia Tech and a B.A. in Environmental Science and Spanish from The College of William and Mary.



Elwood York, Conservation Legacy Chief Executive Officer

S. Elwood York, Jr. has been active in the conservation/community corps world for many years. He has been a part of several national award-winning teams that address the needs of underserved youth by fostering civic engagement, research, and wilderness stewardship. Elwood served as Labor and Employee Relations Specialist at the Environmental Protection Agency. From 2012-2016, he worked as the Wilderness Program Leader for the US Forest Service. Elwood is a 30+ year veteran civil and criminal trial attorney.

Notes