



TO REACH A CONSERVANCY EXPERT, CONTACT MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGER DAVID DADURKA BY PHONE AT (301) 897-8570, EXT. 233, OR BY E-MAIL AT DDADURKA@TNC.ORG.

Michael Lipford, Executive Director

Expertise: Virginia environmental policy, conservation biology and the natural history of Virginia.



Michael has served as executive director of The Nature Conservancy in Virginia since 1992. Michael served on The Nature Conservancy's Conservation Committee that helped move the organization toward a landscape scale, community-based approach to conservation.

Before joining the Conservancy, Michael directed the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage, started by The Nature Conservancy and transferred to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. He was assistant professor at Dabney Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge, Virginia, where he taught forestry and wildlife from 1982 to 1986. He received a master's degree in biology in 1984 from James Madison University and a bachelor's degree in biology in 1978 from Virginia Tech.

From 1999 to 2003, Michael served as director of the Mid-Atlantic Division, supervising Conservancy programs in Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina. In 2003, he received the One Conservancy award, which recognizes employees within the TNC family who best exemplify Conservancy values through exemplary contribution beyond their job description and outside their own program's activities. Michael was appointed to serve on Governor Warner's Natural Resources Funding Commission, and the Commission on the Future of Virginia's Environment.

Michael is a native of Portsmouth, Virginia. He and his wife Elizabeth have restored a historic home in Richmond where they now live with their three daughters.

Linda Lundquist Crowe, Director of Land Protection

Expertise: Forestry, land protection, conservation easements, financial incentives for land conservation and mitigation programs.



Linda joined The Nature Conservancy in 1989 and served as the director of protection for the South Carolina program for 5 years. She has been the director of land protection in Virginia since 1994 and oversees the Conservancy's land protection program statewide. She graduated from Virginia Tech in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in forestry and wildlife management and worked for Continental Forest Industries for nine years before joining the Conservancy. She is a native of Hopewell, Virginia.



Bill Kittrell, Director of Conservation Programs

Expertise: Freshwater ecology, freshwater mussels and carbon sequestration.



Bill has been with The Nature Conservancy since 1990. In November 2002, he became director of conservation programs for the Virginia Chapter managing the Conservancy's landscape and conservation science programs across Virginia. Prior to assuming his current position, Bill served for nearly 12 years as director of the Clinch Valley program in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee. There, he managed the land protection, science, stewardship, fundraising, and community development programs. While working in the Clinch Valley, Bill directed the permanent conservation of over 10,000 acres of important habitat through more than 30 land deals. He also directed the creation of other incentive-based land conservation programs related to forestry and coal mining.

Bill was born and raised in Greenville, North Carolina and received degrees in biology and economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy in Abingdon, Bill worked as an environmental consultant in Washington, D.C. evaluating the ecological and human health impacts of various contaminants.

David Phemister, Director of Government Relations

Expertise: Environmental policy, legislative affairs, Virginia State tax credit, conservation easements, land protection, federal and state funding for land conservation, partnerships with Department of Defense.



David joined The Nature Conservancy in Virginia in November 2002 and now serves as Director of Government Relations. David was appointed to his current position in 2006, after serving as associate director of land protection for the chapter. He manages federal and state legislative and agency advocacy to promote the protection of natural biological diversity. David received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University, where he was the recipient of an Arnold Fellowship for post-graduate study overseas, and his Master of Science degree from the University of Michigan, where he received a Doris Duke Conservation Fellowship. Before joining The Nature Conservancy, David worked for five years at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in Washington, D.C. He grew up in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

Publications:

Kazmierski, J., M. Kram, E. Mills, D. Phemister, N. Reo, C. Riggs, R. Tefertiller, D. Erickson. 2004. "Conservation planning as the landscape scale: A landscape ecology method for regional land trusts." Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, 47 (5): 709-736.

Gwynn Crichton, Director of Conservation Planning and Stewardship

Expertise: Conservation biology, conservation planning, preserve stewardship and land management.



Gwynn has worked for TNC for the past seven years and five of those with the Virginia Chapter based in Charlottesville. Originally from Nashville, Tennessee, Gwynn attended Oberlin College, graduating in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in English and environmental studies. She went on to earn a master's degree in environmental management, concentrating on landscape ecology and GIS, from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment in 1998. She now enjoys working with staff to develop strategic conservation plans for landscape programs and oversee the management of preserves and conservation easements for the Virginia program.

Judy Dunscomb, Senior Conservation Scientist

Expertise: Water quantity, water policy, prescribed fire, acid deposition and wind energy.



Judy first joined The Nature Conservancy in 1992 as biological monitoring assistant for the North Carolina Chapter. Shortly after, she moved to Charlottesville and became director of science and stewardship. In her current role, she analyzes large-scale threats to biodiversity, and participates in designing and implementing conservation strategies and measures of success. Judy received her master's degree in natural resource ecology from Duke University and her bachelor's degree in international relations from Goucher College in Baltimore.

Barry R. Truitt, Chief Conservation Scientist, Virginia Coast Reserve Program

Expertise: Marine and estuarine issues, migratory birds, radar ornithology, oyster restoration, and history of the Eastern Shore.



Nearly thirty years of work experience dealing with migratory birds and dynamic barrier islands at the Virginia Coast Reserve has forged Barry's landscape-scale or ecosystem approach to conservation, restoration, and protection of critical habitats and biological diversity on the Eastern Shore. From enhancing island habitats for nesting waterbirds and shorebirds to partnering with NASA and its NPOL radar to determine stopover hotspots for migratory birds in the fall, Barry has advocated experimental approaches to landscape-scale conservation problems and expanded monitoring and remote sensing as methods to measure success or prioritize conservation action. His approach at VCR has recently been

broadened to include marine conservation and restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation and oyster reefs in the coastal bays and the use of hyperspectral imagery to map benthic habitats and measure ecosystem services provided by restored habitats. His interest in the past land use and natural history of the barrier islands led him to publish, with co-editor Brooks Miles Barnes, *Seaside Chronicles, Three Centuries of the Virginia Barrier Islands*, in 1997.

Braven Brock Beaty, Stewardship Ecologist

Expertise: Aquatic ecology and freshwater mussels.



Braven has served as stewardship ecologist for the Clinch Valley Program since 1998. He develops monitoring strategies for aquatic fauna in the Clinch, Powell, and Holston rivers, identifies research needs for conservation, serves as liaison and collaborator with academic institutions and provides scientific guidance for conservation. Braven holds a Doctor of Philosophy from Virginia Tech. He received his master's and bachelor's degrees from Duke University. Before joining the Conservancy, Braven worked in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences researching the use of physiological measurements as biomarkers of environmental stress in freshwater mussels.

Publications:

Beaty, B., and R. J. Neves. 2004. *Use of a Natural River Water Flow-Through Culture System for Rearing Juvenile Freshwater Mussels (Bivalvia: Unionidae) and Evaluation of the Effects of Substrate Size, Temperature, and Stocking Density.* American Malacological Bulletin, 19(1/2).

Environmental Factors Influencing Freshwater Mussels. Presented at the annual meeting of the Virginia Academy of Sciences, May, 1997. Abstract published in the Virginia Journal of Science. (Abstract with R. J. Neves).

*Factors Influencing the Growth and Survival of Juvenile *Villosa iris* (Bivalvia:Unionidae) in an Artificial Stream System.* 1996. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association, April, 1996. Abstract published in the Journal of Shellfish Research. (Abstract with R. J. Neves).

Jef DeBerry, Wetlands Restoration Specialist, Southern Rivers/Green Sea Programs

Expertise: Wetlands restoration.



Jef coordinates the efforts of the Virginia Aquatic Restoration Trust Fund, a cooperative program between the Conservancy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that provides wetland and stream mitigation. Before joining the Conservancy, Jef worked for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality as an environmental specialist developing and implementing revisions to the state's Virginia Water Protection Permit regulation. He received his master's degree in environmental science and a bachelor's degree in biology from Christopher Newport University. As a field supervisor at Christopher Newport University, Jef coordinated Atlantic White Cedar restoration efforts with National Wildlife Refuge personnel.

Brad Kreps, Director, Allegheny Highlands Program

Expertise: Biogeography of the Appalachian region, GIS and remote sensing.



As program director, Brad is extending the work of the Conservancy in western Virginia's Ridge and Valley region. The Allegheny Highlands Program is focused on the protection of large, intact blocks of native forest, the conservation of karst and cave systems, and the maintenance and improvement of water quality and aquatic diversity in the Cowpasture River. Brad has been with Virginia chapter since 2001. He has a bachelor's degree in anthropology from James Madison University and a master's degree in Geography from the University of Tennessee. Brad has lived and been an active member of the conservation community in the Appalachian region for more than 10 years. Prior to assuming leadership of the Allegheny Highlands Program and coordinating our ecological restoration efforts on the Warm Springs Mountain Preserve, he worked for the Conservancy's Clinch Valley Program. There he helped to develop and implement strategies to protect working forests and abate threats from coal mining. Through his current management of the Conservancy's 9,000-acre Warm Springs Mountain Preserve, Brad is collaborating with localities, state and federal agencies, and private landowners to protect one of North America's most significant areas of biodiversity.