

NATURE

GEORGIA

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Deron Davis © Eliot VanOtteren

Invested in People

When you support The Nature Conservancy, you're supporting not only our work, but also our workforce. TNC Georgia's forces of nature includes Christi Lambert, who leads oyster restoration and research partnerships that are restoring clean water and healthy habitat along the coast. They include Cassidy Glassman and Eric Brown, whose land expertise helps us protect and manage tens of thousands of acres across the state each year. And they include Katie Owens, Ayanna Williams and LA Allen, whose commitment to the local communities they serve make TNC a trusted conservation partner in north Georgia and Atlanta. There are many more. We hope you will come meet them at Wild for Georgia, April 24.



Deron Davis, Executive Director
The Nature Conservancy in Georgia

DONATIONS:

Go to nature.org/georgia to donate. Or you can email donate@tnc.org for more information.



Mary Beth Jordan paddling on a TNC trip to Little St. Simons Island © Parlee Chambers

Learning from the Past, Shaping the Future

Board Chair Mary Beth Jordan Shares What Inspires Her

As Chair of the Georgia Chapter's Board of Trustees, Mary Beth Jordan applies her educational background and her professional expertise to support the chapter's conservation, operational and fundraising goals. Mary Beth has been an active TNC volunteer leader since the early 2000s and joined the Board of Trustees in 2014.

Mary Beth spoke to Nature Conservancy Magazine about her support of TNC's mission.

How do you describe your connection to nature? I grew up in Massachusetts, so my childhood was filled with exposure to the natural world. I spent lots of time exploring the nature trail that wound through my community. I majored in biology and chose a career in sustainability, so you could say I have both a physical and an intellectual connection to nature.

What inspires your volunteer leadership? I'm inspired by the

Conservancy's science-based approach to complex conservation challenges. I'm also inspired by the organization's commitment to a nonpartisan approach. Much of society is politicized today, but we operate from the belief that nature unites us all.

The scale of the Conservancy's work and impact also inspires me. For example, longleaf pine restoration will have positive climate impacts far outside Georgia's borders, just as we benefit from preventing deforestation of the Amazon rainforest.

What is exciting to you right now?

The opportunity to help the chapter reach its strategic goals and playing a role in shaping the chapter's future. We are using our land protection strengths to partner with communities in the development of coastal resilience strategies. And, we are bringing more and different voices to the TNC table.



Director of government relations Michael O'Reilly © The O'Reilly family

Q&A: Mike O'Reilly

Georgia's Director of Government Relations

Michael O'Reilly joined The Nature Conservancy in Georgia in late 2019, following a successful career at Amnesty International, where he held leadership roles in strategy, policy, campaigns and member mobilization.

What is your role with The Nature Conservancy?

I work at both the state and federal levels to advance TNC's conservation policy initiatives with Georgia's elected officials and relevant state agencies.

How does TNC advocate for conservation policy?

I have been a member of TNC for many years, and I've always appreciated TNC's understanding that collaboration is essential to achieving lasting progress. Our approach is nonpartisan, and we have a long history of working with officials across the political spectrum to protect the lands and waters on which we all depend. The efforts of advocacy staff like me are amplified greatly when elected officials also hear directly from TNC's supporters. When passionate constituents call for action, elected officials take note. I'm looking forward to partnering with TNC trustees this spring when we meet with members of Georgia's congressional delegation during The Nature Conservancy's Advocacy Day on April 22 in Washington, D.C.

What is the biggest issue facing people and nature in Georgia right now?

I see habitat loss, climate change and declining wildlife populations as the most pressing global threats to all who live on this planet. We are at a tipping point where TNC's reputation and science-based approach can be pivotal in bringing diverse stakeholders together to find workable solutions that provide both environmental and economic benefits for our communities. TNC is playing a leading role in advancing this work in Georgia with our partners. In my role, I look forward to helping create a policy environment that incentivizes individuals, communities and corporations to work together in forging the solutions we need.

What does nature mean to you personally?

Nature isn't something we simply visit from time to time. Everything is interconnected. We are part of the natural world, and it is in our common interest to protect it.

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Wild for Georgia 2019's leadership team members
© John Klein

Coca-Cola's Conservation Leadership

For over two and a half decades, The Coca-Cola Company and The Coca-Cola Foundation have collaborated with The Nature Conservancy to lead the way for water conservation around the world. The Coca-Cola Foundation has helped establish water funds in places like Kenya and Latin America; improve agricultural technology; and restore the natural flows of rivers, streams and wetlands, including here in Georgia.

From Shore to City

Securing abundant freshwater is The Coca-Cola Foundation's conservation legacy. These goals intersect with TNC's emerging urban conservation work, and a partnership could bring great benefits for Atlanta. Working together to protect the South River basin, we have an opportunity to create a massive new urban forest in metro Atlanta and to develop a methodology for greenspace development that is rooted in and led by the local community.

Join us to celebrate Coca-Cola's commitment to conservation at Wild for Georgia, April 24. Hear from Jim Dinkins, President of Coca-Cola North America, while we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Learn more at [nature.org/wildforgeorgia](https://www.nature.org/wildforgeorgia)



Coca-Cola Foundation funded work on Raccoon Creek. © Alex Lamle/TNC



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