

# The National Wilderness Workshop

As of 11.15.2021

## The National Wilderness Workshop

### Speaker Biographies

Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

Name and Biography
<p><b><i>Exploring Mid-Appalachian Wilderness Landscapes</i></b></p> <p><b>Mark Miller, Virginia Wilderness Committee (VWC)</b> Mark Miller is the Executive Director of the Virginia Wilderness Committee. VWC has been involved in seven pieces of legislation protecting over 250,000 acres on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest and the Shenandoah National Park. Mark has been working on the permanent protection of our public lands for over twenty years. For the past ten years, he has maintained the six mile long Rich Hole Trail in the Rich Hole Wilderness. Mark has worked for the Virginia Wilderness Committee for six years. Prior to his time with VWC, he worked for eleven years with the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition. During that time he worked almost exclusively on Wilderness and roadless issues in Virginia. He was instrumental in the passage of the Ridge and Valley Act, a part of the Omnibus Lands Bill of 2009 which placed 43,000 acres of the Jefferson National Forest in the National Wilderness Preservation System and designated an additional 12,000 acres as National Scenic Area. This project included the first negotiated agreement between the Wilderness Society and the International Mountain Bicycling Association. He has worked extensively on forest planning and project planning issues on Virginia's National Forests. On the George Washington National Forest Mark has worked with a large group of stakeholders to forge compromises among various user groups to further the cause of national forest protection in Virginia.</p> <p>Mark along with co-author Steven Carroll has written four hiking guides including two on wilderness and roadless areas in Virginia. Mark has enjoyed hiking in the outdoors from a very young age, including his first solo hike into the woods behind his house in Tower, Minnesota at the ripe old age of four and a half. He has also hiked in many wilderness areas across the country. Mark lives in Lexington, Virginia with his wife, Cindy. He has three daughters and more foreign exchange students that call him Dad than he can keep track of.</p>
<p><b><i>"Hand in Glove": Wilderness Stewardship and Advocacy in the Shenandoah Mountain Campaign</i></b></p> <p><b>Lynn Cameron, VWC</b> Lynn Cameron is a past president and current board member of the Virginia Wilderness Committee and serves as Co-Chair of Friends of Shenandoah Mountain, a working coalition formed by Wilderness advocates and mountain bike leaders to build public support for the proposed Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area. Lynn and her husband Malcolm are active trail maintainers in current and proposed Wilderness areas on Shenandoah Mountain, and they serve as Potomac Appalachian Trail Club District Managers for the GWNF North River Ranger District. As USFS B Level Certified Crosscut Sawyers, Lynn and Malcolm enjoy nothing more than removing large blowdowns in Ramseys Draft Wilderness.</p> <p><b>Tom Engle, VWC</b> Tom Engle has been a member of the board of the Virginia Wilderness Committee since 2018. From 1986 to 2017 he was a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Department of State, serving in a variety of overseas and domestic assignments. Tom lives in Augusta County and maintains a trail on Shenandoah Mountain for the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.</p>

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### ***The Story of SAWS - Stewardship Advocacy in Action***

#### **Bill Meadows**

William Meadows has been active in conservation for over 50 years, beginning after Earth Day, serving as an active volunteer with the Sierra Club (Middle Tennessee Group Chair and member of the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee). In 1992, he moved to the Sierra Club national headquarters where he was the Director of the Sierra Club Centennial (fundraising) Campaign. He served as President of The Wilderness Society from December 1996 to May 2012. During his tenure at The Wilderness Society, more than five million acres of Wilderness were added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. In retirement, he has continued his commitment to building partnerships and bringing new constituencies into the Wilderness movement. He currently serves as an honorary member of the Governing Council and as Counselor, a senior program advisor for The Wilderness Society. He is a past Chairman of the Green Group, the Campaign for America's Wilderness, and the Partnership Project. He continues to serve in emeritus status on the boards of the League of Conservation Voters, Island Press, the Conservation Lands Foundation, and the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS). Meadows continues to serve as a friend to the Alaska Wilderness League, the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and to the Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

### ***Wilderness Stewardship is Non-Partisan***

**Senator Tim Kaine (VA)** invited

**Tuesday, November 16,**

### **Name and Biography**

#### ***Defining future directions for Wilderness Research***

##### **William Rice, University of Montana;**

Will is Assistant Professor of Outdoor Recreation and Wildland Management in the Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Program and Department of Society and Conservation at the University of Montana. His research seeks to provide wildland recreation managers with social science to improve the experiences of all visitors while preserving the ecosystems that support those experiences. This agenda focuses broadly on improving measurement and management of demand for recreational ecosystem services (e.g., physical, mental, and social wellbeing) in parks and protected areas. More specifically, he's interested in the personal and social outcomes demanded by wildland recreationists and developing innovative tools and measures that can be used by public land managers to ensure the sustainable attainment of these outcomes.

##### **Elena Thomas, University of Montana;**

Elena earned a B.A. in Anthropology and Religion in 2013 from the University of Florida. Since then, she has worked across the Western US in a variety of positions including a trail crew stint with the US Forest Service (USFS) in Bigfork, MT, as an Archaeological Technician with the USFS in Oregon and Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park, and most recently two seasons as a Wilderness Ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. Her research interests include public and protected area management, visitor demand of recreational ecosystem services, and place attachment/place bonding. In her free time, Elena enjoys climbing, biking, skiing, cooking, learning new crafts, and planning trips abroad!

##### **Jennifer Thomsen, University of Montana;**

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Jenn Thomsen is an Associate Professor in the Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Management program at the University of Montana. Her work focuses on sustainability and transboundary conservation of wildlands, rivers, and protected areas. Jenn's work takes place in a diversity of national and international contexts including areas of Montana and western U.S., Brazil, and southern Africa.

**Christopher Armatas, U.S. Forest Service;**

Chris is a research social scientist at the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, an interagency program administered by the USDA Forest Service focused on supporting the National Wilderness Preservation System with science. His research background focuses on wildlands management and planning through an interdisciplinary, social-ecological systems lens.

**Jaclyn Rushing, University of Montana;**

Jaclyn Rushing is a PhD student in the Department of Society and Conservation at University of Montana. Jaclyn's research revolves around protected area and outdoor recreation management, and her dissertation focuses on Wilderness relevance, diversity, and inclusion of Latinx communities. Jaclyn enjoys collaborating with agency personnel, non-profit organizations, and other researchers to answer researchable questions supporting management decisions and visitor experience.

**Dr. Derrick Taff, Pennsylvania State University**

Dr. Taff is an Associate Professor in the Recreation, Park and Tourism Management Department at Penn State University. His research strives to improve communication strategies aimed at influencing human health and environmental sustainability in parks and protected areas.

**Stephanie Freeman, Pennsylvania State University;**

Stephanie Freeman is a Ph.D. candidate in the Recreation, Park and Tourism Department at Penn State University. Her research focuses on park and protected area management, human-wildlife conflict and coexistence, and environmental communication. The goal of this research agenda is to support positive outcomes for people and wildlife in coupled human-natural systems. Derrick Taff, Pennsylvania State University;

**Erinn Drage, Pennsylvania State University;**

**Nathan Reigner, Pennsylvania State University;**

**Jeremy Wimpey, Applied Trails Research**

Jeremy Wimpey, PhD. is one of the country's leading recreation ecology practitioners. His applied field investigations help public lands managers understand the phenomena and mechanisms associated with visitor-use-related-impacts to wildlife, water, vegetation, and soils as and impacts to other recreationists (degradation or enhancement of users' experiences) in outdoor settings. His efforts focus on estimation of recreation demand, wildland recreation classification/resource inventory, public involvement, social impact analysis, state comprehensive planning, site design, land acquisition, use measurement, impact assessment, and facility operation/maintenance. His unique background—academic, trail enthusiast, entrepreneur—brings an innovative and holistic approach to providing solutions for recreation management challenges.

***Assessing future wilderness research needs through participatory perspectives and input***

**Jason Taylor. ALWRI**

Jason is a Landscape Ecologist and Director of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute. He has over twenty years of Federal and local government service with the Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management. In addition to many years of leading protected areas management and science programs, Jason has an extensive background in the application of geospatial technologies (GIS, GPS, and remote sensing). Over the last decade, he has co-developed local, national, and international ecosystem-based monitoring programs; he was a primary contributor in development and application of a landscape approach to public lands management, including conducting rapid eco-regional assessments; and, he was instrumental in early attempts to define an index of ecological integrity for the BLM. Jason's work has spanned the American West, Alaska, and the circumpolar Arctic.

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### **Teresa Hollingsworth, ALWRI**

Teresa is the acting deputy director at the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute. She is a plant community ecologist broadly interested in understanding the environmental gradients associated with changes in species composition as it relates to succession, disturbance, and climate change. She co-leads the Bonanza Creek Long-term Ecological Research program, and is the Forest Director of the Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest, the farthest north Forest Service Experimental Forest. Her research spans the Pacific coastal rainforest, to the taiga, to the arctic. She is thrilled to be given the opportunity to think more specifically about wilderness research, and dip her toes in the wilderness waters over the past 6 months.

### ***Stories from Wild Wyoming: Stewardship as a tool for Wilderness Advocacy***

#### **Khale Century Reno & Peggie dePasquale**

Wyoming Wilderness Association

Khale Century Reno and Peggie dePasquale are the Executive and Associate Directors (respectively) of the Wyoming Wilderness Association (WWA). Early in their time at WWA they identified the need for Wilderness stewardship as equal to the need for designating new areas. Together they have worked collaboratively with their board, community and the public land agencies to create a wilderness stewardship culture in Wyoming.

#### ***Friends of Scotchman Peak Advocacy***

#### **Phil Hough, Friends of Scotchman Peaks**

Phil is Executive Director of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. He is a founding board member of the Idaho Trails Association and now serves on their advisory board. He is a past president of the American Long Distance Hikers West Assoc (ALDHA-WEST). Phil is a member of the Idaho Panhandle Forest Collaborative and a member of the North Idaho Resources Advisory Council (RAC). On Tuesday mornings, Phil cohosts a radio talk show on conservation and outdoor recreation on Sandpoint's community radio station, KRFY. Along with his wife Deb, Phil has explored wilderness areas across our continent. Together they have hiked the "triple crown": the Appalachian Trail, Continental Divide Trail and the Pacific Crest trail (twice). He has also paddled the length of the Yukon river.

#### ***Oregon Natural Desert Association – Individual Stewardship Program***

**Renee Patrick, Oregon Natural Desert Association**

**Wednesday, November 17**

### **Name and Biography**

#### ***Indigenous Wilderness Stewardship: From Time Immemorial to Tomorrow***

#### **Nathan Reigner, Penn State**

Dr. Nathan Reigner is an applied social scientist who works with land, recreation, and tourism managers and researchers to address outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism challenges like conflict, crowding, natural and cultural resource impacts, and visitor use management. As a Research Assistant Professor in Pennsylvania State University's Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management Department, Nathan collaborates with diverse partners across the United States and around the world to address their needs for monitoring, data, and analysis to inform management and teaches the

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theory and methods of contemporary park, natural resource, and tourism management. Over the past 15 years, Nathan has lead projects in more than 60 units of the US national park, forest, and scenic trail systems, as well as in Iceland, Greenland, the Faroe Islands, Norway, Russian, Ukraine, and Oman. Nathan is a Fulbright Scholar and holds degrees from the University of Vermont, Virginia Tech, and Gettysburg College.

### ***Transforming Writing, Photography and Speech: Retooling Your Wilderness Communications for Increased Inclusivity***

#### **Shelton Johnson**

Park ranger at Yosemite National Park, author, poet, playwright and actor in a stage production about Yosemite's African American military history entitled "Yosemite through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier, 1903"

#### **Lisa Ronald**

Wildlands Communications Director at the University of Montana's Wilderness Institute and former journalist

#### **Tangy Wiseman**

Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Specialist for the Forest Service Washington Office and former Hispanic Access Foundation fellow

### ***Magnifying Your Advocacy Impact***

#### **Dr. Diana Christopulos, Appalachian Trail Conservancy**

Dr. Diana Christopulos was named the 2019 national Cox Conserves Hero for volunteer work with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in Virginia. She has been a advocate for public health (American Heart Association), conservation (Sierra Club, Roanoke Valley Cool Cities Coalition, Blue Ridge Land Conservancy and others) for almost 40 years. She has been a college professor, nonprofit executive and owner of an international management consulting business.

#### **Dr. Rupert Cutler, former U.S. Undersecretary of Agriculture**

Dr. Rupert Cutler was Undersecretary of Agriculture for President Jimmy Carter, responsible for agencies including the U.S. Forest Service. He also had leadership roles in the Wilderness Society and many other environmental organizations. In addition, he served on the Roanoke City Council and has been a college faculty member at several universities.

#### **Pete Larkin, Senior Consultant, Public Affairs, Carilion Clinic**

Pete Larkin is Senior Consultant, Public Affairs for Carilion Clinic. The non-profit health system serves one million people in western and southwest Virginia. Carilion is Virginia's largest employer west of Richmond. Before joining Carilion in May 2019, Pete worked for U.S. Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) from 1993 to 2019, including serving as Chief of Staff beginning in 2013.

#### **Gwen Mason, Regional Director, Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va) tent.**

Gwen Mason is the Regional Director for U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D-Va) in Roanoke. She has also served as a member of the Roanoke City Council and as Community Outreach Coordinator for U.S. Attorney's Office in the Western District of Virginia.

### ***How Collective Impact is creating sustainable trails in the White Mountains***

#### **Melanie Luce, White Mountain Collective**

Melanie Luce joined the White Mountain Trail Collective (WTMC) in January of 2017 as a volunteer providing marketing, communications and administrative leadership. In 2019 she became the organization's first paid Executive Director. Under Melanie's leadership WMTC's funding has increased

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from \$175,000 in her first year to \$580,000 in 2020, and she's expanded staffing to include a Development Director, Marketing Director, Project Manager and Assistant Project Manager.

Melanie serves on the board of Granite Outdoor Alliance, and works with both the Forest Service and State of NH to help promote sustainable outdoor recreation. She is currently working to become a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), a distinction held by less than 6,000 nonprofit executives.

Melanie lives with her husband Kevin in New Hampton, NH and their two large furry dogs. She is a lover of nature and animals and enjoys hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and being outside.

### Thursday November 18th

10:00

#### ***Smartphones in Wilderness: Avenue for Access or Inherently Incompatible?***

##### **Andrew Rogers**

Andrew is a Recreation Technician on the Hiawtha National Forest where he continues to explore his central interest: providing recreation opportunities for all people today while protecting resources for the future. His previous experiences include naturalist at the Len Foote Hike Inn, research assistant at Recreation Resources Service, guiding on the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River, and thru-hiking the PCT and the Pinhoti Trail. His masters research explored the role of smartphones in the long-distance hiking scene.

##### **Dr. Yu-Fai Leung**

Yu-Fai uses geospatial analytics to advance the science and practice of sustainable visitor (recreation and tourism) management in parks and protected areas. He develops visitor use and impact indicators, monitoring protocols and efficacy evaluation tools for protected areas in the United States and abroad. His interests include examining how park use and environmental factors influence patterns and intensity of visitor impacts, and how such impacts influence subsequent visitor behavior and experience.

#### ***App Based Techniques to Conduct Wilderness Visitor Surveys in Yosemite***

##### **Ryan Branciforte, OuterSpatial**

Ryan is the co-founder and CEO of OuterSpatial, a platform that empowers organizations to connect people to the outdoors. During his 20+ year career working in the public, nonprofit and private sector, Ryan has always had a deep passion for using technology to do good conservation work and get people outside.

##### **Jeremy Wimpey, Applied Trail Research**

Jeremy Wimpey, PhD. is one of the country's leading recreation ecology practitioners. His applied field investigations help public lands managers understand the phenomena and mechanisms associated with visitor-use-related-impacts to wildlife, water, vegetation, and soils as and impacts to other recreationists (degradation or enhancement of users' experiences) in outdoor settings. His efforts focus on estimation of recreation demand, wildland recreation classification/resource inventory, public involvement, social impact analysis, state comprehensive planning, site design, land acquisition, use measurement, impact assessment, and facility operation/maintenance. His unique background—academic, trail enthusiast, entrepreneur—brings an innovative and holistic approach to providing solutions for recreation management challenges.

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## **The Bridge Project - Bringing Equity into the Hiring Process for Conservation Organizations**

### **Hannah Malvin:**

Hannah (she/her) is a coach and consultant focused on making work more equitable, effective, and enjoyable. She has delivered staff retreats and workshops for Congressional offices, NASA, Amazon, NPS, NOAA, and more. Hannah is project manager for The Bridge Project, a new public-private partnership and equitable hiring pathway for the environmental sector focused on people of color and underrepresented communities. She served as Senior Representative for Partnerships at The Wilderness Society, leading a strategic planning initiative to root relationships in equity by designing new systems of staff learning, knowledge sharing, and coordination. In 2016, she founded Pride Outside, now the main hub for LGBTQ outdoor inclusion initiatives with Congress, federal agencies, conservation nonprofits, and the outdoor industry. She was Legislative Assistant to Congressman Mike Doyle and Staff Director of the Congressional Autism Caucus. Hannah earned a BA in Political Science from Brown University and certifications in applied positive psychology and applied positive psychology coaching from The Flourishing Center. She is Vice Chair of the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards Board of Directors.

### **Eboni Preston:**

Led by a call for advocacy, Eboni is a management professional with a background in non-profit administration, program operations, and workforce development. She is currently the Director of Operations with the Greening Youth Foundation- an Atlanta based nonprofit that engages diverse youth and young adults by connecting them to the outdoors and careers in conservation. Outside of her work with the foundation, Eboni is the Labor and Industry Chair for Georgia NAACP, the Chair for Georgia Conservancy's Generation Green Board, a board member for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Next 100 Coalition, and a member of the Southeast Regional Council for National Parks Conservation Association.

### **Leandra Taylor:**

Leandra Taylor (she/her) is an artist, environmental scientist, and educator based in Asheville, NC. As the Partnership and Community Outreach Coordinator for the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS), Leandra focuses her efforts on building meaningful community relationships and creating partnerships to support equitable access to nature and jobs in conservation. In her free time, Leandra enjoys nature journaling, hiking, bird watching and helping others discover their connection to nature. Serving in her fifth year as a volunteer Outdoor Afro Leader, she is passionate about creating opportunities for Black people to reconnect with nature through meaningful experiences, adventure, and storytelling. Leandra earned her BS in Environmental Science from Baylor University and found her passion for sharing her love for nature through environmental education and community engagement.

## ***Researching the History of Place with attention to Indigenous and Afro Communities***

### **Christy Hyman, Kedge Consulting**

Christy Hyman is an avid birder, environmental advocate, PhD candidate and griefworker (as a bereaved mom) in the program of Geography at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Her dissertation research focuses on African-American efforts toward cultural and political assertion in the Great Dismal Swamp region during the antebellum era as well as the attendant social and environmental costs of human/landscape resource exploitation. Hyman uses Geographic Information Systems to observe to what extent digital cartography can inform us of the human experience while acknowledging phenomena deriving from oppressive systems in society threatening sustainable futures.

## ***Developing Sustainable Wilderness Stewardship Volunteer Programs***

### **Dan Williams, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado**

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Dan Williams is the Associate Director of Programs for Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC). Dan provides leadership for VOC's program team, including assisting the Chief Program Officer with managing and developing partnerships with government agencies and non-governmental groups and soliciting funds for VOC programs. Dan oversees and coordinates the Outdoor Stewardship Institute (OSI) training program and other volunteer capacity building efforts for partners statewide. Dan brings over a decade of experience in planning and managing a variety of Outdoor Stewardship efforts and programs.

### **Anna Zawisza, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado**

Anna Zawisza is the Chief Program Officer for Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC). Anna directs VOC's programmatic delivery, develops strategic partnerships, oversees marketing and communications, solicits funding, and provides overall leadership and vision to her areas of responsibility. Anna has been volunteering with VOC since 2007 and is a certified Crew Leader.

## Friday, November 19th

### ***Inspiring Stories of Public Land Advocacy - LWCF***

#### **Jay Erskine Leutze, LWCF Coalition**

Jay Erskine Leutze (pronounced Lootsy) was raised in Chapel Hill, NC, and lives in the Southern Appalachian mountains on the North Carolina-Tennessee border. Trained as an attorney, he has become a leading voice for state and federal conservation funding for investment in public lands. He is a Trustee and Acquisition Specialist for Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, one of the nation's most established land trusts. He is the author of *Stand Up that Mountain: The Battle to Save One Small Community in the Wilderness Along the Appalachian Trail* (Simon & Schuster, 2012). In the tradition of *A Civil Action*, it's the compelling true story of a North Carolina outdoorsman who teams up with his Appalachian "mountain people" neighbors to save a treasured landscape from being destroyed.

He is a national spokesman for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition and has testified before Congress on the need for increased funding for public land conservation. He is frequently asked to be a guest lecturer on conservation. Since publication of *Stand Up That Mountain* he has lectured at 16 universities across the country, teaching courses in literature, environmental studies, environmental law and public policy, and has performed over 120 public readings. He recently appeared at the National Press Club in Washington DC. In 2012, he was awarded North Carolina's highest civilian honor, The Order of the Longleaf Pine, for his contribution to the conservation of land and water in his home state. He was the winner of the 2013 North Carolina Governor's Conservation Communicator of the Year Award and was named Outstanding Conservation Advocate by the Roosevelt-Ashe Society.