The Future of Conservation Forum: Biodiversity, Resilience, Equity, and Inclusion

March 15-17, 2022

https://ncbg.unc.edu/research/future-of-conservation-forum/

Day 1: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 - Biodiversity & Resilience

8:30 am: Registration and Check-in (Reeves Auditorium Foyer)

9:00 – 10:15 Opening Session (Reeves Auditorium)

- Welcome and Recognition of Sponsors.
- Damon Waitt, Welcome to the North Carolina Botanical Garden a Conservation Garden
- Milo Pyne, Friends of Plant Conservation and Southern Conservation Partners
- Plenary Speaker: Dr. Alan Weakley

10:15 – 10:30 Morning Break

10:30 – 11:15 Climate Change in North Carolina - Kathie Dello, State Climatologist

11:15 – 12:00 The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) & Conserving America the Beautiful– Hilary Morris with Rua Mordacai, SECAS

12:00 – 1:30 Catered Lunch

1:30 – 3:15 Concurrent Session 1

- 1A (Reeves Auditorium) **Conservation, Resilience, and Human Communities.** Moderated by Debbie Crane, The Nature Conservancy
  - Princeville Collaborative - Conservation Trust for North Carolina
  - Water Resources Development Grant Project highlights – Amin Davis
  - Wildlife Resources Commission Green Growth Toolbox – Kacy Cook and Brooke Massa
  - A New Conservation Planning Tool for North Carolina – Katie Warnell, Duke School for Environmental Policy Solutions
  - Discussion, Questions

- 1B (Joslin Classrooms) **Conservation, Resilience, and Natural Communities.** Moderated by Michael Schafale, NC Natural Heritage Program
  - What are natural communities and why should we care?
  - Why natural communities matter for land conservation
  - How we work with natural communities: Classification and integrity assessment
  - Discussion for Ecologists: Q/A on classification questions, input on what works and doesn’t work, need for new types.

3:15 – 3:30 Afternoon Break

3:30 – 5:00 Concurrent Session 2

- 2A (Reeves Auditorium) **Zoology.** Moderated by Judith Ratcliffe and Nathan Shepard, NC Natural Heritage Program
  - Recovering Americas Wildlife Act – Manley Fuller, NC Wildlife Federation
• 2B (Joslin Classrooms) Botany. Moderated by Brenda Wichmann, NC Natural Heritage Program and Katherine Culatta, NC Plant Conservation Program
  o Welcome and Session Overview - Brenda Wichmann
  o Protecting plants: state listing and the NC Wildlife Action Plan - Lesley Starke, NC Plant Conservation Program
  o Plant Inventory and Data Needs – Brenda Wichmann
  o NC Plant Conservation Alliance - Mike Kunz, NC Botanical Garden
  o Rare Plants of NC iNaturalist Project - Jame Amoroso, NC Natural Heritage Program
  o Carolina Hemlock Status Survey - David Siripoonsup, NC Natural Heritage Program
  o Discussion

5:00 – 6:30 Reception with heavy hors d’oeuvres (Sara Waitt Breezeway)

Day 2: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 - Biodiversity & Resilience

8:00 am: Registration and Check-in (Reeves Auditorium Foyer)

9:00 – 10:00 Plenary Session: Mark Anderson, The Nature Conservancy – Mapping Resilience

10:00 – 11:00 Working Together for Conservation and Climate Resilience, Moderated by Debbie Crane
  *Coast:* Peatland Restoration - Eric Soderholm, The Nature Conservancy
  *Piedmont:* Catawba-Wateree Initiative - Protecting Land to Protect Water - Vicki Taylor, Executive Coordinator/Program Director of the Catawba Wateree Initiative and Bill Hollman, The Conservation Fund
  *Mountains:* Roan Highlands Conservation – Jay Leutze & Marquette Crockett, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

Discussion and Questions

11:00 – 12:00 Cape Fear Storm Resilience – Landscape-level Analysis - Danica Schaffer-Smith, The Nature Conservancy

12:00 – 1:30 Catered Lunch

1:30 – 2:45 Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems Through Protecting Landscapes and Wildlife Corridors (Part I) - Moderated by Scott Pohlman, NC Natural Heritage Program and Chuck Roe Southern Conservation Partners
  o Wildlife Corridors--Paths to Resilience - Nikki Robinson, Wildlands Network
  o NC longleaf pine protection roadmap - Hervey McIver, The Nature Conservancy
- Eno-New Hope Landscape Conservation Collaborative - Julie Tuttle, Ecologist and Sara Childs, Duke Forest
- Wilderness Gateway State Trail - Andrew Kota and Tom Kenney, Foothills Conservancy of NC
- Discussion

2:45 – 3:00 Afternoon Break

3:00 – 5:00 Concurrent Session 3

- **3A (Reeves Auditorium)** **Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems Through Protecting Landscapes and Wildlife Corridors (Part II).** Moderated by Scott Pohlman and Chuck Roe
  - Waccamaw River Corridor Protection - Cara Schildtknecht, Winyah Rivers Foundation
  - Neuse River and Falls Lake Watershed Protection - Leigh Ann Hammerbacher, Triangle Land Conservancy
  - French Broad-Mills Rivers Corridor - David Lee, Conserving Carolina
  - Appalachians Resilient Corridors Protection - Megan Sutton, The Nature Conservancy
  - Lightning Round - stories about your organization's protection projects for ecological landscapes and wildlife corridors (as time allows). Contact moderators in advance to reserve your spot to present.
  - Discussion

- **3B (Joslin Classrooms) Funders Forum - Conservation and Resilience Funding Opportunities in North Carolina.** Short presentations from conservation funding programs followed by panel discussion, questions & answers
  - NC Land and Water Fund - Will Summer
  - Water Resources Development Grant - Amin Davis
  - Environmental Enhancement Grant Program - Sarah Zambon
  - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Jim Kjelgaard
  - Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
  - Discussion

- **3C (Bell Seminar Room) The Other 85% of Biodiversity** – Moderated by Steve Hall and Carol Tingley
  - The role of the North Carolina Biodiversity Project: The need to include more taxa, species, and ecological relationships in conservation decisions – Steve Hall
  - Butterflies and Odonates: Documentation of occurrences of butterfly, dragonfly, and damselfly populations across North Carolina and interpretation of the results – Harry LeGrand
  - Native Bees: Documentation of occurrences of native bee populations across North Carolina and development of plans for their conservation – Hannah Levenson and Elsa Youngsteadt
  - Break
  - Bryophytes: Documentation of occurrences of moss and liverwort populations across North Carolina and an overview of bryophyte conservation from past progress to future considerations – Jame Amoroso
o Fungi, Lichens, and Slime Molds: Documentation of occurrences across North Carolina and development of plans for their conservation – Van Cotter, Gary Perlmutter, and Meriel Goodwin
o New Hope Creek Biodiversity Survey: An extended Bioblitz of a key conservation area, involving surveys for all taxa covered by the NCBP website projects – Steve Hall and Carol Tingley

6:00 – 8:00 Catered Dinner (Reeves Auditorium). Guest Speaker: Dr. Gary Machlis - Future of Conservation: toward a unified vision of conservation. Includes time for questions & discussion.

**Day 3: Thursday, March 17, 2022 - Equity & Inclusion**

8:30 am: Registration and Check-in (Reeves Auditorium Foyer)

9:00 – 10:00 Plenary Session: **Decolonizing Ecology** - Dr. Madhu Katti, NC State College of Natural Resources.

10:00 – 10:15 Morning Break

10:15 – 11:45 Equity Analysis of NC Nature Preserves: Presentation from Misty Buchanan, NCNHP and Katie Warnell, Duke Nicholas School for the Environment, with time for questions and discussion

11:45 – 1:00 Catered Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 Equity and Inclusion in Action: Short presentations and discussion
- NC State Parks – Dwayne Patterson and Rodney Lovett
- Triangle Land Conservancy’s Good Ground Initiative – Kierra Hyman and Margaret Sands
- Coastal Land Trust Historic Reaves Chapel Restoration – Jesica Blake
- Partners for Environmental Justice
- Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association – Rickie White, Executive Director with ECWA Education and Engagement Coordinator
- Resilient Communities Program – Brian Byfield
- Questions and Discussion

2:30 – 3:00 Afternoon Break

3:00 – 5:00 Outreach/Career Fair and Concurrent Group Meetings (registration not required)

**Outreach and Career Fair** (Sara Waitt Breezeway) – Conservation organizations and land trusts are invited to host a table to share information about their program mission, career opportunities, volunteering, and membership.

**Group meetings:** Open meetings for guests, group members, and friends. Session includes brief introduction to the group, current projects, future goals, group discussion.
- **Friends of Plant Conservation** (Joslin Classroom) – The Friends of Plant Conservation support the mission of the North Carolina Plant Conservation Program to permanently conserve native plant species in their natural habitats across the state. They accomplish this goal through outreach and education, fundraising, and stewardship activities on PCP’s Plant Conservation Preserves.
• **NC Natural and Working Lands** (Bell Seminar Room) – The Natural and Working Land Stakeholder Group identifies resilience and carbon storage opportunities for natural and working lands, develops pathways for implementing these opportunities, and identifies policies, funding and incentives needed to execute the various pathways. This session is an opportunity for stakeholders and guests to share information about ongoing projects that increase carbon sequestration and storage, offsetting greenhouse gas emissions.

• **Eno-New Hope Landscape Conservation Group** (Reeves Auditorium) - The mission of the Eno-New Hope Landscape Conservation Group is to conserve and restore landscape habitat connectivity that ensures long-term function and resilience of ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources. This session will be the kick-off meeting for participants in the Eno-New Hope Connectivity Conservation working groups and other interested guests, as part of the group's strategic action planning for achieving regional ecological connectivity.