

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

September 6 - 8, 2022

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

*Note: \* indicates the presentation will include Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, or Justice topics*

## Day 1: Tuesday, September 6, 2022

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

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

- Welcome to the Future of Conservation Forum - Damon Waitt, North Carolina Botanical Garden
- Recognition of Conference Sponsors - Chuck Roe, Southern Conservation Partners
- Introduction of Plenary Speaker - Milo Pyne, Friends of Plant Conservation
- Plenary Speaker- Dr. Alan Weakley, Herbarium Director, North Carolina Botanical Garden: Diversity, Resilience, Learning, Place, and Conservation

**10:15 – 10:30** Morning Break

**10:30 – 11:15** Climate Change in North Carolina – Rebecca Ward, North Carolina State Climate Office

**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 - Chris Canfield
  - The Conservation Fund Resourceful Communities Program\* – Monica McCann
  - NC DWR’s Water Resources Development Grant Program Highlights\* – Amin Davis
  - A New Conservation Planning Tool for North Carolina – Israel Golden, Duke University Nicholas School for the Environment and Katie Warnell, Duke Nicholas Institute
  - NC Wildlife Resources Commission Green Growth Toolbox: Reducing habitat and community impacts from development\* – Kacy Cook and Brooke Massa
  - Discussion, Questions
- 1B (Joslin Classrooms) **Conservation, Resilience, and Natural Communities.** Presented by Michael Schafale, NC Natural Heritage Program Ecologist
  - 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: classification Q & A , new types, etc.

**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 – Liz Rutledge, North Carolina Wildlife Federation
  - NC Bird Atlas - Scott Anderson, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
  - NC Bat Conservation - Sue Cameron, US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - USFWS Aquatic Species Listings, Recovery Plans, and Implementation -Jennifer Archambault, US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Amphibian and Reptile Conservation -Jeff Hall, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
  - Discussion
  
- 2B (Joslin Classrooms) **Botany**. Moderated by Brenda Wichmann, NC Natural Heritage Program and Katherine Culatta, NC Plant Conservation Program
  - Welcome and Session Overview - Katherine Culatta, NC Plant Conservation Program
  - NC Plant Conservation Alliance - Mike Kunz, NC Botanical Garden
  - Plants in the NC Wildlife Action Plan – Misty Buchanan, Natural Heritage Program
  - Plant Lists and Data Needs – Brenda Wichmann, Natural Heritage Program
  - Rare Plants of NC iNaturalist Project - Jame Amoroso, Natural Heritage Program
  - Carolina Hemlock Status Survey - David Siripoonsup, Natural Heritage Program
  - Question & Discussion

**5:00 – 6:30** Reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres (Sara Waitt Breezeway), including remembrance of Steven Leonard [1943-2022]

## Day 2: Wednesday, September 7, 2022

**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, Catawba Wateree Initiative and Bill Holman, The Conservation Fund

*Mountains:* Roan Highlands Conservation –Jay Leutze, 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** Concurrent Session 3

- 3A (Reeves Auditorium) **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
  - Prioritizing Wildlife Road Crossings in North Carolina To Reconnect Wildlife Habitat and Improve Road Safety - Nikki Robinson, Wildlands Network
  - NC longleaf pine protection roadmap - Hervey Mclver, 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
- 3B (Joslin Classrooms) – **Environmental Justice and Conservation** – Moderated by Misty Buchanan, NC Natural Heritage Program
  - Partners for Environmental Justice\* – Corey Dodd
  - Sustainable Forestry Initiative\* - Jerri Taylor
  - UNC American Indian Center\* - Jesalyn Keziah
  - Green Organizations' Environmental Justice Engagement\* - Kristen Viera, UNC Ecology Program
  - Questions/Discussion

**2:45 – 3:00** Afternoon Break

**3:00 – 5:00** Concurrent Session 4

- **4A (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
  - Conserving Resilient Appalachian Focal Landscapes & Corridors - 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
  
- **4B (Joslin Classrooms) Funders Forum - Conservation and Resilience Funding Opportunities in North Carolina.** Moderated by Will Summer. Short presentations from conservation funding programs followed by panel discussion, questions & answers
  - NC Land and Water Fund - Will Summer
  - NC DWR's Water Resources Development Grant - Amin Davis
  - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Jeb Minarik
  - Parks and Recreation Trust Fund – Charlyne Smith, Recreation Resources Service
  - Discussion
  
- **4C (Bell Seminar Room) The Other 85% of Biodiversity –** Moderated by Steve Hall and Carol Tingley
  - North Carolina Biodiversity Project: The need to include more taxa, species, and ecological relationships in conservation decisions – Steve Hall
  - Butterflies and Odonates: Documentation of butterfly, dragonfly, and damselfly populations across NC and interpretation of results – Harry LeGrand
  - Native Bees: Documentation of native bee populations across NC and development of plans for conservation – Hannah Levenson, Elsa Youngsteadt
  - Break
  - Bryophytes: Documentation of moss and liverwort populations across NC and overview of bryophyte conservation considerations – Jame Amoroso
  - Fungi, Lichens, and Slime Molds: Documentation across NC and development of plans for their conservation – Gary Perlmutter, and Meriel Goodwin
  - 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.

### Day 3: Thursday, September 8, 2022

**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\* Misty Buchanan, NC Natural Heritage Program and Katie Warnell, Duke Nicholas School for the Environment

**11:45 – 1:00** Catered Lunch

**1:00 – 2:30** Equity and Inclusion in Action: Short presentations and discussion, moderated by Rodney Butler and Jessica Schaner

- Triangle Land Conservancy's Good Ground Initiative\* – Kierra Hyman and Margaret Sands
- American Forest Foundation and the African American Land Retention Program\* – Alton Perry
- Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association\* – Rickie White and L.A. Davis-Durante
- NC State Parks\* – Dwayne Patterson and Rodney Lovett
- Questions and Discussion

**2:30 – 3:00** Afternoon Break

**3:00 – 5:00** Concurrent Session 5 (registration not required)

- **5A Natural and Working Lands Contributions to NC Climate Goals** (Reeves Auditorium), Moderated by Misty Buchanan
  - NC Commitment to Address Climate Change and Net Zero Pathways Analysis – Jeremy Tarr, Office of Governor Roy Cooper
  - Natural and Working Lands (NWL) benefits for Climate Mitigation and Resilience – Misty Buchanan, NC Natural Heritage Program
  - Current projects and research
    - Agriculture: Climate-wise Agriculture Program - Keith Larick, NC Farm Bureau
    - Coastal Habitats: A Greenhouse Gas Inventory for NC Seagrass and Subaerial Wetlands – Paul Cough, Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuarine Partnership
    - Peatlands: Eric Soderholm, The Nature Conservancy
  - Questions, Comments, and Discussion
- **5B Friends of Plant Conservation** (Joslin Classroom) – Open meeting for guests, group members, and friends. Session includes brief introduction to the group, current projects, future goals, group discussion. 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.
- **5C Outreach and Career Fair** (Sara Waitt Breezeway) – Conservation organizations and land trusts share information about their missions, career opportunities, volunteering, and membership.

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