

June 13: Ecological Sovereignty: Managing Natural Resources from a Cherokee Biologist

Dr. Caleb Hickman (ᎠᎵᎩᎩᎠ), Supervisory Biologist, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Dr. Caleb Hickman is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. After leaving Oklahoma, he received his bachelor's degree in biology from Missouri Valley College, a master's at Missouri State University, and a Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Caleb has worked with a variety of species across various ecosystems before finding his dream job as a Supervisory Biologist for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians where, for over a decade, he has worked to study and conserve a variety of game and non-game fish and wildlife species and their ecosystems. His research and management priorities are for Endangered and culturally important species, which often overlap.

June 20: Appalachian Apothecary: Herbs of Yesterday and Today

Patricia Kyritsi Howell, Registered Herbalist (AHG), BotanoLogos School of Herbal Studies

Patricia Kyritsi Howell, Registered Herbalist (American Herbalists Guild), is the author of *Medicinal Plants of the Southern Appalachians* and director of the BotanoLogos School of Herbal Studies in Clayton, Georgia. After 30 years in practice as a clinical herbalist, she now devotes as much time as possible to wandering in wild places in search of herbs.

June 27: 2018-2020: Two Years, Eight Storms, 320+ landslides, and an Earthquake: What We Learned about the Connections Between Weather, Climate Change, Landforms and Geology

Rick Wooten, P.G., North Carolina Geological Survey (ret.)

Rick has 40+ years of experience in applied geology in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State, and in the Piedmont, and Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology from the University of Georgia. and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1973 to 1976. From 1980 until 1990 he was an engineering geologist with the USDA-Forest Service on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington State. Rick was the Senior Geologist for Geohazards and Engineering Geology for the North Carolina Geological Survey from 1990 until retiring 2021. His work there included the scientific regulatory review and investigations for a low-level radioactive waste disposal project, bedrock geologic mapping in the N.C. Piedmont and Blue Ridge. Since 2003 his main focus was landslide hazard mapping and research, and responding to landslide events in western N.C. He was selected as the 2022 Jahn's Distinguished Lecturer in Engineering Geology by the Geological Society of America and the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists, and is a Licensed Professional Geologist in N.C.

July 11: Landscape Meanders: Design Ideas for the South Gateway Garden at the Highlands Botanical Garden

Warren Byrd, Jr. FASLA; Professor Emeritus; University of Virginia & Founding Principal; Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects

As founding principal, along with Susan Nelson, of Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, Warren Byrd led the firm in a wide range of public and private landscape projects throughout the United States and internationally. The projects he directed include: the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, PA with Paul Murdoch Architects; Citygarden, a two-block urban sculpture garden on the Gateway Mall in St. Louis, MO; the Dell stormwater park at the University of Virginia; the Asia Trail at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.; the restoration of Montalto at Monticello in Albemarle County, VA; and master landscape plans for Caltech in Pasadena CA, St. John's College in Annapolis MD, the University of Miami FL in Coral Gables, Georgia Tech in Atlanta, and Auburn University in Alabama. The work of the firm has garnered over 100 national and regional design awards within the past 20 years including the prestigious Amanda Burden Urban Open Space Award in 2011 for Citygarden. The firm's first monograph, Garden Park Community Farm, co-authored by Thomas Woltz and Warren Byrd, was published by Princeton Architectural Press in 2013. It received a National ASLA Award in Communications in 2014. One of the last projects he headed up, The Duke University Water Reclamation Pond, received an ASLA Honor Award in 2021. Its design genesis was inspired by work we did at the Dell 15 years earlier.

In addition to his 35+ years of practice, Warren taught for 26 years at the University of Virginia, serving as Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture for seven years. His many honors include the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award (from UVA) in 2012, an All-University teaching award, and a CELA teaching award. Now a Professor Emeritus, Warren's particular focus, in both his teaching and his practice, has been on the understanding and adaptation of natural systems and plant communities as they might best influence sustainable strategies of design. Following two years of study in forestry and environmental conservation, he received his B.S. in Horticulture from Virginia Tech in 1975, with Distinction, and his Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia in 1977. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Throughout his professional career, Warren led the firm's efforts in the design and development of numerous botanic gardens and arboreta. These included the State Arboretum at Blandy Farm; the Sarah P. Duke Gardens at Duke University; The Norfolk Botanic Garden; the Hahn Horticulture Gardens at Virginia Tech; The Lewis Ginter Garden in Richmond; and the Northwest Michigan Botanic Garden in Traverse City. He also had premiated entries in several national competitions that involved public gardens: The Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore and the U.S. National Garden in Washington D.C., and the Constitution Gardens in D.C.

July 18: Fire, Acorns, and Kids that Stay with You Way Too Long: A Natural History of the Threatened Florida Scrub Jay

Dr. Sahas Barve, John W. Fitzpatrick Director of Avian Ecology, Archbold Biological Station

Dr. Sahas Barve is the Program Director of Avian Ecology at Archbold Biological Station. There, he oversees a 55 year-long study of threatened Florida Scrub-Jays. Previously, Dr. Barve has worked on a wide range of taxa and systems including tracking king cobras in south India, bird research in the Himalayas for his PhD from Cornell University, acorn woodpecker biology at Old Dominion University, and museum research at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History on Himalayan and Andean birds. Dr. Barve is broadly interested in life-history evolution of birds and enjoys communicating research with the public in new and innovative ways. Outside work, he is an avid birder, and has also won awards in multiple grilled cheese making competitions.

July 25: Climate-informed Forestry in the Southern Appalachians

Greg Cooper, Forest Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy

Greg Cooper is the Southern Blue Ridge Forest Ecologist working with The Nature Conservancy in Asheville, NC to promote fire adapted-forests in the mountains. Prior to this, he worked for the United States Forest Service on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and Maine. Greg is a Returned Peace Corps volunteer having served in Paraguay from 2010-2012 as an Environmental Action Volunteer. He received his Master of Forestry and Master of Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University and a BA in Biology from Drew University in Madison, NJ.

August 1: The Surface Water and Ocean Topography Mission: NASA's New Eye in the Sky for Earth's Water

Dr. Tamlin Pavelsky; Professor of Earth, Marine, and Environmental Sciences; University of North Carolina

Dr. Tamlin Pavelsky is a professor of global hydrology in the Department of Earth, Marine and Environmental Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned his PhD in geography from UCLA in 2008. His research has focused on understanding the global distribution of water in rivers, lakes, and mountain snowpack using satellite imagery, field measurements, and regional climate models. Since 2013, Dr. Pavelsky has served as the hydrology science lead for the NASA Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) satellite mission. For his work leading the surface water community towards solutions for measuring river flow from space, Dr. Pavelsky was awarded a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest award given by the U.S. government to early career researchers. He grew up in central Alaska in cabins without electricity or running water.

August 8: Roaming the Wilds: Exploring NC Mammals Shore to Summit

Dr. Aimee Rockhill, Associate Professor, Western Carolina University

Dr. Aimee Rockhill is an Associate Professor and incoming Program Director of the Natural Resource Conservation and Management Program at Western Carolina University. She developed her profound connection to nature in the Adirondack Park of upstate New York, where childhood camping trips and visits to her grandparents' cabin in Maine instilled a love for the outdoors. A first-generation college student at SUNY Plattsburgh, she transitioned from teaching high school science to pursuing an MS in Forest Management and a PhD in Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation at North Carolina State University. Upon graduation, she worked as a wildlife biologist and GIS specialist in interior Alaska with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Her Alaskan experiences, from counting critters via various methods to navigating the rugged terrain, further fueled her passion for wildlife and conservation. Since joining WCU in 2016, Dr. Rockhill has shared her knowledge through teaching a range of courses including Introduction to Wildlife Ecology and Management, Wildlife Research and Survey Techniques, Mammalogy, Applied GIS, and Senior Capstone. Her research focuses on understanding anthropogenic disturbances on vertebrate population dynamics, with a keen interest in predator/prey dynamics, resource partitioning of sympatric carnivores, and spatio-temporal land cover use of vertebrates.

August 15: All About Hellbenders!

Lori Williams, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Originally from Raleigh, NC, Lori Williams is a Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and a Certified Wildlife Biologist ® by The Wildlife Society. She has a B.S. in English from Appalachian State University (1993), a B.S. in Wildlife Science from Virginia Tech (2000), and a M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife from Virginia Tech (2004). Based near Asheville, NC, Lori coordinates and conducts mountain region amphibian inventory, monitoring, and research projects for the NCWRC and assists with projects on other nongame taxa. She has worked in wildlife conservation and ecology for over 20 years.
