

Schedule

VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY

NOTE: FRIDAY PROGRAMMING OPEN TO PAYING VCN PARTNERS' STAFF, BOARD, AND LEAD VOLUNTEERS ONLY.

Friday, September 22, 2017 — Programming open to Network Partners only (ticketed)

Jepson Alumni Executive Center

- 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Sign-In / Coffee
- 9:00 – 9:15 a.m. Welcome featuring remarks from the Mayor of Fredericksburg Mary Katherine Greenlaw
- 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. 2017 Workgroup Year in Review
VCN workgroups will give a quick report out on their top priority campaigns, focusing on the most significant highlights from the year and where each campaign is headed in 2018.
- 10:15 – 10:30 a.m. VCN Update and Board Vote
Led by Karen Forget, Vice President of the VCN Board of Directors
- 10:45 – 12:15 p.m. Breakout Meetings by Organizational Role
Breakouts include: Executive Directors, Legislative Staff, Communications, and Grassroots / Organizers
- 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch / Case Study: Taylorsville Basin Partnership
This presentation will highlight the successful, collaborative, and ongoing effort to educate localities and landowners about fracking and advocate for strong local and state policy to protect against fracking. Panelists will share their lessons learned in working together to continue winning environmental policy victories. Panelists include:
- Kristin Davis — Staff Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center
 - Emily Francis — Consultant, New Dominion Solutions on behalf of Southern Environmental Law Center
 - Bryan Hofmann — Programs Manager, Friends of the Rappahannock
 - Richard Moncure — Tidal River Steward, Friends of the Rappahannock
 - Jessie Thomas-Blate — Associate Director of the Most Endangered Rivers program, American Rivers
- 1:45 – 3:00 p.m. Working Together to Slow Federal Rollbacks
We are faced with an unprecedented attack on our environment at the federal level — from zeroing out the Chesapeake Bay Program in the President's budget to pulling the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Agreement. As an important swing state, many in Washington D.C. are looking at how we in Virginia work to protect the places we love from these rollbacks. Join us in an important and timely conversation about the top threats we see coming from Washington and how we can work together as a coordinated community to slow them while building power on our state issues at the same time.
- 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Break

Conservation Reception — Open to the public (ticketed)

Jepson Alumni Executive Center, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

We welcome you to join Virginia's conservation community for a special reception to celebrate the successes we've achieved this year over beer, wine, and hors d'oeuvres. The Conservation Reception will feature remarks from Pam Northam and other elected officials, as well as a silent art auction. This event is part of the Virginia Environmental Assembly, though tickets can be purchased separately.

Saturday, September 23, 2017 — Open to the public (ticketed)

Jepson Alumni Executive Center

- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Sign-In / Light Breakfast & Coffee (Main Room)
- 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Welcome (Main Room)
- 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Panel: Every Level of Government Needs to Act on Climate (Main Room)
Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time, especially when it comes to its devastating impacts on Virginia's most vulnerable communities. It is imperative that every level of government steps up to be a part of the solution. Fortunately — while key environmental protections are being dismantled at the federal level — Virginia is moving forward. A panel of elected officials and staff from the city and state levels who are climate and clean energy champions will discuss the importance of taking action at all levels of government. They will not only share what they've done to combat climate change, but also dive into what influenced them to take action. Panelists include:
- Rebecca Rubin — President and CEO of Marstel-Day / Member of the Air Pollution Control Board (Moderator)
 - Jay Fisette — Board Chair, Arlington County Board
 - Molly Ward — Secretary of Natural Resources
 - Alicia Zatcoff — Director of Sustainability, City of Richmond
- 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Discussion: How to Engage in the Upcoming Election as a 501c3 Nonprofit (Board Room)
With Virginia in the midst of an important gubernatorial race, attendees are invited to sit in on this facilitated discussion to learn what 501c3 nonprofits are allowed to do to encourage participation and engagement in the upcoming election. Space is limited to 35. Speakers include:
- Saul Cunow — Engagement Director, Analyst Institute
 - Julie Emery — Executive Director, Virginia Civic Engagement Table
- 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. Panel: What Does 21st Century Land Preservation Look Like? (Main Room)
From the Chesapeake Bay to the Shenandoah Valley, we can all agree that Virginia is a wonderful place to live. But as the urban and suburban populations continue increasing, how must we adjust our land preservation efforts to ensure the things we love about the Commonwealth and our communities are protected? This presentation will dig deeper into that question, reflecting on proven-successful programs and examining where these efforts are headed in the future. Panelists include:
- Chris Miller — President, Piedmont Environmental Council (Moderator)
 - Seth Coffman — Shenandoah Headwaters Home Rivers Initiative Manager, Trout Unlimited
 - Shannon O'Neil Adams — Land Conservation Specialist, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
 - Kris Jarvis — Conservation Specialist, John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District
- 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. Discussion: Building Strong Campaigns (Board Room)
What do pipelines and offshore drilling have in common? A lot! Both issues have ignited incredible campaigns, taking local concerns and stark opposition to the national stage. Campaign leaders and participants will share best practices and brainstorm new strategies on how to continue engaging an excited base. This discussion is meant for attendees who are active in environmental organizing and want to learn new tactics from these campaign successes. Space is limited to 35. Speakers include:
- Kirk Bowers — Pipelines Program Coordinator, Sierra Club Virginia Chapter
 - Karen Forget — Executive Director, Lynnhaven River NOW
 - Kate Wofford — Executive Director, Shenandoah Valley Network
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch / Keynote: Reverend Lennox Yearwood Jr., President and CEO of the Hip Hop Caucus
A national leader within the green movement, Reverend Yearwood has been successfully bridging the gap between communities of color and environmental advocacy for the past decade. Rolling Stone declared him one of our country's "New Green Heroes," and Huffington Post named him one of the top ten change-makers in the green movement. Reverend Yearwood entered the world of Hip Hop Politics when he served as the Political and Grassroots Director of Russell Simmons' Hip Hop Summit Action Network in 2003 and 2004. He was also a key architect of P. Diddy's "Vote Or Die!" campaign. Then, in 2004, he founded the Hip Hop Caucus to build a sustainable organization for Hip Hop politics.
- 1:15 – 2:30 p.m. Panel: Coal Ash — We're Not Done Yet (Main Room)
Responsible coal ash cleanup has been a major concern for many Virginians over the past year. Fortunately, Virginia lawmakers on both sides of the aisle were able to work together this past General Assembly session to require full assessments of coal ash ponds be completed prior to the issuance of permits for their closure. How did the conservation community pull together this winning coalition? And — if we're not done yet — what's next? Panelists will walk us through this bipartisan legislative success, lead an honest discussion about what a "winning campaign" should look like, and where we need to go from here. Panelists include:
- Noah Sachs — Director, University of Richmond Law School's Center for Environmental Studies (Moderator)
 - Phillip Musegaas — Vice President of Program and Litigation, Potomac Riverkeeper Network
 - Bill Street — Chief Executive Officer, James River Association
 - Scott Surovell — Virginia State Senate
- 1:15 – 2:30 p.m. Discussion: Roads to Rails (Board Room)
Climate change, traffic, sprawl...what will it take to move Virginia from roads to rail? Transportation is now the number one contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, metro needs billions for restoration, and I-95 is a parking lot; however, we still await higher speed rail, and Virginia spends only 9% of its transportation capital budget on transit. Join us to discuss what it will take to win greater investments in rail and transit in Virginia.
- Stewart Schwartz — Executive Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth
- 2:30 – 2:45 p.m. Wrap Up / Next Steps
- 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Field Trips (offsite) — ticketed**
- Field Trip #1 Rappahannock River Paddle —\$20⁰⁰
Sponsored by Friends of the Rappahannock, Audubon Naturalist Society, and Virginia Outdoors Center
Join Friends of the Rappahannock, Audubon Naturalist Society, and Virginia Outdoors Center for an exciting and active field trip learning how to test water quality with the Creek Critters app and then paddling down the scenic Rappahannock River. Standup paddleboards, canoes, and kayaks are available for this trip — partners will reach out to those who have registered two weeks in advance to ask which one you'd prefer to use.
- Field Trip #2 Creating Access to Rappahannock River For All — \$20⁰⁰
Sponsored by Piedmont Environmental Council
A short drive up the Rappahannock River basin, a partnership between the Piedmont Environmental Council, Fauquier County, the Town of Remington, and other state / local / nonprofit agencies are working together to create a 25-acre riverfront park connected by a trail network to the Town of Remington. A walking tour will provide the basis for a discussion of trail planning, land conservation, historic preservation, park planning, and river access planning. On the way back to Fredericksburg, after the walking tour concludes, attendees will visit the Moo Thru drive thru dairy bar!
- Field Trip #3 Face the River: Culinary, Retail and History Meet the Rappahannock River — \$20⁰⁰
Sponsored by Fredericksburg Main Street Inc.
Take a tour along the Rappahannock river banks with champions of Face the River, a public-private collaborative dedicated to revitalizing historic downtown Fredericksburg by reconnecting Main Street to the riverfront. See the work completed, learn local history, and hear from stakeholders on the benefits of tying together the scenic and economic benefits of the river. Participants will enjoy stops along the way, consuming local business's fare (light hors d'oeuvres and alcoholic / non-alcoholic beverages) that benefit from these ongoing efforts.
- Field Trip #4 Fly Tying and Casting — \$10⁰⁰
Sponsored by River Rock Outfitter and Falmouth Flats Fly Fishers
Falmouth Flats Fly Fishers is a diverse group of anglers with one thing in common: The fly rod. Located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, they are a nonprofit charter club of the Federation of Fly Fishers dedicated to conserving, restoring and educating through fly fishing. They are bringing their expertise to River Rock Outfitter to help you learn the art of fly fishing and tying flies. In addition, they will provide casting demonstrations and allow participants to try their hand at casting a line. The Rappahannock River is a fly fishing gem and this team of anglers looks forward to sharing their passion — maybe even a few fish stories — and have you leaving with a handful of flies ready to catch your own fish!