



2021

WILD VIRGINIA
ANNUAL REPORT



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By leaning into our strengths, partnering strategically, and working together we've adapted to a substantial amount of change in the last few years. It's no question that we are a stronger organization today than ever before, and that is in large part due to people, just like you, who are reading this report.

Wild Virginia's members give us the support and strength we need to influence how our lands and waters are protected across Virginia. We are gearing up to make an even larger impact in the coming year. I'm excited to see what we can accomplish together.

If you're not already involved in our work as a volunteer or supporter, I hope the following pages will inspire you with specific ideas about how you can become more closely involved.

Sincerely,



Misty Boos
Executive Director



Wild Virginia Team

Bette Dzamba

**Vice President
Chair, Outings and
Education**

Leigh Kirchner

Treasurer

Kate Mallek

Secretary

Allison McClure

Board Member

Jamie Trost

Board Member

Grace Tuttle

**Chair, Development
and DEIJ Team**

Ryan Wagener

President

Lil Williams (Elizabeth

Kennon Willams, MD)

Board Member

Misty Boos, Executive Director

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Misty Boos received a Master of Environmental Planning degree from the University of Tasmania in 2006 and a B.S. in Sociology with emphasis on Environmental Studies from Southern Oregon University. She has extensive experience in the non-profit sector working on research projects and in the field for many environmental organizations. She has been an active participant and leader for Wild Virginia outings and completed training as a Virginia Master Naturalist. Misty spent many years studying, traveling and living abroad and these experiences have given her a global perspective on environmental issues that she tries to apply to her efforts with us locally in Virginia. Misty particularly loves working with volunteers, helping them apply their unique skills and experience to help further Wild Virginia's mission.

David Sligh, Conservation Director

david@wildvirginia.org • (434) 964-7455

David Sligh has worked for 40 years to make the promises of our environmental laws real. He has consistently and successfully pushed private parties and government agencies to base their actions on science, law, and the public interest. He has a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia, a law degree from Vermont Law School, and is a member of the District of Columbia Bar. Dave has worked as a Senior Environmental Engineer for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Founder and Director of Virginia PEER – the state branch of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Southeast Regional Representative for American Rivers, Upper James Riverkeeper, adjunct instructor of Environmental Science at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and as a consultant and advisor to citizen groups around the country.

Kylie McLatchy, Conservation Support Coordinator

kylie@wildvirginia.org

Kylie McLatchy received a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has worked for the National Park Service, the Fairfax County Park Authority, and in the environmental non-profit sector. She was born and raised in Virginia and is proud to work for an organization that is committed to protecting the ecosystems that she cares deeply about. Kylie loves gardening, especially with native plants, spending time around animals, and being outside.





Wild Virginia: Protecting and Connecting Virginia's Wild Places

How we protect and connect your favorite places

- Protect Virginia's water quality and ensure that the laws that exist to protect it are properly applied. We also help citizens learn how to help monitor water quality.
- Fight fracking and oil and gas infrastructure, like the Mountain Valley Pipeline.
- We believe that the places people experience are the places they come to love and care about. We inspire action through our events, lectures, and the Wild Virginia Film Festival each year.
- Monitor all timber sales and projects in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.
- Organize the Virginia Safe Wildlife Corridor Collaborative working to protect both people and wildlife by reducing animal-vehicle conflicts and improving safe wildlife passage.
- Provide a place for people to help out and learn more through our volunteer program.



Monitoring Water Quality

In 2021, Wild Virginia volunteers performed water quality monitoring at over 100 locations, along the Mountain Valley Pipeline route. The data collected by volunteers is critical for informing the Virginia water quality review for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) and our campaign for developing turbidity/narrative criteria. This year, we developed a new monitoring protocol for a small group of volunteers to gather data that is directly relevant to our state regulatory reform campaign.

Legislation

In 2021, Wild Virginia helped pass two bills that serve to mitigate damage from MVP. Senate Bill 1265, that strengthens the Virginia DEQ's authority to stop work on pipelines when water quality damage is occurring or when repeated violations take place. Senate Bill 1311 requires that first time applicants for pipeline projects provide erosion, sediment, and stormwater plans to the DEQ, State Water Control Board and the public at the beginning of the review process.

PROTECTING VIRGINIA'S WATER

“Wild Virginia presents an astonishing look at how Virginia environmental regulators have failed to use all means necessary to protect our drinking water, . . . streams, rivers and the aquatic life that depends on them.”
– Appalachian Voices

Reforming Regulatory Systems

This year, Wild Virginia maintained and expanded a powerful coalition that insists that regulators, especially the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), enforce Clean Act requirements to protect Virginia's high quality waters and clean up polluted streams.

Wild Virginia also joined the Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) to develop recommendations for numeric criteria for turbidity and/or solids. Wild Virginia has also been advocating for procedural changes to accommodate citizen advocates through the regulatory process.

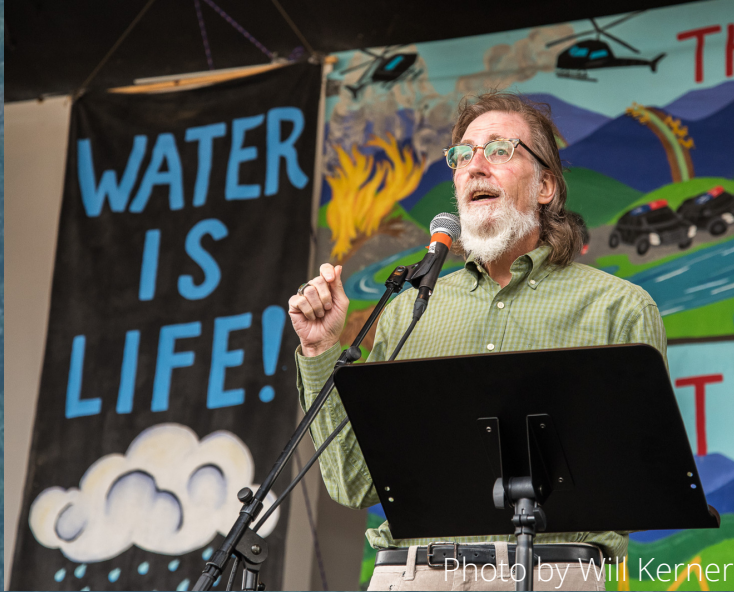


Photo by Will Kerner

SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

"This project should never be completed and we will never rest as long as the threat exists."

-David Sligh, Wild Virginia's Conservation Director

In 2021, the battle against the Mountain Valley Pipeline continued and Wild Virginia stood its ground. Wild Virginia worked tirelessly, alongside partner organizations and volunteers, to protect our precious ecosystems and the communities that are threatened by this destructive project.

Wild Virginia held countless meetings with groups around the state to compile and analyze data that was used in agency comments and court challenges. Wild Virginia also empowered citizens to submit public comments.

When the state denied the opportunity to virtually testify on the MVP 401 draft permit, Wild Virginia hosted a peoples' hearing on the Mountain Valley Pipeline. This gave impacted groups and advocates the opportunity to safely voice their concerns.

Wild Virginia produced two major reports this year. The first being a summary of thousands of submitted comments to the DEQ and the State Water Control Board. The second report, Documenting the Damage, reviewed more than 5,000 inspection reports of MVP violations and showcased that requirements had been violated more than 1,500 times.

With just weeks left in 2021, the State Water Control Board approved a permit for MVP to cross through valuable streams. This left Wild Virginia more determined than ever. Wild Virginia ended 2021 with active lawsuits, including those against the state, the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service.



IMPROVING HABITAT CONNECTIVITY

“When we plan for wildlife movement, we make sensible choices about how to avoid collisions with them and ensure that species can make their way safely across our beautiful state.”

- Wild Virginia Executive Director, Misty Boos

More than 60,000 deer-related crashes occur within the state each year, costing approximately \$533 million in damages annually.

Virginia Safe Wildlife Corridors Collaborative (VSWCC)

In 2021, Wild Virginia paved the way in habitat connectivity through the Virginia Safe Wildlife Corridors Collaborative. This group works to reduce the harm of habitat fragmentation caused by roads. Wild Virginia worked with Virginia Tech, the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, the Albemarle Natural Heritage Committee, the Virginia Master Naturalists, and many others on projects to help connect and protect wildlife habitat in Virginia.

Educating Citizens

Wild Virginia educated over 1,500 people that tuned in to learn about habitat connectivity and corridors at our events and presentations this year. To further educate citizens and reach a broader audience, Wild Virginia helped launch the Virginia Safe Wildlife Corridors Collaborative communications team and Instagram page.



Amphibians, reptiles, and fish are often overlooked when we talk about connecting habitat for wildlife, but we are committed to protecting them too!

Legislation for Wildlife

In 2021, the Virginia General Assembly passed a critical bill, SB 1274, that directs key agencies to incorporate wildlife corridors and road crossings into their planning across Virginia. The bill builds on the wildlife corridor legislation that Wild Virginia helped pass in 2020.

Photo by Lori A Cash

PROVIDING EVENTS AND ADVENTURE

We continued to hold our outings and events online in 2021 to keep everyone safe. This year, thousands of people from all around the country, and even overseas, tuned in to learn about our campaigns. Attendees were connected to the wild places we work to protect and given tools to become advocates for the places they love.

2021 Events

Monthly Book Clubs
Water Quality Monitoring Trainings
Wild Virginia: Where We've Been, Where We're Going
(Re)Connecting Wild Screening
How Can you Help Stop the Mountain Valley Pipeline?
Monarch Butterflies: Biology, Ecology & Conservation
Second Annual "Words to Celebrate the Earth"
Give a Hoot! All about Owls
Growing Nature in the Neighborhood
Wild Virginia Summer Update Meeting
Fireflies!
The Current and Future Geography of Conservation in Virginia
Webinar: Rally for Our Water, Stop MVP
Peoples' Hearing on the Mountain Valley Pipeline
BATSTRAVAGANZA!
Wild Virginia Film Festival: A Walk on the WILD Side
and more!



Photo by Lori A Cash

340+

**ONLINE EVENT
ATTENDEES**

At our Monarch Butterflies: Biology, Ecology & Conservation event. With guest speaker Michelle Prysby.

215+

**ONLINE EVENT
ATTENDEES**

At our Fireflies! event. With guest speaker Dr. Ariel Firebaugh.

200+

**ONLINE EVENT
ATTENDEES**

At our BATSTRAVAGANZA! event. In partnership with Bat Conservation & Rescue of Virginia.

215+

**ONLINE EVENT
ATTENDEES**

At our How Can You Help Stop the Mountain Valley Pipeline? event. In partnership with POWHR, Appalachian Voices, and West Virginia Rivers Association.



350+

**TICKETS
RESERVED**

10+

**FILM
SPONSORSHIPS**

Wild Virginia Film Festival: A Walk on the Wild Side

Wild Virginia hosted another popular film festival this year, featuring Cascade Crossroads, an award-winning documentary that showcased successful wildlife crossings. Our festival also showcased several short films produced by local groups that highlighted the importance of protecting our rivers, streams, and forests. This documentary was an important way to get people interested in our habitat connectivity campaign and spread information about wildlife crossings. Wild Virginia hosted an afterparty with a virtual, live interview with the filmmakers. Attendees had the chance to win big prizes, including a guided canoe trip for 2 down the Middle River with Friends of the Middle River.



Rally for Our Water

This year, Wild Virginia worked with Karenna Gore, founder and executive director of the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York, to provide content for an op-ed published by the Virginia Mercury. We also recruited her to speak at our Rally for Water event, to educate and motivate citizens to submit comments about the DEQ permit.



Photo by Will Kerner

Violation Vigil

One of the most popular events that Wild Virginia helped host was the Violation Vigil held in Richmond VA, that showcased the water violations caused by the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Speakers included Wild Virginia's Conservation Director, David Sligh, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, Chair of Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival and President of Repairers of the Breach, Delegate Sam Rasoul representing VA's 11th House District, and many others.

Wild Virginia is a grassroots organization and our work is made possible with the help and support of our members. As a citizen, it can be difficult to know how to make the most impact. Wild Virginia helps the public be effective advocates by providing the necessary tools and guidance, while keeping them updated on issues impacting Virginia's forests, water, and wildlife. Wild Virginia works to make it clear and easy for the public to engage with their decision makers and regulatory processes.



Volunteer Spotlight

From designing and managing our website, making it more accessible to others, to helping with other technology issues, David Flatley is a treasured volunteer and a valuable member of our Wild Virginia community. He says, "I love nature and conservation, and it's super important to me to help maintain wild lands and push back on the corporations and government before they consume every acre."

A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE

"All of us together with our combined work make waves of differences towards a goal."

-Wild Virginia Volunteer, David Flatley

Wild Virginia is a small, but growing organization and we work with students, volunteers, our board, and contract assistance to help reach our organizational goals. In 2021, we worked with interns from the UVA University Placement Program. They gained experience working for an environmental nonprofit and provided Wild Virginia with valuable work for our programs. Wild Virginia is supported by wonderful volunteers that are all united by a love for the environment and the desire to help protect and connect Virginia's wild places. Volunteers assist with outreach efforts, website design, copy-editing, and much more. We also have a new volunteer, Lori A Cash, who provides Wild Virginia with ethically sourced wildlife photos. The accomplishments highlighted in this report could only happen with the help of Wild Virginia members and volunteers.

2021 IN NUMBERS

Photo by Lori A Cash

5,000+

ONLINE EVENT ATTENDEES

Wild Virginia hosted over 20 virtual events, with topics including bats, owls, the Mountain Valley Pipeline, conservation in Virginia, and much more.

100+

WATER QUALITY MONITORING LOCATIONS

Wild Virginia mobilized citizens to become advocates for our waters and help assist us in combating pipelines and protecting our forests and drinking water.

600+

MEMBERS STRONG

Our members helped energize and grow the grassroots movement that pushed for clean water, connected habitats, and the end to harmful projects, like the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

100+

PAGES OF COMMENTS SUBMITTED

Wild Virginia stayed up to date on proposed rules, regulations, and projects and submitted comments and recommendations based on facts and research.

17+

PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT WILDLIFE

Wild Virginia is the leading organization in wildlife connectivity in Virginia. As part of the Virginia Safe Wildlife Corridors Collaborative (VSWCC) we worked with partners to keep wildlife safe.

55+

MEDIA MENTIONS

Including quotes from David Sligh, Conservation Director in The Washington Post.

9,500+

PEOPLE STAYING UPDATED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Wild Virginia kept citizens informed about conservation issues through our social media pages.

1,500+

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE (MVP) VIOLATIONS EXPOSED

Wild Virginia submitted a letter to the State Water Control Board (SWCB) showing the MVP violated requirements on a much greater scale than previously presented to the public.



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HOW YOU CAN HELP WILD VIRGINIA TODAY

- Tell another person about Wild Virginia.
- Share with us how Wild Virginia has touched your life. Drop us a note or leave a review on Facebook.
- Consider a financial gift or increasing the amount of your annual contribution.
- Become a monthly donor and a sustaining member.
- Join or renew your support today by visiting wildvirginia.org.
- Volunteer. Call 434-971-1553 or email info@wildvirginia.org to find out how to get involved.

STAY CONNECTED

Facebook: @wildvirginiainfo
Email: info@wildvirginia.org
Twitter: Wild_Virginia
Instagram: Wildvirginia

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In 2022, you can rely on Wild Virginia to continue providing the access, tools, knowledge and confidence for citizens to act effectively to protect our ecosystems and wild spaces.