



# WILD VIRGINIA WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wild Virginia has gone through a lot of change and growth within the last year. One of those changes was welcoming Calandra Waters Lake as our new Executive Director. Born and raised in Virginia, Calandra has lived all across the Commonwealth, from the Tidewater to Appalachia. She has over 15 years of experience centered on environmental, social, and economic sustainability, and is a board member of the Virginia Conservation Network.

"The environmental challenges of the world are being faced in our own backyards," said Calandra, "I am excited to lead an organization that connects us to our place in nature, drives change with data and empathy, and empowers all of us to make a difference at a systemic level."

We want to thank Misty Boos for her dedication to Wild Virginia, the Commonwealth, and the community. Her leadership has placed the organization on solid ground, poised to take the next steps under Calandra's direction.

## Meet the Wild Virginia Team



#### CALANDRA WATERS LAKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Calandra Waters Lake is passionate about empowering others to create a flourishing people and planet. She has over 15 years of experience around environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Calandra served as the inaugural Director of Sustainability for the College of William & Mary where she was also adjunct faculty for the Environment & Sustainability Program. As director at W&M, she co-led a Climate Action Partnership with the University of Virginia, facilitated

the university's first Sustainability Plan, and chartered their green revolving fund. Calandra co-chaired the Virginia Sustainability in Higher Education Network and is a board member of the Virginia Conservation Network. Calandra holds a Bachelor of Science in natural resources from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and a Master of Arts in education from William & Mary.



## KYLIE MCLATCHY, CONSERVATION SUPPORT COORDINATOR

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 decided 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 Board

Bette Dzamba
Vice President
Chair, Outings and
Education

Leigh Kirchner Treasurer

Kate Mallek Secretary

Allison McClure Board Member

Grace Tuttle
Chair, Development
and DEIJ Team

Ryan Wagener President

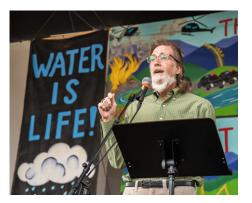
Lil Williams (Elizabeth Kennon Willams, MD) Board Member

#### HOW WE PROTECT AND CONNECT YOUR FAVORITE PLACES

Advocate for the connectivity and integrity of Virginia's lands and waters.

Influence decision makers by mobilizing citizens like you.

Empower citizens, landowners, and other stakeholders to address threats to our wild places.



#### DAVID SLIGH, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

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 bachelor's degree 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.



# COURTNEY HAYES, HABITAT CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Courtney Hayes received a bachelor's degree in Biology and is currently finishing her Master of Science degree in Biology from Eastern Kentucky University where her research focused on mesocarnivore ecology, especially of the eastern spotted skunk. Courtney has worked as an instructor and museum curator at as well as a zoologist and data scientist for the

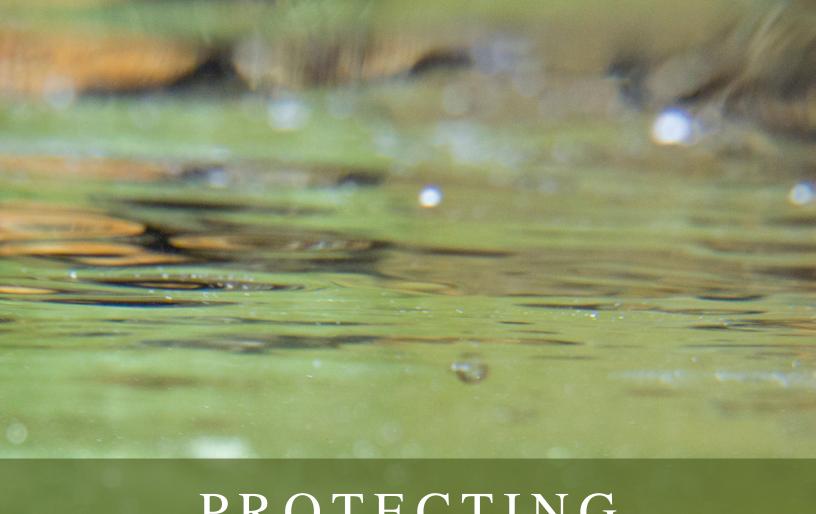
Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Courtney is passionate about protecting wild animals, plants, and ecosystems through scientific research, good management practices, and getting people involved. In her free time, you can find Courtney at the summit of a mountain or in the woods looking for salamanders.

#### HOW WE PROTECT AND CONNECT YOUR FAVORITE PLACES

Connect people to the outdoors through events and learning opportunities, because we protect the places we know and care about.

Protect Virginia's water quality and ensure that the laws that exist to protect it are properly applied.

Convene groups such as the Virginia Safe Wildlife Corridor Collaborative to protect people and wildlife by reducing animal-vehicle conflicts and improving safe wildlife passages.



# PROTECTING VIRGINIA'S WATER





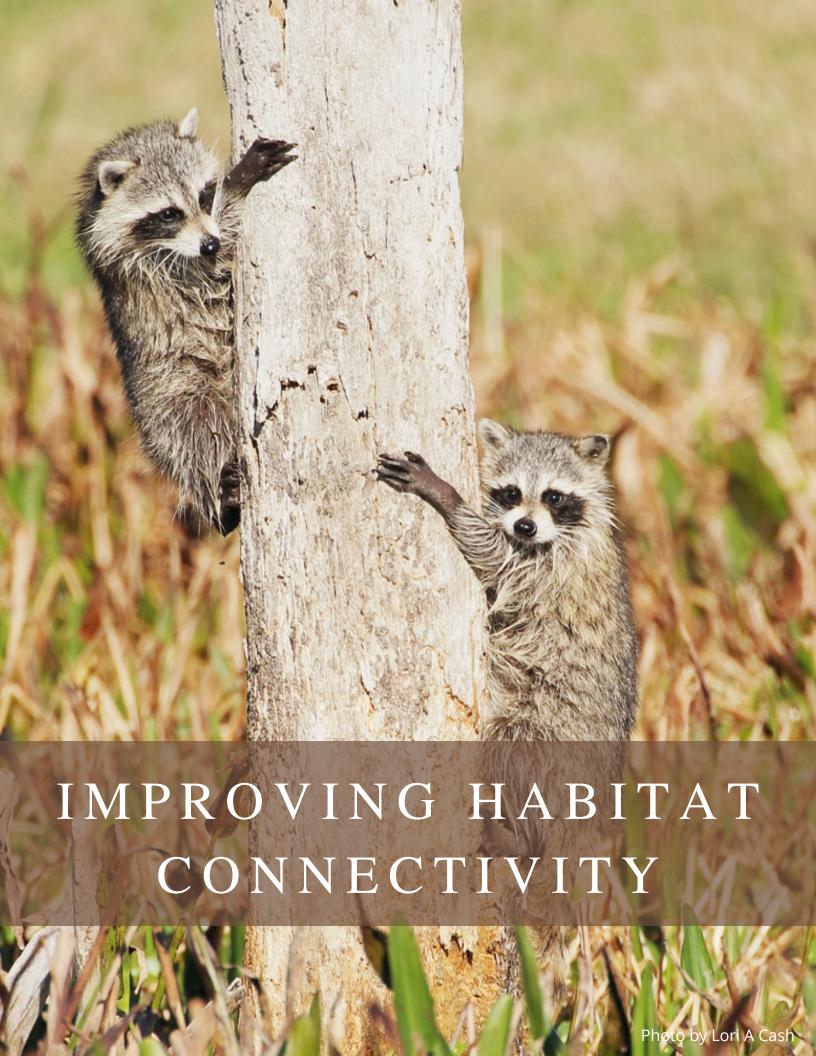




There have been major victories in the battle against the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) over the past year. This includes court rulings against federal resource agencies, that demonstrates that they have failed to adequately protect our land and endangered aquatic species. Wild Virginia played a central role in the court's decisions by coordinating efforts to supply important data and scientific analyses.

In 2022, Wild Virginia continued to work tirelessly, alongside partner groups, to protect our precious ecosystems and the communities that are threatened by this destructive project. Through a strategy group we convene, Wild Virginia ensured that scientists, grassroots groups, volunteer pipeline compliance monitors, and attorneys coordinated their efforts to build solid records before agencies and, where necessary, the courts.

We will use the momentum gained by court victories to try to end this destructive project once and for all in 2023. The MVP is four years behind schedule, billions of dollars over budget, and has yet to make hundreds of difficult waterbody crossings.





In 2022, Wild Virginia produced a report on aquatic organism passages in Virginia. This report focused on protecting stream flora and fauna and described the necessary studies and possible criteria that must be met under the Clean Water Act and state laws for bridges and culverts.

Wild Virginia remained a leading organization in habitat connectivity in Virginia. To further expand our program, we hired a full time Habitat Connectivity Program Director to pave the way in ecological connectivity in Virginia.

This year, we continued to lead the Virginia Safe Wildlife Corridors Collaborative (VSWCC). This group is committed to protecting people and wildlife by reducing animal-vehicle conflicts and improving safe wildlife passage.

Did you know that there are elk in Virginia? Wild Virginia organized a tour of the elk habitat in Southwestern Virginia for government

officials and other stakeholders. The experience highlighted the need for wildlife crossing funding in this area and across the Commonwealth.

Photo by Lori

## OUTINGS AND EDUCATION

Wild Virginia continued to inform and empower citizens through press coverage, blog posts, social media, our podcast, and countless events. We produced over 30 blogs, received over 45 news mentions (including coverage in Forbes!), and had over 10,500 people staying connected with us on social media. This year, while following recommended guidelines and safety protocols, we slowly returned to in-person events.



# 120 +

## ONLINE EVENT **ATTENDEES**

At our Wildlife Crossing Webinar with guest speaker Beth Pratt, California Regional **Executive Director for** the National Wildlife Federation.

# 145 +

## ONLINE EVENT **ATTENDEES**

At our Citizen Water Quality Monitoring event with Izaak Walton League.

# 175 +

## ONLINE EVENT **ATTENDEES**

At our Features and Techniques for Identifying Trees with guest speaker Ellen Powell from the Virginia Department of Forestry.

# 120 +

## ONLINE EVENT **ATTENDEES**

At our How to Write Effective Public Comments webinar.

2022 Events Monthly Book Clubs How to Use Freedom Of Information Laws

Third Annual Words to Celebrate the Earth Field Trip to a Bat Colony

Features and Techniques for Identifying Trees

Virginia's Water Quality Standards

Citizen Water Quality Monitoring

iNaturalist Guided Hike

Cabin Camping in New River Gorge National Park

Administrative Processes: How to Hold the Government Accountable

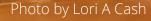
Wildlife Crossings: Live from Liberty Canyon Crossing in California

Monarch Tagging

Learn about Plastic Harms and Everyday Alternatives

and more!

Wild Virginia hosted a rafting trip on the Potomac to thank our supporters and build closer ties with our





#### A Trip to America's Newest National Park!

In 2022, Wild Virginia had the chance to explore the newest national park in America.
Attendees stayed at cabins in Camp Brookside, went on beautiful hikes, and got the chance to meet fellow Wild Virginians!



Field Trip to a Bat Colony

This was another exciting sold out event!
Attendees watched as a colony of bats took to the skies at sunset on a farm in Staunton.
Leslie Sturges, President of Bat Conservation & Rescue of Virginia educated attendees about bat migration, bat habitat connectivity, bat colonies, and more.



#### **Monarch Tagging Event**

Attendees joined Courtney Hayes, Habitat
Connectivity Program Director, for a chance to tag
monarchs as they journeyed to their winter homes.
Participants learned about animal migrations,
endangered species, community-sourced science,
and so much more. This event sold out quickly, so
we added another time to meet the demand!





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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
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Instagram: Wildvirginia

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In 2023, 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.