



Virginia Native Plant Society  
2019 Workshop

# Our Changing Forests

Forest health,  
management, and  
restoration



**March 9, 2019**  
**9 a.m.–3:15 p.m.**

Piedmont Virginia Community College  
V. Earl Dickinson Building Theatre  
501 College Drive  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
[https://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/campus\\_map.pdf](https://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/campus_map.pdf)

## Our Changing Forests

Forest health,  
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The Virginia Native Plant Society was organized to promote conservation of native plants and the habitats that sustain them. Following up our 2018 program about trees, we will focus on management and restoration in some of our forested habitats.

Our day will begin with research on the condition of eastern forests and the problems they face.

We will then explore current management and restoration projects from the Longleaf Pine communities of the Coastal Plain to the western mountains with their mixed hardwoods, and finally, the high-elevation Red Spruce ecosystem of the Central Appalachians.

Please join us as we explore forest conditions and exciting large-scale projects to address the challenges facing our woodlands and some strategies for the care and improvement of forest lands.

## Please note our NEW VENUE

The VNPS Workshop is being held on the Piedmont Virginia Community College campus. We have plenty of seating!

[https://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/campus\\_map.pdf](https://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/campus_map.pdf)

Our venue is the **V. Earl Dickinson Building Theatre**. (Be aware that there is also a building called Dickinson Center on the campus.)

**Directions:** From I-64 take exit 121 and head south on Rt. 20 (Scottsville Road). Turn right on College Drive. Follow College Drive, continuing straight at the traffic circle. The destination will be on the right.

Morning refreshments and coffee provided.

### Please bring your lunch.

Questions?  
[vnps.org@gmail.com](mailto:vnps.org@gmail.com)  
540-837-1600 (office)  
703-434-0009 (day of event)

## Workshop Program

**9:00 Registration and coffee**

**9:30 Welcome and introduction**

Nancy Vehrs, President

**9:45 Michelle Spicer**

### Biodiversity Collapse and the Future of the Eastern Deciduous Forest Biome

Changes in many ecological processes, from climate patterns to overabundant white-tailed deer, are causing dramatic declines in plant species diversity across much of the Eastern Deciduous Forest Biome. This presentation summarizes more than two decades of research in the Carson Lab Group on the underlying causes of forest degradation and will equip stakeholders with knowledge on how to mitigate these deleterious changes. The take-home message of this research is that the forests of the future will be depauperate, especially in the understory herb layer, where the vast majority of vascular plant diversity resides.

**10:45 Break**

**11:00 Rebecca Wilson**

### Telling the Story of Longleaf Pine Restoration in Virginia

The story of the Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) forest in Virginia is one of opportunity, hubris, loss, and hope. This talk outlines the aspects of history and ecology necessary for understanding how Virginia's founding forest went from dominance to near extinction and what it will take to bring it back.

**12:00 Lunch**

Please bring your own.

**1:00 Jean Lorber**

### North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project: A Large-Scale Example of Appalachian Forest Restoration

Partners have been working together to identify forest restoration and management opportunities on the North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project in Rockingham County, Va., and Pendleton County, W.Va. Restoration and management opportunities will complement efforts on adjacent lands and will address vegetation, habitat, and watershed conditions that transcend landowner boundaries.

**2:00 Break**

**2:15 Katy Barlow**

### Partnerships and Projections for *Picea rubens* Restoration and Recovery in Central Appalachia

For more than 20 years Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative partners have advanced Red Spruce ecosystem recovery through collaboration. These partners have relied on practitioners' expert knowledge, science, and innovative funding to restore nearly 6,000 acres. This talk will provide an overview of new restoration strategies, research, and the collaboration between science and management that is essential with the impending impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems in Central Appalachia.

## The Speakers

**Michelle Spicer** is a Ph.D. candidate in biological sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, working in Dr. Walter Carson's lab. She earned her M.S. in earth and environmental sciences and an integrated degree in engineering, arts and science B.S. from Lehigh University. Her research focuses on temperate and tropical forest community ecology, especially disturbance dynamics and epiphyte community assembly.

**Rebecca Wilson** is the Longleaf Pine restoration specialist, prescribed fire manager, and regional supervisor for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage. She has been with the agency since 1999. Previously, she worked as a seasonal biologist and wildland firefighter for the National Park Service. She earned a B.S. in environmental science from Mary Washington College and an M.S. in natural resource management from Virginia Tech.

**Jean Lorber** is a conservation scientist with The Nature Conservancy, with a background in wildlife and forestry. Before working at TNC, Jean received an M.S. in forestry from Virginia Tech and worked for the Virginia Department of Forestry.

**Katy Barlow** works for The Nature Conservancy's Central Appalachians program as the restoration and public lands manager. Katy is a resident of Tucker County, W.Va., where she spends her free time wandering in the mountains regardless of the weather. She received her B.S. from the University of Connecticut and her M.S. and Ph.D. in ecology from the Pennsylvania State University.

## Registration Form

Please register before March 7.  
Online registration is available.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Please mail me a campus map. Or see [https://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/campus\\_map.pdf](https://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/campus_map.pdf)

### REGISTRATION FEES

\_\_\_\_ \$50 members

\_\_\_\_ \$60 nonmember spouse

\_\_\_\_ \$80 nonmember  
(includes one-year membership)

\_\_\_\_ \$15 full-time student  
(have your ID with you)

\_\_\_\_ Donation to the  
Virginia Native Plant Society

Make check payable to VNPS.

### CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Circle one: VISA MC AmEx Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV no. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail form and payment to

VNPS Annual Workshop

400 Blandy Farm Lane, #2

Boyce, VA 22620

