

Core Methodology Training (CMT) Agenda – Final

April 23-26, 2019

Primary Goal: To gain a working knowledge of methods and standards used by a majority of the NatureServe network programs (“core methods”), and an understanding of the current focus, and future direction, of the NatureServe Network.

Location: CMT will be held at NatureServe’s new location - Presidential Tower, 2511 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202, and all sessions will be held in the Presidential Tower Conference Center (unless indicated otherwise below).

Instructors (in order of appearance):

- Shara Howie, NatureServe, Program Manager
- Alli Kenlan, NatureServe, Science Communications Coordinator
- Tom Smith, Virginia Department of Conservation, Deputy Director of Operations & Strategic Advisors Council
- Lori Scott, NatureServe, Chief Information Officer
- Allison Gratz, NatureServe, Director of Network Relations
- Regan Lyons Smyth, Spatial Ecology Project Manager
- Pat Comer, NatureServe, Chief Ecologist
- Anne Frances, NatureServe, Lead Botanist
- Amanda Treher, NatureServe, Research Botanist
- Don Faber-Langendoen, NatureServe, Senior Ecologist, Northeastern North America
- Whitney Weber, NatureServe, DBA & Product Support Specialist
- Sean O’Brien, NatureServe, President & CEO
- Wes Knapp, NC Natural Heritage Program, Chief Botanist
- Chris Ludwig, Virginia Natural Heritage Program, Chief Biologist (emeritus)
- Danielle Kulas, Virginia Natural Heritage Program, Biodiversity Data and GIS Specialist
- Healy Hamilton, NatureServe, Chief Scientist
- Bruce Young, NatureServe, Chief Zoologist and Senior Conservation Scientist

Times	Name of Session	Purpose of Session	Length of Session (minutes)	Presenter(s)
Day 1 (Tuesday) April 23, 2019				
8:30-8:45am	Opening/Orientation	Orientation to CMT agenda, training site, etc.	15	Shara Howie
8:45-9:45am	Ice breaker	Opportunity to get to know your fellow trainees and trainers.	60	Alli Kenlan
9:45-10:00am	Break		15	
10:00-10:45am	Introduction to NatureServe Network	Provide overview of NatureServe Network mission, goals, how we work together as a network, and strategic direction to contextualize the rest of the training.	45	Tom Smith, Lori Scott & Allison Gratz
10:45-11:30am	Conservation Science: Where have we been & where are we going?	Gives overview of the field of biodiversity conservation and how we fit into the picture, and how new methods, data, and tools are changing to address challenges.	45	Regan Smyth & Pat Comer (by phone)
11:30am-12:45pm	Lunch (on your own)		75	
12:45-1:30pm	Impact of Network Data & Methods	To give trainees a sense of how our data & methods are translated into conservation impact - locally as well as regionally and internationally.	45	Shara Howie & Tom Smith

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1:30-2:15pm	Taxonomic Concepts and Classifications	Provide overview of NS taxonomic work & priorities, and the framework for how central and local collaborate to keep taxonomy reconciled	45	Anne Frances, Amanda Treher & Don Faber-Langendoen
2:15-2:30pm	Break		15	
2:30-5:00pm	Introduction to Methodological Concepts	Orient trainers to NatureServe methodology concepts including: prioritizing elements of biodiversity, observation collection, mapping, and status assessments.	150	Don Faber-Langendoen & Whitney Weber
5:30pm -	Group Dinner (optional)			Location TBD
Day 2 (Wednesday) April 24, 2019				
8:30-8:45am	Welcome from NatureServe's President		15	Sean O'Brien
8:45-9:45am	Overview of Element Ranking	To understand the fundamental concepts, procedures, and tools needed to assign a conservation status rank (global & subnational)	60	Amanda Treher & Wes Knapp
9:45-10:00am	Break		15	
10:00-11:30am	Element Ranking Exercises	Learn how to rank through hands-on exercises	90	Amanda Treher & Wes Knapp
11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch (provided) & Introduction to Field Site	To receive information about the field site, including site context, plants and animals we will see, etc.	60	Chris Ludwig
12:30-1:15pm	Travel to Field Site		45	
1:15-4:15pm	Field Site Data Collection Exercises at Turkey Run Park	To understand the type of information needed in the field in order to create a source feature or EO	180	Attendees will split into two groups, and switch groups after 90 minutes. Species group led by Wes, Chris & Whitney, and Ecology group led by Don and Danielle.
4:15-5:00pm	Travel back from Field		45	
5:00pm – 7:00pm	Happy Hour with NatureServe staff		120	To be held in Presidential Tower Conf. Center & Patio Area

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Times	Name of Session	Purpose of Session	Length of Session (minutes)	Presenter(s)
Day 3 (Thursday) April 25, 2019				
8:15-10:00am	Source Feature/EO Mapping	To understand the fundamental concepts, procedures, and tools needed to create or edit a source feature or EO.	105	Whitney Weber & Danielle Kulas
10:00-10:15am	Break		15	
10:15-noon	Source Feature/EO Mapping Exercises	To gain hands-on mapping experience through mapping exercises	105	Whitney Weber & Danielle Kulas
noon-1:00pm	Lunch (on your own)		60	
1:00-2:15pm	Element Occurrence Ranking Overview	To understand the fundamental concepts & challenges around the assessment of an EO.	75	Don Faber-Langendoen, Wes Knapp & Chris Ludwig
2:15-2:30pm	Break		15	
2:30-3:45pm	Element Occurrence Ranking Exercises	To gain hands-on EO ranking experience through ranking exercises	75	Don Faber-Langendoen, Wes Knapp & Chris Ludwig
3:45-4:30pm	Status of NatureServe Network Species Distribution Modeling	Provide an overview of the network's effort to do species distribution modeling	45	Regan Lyons Smyth
4:30-5:00pm	Feedback and Closing Remarks		30	Shara Howie & Healy Hamilton
Day 4 (Friday) April 26, 2019				
9:00am-noon	Ecology Discussion (Location TBA)	Overview of Ecology program, round robin, and discussion of agreed upon topics identified by trainees prior to the session.	180	Pat Comer to join remotely with Wes Knapp in-person
9:00am-noon	Species Science Discussion (Location TBA)	To provide a summary of tools and communication avenues available to network botanists and zoologists, and then discuss trainees' questions and conundrums submitted prior to the session.	180	Bruce Young to join remotely with Chris Ludwig in-person
8:00-11:45am	In-depth Biotics Training (Location: Presidential Tower Conference Center)	Hands-on training in querying and bulk uploading in B5, or other identified topics determined by the trainees prior to the session.	225	Whitney Weber