



## Conference Agenda

April 19-22, 2020  
Marriott Richmond Downtown  
Richmond, VA

### SUNDAY APRIL 19

12:00-3:00 pm	NatureServe Board of Directors Meeting (Board Members and Staff Only)
3:00-4:00 pm	NatureServe Update to Joint Section Councils
4:00-6:30 pm	Joint Section Councils Meeting
All Day	Attendee arrival for Field Tours

### MONDAY APRIL 20

7:00am-2:00pm	<p>Field Tours <i>Field Trips 1, 2 and 3 will depart from the Richmond Hilton at 8:00 am and Field Trip 4, at 7:00 am. Bring appropriate outdoor gear, sunscreen, and your water bottle. If you are paddling, a waterproof boat bag is a smart addition. Transportation will depart promptly, returning to the conference hotel at 2:00 pm.</i></p> <p><b>Trip 1. Longleaf Pine Restoration at Chub Sandhill State Natural Area Preserve and Pine Savanna/Red-cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Management at The Nature Conservancy's Piney Grove Preserve.</b> Over 400 years of post-settlement land use in southeast Virginia has resulted in drastic landscape change, including the loss of over 1 million acres of longleaf pine-dominated plant communities. Over the last two decades DCR's Natural Heritage Program and The Nature Conservancy have worked together to acquire, protect and manage thousands of acres in southeast VA to restore fire-maintained pine savannas and enhance habitat for rare species including the federally-listed Red-cockaded Woodpecker. This trip will highlight efforts in Virginia to bring longleaf pine and associated fire-adapted species back to the Commonwealth during the last 20 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Sussex County, Virginia</li> <li>• Travel time: 1 hour and 15 minutes (each direction)</li> <li>• Depart hotel: 8:00 am                      Return: 2:00 pm</li> <li>• What to wear: Field attire appropriate for mid-April - a notoriously variable time of year in the mid-Atlantic region. Bring binoculars for birding, a water bottle, rain-gear just in case, etc.</li> </ul>
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7:00am-2:00pm

**Trip 2. Hiking Tour of the Natural Communities at Crow's Nest State Natural Area Preserve**

Description: One of Virginia's greatest conservation success stories, Crow's Nest became a state natural area preserve in 2008. Rich in biodiversity, natural beauty and historical significance, Crow's Nest is a crown jewel among Virginia's natural areas occupying a long peninsula between two tidal creeks, Potomac and Accokeek. Steep, deep ravines and expansive freshwater tidal marshes contribute to the preserve's dramatic topography.

- Location: Raven Road Access Point - 10-min east of Stafford Courthouse, VA
- Travel time: 1 hour and 30 minutes (each direction)
- Depart hotel: 8:00 am                      Return: 2:00 pm
- What to wear: Field attire appropriate for mid-April - a variable time of year in the mid-Atlantic region. Bring binoculars for birding, a water bottle, and rain-gear just in case. Variable-length hikes (1, 3, 6-miles) on well-maintained trails will be offered.

**Trip 3. Tidal Wetlands of Accokeek Creek - Paddling the Crow's Nest Water Trail**

Description: One of Virginia's greatest conservation success stories, Crow's Nest became a state natural area preserve in 2008. Rich in biodiversity, natural beauty and historical significance, Crow's Nest is a crown jewel among Virginia's natural areas occupying a long peninsula between two tidal creeks, Potomac and Accokeek. Steep, deep ravines and expansive freshwater tidal marshes contribute to the preserve's dramatic topography.

- Location: Brooke Road Access Point - 10-min east of Stafford Courthouse, VA
- Travel time: 1 hour and 30 minutes (each direction)
- Depart hotel: 8:00 am                      Return: 2:00 pm
- What to wear: Attire appropriate for paddling in canoes/kayaks for mid-April in the mid-Atlantic region. Bring a wet-bag, binoculars for birding, a water bottle, and rain-gear just in case. Boats, paddles and PFDs will be provided.

**Trip 4: A Subsurface Glimpse of Virginia's Natural and Cultural History (Limit: 25 people)**

Description: Cave Hill, only recently protected via partnership between the Cave Conservancy of the Virginias and Virginia's Natural Heritage Program, offers a unique opportunity to enter a relatively easy access cave just two hours from Richmond. Cave Hill is part of the same system as Virginia's oldest show cave, Grand Caverns. Inside the cave, a variety of underground species may be seen, including the federally endangered Madison Cave Isopod. Many historic figures' signatures can also be seen on the cave walls, including that of the first U.S. President, George Washington.

- Location: Grottoes, VA
- Travel time: 2 hours (each direction)
- Depart hotel: 7:00 am                      Return: 2:00 pm
- What to wear: Cave Hill does not require crawling, but be prepared for clothing to get muddy. The hike to the cave entrance involves some steep slope, so suitable hiking shoes/boots are recommended. A headlamp or flashlight is also a good idea. Other caving gear (e.g. helmets) needed, will be provided.



# Biodiversity Without Boundaries

3:00-5:30pm	Opening Plenary Matthew J. Strickler, Secretary of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia - <i>Confirmed</i> Christopher Ludwig, Virginia Natural Heritage Program, Retired - <i>Confirmed</i> Sean T. O'Brien, President & CEO, NatureServe - <i>Confirmed</i> Notes from the Field
5:30-8:00pm	Welcome Reception & Poster Session

## TUESDAY APRIL 21

7:15-8:15am	Breakfast Served
8:30-10:00am	Innovations in Biodiversity Data & Technology This session will explore what's new and what's next in our use of biodiversity data and the opportunities we foresee in the future.
10:00-10:30am	Break
10:30am-12:00pm	Data needs for decision-makers/ Data for decisions What new and emerging data exist to complement our current tools and datasets? In this session we hear from external stakeholders and Network partners about how they use Network data to drive management and other land-use decisions.
12:00-1:30pm	Lunch
1:30-2:00 pm	Keynote Speaker
2:00-3:00pm	Hemisphere Wide Opportunities for Conservation Impact This session will discuss how NatureServe and Network can influence conservation globally through its position of the America's BON of the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observations Network (GEO BON) and international efforts like the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.
3:30-3:30pm	Break
3:30-5:00pm	Session TBD   Session TBD   Session TBD   Session TBD
TBD	Reception at Governor's Mansion OR Triple Crossing Brewery

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 22

7:15-8:15am	Breakfast Served
8:30-9:30am	Session TBD   Session TBD   Session TBD   Session TBD
9:30-10:00am	Break
10:00-11:30	Session TBD   Session TBD   Session TBD   Session TBD
11:45-1:30	Closing Plenary Awards and Honoree's Lunch
2:00-5:30 pm	NatureServe Network Meetings



## Breakout Session Topics

- **Network Standards for new sources of biodiversity data:** Learn about advancements in data collection, use of citizens science, new Observation Data Standard.
- **Tools to harness the power of Network data:** See the latest versions of Network wide data delivery tools, such as state environmental review tools, Explorer Pro, and more.
- **Open data in the Network:** Discussion on how the push for open data will affect the Network and how we can rise to the opportunity.
- **How habitat modeling and range-mapping supports conservation decisions:** See the latest advancements in modeling and range-mapping and learn about they can be leveraged to support conservation decisions.
- **Stakeholder Engagement & Communications:** Lear from others' success stories and get tips for communicating with your stakeholders and building support for your organization.
- **Future Network Leaders discussion:** As demographics change in Network leadership, hear from some of our newest leaders about their view for the future of the Network.
- **Network Partner Data Needs:** Hear from data users about what data they need and how they want to use it.
- **Working with eDNA Data:** As an emerging tool, Environmental DNA can help us track species in the landscape - hear how the Network is using eDNA to increase our data sources on at-risk species.
- **Pollinator Monitoring:** Learn about efforts across North America to restore pollinator habitat and conserve important pollinator species.
- **More coming soon**