

BEN WATSON:

Staff Scientist of the James River Association

Born and raised in Richmond, I spent my childhood years rock hopping on the James River with family and friends. My early appreciation for the outdoors led me to study Environmental Science and Watershed Management at Virginia Tech. After college, I thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail before completing an M.S. at the University of Wisconsin studying climate change and vegetation dynamics. During my time as a graduate researcher and instructor I came to fully realize my dedication to science outreach and communication, and I'm very excited to apply these skills in communities that I care deeply about.

STEPHANIE BURNS:

Citizens' Climate Lobby

Stephanie Burns volunteers as the state co-coordinator for Virginia for Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL). CCL is a non-profit, non-partisan organization focused on national policies to address climate change. It has 570 volunteer chapters and over 170,000 supporters worldwide. CCL volunteers in the United States reach out to every member of Congress and work to build bipartisan support for a bill called the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R.763). CCL's Advisory Board includes, among others, climate scientist Dr. James Hansen and former Secretary of State George Shultz.

(<https://citizensclimatelobby.org>)

Outside of CCL, Stephanie has enjoyed working as a researcher and data analyst for a wide range of non-profit, for-profit, and government organizations. She has a degree in economics from the University of Mary Washington.

PAMELA GROTHE:

University of Mary Washington

I am a Fredericksburg native, and completed my B.S. degree in Geology at UMW. I then completed my M.S. in Geology at the University of Colorado and Ph.D. in paleoclimatology at Georgia Tech. As a paleoclimatologist, I study past climate change. My research focuses on using the geochemistry of corals that lived hundreds to thousands of years ago to reconstruct past ocean surface temperatures. I am now an Assistant Professor at UMW,

teaching classes in Oceanography and Climate Change and working with undergraduate students on research projects. I am a mom of two adorable little boys, 3-years old and almost 1-year old!

JAIDEN SHAW:

Colonial Forge High School

I am a senior at Colonial Forge High School, and I recently became involved with Fossil Free Fredericksburg. Over the past two years I have learned a lot about the effects of climate change. This year, I dedicated my project in AP Research to studying the effects of climate change on the Caribbean in a content analysis. The damage climate change has done has moved me to become more active and take part in organizations like Fossil Free Fredericksburg to have a positive impact on the community. Growing up, nature was always a part of my life and it was how my family bonded. I plan to possibly pursue a degree in environmental science at University.

JULIANNA GRONBACH:

Colonial Forge High School

I am a senior at Colonial Forge High School, and I am a member of both Fossil Free Fredericksburg and Forge's Environmental club. My dad has been working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services most of my life, so I've gotten to learn a lot about conservation of refuges and many aquatic species. I've been interacting with biologists and conservationists most of my life, and because of my upbringing I am going to pursue a degree in environmental science and sustainability once I graduate. This year I've been fortunate enough to interview specialists from the Fish and Wildlife Air quality program, including the Chief of Air and Water resources Mr. Jaron Ming.

CATHERINE WEBBERT:

Colonial Forge High School

Catherine Webbert is a senior at Colonial Forge High School and the head organizer for the Youth Climate Crisis Conference. After learning more about the devastating

effects of climate change at the end of her sophomore year, she became determined to help the environment in any way she could. She is completing a two-year long research project on the environment regarding: How People within the Median Income Range can Incorporate Sustainable Living Practices, and Stationary Tiny House Construction for Families of Four. Currently, she is working with an engineer to make working drawings of all systems within the structure and plans to construct a tiny house to live in later on in her life. In addition to that, she is also one of the appointed presidents of her school's environmental club as well as a dedicated member of Fossil Free Fredericksburg who also serves as a student representative on its Steering Committee. She plans to study civil and environmental engineering after graduating.

LILY TIPLING:

Conway Elementary School

Lily Tipling is a 5th grader at Conway Elementary School. Last year, following a school research project on the negative environmental effects of single use plastic, she gave speeches at two school board meetings and tweeted at the Superintendent about her concerns. This led to her success in convincing Stafford County Public Schools to remove plastic straws from all 30 schools in the county. That's around 2 million less straws per year! She continues to advocate for the environment every chance she gets. As a future astronaut, she hopes to one day look down on the beautiful planet she will help save.

ALY CONRAD:

University of Mary Washington

I am Aly Conrad, a junior at the University of Mary Washington and very passionate about environmental justice. I currently am studying Sociology and working as an aid for their department. I am also secretary for BEAM (Better Energy Awareness and Mobilization), a student organization that is now building a plan to bring renewable energy on campus.

AYNSLEIGH ESCHER:

Colonial Forge High School

Aynsleigh Escher, a Senior at Colonial Forge, has been involved in the environment since birth. Her mom took her to climate protests when she was little, bought CSA produce, and educated her on various environmental causes. Today, because of her upbringing and the imminent climate crisis, she remains involved by going to protests, volunteering, and speaking on the dangers of climate change.

ALEXANNA HENGY:

Rappahannock Climate Mobilization

Alexanna Hengy grew up in our Rappahannock area and attended Germanna Community College followed by the University of Mary Washington. She got her degree in psychology initially working in the field of children's mental health, as she believed this was the best way she could help our future generations. Then, upon realizing the harm that could be done to future generations if action isn't taken against climate change, she got involved in every way she could. Ms. Hengy joined the Sustainability Subcommittee of the Clean and Green Commission, became chair of the Environmental Committee of the Fredericksburg Green Party, joined the board of Downtown Greens, became a member of the Fredericksburg Food Co-op, and helped found the Rappahannock Climate Mobilization. The RCM is tabling this event, so please go check them out. Having helped organize two recent climate strikes with high school and college students in attendance, she hopes to continue working with youth of all ages as well as the older members of our community to together build a better future for all of us.

JOAN BONDAREFF:

Blank Rome

Joan Bondareff focuses her practice on marine transportation, environmental, regulatory, renewable energy, and legislative issues. Joan represents clients in many industries and state and local governments in matters related to:

- maritime regulations and public policy
- environmental law
- government relations
- renewable energy
- federal grants

- maritime security for shipyards and ports

Before joining Blank Rome, Joan was chief counsel and acting deputy administrator of the Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. She was also former majority counsel for the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Joan served on the Obama Transition Team for the Department of Transportation handling maritime related issues. She worked on the OPA 90 legislation, and also helped develop the Natural Resource Damage Assessment regulations when she was the assistant general counsel for Ocean Services at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Outside the Firm

- Chair, Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority (2016–present)
- Vice Chair of Committee Articles (2019–present) and Vice Chair of Policy (2018–2019), Marine Resources Committee, American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources
- Board Member, Parent-Leadership Training Institute (“PLTI”) of Alexandria, VA (2012–2017)
- Advisory Committee, Children’s Hospital of Washington, D.C.

DEVON GALLAGHER:

Dominion Energy

Devon Gallagher is an engineer with seven years of experience in the nuclear energy industry. She was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia and jumpstarted her engineering passion in high school through participation in F.I.R.S.T. Robotics and enrollment in an electronics vocational education program. She obtained her undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from Virginia Commonwealth University where she came to understand nuclear energy's important role in fostering a clean, reliable energy future. After undergrad, she achieved a Master's in Nuclear Engineering from North Carolina State University. She now works for Dominion Energy in Nuclear Safety Engineering, developing Probabilistic Risk Assessment models for its nuclear fleet. She is an active member of the Virginia chapter of the American Nuclear Society, North American Young Generation in Nuclear, and Women in Nuclear.

CLIFF BUNN:

Virginia Energy Services

Cliff Bunn has a Master of Business Administration from Averett College and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Virginia Military Institute and has also completed a Construction Management Course at George Mason University. He worked as a Civil Engineer I for the Department of Public Works from 1988-1990 and as a Civil Engineer II from 1990-1996. Bunn has served as President of Virginia Energy Services since 2000 and is currently a board member of Virginia Geothermal Heat Pump Association.

JOSHUA COLE:

VA House of Delegates

In 2017, Joshua Cole proudly ran for the Virginia House of Delegates to represent Virginia's 28th District, becoming the first African-American, and youngest person to receive any party's nomination, along the way. In an underfunded, hard-fought race, Josh finished less than 100 votes shy of having the honor of representing the 28th District.

Since then, Josh has served the state by acting as the Chief of Staff for Delegate Kelly Convors-Fowler, fighting for the people by working alongside Delegate Convors-Fowler on issues important to all Virginians, like fair housing. Simultaneously, Josh serves on Stafford County Public Schools Superintendent's Equity, Diversity and Opportunity Committee, the Greater Fredericksburg Area Interfaith Council, as the President of the Stafford County NAACP and participates with numerous other local and community initiatives.

Clear in all of this work is Josh's commitment to the communities of the 28th District.

Raised in the 28th, Josh knows not only what it takes to live here, but what it means to build a home in Fredericksburg and Stafford County. He understands the excruciating drive along I-95 that is the bedrock of so many constituent commutes. He's seen first-hand the ever-increasing cost of living in this community, and has sat with hardworking friends and neighbors, proud Virginians, who simply want to find a way to raise their family in the same town in which they grew up. Josh seeks to be your Delegate so he can fight to make this so, for all of them, and for you.

A product of the Stafford County Public School system, Joshua's background in Virginia's political affairs is rich, dating back to 2005, when he was appointed by the then-speaker, the Honorable William J. Howell, as a Page for the Virginia House of Delegates. That same year he was chosen as the Governor's Page by Governor Mark R. Warner. He returned to the General Assembly again in 2016 as a Staff Assistant to the Clerk of the Virginia State

Senate. As your Delegate, Josh will bring this experience to the fore to fight for a Virginia that serves all Virginians.

KERRY DEVINE:

Fredericksburg City Council

A native of New York, Kerry has resided in Fredericksburg, Virginia since graduating from the University of Mary Washington. She is a mother of four and a Social Studies Teacher. She currently teaches AP Psychology and Psychology at Colonial Forge High School. Kerry served on the Fredericksburg City School Board from 1996-2004. She has served on the Fredericksburg City Council since 2004. As a member of the City Council she serves on the Riverfront Taskforce, the Arts Commission, and the Central Rappahannock Regional Library Board.

TOM COEN:

Stafford Board of Supervisors

Tom Coen was elected to the George Washington District in a November Special Election in 2018. He was elected by his fellow supervisors as Vice Chairman for 2020. He serves on the By-laws Committee, the Legislative Committee and the Public Safety Committee. He acts as the Board's appointee to the George Washington Regional Commission, the Rappahannock Area Agency on Aging/Healthy Generations and the Rappahannock River Basin Commission. He is an alternate to the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Mr. Coen graduated from Suffolk University in Boston Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Science degree in Government. He earned a Masters Degree in Education from George Mason University and also a Masters in Political Science. In addition to working in business and politics, on Capitol Hill and state and local government, he has taught high school social studies in Florida and in Arlington, Virginia.

Brooke Point High School was his home for 13 years. For the last eight years, he has been at Colonial Forge High School. Additionally, he was an Adjunct Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University and Randolph Macon College in Political Science.

In addition to instructing students, he is the Coordinator for Student Government Day for Stafford County, continues to serve on the Virginia Commission of Civics Education and served on numerous boards and commissions including four years on the Planning Commission, and the Agriculture/Purchase of Development Committee and Agricultural Commission and the Stafford County Schools Capital Improvement Program Committee.

LEE WILLIAMS:

Green New Deal Virginia

Lee got her start as an environmental advocate in 1972 when she collected signatures door-to-door for Greenpeace to stop the clubbing of baby Harp seals in Alaska. Before the climate crisis, she served as congressional district liaison for the ONE Campaign, which fights extreme poverty and preventable disease internationally, and has had a weekly route delivering Meals on Wheels for the Central Virginia Foodbank since 2006. She has been active in the ongoing environmental justice struggles here in Virginia from the threat of climate change and fossil fuel infrastructure, especially fracked gas pipelines. Lee is a founding member of Green New Deal Virginia, and has been Co-Director with Karen Campblin since it's inception.

BRADLEY SMITH:

Downtown Greens

Brad Smith has lived all over the world but now calls downtown Fredericksburg home. His grandmother instilled a practical and romantic appreciation for nature in him. He studied Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. He is passionate about mental health, sustainability, veteran issues, youth advocacy, citizen diplomacy, writing, and food. He has volunteered with Downtown Greens for several years and serves on its board.

JIM HANKINS:

Fauquier Education Farm

Jim Hankins was born in Charlottesville, Virginia and grew up on a small farm on Smith Mountain Lake in Bedford County. He has been a lifelong gardener and in 2001, while living in Loudoun County, he started growing cut flowers commercially to sell to local florists and at farmers markets. In 2007 he was hired as Gardens Manager at Park Hill Orchard, an organic orchard and produce farm in Easthampton, Mass. Before coming to the Fauquier Education Farm, Jim served as an Agriculture Management Agent for the Va. State University Small Farm Outreach Program.

ERIC BONDS:

University of Mary Washington

Mr. Bonds has a PhD in sociology from the University of Colorado, Boulder and currently teaches at the University of Mary Washington as an associate professor. He has a long history of environmental and social justice activism, including his membership on the steering committee of Fossil Free Fredericksburg.