



# 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conservation Forum

## Birds: Feathers, Fields, Forests and Flowers

MONDAY, OCT. 25, 2021 | LIVE, VIRTUAL FORUM

### Related Resources and Links

Jennifer Ackerman's website <https://www.jenniferackermanauthor.com>

Dr. Amy Johnson TED talk, [Bringing Back the Birds](#)  
Virginia Working Landscapes website <https://www.vaworkinglandscapes.org>

Dr. Christine Sheppard mentioned [American Bird Conservancy](#) and [Bird Smart Glass](#)

Stephen Living referred to  
Department of Wildlife Resources: -  
[dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/habitat/](http://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/habitat/)  
[dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/wildlife-information/](http://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/wildlife-information/)  
Department of Forestry, Rain Gardens  
[dof.virginia.gov/index.shtml](http://dof.virginia.gov/index.shtml)  
[dof.virginia.gov/rfb/rain-gardens.shtml](http://dof.virginia.gov/rfb/rain-gardens.shtml)  
Virginia's Native Plant Campaign  
[www.plantvirginianatives.org](http://www.plantvirginianatives.org)  
Virginia DCR Natural Heritage - Plant Finder  
[www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/native-plants-finder](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/native-plants-finder)  
Virginia Native Plant Society  
[vnps.org/native-plant-nursery-list](http://vnps.org/native-plant-nursery-list)

[Bill Portlock Bird Photography](#)



[Visit Bill's website](#)

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*Virginia Banchoff*

## Our Conservation Forum 2021 Speakers



**Jennifer Ackerman** has been writing about science, nature and human biology for almost 30 years. Her work aims to explain and interpret science for a lay audience and to explore the riddle of humanity's place in the natural world, blending scientific knowledge with imaginative vision. A contributor to *Scientific American*, *National Geographic*, *The New York Times* and many other publications, Jennifer is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship in Nonfiction, a Bunting Fellowship and a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. She has written on subjects ranging from the microbiome of the human body, the evolutionary origin of birds, the wildlife of Japan, the work of Chuck Close, the sexual habits of dragonflies and the neural nature of dyslexia. *The Genius of Birds* has been translated into more than 20 languages, was named one of the best nonfiction books of 2016 by the Wall Street Journal and was long listed by the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. She is also the author of *Sex Sleep Eat Drink Dream*:

*A Day in the Life of Your Body*; *Ah-Choo: The Uncommon Life of Your Common Cold*; *Chance in the House of Fate: A Natural History of Heredity*; and *Notes from the Shore*. Photo by Robert Llewellyn

**Dr. Amy Johnson** is a conservation ecologist and program director of Smithsonian's Virginia Working Landscapes program. In this role, Amy cultivates a dynamic network of private landowners, citizen scientists, NGOs, state agencies and research scientists to collaboratively study and promote the sustainable use of Virginia's landscapes for the conservation of native biodiversity. While earning her doctorate at George Mason University, Amy's research focused on the impacts of conservation and land management on breeding and over-wintering grassland bird communities in Virginia. In her current role, she continues to explore knowledge gaps pertaining to grassland bird ecology by facilitating collaborative conservation and research efforts with Smithsonian scientists and local partners. Her current research projects focus on full annual cycle modeling of grassland birds and exploring best management practices for optimizing reproductive success in species that nest in working grasslands. Amy received her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, and a master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University.



**Stephen Living** is the Habitat Education Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. He works to promote beneficial habitat practices across the commonwealth and highlight the excellent habitat work of the department and its partners. Stephen has been with the agency for 15 years and has previously served as a regional lands and access manager and as a biologist in the Watchable Wildlife program. He has extensive habitat experience including longleaf pine restoration, wetland management, prescribed fire and timber management. Stephen has worked with a variety of species including bald eagles, peregrine falcons, prothonotary warblers and red-cockaded woodpeckers. He completed his Master of Science in

Biology at Southern Connecticut State University. His professional experience includes consulting in habitat management and invasive species control, environmental education, university instruction, and leading a wide variety of natural history trips.

**Dr. Christine Sheppard's** first career was as curator of birds for the Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo. In 2007 Christine joined the board of the Bird-safe Glass Foundation as science advisor. In 2009 she moved to the American Bird Conservancy as collisions program director. She has led instrumental bird collision mitigation efforts including evaluation of materials, the publication *Bird-friendly Building Design*, LEED Pilot Credit 55: Bird Collision Deterrence -- an AIA/LEED continuing education class -- and consulting on related legislation throughout the U.S. She earned her bachelor's and doctorate at Cornell.



## 2021 Garden Club of Virginia Conservation Award Recipients

The **Conservation Educator Award** recognizes an individual or organization that promotes ideals of conservation through education. The work of the recipient must support the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia “to celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage.”

The Conservation Awards Committee has chosen two recipients: the **Allegheny Mountain Institute**, (below) founded in 2011, which works to cultivate healthy communities through food and education. The Institute was nominated by The Augusta Garden Club.



The second recipient is **Jennifer Erving, Youth Education Specialist at Norfolk Botanical Garden**. Ms. Erving (left) was nominated by the The Garden Club of Norfolk for her work of more than 15 years with children – and some parents – of opening the world of plants to young minds.

### The Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Conservation

Named for the originator of the GCV Conservation Forum, the award is limited to organizations, industries or individuals who are not members of the Garden Club of Virginia. The recipient must have rendered outstanding service in the conservation and wise development of the natural resources of the commonwealth. The committee recognized an individual and an organization this year.

**The Northern Neck Land Conservancy** (right) was nominated by The Garden Club of the Northern Neck. The Northern Neck Land Conservancy has pursued its mission “to preserve the rural heritage of the Northern Neck by conserving its lands, water, economies and culture for future generations” throughout the five counties of the Neck since 2004.



Scenic Virginia Executive Director **Leighton Powell** was nominated by Jeanette McKittrick of Three Chopt Garden Club. Scenic Virginia is the only state conservation organization dedicated solely to the preservation, protection and enhancement of Virginia’s natural beauty. Ms. Powell has steered Scenic Virginia since its founding 21 years ago.

We congratulate these deserving recipients and thank them for all they do to reflect the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia.