Northern Appalachian Advisors

**Gloria Aponte C., Senior Program Officer, Maine Community Foundation**

Gloria works with communities, nonprofits and donors through the Maine Community Foundation as a Senior Program Officer. She also works with the Maine CF’s racial equity strategic goal to assure that all people in Maine have access to opportunities and life outcomes that are not limited in any way by race or ethnicity. She has a BS in Biology and her first job out of college was with environmental education at a national wildlife refuge. She has a Master’s in Public Health and has worked with community based public health and the evaluation of federal and state public health programs. She was born in Colombia becoming a naturalized USA citizen at the age of 15 and has compassion and understanding for the “othering” of BIPOC communities as well as the importance of working towards creating equitable systems. Gloria is bicultural, fluent in Spanish, and lives in Portland with her partner, two children, dog, fish and snake.

**Jad Daley, President & CEO, American Forests**

Jad joined American Forests in 2017 as Vice President of Conservation Programs and was named President & CEO in 2018 after a year of leading the organization forward on issues like climate change and society equity. From 2008 to 2017, Jad launched the Climate Conservation Program at The Trust for Public Land and eventually served as Vice President for Program Development. Jad is widely published writer on conservation topics, including an active presence on Medium, and has played a leading role in authoring and enacting federal legislation to establish forest programs such as the U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Program.
Marcy Lyman, Natural Resources Consultant

Martha (Marcy) West Lyman consulting includes work for national foundation and regional non-profits related to supporting forest land conservation for water resource conservation. Projects include analysis of watersheds in New England for pilot projects for water funds, analysis of State Revolving Funds (SRF) in New England States and potential for development of SRF Sponsorship Programs in New England to support land conservation for source water protection. Other projects have included evaluation of conservation collaboratives and partnerships, assessment of community-based forestry in United States, coordination of collaborative to support community forest projects in New England. Marcy was previously a consultant with the Community Forest Collaborative, a partnership of the Trust for Public Land, the Northern Forest Center and the Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment. Marcy has co-authored several important studies on community forestry and the value of forests as community assets. Over her thirty-year career her work included: Policy Director with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests conducting natural resource policy on issues related to forest management, river management, and acid rain; co-founder and Director of the NH Rivers Coalition; consultant with the NH Charitable Foundation designing and administering an environmental grant making program and administering an environmental fellowship program.

Marcy received a BA from Radcliffe College/Harvard University, worked towards a Master’s degree in botany/plant ecology at the University of Missouri/Columbia and received an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government/Harvard University. Marcy, who lives in Manchester, New Hampshire with her husband, has three adult children.

Spencer Meyer, Senior Conservationist, Highstead Foundation

Spencer leads Highstead’s conservation finance program by collaborating with partners throughout New England and the U.S. to develop strategies to advance land conservation, climate mitigation, and watershed protection. As an interdisciplinary scientist with expertise in landscape ecology, forest management, and conservation finance, Spencer’s work blends the conservation and economics of the natural resources on which we all depend. Spencer is a co-founder of
Sebago Clean Waters and an active leader in the Wildlands & Woodlands Initiative and the Conservation Finance Network.

Before joining Highstead in 2016, Spencer was an associate research scientist at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a NatureNet Fellow with The Nature Conservancy. Earlier, Spencer spent over a decade in Maine, leading sustainable forestry partnerships between academic, conservation, industry, and public institutions. Currently, Spencer is the vice president of the Guilford Land Conservation Trust, a science advisor to the Forest Society of Maine, and a member of the management team for Dartmouth’s Second College Grant.

Spencer earned Ph.D. and M.S. degrees from University of Maine and an A.B. from Dartmouth College. Spencer lives with his wife and two children in Guilford, CT, where they split their outdoor time between the upland oak-hickory forest and the salt marshes of Long Island Sound.

Lisa Sockabasin, Director of Programs and External Affairs, Wabanaki Public Health

Lisa Sockabasin is a citizen of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk with extensive experience and expertise in Tribal, State, and Federal governments, non-profits, and philanthropic organizations. In her capacity as the Director of Programs & External Affairs, Lisa collaborates with tribal leadership, the Wabanaki Public Health team, and philanthropic partners to address systemic inequities experienced by Wabanaki communities in Maine and to develop and implement culturally-based programs that respond to the needs of our communities.

Lisa’s has over 19 years of experience addressing inequities experienced by and providing opportunities to tribal populations. Prior to joining WPH Lisa served as the Director of the Office of Health Equity in the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, as an epidemiologist in the Infectious Disease Program for the State of Maine, as a nurse epidemiologist with the North American Indian Center of Boston, Inc., and served as coordinator to Harvard’s Four Directions Summer Research Program – a capacity she still serves in.

Lisa holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Maine, a B.S. in Nursing from the University of Maine, and an M.S. in Health Policy and Management from the University of Southern Maine. She holds a graduate certificate in Non-Profit Management-
Organizational Strategic and serves on a number of boards including Maine Philanthropy Center, Planned Parenthood of New England, and the ACLU of Maine.

**Kittatinny Advisors**

**Greg Czarnecki, Director, Applied Climate Science, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

Greg Czarnecki is the Executive Director of Pennsylvania’s Wild Resource Conservation Program, which works to preserve Pennsylvania’s native species through research, education, and conservation. He oversees the Commonwealth’s only grant program dedicated to conserving non-game wildlife and native plants, and much of his work focuses on reducing the impacts of environmental stressors. He is one of the co-authors of Pennsylvania’s climate change adaptation plan.

**Yuki Moore Laurenti, Trustee and Board Liaison, Open Space Institute**

Yuki Laurenti is Associate Director of Donor Relations at Princeton University. Previously, Ms. Laurenti was Director of Development at Isles, Inc., a nonprofit community development and environmental organization based in Trenton, N.J. She also is a former Senior Vice President in private banking at U.S. Trust Company of New York. She has an A.B. in economics from Harvard University. She has served as president of the Harvard Alumni Association and chairs the Harvard Schools Committee for the southern half of New Jersey. A long-time Trenton resident, she has served on the city’s school board, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and the Princeton Chapter of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.
Todd Ontl, Climate Adaptation Specialist, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

Todd coordinates the forest carbon management outreach efforts, as well as supporting the work with natural resource professionals in the New England region to integrate climate change considerations into forest management. Outside of work, Todd spends as much time as possible exploring forests with his wife and daughter. He can often be found in his workshop designing and building furniture (and the occasional musical instrument).

Jeanne Ortiz, Program Manager, Landscape Conservation, Audubon Pennsylvania

Jeanne manages the 185-mile Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape, a Global Important Bird Area, in partnership with the Pennsylvania DCNR. She conducts "Return on Environment" studies with partners to document the economic value of natural system services and the economic impact of natural resources on recreation, health, and real estate values. Jeanne conducts municipal outreach and provides technical assistance along the Kittatinny Ridge and for the Delaware River Watershed Initiative. Her previous experience includes managing a statewide Environmental Advisory Council program for the PA Environmental Council; a nationwide Buy Fresh Buy Local program for the FoodRoutes Network; and neighborhood economic development and adult education programs for the Lighthouse, a settlement house, in north Philadelphia. She also organized Health Councils in Philadelphia public schools for the Food Trust. Jeanne has a master’s degree in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University and a BS from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
Michael Slattery, Landscape Partnership Coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service

In his capacity serving as the Chesapeake Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 2010, Mike has developed relationships with diverse networks of practitioners across the 64,000-square mile Chesapeake Bay watershed in pursuit of satisfying two major conservation milestones: The Chesapeake Bay Executive Order issued by President Obama in May 2009, which declared the Chesapeake Bay a national treasure, and the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, an interstate compact signed in 2014 by the six Bay state Governors, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, and the EPA Administrator, on behalf of all Federal Agencies.

These blueprints for restoring the watershed’s health ushered in a new era of shared state-federal leadership, action and accountability, and have prepared Mike for the demands of coordinating an entity with an equally ambitious conservation vision, on an even larger scale.

Kelly Watkinson, Land & Climate Program Manager, Land Trust Alliance

Kelly Watkinson is the Land and Climate Program Manager with the Land Trust Alliance. Kelly coordinates the efforts of the Alliance to help land trusts protect resilient lands, mitigate climate change, and pursue renewable energy solutions and has worked closely with OSI to deliver climate resilience content to land trusts over the last two years. Her previous experience includes 11 years as a resource and land conservation professional working to protect and restore lands of Chesapeake Bay watershed.
Western/Central Pennsylvania Advisors (In Formation)

Andrew Loza, Executive Director, WeConservePA

Andrew Loza has served since 2000 as executive director of WeConservePA where he leads public policy efforts, plans and implements technical assistance and educational programs, writes and edits technical guidance, and directs a staff of. His work is informed by seven years as a land trust executive director and leading land use planning, environmental, conservation, and economic development, and trail initiatives for county government. He holds degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and Lehigh University.

In his spare time, Andy enjoys gardening, reading, and challenging the aging process in the gym. Among his top passions are music and eating. He’s the proud father of two adult children. He bicycles to work because he can and it’s good for the planet as well as his wallet and health.

Cradle of Southern Appalachia Advisors

Bruz Clark, President and Treasurer, Lyndhurst and Riverview Foundations

Benic M. “Bruz” Clark III is the current president of the Lyndhurst Foundation and is also the point person for the foundation’s funding for conservation, education, and physical health. He grew up in Chattanooga and has played an instrumental role in both the revitalization of the city and envisioning and implementing the conservation of the Southern Cumberland Plateau region surrounding it.

Mr. Clark is also the point person for the foundation’s funding for conservation, education, and physical health.
Sam Cook, Executive Director of Forest Assets, North Carolina State

Sam Cook has made his mark on multiple aspects of forestry during his esteemed career. He is currently the executive director of Forest Assets and VP of the Natural Resources Foundation for the College of Natural Resources at NC State University, where he coordinates the management of the forest assets owned or managed by the NC State Natural Resources Foundation, Inc. He also serves as a Board member for World Forestry Center, effective 2021 (Portland, Oregon), Triangle Land Conservancy (Durham, NC), NC Coastal Land Trust (Wilmington, NC) and a Resource Committee Advisor for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)-Washington, DC - representing the Black Family Land Trust (VA). In previous roles at both the Center for Heirs Property Preservation and as a private forestry consultant, he has played an integral role in developing and implementing a system of support that allows natural resource partners, forest and other landowners of all income levels to increase their forest sustainability and income through sustainable forestry programs. Sam has also worked with the USDA Forest Service Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station (Boise, ID), Duke Energy Progress (Durham, NC) and the Forest Resource Division of International Paper Company. Sam is and has been very conservation-focused throughout his 35+-year career.
Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, Director, State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Jennifer M. Cruse-Sanders, vice president for science and conservation at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, has been named director of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia at UGA, effective Feb. 15, 2017.

Cruse-Sanders’ senior administrative experience managing botanical garden programming and personnel, her track record of raising funds to support those programs, and her energy and commitment to public gardens, made her the top candidate.

Cruse-Sanders has worked at the Atlanta Botanical Garden since 2008. She was director of research and conservation before becoming a vice president. Prior to Atlanta, she spent nine years as a research associate at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. She received her M.S. and a Ph.D. in botany from UGA. She earned her B.A. in biology at Boston University.

Amy Moore, Vice President, Tucker Foundation

Ms. Moore has 25 years of experience in both the non-profit and local government arenas in both Bradley and Hamilton Counties. Moore has extensive experience in writing and administering grants, including $1.3 million in funding for construction of the Cleveland/Bradley County Greenway. Moore was integral in developing and administering Bradley County’s Healthy Community Initiative, a grant program funded from the proceeds from the sale of Bradley Memorial Hospital.
**Jon Scott, Southern Forests Program Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**

Jon Scott has been a conservation non-profit professional with over 10 years of experience developing and managing complex projects and cultivating partnerships with government, non-profit, and private entities. He facilitated land acquisition and conservation easement projects protecting 2,500 acres of important wildlife habitat, farmland, forest, stream buffers, and historic landscapes. Jon also is an accomplished fundraiser with over $5.5 million secured through grants and private donations for projects, programs, and general operating support. He has substantial communications experience including writing, public speaking, and social media. And is an effective use of technology to support project management, communications, and fundraising.

**Leon Tillman, Assistant State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Leon Tillman is the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chesapeake Bay Coordinator in Annapolis, Maryland and has worked for NRCS for over 15 years. Tillman is a Paola, Kansas native that was raised in Marietta, Georgia. He began his career with NRCS as an USDA 1890 Scholar and student intern working in several Middle Tennessee counties. After graduation, Tillman worked full-time as a Soil Conservationist in West Tennessee, where he worked directly with farmers implementing conservation in the Mississippi River Basin.

After three years as a Soil Conservationist, he became a District Conservationist in East Tennessee where he worked and managed conservation programs across two counties and implemented targeted conservation through the National Water Quality Incentives Program (NWQI). He later served as a State Program Manager for three years at the Tennessee State Office in Nashville. While in the position, Leon managed the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) providing policy, guidance, and assistance to field staff and partners. Thereafter, he served several years as the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Cookeville, Tennessee where he supervised, managed, and coordinated the development of complex activities, resource planning and management planning across a 22-county area directly supervising 18 employees.
Throughout his career, Tillman has served in various temporary acting roles including Assistant State Conservationist for Programs and Field Operations having worked extensively with agriculture partners and employees providing technical assistance, financial assistance, planning, and policy guidance. Throughout his career he has worked and managed implementation of various water quality and wildlife conservation initiatives and coordinated conservation efforts with partners. He has also served on temporary detail in NRCS National Headquarters as a Farm Bill Specialist on the Financial Assistance Programs Division staff, where he provided programmatic support, guidance, and assistance to state program staffs.

Tillman received his Bachelor in Agricultural Sciences from Tennessee State University and a Master of Science in Agriculture and Natural Resources Systems Management at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is Lean 6 Sigma Green Belt certified with experience in leading and implementing process improvements and reducing waste. He is an active member of the National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees (NOPBNRCSE). Tillman also serves on the Open Space Institute (OSI) Advisory Committee as an agency liaison providing guidance related to Appalachian landscape protection.

Tillman and his wife Monique are proud parents of two kids, their son, Liam, and daughter Leia. He enjoys woodworking, traveling, basketball, and spending quality time with family and friends.