

**Lydia Brinkley, Upper Susquehanna Coalition**

Lydia is a tireless advocate and an in-the-field Riparian Buffer Coordinator for the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. She uses her Master's degree from SUNY ESF in Forestry and Natural Resource Management and extensive experience to lead a diverse program throughout a 22 county and 2 state area. As the riparian buffer program coordinator, Lydia and her team provide assistance to landowners and conservation districts in the form of technical and programmatic assistance, landscape assessments, site plans, planting strategies, tree planting help, training development, capacity building and funding opportunities. She has been the riparian buffer program coordinator for the USC since 2015, participating in local and Chesapeake Bay wide workgroups since that time, and most recently joining the Stream Health Work Group. Lydia would bring her on the groundwork and programmatic experience to the workgroup to present a perspective from a successful implementation collaborative. She looks forward to collaborating at a larger scale to make an impact on water quality using forests and tree cover.

**William Byrum, NRCS**

My name is William Byrum. I am the Forester for NRCS at the East National Technical Support Center in Greensboro, NC. I am technical support for 23 States on the East Coast. I grew up on a cotton, cattle, and small grain farm in the Coastal Plains of North Carolina. I am a graduate from North Carolina State University. I worked in the Forestry private sector for eight years before joining the government workforce in 2008.

**Craig Highfield, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**

Craig Highfield is the Forests Program Director for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The mission is to pursue innovative strategies and collaborations that improve the health of the region's forests, create new forests in places important to water quality and promote the benefits of forests and resource management to private landowners, decision-makers and the general population of the six-state bay watershed. Craig leads the forest team that is situated in the Alliance's state offices in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania. He has regularly participated in CBP Forestry Workgroup meetings since 2008 and has collaborated with several members to undertake an array of strategies derived from this group.

**Judy Okay, J&J Consulting**

It would be a privilege for me to continue with the Chesapeake Bay Forestry Work Group as an *At Large Member*. The FWG has been an important enriching element of my interests and work through the various phases of my career listed below. For 29 years I have learned from the FWG, as well as made considerable contributions to the group. I consider my five years at CBP as a Riparian Specialist one of the most valuable and meaningful experiences of my career. I would like to continue working with the FWG as long as my contributions are considered valuable to the group. Thank you for considering me for a FWG Member At Large.

**Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Institute**

Frank is the Director of Cacapon Institute, and he represents West Virginia on the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Team in the area of urban forestry. Frank started his forest training in 1996 as a Baltimore Tree Tribe Member and took a Yale School of Forestry training for citizen volunteers. After that Frank worked

at Parks and People in Baltimore, this is where he got his International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification and became a certified arborist. With Frank being the Director at the Cacapon Institute, they have received the ISA Mid Atlantic Green Leaf Award, The Arbor Day Headwaters Award, Chesapeake Bay Forest Champion Award, and West Virginia DEP Award for best partnership. Frank has served on the Maryland and West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Councils. Frank is a member of the Forestry Workgroup and the Education Workgroup at the Bay Program. Frank has a deep admiration for the Forestry workgroup and how it is at the “working end of the shovel”.

### **Rob Schnabel, Chesapeake Bay Foundation**

Maryland Restoration Scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. For the last 22 years I have been leading CBF's Farm Stewardship Program in Maryland doing whole farm conservation consisting of regenerative agricultural practices; converting row crop fields to pasture for rotational grazing and planting stream side forest buffers and upland forests in both Maryland and the West Virginia panhandle. Rob leads large scale volunteer planting projects using CBF's Clagett Farm tree nursery (10,000 2 gallon container trees) as the source of plants. Rob also provides funding to landowners as incentive payments to leverage Federal and State planting programs. Rob works closely with Federal, State and local agencies and shares limiting factors with the CBF Lobby Team to improve existing policy and Tree planting programs. An example of this is the recent passage of “5 million tree” planting goal in Maryland which now provides \$1,000 / acre incentive payments to leverage CREP and increased State DNR staffing as it relates to planting trees throughout the State. These new positions are currently being advertised. Currently also leading CBF's team in review of stream construction projects and their significant impacts to existing riparian forest buffers. We cannot restore the Bay if we continue to impact existing forests in the name of “restoration”. Forest Resource Protection is just as important, if not more so, than reforestation.