

One-Year At-Large Member Nomination Bios

William is currently an At-Large Member for the Forestry Workgroup and has been nominated for re-election: 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.

Rob is currently an At-Large Member for the Forestry Workgroup and has been nominated for reelection: 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 Claggett 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.

Frank is currently an At-Large Member for the Forestry Workgroup and has been nominated for reelection: 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".

Susan Minnemeyer

Interest in serving on the Forestry Workgroup: I've worked in support of forest monitoring, conservation and restoration throughout my career and am interested in supporting the Forestry Workgroup to achieve the Forest Buffer and Tree Canopy Outcomes for the Vital Habitats Goal. I'm interested in helping the Forestry workgroup employ outcomes-driven approaches to support decision making on conservation and restoration opportunities and to quantify the benefits of tree canopy to water quality, stormwater management, climate resilience and mitigation and supporting healthy communities.

**Susan Minnemeyer, Nature Plus
Biography**

Susan is an environmental professional with more than 25 years of experience in outcomes-oriented research supporting forest conservation and improved land use planning. She recently founded Nature Plus, an environmental consulting firm focusing on nature-based solutions for climate and water quality. She is a specialist in forest monitoring, environmental research, and generating insights using geospatial data. Susan's background in geospatial analysis and developing web-based mapping applications to support green infrastructure planning, optimal solar siting and forest assessments. Susan was the lead author for the [Technical Study on Changes in Forest Cover and Tree Canopy in Maryland](#), released in November 2022. This report provided the foundation for [new forest conservation legislation](#) in Maryland, supported by data insights related to the impact of development on forest and tree canopy in the state. Under her leadership, Chesapeake Conservancy partnered with the World Resources Institute and ICLEI to add the Bay Program's 1-meter tree canopy data to [LEARN](#), a tool that supports local governments to Estimate the local greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts of forests and trees in their communities. With extensive experience in conducting research projects and developing data-driven websites, Susan is skilled in scientific writing, outreach and communications.

Prior to founding Nature Plus, Susan spent four years with the Chesapeake Conservancy, where she led the Conservation Innovation Center and Data Science teams and developed a climate strategy for the organization. She spent nearly 20 years with the World Resources Institute's Forest Program and served as a Senior GIS Manager for the Global Forest Watch and Forest Restoration initiatives and served as the liaison with sustainable forestry programs in the United States and Canada. She also served as a volunteer for many years with Casey Trees and Friends of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, collecting data for the District of Columbia's urban tree inventory and planting trees for a variety of efforts in the Petworth Neighborhood. She is currently training to serve as a Tree Trooper with the Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy and volunteers with the Cape Conservation Corps. Susan has a Master's of Environmental Management, specializing in Resource Ecology, from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and a BS in Biology with a concentration in Botany from UNC-Chapel Hill.