

Appalachian Cove Virtual Series: Aquatic Biodiversity of the Central Appalachians

Date: November 6, 2020

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 ET

AGENDA

12:00-12:05

Introductions

Welcome to the fourth installment of the Forest Stewards Guild's *Appalachian Cove Virtual Series* – facilitated by *Dakota Wagner, Southeast Region Coordinator*

12:05-12:50

Presentations

The Central Appalachian Critical Biodiversity Area – *Jen Chandler, the Guild*

- The Central Appalachian Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) is a geographic area within the central Appalachian range, containing high species richness and diversity. This CBA was delineated by the Forest Stewardship Council using NatureServe data that identifies areas with high numbers of rare species that tend to have limited ranges. Additionally, this region is said to have the richest temperate freshwater systems across the globe.

Looking at Aquatic Biodiversity of the Region through the lens of the Cheat River – *Madison Ball, Friends of the Cheat Restoration Program Manager*

- The Cheat River has high species richness and diversity with several unique species swimming in its waters. This presentation will cover the land-use history around the Cheat, the effects of certain practices to unique species, and the current activities aimed at maintaining and enhancing the regions health and biodiversity.
- Presenter Bio: Madison received her B.S. degree in 2014 in Natural Resource Management, and shortly thereafter moved to Bartow, WV to serve as a Watershed and Fisheries AmeriCorps with the Monongahela National Forest for two years. She also served as a Watershed Technician for WV Trout Unlimited & the US Forest Service, and was a seasonal Environmental Educator with Experience Learning (formerly The Mountain Institute) at Spruce Knob, WV. Madison began her time with FOC as the Monitoring Coordinator in 2018, and was promoted to Restoration Program Manager in 2019, where the program has expanded to include ecological restoration activities such as riparian reforestation and aquatic organism passage improvements.

The Importance of Best Management Practices – *Jeremy McGill, WV Division of Forestry Assistant State Forester, Logging and Water Quality*

- Implementing Best Management Practices for forestry are important to ensure that silvicultural practices are conducted in a way to minimize threats to water quality and aquatic health.

12:55-1:00

Final Thoughts and Questions

1:00

Adjourn

