



Wildlife Forestry Field Tour
Roanoke River NWR
November 15, 2022 | 12:30p – 5:00p
Rain Date November 16



The [Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge](#) was established in 1991 and contains some of the largest intact bottomland forest ecosystem remaining in the mid-Atlantic region. Using conservation best practices and wildlife forestry management tools, the Refuge is managed to ensure the longevity of native wildlife through the careful management of habitat. Join the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Stewards Guild for an afternoon in the woods to learn about wildlife forestry practices in bottomland hardwood forests of North Carolina.

DRAFT AGENDA	
12:30	Meet at the USFWS Field Office at 114 W Water Street, Windsor, NC 27983
12:45	Drive to Refuge
1:15	Field Tour (walk and talk style) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the Refuge (Matt Connolly, USFWS)• Principles of wildlife forestry (Haven Barnhill, USFWS)• Operating in bottomland hardwood stands (Logger TBD)• Engaging with private landowners (Dakota Wagner, Forest Stewards Guild)• Landowner perspective (Meriel Parker, Landowner)
4:15	Drive back to office
5:00	Tour concludes

About the Speakers:

Haven Barnhill serves as the Deputy Regional Forester for the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Southeast Region. He is responsible for helping facilitate forest management on Refuges to promote wildlife habitat management objectives. Haven has almost thirty years of wildlife and forest management experience having worked for a broad range of employers from forest industry, the US Forest Service, multiple state wildlife agencies, and as a refuge biologist. He has a keen interest in habitat management and using an ecological approach to forest management to meet conservation objectives. He is actively engaged in helping the FWS build forest management skills and capacity.

Matt Connolly is the Refuge Manager at the Roanoke River NWR.

Meriel Parker is the fifth generation farming her family's land in Martin County, NC. With a Bachelor of Science degree in Physiology, a Master of Science degree in Biology, and a 2021 certification from NC Farm School, she is committed to the implementation of sustainable practices as a responsible steward of her crop and forest land, as well as its wildlife. She is actively pursuing and implementing opportunities around research and innovation on her land. Meriel works in scientific program

management for an international non-profit and previously served as Director of Life Science Research at NC A&T State University.

Dakota Wagner is passionate about bringing the concepts of ecological forestry to all types of communities, particularly those not traditionally involved in natural resource management. She lives in Asheville, North Carolina and is currently the Southeast Region Coordinator with the Forest Stewards Guild and the current Executive Board Chair of ForestHer NC. She holds a B.S. in Environmental Sciences with a concentration in ecological forestry from Warren Wilson College.

Special thanks to the following organizations for supporting the Guild's [Bottomland Hardwood Forestry Program](#):

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Audubon North Carolina
- Audubon South Carolina
- Clearwater Paper
- Domtar
- Drax
- Enviva Biomass
- GFR Forestry
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- Milliken Advisors
- Packing Corporation of America
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- Symrise
- The Nature Conservancy Lower MS River Basin Program
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- WestRock