

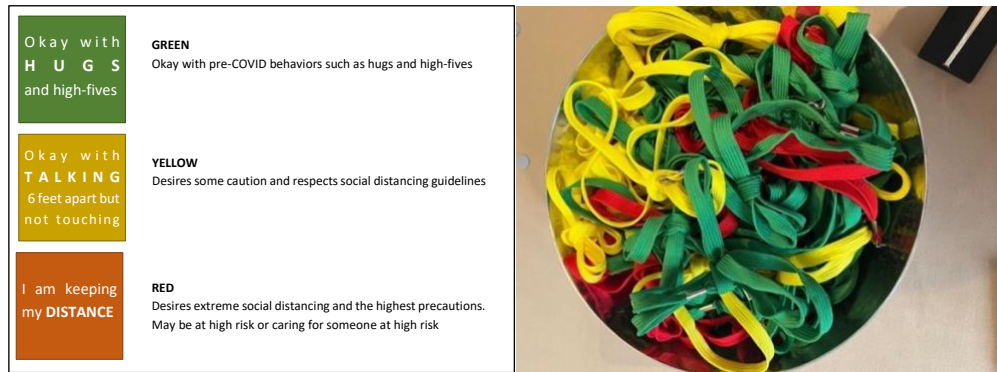


# APPALACHIAN TRAIL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

NOVEMBER 1-2, 2022 | NATIONAL CONSERVATION TRAINING CENTER, WEST VIRGINIA

## COVID Precaution Lanyard System

We will be using a color-coded lanyard system to share our preferred level of COVID precaution with others to ensure we all feel comfortable and have a good time.



## ATLP’s Mission & Vision

### Our Mission

- The missions of the ATLP is to connect the wild, scenic, and cultural wonders of the Appalachian Trail and its surrounding landscape

### Our Vision

- The vision of the ATLP is of an Appalachian Trail and surrounding landscape connect people of diverse community and nature, forever safeguarding the backbone and heart of the Wild East

## Meeting Purpose & Goals

The purpose of the meeting is to provide support and connection to regional partners through inspirational case stories, networking, and action planning to catalyze local action for landscape-scale conservation impacts.

### Meeting Goals:

- Connect Partnership members with each other to build the relationships necessary for Partnership success.
- Provide meaningful content and opportunities to engage that will move us toward implementation of the ATLP Strategic Plan.
- Identify actions for partners to help ATLP implement the Strategic Plan and for ATLP to help our partners implement on-the-ground conservation.

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

### 4:00pm – 7:30pm [Optional] Welcome Reception & Dinner for early arrivals

Invitation to all early arrivals to meet at the NCTC bar prior to dinner starting at 5:30pm.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

### 9:00am-10:00am Check-in

Meeting attendees will check-in with Max and receive their meeting packet at a registration table in the Commons Building just outside the Gallery Room.

### 10:00am – 11:15am Welcome & Introductions

ATLP coordinators will welcome partners to the Annual Meeting, provide an overview of the agenda, ATLP Strategic Plan, updates on the Partnership since the last meeting, and briefly provide any forward-looking activities if appropriate. Meeting attendees will introduce themselves by giving their name, organization and location.

### 11:15am – 12:00pm Landscape Conservation Networking Exercise

Meet, greet, and learn about 5 other ATLP partner organizations.



#### Directions

- Find someone with the same animal on their notebook
- Introduce yourselves and the organization you're representing
- Ask 2-3 questions to learn about each other, e.g.,
  - What is your organization's primary conservation focus? Goal?
  - What are you most proud of that you've accomplished in the last year?
    - Last 6 months?
  - What is the top conservation challenge in your region?
  - What is the top conservation opportunity in your region?
  - If you had a magic genie lamp with one wish, what is one thing you would wish for to help you meet your conservation goal?
  - What's the oddest job you've ever had?

### 12:00pm – 1:00pm LUNCH

**1:00pm – 2:45pm      Session 1: Strategic Conservation Planning – Conservation Decision-Making Tool Roundtable**

During this session, we will investigate the methodologies and approaches of conservation decision-making tools being developed across the AT Landscape. We will discuss the values in the methodologies and success/progress/challenges using the tools to date. We will also consider why we prioritize conservation projects and discuss opportunities to leverage prioritizations to build capacity.

**Session Speakers**

- Bill Potapchuk (Facilitator)
- Simon Rucker, Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust – Maine Appalachian Trail Geospatial Information for Conservation
- Emmie Cornell, Mainspring Conservation Trust – Conservation priority mapping to accelerate AT Landscape Protection in Western North Carolina
- Evin Carter, Southern Appalachian Man & The Biosphere – Conservation Decision-Making in Partnership: What We're Doing Right, What We can Improve and How the Oak Ridge National Lab is Helping

**Covision Prompt for Table Discussions**

- What from your table discussion should your colleagues know about the benefits and challenges of using conservation prioritizations and GIS decision-support tools?
- Link:  
[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fgeo.webcouncil.net%2fcbi%2f%3fda%3d5c6c&c=E,1,lajWFugmfa9wQyvp2PrQkRUL5dsvAM4BKCZPv8KZIxWNKoFo6Ya9buKFUDn1aezKBcR2VCH7soLDPdpkQ52uu\\_GeFfh9GXvCkjCiaVyxr1oNL3Gh1rLG&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fgeo.webcouncil.net%2fcbi%2f%3fda%3d5c6c&c=E,1,lajWFugmfa9wQyvp2PrQkRUL5dsvAM4BKCZPv8KZIxWNKoFo6Ya9buKFUDn1aezKBcR2VCH7soLDPdpkQ52uu_GeFfh9GXvCkjCiaVyxr1oNL3Gh1rLG&typo=1)

**2:45pm – 3:00pm      BREAK**

**3:00pm – 4:45pm      Session 2: AT Landscape Values Aligned in Community Driven Conservation**

This session will provide three inspirational case stories at various scales that demonstrate how communities are supporting AT Landscape Values expressed in the ATLP Strategic Plan through community-driven conservation.

**Session Speakers:**

- Bill Potapchuk (Facilitator)
- Nicole Hersch, New River Valley Regional Commission – A multi-county effort grounded in livability through natural resources, community, and economic planning that supports the recreational, scenic, and historic values of the AT Landscape
- Mike Waddell, Town of Gorham, New Hampshire – Gorham is an AT Community developing their Recreation Economy through community celebration of natural assets and community forests

- Pastor Michael Martin, Stillmeadow Community Fellowship – At the intersection of faith, recreation, and environmental education, Baltimore’s PeacePark demonstrates a public-private partnership investing in community and creating broader connections to conservation

#### 4:45pm – 5:00pm Day 1 Reflections

Participants will be asked to share any thoughts, reflections, or feedback at the end of Day 1. Evening and Day 2 activities will be reviewed with any additional announcements.

#### 5:00pm CLOSE OF DAY 1

#### 7:00pm [OPTIONAL] Evening Networking in the Commons

An informal networking opportunity for folks to share what they are working on or just hang out.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

#### 9:00am – 9:15am Announcements & Agenda Review

#### 9:15am – 10:15am Implementing the Strategic Plan: Breakout Working Session

The purpose of the breakout session is to define near term action recommendations for ATLP and its partners to accomplish which implement the ATLP Strategic Plan. There are 6-7 people per group. Groups will have 45 minutes for discussion to allow for walking between buildings.

##### Instructions

- Assign a note-taker
- Use the link emailed to you this morning to access the Google Doc with the discussion prompt
- Use one of the tables in the document to capture your groups responses and to share during the breakout group reports

##### Topic: Strategic Conservation Planning

- Discussion Prompts
  - How might the strategic conservation committee elevate our organization and collective work using decision support tools?
  - Is it feasible and appropriate to have a trail-wide decision-support tool?
- Google Doc Link:
  - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CQOBWCpVvE0eSHV\\_GybvUR5vJK\\_Q6W5X/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101254034383878819603&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CQOBWCpVvE0eSHV_GybvUR5vJK_Q6W5X/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101254034383878819603&rtpof=true&sd=true)

##### Topic: Community-Driven Conservation & AT Landscape Values

- Discussion Prompts

- How can ATLP leverage and support our individual, organizational, and collective role to better benefit communities?
- How can the CAG report be used in our work and to benefit communities?
- What are the communication and messaging needs our work on community-driven conservation?
- Google Doc Link:
  - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jrpz2m7iFS-FmhxxL\\_rYkXm5ts82QKD/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101254034383878819603&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jrpz2m7iFS-FmhxxL_rYkXm5ts82QKD/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101254034383878819603&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Topic: Project Implementation

- Discussion Prompt
  - Thinking about our upcoming funding conversation, how can ATLP create a project pipeline to better connect partners and elevate shovel ready projects?
- Google Doc Link:
  - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/195zzQ3VdSLFDpKYH85NNDbRb5-79d\\_mj/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101254034383878819603&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/195zzQ3VdSLFDpKYH85NNDbRb5-79d_mj/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101254034383878819603&rtpof=true&sd=true)

**10:15am – 10:30am BREAK**

**10:30am – 11:15am Breakout Group Reports**

During this session, our discussion will be based on the breakout group feedback collected during the breakout working session.

**11:15am – 11:30am Group Photo**

On our way to lunch, we will stop for a quick group photo.

**11:30am – 12:30pm LUNCH**

**12:00pm Check-out Time for all Overnight Rooms**

**12:30pm – 2:15pm Session 3: Unlocking Conservation Funding & Financing in the AT Landscape**

This session will look at efforts to bring private, public, and non-traditional funding and financing sources to conservation projects in the AT Landscape. Case stories will discuss how to access funding and financing mechanisms, highlight impacts and transferable lessons learned, and share opportunities that are ripe for the ATLP to support.

Session Speakers:

- Bill Potapchuk (Facilitator)
- Lesley Kane Szyal, Outdoors America & the LWCF Coalition – Federal and state funding outlook for conservation and how to best prepare for funding projects in the AT Landscape

- Seth Brown, Quantified Ventures – Conservation finance models to drive investment opportunities for community wealth generation, recreation and conservation
- J.T. Horn, Trust for Public Land – Connections to community and equity, putting funding into action and an example of financial engineering and partnership building

Mentimeter Prompt for Table Discussions

- What questions do you have for the speakers? Where can we dive deeper?
- Link: <https://www.menti.com/alurmjnjq1t3>

### **2:15pm – 2:30pm      Closing Reflections & Next Steps**

Participants will provide final thoughts and reflections on the actions discussed, the meeting content and other feedback offered. Closing remarks will be provided by ATLP coordinators with a recap of any immediate next steps.

### **2:30pm                      Adjourn**

## Speaker Biographies

### Session 1: Strategic Conservation Planning – Conservation Decision Making Tool Roundtable

Simon Rucker – Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust

Simon is the Executive Director for the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust in Portland, Maine. He's served on the ATLP Steering Committee since 2017. In 2020, MATLT received funding from the Wild East Action Fund to support development of a regional conservation prioritization. The Maine Appalachian Trail Geospatial Information for Conservation tool assembles datasets that reflect the range of social and ecological values provided by and relevant to the Appalachian Trail Landscape in Maine. The tool was developed as a model that could be used across the Appalachian Landscape. Therefore, the data parameters draw directly from National Park Service guidance on priority categories for protection of the entire Appalachian Trail.

Session Resources:

- MATLT's Website: <https://matlt.org>
- MATGIC Tool Report: <https://matlt.org/matltwordpress/wp-content/uploads/Maine-Appalachian-Trail-2020-FINAL.pdf>

Emmie Cornell – Mainspring Conservation Trust

Emmie Cornell is the Land Conservation Manager for Mainspring Conservation Trust in Franklin, North Carolina. The organization received funding through the Wild East Action Fund in 2021 to expand Mainspring's Conservation Planning Tool to protect the A.T. Landscape in Western North Carolina. The funding also increases Mainspring's capacity to work with partners to implement the tool and protect the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains and resources along the Trail.

Session Resource:

- Mainspring's Website: <https://www.mainspringconserves.org>

Evin Carter – Southern Appalachian Man & the Biosphere

Evin Carter is a Staff Scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and serves as the Executive Director of the Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere (SAMAB) program. SAMAB is a member of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and the administrative body of the UNESCO-recognized Southern Appalachian Biosphere Region. SAMAB's mission is to promote the natural world and the health and well-being of those individuals and communities that live, depend, and/or recreate on it; and to foster and support integrated environmental research, education, and training—especially in relationship to national and global changes and their effects upon the region. Evin works across a wide range of projects from integrating wildlife connectivity into infrastructure plans to promoting energy independence in rural mountain communities. He brings unique perspective on implementing complex solutions in sometimes complicated partnerships.

Session Resources:

- Southern Appalachian Biosphere Region: <https://en.unesco.org/biosphere/eu-na/southern-appalachian>
- SAMAB's Website: <https://www.samab.org>
- Southern Appalachian Vitality Index: <http://southernappalachianvitalityindex.org>

## Session 2: AT Landscape Values Aligned in Community Driven Conservation

Nicole Hersch, New River Valley Regional Commission

Nicole is a Regional Planner and Community Designer with the New River Valley Regional Commission. Nicole has a dual masters from Virginia Tech in landscape architecture and natural resources and is passionate about working with people from around the watershed towards improved water quality and healthy lands. She exhibits her expertise on projects like the New River Watershed Roundtable, the Plant Southwest Virginia Natives Campaign, and the Crab Creek Beautification Project. Nicole co-chairs the Technical Advisory Committee for New River Conservancy, serves on the Executive Committee of the Virginia chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and is president of the New River Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. When Nicole is not working, she enjoys adventuring with her partner and two children.

Session Resources:

- Plant Southwest Virginia Website: <https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/plantswvanatives>
- New River Water Trail Website: <https://www.newriverwatertrail.com/NRWT/>
- New River Watershed Roundtable Website: <https://www.newriverwatershed.org/>
- New River Valley Regional Commission Website: <https://nrvc.org/>

Mike Waddell – Town of Gorham, New Hampshire

Mike Waddell arrived in Gorham, NH off the Appalachian trail in August 1974. A week later he was hired by the Appalachian Mountain Club as a food packer. 17 years later, after working his way up to Huts Manager, Mike left AMC to join Gorham's Budget Committee. Today, Mike is the Chair of the Board of Selectmen, chair of the Town Conservation Committee and chair of the 6,000-acre Town Forest Committee. Over the last 48 years Gorham has struggled through the loss of pulp and paper mills and the closure of a local shoe manufacturing facility. Today, Gorham has overcome those challenges by leveraging recreational opportunities for economic development. Recently designated as an AT Community, the Town is developing its blue blaze trail connections to the AT. And in 2019, Gorham received EPA funding through the Recreation Economies for Rural Communities program to plan new, environmentally friendly uses along the Androscoggin River to better connect downtown Gorham with the river and its assets. Ultimately the Town hopes that by preserving the existing landscape and



improving recreational opportunity they will encourage new businesses and residents to visit, invest, and live in the community.

Session Resources:

- Rural Tourism Academy Summary Report: <https://northernforest.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/NFRTA-Gorham-Summary-Report-R6.pdf>
- Press Release: <https://northernforest.org/gorham-nh-moves-ahead-with-sustainable-tourism-approach/>

Pastor Michael Martin – Stillmeadow Community Fellowship

Pastor Michael serves in the Christian community as a pastor, counselor and mentor to pastors. In 2019, Stillmeadow Community Fellowship brought together worshippers, environmentalists, neighbors and students on a collaborative project with the USFS to restore 10 acres of un-managed forest adjacent to the church. Today, this neglected urban forest is an oasis with trails, meditation stations, an amphitheater and vegetable gardens. This greenspace is also an introduction to nature for many community members who do not have adequate access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Session Resources:

- PeacePark Webpage: <https://stillmeadow.community/peaceparkproject>
- Baltimore Sun Article: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/features/bs-fe-stillmeadow-church-environment-20210315-zx3gj4bkjzcr5lat2dpqlcxnfa-story.html>

### Session 3: Unlocking Conservation Funding & Financing in the AT Landscape

Lesley Kane Szynal, Executive Director of Outdoors America

Ms. Kane-Szynal is the Executive Director of Outdoors America and Chair of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition, where she led the effort to permanently authorize LWCF in the Dingell Act and then permanently fund the program through the Great American Outdoors Act in August 2020. Prior to joining Outdoors America in 2009, Lesley served as Vice President, Federal Policy & Programs at the Trust for Public Land (TPL) where she was responsible for managing its Federal Affairs office in Washington, D.C. Previously, Lesley served as Legislative Assistant for Senator Warren B. Rudman (R-NH), handling Interior, environment, energy policy and related appropriations issues.

Session Resources:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition: <https://lwcfcoalition.org>

Seth Brown, Quantified Ventures

Quantified Ventures works to catalyze impact for the greater good by leveraging data, finance, innovation, partnerships and policy. Their bold solutions produce verified environmental and social outcomes. Seth leads Quantified Venture's Forestry and Land Use practice. His work enables land managers, private landowners, conservationists and governments to take on ambitious projects to better protect and share their resources.

Session Resources:

- Forestry & Land Use Practice Webpage: <https://www.quantifiedventures.com/forestry-and-land-use>

J.T. Horn, The Trust for Public Land

J.T. is the Director of the National Trails Initiative at the Trust for Public Land. His experience in land conservation includes creating new municipally managed community forests, conserving large timberland parcels, preserving farmland, protecting trails, and building citizen coalitions in support of conservation projects. He has successfully closed some of the largest land conservation transactions in the United States and has experience working with the National Park Service, US Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and numerous state and local agencies.

Session Resources:

- Trust for Public Land's Website: <https://www.tpl.org>
- Dundee Community Forest Project: <https://www.usvlt.org/dundee-community-forest-project>