

**CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM**  
**FORESTRY WORKGROUP**  
***"Tree Propagation and Production"***



Location: D.C. State Nursery at Casey Tree Farm  
547 Springsberry Farm Lane, Berryville, VA 22611  
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023. 10:00-3:00

**AGENDA**

9:00 Doors Open. Refreshment provided. Cacapon Institute & Casey Trees

9:45 Good Morning. Housekeeping. Seating.

10:00 **Welcome.** Rebecca Hanmer, Chair, Forestry Workgroup

10:00-10:45 **Nursery Production.** Joe Barley, Owner, Clear Ridge Nursery.

Joe will speak from his perspective as a member of the Maryland Landscape, Nursery and Greenhouse Association. Joe will discuss: "What consumers need to know, what they need to do, trends in ownership, how growers think, the difference between propagation and production, owner specialization, and how availability works."

10:45-11:15 **"Today's Seeds – Tomorrow's Trees"**. Alexis Dickerson, Potomac Conservancy

Indigenous, native seed-stock is critical to creating a future Chesapeake Bay watershed that has cleaner air, cleaner water, and more green spaces for all. Alexis will discuss how the Conservancy's volunteers who collect acorns are a large part of making this future possible.

11:15-11:45 **"Growing Native"**. Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Institute with: Victoria Lusk, Watershed Educator, Cacapon Institute and Elise Sheffield, Boxerwood Outdoor Education Center

Growing Native is a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience for elementary school students. At a dozen schools in WV and VA, students learn about tree biology and running micro-tree nurseries distributing hundreds of potted trees into their communities.

11:45-12:00 **"Why Talk Propagation?"** Mark Buscaino, Executive Director, Casey Trees

Mark has been, to use his words, "knee deep in tree propagation as a grower and consumer of trees". He will share his perspective and how tree stock impacts Casey Tree's mission and urban forestry efforts in the broader Metro-Washington area.

12:00-1:45 **Lunch & Casey Tree Nursery Tour.** Alternating groups will lunch, or, tour Casey Tree's Farm on their twenty-person wagon.

1:45-2:45 **"Planting for a Future Forest"**. Iara Lacher, Owner, Seven Bends Nursery

Iara will discuss how our forests are changing. As we move forward, in order to protect forest function and the services they provide, forest managers must adapt to change and implement forward thinking regeneration practices. What factors are at play—climate change, pest and disease, land use?

2:45-3:00 **Reflections & Wrap Up.** Rebecca Hanmer, Chair, and  
Katie Brownson, Coordinator (Acting), Forestry Workgroup

For more information, contact Frank F. Rodgers, Executive Director, Cacapon Institute  
304-240-2721 | [frodgers@cacaponinstitute.org](mailto:frodgers@cacaponinstitute.org)

## SPEAKERS

Mark Buscaino, Executive Director, Casey Trees

Casey Trees' mission is to restore, enhance and protect the tree canopy of the nation's capital. Mark received his BS in Business Administration from the University of Maine at Orono and a MS in Forest Resources Management/Silviculture from SUNY-ESF. Prior to joining Casey Trees in 2006, Mark served as the National Director for the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program in Washington, DC. Mark began his career in 1983 as a forestry program volunteer with the US Peace Corps in Benin, West Africa. Since then he has held several positions including: Deputy Project Manager for the Urban Forest and Education Program in New York City; City Forester for Takoma Park, Maryland; Urban Forester for Fairfax County Virginia; and Chief and State Forester for the District of Columbia.

Joe Barley, Owner, Clear Ridge Nursery

Clear Ridge has been "keeping it native since 1994". They specialize in container grown native trees and shrubs for conservation, reforestation, and restoration projects. They have an inventory of 350,000 plants including over 70 species of native & ornamental trees and shrubs. Clear Ridge is MBE/DBE certified in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, New Jersey, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia. Joe's career spans 46 years as a registered forester, arborist and owner-operator of Clear Ridge Nursery. He spent 10 years as a Service and Regional Urban Forester for Maryland Forest Service and 10 years in various roles as a forester for Baltimore Gas and Electric.

Alexis Dickerson, Senior Director of Community Conservation

Potomac Conservancy works to improve the Potomac's water quality by building an impassioned base of river advocates to impart change at the local level. Alexis leads the Conservancy's Tree and Seed Programs and has a background in environmental outreach and program management. She has facilitated experiential learning across the Chesapeake Bay watershed since 2016. Alexis has served as Co-President of the DC Environmental Education Consortium, a member of the Virginia Master Naturalist Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, and as a member of Fairfax County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exception Review Committee. Alexis has a bachelor's degree in American Studies from the University of Southern California, is trained as a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, and holds certificates in Urban Sustainability (UDC) and Permaculture Design.

Iara Lacher, Owner, Seven Bends Nursery

Seven Bends Nursery focuses on sustainable horticulture and ecosystem based landscaping. Iara has been an advocate of native plants for nearly twenty years. She brings the knowledge and experience that comes from degrees in Botany, Environmental Science and Management, and Ecology to Seven Bends Nursery and its customers. She is established in conservation and planning circles in the Shenandoah Valley region through her research at the Smithsonian Institute, where she worked to connect her science to policy in order to help achieve sustainability goals. Iara's knowledge of native plants, ecological systems, and plant physiology make her a useful resource as you introduce native plants into your landscape, ensuring you get a garden that is both beautiful and ecologically functional.

Frank Rodgers, Executive Director, Cacapon Institute

Since 1985, from the Cacapon River, to the Potomac, to the Chesapeake Bay, Cacapon Institute protects rivers and watersheds using science and education. Frank has 25 years' experience in environmental education and watershed forestry. He has overseen the implementation of hundreds of Chesapeake Bay Program recommended Best Management Practices in urban forestry and stormwater runoff control. He began his work in environmental restoration with the Parks & People Foundation in Baltimore in 1993. He is a member of the WV Urban & Community Forestry Council, and Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry and Education workgroups. He has a BA in Social and Behavior Science from California State University Long Beach, is a University of Maryland Certified GIS Technician, and Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arborists