

Nominees for ACLT's Board of Directors

Recommended by the Board of Directors



Melissa McKormick

Melissa McKormick is Principal Investigator, Senior Scientist at the Smithsonian Environment Research Center

Research Interests: *"The unifying theme behind my research is using molecular techniques to elucidate questions about plant ecology. I primarily study the interactions of plants with their mycorrhizal fungi and the environment and how these interactions affect plant distribution and ecology."*

Melissa currently has ongoing projects on orchid ecology and conservation, mycorrhizal interactions, plant invasion ecology, and plant responses to anthropogenic changes.

Her ongoing projects spread across three focal areas. She is using population genetics to trace the spread of invasive *Phragmites australis* and to understand the impacts of eutrophication on *Spartina alterniflora*. In these projects she and her collaborators are using patterns of genetic variation to understand the processes that drive species responses. She also has ongoing projects on orchid ecology in which she is examining the effects of environmental conditions, natural hybridization, and the abundance and distribution of mycorrhizal fungi as drivers of orchid flowering and distribution. A third focal area for her research is trying to understand how genes that are expressed and bacteria that live within the hyphae of orchid mycorrhizal fungi affect fungal ability to form mycorrhizae. She is a member of ACLT's Science Committee.

John W. Yoe

John W. Yoe was born in Prince Frederick in 1955, and raised by his parents and grandparents on the family farm. The Yoe Farm, being within the Parker's Creek Watershed, was acquired by ACLT in 2022. John attended Calvert County public schools and is a member of the Calvert High School Class of 1973. John graduated in 1980 with a degree in electrical engineering and then worked with Navy and industry pioneers in satellite communications.

John rose through the Navy's engineering ranks, eventually becoming both lead project engineer and engineering branch manager for a new helicopter to ship data link. John is especially proud of his naval aviation work on the MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopter. The helicopter continues to be refined and tested at Patuxent River, frequently flying over southern Calvert County near the Parker's Creek Watershed. John's hobby is keeping current with residential construction best practices, especially with respect to carpentry, electricity, and plumbing. John is a member of ACLT's Facilities Committee and attends many ACLT events.

John and his wife Cindy live in Prince Frederick. Their five children and seven grandchildren all live within an hour's drive of the Parker's Creek Watershed, which brings them great joy!





Mark Smith In Colorado

Mark Smith

Mark Smith is a retired St. Mary's County Public Schools administrator. In that capacity, he secured competitive grants for more than one million dollars per year and used those funds to design programs he managed related to drop-out prevention, mentoring, preparing first generation students to attend college, and programs related to reducing the achievement gap between white and minority students. His after-school programs alone served over 1,000, k-12 students per day.

Mark worked extensively with both community and business groups (and still does as part of the scholarship program he runs), and currently serves on the Board of the Literacy Council of St. Mary's County and the St. Mary's County Business, Education and Community Alliance. He is a Master Naturalist, hikes the ACLT trails almost daily, is an avid biker, enjoys tech work (he has a MS in Educational Technology from George Washington University), and is a long-time ACLT volunteer.

Adam Sampson

Adam grew up in Calvert County and spent most of his childhood running around in the woods looking for salamanders, snakes, and all things fascinating. As he got older, he began hunting, fishing, backpacking and trail running. These activities gave him a deep, abiding love for nature, and it's why the Land Trust is so important to him.

His family moved back to Calvert County in 2016. He built his business, Heartwood Construction, in Scientists' Cliffs, to restore the log cabins in his community. In his free time he practices regenerative gardening, runs the trails, and attend his children's soccer games and dance competitions. He enjoys volunteering with the land trust when he is able, guiding canoe trips up Parker's Creek, helping on Double Oak Farm and maintaining trails.



. . .and these members would like to serve another term



Peter Daly



Darlene Harrod



Shirley Knight



Nate Novotny



Fred Tutman
