

# TANYA DENCKLA COBB

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Tanya Denckla Cobb is a seasoned mediator and facilitator in environmental public policy, certified by the Virginia Supreme Court to mediate court-referred cases and teach basic mediation. Through her career she has worked for the federal government, state government, local and state nonprofit organizations and as an independent consultant. Since 1997 she has worked as Senior Associate at the UVA Institute for Environmental Negotiation where her work involves facilitating and mediating a broad range of community and environmental issues, including agricultural and food security issues, land use and planning, facility siting, heritage planning and preservation, watershed planning and natural resource protection. Ms. Denckla Cobb co-founded and serves as teaching faculty for the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute, as well as graduate-level food system planning courses.

- 1997 - present      **Associate Director (2008-present), Senior Associate (1997-2008)**, Institute for Environmental Negotiation, University of Virginia . Design and facilitation of public involvement, consensus building, and mediation processes. Custom design of training in consensus building, group facilitation, interest-based negotiation, and collaborative problem-solving. Currently working to establish a state-level Food Policy Council, and working with local organizations to create a more resilient local food system.
- 1991 - present      **Certified Mediator** since 1991 (#0054) by the Supreme Court of Virginia for court-referred cases and to provide Basic Mediation training. Mediated well over 700 hours in over 250 simple and complex cases.
- 1991-1996          **Nonprofit Executive Director, Virginia Urban Forest Council (state-wide) 1995-1996**: first Ex. Dir., created first budget, launched Tree Steward program, general grant, project management, newsletter, public relations. *Greener Harrisonburg (local community) 1991-1995*: co-founder and first Ex. Dir., developed membership, budget, newsletter, fundraising, managed large community volunteer events, public relations, and grant writing,
- 1984 - present      **Writer, Communicator and Publisher**, Wooden Angel Communications. Authored, designed, published, and successfully marketed my first reference book on organic gardening; book is now published by Garden Way/ Storey Communications as "*A-Z Gardener's Guide to Growing Organic Food.*" Free-lance writing and speaking.
- 1978-1984          **International Relations Officer**, U.S. Department of Labor. Specialist in international labor rights violations and situations around the world. Researched and wrote formal analyses of PATCO (air controllers), Polish Solidarity, and cases of interest to the U.S. Represented the USDOL in inter-agency meetings, and member of U.S. Delegation to United Nations ILO conferences in Geneva, Switzerland.

## EDUCATION

1991-present, over 300 hours and 20+ trainings in aspects of mediation and conflict resolution.

1979-1981, completion of undergraduate pre-med courses, George Washington University.

B.A., 1978, Government, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.

## SELECTED EXPERIENCE AS MEDIATOR, FACILITATOR, TRAINER & SPEAKER

### Selected Facilitation & Public Involvement

- Public Policy Mediation / Facilitation & Public Involvement:*
- Waste Solutions Forum (2005 & 2008) (uses for animal manure).
  - Shenandoah Consensus Committee (2007-08) to preserve agriculture.
  - Virginia Food Security Summit (2007).
  - Governor's Natural Resources Leadership Summit (2003 & 2006).
  - Loudoun County comprehensive strategic watershed planning (2005-6).
  - Fairfax County Watershed Planning (2004-06).
  - Coastal Program 309 Assessment (2005 & 1997).
  - Land application of biosolids study (1997) & public meetings (1999-2005).
  - Nutrient Management Planning Technical Advisory Committee (2004).
  - Air & water impacts of new power plants: DEQ stakeholder groups (2002).
  - VDH regulatory negotiation on Virginia's onsite septic systems (2000).
  - Heritage Tourism (2002) and Fluvanna Heritage Forums (2002 & 1999).
  - Rappahanock-Rapidan Regional Vision (2001).
  - Conference "*Visioning the Future of Virginia's Land Conservation*" (2001).
  - DOF public involvement for Virginia's Forest Legacy (2000).
  - Charlottesville/Albemarle courts facility siting and design (1999-2000).
  - VDOT Bryan Park Interchange Citizen Advisory Committee consensus building effort (1997-1999).
  - USFS Mt. Rogers recreational plan (1999).
  - Round Table on Managed Care for VA. Dept. of Health (1997)

### Selected Training, Workshops, and Teaching

- *Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute*: co-founder and teaching faculty for year-long program on Virginia's environmental issues, leadership and collaborative problem-solving, 1999 - present.
- *Food System Planning*: developed and co-teach graduate-level planning classes at UVA on food system assessment, policy development, and global health-food system connections.
- *National Preservation Institute Seminar*: Negotiation Skills for Preservation of Cultural and Natural Resources (2005-present). Teach seminar annually in different locations in the U.S.

### Conference Presentations

- *Assn for Conflict Resolution* (2008, 2006, 2005, 2002, 2001); *American Bar Assn-Alternative Dispute Resolution* (2004); *Philadelphia Garden Show* (1994); *Virginia Book Festival* (2004); *International Association for Public Participation* (2000); *Virginia Mediation Network* ('92-93, '95, 98-99, 2005); "Hard Choices and Environmental Justice", UVA (1997); *State Arboretum Urban Landscape symposium* (1995) & *Small Gardens Symposium* (1994).

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*The Gardener's A to Z Guide to Growing Organic Food*, Storey Communications, February 2004.

*Organic Gardener's Home Reference*, Storey Communications, 1994.

*Gardening At A Glance: The Organic Gardener's Handbook On Vegetables, Fruits, Nuts & Herbs*, Wooden Angel Publications, 1991.

*Basic Mediation Skills Training Manual*, for the Community Mediation Center of Charlottesville, , 1997. With Jim Boyd, Teresa Miller, Michael Stowers. Chaired development committee.

### Articles

*The Waste Solutions Forum: An Innovative and Cooperative Approach to Support the Agricultural Community and Protect Water Quality*. Bendfeldt, Eric and Katharine Knowlton, Tanya Denckla Cobb, Franklin Dukes, Kathy Holm, and Jactone Arogo Ogejo. Community Development, Journal of the Community Development Society. Vol. 38, No. 4, Winter 2007.

*Implementing waste solutions for dairy and livestock farms*. Knowlton, K. F. and T. Denckla Cobb. Journal of Dairy Sciences. 89: 1372-1383, May 2006.

*Linking Theory to Practice: A Theory of Change Model of the Natural Resources Leadership Institute*. Addor, Mary Lou and Tanya Denckla Cobb, Franklin Dukes; Michael Ellerbrock, and L. Steve Smutko. Conflict Resolution Quarterly, Vol. 23, No. 2, Winter 2005.

*Book Review of Hope's Edge: The Next Diet for a Small Planet (by Frances Moore Lappé and Anna Lappé)*, American Gardener, Mar/April 2003, p.54.

*Firescaping is Hot*, Central Virginia Gardening Guide. Summer, 1996, pp 52-57.

*A Model For Agricultural Sustainability*," Common Ground Newsletter, November 1994.

*Real Food for Real People*, Daily News-Record, Skyline Section, April 15, 1992.

### Special Reports

*Virginia Food Security Summit: Final Report Findings and Recommendations*, early August 2007. Contributing editor.

*Governor's Natural Resources Leadership Summit*, September 18-19, 2006. Co-facilitator and report coordinator.

*Waste Solutions Forum*, April 28-29, 2005. Lead facilitator and author.

*Governor's Natural Resources Leadership Summit*, April 10-11, 2003. Lead facilitator and author.

*Reports of the Water and Air Resources Impact Work Groups*, A report for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. With Frank Dukes. November 2002.

*Land Application of Biosolids in Virginia*, An independent research study commissioned by the Virginia Department of Health, November 1997. Principal researcher, with Rich Collins.

*Fluvanna: The Third Heritage Forum on Open Space*, October 2002. Distributed by the Fluvanna Heritage Forum.

*Our Region, Our Vision, Our Decision: A Regional Vision for the Counties and Towns of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahanock*. With Bruce Dotson. Summer 2001.

*Visioning the Future of Virginia's Land Conservation: A Meeting of Virginia Land Conservation Organizations, Thursday, June 14, 2001. Summary Report, June 2001.* Distributed by the Virginia Department of Forestry.

*Thomas Jefferson Venture Heritage Tourism Project: Summary Report, July 2001.* Lead researcher, with Karen Firehock. Distributed by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission.

## **Awards**

Merit Award, Virginia Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, for excellence in training Virginia's leaders to address community conflicts on natural resources and environmental issues (2002).

Urban Forestry Award to Greener Harrisonburg, Shenandoah Soil and Water Conservation Districts (1994).

U.S. Department of Labor Award for Distinguished Achievement, for outstanding service in promoting international standards on trade union rights, and for vital contribution to the continuing review of United States policy toward Poland (1984).

Special Achievement Award, U.S. Department of Labor, cash award (1981).

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Member, Garden Writers Association of America (GWAA), 1990 - present.
- National Roster of Environmental Dispute Resolution and Consensus Building Professionals, 2000 - present.
- Member, Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR), 2001 - present; member of former Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR), 1994 - 2001.
- Volunteer family mediator and mentor, Community Mediation Center-Charlottesville, 1996 - present.
- Board of Directors, Rivanna Conservation Society, 1996 - 2001. Officer, 2000-2001.
- Board of Directors, Virginia Mediation Network, 1992-1994. Officer, 1993-1994.
- Board of Directors, Virginia Urban Forest Council, 1992-1994.