

The VNRLI Vision

Virginia will engage in productive dialogue and collaborative problem solving of natural resource issues important to community sustainability and thus be able to effectively manage, conserve, and protect Virginia's natural resources.

The VNRLI Mission

To develop leaders throughout Virginia who can help groups involved in contentious natural resources issues *move beyond conflict* toward consensus building and collaborative problem solving.

What will you experience?

Listen to graduates of the program...

"... one of the most rewarding and beneficial opportunities that I have experienced... the lessons learned and the network of Fellows will greatly increase my future effectiveness to work towards sound conservation public policy."

- Owner of a natural resource management company

"It will help you become more effective in your work as a leader of environmental programs... I have developed more confidence and knowledge in my efforts to bring people together on particular issues." - Director of regional environmental non-profit

"...an excellent opportunity to become better informed on natural resource issues, work with some great people, and develop valuable skills in facilitation and mediation."

- Regional Forester

"VNRLI has provided me with knowledge and resources that I can take with me to effectively perform my job duties and make sound decisions on various environmental issues."

- City Parks Superintendent

The Institute's Objective Is To Create A Leadership Network of People

- Who are engaged in working with natural resources at the all levels in Virginia;
- Who are drawn from all parts of Virginia and from all sectors of activity – local, state, and federal government, elected officials, industry and private small businesses, academics, civic organizations, nonprofit environmental organizations, and individual citizen activists;
- Who will earn each other's trust while respecting each other's different perspectives;
- Who will be able to call on each other for assistance and ideas; and
- Who will have the leadership skills needed to engage in collaborative problem solving around environmental issues, to move beyond conflict, and to find creative solutions.

The Institute's Action Strategies

A curriculum that challenges people to:

- Gain deeper understanding and appreciation of key **emerging environmental issues** in Virginia;
- Gain understanding of **collaborative processes** that have or haven't succeeded, and opportunities for collaborative problem solving;
- Gain personal skills in **leadership**, group collaboration, and an understanding of different processes that may be used for collaborative problem solving. Leadership development is based on the model of "leaders as principled convenors, facilitators, and stakeholders."

COSTS

The Institute registration fee for 2008-2009 is \$2,300. This fee covers all tuition, all materials and books, meeting rooms, field trip transportation, breaks, and one lunch and one dinner per session. Some registration fee scholarships will be available. Please submit a letter expressing your scholarship need.

Please note that **tuition does NOT include lodging or travel costs and the cost of some meals**. Efforts are made to minimize lodging costs by using retreats and conference facilities where possible, and by arranging for roommates where desired.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for the 2008-2009 VNRLI are due on June 20, 2008. Applications are available on our website at:

<http://www.virginia.edu/ien/vnrli>

If you are interested in learning more about VNRLI, or want to receive an application, please provide us your contact information via mail, phone, or e-mail:

VNRLI
104 Emmet Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903

If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to call (434) 924-6569 or e-mail vnrliv@virginia.edu

The 2008-2009 Virginia NATURAL RESOURCES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

*A Program For All People
Involved With Natural
Resources*



A Partnership Program Of
University of Virginia
Institute for Environmental Negotiation
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Department of Forestry

THE VNRLI PROGRAM

The program consists of **six three-day sessions**. The sessions use a mix of mini-lectures, experiential role-plays and exercises, stakeholder panel discussions about specific environmental “hot” topics and field trips to cover the following core curriculum elements:

- Natural resource issues
- Processes and strategies for conflict resolution and problem solving
- Personal communication, listening, and conflict resolution skills
- Leadership and relationship building
- Cultural awareness and environmental justice

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Certification of completion is contingent upon full attendance and involvement in **all six sessions**. Please check the dates below and if your schedule will not permit you to commit the necessary time, please consider applying in the future.

Session 1, Central Virginia
September 10-12, 2008

Session 2, Tidewater
November 12-14, 2008

Session 3, Richmond
January 7-9, 2009

Session 4, Shenandoah Valley
March 11-13, 2009

Session 5, Southwest Virginia
April 29 - May 1, 2009

Session 6, Charlottesville
June 3-5, 2009

SPECIFIC OUTCOMES FOR FELLOWS ATTENDING THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Upon completion of Institute, Fellows will:

- Be able to assess the nature, sources and dynamics of natural resource conflicts.
- Understand individual conflict management styles, including when each is or is not appropriate.
- Have improved skills in communication, listening, facilitation and conflict resolution.
- Be able to determine the appropriate application of different group processes for conflict resolution, including collaborative problem solving, interest-based negotiation, mediation and consensus building.
- Be able to describe the different roles of natural resource leaders in Virginia and responsibilities associated with the different roles.
- Engage in more informed decision-making that leads to improved management of natural resources in Virginia.



VNRLI Fellows participate in a team-building exercise

WHO CAN APPLY?

Anyone who is involved with, or has a stake in, natural resources in Virginia. Specifically, the program is looking for representation from each of the following sectors:

- **Private Sector:** industries with environmental impacts, businesses involving or relating to environmental issues, private professionals involved in natural resource management, private landowners and managers.
- **Public Sector:** regional governments, elected officials, state and federal resource management agencies.
- **Community and Non-governmental Sector:** civic and environmental organizations, academia, concerned and active citizens.



Fellows talk with panelists after a panel discussion

“This Institute has reinforced the notion that I must be a better listener and communicator... I learned that once people are really communicating, all kinds of ‘thinking out of the box’ can occur.”

- Cooperative Extension Agent

“Best professional development program since the PhD!”

- Virginia Tech Professor

“I recommend it to anyone who wants to grow in their knowledge and passion for Virginia’s natural resources.”

- Founder of a sustainability consulting firm

THE FACULTY AND STAFF

The Faculty Team for the award-winning Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute draws additional speakers from universities and institutions in Virginia, including state and federal government agencies and other organizations involved in natural resource issues.

Tanya Denckla Cobb - Senior Associate at the Institute for Environmental Negotiation at UVA, she is a Virginia certified mediator, mediation mentor, and trainer of mediation. Tanya has mediated the development of onsite septic regulations, transportation issues, facilitated heritage visioning and biosolids issues, and designed public involvement for Forest Legacy, heritage tourism, facility siting, and watershed planning.

Frank Dukes, Ph.D. - Director of the Institute for Environmental Negotiation at UVA, he teaches conflict resolution and collaborative planning at the University and is the author of *Resolving Public Conflict* and *Reaching for Higher Ground*. Frank has mediated transportation issues, water quality/supply issues, recreational trail use conflicts, brownfields and Superfund redevelopment, and a long-term tobacco-public health dialogue.

Mike Ellerbrock, Ph.D. - Professor, Extension Specialist and Director of the Center for Economic Education at VT, he has been teaching environmental economics, environmental ethics and environmental theology for 26 years. Mike participated in the Kellogg Foundation’s Natural Resources Leadership Institute at the University of Kentucky. He served on the Governor’s Advisory Committee on Environmental Education and drafted the final report. Mike has received four major university teaching awards, including the Congressionally-Sponsored USDA National Award for Teaching Excellence for all fields of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Human & Veterinary Sciences.

Mike Foreman - Deputy Director of the Division of Soil and Water at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Mike’s focus is on leadership for natural resources. In his 20 years at the Virginia Department of Forestry, he led Strategic Planning efforts within the Department and has been a trained facilitator since 1987. He serves on many collaborative efforts such as the Farmland Preservation Task Force, Virginia Forestry Water Quality Task Force, Nonpoint Source Advisory Council, and Coastal Zone Management Policy Team. He is a graduate of the Covey Leadership course and Virginia Leadership Institute.

Caroline Wilkinson - Program Manager at the Institute for Environmental Negotiation at UVA, she manages the VNRLI program. As a Master of Urban and Environmental Planning, she brings her understanding of environmental, land use and planning issues to the program. Caroline works with Fellows of the program to ensure that their experience is engaging and rewarding.