

# Meet our Team

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## **Adam Warwick**

### **Stewardship Manager**

"I have been overseeing TNC-NC Southern Blue Ridge stewardship since 2012. Much of my time is devoted to scaling prescribed fire on public lands to restore pine and oak woodlands. We have developed our Fire Management presence through our 25-person 'call-when-needed' crew which has been modeled throughout USA. I am NWCG Type 2 Burn Boss. I also gain satisfaction by dedicating time to helping deliver science to land managers and others interested in conservation. I recently wrote the Fire Manager's Guide to the Southern Blue Ridge Ecozones and Considerations for Fire and Wildlife in the Southern Blue Ridge to further this sort of communication. I have led multiple landscape teams for the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network, and I previously led the Bog Learning Network. Our partnerships with private and government partners to protect bog turtles and rare wetland communities are the cornerstone of our preserve stewardship."



## **Alan Teed**

### **Fire Management Specialist**

"I manage day-to-day operations and provide first-level supervision to the NC Sandhills Burn Crew in support of Longleaf Pine habitat restoration."



## **Carmella Stirrat**

### **Fire Manager**

"I ensure we are following TNC standards and guidelines when using fire as a restoration tool. I am also the co-lead of the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network that covers four states. The SBR FLN works to engage everyone in restoring and maintaining resilient, fire influenced Southern Appalachian oak and pine forests."



## **Denise Bates**

### **Philanthropy Operations Manager**

"The best part of my job is supporting fundraising efforts that protect ecosystems that I love. Most days, you'll find me juggling multiple tasks ranging from prospect research to processing donations to connecting with donors. I'm always on the lookout for ways to improve our internal processes to make things easier for colleagues. I also enjoy conversations about conservation within North Carolina and around the planet!"



## **Eric Soderholm**

### **Coastal Wetlands Restoration Lead**

"I collaborate with TNC's partners to advance restoration of peatlands and forested wetlands on both public and private lands in the Coastal Plain of North Carolina to improve the biodiversity, ecosystem function, resiliency and climate mitigation potential of these incredible natural systems."

## **Erick Rietschier**

### **Sandhills Stewardship Manager**

"My work mostly focuses on restoration projects in the Sandhills and collaborating with partners in the area."





## **Sarah Hecoeks**

### **Wetland Restoration Practitioner**

"I conceptualize, plan, and manage implementation of TNC's wetland and aquatic restoration projects in the lower piedmont, sandhills, and coastal plain of Southeastern NC, including the restoration and monitoring of peatlands, Carolina bays, floodplains, and instream habitats."



## **Genevieve Joseph**

### **Associate Director of Philanthropy**

"I enjoy connecting people who care deeply about conservation with the impactful programs and initiatives of The Nature Conservancy in North Carolina and around the world. My role is to amplify the power of generosity. I listen to understand donors' values and philanthropic goals, present opportunities to give to strategic priorities aligned with their interests, and report back to donors on the tangible outcomes achieved with their support. I am a dedicated partner to people who place conservation and TNC at the top of their philanthropic priorities, offering deeper engagement and building lasting relationships grounded in shared values and common goals."



## **Hervey McIver**

### **Longleaf Pine Protection Director**

"TNC is reknown for conserving land and I am fortunate to be directly involved with that work. I help protect the lands in need of conservation by working with landowners, TNC staff and funding agencies. Led by a shared vision of what should be protected, I seek out opportunities to conserve important natural places and increasingly to buffer and connect such places with lands in need of restoration. It is always a pleasure to meet landowners who share their stories about the specialness of their lands. When agreements are reached to acquire land or conservation easements I marshal the projects along with the help of many other staff until funds are raised and closing occurs."

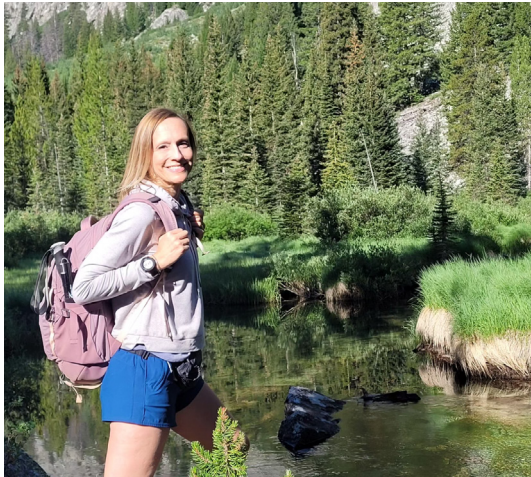


## **Jennifer Lamb**

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### **Conservation Coordinator**

"I support the management and stewardship of preserves and conservation easements across the Southern Blue Ridge of North Carolina. I work in several regional partnerships and also enjoy cultivating landowner relationships, managing contracts, researching and mapping possible land acquisitions, and helping with our call-when-needed fire crew."



## **Jodie LaPoint**

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### **Director of Conservation Planning and Operations**

"My work supports effective operation of conservation programs across North Carolina including conservation and strategic planning, budgeting and finance, conservation information systems, and aspects of land protection and stewardship."



## **Jeff Marcus**

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### **NC Longleaf Applied Scientist**

"My role is to support the longleaf program's protection and habitat management efforts with information, funding, and partnerships. The work includes research and surveys, developing relationships with landowners, securing grants, and facilitating formal and informal partnerships."





## **Justin Boner**

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### **Land Protection Manager**

"I have the honor of coordinating the protection and restoration of the beautiful and ecologically important places that make North Carolina so special. I work with colleagues, partners, and landowners across the state to ensure that these places will forever support the people and wildlife that depend on them."



## **Mike Horak**

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### **Sr Associate Director of Philanthropy**

"I have what I consider is the best job in the NC Chapter. I meet with members from across Western North Carolina and learn about their conservation interests and share with them information about the Conservancy's efforts in North Carolina and beyond. I get to take those who are interested to meet our biologists and land stewards to see and learn more about how the Conservancy is addressing some of the biggest, most complex conservation challenges of our lives. It is a pleasure to work with members on strategies they can use to support TNC's work."



## **Matt Greene**

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### **Sandhills Land Protection Specialist**

"Build upon 25 year legacy of land protection in the Sandhills. Tasked with spending Army dollars (REPI/ACUB) by partnering with willing sellers or conservation minded landowners who wish to protect their land from development in focus area - Fort Liberty, Camp Mackall and Sandhills Game Land. War Eagle!"



## **Margaret Fields**

### **Conservation and Resilience Specialist**

"As GIS Manager I assist the chapter with all things spatial: software, data, maps. My favorite thing is how this role straddles many areas, field work and computer work, scientific analysis and creative communications, technical knowledge and the larger context of how what we do fits in with global conservation goals. Our work can be measured from the scale of a dime-sized Venus flytrap bloom captured in a photo to a longleaf pine savanna mapped by a drone to a controlled burn detected by a satellite. Each scale tells us something different about what's going on in the landscape and it all can be conveyed through GIS"



## **Michelle Ly**

### **Conservation Coordinator**

"I support the Southeast Coastal Plain Office in longleaf pine habitat restoration through easements. I monitor our program, support our land management through controlled burning and stewardship as well as community engagement. I also lead the Fire in the Pines Festival, an educational outreach event dedicated to raising positive awareness around the benefits of fire in our forests."



## **LaDonna Lindgren**

### **Philanthropy Operations Specialist**

"My specialty is philanthropy operations, and I've served the NC Chapter for over 25 years. In my role, I lead our gift processing program, the management of our donor database, and our internal fundraising analysis and reporting."





## **Lauren Goodman**

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### **Conservation Coordinator**

“My work supports management and stewardship of preserves and easements in the Piedmont, as well manage our Statewide hunting program. This includes tasks like grants funding, partnership management, internal and external research management, and maintaining landowner relationships.”



## **Lora Eddy**

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### **Conservation and Resilience Specialist**

“My work is split into 2 roles. I support our office management and stewardship activities at Nags Head Woods Preserve like maintaining our two pollinator gardens as well as our broader restoration and protection work across the A-P region. My resilience work is focused on providing technical assistance to communities to facilitate their use of natural and nature-based strategies to manage their risk to coastal hazards and the impacts of climate change.”



## **Lydie Costes**

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### **Sandhills Conservation Planner (ORISE fellow)**

“My role is split between The Nature Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I support the Sandhills Conservation Partnership to accomplish shared goals through conservation planning, restoration, research, and monitoring efforts. I also run the Sandhills Safe Harbor program. I am proud to support programs that have a history of tremendous success and positive impact for the beautiful and unique ecosystems of the Sandhills.”



## **Pamela Evers**

### **Associate Director, Donor Engagement**

"I'm dedicated to connecting supporters to TNC's mission and our on-the-ground conservation initiatives. To that end, I work across teams to design and implement a range of communications, materials, and programs, including in-person and virtual special events and field trips. I also have the pleasure of leading TNC's Legacy Club program in North Carolina, working with incredible supporters who have made a forward-thinking commitment to nature by including The Nature Conservancy in their estate plans or making a life-income gift."



## **Nancy Sears**

### **Sr Associate Director of Philanthropy**

"I am profoundly grateful to work for The Nature Conservancy, one of the most respected conservation organizations conserving lands and waters around the world to benefit people and nature. Working closely with leadership, staff and donors, I seek to provide a match between donors' passions and TNC's conservation priorities in North Carolina and beyond. As a life-long hiker and outdoor enthusiast, I relish in engaging donors through field trips and other site visits to hear first-hand from our talented scientists and conservation staff about TNC's innovative programs in North Carolina."



## **Rhonda Sturgill**

### **Conservation Coordinator**

"I have the best job! As a TNC Conservation Coordinator, I support land stewardship by multiple fun and exciting ways. Every year I get to explore and report on thousands of acres of the Sandhills preserves and held conservation easements. My job also gives me the opportunity to support longleaf pine habitat restoration as I assist with control burns, lead volunteers in wiregrass seed collection and planting native groundcover, and to assist with fire crew hiring. Lastly, the Sandhills office staff are an outstanding group of people that I am happy to support with administrative assistance."





## **Sophia Torres**

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### **Creative Content Manager**

"As the creative content manager, I show the world the NC Chapter's wonderful work. My favorite part about my job is capturing our conservation work, asking questions, and telling stories. I manage the chapter's social media outlets and keep the website up to date. I also work with the Philanthropy team on donor communication. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or collaboration ideas."



## **Sam Heitzer**

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### **IT Manager**

"My role is to make sure your technology works so you can spend your time on conservation instead of tech issues! I purchase new and upgraded laptops, assist with tickets, help the IT side of office downsizes/relocations, and work on long-term projects such as our move to Teams Phone from 8x8."



## **Shawna Alkon**

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### **Executive Assistant & Trustee Liaison**

"I am the Executive Assistant to the NC State Director (Katherine Skinner), as well as the Trustee Liaison."