

RESUME

ROBERT “BOBBY” WHITESCARVER

120 Trimbles Mill Rd., Swoope, VA 24479

540-280-7134

bobby.whitescarver@gettingmoreontheground.com

www.gettingmoreontheground.com

EXPERIENCE – CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:

PRESIDENT/OWNER - Whitescarver Natural Resources Management, LLC.

Swoope, VA (2011 – present) – I am the sole proprietor of this private environmental consulting business with a mission to restore watersheds, wildlife habitats and delist streams from impaired waters lists. This is accomplished through one-on-one relationship building with farmers and landowners, designing and installing best management practices, conducting workshops, delivering speeches, writing articles, blogs, op-ed pieces and success stories. I assist partners with local, state and federal water quality initiatives which includes writing technical documents and visiting with legislators, executive branch officials and other policy makers.

I manage a website and blog at:

www.gettingmoreontheground.com

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

I have been hired by many organizations to carry out their various water quality missions including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, National Watershed Coalition, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Chesapeake Media Service and Water Words that Work. I have recruited and assisted many landowners in carrying out various cost-share programs on their land to exclude livestock from streams, improve soil health and wildlife habitats.

FARMER – Hoffman Farms

Swoope, VA (2004 – present) – I assist with the day-to-day decisions and tasks on a commercial cow/calf operation with over 135 mature cows and 25 heifers. Rotational grazing, livestock exclusion, riparian forest buffers and wildlife management are some of the stewardship practices we implement and manage on the farm. We manage riparian buffers on a half mile of Middle River and many un-named tributaries.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

We raise a hormone-free, antibiotic-free calf crop with less than 4% mortality and produce clean water and wildlife habitat. The water leaving our farm is cleaner than when it enters the farm.

My wife and I were chosen by the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts as “Soil Health

Champions.”

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, James Madison University, (2009 – present)

I teach the Natural Resources Management course in the College of Integrated Science and Engineering (ISAT 424).

COMMUNICATIONS:

PUBLIC SPEAKING:

I have given hundreds of speeches at the local and regional levels throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed and have spoken on a multi - state and national level on several occasions. For a sample of my public speaking visit this website:

<https://www.gettingmoreontheground.com/speaking/>

PUBLISHED ARTICLES:

I have written hundreds of articles for newspapers, newsletters, blogs, and technical journals and have received five “Excellence in Craft” awards from the Virginia Outdoor Writers Association.

I am published in many outlets throughout the country including *USA Today*, *Bay Journal*, *Virginia Wildlife*, *Virginia Cattleman*, and the *News Leader*.

Recently published articles can be found at:

<https://www.gettingmoreontheground.com/publications/>

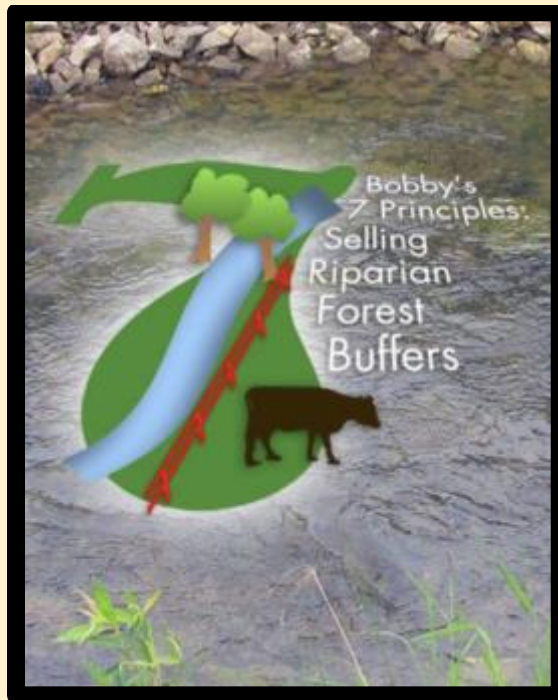
BLOG:

My blog was awarded “First Place – Outstanding Blog” by the Virginia Outdoor Writers Association in 2016. It can be found at:

<https://www.gettingmoreontheground.com/blog/>

E BOOK:

I wrote a book, Bobby's Seven Principles: Selling Riparian Forest Buffers. It was published as an e-book and is free. It's about how to sell riparian buffers to farmers.



EXPERIENCE – PAST EMPLOYMENT

I retired from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2011. Below is a list of the various positions I held during my thirty-two-year professional career in natural resource management.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST – USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

Verona, VA (2001 – 2011) – This first line supervisor position provided leadership in the Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District to carry out U.S. Farm Bill

programs and assist the District in carrying out its Strategic Plan. Our field office team planned, designed and implemented soil and water conservation practices on private land to improve soil and water quality, improve wildlife habitat and to help the community move towards more sustainable living.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Our field team worked with farmers and landowners to improve streams on their land by excluding livestock from the riparian areas and developing alternate watering systems for their livestock. I provided the leadership in the Headwaters District to successfully establish 3,083 acres of riparian forest buffers protecting over 360 miles of stream banks.

We established over 400 acres of native prairie thus eradicating invasive plants and creating wildlife corridors for declining species such as the Northern Bobwhite, and Loggerhead Shrike.

We developed and implemented outreach strategies each year to recruit participants to install soil and water conservation practices on their farms. Our office consistently obligated over \$1 million each year of U.S. Farm Bill, state and private funds to carry out these projects.

We recruited applicants for Virginia's first agricultural "green payment" program called the Conservation Security Program (CSP). This program rewards farmers for producing cleaner water, cleaner air, sequestering carbon, improving soil quality and creating wildlife habitat. This was carried out in the South Fork of the Shenandoah Watershed where we developed 36 CSP contracts, 18 of which are operating at the highest degree of conservation farming.

I secured the funding for the first Grassland Reserve Program permanent easement in Virginia. This easement keeps forever, the grassland values of farmland in the valley. This was the first “purchase of development rights” easement in Augusta County.

I worked with local sponsors, federal and state officials and legislators to approve the “South River Watershed Dam Rehabilitation Plan”. This multi-million-dollar plan upgrades aging flood control dams to comply with current dam safety laws.

Our field team worked with local units of governments to implement emergency stream work during the aftermath of Hurricanes Isabel and Fran using funds from the USDA’s Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

I helped organize area partners to establish the Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development Council. The Council’s mission is to support rural sustainability in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. I wrote the grant to provide their initial funding.

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR, Virginia Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR):

Staunton, VA. (1999 – 2001) During this statewide assignment my responsibilities included developing technical procedures, training field personnel throughout Virginia and laying out riparian forest buffers for USDA’s Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

I assisted field office personnel in laying out 1,385.6 acres of

riparian forest buffers throughout Virginia. These buffers protect 130.6 miles of stream banks from livestock, create wildlife habitat and improve water quality.

NATURAL RESOURCES TEAM LEADER – USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Verona, VA. (1997 - 1999) - Provided leadership for carrying out federal, state and local natural resource conservation programs in an area covering over 1.2 million acres within the Headwaters, Mountain and Natural Bridge Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Administered and implemented 13 cost-share programs with budgets in excess of \$1.5 million. Provided leadership for 15 USDA and SWCD employees. Provided guidance to SWCD boards and local units of government. Directed the USDA Earth Team Volunteer Program within the Service Unit which had 19 volunteers.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Provided leadership to the Headwaters SWCD which was the first and only District in the Commonwealth to reach its Chesapeake Bay nutrient reduction goal for the year 2000.

Recruited, planned, designed and contracted 31 miles of riparian forest buffers through the USDA Conservation Reserve Program.

Recruited and helped secure six riparian easements on 59.9 acres of land in the Headwaters SWCD with the Valley Conservation Council, a private land trust.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST - USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Verona, VA (1986 - 1997) - Responsible for carrying out federal, state and local conservation programs in the Headwaters SWCD. Responsible for the development and implementation of Conservation Farm Plans on over 13,000 acres of highly erodible cropland that reduced soil erosion by 170,000 tons of soil per year. Responsible for the identification and protection of over 6,000 acres of wetlands. Advised and made recommendations to the SWCD Board of Directors. Managed the Verona Field Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Provided leadership and wrote up the proposal to successfully fund the “Upper Potomac Fecal Coliform Reduction Project” which was one of the first Environmental Quality Incentives Program “Priority Areas” in Virginia.

Provided leadership that led to the first SWCD riparian easement in the Commonwealth.

Wrote for and received the largest single grant from the Chesapeake Bay License Plate Grant Program for Conservation Districts in 1995.

Designed, restored and contracted the first USDA Wetland Reserve Program contract in Virginia.

Designed and laid out over 3,500 acres of contour strip cropping systems.

Led and coordinated the first USDA bio-engineering practices on stream banks in the Shenandoah Valley.

Led and coordinated USDA’s National Bio-engineering School in 1995.

Recruited and trained Earth Team Volunteers to conduct

water quality monitoring on 113 streams in Augusta County.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST – USDA, Soil Conservation Service:

Warrenton, VA (1984 - 1986) - Duties and responsibilities similar to above. Provided technical assistance to the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District. Reviewed and inspected Erosion and Sediment Control Plans.

PROJECT COORDINATOR – Piedmont Bright Leaf Erosion Control Project: Joint employee of the USDA Soil Conservation Service and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service:

Chase City, VA. (1982- 1984) - Responsible for developing federal, state, local and private programs in a 14-county area in Southside Virginia to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. Met with officials at all levels of government to solicit financial and program support. As a result of this program soil erosion on cropland was reduced by 50%.

SOIL CONSERVATIONIST, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, 1980 - 1982, Warrenton VA.

EXTENSION AGENT, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service: 1979 - 1980, Roanoke and Bedford Counties.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Virginia Tech Agronomy Department: 1979, Blacksburg, VA.

EXPERIENCE - VOLUNTEER:

BOARD MEMBER, Virginia League of Conservation Voters, 2015 – present

BOARD MEMBER, The Downstream Project, 2014 - present

STREAM MONITOR, Friends of Middle River 2015 – present.

TRAINER: “Effective Presentation and Instruction”, for NRCS and SWCD personnel.

RESEARCH COORDINATOR: Assisted the South River Science Team researchers from the College of William and Mary in a long-term study of the effects of mercury in birds from 2005 – 2009.

CHAIRMAN (and founding board member), Valley Conservation Council: - a private land trust, (1998 - 2000 and 1993 - 1995): This organization is dedicated to the preservation of the rural and historical heritage of the Valley of Virginia. This involves securing "open-space" easements, education, fund raising, budgeting, personnel and projects.

CHAIRMAN: Citizens Advisory Committee for Agricultural and Forestal Districts, City of Staunton, Virginia (1997 - 2001).

EAGLE SCOUT ADVISOR: Boy Scouts of America, Troop 30, Staunton, Va. 1993 - 2001.

CHAIRMAN: Open Space Conservation Committee: City of Staunton, 1995. This committee successfully formulated a plan to preserve the farms and riparian corridors of the City. Solutions included the creation of Agricultural and Forestal Districts and the Valley's first voluntary riparian corridor zoning overlay.

EDUCATION/TRAINING/CERTIFICATES:

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA), James Madison University: May 1991

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, AGRONOMY, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, March 1979.

CERTIFIED PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER, Virginia
Department of Forestry, Certificate # 862

CERTIFIED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNER,
Commonwealth of Virginia, Certificate # 368

CERTIFIED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNER,
Commonwealth of Virginia, Certificate # 368

CERTIFIED CONSERVATION PLANNER – LEVEL III,
USDA/NRCS, 10/2008

**GRADUATE, NORTHEAST LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation
Service: 1988.

**COMPANY COMMANDER, VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF
CADETS**, 1978

AWARDS / EXTRA CURRICULA:

NATIONAL SOIL HEALTH CHAMPION, National
Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 2017

WATERSHED CHAMPION AWARD, Alliance for the
Chesapeake Bay, 2016

LEADERSHIP AWARD, Choose Clean Water Coalition, 2014

OUTSTANDING EARTH TEAM EMPLOYEE, 2009, Virginia
NRCS

EXEMPLARY ASSISTANCE BY AN INDIVIDUAL, Virginia
Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils,
2007

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR, Chesapeake Bay
Foundation, 2002

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR: Southeast Region,
USDA Earth Team, 1998

VA EARTH TEAM AWARD for creative and innovative use of
volunteer resources, 1995

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR, USDA: Virginia Earth
Team, 1993

HONOR AWARD, Virginia Chapter, Soil and Water
Conservation Society of America, 1988

OUTSTANDING SELF DEVELOPMENT AWARD, USDA,
1988

COLLEGE CLASS OFFICER, Virginia Tech, 1978

GREGORY GUARD DRILL SERGEANT, Honor Military
Society, 1977

RECIPIENT, JOHN E. HILL MEMORIAL AWARD, Virginia
Tech Corps of Cadets: 1976

EAGLE SCOUT, Boy Scouts of America: 1970

SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS:

I was a member of two Ornithology teams that discovered the first records in Augusta County for nesting Broad Wing Hawks, *Buteo platypterus*, and Virginia Rails, *Rallus limicola*.