

## Potomac Valley Audubon Society

### 2021 PVAS Board of Directors Candidates Biographies

**Ginger Hankins, Vice-President:** After a career as a special education coordinator for Jefferson County schools, in retirement Ginger rediscovered her passion for political activism. Originally a political science major, this was her first love. Her most recent experience was as field director for Cathy Kunkel's congressional campaign. She currently fills her time as an Airbnb host while also very involved in both Berkeley and Jefferson county chapters of NAACP. She and her husband Joe enjoy their empty nest, but are looking forward to a year of post-pandemic family reunions.

**Steve Paradis, Treasurer:** Steve has been a resident of Bolivar since moving to the eastern panhandle in 2006 to work for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in Harpers Ferry where he was responsible for managing the internal workings of the organization as chief operating officer. An alumnus of M.I.T. and Stanford University, Steve has extensive experience in operations and manufacturing and provides clients with solutions to systems and operational efficiency challenges. His focus has been on financing and organizational management of early stage ventures in energy and water. He was introduced to Harpers Ferry as part of an Appalachian Trail thru-hike in the early 1990's and now enjoys its natural beauty with his life partner who is a Master Naturalist and enthusiastic birder. Steve has served as the treasurer for PVAS since 2018. He looks forward to continuing to bring a business acumen and a love for nature and the outdoors to the board.

**Dana Fogle, At-large Member:** Dana is a CPA and owns her own accounting firm in Shepherdstown. She has lived in the Eastern Panhandle since 2008 with her husband and two children. In her free time she enjoys running, yoga, and gardening. Inspired by her children's interest in monarch caterpillars, her family installed a Monarch Waystation in their backyard. She is a huge animal lover and shares her home with four rescues, two cats and two dogs. In the community Dana has been involved with Women Investing in Shepherd, The Children's Tree House, the Jefferson Arts Council, and the Historic Shepherdstown Commission.

**Melissa Gonzalez, At-large Member:** Melissa has ten years of experience in the communications field, mostly with the public sector, specifically working for federal agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the National Institutes of Health. In both agencies she had both digital media production and public affairs roles. She is passionate about using the power of integrated marketing communications to protect wildlife and natural resources. She is a public servant with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where she develops communication strategies and visual productions supporting both the agency and the National Conservation Training Center's missions. Raised in a rainforest, ten minutes away from the beach on the Caribbean Island of Puerto Rico, Melissa had the opportunity to study and complete her bachelor's degree in TV and Radio Communications, as well as her Master's degree, specializing in advertising, from the University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Sacred Heart respectively.

**Peter L. Mulford, At-large Member:** Peter grew up in Rochester, NY and is a graduate of The University of Vermont (AB, Political Science and Psychology) and Cornell University (MBA, Sloan Program in Healthcare Administration). He served as a U.S. Army Medevac Pilot during the Vietnam War. He is a retired Healthcare Administrator, and served as CEO of 3 community hospital systems. He was CEO of the City Hospital, Gateway Regional Healthcare System in Martinsburg from 1985-1999. He and his wife Betty returned to Martinsburg in 2012 when he came out of retirement to become CEO of the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle. Now 'fully retired', he continues as an adjunct lecturer at Shepherd University in the healthcare concentration of the graduate MBA program. "Pete" is on the Board of CCAP/Loaves and Fishes, is the

Potomac District Chair of the Shenandoah Area Boy Scout Council, and is a part-time volunteer for Meals on Wheels. He has been a life-long member of Rotary International, is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, and serves as the Foundation Committee Chair of the Martinsburg Rotary Club. He is an active supporter of the Sierra Club, several environmental, youth and veteran organizations, and Hedges Chapel. He is currently participating in the WV Master Naturalist training program.

**Patti Mulkeen-Corley, At-large Member:** Patti is a retired special education teacher who lives outside Charles Town with her husband, Tom. She volunteers at Cool Spring Preserve, and has been on the Land/Facilities Committee. She is a past board member of the Jefferson County League of Women Voters, which is active in land use and environmental advocacy issues. Patti and Tom are also longtime members of the WV Rivers Coalition. She is a beekeeper, with a special interest in observing the interaction with the bees and the environment.

**Mary Lynn Robinson, At-large Member:** Mary Lynn has been a member of PVAS and a certified Master Naturalist since 2013. She served on the Master Naturalist Coordinating Committee and was class facilitator for four years. She has taught watershed classes for grade four in Morgan County, WV and grades five and eleven in Paw Paw, WV as well as several classes for kindergarteners. Her love for the natural world began as a young child spending many weekends and most summers at a family cabin in the Jefferson National Forest in Virginia with a fireplace for heat and an outhouse up the hill. Mary Lynn is a retired school counselor with a B.A. from St. Andrews University in Sociology and Anthropology and a M.A. from Appalachian State University in Counseling and Student Personnel. She lives in Morgan County, W.V. with her husband Larry, a dog and two cats. Spending time with family, walks in the woods, volunteering, cooking, performing arts, birding and continuous learning are all things she enjoys.

**Rod Snyder, At-large Member:** Rod serves as president of Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, a nonprofit focused on defining, measuring and advancing the sustainability of commodity crop production in the United States. Prior to this role, Rod held positions as Public Policy Director for the National Corn Growers Association and Government Affairs Leader for CropLife America. He is particularly recognized for his work at the intersection of agricultural and environmental issues. In 2016, Rod was a candidate for the West Virginia House of Delegates in the 67th district and remains active with numerous community groups in the Eastern Panhandle. He resides on his family's farm in Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia.

**Keith Unger, At-large Member:** Keith Unger is currently Vice President and Trust Officer with City National Bank. Keith graduated Cum Laude from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. He attended Cannon Trust School, is a graduate of the National Graduate Trust School at Northwestern University, and holds the Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA) designation. He has over 30 years of Trust and Banking experience. He is a member and past president of the Tri-State Estate Planning Council, and serves on the Board of Governors for the Blue Ridge Community and Technical College and the Board of Directors for the Morgan Arts Council. Keith is an avid mountain biker and is enjoying the new bike trails at Cacapon State Park. He lives on a farm in Berkeley Springs with his wife Constance.