

Washington Youth Summit on the Environment

W Y S E 2 0 1 5

Peyton Chambers

George Mason University

- Fairfax, Virginia
- Second largest residential university in VA
- More than 20,000 undergraduate students
- Following NASA, Mason hosts the most powerful low-light telescope on the East Coast
- Offers over 60 academic study abroad programs, with one on every continent including Antarctica

Washington Youth Summit on the Environment at George Mason University

Hosting hundreds of delegates since 2010, WYSE has educated and benefitted every one with its internationally and nationally recognized speakers, distinguished faculty, and unforgettable opportunities. The weeklong program engages aspiring environmentalists and student leaders in the world of fast-paced environmental and conservation work, preparing them for after college.

WYSE MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Washington Youth Summit on the Environment is to provide inspiring and dynamic leadership experience which identifies and examines the major issue and innovations currently facing our environment."

Day One: Setting the Stage

Purple Group

FA: Gary Swick JFA: Lauren Slusher

In our group was 23 kids from across the country.



Day One: Lisa Palmer

- Independent journalist and a fellow for socio-environmental understanding at the National Science Foundation-funded National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC)
- Contributes to a daily, 90-second public radio show called Climate Connections
- Currently writing a book- Hot, Hungry, Planet
- Blog www.hothungryplanet.com

Day One

- being solution oriented instead of focusing on problems
- find things wrong in your community and try something simple to fix it

Day One: Lisa Palmer

- Real problems- CONSERVATION, CARNIVORES, HUMANS, ENGINEERS
- Getting real about environmental change

Day Two: Conservation and the Animal World at The National Zoo

Gina McCarthy: Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- Previously, she was the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Health. During those 30 years as commissioner, she worked at both the state and local levels on critical environmental issues and helped direct policies on economic growth, energy, transportation and the environment.

Day Two: Gina McCarthy

CLIMATE CHANGE

“If you care about the water, this matters”

- Talked with Chinese officials on plans to reduce carbon pollution

Day Two: Gina McCarthy

CHESAPEAKE BAY

“Awful lot of people=awful lot of pollution”

- Under the clean water act:

The clean water rule

is making sure what needs to
be protected is being protected

- 64,000 mi., running through 6 states & D.C.

Day Two: Gina McCarthy

CHESAPEAKE BAY

“Have to be cognisant of the sciences we know before we know.”

“We’re going to have to keep working on those communities that don’t have good air conditions and adequate water conditions”

“We need to protect this world we live in; not just for our families, but for future generations.”

Day Two: Gina McCarthy

Helping the Environment

- Difficulty of communicating, but a necessity of it.
- Save the wetlands
- Create green infrastructures
 - “In the end, nature is better at this than we are.”
 - “In order to help, we need to step up our game.”

Day Two: Breakout Sessions

Endocrinology & Conservation with elephants- Natalia A. Prado-Oviedo, M.S., Doctoral Research Fellow

- Her doctoral dissertation, “Hyperprolactinemia and Ovarian Acyclicity in captive African Elephants”, aims to understand a health and reproductive disorder (chronically elevated prolactin concentrations) affecting a large portion of female African elephants in North American Zoos.

Day Three: Small Group Field Visits

Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

- **plays role in global efforts to understand and conserve species and train future conservationists**

Paul Marinari- senior curator of animal operations

Ricardo Stanoss, DVM- Academic Program Coordinator in charge of program development at the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation

Joe Kolowski, PhD- doing research on mammalian ecology in the human landscape and the investigation and mitigation of human-wildlife conflict. Develops new courses for SCBI

Casey Bata- cheetah keeper at SCBI

Joe Kolowski

- animal research on large mammals & their behaviors to humans

Q- “How did you get where you are today?”

- studied abroad in Kenya for wildlife management
- took 6 years of research on hyenas & how they interact to get PhD
- camera project in Amazon on oil & gas effects on ocelots & jaguars

Q-”What do you feel the future of conservation holds?”

- “The value of conservation has to be there for success.”

Casey Bata

- conservation with special interest in work with rescued and endangered animals

Q- “How did you get to where you are today?”

- worked with a vet- didn’t like it
- googled ‘careers with animals’
- was chosen to work with cheetahs at SCBI every monday, which turned into full-time
- “Keep options open.”

Q- “What do you feel the future of conservation holds?”

- we need critical thinking & social skills

Paul Marinari

- oversees 20+ species @ SCBI, teaches, and works with federal agencies with conservation

Q- “How did you get where you are today?”

- went to Alaska for college
- did project on detectability of black footed ferrets
- “Don’t let anyone change your mind, because you can do what you want down the road.”

Q- “What do you feel the future of conservation holds?”

- “We are basically at war with ourselves.”
- “Our species are the problem, but we are the solution.”

Ricardo Stanoss

- interest is in humans and human behavior

Q- “How did you get where you are today?”

- always cared for animals
- volunteered at Miami Zoo
- “to save any animal, you need help from experts on that animal; we need more human experts
- trains nontraditional conservationists

Q- “What do you feel the future of conservation holds?”

- “We know the hand that causes damage is the hand that can help.”
- “I know I am going to spend the rest of my professional career fixing this, and I know you are following me.”

Day Three: Simulation Activity- The Chesapeake Bay Blueprint: The Legal Dispute

The Chesapeake Bay Blueprint: The EPA, along with help from the states, has the power to set science-based pollution limits (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay & require remedial actions to improve the water quality

- **The American Farm Bureau Federation & the PA Farm Bureau, joined by 7 other groups, filed a complaint in federal court to get rid of the limits.**

TMDL exceeded EPA's authority TMDLs based on faulty science

**→ Public did not have sufficient time → to take part in the comment
→ process**

Day Four: Simulation Panel Discussion- Cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay

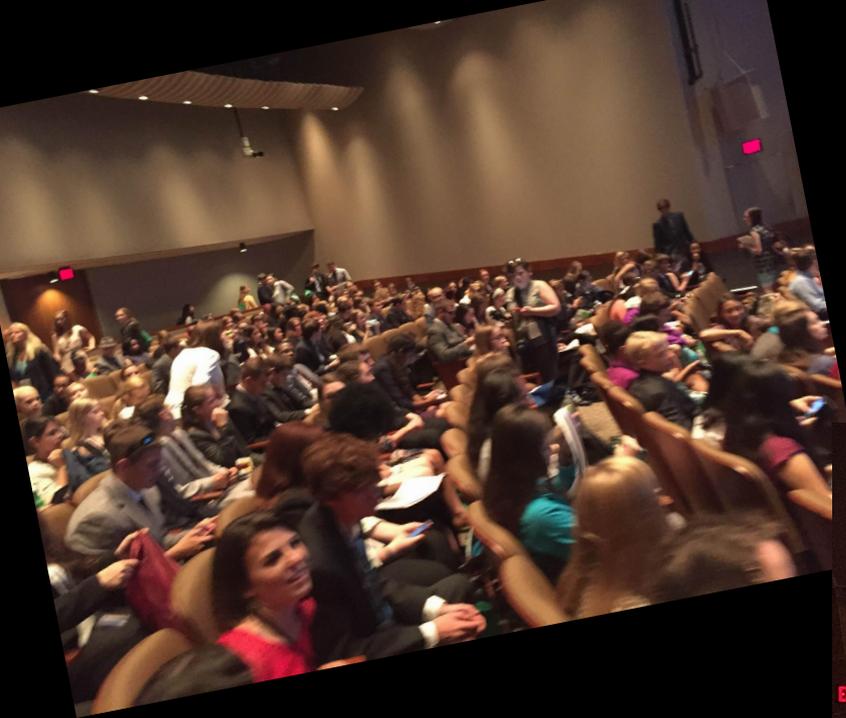
Panel:

- Tim Wheeler (Moderator): Environmental Reporter, The Baltimore Sun
- Jeff Corbin: Senior Advisor for the Chesapeake Bay & Anacostia River, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Charles MacLeod: Funk & Bolton, P.A. & General Counsel, Clean Chesapeake Coalition
- Don Parrish: Senior Director, Regulatory Relations- American Farm Bureau Federation
- Peggy Sanner: Virginia Assistant and Senior Attorney for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Day Four: Exploring and Understanding the Environment

National Geographic World Headquarters

- **Genographic project**
- **Big Cat Initiative**
- **Grants**
 - **Young Explorer's Grant: 18-25 to apply. Up to \$5,000.**
- **Critter Cam**
 - **allows people to see things you can't see on a daily basis. 75 species.**



Day Four: Forrest Pritchard

Full-time farmer at his farm, Smith Meadows. Author of “Gaining Ground”.

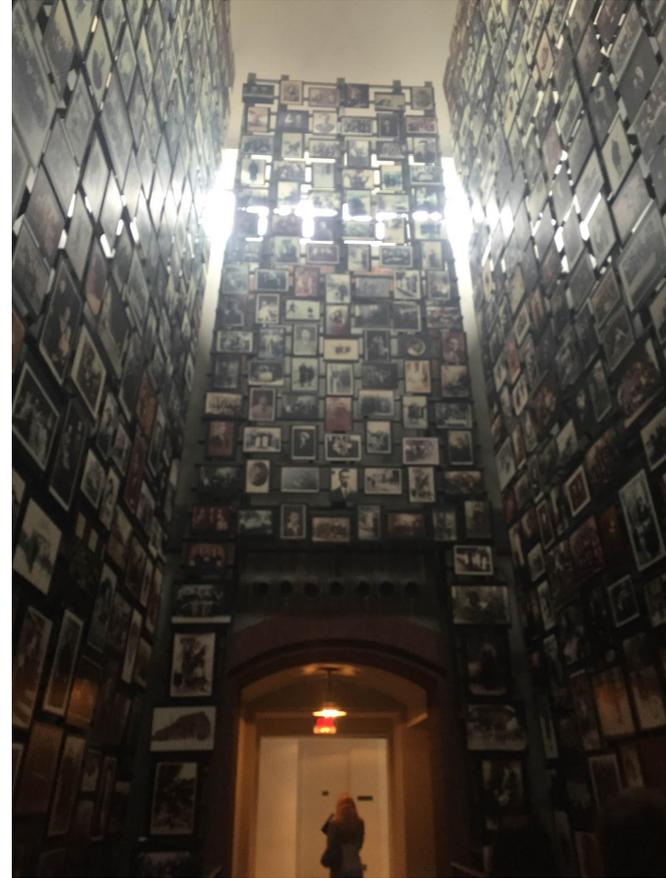
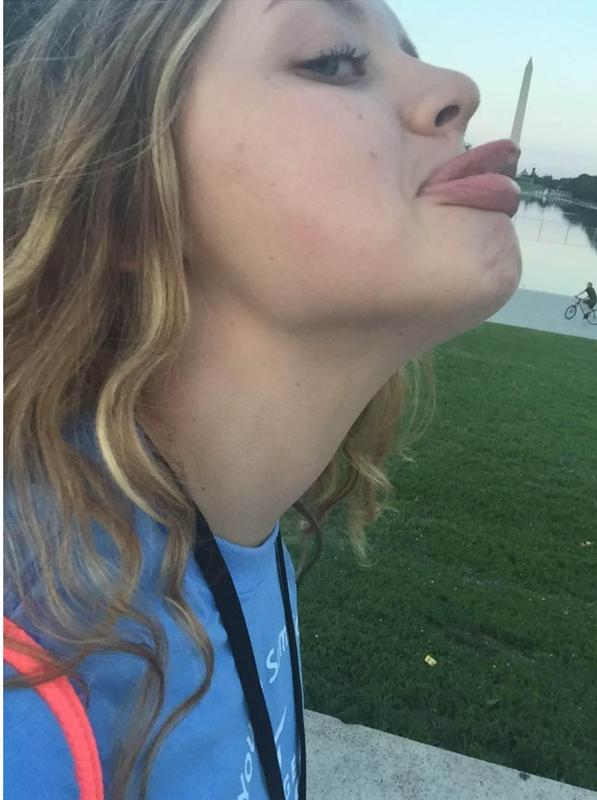
“I farm grass”

- **farmers really struggle**
- **5%-8% people farm**
- **“It’s not us, it’s not about the money, it’s about providing for everyone and keeping people happy.”**

Day Four: Jose Aguayo- Analyst, Environmental Working Group

- **effort>intelligence**
- **“You’ll never have more money than the polluters and big companies.”**
- **the law is full of stumbling blocks & technicalities**
- **knowledge by itself has no power**
- **“I encourage you- gain knowledge; Gain expertise. But always know that they are a means to an end. They are the tools we use to fight in justice, and as such, move people to join our fight, and together, win it.”**
- **New York said no to fracking: people knew science behind fracking. They came together, and said no.**

Day Five: A Day in the Capital



Day Six: Goodbye WYSE 2015



“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” - The Lorax

