

# Corpsmember Development Day

June 18, 2020

## Our Presenters

### About The Corps Network's Staff

[Head to our website](#) to read about presenters from The Corps Network.

- Lashauntya Moore, Member Services Associate
  - Bobby Tillett, Member Services Manager
  - Sydney Dobson, Communications Assistant
  - Mary Ellen Sprenkel, President & CEO
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### *Presenters listed in order of appearance*

#### **Leslie Weldon**

*Deputy Chief, USDA Forest Service*

Leslie Weldon has served as the Deputy Chief for National Forest System with the USDA Forest Service since 2011. In this role, she is the lead executive responsible for natural resource policy, oversight and program management of the 193 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands. Throughout her 35-year career with the Forest Service, Leslie has served in positions at every level of the organization, from summer hire monitoring seedlings, fighting forest fires, and surveying spotted owls on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington to Regional Forester for the Northern Region in Northern Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota. Leslie earned her Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from Virginia Tech. She and her husband, Michael Weldon, are the proud parents of adult twin sons – Joseph and Kevin.

#### **Sylvia Staples**

*Regional Recruiter, USDA Forest Service*

HR and Talent Acquisition Specialist and Motivational Speaker born and raised in the country parts of Alabama. I am passionate about helping others tap into a better version of themselves to create the space to expand professionally, physically, and mentally.

Servicing the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service (13 states including Puerto Rico) apart of a three-person Regional Recruitment Team. Based in Atlanta, GA traveling all over to recruit top talent with the passion to serve the people. I conduct workshops and presentations on USAJOBS, Federal Resumes, and understanding Federal Hiring Processes. I also provide on-on-one and group career counseling and professional development training. I serve as a Program Manager for Regional Internship Programs. I assist with developing strategies to recruit, train, and retain the next generation of leaders.

Previously a Forester for Silviculture in London, Kentucky. District Forester managing Timber Stand Improvement Program. Overseeing program area work, budget, and targets. Administered Silvicultural contracts working with contractors as Contracting Officer Representative. Wildland Firefighter supporting local and national wildfires across the United States serving on 20-person hand crew, fire engine, and logistics.

Founder of Young Motivated Girl in Roanoke, Alabama, an organization established to provide support to young adult women through service, sisterhood, and education.

Mentorship, Life Coaching, Team Building, Service to community, Societal and Economic Awareness, Motivational Speaker for Young Adult Programs and Women Empowerment.

## **Jeff DeQuattro**

*Director of Restoration & GulfCorps Program Director, The Nature Conservancy (Gulf of Mexico)*

Jeff DeQuattro has worked for The Nature Conservancy since September 2009, and currently serves as the Director of Restoration for TNC's Gulf of Mexico Program. While at The Nature Conservancy, Jeff has worked on over 100 coastal restoration projects, including some that have engaged hundreds of volunteers. Jeff has also led the creation of collaborative agreements and pre-qualification of engineering and consulting firms, which have led to efficiencies in contracting on large projects. This has provided the firms more experience and a better understanding of natural, or green infrastructure as options they are now offering their clients.

In 2015, Jeff worked with The Corps Network (TCN) to design and manage the first pilot conservation corps, capacity building programs that would eventually lead to the award of a \$7 million RESTORE Act Grant administered by NOAA. This grant created and operates the GulfCorps Program. Jeff serves as the Program Director for GulfCorps. His leadership and commitment have been instrumental in the success of this regional program which serves Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. GulfCorps has accomplished conservation and restoration work on over 10,000 acres across the Gulf States by planning over 140 projects for nearly 300 members in 2 ½ years. Jeff, The Nature Conservancy, the GulfCorps partners, including The Corps Network are hopeful GulfCorps will be funded for an additional 4 years in 2021.

**Amtchat M. Edwards**

*Education Specialist, USDA Forest Service*

Mr. Edwards is an Education Specialist for the USDA Forest Service. Amtchat works in Conservation Education, has a degree in Rehabilitation Services and over 20 years of environmental education experience with grades K-12, their educators, and the public. He works to blend entertainment, education and calls-to-action; serving to deepen people's connection to nature and to each other. When you see him in the real world, be sure to ask Amtchat about his pet forest, or any of the other adventures of being a land managing city dad.

**Tate Thriffiley**

*National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator at Chickasawhay and De Soto Ranger Districts, USDA Forest Service*

Tate Thriffiley has worked with the US Forest Service for 18 years in a variety of roles. Currently, he is the National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator at Chickasawhay and De Soto Ranger Districts, National Forests in Mississippi. His career with the USFS began with him serving as an Ecologist on De Soto Ranger District – designing and implementing ecosystem restoration projects and lots of outreach and education. This is where Tate began his relationship with young people working in conservation corps. He was instrumental in the development and implementation of GulfCorps crews working in the forest. With US Forest Service, he served as a prescribed fire crew member, wildland fire fighter, resource advisor for wildfires, and burned area emergency response coordinator for National Forests in Mississippi. He helped coordinate these trainings and provide this valuable information to GulfCorps Members, as well. Prior to working for USFS, Tate worked as an Environmental Officer and NEPA Coordinator for MS Army National Guard and for the University of Southern Mississippi on field studies for vegetation and land use monitoring.

In his free time, Tate enjoys time in nature, yoga, tai chi, chi-gong, meditation, walking, hiking and bicycling. In fact, he is a Yoga Instructor and the founder of Spirit Wolf Wholeness. A fun fact about Tate – he is a Bass Guitarist and Vocalist for a band that performs and sings about natural and cultural resources. His band has performed at more than 150 shows across the United States.

Tate has been the recipient of many awards for his hard work, commitment and dedication to his field. In 2008, Tate was named Conservation Educator of the Year by Mississippi Wildlife Federation and in 2019, Tate received the national award presented by The Corps Network, 21st Century Conservation Corps Champion of the Year.

**Michelle Doerr**

*Wildlife Biologist, Anavah Consulting, LLC*

Michelle Doerr is a wildlife biologist with a Master's in Wildlife Management from the University of Missouri. She worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in several capacities dealing with human-wildlife interactions. After working for the archery industry for more than ten years, she started Anavah Consulting LLC, a private consulting business to improve human-human, human-wildlife, and human-landscape connections. Understanding these connections requires us to understand ourselves first to build better relationships. She is a graduate of the National Conservation Leadership Institute, an elite program for conservation leaders. She obtained several certificates including Executive Leadership from Cornell University, Advanced Adlerian Psychology from Phoenix Process Consultants and in wellness coaching from Adler Graduate School. Adlerian principles and ecological principles combined are the heart of her purpose; to help self and others value all life on Earth.