BIOGRAPHY OF EDWARD E. CLARK, JR.

Background

For more than 45 years, Ed Clark has been a national and international leader in the field of wildlife conservation, environmental protection, and nonprofit management. His issue involvement has ranged from wilderness designation and public land management to pesticide regulation, invasive species control, and endangered species protection. He has also been active in combating the illegal trafficking of wildlife, both in the U.S. and internationally.

Raised in Flint Hill, Virginia, in beautiful Rappahannock County, Ed developed his lifelong love affair with wildlife and nature at an early age. Ed received a BA in History and Political Science from Bridgewater College He did graduate work in educational administration at James Madison University and University of Virginia. His professional training includes environmental mediation, organization management, and strategic planning.

Conservation Career

In 1978, after five years as a teacher at the Virginia School for the Deaf, Ed launched his professional conservation career as a community organizer and conservation advocate. Among his early conservation leadership positions, Ed was:

- **President of the Virginia Wilderness Committee** (1978 to 84), where he led the effort to protect tens of thousands of acres of Virginia's National Forest Wilderness Areas as statutory wilderness.

- **Virginia Coordinator of the Alaska Coalition –** the nationwide coalition of conservation, environmental, and Native American advocacy groups that achieved success in the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the largest land protection legislation ever passed by Congress.

- **First Executive Director of the Conservation Council of Virginia Foundation, (what is now known as the Virginia Conservation Network** (VCN), Richmond, VA (1979-80)

- **Assistant Director of the Environmental Task Force**, helped establish this national organization that provided training and support to grassroots conservation organizations nationwide, Washington DC (1980-82)

- **Independent leadership training and organizational development consultant** for conservation and non-profit groups at the regional, national and international level. Ed has trained and consulted with public and private agencies, institutions, and non-profit organizations across the U.S.and in 22 countries throughout Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. His areas of expertise include leadership development, strategic planning, volunteer management, social engagement, and fundraising. Ed's clients have included Fortune 500 companies, international scientific organizations, state and national governments, and community service and conservation organizations at all levels. (1982- present)

Wildlife Center of Virginia

- In November1982, Ed co-founded and became President of the **Wildlife Center of Virginia**. Under his leadership, the Wildlife Center has become the world's leading teaching and research hospital for wildlife and conservation medicine. The Wildlife Center's integrated conservation medicine and environmental education programs have become prototypes for wildlife conservation organizations

worldwide. At its state-of-the-art wildlife hospital in Waynesboro, Virginia, the Center has trained more than 1,000 veterinary students and professionals from every veterinary school in the United States and Canada, as well as students and professionals from more than 40 countries. Since its founding in 1982, the Center has provided care to nearly 100,000 wild animals.

- From its earliest days, the Wildlife Center has maintained a close working relationship with state and federal wildlife agencies, including the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (formerly the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This involvement has included support for legislative and regulatory initiatives, law enforcement investigations and forensics, expert testimony in criminal prosecutions, and public education messaging. Ed also worked very closely with agency personnel on the original drafting of permit conditions for wildlife rehabilitation at both the state and federal levels, the creation of non-game wildlife regulations in Virginia, and many other policy and management issues. Currently, the Department of Wildlife Resources co-sponsors the Wildlife Center's annual conference and relies upon the Center as the only organization in Virginia authorized to care for sick, injured, or orphaned black ears, and receive confiscated turtles and other wildlife from the illegal trade in wildlife species.

- The Center also has been active with professional outreach programs in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia, working with wildlife rescue organizations, universities, law enforcement agencies, and regional and national governments to combat the illegal trade in wildlife, care for the wild victims of criminal trafficking, develop effective public education programs, strengthen non-governmental organizations, and train a corps of dedicated wildlife and law enforcement professionals.

- The Wildlife Center has received many awards under Ed's leadership, especially for its cutting-edge use of information and communication technology for conservation and biosecurity surveillance. In 2007, the Wildlife Center of Virginia was named the ***Conservation Organization of the Year*** for the United States by the National Wildlife Federation.

- Ed has also received many individual honors, in his capacity as President of the Wildlife Center of Virginia. In 1987, the Virginia Wildlife Federation named him **Conservation Educator of the Year**. In 1992 the U.S. Committee for the UN Environment Programme named him one of the "**500 Environmental Achievers**" worldwide. Ed has received commendations from the Venezuelan Ministry of Education for his work promoting environmental education in rural communities in that country, and from Venezuela's Ministry of Defense and Guardia Nacional for his work combating the illegal trafficking of neotropical wildlife. In 2010, he received a **Lifetime Achievement Award** from the Virginia Conservation Network. In 2012, Ed received the "***Rare Life Award***", sponsored by Eagle Rare Bourbon and Buffalo Trace Distillery. The award recognizes individuals who exemplify Courage, Leadership, Survival, Heroism, Devotion, and Character.

Government Service

Ed has also been very active in government service. He was appointed by three Virginia Governors to various agency boards, special commissions, and advisory groups, including:

- **Virginia Council on the Environment** (the state environmental policy board), appointed by Governor Gerald Baliles (1986–90). While on the Council on the Environment, Ed was one of four members of a special committee that made recommendations to the Governor for the complete reform of Virginia's pesticide management laws, recommendations which were fully implemented by the General Assembly and Administration.

- **Virginia Outdoors Foundation** (one of the nation's largest government land trusts) appointed by Governor Doug Wilder (1990-94) soliciting and holding conservation easements on hundreds of thousands of acres of privately owned land in Virginia.

- **Virginia Environmental Education Commission** and the **Governor's Commission on Natural Resource Funding**, appointed by Governor Mark Warner (2002-06)

In 2016, Ed was appointed by President Barack Obama to the federal **Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC),** which advised 16 Federal agencies and bureaus on matters related to invasive plants, animals, insects and pathogens. Under Ed's specific leadership, ISAC produced major reports and recommendations on:

- *Reducing the Risk of Invasive Pathogens to Wildlife Health in the United States*

- *Managed Relocation of Species: Reducing the Risk of Biological Invasion*

- *The interface between invasive species and the increased incidence of tick-borne diseases, and the implications for federal land managers*.

Expert Witness – U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service

In the late 1980s, Ed developed the first widely accepted protocol for the valuation of wildlife killed or harmed through illegal activity. For the last four decades, his periodically updated protocol and valuation assessments have been used in federal criminal prosecutions nationwide, to determine restitution payments and assign economic impact points under the Uniform Sentencing Guidelines of the federal criminal courts. Among the species for which his valuation protocol has used are bald and golden eagles, other species of raptors, walrus, polar bears, sea otters, and black bears.

Nonprofit Service

Ed has served in leadership positions on the boards of directors and advisory councils of more than 20 regional, national, and international conservation organizations, including:

- **National Wildlife Federation** (nine years on the Board of Directors, six as Vice Chair)

- **International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council** (ten years on the Board, two as President)

- **Philippe Cousteau Foundation** (Founding Secretary)

- **Southern Environmental Law Center** (President's Council)

- **American Bird Conservancy** (Advisory Council)

- **Human-Wildlife Conflict Collaboration** (Steering Committee)

- **Fundacion Ecolombia**, Medellin, Colombia, (Founding Board Member)

Television and Radio

Ed has been a well-known and widely recognized television personality. His television work has included:

- **"UNTAMED—*Life is Wild!"*—**a weekly TV series produced by VPM and aired on nearly 100 PBS affiliates nationwide. The series focuses on the work of the Wildlife Center of Virginia, and on wildlife conservation and environmental protection topics in general. The series has won four Telly Awards and was nominated for a regional Emmy award in 2022.

- **"*UNTAMED*" –** Ed was the narrator for weekly radio spots on wildlife conservation topics that airs on Saturday morning on VPM's **NPR** affiliate stations.

- ***"Virginia Outdoors",*** Ed hosted this award-winning TV series about outdoor recreation and conservation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The series aired on Virginia's PBS affiliates for five years, during the 1990s. A Virginia Outdoors Special on "*Outdoor Recreation of the Physically Challenged*" was named Documentary of the Year by the Virginia Association of Broadcasters.

- ***"Wednesdays Untamed"*** – a weekly magazine format program aired in the 1990s that featured wildlife and nature programming. The program aired on **WVPT**, the PBS affiliate in Harrisonburg., VA.

- **"*Wildlife Emergency*"** – an award-winning series about The Wildlife Center of Virginia, which aired worldwide on the **Animal Planet Network**. An episode of *Wildlife Emergency* received the Gold Medal as *Best Science Documentary* at the Houston Film Festival. 1999

- Ed has also appeared in several documentary films, including "***Return of the Eagle"*** *and "****Wildlife Vet",*** produced by Turner Original Productions, and has been frequently seen on network television programs such as CNN's **Larry King Live**, NBC's **TODAY**, **FOX News**, **CBS Saturday Morning**, and **C-SPAN's Washington Journal**.

Personal Life

Ed is in great demand as a motivational speaker, organizational consultant, and trainer. His conservation work has taken him across the United States and to more than 20 other countries on five continents, feeding his love of travel and adventure. Ed has led more than 20 photo safaris to South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. When he is not on the road (and often when he is) Ed enjoys his passions for wildlife photography, horseback riding, fishing, target shooting, archery, and fine bourbon.

A resident of Augusta County, Ed lives with his wife, Dr. Kim West Clark, and their five dogs and three horses.

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