

Tanya Denckla Cobb

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Tanya Denckla Cobb is a seasoned mediator and facilitator in environmental public policy. Through her career she has worked for the federal government, state government, local and state nonprofit organizations, and as an independent consultant. She was among the first certified in 1993 by the Virginia Supreme Court to mediate court-referred cases and conduct training in mediation. At IEN her work involves designing and facilitating public involvement, consensus building, collaborative problem solving, interest-based negotiation and mediation processes, and strategic planning for a broad range of community situations and needs. She also develops customized training around all of these skills. Her recent projects include sea level rise, integrated water planning, stormwater regulations, agricultural and food issues, tobacco harm reduction, park use conflicts, and urban and community forestry.

1997 – Present

Institute for Environmental Negotiation, Charlottesville, VA

Director since 2015; Associate Director, 2008-2015; Senior Associate, 1997-2008. Co-founder and teaching faculty for Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute, 1999 – present. UVA Lecturer, Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, 2001 – present: courses on group facilitation and community food systems.

1991 – 1996

Nonprofit Executive Director

Virginia Urban Forest Council, 1995-1996: The Council's first Executive Director, created first budget, launched Virginia Tree Steward program, grant and project management, newsletter, public relations.

Greener Harrisonburg, 1991-1995: Co-founder and first Executive Director, developed membership, budget, newsletter, fundraising, managed large community volunteer events, and public relations.

1991 – 2010

Community Mediator

Certified Mediator (#0054 1993-2010): received certification in first year established by Virginia Supreme Court in 1993. Mediated court-referred cases from 1991 to 2010, independently and through community centers.

1984 – Present

Freelance Writer

Pieces have appeared in *Edible Blue Ridge*, Huffington Post, and various publications through the years. Authored two books.

1978 – 1984

International Relations Officer, U.S. Department of Labor

Specialist in international labor rights violations and situations around the world. Researched and wrote formal analyses of PATCO (air controllers), Polish Solidarity, and cases of interest to the U.S. government. Represented the USDOL in inter-agency meetings, and served as a member of U.S. Delegation to United Nations ILO conferences in Geneva, Switzerland.

EDUCATION

Certified Mediator #0054, 1993-2010. Certified at all levels of the Court, including Circuit Civil and Family Courts. Numerous mediation and facilitation trainings over 20 years.
B.A., Government, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.

SELECTED EXPERIENCE IN FACILITATION, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, TRAINING, SPEAKING

Water and Natural And Cultural Resources	<p>Resilience and Adaptation Feasibility Tool (The RAFT) – developing coastal resilience “full-service” tool Richmond Department of Public Utilities – Comprehensive Integrated Water Plan and Permit Transforming Community Spaces – developing guidance for communities addressing conflictual U.S. Forest Service – National Urban Forestry Ten-Year Action Plan Chesapeake Bay Foundation – Living Waters: An Interfaith Summit U.S. EPA/ Wetlands Watch/ Alliance for Chesapeake Bay – Collaborative Summit on Stormwater Northern Virginia Park Authority – Improving Washington & Old Dominion Trail Safety National Fisheries and Wildlife Foundation – Local Government Capacity Building for Stormwater Issues Loudoun County – Comprehensive Strategic Watershed Management Solutions (SWMS) National Fisheries and Wildlife Foundation – Upper South River Watershed Planning Old Dominion University Center for Sea Level Rise – Hampton Roads Intergovernmental Pilot Project Virginia Sea Grant – Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding: Listening sessions, community workshop, and policy focus groups Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation – Virginia Stormwater Regulatory Negotiation Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – three Coastal Program 309 Assessments Virginia Department of Health – SHIFT: Virginia Onsite Septic Program Strategic Planning: Rivanna Conservation Alliance; Sustainable Chesapeake; University of Virginia Office of Sustainability; Rivanna Sewer and Water Authority, many more</p>
Food Systems Agriculture And Health	<p>Sustainable Chesapeake – Nutrient management planning survey of famers and supporting industry UVA Sustainable Food Strategy Task Force – facilitating a major university shift to sustainable foods White House Kitchen Garden redesign team Dialogue on Tobacco Products Harm Reduction Convened first two Virginia Food Security Summits Facilitated foundation of Virginia Food System Council Designed and facilitated two Waste Solutions Forums Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation –Nutrient Management Planning Regulations Virginia Department of Health – Assessment of Land Application of Biosolids Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Southern Tobacco Communities Project</p>
Selected Training	<p>National Preservation Institute Seminar: Conflict Management and Negotiation Skills (2005-present) Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute: co-founder and teaching faculty for professional training program on leadership and collaborative problem-solving, 1999 - present</p>
Selected Keynotes and Talks	<p>Keynote: USDA Food Symposium, George Mason University, 2016 Locavore Literature Festival, Washington College, 2013 Organic Valley’s Kickapoo Country Fair, 2012 Southern Illinois University, which selected <i>Reclaiming Our Food</i> as the 2012 common reader Featured Speaker: Garden Club of America Zone VII annual conference, 2012 Fall Convocation Speaker, Meredith College, 2008 NPR Science Fridays with Ira Flatow, 2007 Numerous radio interviews</p>

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books and Chapters

- “Community Food Interventions for Healing: The Cases of Janus Youth and Lynchburg Grows,” chapter in forthcoming book on a symposium to be published by the UVa Center for Design and Health.
- Reclaiming Our Food: How the Grassroots Food Movement is Changing The Way We Eat* (Storey Publishing: 2011). Selected as a “common reader” by Southern Illinois University in 2012.
- The Gardener's A to Z Guide to Growing Organic Food* (Storey Publishing: 2004). Earlier versions of this book include: 1) *Organic Gardener's Home Reference* (Storey Publishing: 1994); and 2) *Gardening At A Glance: The Organic Gardener's Handbook On Vegetables, Fruits, Nuts & Herbs* (Wooden Angel Publications: 1991).
- Basic Mediation Skills Training Manual*, for the Community Mediation Center of Charlottesville, 1997. With Jim Boyd, Teresa Miller, Michael Stowers. Chaired development committee.

Selected Articles and Research

- “How Should FDA Implement a More Rational and Workable Approach to Regulating Tobacco, Nicotine, and Alternative Harm Reduction Products?” *Food and Drug Law Institute Policy Forum*, Vol. 3, Issue 18, October 12, 2013. This article presents eight Core Principles developed through a series of stakeholder dialogues convened by IEN.
- “Organic Food is Not Just for Snobs, Dr. Oz,” *Huffington Post*, Zester Daily, March 18, 2013.
- “The Food Policy Audit: A New Tool for Community Food System Planning,” O'Brien, Jennifer and Tanya Denckla Cobb. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* (JAFSCD), Vol. 2, Issue 3, June 2012.
- “Community DECISION: Stakeholder focused watershed planning,” Bosch, Darrell and James Pease, Mary Leigh Wolfe, Christopher Zobel, Javier Osorio, Tanya Denckla Cobb, Greg Evanylo. *Journal of Environmental Management*, Vol 112 (2012) 226-232.
- “Virginia – An Emerging Leader in the Nation's Local Food Movement,” *The Virginia News Letter*, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia. September 15, 2011.
- “Local Food Scene: Dutiful Food Pyramidie Conducts Shopping Experiment” blog, via Dave McNair. *The Hook Online*, June 12, 2008.
- “Global Community Food Projects Suggest Local Possibilities.” *The Richmond Times Dispatch*, Op/Ed. June 14, 2008.
- “The Waste Solutions Forum: An Innovative and Cooperative Approach to Support the Agricultural Community and Protect Water Quality.” Bendfeldt, Eric and Katharine Knowlton, Tanya Denckla Cobb, Franklin Dukes, Kathy Holm, and Jactone Arogo Ogejo. *Community Development, Journal of the Community Development Society*. Vol. 38, No. 4, Winter 2007 (Jan 2008).
- “Implementing Waste Solutions for Dairy and Livestock Farms.” Knowlton, K. F. and T. Denckla Cobb. *Journal of Dairy Sciences*. 89: 1372-1383, May 2006.
- “Linking Theory to Practice: A Theory of Change Model of the Natural Resources Leadership Institute.” Addor, Mary Lou and Tanya Denckla Cobb, Franklin Dukes; Michael Ellerbrock, and L. Steve Smutko. *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*, Vol. 23, No. 2, Winter 2005.
- Book Review of *Hope's Edge: The Next Diet for a Small Planet* (by Frances Moore Lappé and Anna Lappé), *American Gardener*, Mar/April 2003, p.54.

Selected Special Reports

- National Ten-Year Urban Forestry Action Plan, 2016-2026.
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee on Safety and Health in Facilitating a Transition (SHIFT), Final Report for the Virginia Department of Health, 2014.

Reports prepared for NFWF as part of the Local Capacity Building Project: 1) Middle Peninsula Regional Stormwater Program, May 2014; 2) City of Petersburg Stormwater Program, May 2014; 3) Upper Shenandoah MS4 Stormwater Program, January 2014; 4) Evitts Run Green Infrastructure Park, Charles Town, May 2014.

Living Waters: An Interfaith Summit, November 19, 2013, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, Virginia.

Final reports on sea level rise and coastal flooding workshops and focus groups in Virginia Beach, Eastern Shore, and Gloucester, 2011 to 2012. A Virginia Sea Grant Project.

The 2nd Virginia Food Security Summit, January 2012.

National Assessment of Travel Management Planning: Challenges, Recommendations and Best Practices for Public Involvement. Denckla Cobb, Tanya and Frank Dukes, Lisa Hardy and Marguerite Johnstone. May 2009.

Governor Kaine's Natural Resources Leadership Summit, 2006. Co-facilitator and report coordinator.

Waste Solutions Forum, 2005. Lead facilitator and author.

Governor Warner's Natural Resources Leadership Summit, 2003. Lead facilitator and author.

AWARDS

- Women in History award, Daughters of the American Revolution, Shadwell, VA, 2016.
- *Reclaiming Our Food*: named by Booklist "One of top 10 books on the environment in 2012."
- *Reclaiming Our Food*: Nautilus 2012 Gold Green Living Award, for books that promote spiritual growth, conscious living, positive social change, stimulate the imagination, and offer new possibilities for a better life and a better world.
- Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute: Virginia General Assembly House JR865 and Senate JR417 commendation for VNRLI's "many efforts to help build consensus and facilitate good environmental policy and leadership for the Commonwealth," 2009.
- Merit Award, Virginia Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, for excellence in training Virginia's leaders to address community conflicts on natural resources and environmental issues 2002.
- Urban Forestry Award, Greener Harrisonburg, Shenandoah Soil and Water Conservation Districts 1994.
- Award for Distinguished Achievement, for outstanding service in promoting international standards on trade union rights, and for vital contribution to the continuing review of United States policy toward Poland, U.S. Department of Labor, 1984.
- Special Achievement Award, U.S. Department of Labor, cash award, 1981.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Senior Practitioner, Roster of Environmental Dispute Resolution and Consensus Building Professionals, 2000 - present.
- Department of Interior, Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution Practitioner Roster
- Member, Garden Writers Association of America (GWAA), 1990 - present.
- Member, Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR), 2001 - present; member of former Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR), 1994 - 2001.
- Volunteer family mediator and mentor, for court-referred cases from General District Court, Juvenile and Domestic Relations, and Circuit Court (civil and family cases), for the Community Mediation Center-Charlottesville, 1996 - 2011.
- Board of Directors, Rivanna Conservation Society, 1996 - 2001. Officer, 2000-2001.
- Board of Directors, Virginia Mediation Network, 1992-1994. Officer, 1993-1994.
- Board of Directors, Virginia Urban Forest Council, 1992-1994.