



Wesley M. Knapp, PhD

BOTANIST · CONSERVATIONIST · SCIENTIST · LEADER

Chief Executive Officer
Center for Plant Conservation

Dr. Wesley M. Knapp is a botanist, conservation scientist, and national leader working to prevent the extinction of plants. From discovering and documenting biodiversity to building the infrastructure and partnerships needed for species recovery, his career has been dedicated to turning botanical knowledge into conservation action at local, national, and global scales.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Plant conservation	Rare & endangered species	Botanical discovery & taxonomy	Biodiversity data & geospatial conservation	Conservation assessment	Ex situ conservation & species recovery
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SIGNATURE SPEAKING TOPICS

1. The Future of Plant Conservation	Why preventing plant extinction requires moving from documenting biodiversity to coordinated conservation and recovery.
2. What is it? Where is it? How is it doing?	Building the information infrastructure needed to understand and conserve an entire flora.
3. The Rarest Plants in America	What plants known from only one or a handful of places teach us about extinction, urgency, and conservation.
4. From Knowing Plants to Saving Them	Botanical discovery, extinction, and the evolution from understanding biodiversity to taking action.

SPEAKING & MEDIA INQUIRIES Scientific organizations, botanical gardens, conservation groups, universities, foundations, public audiences, podcasts, and media.	wmknapp@gmail.com wesley-knapp.com Asheville, North Carolina
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BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE

Dr. Wesley M. Knapp is Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), a national nonprofit organization working to prevent plant extinction in the United States. His career spans field botany, taxonomy, conservation science, biodiversity assessment, and national conservation leadership.

Previously, Dr. Knapp served as Chief Botanist at NatureServe. Before that, he spent 20 years with state Natural Heritage Programs in North Carolina and Maryland, conducting field research, building conservation information, and assessing the status of rare plants and natural communities.

An experienced field botanist and taxonomist, he has conducted research across the United States and in the Caribbean and South America. His current work increasingly focuses on connecting taxonomy, geography, conservation status, and recovery, including the Consensus Plant Checklist, geospatial conservation initiatives, and efforts to make conservation assessments more interoperable and actionable.

25+	YEARS IN PLANT CONSERVATION
85	CPC CONSERVATION PARTNERS
2,600 +	RARE PLANTS SAFEGUARDED

SELECTED APPEARANCES & MEDIA

Selected appearances	Selected media
• Smithsonian National Botanical Symposium • Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center • New York Botanical Garden • Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden • North American Conservation Congress • Botanical Society of America Annual Meeting	• PBS NewsHour • Scientific American • Marfa Public Radio • CNN • Christian Science Monitor

RESOURCES

HEADSHOT High-resolution image for editorial and speaking use.	FULL CV Current professional curriculum vitae at wesley-knapp.com/cv/	WEBSITE wesley-knapp.com	CONTACT wmknapp@gmail.com
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“Plants are foundational to life. Our challenge is to move from knowing them to saving them.”
— Wesley M. Knapp, PhD