



Marjorie Mayfield Jackson

Executive Director

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757-399-7487, www.elizabethriver.org

- Co-founder of community-based non-profit.
 - Marjorie Mayfield Jackson left a prize-winning career in journalism to co-found the Elizabeth River Project around a kitchen table in 1991. The non-profit organization remained all-volunteer until after its incorporation in 1993. She became the first paid staff as Coordinator, a title changed to Executive Director in 1996. She has led the organization to become one of the largest non-profits working to restore any tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, with an annual budget of more than \$2 million.

- Supervisor for pioneer river restoration and education programs.
 - **Sediment remediation to reduce severe contamination** at Money Point in Chesapeake, VA., has removed more than 36 million pounds of contamination and reduced liver cancer six-fold in the indicator species fish, the mummichog, while bringing back otters and eagles. A dozen industries, the City of Chesapeake, state and federal governments and the Living River Restoration Trust are partners with complementary projects to restore wetlands and oysters and reduce pollution at this once infamous site.
 - A plan to restore the sub-watershed of the Lafayette River resulted in **de-listing the Lafayette as impaired waters for bacteria** by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in 2014.
 - The 120' by 32' **Learning Barge, "America's greenest vessel,"** was launched by Elizabeth River Project in 2009 after winning the national education award, American Institute of Architects, for its design by University of Virginia in 2008. Powered solely by sun and wind with a live wetland on board and six learning stations, the barge has booked to capacity for student field trips ever since and won the SeaWorld Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Award, in 2011.
 - **Paradise Creek Nature Park**, a 40 acre urban wilderness, opened to the public in 2012. Created by Elizabeth River Project and operated by City of Portsmouth, the park includes 11 acres of restored wetlands and two miles of trails through a revitalized urban forest. Elizabeth River Project operates extensive environmental education programs at the park with a focus on lower income children and continues to add education amenities.
 - **River Star Businesses**, started in 1997, has enlisted 114 businesses to voluntarily reduce pollution by 312 million pounds and to restore or conserve more than 1,300 acres.
 - Elizabeth River Project **pioneered wetland restoration in Virginia**, spearheading more than 50 restoration sites. The first wetland restoration, Birdsong Wetland in 1997, won the international Clearwater Award from the Waterfront Centre.

- **River Star Schools**, a program for school children, each year documents results in pollution prevention and wildlife habitat and currently counts 160 participating schools
- A companion program, **River Star Homes**, was launched in April 2011 at Lafayette RiverFest, a free outdoor festival attended by 1,500 people. The program has grown to 2,400 homes participating. The program is recognized as one of the more successful programs on the Chesapeake Bay to engage homeowners in voluntary behavior changes to improve the environment and currently is funded in partnership with City of Norfolk.
- Editor & co-author of locally based watershed plans & publications:
 - *Eastern Branch Environmental Restoration Strategy*, 2014, Elizabeth River Project
 - *The Plan for Restoring the Lafayette River* – 2011, Elizabeth River Project
 - *Balancing Industry and the Environment: How to Find Win-Win on the Urban Waterfront*, 2008 – Elizabeth River Project for US EPA
 - *Elizabeth River Restoration: A Watershed Action Plan*, 1996 – Elizabeth River Project and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; revised 2002, 2008
 - *Rediscover The Treasure: Money Point Revitalization, a 10-Year Plan*, 2006 – Elizabeth River Project & University of Virginia Institute for Environmental Negotiation
- Awards:
 - Strong, Smart & Bold Honoree 2012, Girls Inc of Southwest Hampton Roads
 - Woman of Courage, Confidence and Character – 2011, Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast
 - Port Champion Award 2008, VA Maritime Association
 - Gerald P. McCarthy Award, Environmental Conflict Resolution – University of VA Institute for Environmental Negotiation, 2008
 - Ernie Morgan Award of Service, 2006, Norfolk Environmental Commission
 - William E. Savadge Award, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 2002

Staff Writer, The Virginian-Pilot, 1983 - 1992

- Journalist for daily newspaper in Norfolk, VA.
 - Education beat – Nominated for Pulitzer for coverage of de-segregation busing.
 - Religion beat - Named one of the 10 best religion writers in US.
 - Career in journalism began in 1979 at The Louisville News & Farmer & Wadley Herald

Education & Training

- MPS, Loyola University, New Orleans
- BA, New College - Honors School of University of South Florida, Sarasota, Fla. (1978)
- Comparative Risk Assessment – NE Center for Comparative Risk
- Executive Director Training Program – Institute for Conservation Leadership
- Neighborhood Builders Award, Leadership Training Graduate – Bank of America (2014)