Tom has over 30 years of experience working in environmental protection, justice, and leadership. He is a principal in Tom Hatley Consulting, which specializes in strategic planning, cross-cultural collaboration and partnership building, operational and leadership development, and environmental mediation and negotiation. He started out in 1980 as the Assistant Director for Land Stewardship for the North Carolina Nature Conservancy and went on to serve in such positions as the Executive Director of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development (1989-1995), one of the first sustainable development organizations in the country; Executive Director of the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition (1995-2000); and, for five years, before starting his consulting business as Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies. Highlights of his career include launching a citizens' "second track" process that helped pave the way to a globally recognized solution and agreement for shared watershed management in the NYC-Catskills watershed; promoting the "roadless protection" rule for federal forests, which resulted in the protection of 50 million acres of National Forest System roadless lands—now recognized as its greatest conservation achievement; raising over \$15 million for regional organizations from private foundations and individual donors; and co-planning and putting in place successful joint tribal programs between the Eastern Cherokee and several universities. Past and present clients include the Wilderness Society, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the University of South Alabama, Carnegie Natural History Museum of Pittsburgh, the William Penn Foundation, the Little Tennessee Land Trust, the National Forest Foundation, and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

Tom holds a B.A. in History from Davidson College, a Master of Forest Science from Yale, and a PhD in Colonial History from Duke. He has served on numerous boards, including the International Biosphere Trust, the Center for Native Health in Cherokee, Wild South, the World Conservation Union's Mountain Areas Network, Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources, Environmental Advocates in NY, and the Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Foundation. He is the author of The Dividing Paths: Cherokees and South Carolinians through the Revolutionary Era, which won Book of the Year from the South Carolina Historical Society and was described in the New York Times Book Review as "a beautifully written elegy;" Uncertainty on a Himalayan Scale, reissued recently as a "Himalayan Classic" by Himal Press and the James Martin Institute at Oxford; and numerous articles on sustainability, history and social equity. In addition to his consulting practice, Tom is currently involved in social enterprise development and investment in the Appalachian region.