

Some familiar faces are back in the Appalachian League in 2022. Learn more about the Appy Leagues 10 Managers below;

Bluefield Ridge Runners - Aaron Mathews

Aaron Mathews is entering his first season as the Manager of the Ridge Runners. His coaching career began in Bluefield with the Blue Jays as the teams hitting coach in 2015 and 2016. He would spend three more years in the Blue Jays organization, 2017 with the Buffalo Bisons (Triple-A) and 2018-19 with the Vancouver Canadians (Short-Season A). Mathews is from Eastern Oregon and played baseball at Oregon State University. He was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 19th round in 2004. In 691 MiLB games, he was a career .285 hitter with 47 home runs and 324 RBI.

Bristol State Liners - Barbaro Garbey

Barbaro Garbey is entering his second season with the State Liners, he was the hitting coach in Bristol last season. Garbey is from Santiago de Cuba, Cuba and played 226 games in Major Leagues. Garbey won a World Series ring in 1984 with the Detroit Tigers as a member of a team that included former Bristol Tigers players Lance Parrish, Dan Petry, Alan Trammell, Scott Earl, and Nelson Simmons. That season, Garbey hit .287 with five home runs and 52 RBI.

Burlington Sock Puppets - Ty Blankmeyer

Ty Blankmeyer is entering his first season as the Manager of the Sock Puppets. He is also a member of the Wake Forest Demon Deacons coaching staff. Prior to joining the Deacs, Blankmeyer served as an area scout in the Milwaukee Brewers system from 2017-21. Blankmeyer is from Morristown, NJ and played collegiately at St. John's. He was selected in the 36th round by the Cincinnati Reds in the 2016 MLB Draft and hit .281 over 26 games in the Pioneer League.

Danville Otterbots - Desi Relaford

Desi Relaford is entering his second season as the Manager of the Otterbots. The Otterbots went 29-24 and had the best fielding percentage under Relaford in 2021. Relaford played 939 games over 11 seasons in the Major Leagues for seven different teams (PHI, KC, TEX, NYM, SDP, COL, SEA). His best season came with the Mets in 2001 when he hit .302 with eight home runs and 36 RBI. Relaford was a fourth round pick by the Seattle Mariners in the 1991 MLB June Amateur Draft out of Sandalwood HS in Jacksonville, FL. He began his coaching career as the Bench Coach for the Daytona Tortugas (High-A Reds) in 2018.

Elizabethton River Riders - Jeremy Owens

Jeremy Owens is entering his second season with the River Riders, he was the hitting coach in Elizabethton last season. A native of Johnson City, TN, Owens, a former outfielder, was drafted in the eighth round of the 1998 draft out of Middle Tennessee State University by the San Diego Padres. Owens played in the Padres, Boston Red Sox, and Tampa Bay Rays organizations. Between MiLB and the Atlantic League, Owens played in 1,976 games over 18 seasons, he hit 244 home runs and drove in 882 runs. He managed the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs in 2016 and was on the coaching staff of the New Jersey Jackals in 2017 and Bowling Green Hot Rods (Low-A Rays) in 2018-19.

Greeneville Flyboys - Jermaine Curtis

Jermaine Curtis will Manage the Flyboys this summer. Curtis is familiar to the Appalachian League, he was the hitting coach in Kingsport in 2021. The Panorama City, CA native brings 14 years of playing, scouting and player development experience to Greeneville. In 2008, Curtis was selected by the St. Louis Cardinals in the fifth round out of UCLA. Curtis reached the Major Leagues in 2013 and played in five games for a Cardinals team that would go on to win the National League.

Johnson City Doughboys - Kevin Mahoney

Kevin Mahoney will Manage the Doughboys in 2022. Mahoney sports over 14 years of playing and coaching experience at the collegiate and professional level. The Miller Place, NY native was drafted in the 23rd round of the 2009 draft by the New York Yankees. Mahoney played collegiately at Canisius College where he was twice an All-MAAC selection and the 2009 MAAC Player of the Year. He played six seasons in the Yankees farm system then spent seven years coaching in the Yankees organization.

Kingsport Axmen - Mike Guinn

Mike Guinn returns to the Kingsport Axmen for the second straight season. A Knoxville, TN native, Guinn has amassed 468 wins in 17 seasons as a high school Head Coach, formerly at Anderson County HS and currently at Pigeon Forge HS. His teams have won 14 district championships and five region championships, reaching the region tournament every year in each of his 17 seasons. Guinn has aided more than 50 players to sign letters of intent to play baseball at the collegiate level. When not on the diamond, Guinn teaches health science and rehab careers at Pigeon Forge HS.

Princeton WhistlePigs - Jeff Carter

Jeff Carter is entering his first season as the Manager of the WhistlePigs. Carter is familiar with the Appalachian League, he managed the Elizabethton Twins to the 2000 Appy League Title. Carter was drafted in the ninth round of the 1985 MLB June Amateur Draft by the San Francisco Giants from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He played in the minors from 1985 to 1996 for the Giants, Oakland A's, Minnesota Twins, Florida Marlins, and Colorado Rockies organizations. Carter played in 1,301 career MiLB games, including over 700 in Triple-A. Carter is the Founder and President of All9Baseball Academy in Mesa, AZ.

Pulaski River Turtles - Clark Crist

Clark Crist will Manage the River Turtles for a second straight season. Crist led Pulaski to 32 wins, the East Division Title, and reached the Appalachian League Championship Game last season. His baseball career spans more than four decades. The Tucson, AZ native was the starting shortstop for the 1980 National Champion University of Arizona baseball team. He was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 14th round of the 1980 MLB Draft. Crist spent four seasons in Minor League Baseball and eventually served as a player-coach for the Mariners' Double-A affiliate from 1982-85. Crist's baseball tenure also included scouting roles with the Houston Astros, Boston Red Sox, Cleveland Indians, New York Mets, St. Louis Cardinals, and Cincinnati Reds. He oversaw the signing of many notable names as an MLB scout, including Kenny Lofton, Albert Pujols, and Coco Crisp.

The Appalachian League season will begin on June 2nd. The Appalachian League is a part of USA Baseball and is powered by MLB. For more information on the Appalachian League, please visit AppyLeague.com.