



500-YEAR FOREST FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

*Conserving old-growth
forests and the
biologically diverse
species they nurture*

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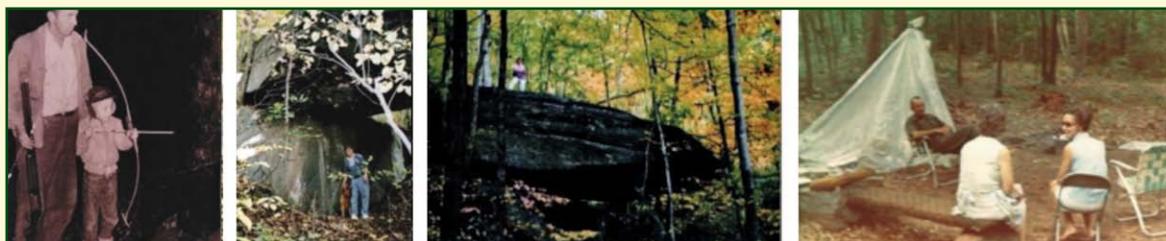
WE DOUBLED OUR ACREAGE IN 2021!

Thanks to James Edmunds and Vic and Steven Saunders, The 500-Year Forest Foundation (500YFF/Foundation) doubled our acreage in 2021 from 2,000 to 4,000 acres protected as future old growth forests in Virginia! We appreciate Tee Clarkson and Charlie Westbrook at FirstEarth for bringing these two forests to us and facilitating the process. Our new landowners shared the following testimonials about their land and their experience working with the Foundation.

VIC SAUNDERS (NELSON COUNTY)

My brother and I grew up spending our summers and holidays in Nelson County with our grandparents. Both maternal and paternal grandparents lived within a mile of each other, close to the Rockfish River. They represented the 6th generation in the county. We were able to fish, hunt and to enjoy the rural lifestyle available. My Mom is getting ready to turn 90 and still lives on the property. My brother, the first in our family to pursue higher education, acquired the original 30 acres in 1980. We have spent the past 40 years practicing periodontics in nearby Harrisonburg and acquiring the adjacent properties as we have been able. The property is now a little over 512 acres. The 500-Year Forest Foundation has allowed us to protect the forest so that our descendants can enjoy it in the same manner as we have. The 500-Year Forest Foundation values related to the environment are consistent with our own values. My son, who has joined our periodontics practice, enjoys the land and has since his early childhood. He is expecting his own son early next year and it is my fondest wish that my grandson will also be able to enjoy the activities that have been so meaningful to our family. Thanks to The 500-Year Forest Foundation for helping us protect our forest, and the work that they do to fight climate change by preserving mature forests that remove carbon from the atmosphere. The impact these efforts have on the carbon footprint is so important and overdue.

JAMES EDMUNDS (HALIFAX COUNTY)



Entering into an agreement with the 500YFF not to harvest my hardwood timber was an easy decision for me and my family! Most of the hardwoods we placed under easement have not been harvested in the last 100 years and it is those stands of old growth timber that are the true character of the farm! Generations before me have saved them and now generations beyond me will as well! These stands are a pure source of enjoyment for me and my family whether we are hunting or simply hiking in the springtime listening for my favorite songbird, the Wood Thrush! In fact, we even incorporated the Wood Thrush in the signage that we will place along the boundaries of the protected stands as it epitomizes one of the many beneficiaries of old growth hardwood in Southern VA! We definitely have no regrets!



INTERNS

Jesse Cooper, 2021 University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law Intern

I am a second-year law student at The University of Richmond looking to enter the field of environmental law (either through land or animal conservation). I grew up in Fort Myers, Florida and my interest in conservation was inspired by my childhood on the Florida coast. In my spare time, I love to thrift, hike, and do home renovation projects. I worked at the foundation for a little over 6 months in 2021, focusing on organizing the Foundation's records, compiling internal processes documents, and helping with field work. "I wanted to be an intern at 500YFF because of our hands on approach to land conservation. It was so refreshing to work at an organization and see the efforts of our work first hand via forest visits. I am so thankful for all of the experience and guidance the folks at 500YFF have provided me in these past 6 months!"



Elizabeth Halaasz – University of Richmond “It Takes A Forest” Intern

As I finish my final year at the University of Richmond, I feel extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to work closely with Mary Wickham, Mary Elfner, and Dr. Todd Lookingbill as an undergraduate intern for the Foundation this fall. My studies in geography and environmental studies have taught me the conceptual values of protecting forest refugia, however, this internship has given me the opportunity to witness the benefits of conservation first-hand. This fall, I researched historic land cover and conducted forest inventories to identify potential century-old forests in Richmond public parks. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn more about the dynamic changes occurring in Richmond's landscape and supporting the foundation's work!

Maggie Damico – 2022 University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law Intern

I am a first-year law student at Richmond, and just beginning work with the Foundation. I graduated last year with my Bachelor's in Geology and hope to apply it to the field of environmental law. I am originally from Midlothian, VA, which helped inspire my passion for practical environmental application. I even wrote my Capstone Project on the influence of geology on the coal mining development of the town. I look forward to seeing the applications of environmental law in my work with the foundation!



Gabe Quintero - 2021 and 2022 Randolph College Intern

Gabe Quintero continues his good work with us as an ongoing intern from last year. Gabe helps us with social media and field work. He has helped us with field work in Halifax County, will be visiting forest owners this spring for conservation monitoring, and has created our YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBu2_9-83L0GIBReTxiN9Hg.

BOARD MEMBER NEWS

Thank you David Ledbetter, Outgoing 500YFF President

Thank you David Ledbetter, our outgoing 500YFF President, who has been fundamental in shaping The 500-Year Forest Foundation since its inception. We are extraordinarily grateful for the time and expertise he has graciously devoted to our conservation efforts. Our board vice-president Hulle Moore noted: With David's leadership the 500YFF has more than doubled our acreage and the Foundation is well-poised for even greater impact in the future. Ted Harris had this to say about David's tenure at the Foundation: At the beginning we interviewed three environmental lawyers at the law firm of Hunton and Williams. David willingly became President of the Foundation and effectively ran it for a number of years. We thank you, David, for your work and for your passion that has helped The 500-Year Forest Foundation survive and thrive, and we look forward to your continued involvement with us!

Welcome Ches Goodall , our incoming 500YFF President

Ches has been on our board since 2015, and is co-founder of the Virginia Forestry and Wildlife Group. He has managed private forestlands in Virginia for more than twenty years and has been guided by an ecologically based land ethic to provide multiple forest and non-forest benefits. Thank you Ches for your continued expertise helping us to protect future old growth forests in Virginia!

DONATIONS - JANUARY 1, 2021, TO DECEMBER 31, 2021

Thank you to our Donors! What we do is only possible with the support of the people you see on this list. Fabulous Forest Friend gifts start at \$3,000 and/or an entire 500-Year Forest. Carbon Conserver gifts start at \$1,500. Soil Saver gifts start at \$600, Stream Steward at \$300, Flora Fancier at \$150, Fauna Fan at \$60 and Tree Tender at \$30.

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 Mary and George Wickham

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Richard M. Busofsky
 Funds for Stewardship from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
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Donate online at: www.500yearforest.org/get-involved/donate/

If you have given to us in the past, thank you, and we hope you will give again! If you are new to our mailing list, we hope you will see fit to donate for the good of old growth forests! THANK YOU!

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500-YEAR FOREST
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The 500-Year Forest Foundation, a nonprofit organization, works in partnership with private forest owners to produce future old-growth forests.

YOU CAN HELP

For more information or to contribute, volunteer or recommend a forest...

Visit:

www.500yearforest.org

Email:

500yearforests@gmail.com

The 500-Year Forest Foundation was incorporated in 1997 as a 501 (c)(3) and we assist forest owners (9 to date, 2000+ acres) who generously commit to fully and permanently protect Virginia forests of mature future old growth trees.

“...the care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope.”

–Wendell Berry, The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays

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A WINTER WALK IN THE WOODS AT THE FORKS OF THE TYE FOREST

Jeff Smith (500-Year Forest Foundation Board Member), his wife Mary and their labrador Annie walked the boundaries of the Forks of Tye Forest in February. This is a forest donated to the Foundation by Barbara Lee Coffey. Jeff reports that “It was a great day with temperatures in the mid-40’s, cloudy, and no rain. It was a nice day for this kind of walk. The bigger trees are higher up as might be expected, predominantly Tulip poplar. We also saw Black birch, hickory, Chestnut oaks and a few Northern red oaks. No sign of human activity. Lots of rock outcrops up higher, with almost cliff-like edges. There was a large White pine here and there, and maybe some young hemlock on the southwest corner. One odd discovery was, about 200 to 300 yards after the east most boundary turns sharply southwest (and up a really steep climb), we found, maybe just on National Forest property by a few feet, a grave, maybe multiples. You’ll see a headstone in the photos, the only one legible - an interesting place for a grave. That’s it. Enjoy.”



NATIVE FLOWERS FROM THE KOLB’S 500-YEAR FOREST!

Since 1973, Jean and Hal Kolb have lived in their forest in a mountainous area southwest of Charlottesville, Virginia, which consists of a 113-acre north-facing tract and a 63-acre south-facing tract. Both parcels are forested, and the upper reaches of the larger one contain some oaks and hickories approximately 200 years old. A clause in the conservation easement donated by the Kolbs to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation states that the 500-Year Forest Foundation will supply services to help “promote old-growth forest. Wildflowers found include: Bloodroot, Dwarf Crested Iris, Early Saxifrage, Showy Orchid, Smooth Yellow Violet, Spring Coralroot, Wild Senna, and Solomon’s Seal Thank you Jean Kolb for sending us these beautiful images from your forest!



Photos by Jean Kolb

LEAVE A FOREST LEGACY WITH PLANNED GIVING

At the 500-Year Forest Foundation we are extremely grateful to all who give! Please consider making a charitable gift through estate planning. Old growth forests will benefit greatly from your generosity!

Please contact us at 500yearforests@gmail.com to find out more.