



500-YEAR FOREST FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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

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No-cut conservation easements, the main element of the 500-Year Forest Foundation mission, are key to restoring critical habitats and ecosystems, allowing forests to grow into a deeper level of maturity than young, managed lands.

In the growth and storage of woody species and in the buildup of organic matter, carbon sequestration is a critical ecosystem service for climate health. Consider that a fast-growing, dense, herbaceous community recreates itself every year, storing carbon throughout the growing season, shedding everything that becomes a part of the soil layer and repeating this process annually. At the 500-Year Forest Foundation (500YFF), interns and summer research associates conduct research on carbon storage estimation methods, and plan to test these methods in a 500-Year Forest this Spring.

CELEBRATING TED HARRIS AND 25 YEARS

On June 25, 2022, the 500-Year Forest Foundation held a celebration in honor of founder Ted Harris, and of the 500YFF's creation and protection of old growth forests for 25 years. Kay and Kent Van Allen opened their beautiful home, Pebbleton, for the event, and Ted Harris arrived with his granddaughter Julia Harris. Approximately 75 people came to honor Ted and his vision and legacy of the 500-Year Forest Foundation. In Ted's words "It was December 1995 at a Virginia Urban Forestry Council meeting when all of a sudden, I thought we should create future ancient forests." Ted continues to be involved in the 500YFF and is interested in the use of drones to monitor the forests and in quantifying the forests' carbon storage. We thank all who helped with this fabulous event: hosts Kay and Kent Van Allen; Ted and Julia Harris; interns Maggie Damico, Gabe Quintero, Olivia Richards; staff and board members of the 500YFF Mary Elfner, Jeff Smith, Mary Wickham, David Ledbetter, Dr. Karin Warren; and all who attended to honor Ted. Thank you!



IT TAKES A FOREST

"It Takes a Forest" is a project conceived in 2021 by board member, Mary Wickham, soon after she joined the 500YFF board. This is an effort to raise awareness of the importance of old-growth forests by identifying mature urban forests that are accessible to the public within the greater Richmond area and beyond. Although Richmond's primary forests are long gone, many urban forest stands are 100 years old or more. These "Century Forests" provide critical habitat and other ecosystem services to the city and have the potential to become our old-growth forests of the future.

What is a Century Forest? It is more than just a collection of trees. Much like old-growth forests, Century Forests are rich,



biologically diverse ecosystems marked by a complex canopy structure, large amounts of deadwood, and the capability to support a wide range of native species. Even within the city limits, residents of all ages can experience mature forest communities and appreciate their importance for conservation and recreation. The Foundation is working with several partners on this educational project, primarily the University of Richmond's Department of Geography and the Environment and Richmond's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities. We hope to expand this educational initiative to other areas of the Commonwealth.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Fay Paurillo

Florena Fay Paurillo returns for a second term as Treasurer of the Board of the 500YFF. She works for the accounting firm Hantzmon Wiebel in Charlottesville, VA, where she lives with her family. Fay is licensed in the U.S.A. and the Philippines where she worked as a college accounting professor for almost eight years. Fay enjoys getting to know clients and strives to give exceptional client service.



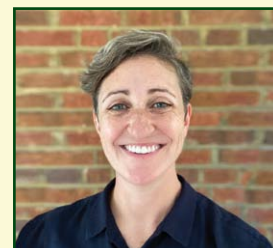
Alexander Macaulay

Alexander M. Macaulay is a Richmond native and grew up hearing many lobbying and legal “war stories” from his father and grandfather. This led to volunteering in campaigns and a job as a Page in the Virginia House of Delegates. He then worked in the Governor’s Office, House Clerk’s office, and Department of Information Technology. He has had a lifelong fascination with trees since raking leaves as a child, reading about Ents in Lord of the Rings, and earning the Forestry merit badge in the Boy Scouts. As a lawyer-lobbyist he has represented the Piedmont Environmental Council and the American Battlefield Trust. He majored in history at Wesleyan University and graduated from law school at the University of Virginia.

NEW STAFF

Em Robertson as our new Donation Program Support Staff

Em Robertson (they/them) is an e-textile designer, certified in agile project management with experience in public and private sectors, Em is adept at working with cross-functional teams and stakeholders to advance complex projects involving data, technology, and innovation. They work on invasive plant management with the James River Park System in Richmond, VA, and are a volunteer member of the JRPS Invasive Plant Task Force. Thank you, Em, for joining our team!



INTERNS

Where are they now?

Keyu Jin, a 500YFF Intern in the summer 2019, is now interning with DCSEU’s Workforce Development program and with Solimar International, a sustainable tourism consulting company. Keyu also works as a business development specialist for Greening Urban, a civil engineering company, and continues to look for opportunities in the sustainability field.

Priscilla Ranjitkar conducted summer research with the 500YFF in 2019, and now works at Foursquare ITP as an TDM: School Coordinator. She is excited to provide resources to the goDCgo team, encouraging DC school district students and staff to use sustainable transportation options.



“PUT YOUR NAME IN THE HAT!”

Donating a gift of \$30 or more within a month of this newsletter puts your name in the hat to receive a 500-Year Forest Foundation cap. Three names will be selected. You may be the lucky one! If you donate to Put Your Name in the Hat – please make sure that the word ‘Hat’ is submitted with the donation.



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DONATIONS - OCTOBER 1, 2021, TO MARCH 1, 2023

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

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(In honor of Ted and Dale Harris)
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STREAM STEWARD

Sharon and Lee Ainslie
(In honor of Ted and Dale Harris)

@The500YearForestFoundation



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(In honor of Ted and Dale Harris)

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FABULOUS FOREST FRIEND

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Rossie and Randy Hutcheson
David and Judith Ledbetter
Mr. Hullihen W. Moore
Mary & George Wickham



GRANTS

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Beirne Carter Foundation
KVA Foundation
The Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation
Oakwood Foundation Charitable Trust
Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Rec.

IN KIND

David and Judith Ledbetter
Hantzmon Wiebel LLP

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!



500-YEAR FOREST
FOUNDATION
WWW.500YEARFOREST.ORG

P.O. Box 1272
Charlottesville, VA 22902

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 (11 to date, 4000+ 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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SHORT ESSAY ON THE SPIRIT OF AN OLD GROWTH FOREST, ANONYMOUS

The spirit of an old growth forest is a mysterious and elusive thing. It is a force that pervades every inch of the forest, from the tallest trees to the smallest plants and animals. It is both ancient and timeless, one that permeates the forest over countless centuries. For those who have stood in the majesty of an old growth forest, the sense of awe and reverence is palpable. Towering trees, thick canopy, rich diversity of plant and animal life - these things conspire to create an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. There is a sense of being in the presence of something much greater than oneself, something that has stood the test of time and will continue to do so for generations to come.

More than the beauty and grandeur of the natural world, the spirit of an old growth forest is about the interconnectedness of living things. Everything is connected - the trees, the animals, the insects, the soil, the water. Each plays a vital role in the health and well-being of the forest, and everything is dependent upon everything else.



This spirit of interconnectedness is something we can all learn from. In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to lose our sense of connectedness, and forget that our actions have an impact on the world around us. An old growth forest reminds us of this, and of the importance of preserving and protecting the natural world for future generations. As Chief Seattle said, "Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

The next time you have the opportunity to experience an old growth forest, take a moment to let its spirit wash over you. Feel the peace and tranquility that it brings, and let it inspire you to do your part to protect and preserve the natural world for future generations!

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.