



THE 500-YEAR FOREST FOUNDATION

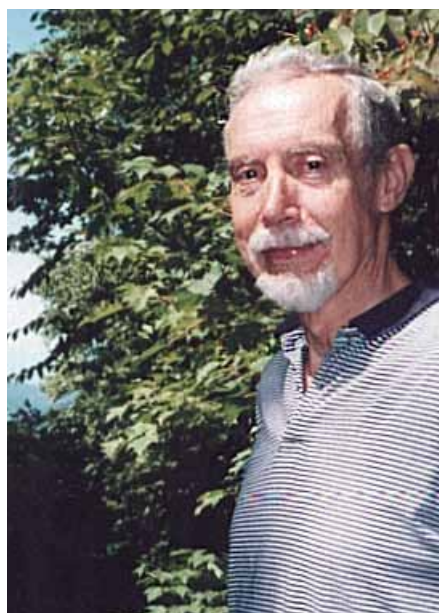
Newsletter

Volume 14 ■ Number 2 ■ Summer/Fall 2011

With your donation you pay for the care of our forests that store one ton of carbon per acre annually.

New Addition to the Board of Directors – Harold H. Kolb

Born in Massachusetts, Hal Kolb attended Amherst College and served a four-year stint as a Navy pilot before earning an MA degree in history and a PhD in literary studies. Joining the faculty of the University of Virginia, where he became a professor of American literature, Hal was the founding director of the American Studies Program and the Center for the Liberal Arts, and chair of the 1994-96 University of Virginia Self-Study. He also designed and ran the Judicial Writing Programme for the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice. A Guggenheim fellow and a Fulbright lecturer at Bonn, Hal received an Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Retired but still active, his most recent literary work is a 600-page manuscript entitled “Mark Twain: The Gift of Laughter.” Hal’s latest forest project is the construction of a trail that runs along the northern boundary of the Kolbs’ mountain forest, which he and Jean, with their children Kathryn and Lee, put under easement in 2004, the year it became the 500-Year Forest Foundation’s first forest.



500-Year Forests to Become Research Sites

In mid summer board member, Jim Murray, and Ted Harris met with Doug Taylor, Professor Chair of Biology, Department of Biology, University of Virginia, for the purpose of offering our forests as sites for biological research. We received a warm reception and a very positive response.

In an email to his colleagues and 65 graduate students, Professor Taylor said in part, “If your research might involve research in local forests, perhaps in several similar tracts distributed spatially, you might find the natural resources of the 500-year Forest Foundation of value to you. To check them out, I encourage you to visit their web page (<http://www.500yearforest.org>). It describes the Foundation and shows the size and location of the tracts. Please feel free to contact me, or Ted directly, if you would like additional information.”

Income up over 30%

At our annual meeting in October we were pleased to have had good news to report for the fiscal year just ended (September 30th). Preliminary figures show an increase of income of 31.7%. This comes from two sectors, increased donations and increased supporting funds from our forest owners to match our annual grants to them for the care of their forest.

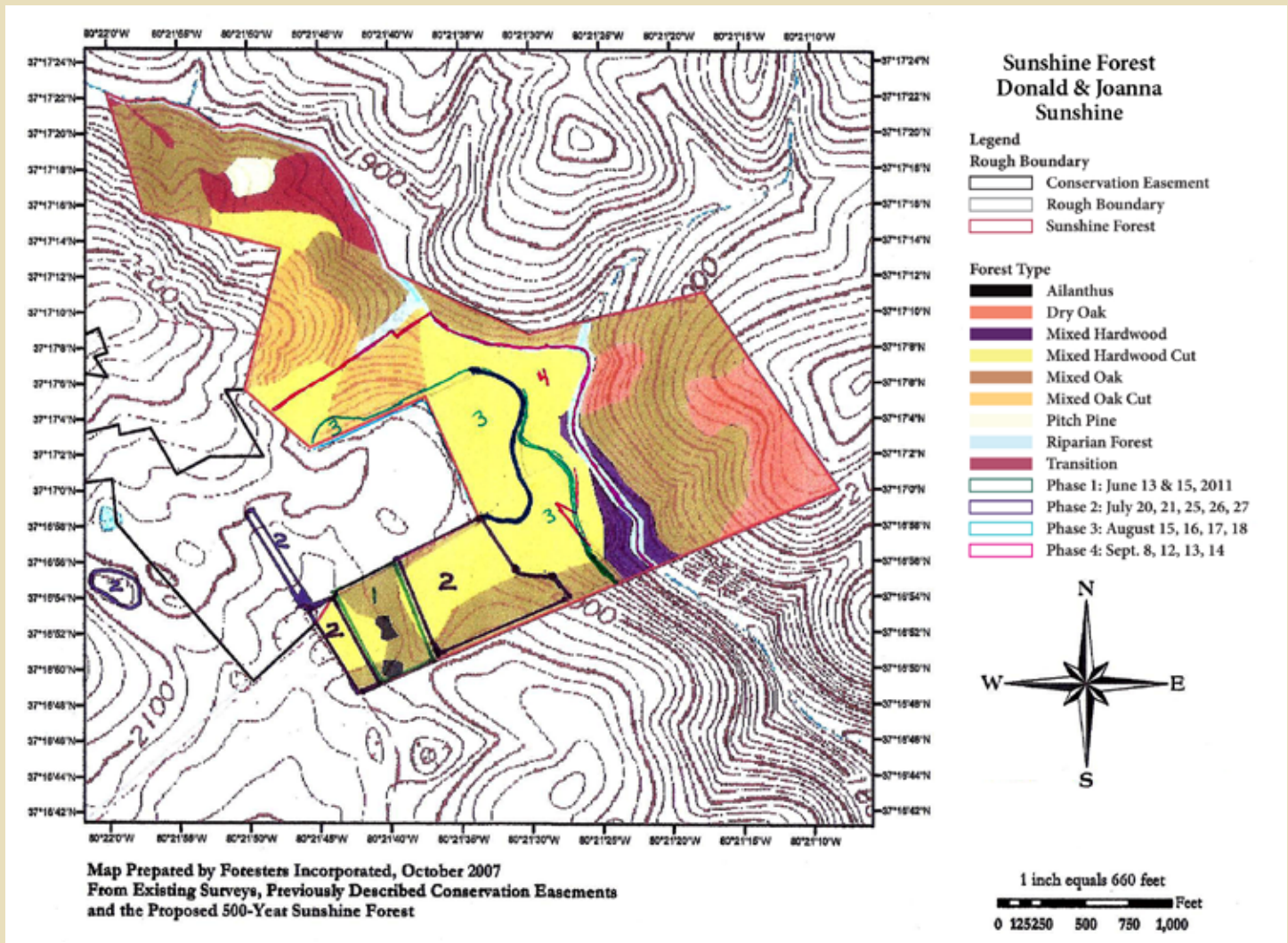
Our budget for the coming fiscal year shows the same sort of growth with active care beginning in the Helms Phillips 500-Year Forest and a projected forest in Greene County owned by Frank and Eleanor Biasiulli.

It’s probably a long shot to expect a 500-Year Forest to be located in North Carolina this coming year, but we are going to expend an effort to try to make it happen in our second state.

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Reports from our 500-Year Forests



Sunshine Forest Report: The Doing In of 3,125 Ailanthus Trees

To help us in the understanding of a prospective forest we hire an expert to evaluate its quality as a 500-Year Forest. Our expert was Britt Boucher. In his report he identified some areas that were dominated by Ailanthus also known as Paradise tree or Tree of Heaven, an invasive tree from the China See attached map. Further visual inspection revealed that the forest south west of Mill Creek was also heavily infested with Ailanthus.

This was Donald and Joanna Sunshine's first year as 500-Year Forest owners. As Donald said, "Thus, began a new adventure." As reported in the last issue of the news letter, Donald set out to determine with whom he might contract to begin this

eradication program. After several tries he was fortunately referred to Neil Ames Horticultural Services. Neil and Deb, a husband and wife team, were just the right people for this job.

In four separate months or phases covering about 50 acres as shown on the map, Neil and Deb worked over the landscape to put to death over 3,000 Ailanthus trees. A similar effort next year should finish off the infested remainder part of the forest. There will be on going effort to control new seedlings in the future.

The Ailanthus tree is either male or female. In some areas of this forest Ailanthus was dominant tree cover. In these places Neil and Deb's effort was restricted to kill-

ing only the female trees opening up the forest to the younger native trees by not exposing the forest floor to full sun.

On a very positive note let's leave this forest with Deb's observations. "There were also wonderful patches of ferns of all types: Christmas, maidenhair, lady, male, giant wood, ebony spleenwort, walking ferns, and others we couldn't identify. Our walks through the forest have been great horticulture experiences for us. We both grew up spending a lot of time in the woods, and this has been a treat. We hope to continue working with the Foundation in the future."

Reports from our 500-Year Forests



Joan Maloof visiting with Hal and Jean Kolb in their 500-Year Forest

A Wonderful New Idea, The Old-Growth Forest Network

Author and forest champion, Joan Maloof, has proposed a new program: the Old-Growth Forest Network. This program will identify one forest in each county (where forests can grow) that will never again be logged and will be open to the public. Organizing the program on a county level assures that counties that currently have no old growth (the majority!) will at least have a forest set aside for that hopeful possibility. Think of them as “future old-growth forests.” It also ensures that the next generation will have a place nearby to reconnect with nature, and to better understand the natural condition of the place where they live.

In the same way that National Parks (often called “America’s Best Idea”) were first thought of by a few individuals, and then eventually became an established part of our nation, and

then nation’s around the globe, Maloof calls the Old-Growth Forest Network “America’s Next Idea.” If you would like more information, or would like to offer your help, her contact information is available on www.oldgrowthforest.net. She is currently looking for suggestions about forests in the Virginia counties that would be appropriate for the network. There is no minimum age or size for the forests, but the older the better. To ensure access for all citizens it is best if the forests are open to the public free from charge and have at least a few parking spaces and a trail.

Maloof is a long-time supporter of the 500-Year Forest Foundation, and the Foundation, in turn is supportive of her project. We need to preserve ancient forests in all the ways we can!

Kolb Forest Report *by Jean Kolb*

Rainfall over the summer averaged 7 inches per month, so mosses stayed a rich green, mushrooms appeared in many colors and shapes, flowering plants attained remarkable size, and trees, such as the promising American chestnut on a ridgeline, increased in diameter and height. Where the power company cleared the trees under a line crossing our land, the abundant moisture and increased sunlight in the

cleared area produced eight-foot-tall Fireweeds (a native plant) and five-foot-tall Perillas (a dastardly non-native invasive). Hal constructed a long trail under the cleared line—a great help in zapping the invasives, protecting the natives, and tending the chinquapins we planted. Our local Woodrats also had a productive summer with the birth of four sets of twins.

Reports from Other 500-Year Forests

Good news! According to Tom Smith, Director of Virginia’s Natural Heritage Program, “Ryan Klopff, our new Mountain Region Steward is now on board, and we’d like to make a commitment with you to develop a management plan for Chestnut Ridge Natural Area Preserve in the next 12 months.”

This was a quiet first year for the Helms Phillips 500-Year Forest. But this fall we have made contact with Rodney Nice of Nice Forest Land Care. Early in the spring he will do a transect GPS inventory of the invasive species throughout the entire property. From that effort a long-range control program will be put into place.

Under discussion with Steve Brooks and Maxine Kenny for their 500-Year Forest is a similar effort as has been proposed by Rodney Nice for the Helms Phillips forest. This forest with six rare plants is under a strong invasive attack.

Legacy

by Duncan C. Augustine, Jr.

The Earth was
The Earth is
The Earth will be

Land flows over molten rock
Mountains rise, oceans fill

Life is
Origin unknown, unknowable
Life will be

Change, diversity, immense complexity
Species spawn, grow, flourish, die
One species evolves to dominate
One species claims it all

Mountains are flattened
Rivers are dammed
Marshes are filled

Forests cut
Fields paved
Boundaries are fenced

Slice after slice after slice after slice
One species only

Let the mountains stand
Let the rivers flow
Let the marsh and forest and field bloom

Fleeting caretaker take care
Heal, replenish, protect
One oasis at a time
A gift to the future
Legacy
Before it is too late

The Earth was
The Earth is
What will the Earth be

Duncan C. Augustine, Jr. VMD runs a general veterinary practice in Amherst, Virginia. He is also the President of the Central Virginia Land Conservancy, a land trust serving the greater Lynchburg area. "Legacy" appeared in their spring newsletter.

Identifying a Tree has become a Snap



Leafsnap, an Electronic Field Guide, is a free mobile app for the iPhone and iPad. It requires iOS 4.3 or later. Leafsnap is the first in a series of electronic field guides being developed by researchers from Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institution. This app uses visual recognition software to help identify tree species from photographs of their leaves.

Leafsnap contains beautiful high-resolution images of leaves, flowers, fruit, petiole, seeds, and bark. Leafsnap currently includes the trees of New York City and Washington, D.C., and will soon grow to include the trees of the entire continental United States.

The Leafsnap website shows the tree species included in Leafsnap, the collections of its users, and the team of research volunteers working to produce it.

The Invasive Problem in a Nutshell

In a nutshell here are the reasons we are so concerned about invasive plants that are galloping into our eastern forests. Many hardwood forests have invasive shrubs and related species that wholly or partially dominate the understory. Invasive plants

- limit the growth and reproduction of desirable forest species,
- impair access,
- alter ecosystem conditions,
- reduce biological diversity, and
- reduce the quality of wildlife habitat.



Wild grapes by Rodney Nice



Skyward through Northern Red Oaks by Rodney Nice

Donors ~ Thank You

What we do is only possible with the support of our donors.
The following gifts were received from June 1, 2011 to October 31, 2011

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*in honor of Murph Westing and his
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Tree Tender.....	\$30

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500-YEAR FOREST
FOUNDATION

President's Letter



Ted Harris

We had hoped to have an article about our new prospective 500-Year Forest in Greene County that is owned by Frank and Eleanor Biasioli. We are still in the process of finalizing the conservation easement. We will fill you in with the details in our next Winter and Spring Issue.

We are greatly excited about our new understanding with the leadership of the University of Virginia's Department of Biology. We hope to expand this research relationship with other schools that are near 500-Year Forests.

For the first time we have one of our forest owners, Hal Kolb, as a member of our Board of Directors. Hal and Jean Kolb were our first 500-Year Forest owners. Their forest is proof of how attentive care makes for a healthy forest.

It's so exciting to us to see a woman of Joan Maloof's caliber and stamina take on a very important endeavor of working to establish old growth forests for all to see in over 2,700 counties in the US. We are with her all the way in this enterprise.

Dale and I now live in a cottage at the Forest at Duke in Durham, North Carolina. This is just right for us. I still feel reasonably robust and will be able to direct the Foundation from here, where hopefully opportunities for 500-Year Forest expansion will exist in North Carolina as well as Virginia.

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Research Professor of Biology
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