



THE 500-YEAR FOREST FOUNDATION

Newsletter

Volume 17 ■ Number 1 ■ Summer 2014

Your donation helps protect and sustain forests that store one ton of carbon per acre annually.

New directors greatly augment working board



Biasioli



Smith



Moore



Shugart



Paurillo

in the way of institutional history and continuity. Through his Master Naturalist

of the University of Virginia's Center for Regional Environmental Studies. His work uses computer models to simulate life cycles of each tree in forest plots, showing changes in forest structure and composition over time. For the Foundation, he will coordinate initiatives with the scientific advisory board, oversee standardization of the biotic inventories and broaden our network within the forest research community.

THE 500-YEAR Forest Foundation board elected five new members. Each joins with overall Foundation stewardship responsibilities plus particular areas of focus.

Frank Biasioli fills the board seat reserved for a forest owner. Already, Frank has attended a planning meeting to form a new Cooperative Weed Management Area in Central Virginia, which may add significantly to invasives control strategies in our forests. His active membership in several other conservation organizations will help forge alliances and coalitions.

Jeff Smith, former Foundation program director and current volunteer, brings much

network, Jeff has already helped assess forests and audit invasives eradication. He is executive director of Rush Homes, a Lynchburg-area nonprofit that builds residences for the physically challenged.

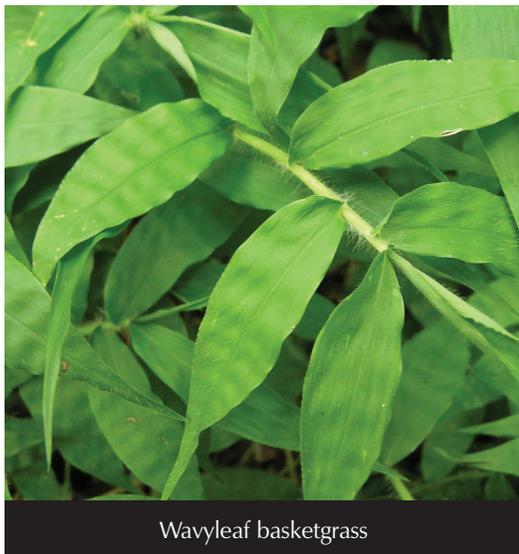
Hullahen Williams Moore, who goes by Hullie, brings a wealth of board experience that includes the Shenandoah National Park Trust. He practiced law in Richmond for 25 years and served as a member of the Virginia State Corporation Commission for 12. He is acclaimed as a nature photographer; NPR once compared his book "Shenandoah" to Ansel Adams' Yosemite work.

Dr. Herman H. "Hank" Shugart is Professor of Environmental Sciences and Director

Fay Paurillo is a senior accountant with Hantzmon Wiebel, a Charlottesville CPA firm that has a well-established track record of working with area nonprofits. Fay joined the firm in 2008 after years of accounting experience in the Philippines and completing a Masters in Accounting from Liberty University. She has graciously agreed to stand for election as treasurer at the Foundation's October annual meeting.

More information on our board members, past and present, is available at our website, www.500yearforest.org, under About Us.

Photo: Kerrie L. Kyde, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org



Wavyleaf basketgrass

Inventories, invasives work make for busy forests

BIOTIC INVENTORY FIELD WORK has been completed at the Sunshine Forest and was two-thirds done by August in the Biasioli Forest. Meanwhile, every member forest continues work against invasive species with increased assistance from the Foundation and awareness of a new foe—wavyleaf basketgrass.

Tom Wieboldt, Curator of Vascular Plants at Virginia Tech's Massey Herbarium, had company for the finish of the Sunshine Forest inventory. Staffers from the Department of Conservation and Recreation—Natural Heritage ecologists Gary Fleming and Karen Patterson and

Mountain Region Steward Ryan Klopff—were there to help establish two vegetation plots for future monitoring. Natural Heritage continues to be an invaluable resource, offering expertise and guidance on many Foundation initiatives.

The Biasioli Forest was visited twice by Lane D. Gibbons, an ecologist with Virginia Forestry and Wildlife Group with a third visit to go. He reports 231 species found so far and details unique communities such as "seepage wetlands." That field work, too, will be followed by preparation of two plots, a complete species list, summary

see **Inventories**, page 2



"We care about our natural environment and are committed to looking after it for future generations."

— Erica and Ryan Sunshine

For the Sunshines, forest stewardship is a family affair

DONALD AND JOANNA SUNSHINE have informed us that their son Ryan and his wife Erica are now the Sunshines in charge. This marks an historic occasion, not just for the Sunshines, but for the Foundation, as well—the first change in member forest ownership.

"Erica and I are taking over ownership, care and long-term planning for Sunshine Farm," Ryan wrote in an email. "A large part of the reason we are making this move and undertaking this responsibility is that we care about our natural environment and are committed to looking after it for future generations." Those future generations include Ryan and Erica's children: Jeremy, who just this year graduated the US Air Force Academy and Samantha, a double major in math-

ematics and secondary education at West Virginia Wesleyan College. Jeremy, too, is future-focused when it comes to his family's land; he's looking to grow walnut trees on Sunshine Farm.

Ryan and Erica both studied architecture at Virginia Tech and work in the Roanoke Studio of RRMM Architects. Outside of work, they enjoy cooking, gardening, farming, hunting, hiking, photography and shooting. "We are both nature enthusiasts and are interested in the work that you have underway," Ryan said in reference to the biotic inventory, invasives eradication project and proposed tree ring research set for his forest.

Photos of all three generations of Sunshines are at the website under Forest Updates.

Inventories, continued from page 1

reports and maps. See the Foundation website for more on both inventories and invasive work.

This spring, a perfect growing season meant advantage, invasives. With renewed support from the Ecology Wildlife Foundation and others, the 500-Year Forest Foundation paid full costs for invasives removal. Austin Jamison of Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage tackled garlic mustard in the Helms Phillips Forest. Master Naturalist and new director Jeff Smith audited the work, seeing "a huge impact" from spraying.

He also saw significant stilt grass, which is in overdrive in other forests, too. Jean Kolb says, "It's unbelievable how much has spread in one season." In the Biasioli

Forest, the Virginia Forestry and Wildlife Group started what is to be a multi-year program on stilt grass. They also conferred on the best tack against Greene County's first reported find of wavyleaf basketgrass, described as "stilt grass on steroids."

Forest owner and new director Frank Biasioli attended a late July planning meeting aimed at establishing a Cooperative Weed Management Area in Central Virginia. The 500-Year Forest Foundation hopes to marshal resources against invasives with the U.S. Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, the Virginia Department of Forestry, the Piedmont Environmental Council and the Virginia Native Plant Society, among others.

New 500-Year Forests in the works

There's a good chance that neighbors might become 500-Year Forests numbers eight and nine.

Director Ches Goodall, in assessing an Albemarle County prospect that is set to become the eighth (paperwork pending), had this to say in his report to the board: "It is also possible that the neighbor to the north might add his 100+ acres, thus expanding the contiguous area of no-cut woodlands to well over 200 acres." Long hoped for, this would be the first contiguous addition of member forests.

Stay tuned.

Scientific advisors named

FIVE VIRGINIA-BASED university researchers have agreed to serve on The 500-Year Forest Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board, lending credibility and authority to the organization's "forests as laboratories" initiatives.

They will advise on a wide array of issues, including biotic inventory protocols, research requests, invasives eradication and more. Their network of contacts and colleagues affords us meaningful interaction with other forest researchers and positions us for more systematic forest finding and information sharing.

Continuing on the advisory board are W. Dean Cocking, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at James Madison University and Carolyn A. Copenheaver, Associate Professor in Virginia Tech University's Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation.

New members are Heather P. Griscom, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at James Madison University; R. Stockton Maxwell, Assistant Professor in the Geospatial Science Program in the College of Science and Technology at Radford University; and Mary E. Lehman, Professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences at Longwood University.

See our website for detailed bios.

Join us for a picnic at Pine Knot



Photo: Dave Umberger

LONG BEFORE THERE WAS A CAMP DAVID, Teddy Roosevelt's family came by train to a rustic getaway in Central Virginia called Pine Knot, the setting for The 500-Year Forest Foundation's October 11th fundraiser.

A ticket to the event, available after Labor Day, covers a catered picnic lunch and old-growth forest presentations. It also garners a rare look at Pine Knot, described as "a small treasure of Presidential history in Albemarle County" on the website for the venue.

The camp-like site is maintained by The Edith and Theodore Roosevelt Pine Knot Foundation, whose board readily recognized the kinship between Roosevelt's conservation legacy and the 500-Year Forest Foundation's mission. Their granting use of Pine Knot was just the start of generosity surrounding this event: historic St. Anne's Christ Church, about a mile away, has agreed to allow logistical "staging" there.

Watch your email inbox and www.500yearforest.org for more information about the event.

Thank you to our Donors

The following gifts were received from November 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014. Soil Saver gifts start at \$600, Stream Steward at \$300, Flora Fancier at \$150, Fauna Fan at \$60 and Tree Tender at \$30.

Grants

We are again fortunate to be able to report grants from **The Morningstar Foundation** of Virginia (\$1,000 for general use) and the **Ecology Wildlife Foundation** of Asheville, NC (\$5,000 to control invasives).

SOIL SAVER

Allen Family Foundation, Inc.
Audrey and David Franks
Dale and Ted Harris
Kay and Kent Van Allen, Jr.

STREAM STEWARD

Jenna and Mitch Haynie, *in honor of Ted and Dale Harris, parents*
Rick Helms and Carolyn Phillips
Henry Hild, *in memory of Louise Tannehill Bagby, cousin*
Madeline Miller, *in honor of Dale and Ted Harris*
Marilyn and Cranston Williams, Jr., *in honor of Dale and Ted Harris, cousins*

FLORA FANCIER

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Jane White
Faye Wood

TREE TENDER

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Betsy Locke
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Lois McWane
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Randy Nelson, *in honor of Ted and Dale Harris*
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Jake Paulson
Ned Perrow, *in honor of Ted Harris*
David and Ellen Petty
John Richards
Toni Rini, *in honor of Gail Rini, mother*
M. A. Root, *in memory of John Root*
Carole Royer, *in memory of Richard S. Royer, husband*
Ella Jean Shore
Alexia Smith
Martha Strader



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Director's Letter



Ted Harris

This is the last of my newsletter missives to you. I'm stepping down from the board October 1.

The transition we told you about last fall is nearly complete at The 500-Year Forest Foundation. We've added capable leadership, several new directors, more scientific advisors, volunteers and affiliations. This is a great satisfaction to me.

I could not be more proud of the bright future ahead for the Foundation. I will continue my commitment as a volunteer, consultant and fierce supporter and know that I'm in fine company with friends like you doing the same.

With my wife Dale, I now get to concentrate more on another legacy: our children and grandchildren, near and far—who are and have been themselves 500-Year Forest Foundation benefactors. It is for them and for all the world's children and grandchildren that we've worked to keep forests standing.

If you'll notice, this is no longer the president's letter, but is from me as a director. It will continue to be written by board members in turn, giving a voice to the many people dedicating their time, energy, insight and finances to conserving forests. So, in a way, this isn't a "last" letter at all. It's a first.