



THE 500-YEAR FOREST FOUNDATION *Newsletter*

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

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Welcoming a “ready-made” 500-Year Forest

RARELY DOES THE Foundation encounter a ready-made 500-Year Forest. But that is essentially the case with the property owned by Jim Hurley and Susan Roth in Greene County. Their deed already contains a no-cut provision in an easement held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The 500-Year Forest Foundation, with owner approval, will join in on those protections and provide an old-growth management overlay.

Credit for the introduction goes to director Frank Biasioli, whose own 500-Year Forest is just five miles away. He knows management consultant Jim Hurley not only as a neighbor, but also through other conservation and forest-management groups, including the Blue Ridge



Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management.

Both Jim and Susan are Master Naturalists and Susan, an editor, playwright and photographer, took photos for the book “A Year in Rock Creek Park.” Their forest keeping commitment is evident in the Daily Progress newspaper photo that

shows them braving the cold for a two-hour seminar in Montpelier’s Big Woods.

Their property sits on the lower east slope of Snow Mountain. Director Ches Goodall assessed the forest for us last March, finding several distinct areas: former farmland that is now Virginia pine, a mixed oak forest with specimen hitting 80 years old, two fertile coves with yellow poplar and deep loamy soils, well-established white pine on low elevation ridges and more. Perennial streams run into the Roach River. Ches describes one feature we hope photographer Susan will capture for the next newsletter: “A spectacular waterfall spills over a prominent rock outcrop that stretches across the entire hollow, from one ridge to the next.”

O’Halloran to join Foundation board



THOMAS L. O’HALLORAN, who recently joined Virginia Tech’s forest resources and environmental conservation research faculty, will also join the board of The 500-Year Forest Foundation.

A former assistant professor of environmental science at Sweet Briar College, Tom founded the Sweet Briar Land-Atmosphere Research Station, which he continues to run through a collaboration between the two schools. It features a 120-foot tower with an

array of instruments that measure the movement of carbon, water, and energy between the forest and the air above.

Before joining Sweet Briar, Tom conducted three years of post-doctoral research at Oregon State University. He received his Ph.D. in environmental sciences in 2008 from the University of Virginia, where he also earned B.A. and M.S. degrees. He will help boost the 500YFF’s forests as laboratories initiatives.



Forest Owners' meeting; in search of the ephemeral(s)

OUR FOREST OWNERS are set to meet April 8-9, 2016 and will visit Clinch Mountain Preserve, the 500-Year Forest owned by Steve Brooks and Maxine Kenny in Scott County.

The date was chosen after Maxine emailed the window of opportunity with the best chances of finding spring ephemerals in their forest that also avoided NASCAR race traffic headed to



nearby Bristol. We look forward to seeing rare plants and big trees like the Tennessee chickweed and Northern Red Oak shown.

Directors were invited, too, and several plan to attend. Frank Biasioli, an owner and director, has agreed to talk about the Foundation's partnership with a new weed

management group. Bill Martin, the Lexington, KY-based old-growth expert fundamental to starting the Foundation, has been asked to speak at the group's Saturday luncheon. Owners of prospective 500-Year forests are also welcome.



FOREST OWNERS' MEETING
at Clinch Mountain Preserve

UPDATES

Forests and Foundation

The past year's momentum is moving right into 2016. The Foundation's forests work group—David Ledbetter, Ches Goodall, Hulle Moore and Jeff Smith—is streamlining how forests are added and owners receive support. Carolyn Phillips launched our Forest Affiliates program (welcome, Haupt Forest), which connects us to smaller, younger forests.

Hank Shugart, with input from the Scientific Advisory Board, is finalizing a biotic inventory protocol. Frank Biasioli, through Blue Ridge PRISM, helped find and focus resources on invasives controls. Fay Paurillo set up Foundation compliance and book-keeping procedures through her employer, Hantzmon Wiebel, who handled our tax filing pro bono this year.

All that effort is aimed at assisting forests. Frank made considerable headway on invasives in his own Biasioli Forest, the only forest to fully utilize annual matching funds from the Foundation. Frank's out-of-pocket costs were four times that amount.

The usual crew was unable to put in as many hours this year in the Kolb Forest, then this happened: "The long power line corridor across our property was cleared of all its trees," Jean said. "The subsequent flood of sunlight plus abundant rainfall turned the corridor into an inland sea of stilt grass." The Helms Phillips Forest efforts against stilt grass and garlic mustard were stymied when an outside contractor canceled.

Funding issues at Natural Heritage affected movement on the 47-page management plan for Chestnut Ridge Preserve. Elsewhere, forest owners are waiting for the new inventory protocols to help reconcile disparities: Clinch Mountain Preserve has dozens of inventory plots and the Sunshine Forest has two. Tom Dierauf, the forester who did the original work there, returns to the Kolb Forest this winter and spring to reinventory.

Lastly, the Wilson Brothers Forest leaves our fold. Thwarted by inability to gain access across National Forest Service land to reach theirs, the owners agreed to sell to the U.S. government. After meetings and correspondence with NFS and National Park Service representatives, the Foundation relinquished its equitable servitude claim, reassured the land will be preserved and trees protected as part of the Appalachian Trail corridor.

Thank you to our Donors

What we do is only possible with the support of the people you see on this list. The following gifts were received through September 30, 2015. 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 able to report grants from **The Morningstar Foundation** (\$1,000 for general use) and the **Ecology Wildlife Foundation** (\$5,000 to control invasives).

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Frank & Eleanor Biasioli
Dale & Ted Harris
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The 500-Year Forest Foundation, a non-profit 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, go to www.500yearforest.org, email 500yearforests@gmail.com or call 434-953-3325.



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Director's Letter



David Ledbetter

There is nothing so gloriously wild and completely healthy as an uncompromised, mature forest. Old forests are the greatest guarantors of the habitability of the Earth. When heads wiser than mine created this Foundation, they did so knowing that only abiding understanding of and love for such forests assure that they endure.

Our 500-Year Forest owners faithfully continue stewardship of their land. Our directors are growing the organization. Frank Biasioli--both a director and an owner--leads our partnership with the Blue Ridge Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management. That alliance will help increase our resources for invasives control and education significantly over the next several years.

We are set for a very good 2016. We expect to gain two or more 500-Year Forests and add affiliates. We'll launch an annual conference and hold an April owners meeting. One topic : the inventory protocol our Scientific Advisory Board is finalizing.

You can help by letting us know of good candidates for our ranks: directors, owners, SAB members. Keep your financial support steadfast and generous. Finally, continue sharing your ideas and spreading the word about what we are doing to conserve great forests. Thanks, all of you, for doing your part.