



# THE 500-YEAR FOREST FOUNDATION

## Newsletter

Volume 19 ■ Number 1 ■ Fall 2016

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

## The Kolb Forest: a 2016 recap

**F**OREST OWNERS are keen observers, and none more than Jean Kolb who filed this report on life this year in the Kolb forest. Her daughter, photographer Kathryn Kolb, came across the young bear enjoying it all.

“We usually see one or two Swainson’s thrushes pass through our forest during the fall migration, but this September a large flock arrived and stayed for five days—perhaps grounded by a low ceiling that hid the tops of the surrounding mountains the whole time. Fortunately, our best dogwoods were loaded with red berries as were many female, fruit-producing spicebushes. As the thrushes fluttered about, snatch-

ing berries on the wing, a few rose-breasted grosbeaks and scarlet tanagers, also part of the flock, sat on twigs and plucked berries within easy reach. It was a great pleasure to have an abundance of natural food for these migrating birds.

Human activity in our forest this year included Tom Dierauf’s re-measuring of trees within twelve plots that he established eleven years ago. His work then and his current re-measuring—both funded by the 500-Year Forest Foundation—record changes in tree growth, species, and number on sites with differing conditions and histories. Shade-tolerant beeches gained height, spread their low

branches wider, and began to assert their presence. The 500-YFF also funded Peter Mehring’s work to remove Oriental bittersweet. Volunteer Shirley Halladay reduced stilt grass along trails. Student volunteers from Tandem Friends School helped clear perilla and improve a trail.

With 40 inches of rain in the first ten months, native plants such as spring beauty and great blue lobelia that were freed from invasives multiplied, but nonnative invasive plants elsewhere grew robustly. All trees added more foliage, including the big hickories that, in early November, turned their drier slopes first a bright yellow, then a deep gold.”



## Directors meet at Biasioli Forest

**FOLLOWING THROUGH** on a standing goal of getting directors into our member forests, The 500-Year Forest Foundation board held its February meeting at the Biasioli Forest in Greene County.

Graciously hosted by Frank Biasioli, a board member as well as a forest owner, the meeting was attended by David Ledbetter,

Jeff Smith, Hullie Moore, Ches Goodall, Carolyn Phillips and Foundation attorney Miranda Yost. The agenda ran the gamut from new prospects to easement language, to the affiliates program, updates on the Blue Ridge Partnership for Regional Invasives Species Management, website redesign, the April forest owners meeting and more.

While Foundation business could have happened anywhere, the location gave accomplished landscape photographer Hullie Moore the unique chance to capture the Lynch River in winter shown here. He plans to bring his camera on visits to our other forests, as well.

# Clinch Mountain Preserve hosts 2016 Forest Owners' meeting

FIFTEEN INTREPID ATTENDEES donned cold-weather garb for the climb to stands of old-growth at Clinch Mountain Preserve in Southwest Virginia during the 2016 forest owners meeting.

The group had gathered Friday night April 8 for food and wide-ranging conversation at the Ole Nickelsville Hotel. Discussions continued Saturday morning April 9 after breakfast and covered easement language and enforcement, non-native invasives species management, forest owner-board relations and more.



In addition to Clinch Mountain Preserve owners Maxine Kenny and Steve Brooks, other owners of 500-Year Forests attending included Eleanor and Frank Biasioli, Rick Helms and Carolyn Phillips, along with newcomers Jim Hurley and Susan Roth, Peter and Susan Dutnell and Rick Haupt. Bill Wasserman, who owns a prospective 500-Year Forest in Southwest Virginia, joined the group, as did Foundation directors David Ledbetter, Jeff Smith and his wife Mary.

With a morning forecast of freezing temperatures and snow showers, Steve

wisely reordered events to push the hike later in the day on Saturday so temperatures could rise. Photographer Susan Roth took the photo of Steve standing next to an especially impressive specimen in his forest. Jeff took the photo of Susan as she captured the dwarf Larkspur.



## 2017 ForestSEA conference planning underway

The 500-Year Forest Foundation plans to launch an annual conference called ForestSEA in 2017 and needs sponsors, speakers and logistical help.

The day-long program will center on three key elements of forest life: Stewardship, Environment, and Art--thus, ForestSEA. Attendees can commit to one theme for the day or customize by picking a la carte from a dozen or more panel discussions, speeches and workshops across all three prongs. The format showcases topics of interest to conservationists, art enthusiasts, environmentalists, forest owners, students and more.

For 2017, the art component will feature photography. As it happens, several 500-Year Forest Foundation supporters have professional photography credentials. (This newsletter contains the work of three: Kathryn Kolb, Hullie Moore and Susan Roth.)

The stewardship portion will tap into the network of conservation organizations and the forestry community for speakers. The environment tranche will be developed after consultation with director and forest-atmosphere researcher Tom O'Halloran and members of our Scientific Advisory Board.

No date for ForestSEA has yet been set, but late fall seems likely. To volunteer, discuss sponsorship or offer suggestions, please email [500yearforests@gmail.com](mailto:500yearforests@gmail.com) or call 434 953-3325.



# 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, 2016. 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 generous support from **The Ecology Wildlife Foundation** of Asheville, NC in the amount of \$5,000. The gift was used to aid our efforts to eradicate non-native invasive species in our forest.

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Frank & Eleanor Biasioli  
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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](http://www.500yearforest.org), email [500yearforests@gmail.com](mailto:500yearforests@gmail.com) or call 434-953-3325.



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***Director's Letter***

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Carolyn Phillips

***Every day, I wake up surrounded by a 500-Year Forest.***

Awestruck and inspired, I've thrown in with others who are committed to seeing that trees stand and forests thrive. We know that forest dwellers aren't the only beneficiaries. Purer streams run to the sea and cleaner air wafts afar. Life is good here. And because of the forest, life is better everywhere else, too.

That explains the growing number of proponents helping to advance The 500-Year Forest Foundation mission. We count on fellow conservation organizations, public entities, grant makers, our own directors (past and present), forest owners, visitors, volunteers, donors, researchers and you to help tell the forest story. I call it "Loraxing," my Seuss-inspired verb for speaking and acting on behalf of trees.

Ever evolving, the Foundation is giving all of us more to say. We continue to encounter strong prospects for membership, now open to smaller and younger forests. Non-native invasive species removal efforts are non-stop. We've joined discussions about establishing an old-growth trails corridor. We are incubating an annual conference and a "breathing room" program for city kids. With so much on deck and planned, we hope that you'll continue your forest stewardship support with ideas, donations and service.