



THE 500-YEAR FOREST FOUNDATION

Newsletter

Volume 21 ■ Number 1 ■ Fall 2018

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

Welcoming our latest 500-Year Forest, Edgeworth

JEFFERSON called it Eden.

That Founding Father was referring to a swath of his native Virginia that includes what is now the Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District, Jefferson's Monticello, Madison's Montpelier and the newest 500-Year Forest.

Edgeworth Farm, one of the largest in Albemarle County, is a busy cattle, sheep and hay operation. Its open fields are the site of world-renowned sheep dog trials. Owner Florence Wilson shares Jefferson's passion for this land, declaring her 1,190-acre parcel "one of the greatest loves of my life." That is why, in 2018, she put 484 forested acres under conservation to become, in time, old growth.



The entire property was already under open-space easement with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, protecting the critical slope and visual impact of Peters Mountain on its northwest border. That easement also advanced national conservation goals for the many streams that originate on the property and drain into the Happy Creek watershed and flow ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay.

The VOF easement also bolstered preservation efforts that placed the Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. The Edgeworth property fronts on a designated Virginia Scenic Byway and both the open fields at the front of the property and the wooded mountain land at the back of the property provide scenic enjoyment to the traveling public.

But none of those protections stopped timber harvesting. So, Ches Goodall, consulting forester and 500YFF director, visited Edgeworth. His assessment for the board included an all-important soils analysis of the site. Four miles southwest of Gordonsville, VA, on the east slopes of the Southwest Mountains, Edgeworth has geological and soil attributes of both the Blue Ridge Mountains and Piedmont Plateau, Ches noted.

(Continues on page 2)

Busofsky, Warren start three-year foundation board terms



THE 500-YEAR FOREST Foundation is extremely pleased to announce the addition of two new board members in 2018: Richard M. Busofsky, a Charlottesville CPA, and Karin P. Warren, a Lynchburg college professor.



Rich is a tax partner at Hantzmon Wiebel LLP in Charlottesville and was instrumental in establishing the ongoing relationship between the foundation and his firm, which provides pro bono services to scores of area

non-profits. He will serve a three-year term as a director and treasurer for the 500YFF.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Rich graduated with a BS in accounting from the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science before heading west to attend Golden Gate University in San Francisco where he earned an MS in Taxation. He spent his first eight years as a CPA in Southern California. Rich joined Hantzmon Wiebel in 1988.

He has been recognized by Virginia Business magazine as a "Super CPA" and trains and mentors others. He was known as an avid fan of Philadelphia sports, even before the 2018 Super Bowl gave him a high-profile reason to be. Rich is on the board of Building Goodness Foundation, which connects volunteers from the design and construction industries with vulnerable communities locally and around the world.

(Continues on page 2)

Edgeworth *(from page 1)*

Greenstone forms the backbone of the Southwest Mountains. That igneous material weathers over time to produce extremely fertile top soils--the redlands, which are the most productive upland soils in the entire Piedmont Plateau. The result: high-grade Appalachian hardwoods that thrive on this soil type and often exhibit exceptional growth rates.

Ches listed the major species as including yellow poplar, chestnut oak, northern red oak, white oak, hickory, black oak, white pine, Virginia pine and shortleaf pine. Ches also found that farming, timber harvesting and fire had together eliminated any vestige of original



growth at Edgeworth. Despite those disturbances, the invasive species problem is not severe.

"Left undisturbed and allowed to develop without subsequent interference," Ches concluded, "this transitional mixed

hardwood forest would slowly give way to an old growth climax forest dominated by long-lived chestnut oak on dry, westfacing sideslopes, mixed oaks and hickory on mesic ridge sites and poplar in the moist stream valleys and fertile sideslopes." With that promise, the board approved another 500-Year Forest.

Florence's family has owned Edgeworth since 1930 and she is quite proud of that history. But her stewardship is forward-looking and her determination isn't limited to Edgeworth. "Maybe by conserving the land," she says, "we can preserve the planet."

Good easements make good neighbors

Decades of uncertainty disappeared earlier this year when a wooded subdivision near a 500-Year Forest "re-gifted" an easement covering 182 acres.

That parcel, which lies along the northwest slope of Long Arm Mountain between the Miran Forest community near Batesville, VA and the Helms Phillips 500-Year Forest, is now under a conservation easement held by the Land Trust of Virginia.

Miran Forest homeowners fought for years to guarantee that protections (including a no-cut provision) were honored but an earlier easement recipient didn't comply. The 500-Year Forest Foundation actively encourages easements on land contiguous to its forests to extend old growth potential.

Editor's note: Founder Ted Harris shares occasional musings about a forest's life. For this newsletter, he considers the leaf and gives us an excuse to share a favorite photo.

The Leaf, A Molecular Manufacturing Marvel by Ted Harris

What could the leaf tell us, if we could unlock secrets about its unbelievable molecular abilities? Be it a blade, a needle, a bract or a frond, the leaf is another construction miracle in the planet's development.



Bent on survival, leaves are central to plant warning and defense systems. In Africa, Acacia tree leaves send an ethylene odor to fend off leaf-munching giraffes. The aroma wafts to other trees nearby that respond by producing ethylene, too, to keep safe.

A similar scenario sets up when caterpillars attack the willow. The tree produces a poison that debilitates the caterpillar. A Washington state study found the smell is detected by willow trees as far as a mile away, giving them

time to prepare for the caterpillar onslaught.

Saliva detection prompts defense responses that run the gamut from releasing a pheromone offensive to the attacker to producing one that attracts the attacker's predator. Certain plants being foraged by caterpillars emit a pheromone that attracts a parasitic wasp who turns the tables and eats the caterpillar.

Of course, leaves aren't all mayhem. The tiny tea leaf is an amazing chemical factory. Because of its commercial importance, it has long been scrutinized and analyzed by plant scientists. It is a molecular manufacturing marvel, having learned how to produce over one thousand chemical compounds. Hence, the complexities in the cup.

New Directors *(from page 1)*

Rich's love of music gets him on a plane often for concerts and benefit performances. A recent embrace of hiking has him eager to visit 500-Year Forests.

Karin Warren is the Herzog Family Chair of Environmental Studies & Science at Randolph College. She holds a B.S. in Meteorology from Cornell University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Energy and Resources from the University of California at Berkeley, where she held a Department of Energy Global Change Fellowship. At Randolph College, she developed the BA and BS degree programs, and has chaired the Environmental Studies & Science department since 2002.

Her areas of interest include energy and sustainable development, climate and global change, community resilience, Environmental Studies & Science pedagogy, and quantitative environmental methods. Karin puts her teaching philosophy this way: "To understand the environment, you have to get out in it, literally and figuratively. Environmental studies students all get wet and dirty at some point (or at several points) in their academic experience here -- through stream monitoring, or geology field trips, or on a geocaching treasure hunt."

In addition to the global environment, Karin says her passions in life include hiking, gardening, low-stress cooking, reading anything she can get her hands on, and practicing t'ai chi chuan and yoga.

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 November 30, 2018. Soil Saver gifts start at \$600, Stream Steward at \$300, Flora Fancier at \$150, Fauna Fan at \$60 and Tree Tender at \$30.

SOIL SAVER

Henry Hild

STREAM STEWARD

Frank & Eleanor Biasioli
Rob Bass & Moira Rafferty
Jeff & Mary Smith
Dale & Ted Harris
H. Gordon Leggett & Madeline E. Miller
Kent & Kay Van Allen
Cranston & Marilyn Williams,
in honor of cousins Dale and Ted Harris

FLORA FANCIER

Mary Morris Booth, *in honor of friends Dale and Ted Harris*
Edgar H. Lawton, *in memory of college roommate T. Henry Wilson, Jr.*
Mary Ann Ruegg, *in honor of friends Dale and Ted Harris*
Bill Wasserman

FAUNA FAN

Sharon & Sandy Ainslie
Kay Bethea
Steve Brooks & Maxine Kenny
Lincoln Brower & Linda Fink
Jess Crumbley
Judith & Forrest Gager
Rowland & Lorri Girling,
in honor of Dale and Ted Harris
Gale Glenn
Ches & Nancy Goodall
Timothy E. Harris
Marsha Heatwole
Theodora S. Kramer
Rick Helms & Carolyn Phillips
Joel & Kim Hennessey
Carroll Lisle
Dean & Nancy McCumber, *in honor of Dale and Ted Harris*
Jim McLaughlin
Paula Mehring
Robert Meister
Jim Murray, *in memory of wife Elizabeth*
Jake Paulson
Michael Pelton & Tamra Willis

A "next generation" grant

The 500-Year Forest Foundation is honored to have received an unrestricted grant from Edwards Mother Earth Foundation of Seattle. Information accompanying the \$500 check said the grant was recommended through a program developed to involve the next generation of Edwards family philanthropy.

Carolyn Ross
Frank & Dudley Sargent, *in honor of Ted and Dale Harris*
Ella Shore, *in honor of friends Dale and Ted Harris*
Marjorie Siegel & Allen Hard, *in honor of friends Rick Helms and Carolyn Phillips*
Peter & Jessica Ward, *in honor of Dale & Ted Harris*
Betty Ware, *in honor of Dale & Ted Harris*
Stan & Kris Warner
Betsy Westing & Dan Podell, *in memory of Murph Westing and in honor of his friends Ted & Dale Harris*

TREE TENDER

Duncan Augustine
Jeanne & Larry Bond
Valerie Delker
Elena Ellis, *in memory of friend James J. Auld, Jr.*
Bill & Carol Griffith, *in honor of Ted and Dale Harris*
Bob Jennings
Shirley Lynde, *in memory of husband Dr. James L. Lynde*
Larry & Ellen Martin
Hullihen W. Moore
Sarah & Bob Reid, *in honor of cousin Ted Harris*
Tony Rini
Tod F. Roach, *in honor of son Liam D. Roach*
Mary Ann Root
Annabelle Tropf

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

David O. Ledbetter, J.D.*

Chairman & President
Senior Counsel, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Richmond, VA

Richard M. Busofsky, CPA

Treasurer
Partner, Hantzmon Wiebel, LLP
Charlottesville, VA

Francis C. Biasioli, Ph.D.*

500-Year Forest owner
Charlottesville, VA

Kim Biasioli

Forest Conservation Specialist
Virginia Department of Forestry
Charlottesville, VA

McChesney Goodall, III

Consulting Forester
Richmond, VA

Hullihen Williams Moore*

Landscape Photographer
Richmond, VA

Thomas L. O'Halloran, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Clemson University
Clemson, SC

Jeffrey L. Smith

Executive Director, Rush Homes
Lynchburg, VA

Karin P. Warren, Ph.D.

Herzog Family Chair, Environmental Studies
Randolph College,
Lynchburg, VA

*Executive Committee Member



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.



500-YEAR FOREST
F O U N D A T I O N

WWW.500YEARFOREST.ORG

PO Box 1272
Charlottesville, VA 22902

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA
PERMIT #186

Director's Letter

Inside This Issue

.....

Welcoming Edgeworth	1
Two new directors	1
Edgeworth, continued	2
New directors, continued	2
Good neighbors	2
The Leaf	2
Thank you, Donors	3
"Next Generation" Grant	3
Officers and Directors.....	3
Director's Letter.....	4

.....



Jeff Smith

My work leading an affordable housing non-profit and my time with The 500-Year Forest Foundation have both strengthened lessons I started learning in childhood: that community is everything and, in its largest sense, all life is a community.

Hunting, fishing and exploring with my dog Dutch, I grew up a half century ago surrounded by farms and forests in Southwest Virginia. Towering stands of oak and hickory imprinted on my mind as places of adventure, discovery, refuge and healing. Later I'd come to know the importance of forests--especially old growth--as carbon sinks and biodiversity preserves, guaranteeing a higher quality of life for all of us.

Unfortunately, I'd also see an accelerated loss of forests and a proliferation of "no trespassing" signs. That loss and those barriers hurt us all, but negative environmental factors hit hardest at the lowest end of the income spectrum. The goal is finding common ground to bridge and overcome our differences about environmental and economic issues. Given the proven renewable benefits, it certainly helps to look at old growth forests as literal common ground and to realize that we are all one community.