



# 500-YEAR FOREST FOUNDATION

*Conserving old-growth forests and the biologically diverse species they nurture*

*Volume 28 • No. 2 • May 2025*

## *Why I'm Excited About the Summer Field Season!*

This year, again with our Forest Coordinator Gabe Quintero at the helm, we have several fantastic summer research associates helping us to inventory and study our forests. Wednesday Hertzberg and Alana Ellis from Randolph College will assist Gabe with traveling to several forests, collecting data, and analyzing in the lab. We also have Luke Reifenberger joining us for July and August who is majoring in fisheries, wildlife, and conservation sciences at Oregon State University. Luke is returning home to Virginia for the summer. Our interns and summer research associates are invaluable to us and our mission of finding, studying and protecting mature and future old growth forests in Virginia!



## *Donor Testimony from 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.

"I've had a keen interest in and concern for environmental progress and conservation my entire life," David said. "I give to advance the mission for the Foundation of identifying, conserving and researching mature forests so that they can become old growth forests." David helped form the Foundation in 1998 as its pro bono counsel.

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.



## Forest Program News

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Our Forest Program has been going strong this spring, with multiple projects in the works, including new easements, interns, field work, and outreach.

### ***New Easements:***

We are excited for the next batch of 500-Year Forests to be introduced to our catalog! This spring our staff has visited five forests all over the Commonwealth whose owners are interested in our program. Three of these owners are taking the next steps towards protecting their forests, so be on the lookout for the announcement of new 500-Year Forests in Halifax, Amherst, and Albemarle Counties!



### ***Interns:***

We are happy to have Wednesday Hertzberg '26 and Alana Ellis '26 of Randolph College back for another summer as our forest program interns this year! They will be assisting Gabriel Quintero, our Forest Coordinator, with forest inventories, carbon storage assessments, invasive species removal, and educational outreach. Special thanks to Dr. Karin Warren and Dr. William Bare of Randolph College for assisting with administration, coordination, and lab equipment.

### ***Field Work:***

This spring is packed with field work to support our forest owners. In April, we completed an inventory of the Bieker 500-Year Forest, and supporting visits to four landowners interested in our program. In early May, we completed a monitoring visit to the Biasioli 500-Year Forest, and later in the month we plan to conduct an inventory and carbon storage assessment of the Edmunds 500-Year Forest. Looking ahead to June, we have plans for an invasive removal project at the Bieker 500-Year Forest and an invasive prioritization survey at the Edgeworth 500-Year Forest.

### ***Outreach:***

We are continuously expanding our outreach into the community. This spring we have increased our connections with other lands trusts across the Commonwealth, held educational tables and walks, and increased our social media presence. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and BlueSky to learn bite-sized facts about Virginia's forests and keep up to date on future events – including our next Walk in the Woods and our partnership with the Lynchburg Hillcats!



*We are forever grateful to our founder, Ted Harris! Without you, Ted, there wouldn't be a 500-Year Forest Foundation.*

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## Officers & Directors

### **McChesney Goodall, III**

*Chairman & President  
Consulting Forester  
Richmond, Va*

### **Hullihan Williams Moore**

*Vice President • Landscape  
Photographer • Richmond, Va*

### **Karin P. Warren, Ph.D.**

*Secretary • Chair of Environmental  
Studies Randolph College  
Lynchburg, Va*

### **Florena Fay Paurillo, CPA**

*Treasurer • Charlottesville, Va*

### **Alexander M. Macaulay**

*Ex officio*

### **David O. Ledbetter, J.D.**

*Charles City County, Va*

### **James E. Edmunds, II**

*Forest Owner*

*Lynchburg, Va*

### **Tony Rini**

*Lynchburg, Va*

### **Mary T. Wickham**

*Richmond, Va*

### **Ted Harris**

*Emeritus*

## Staff & Counsel

### **Mary A. Elfner**

*Executive Director  
Richmond, Va*

### **Kerry B. Hutcherson, J. D.**

*Attorney at Law • Johnson & Johnson, Attorneys at Law, Rockville, VA*

### **Gabriel Quintero**

*Forest Coordinator  
Lynchburg, Va*

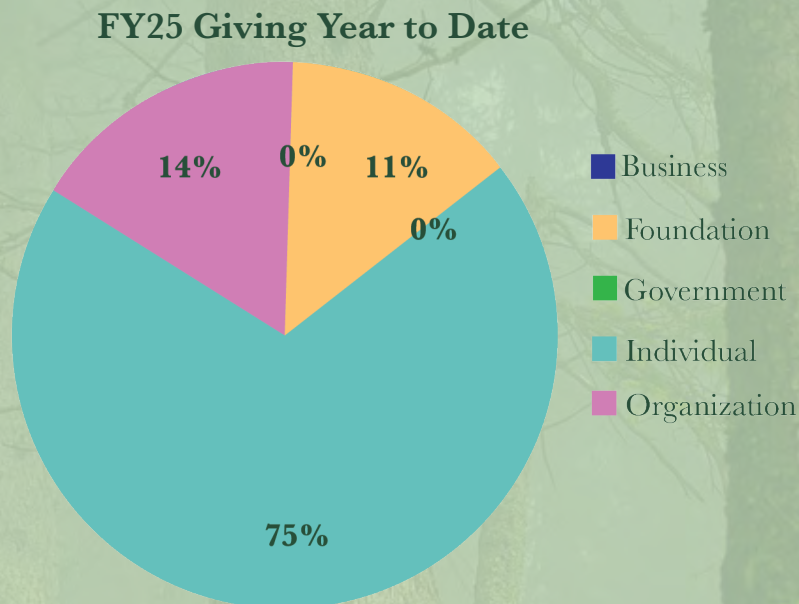
**Jeffrey L. Smith**



## *Giving by the Numbers*

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<i>Contact Type</i>	<i>FY25 YTD\$</i>
Business	\$0.00
Foundation	\$10,000.00
Government	\$0.00
Individual	\$67,288.14
Organization	\$12,100.00



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## *Upcoming Events!*

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To learn more about our work, and forests in general, please join us for our Spring Walks in the Woods and other events in 2025.

**Saturday, June 7 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Walk from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)** Table and Walk at the Blackwater Creek Ed Page Entrance in Lynchburg

**Assorted Walks in the Woods throughout Richmond, Lynchburg, and Charlottesville throughout the summer**

**October 18 at 2PM at the Byrd Theatre** A Benefit Showing of the Patagonia Movie, Treelines the Secret Life of Trees

Please visit our website for more information and to register for these upcoming events.

<https://500yearforest.org/events/>

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## *Leave a Forest Legacy with Planned Giving*

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At the 500-Year Forest Foundation we are extremely grateful to all who give! Please consider making a charitable gift through estate planning. Old growth forests will benefit greatly from your generosity! Please contact us at [500yearforests@gmail.com](mailto:500yearforests@gmail.com) to find out more.