



# 500-YEAR FOREST FOUNDATION

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

*Volume 27 • No. 1 • Spring 2024*

## *Old Growth Forests in the United States*

Why are old-growth forests rare in the United States? From 1850 to about 1920, we deforested two-thirds of the Eastern US. This massive loss of forests means that many of our forests are a maximum of a hundred years old. That means that many forest types could just now be maturing into old-growth (<https://dogwoodalliance.org/2023/05/what-are-old-growth-forest-and-where-can-they-be-found/>)

We at the 500-Year Forest Foundation see an opportunity to identify and protect these maturing forests by placing no cut conservation easements on 70 – 100-year-old forests, in which timber harvesting rights are permanently retired. These no-cut easements are key to restoring critical habitats and ecosystem services, because they allow forests to grow into a deeper level of maturity. One of these critical ecosystem services is carbon sequestration and storage, not only within the trees themselves, but also in the buildup of organic matter on the forest floor, one of the key aspects of old growth forests.



## *Forest Memories by Peter Mehring*

*“I love the incidental discoveries we find in our forest during the year: three Twayblade Orchids with pastel petals, bright redbud flowers, a fawn beside a large tree, a red eft crawling up the mountain, a coywolf, tail outstretched, pursuing a doe as she leads the chase away from her fawn. Each outing brings surprises.”*







## *It Takes a Forest and Walks in the Woods*

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“It Takes a Forest” is a project conceived by board member, Mary Wickham. This is an effort to raise awareness of the importance of old-growth forests by identifying mature urban forests that are accessible to the public within the greater Richmond area and beyond. Although Richmond’s primary forests are long gone, many urban forest stands are 100 years old or more. These “Century Forests” provide critical habitat and other ecosystem services to the city and have the potential to become our old-growth forests of the future.

Please join us for a Walk in the Woods in the Carillon Woods ( part of Byrd Park in the slope behind the Carillon down to the City of Richmond’s Pump House) on Friday, May 17th, from 10 am to Noon. Please RSVP to 500year-forests@gmail.com with Walk in the Woods RSVP as the subject line.



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

## *Board Retreat at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens*

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The Board of the 500-Year Forest Foundation met at the lovely Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, VA, for a retreat and strategy session on Friday May 26, 2023. Our facilitators were John Sarvay and Julia D’Agostino with Floricane. We chose and worked through three main topics: Forest Management, Public Awareness and Education and Financial Growth. This work will guide our decision making and resources into the next several years! Thank you to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden for being such a great host!

## *Mark Your Calendars!*

We have an upcoming event to promote and celebrate old growth forests which will be at Sweet Briar College on Friday, October 18, 5PM. More details to come!

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## DONATIONS - January 1, 2023- December 31, 2023

### **Tree Tender: \$1-\$59**

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Marlton  
Rod and Maggie Walker  
Robert Cluck  
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Elizabeth Galloway, *in honor of  
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Ms. Carolyn Ross, *in memory of  
Dale Harris and in honor of Ted Harris*  
Tamara Vance & Andrew E  
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Charles Vess and Karen Shaffer  
Peter and Jessica Ward, *in memory  
of friend Dale Harris*  
John and Carole Whittle  
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The Roanoke Religious Society  
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Mr. and Mrs. McChesney  
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Ted Harris  
David and Judith Ledbetter  
**Grants**  
The KVA Foundation  
The Curtis and Edith Munson  
Foundation  
The Bierne Carter Foundation  
The Virginia Land Conservation  
Fund

## Leave a Forest Legacy with Planned Giving

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 500yearfor-ests@gmail.com to find out more.



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## Put Your Name in the Hat!

Donating a gift of \$30 or more within a month of this newsletter puts your name in the hat to receive a 500-Year Forest Foundation cap. Three names will be selected. You may be the lucky one! If you donate to Put Your Name in the Hat – please make sure that the word 'Hat' is submitted with the donation.



The 500-Year Forest Foundation, a nonprofit 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, visit:

[www.500yearforest.org](http://www.500yearforest.org)

Email:

[500yearforests@gmail.com](mailto:500yearforests@gmail.com)

Or scan the code below to donate now:



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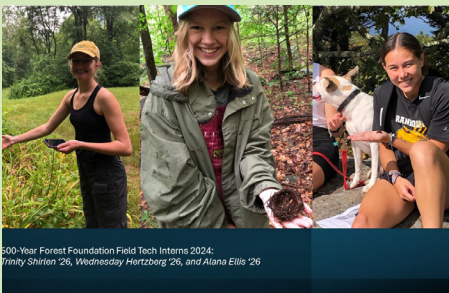
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## *New Staff – Gabe Quintero as Our New Forest Coordinator*

Gabriel Quintero is the foundation's Forest Coordinator, working as boots-on-the-ground to connect with our forest owners and provide services including general inspections, inventories, carbon storage assessments, website resources, and more. He also coordinates and trains our interns for summer inventories and assessments. Gabe holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from Randolph College and has worked to develop a carbon storage assessment methodology and guide, which he now implements in our forests. In his free time, Gabe enjoys hiking, driving scenic routes, and scuba diving. We are so grateful to have Gabe helping us in our 500-Year Forests with research of forest conditions and carbon storage, along with helping our forest owners with tasks such as putting up signage, keeping up with conservation values, and in turn supervising new research associates from Randolph College. Keep up the great work, Gabe!



500-Year Forest Foundation Field Tech Interns 2024:  
Trinity Shirten '26, Wednesday Hertzberg '26, and Alana Ellis '26

## *Welcome New Interns!*

Welcome to our three summer Field Tech Interns, Randolph College environmental science students Alana Ellis, Wednesday Hertzberg, and Trinity Shirten! They will be working this May with 500-YFF Forest Coordinator Gabe Quintero to conduct forest inventories, soil carbon analysis, trail maintenance, invasive species assessment, and other efforts in our forests.

Reagan White is a first-year law student at the University of Richmond and is so excited to be working with the Foundation this summer! She has always had a love of nature and is an avid hiker. One of Reagan's life goals is to hike the entirety of the Appalachian Mountain Trail. Her other hobbies include crocheting, thrifting, and traveling! Reagan looks forward to learning more about environmental law and conservation through her work with the Foundation.

