



# 500-YEAR FOREST FOUNDATION

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

*Volume 28 • No. 1 • Spring 2025*

## *We Grow With Your Support!*

2024 was a great year for preserving mature forests so that they can become old-growth thanks to the amazing support of our donors and grantors! We held 6 Walks in the Woods, and added two new forests in North Garden, VA, and Halifax, VA. The Bieker 500-Year Forest, in North Garden, is a wonderful addition to the 500YFF catalogue, and is part of a 200+ acre protected mountain slope forest when considered next to the Dutnell 500-Year Forest. The Edmunds Forest is a large forest of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees – very diverse! We were also able to hire our Forest Coordinator, Gabe Quintero, who works tirelessly in our forests making sure that the conservation purposes are upheld, and conducting research with field associates from Randolph College, studying such topics as carbon storage. None of this could happen without your support!



## *Why I Give: Tony Rini's Story*

I've been supporting the 500-Year Forest Foundation for nine years, but my journey with the Foundation started back in 2014 when I met its founder, Ted Harris, at an event at Sweet Briar College. Ted's passion for protecting old-growth forests was inspiring, and I knew I wanted to be part of this important work.

Fast-forward ten years, and I found myself back at Sweet Briar for another Foundation event—this time still standing alongside Ted, reaffirming my commitment to the cause. I give because I believe in preserving these forests, not just for us but for future generations. They are vital to our planet's future.

Giving is also personal for me. I make my gifts in memory of my mother, who was a farmer and understood the importance of conserving nature. Honoring her legacy in this way feels meaningful.

If you're thinking about making a gift—whether for the first time or as a continued supporter—consider honoring someone special in your life. Giving makes a difference, and I'm proud to be part of this mission.







*From Left to Right: Scott Zeimer (Sierra Club), Dan Bieker (500YFF), Peter Dutnell (500YFF), Donna Shaunesey (Sierra Club), Kevin Mitchell (Unaffiliated), Gabe Quintero (500YFF)*

## ***Earth Flag Award***

The Piedmont Group of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club on Wednesday, February 26 recognized and awarded the work of the 500-Year Forest Foundation (500YFF) at the Bieker Forest in North Garden. The 500YFF conserves mature forests and the biologically diverse species they nurture by working in partnership with private landowners to help ensure their forests are protected into the future.

The Sierra Club says old-growth forests are our most endangered forests. This award was presented at our Bieker 500-Year Forest, which lies on the southwest slopes of Cook Mountain in North Garden and borders the Ravens Hill 500-Year Forest. Please listen to our story on Virginia Public Radio: <https://virginiapublicradio.com/2025/03/03/sierra-club-award-for-forest-saving-foundation/>



***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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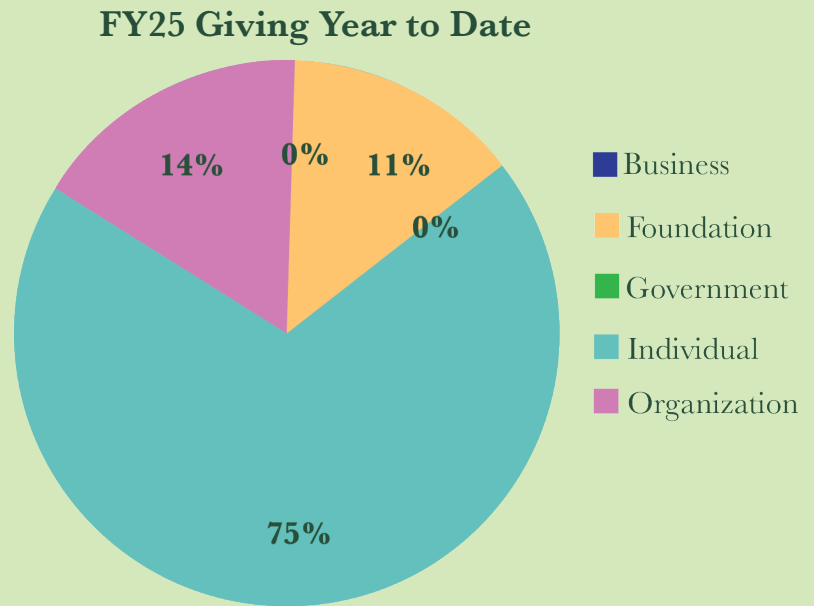
### **Gabriel Quintero**

*Forest Coordinator  
Lynchburg, Va*



## *Giving by the Numbers*

<i>Contact Type</i>	<i>FY25 YTD\$</i>
Business	\$0.00
Founation	\$10,000.00
Government	\$0.00
Individual	\$65,797.20
Organization	\$12,100.00



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## *Upcoming Events!*

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

**Friday, April 11th from 10am to Noon** in the Carillon Woods (a part of Byrd Park in the wooded slope behind the Carillon monument down to the City of Richmond's Pump House).

**Friday, April 18th**, at our 500 Year Forest, the Edmunds Forest in Halifax County

**Friday, May 2 from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.** at the Percival's Isle Blackwater Creek Entrance in Lynchburg.

**Friday, May 9th, from 10am to Noon** in the Carillon Woods (see above).

**Saturday, May 17 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Table at the Lynchburg Community Market

**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

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## *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 [500yearforests@gmail.com](mailto:500yearforests@gmail.com) to find out more.



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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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# 500-YEAR FOREST

## FOUNDATION

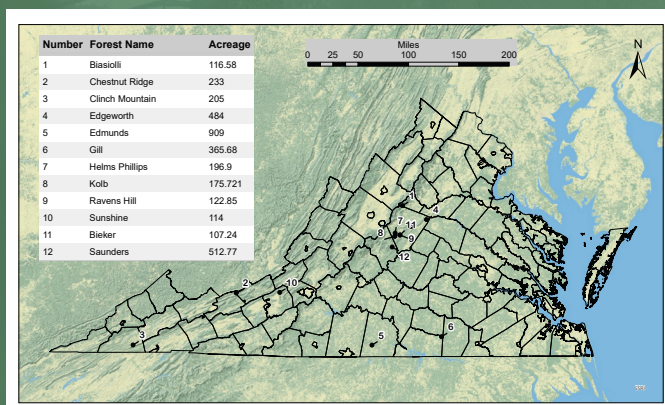
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## ***Forest News and Numbers by Gabe Quintero, Forest Coordinator***

In the dormant season, the Forest Coordinator performed easement monitoring and landowner relation visits to Edgeworth, Saunders, Dutnell, Bieker, and Chestnut Ridge 500-Year Forests, as well as some exciting new forests whose owners are interested in our program.

The Foundation is supporting local students this year by hiring interns from Randolph College in Lynchburg for the spring and summer field season. These interns will work under the Forest Coordinator to perform inventories, carbon storage analyses, invasive species management, and outreach!



This year, our rotating forest inventories are ramping it up. The Forest Coordinator and his team are increasing sampling density and the number of metrics taken, to improve the inventory process and get insights on additional qualities, such as sapling regeneration, needed to create management plans. Bieker and Edmunds 500-Year Forests are next on the rotation for inventories this year, so stay tuned for results from our summer field season – including an investigation into soil carbon in our 500-Year Forests.