For the Love of the Land

and conservation is a Virginia tradition that goes back to the earliest days of the Commonwealth. Thomas Jefferson was so moved by the Natural Bridge he called it “the most sublime of nature’s works,” and he purchased 157 acres of the property in 1774. This honorable stewardship has continued into recent years. In an effort to preserve the land, the 90-foot-long limestone bridge was recently donated along with the sale of 1,500 acres to the Virginia Conservation Fund by its private owner. From the coast to the mountains, many landowners have been tending to their properties in Virginia for generations, carefully sustaining its resources and passing them on.

In an effort to honor and highlight conservation efforts in our state, PEC has released For the Love of the Land: 100 Conservation Stories from Across Virginia.

The book highlights the immense scope and diversity of conserved lands throughout the Commonwealth and the value they provide for all Virginians, from productive farmland to water quality to urban green space. The people involved, from all walks of life and from all over Virginia, may have different reasons for protecting their property, but what unites them is their love for the land and the need to protect it.

One such conservation story tells of how a long-standing dream of owning an ice cream shop came true for a farmer in Fauquier County. Cool Lawn Farm was passed down to Ken Smith from his father, and he plans to hand over the dairy farm to his son, Ben. What started at 120 head of cattle on 200 acres has grown to almost 1,000 head on 2,000 acres.

Profit margins in the dairy business are a lot slimmer than they used to be, so Smith produces on a larger scale in order to provide a good life for his family. He has seen many dairy farms in Fauquier County shut down in his lifetime, so he knows that staying in business means adapting to change. However, there are things he doesn’t want to see change. He doesn’t want to see farmland give way to subdivisions and vanish like it has in Northern Virginia.

Smith decided to protect his farm through the Fauquier County Purchase of Development Rights program. In 2004 and 2006, he sold the development rights on two pieces of land, which totaled 469 acres. He used some of the money from selling his development rights to start a new farm-related business—an ice cream shop called Moo Thru, located on Rt. 29 in Remington.

Ben says it was his dad’s “20-year dream.” The ice cream shop gives people in Southern Fauquier County a place to come together and enjoy “an atmosphere of camaraderie,” said Smith. Moo Thru uses milk from grass-fed cows that graze their fields just a mile away. It also employs up to 30 people at a time. The major public benefits of this conserved land are productive farmland, water quality and scenic views.

For the Love of the Land also features properties with public access, such as Merrimac Farm, which was established as a state Wildlife Management Area in 2008. Throughout the year, visitors can enjoy hiking, wildlife viewing and fishing along more than a mile of frontage on Cedar Run in Prince William County. The farm offers vital wildlife habitat, including forested wetlands and vernal pools, some of the most threatened habitat types in the United States.

This protected land also helps ensure that suburban development will not interfere with the Marine Corps’ ability to train soldiers.

Continued on page 2

Conservation Milestone at Gilberts Corner

Weathered barns, historic buildings, forested rolling green hills and pastoral open fields with large bales of hay—this is the view surrounding the intersection of Routes 15 and 50 in Loudoun County, known by many as Gilberts Corner.

Gilberts Corner has long been recognized as a special place. Containing portions of the June 1863 Battle of Aldie and sitting close to historic sites like Oak Hill, the home of President James Monroe, and the antebellum Mount Zion Old School Baptist Church, it is a historic landscape of unusual significance.

But, for many people, the significance of the historic landscape around Gilberts Corner means more. It is a symbolic entry point to the countryside. A place where suburban Washington recedes, the pace slows and the beauty of the rural Piedmont’s landscape emerges. The preservation of the landscape around this intersection took a major step forward this year after the completion of two significant land transactions in November 2013, which involved PEC taking ownership of a 141-acre farm property and PEC selling a nearby 68-acre property to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA). These mark significant milestones in the effort to preserve the landscape around this key intersection along the Journey Through Hallowed Ground.

“What makes this area so unique, so

Continued on page 4
on the adjacent Quantico Marine Base. Colonel Charles Dallachie said, “This partnership not only allows us to continue our mission of training Marines, but also lets the local community enjoy important Virginia habitat in its natural state.” The Prince William Conservation Alliance helped to secure funds for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) to purchase this property, from sources including VDGIF, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and the U.S. Department of the Navy.

Historic preservation is another important element highlighted in *For the Love of the Land*. Holy Cross Abbey, a monastery in Berryville, decided to protect 205 acres by selling their development rights to the Clarke County Easement Authority in 2009. Additionally, The Civil War Trust purchased a tract of approximately 200 acres and transferred it to the Shenandoah University. The rolling fields are now a place of beauty and tranquility, but in 1864 they were filled with bloodshed when Confederate and Union forces fought in the Battle of Cool Spring. After exchanging deadly fire across the Shenandoah River, which runs along the property, the Confederates eventually drove the Union troops to retreat.

Now, the history of this land can be preserved and the former battle-field protected. However, the land holds even more than Civil War history. A total of 22 archeological sites from the prehistoric era to the 19th century occupy the grounds. Ancient artifacts from Native American inhabitants, dating as far back as 9,000 BC, were discovered on the monastery’s property. Holy Cross Abbey is currently moving forward on an easement to protect the remaining land, which would bring the total to approximately 1,000 acres.

The places featured in the book are protected in a variety of ways, through donated easements, purchased easements, public acquisition of land and gifts of land to the public. And the projects are supported by a number of sources such as federal, state, local and private funding. Whatever the means, the stewards that conserved the land have done a service to all Virginians. They have protected the essential resources we need for life—farmland to grow food, forests to provide wildlife habitat and wetlands to provide clean water. Their efforts will also keep alive the rich sense of history that sets Virginia apart from any other place.

To read more conservation stories, you can view the PDF version of the book by visiting our website at pecva.org. If you would like to purchase a copy of the print book, you can call Karen Hunsberger Adlam at (540) 316-9972. Each copy is $16 for PEC members and $20 for non-members.

**Robert Tier Dennis**

Robert “Bob” Tier Dennis, executive director and then president of PEC from 1981 until 1995, passed away peacefully on February 10, 2014. We will miss the quiet and benevolent—yet also forceful and persuasive—presence of Bob Dennis. He was an unwavering champion and loyal leader in efforts to preserve the uniquely beautiful landscape for future generations, just as we and our own predecessors have done.

In 1976, Bob moved his family to a cabin in Rappahanock County. It was at this time that he placed the family farm under conservation easement, only the second in Rappahanock. During his tenure at PEC, the organization became a leader in land conservation policy in Virginia and at the national level, helping to develop the Virginia Land Preservation Tax Credit and the Federal Farm and Ranch Protection Act. He was a tireless advocate for both planning and voluntary land conservation, establishing the concept of the million-acre Piedmont Reserve. Landowners protected more than 65,000 acres in the Piedmont region while Bob was at PEC.

Over his many years in Rappahanock County, Bob was involved with a variety of local conservation groups including RLEP, RCCA and others. He focused on a host of local land use and zoning issues such as revisions to the master plan, the building of the Shenandoah River crossed treatment facility, zoning for cell phone towers and accurate property assessments.

In Bob’s wise view, timeless, enduring values, like the land itself, always trump short-term thinking and profiting. Bob doesn’t need a traditional stone monument in a cemetery; the land itself, its lasting beauty and heritage, marks his time here on earth.

**Janet Ketchum Grayson Whitehouse**

Janet Ketchum Grayson Whitehouse, another steward of land conservation and long-time resident of the Middleburg area, died peacefully the evening of Christmas Eve. Her conservation efforts began in the 1960’s and continued through her life.

In April 1951, she married William Cabell Grayson, program director for NBC, Washington; and later he was the special coordinator for telecommunications for the Smithsonian Institution and president and chairman of the Audubon Naturalist Society.

Together they worked on preserving the C&O Canal, in opposition to the Potomac River and Salem Church dams. They helped spearhead funding for studies leading to the Virginia Scenic Rivers Act, the founding of the Conservation Council of Virginia, in support of the Virginia Outdoors Plan. They also wrote “Raising Wood Ducks in Captivity” and gave the National Zoo its first wood ducks.

In October 1984, she married Charles S. Whitehouse, who soon thereafter became chairman of the PEC, and he served as chair when PEC opposed Disney’s planned theme park development until his retirement in 1995.

While she was the co-chairman of the Goose Creek Association in 1995, she rallied support for the Piedmont Reserve, in opposition to Disney’s proposed theme park near Haymarket. She even set up the first community meeting regarding Disney’s plan at the Grace Episcopal Church in The Plains.

In 1995, she co-founded and chaired the Mosby Heritage Area Association (MHAA). Through its many initiatives, MHAA serves as an advocate for the preservation of historic, cultural, scenic and natural resources of the Northern Virginia Piedmont.

“Janet was dearly beloved to all of us and was the energy and spirit behind so much of the good that has happened in the Piedmont,” said Chris Miller, President of the PEC. “She was a woman of great kindness, dignity and grace, who knew what was right. She never wavered in pursuing what was right, encouraging the rest of us to rise to her level of courage and commitment.”
PEC is about half-way through our 3-year habitat restoration project at the Piedmont Memorial Overlook on the border of Clarke and Fauquier Counties. This work is being funded by a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This fall we were busy planting shrubs and small trees (and lots of them), to create a “soft edge” between our forests and fields. Many wildlife species in need such as Bobwhite Quail prefer shrubby areas, as opposed to “hard edges,” which are now more common on many farms in the Piedmont. Soft edges don’t need to be massive to provide habitat benefit for trillium-loving species like quail, yellow-breasted chats, cottontails and more, and they will only be 20’ wide at the Overlook. With staff and volunteers, PEC planted over 100 seedlings including American Hazelnut, Allegheny Serviceberry, Black Chokeberry, Common Elderberry, New Jersey Tea and several other species. You might notice the word “berry” and “nut” in a lot of those names. We’re selecting species that will provide food for wildlife (and some for people as well) and will also have other uses too. More planting will be scheduled for this fall.

We used tree shelters and mats on many of the seedlings. The mats prevent competition from fescue and others plants, while the tubes keep pesky deer and voles away and act as a mini-greenhouse. PEC won’t use tubes on all of our seedlings since shrubs do not fit well in tubes. If you are a landowner, you might be wondering where did PEC buy their materials? We found ourselves in the same boat early in the process, and that is why we created our new Go Native Go Local guide. The purpose of this guide is to provide the residents of the Virginia Piedmont with a listing of businesses, most of them local, that offer products and services which promote our native biodiversity. The list includes nurseries, landscape architects, foresters, seed sup-

Garden Competition Winners

We are happy to announce the winners of our Community & School Garden Awards for 2013!

Our competition recognizes gardens that celebrate the relationship between nature, food and community. For a garden to be eligible for one of our six cash awards, it had to be located in PEC’s nine-county area, be active during the 2013 growing season and be a community effort. PEC staff were thrilled to see the continued quality of submissions. We applaud all entrants on their wonderful gardens.

$500 Level Winners

Hillside Hawks Vegetable Garden  LOUDOUN COUNTY
Belle Meade School Garden  RAPPAMANNOCK COUNTY
Urban Agriculture Collective of Charlottesville  ALBEMARLE COUNTY

$300 Level Winners

Earlysville Forest Community Garden  ALBEMARLE COUNTY
Millwood Community Garden  CLARKE COUNTY
4H Fox’s Garden  FAIRFAX COUNTY
Conservation Milestone at Gilberts Corner

Continued from cover

often hear from regular travelers along Route 50, is that they breathe a sigh of relief when they see that scenic and historic landscape around Gilberts Corner open up before them,” said Mike Kane, PEC’s Land Conservation Officer for Loudoun County. “Our goal is to conserve that land while preserving that experience.”

Understanding the importance of Gilberts Corner, PEC and our partners have worked for 15 years to protect the area. Successes during this time have included the completion of the ‘traffic calming’ roundabouts as well as protecting over 150 acres on the north side of Route 50.

Despite these successes, land on the southeast side of Gilberts Corner, a 141-acre farm that connects to Mount Zion Church, remained unprotected. The property had approval for 14 residences and a proposal for up to 66,000 square feet of commercial space, which would have forever altered the character of the area’s historic landscape.

Recognizing this perilous situation, concerned residents led by Scott Kasprzak, a former Vice Chair on the PEC Board of Directors, jumped into action. The group created Roundabout Partners, which raised the funds and purchased the property last summer. Then, to ensure protection of the property, Roundabout Partners donated the land this past November to PEC for conservation purposes.

Roundabout Partners’ donation of the property to PEC is a huge win for conservation at Gilberts Corner. “PEC deeply appreciates receiving this gift and all the work on the part of Roundabout Partners that went into making it possible,” said Chris Miller, President of PEC. “Future plans for the 141 acres are expected to focus on restoring the land’s agricultural vitality, enhancing wildlife habitat and protecting the property’s streams and water resources. PEC also looks forward to creating opportunities for the public to experience the site’s unique colonial history.

The other significant project that occurred at Gilberts Corner in 2013 was several years in the making. Back in 2009, PEC purchased a 68-acre property located on the north side of Route 50 to save its forest and farmland from a planned 14-unit residential subdivision. This past November, NVRPA acquired the 68 acres from PEC so it could be joined with their adjacent property to create the Gilbert’s Corner Regional Park.

“The primary goal of this new parkland is to preserve the historic and scenic values of the area,” says Paul Gilbert, Executive Director of the NVRPA. The new parkland will provide public access to 150 acres for activities like hiking, environmental education and historical interpretation.

With the completion of the transactions in 2013, a block of nearly 300 acres is now permanently protected around Gilberts Corner. “Our work is not yet complete,” said Miller. “But it’s great to see our long-standing vision for the area coming into view.”

“Our work is not yet complete, but it’s great to see our long-standing vision for the area coming into view.”

—Chris Miller, President, PEC

Map of protected land and historical sites around Gilberts Corner.

Good News on the Charlottesville Bypass Fight

In an interesting set of developments on February 19, both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors weighed in on the proposed Western Bypass, and it looks like the ineffective project has hit a major road block.

First, VDOT received a Federal Highway Administration letter requesting a reevaluation of the proposed Bypass and calling on the state to “reopen the consideration of alternatives.”

Later that evening, after a 5-hour hearing, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution (S-1) to reinstate their opposition to the Bypass and request that VDOT transfer funds to specific projects laid out in the Maco29 plan.

Meet PEC’s New Editor and Public Relations Manager

Hello! I am Paula Combs, PEC’s new editor and public relations manager. Along with my media and writing duties, I am responsible for our Piedmont News emails. So, be sure to sign up and receive the latest news for our Piedmont region. I grew up in Fauquier County, but I traveled west to receive a Journalism degree from the University of Colorado. After college, I went even further west, and I worked in California for 8 years. Part of my background includes developing outreach campaigns, marketing initiatives and evaluation strategies for environmental and public health issues. I have gained so much from my travels and experiences, but I couldn’t stay away from beautiful Virginia any longer. I’m very excited to be back home, and I look forward to using my skill set to help our incredible region. If you have any news or photographs to share, contact me at pcombs@pecva.org.

Photo by Marco Sanchez

Pop Quiz

Which kind of pollinator is especially drawn to yellow flowers?

A) Butterflies
B) Bees
C) Ruby-throated hummingbirds
D) Moths

ANSWER: B) Bees

Bees prefer yellow flowers, as well as blue and white flowers. Butterflies are drawn to pink and purple flowers. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are attracted to red and orange flowers. As for moths, they are highly fragrant pale or white flowers, which are easier to locate at night.
Albemarle Mountain Heritage

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 29, 2014, 10 AM – 4 PM

**WHERE:** McAllister Family Home at Sugar Hollow, Albemarle County

Open House at the historic McAllister home, including house tours, stories told by members of local families and a presentation by historian Phil James on Sugar Hollow. Opportunities for hiking and self-guided tours on trails surrounding the cabin and in the Shenandoah National Park. And expect live music and refreshments! This event is free, but registration is required.

For additional information, please contact Kristie Kendall at kkendall@pecva.org or (540) 347-2334 ext. 29

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**Sustainable Landscaping Workshop**

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 29, 2014, 10 AM – 12 PM

**WHERE:** Blandy Experimental Farm, Blandy Library

How we manage laws and gardens affects our plants, animals, soil, and ground and surface water. Short presentations will cover sustainable lawn and garden care, habitat creation, use of native species, protection of pollinators, and how both you and the environment benefit from these practices. The program is free, but reservations are required. Register online at blandy.virginia.edu/our-foundation/online_payments.

If you have questions, please call (540) 837-1758 ext. 224

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**Open House for PEC’s New Orange County Office**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 4 PM – 6 PM

**WHERE:** 11395 Constitution Highway, Montpelier Station, Virginia 22957

Stop in and check out PEC’s new Orange County Field Office located in the Old General Store Building at Montpelier Station (the old ESSO Station). This event is open to the public.

For additional information, please contact Peter Hujik at phujik@pecva.org or (540) 395-2911

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**11th Annual Bluebell Walk on Cedar Run**

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 13, 2014, 12 PM

**WHERE:** Bonny Brook Farm, home of Mike and Margreete Stevens, in Catlett, VA

Join PEC and the Julian W. Scheer Fauquier Land Conservation Fund for a casual walk through picturesque farm fields that have been preserved forever with a conservation easement on your way to the bluebell covered banks of Cedar Run. Naturalists will be on hand to identify native vegetation.

For additional information, please contact Maggi MacQuilliam at mmacquilliam@pecva.org or (540) 454-9999

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**Sources of Funding for Land Management and Land Conservation—Southern Region**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014, 6 – 8 PM

**WHERE:** Stonefire Station, Barboursville

Learn about the Soil and Water Conservation District’s 100% cost share program for livestock fencing, the Virginia Department of Forestry’s assistance with the Forest Stewardship Plan and conservation funding through the Tomorrow Woods program. The VOF will talk about their conservation easement program, and PEC will give a presentation on wildlife habitat programs and the related land management options and sources.

For additional information, please contact: Rex Linville (434) 466-8843 ext. 23 or rlinville@pecva.org

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**Wildlife Don’t See Property Lines**

**WHEN:** May 1st and 3rd, 2014

**WHERE:** TBD

We will be hosting a variety of wildlife habitat events throughout April and May. Details are being finalized, so please go to pecva.org/events for more information.

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**Earth Day@Loudoun**

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 4, 2014 11 AM – 4 PM

**WHERE:** 42920 Broadlands Blvd., Broadlands, VA 20148

There will be entertainment, exhibits, workshops and activities that engage and inspire the entire community, especially the next generation of environmental stewards. The mission of Earth Day Loudoun is to promote and celebrate environmental stewardship among county residents and businesses.

For additional information, please contact osimpson@earthdayatloudoun.org

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**4th Annual Summer Safari Fundraiser**

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 31, 2014, 4 – 8 PM

**WHERE:** The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) in Front Royal

Join us for the 4th Annual Summer Safari, a collaborative benefit for the PEC, Shenandoah National Park Trust and SCBI. The fundraiser is a chance to visit SCBI’s amazing facility, which is normally not open to the public, while supporting three top conservation organizations in our region. Wildlife tours will be followed by cocktails and dinner on Racetrack Hill overlooking Shenandoah National Park and surrounding landscapes.

For additional information, please contact Doug Larson at (540) 316-9971

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*For more events and additional information, please visit pecva.org/events*
On the Ground

ALBEMARLE
Historic Resources, Farmland and Wildlife Habitat

Over 2,819 acres of land in Albemarle were protected by conservation easements this past year, bringing the total of protected land to approximately 90,100 acres. A group of 17 projects, from as small as 9 acres to as large as 760 acres, permanently protected a wide range of conservation values including historic resources, scenic open space, productive farmland and critical wildlife habitat. PEC accepted the donation of a conservation easement on Emniscothry, a beautiful and historic property with 520 acres. Another easement from 2013 was donated by Russ and Diane Strait on their 45-acre property. Since their land is highly forested, the Straits donated their conservation easement to the Virginia Department of Forestry.

CLARKE
Protecting Cool Spring Battlefield

Land protected through the Virginia Department of Historic Resources by the Holy Cross Abbey and the Civil War Trust represent a major victory in the preservation of history and culture in the region. Over 5,427 acres of Cool Spring Battlefield, a Civil War battle fought in 1864, was protected through easements granted on three properties. Together these easements helped to protect 22 archeological sites that span from the prehistoric era to the 19th century. Also, through the Clarke Conservation Fund, PEC was proud to partner with the Clarke County Easement Authority to provide a portion of the funding for the Chapman Farm easement. The Clarke Conservation Fund also helped to provide funding for three other easements this past year. Altogether, nine properties in Clarke, totaling 1,732 acres, were protected by conservation easements in 2013. This brings the total of protected land in the county to over 23,250 acres.

GREENE
Long-Time Locals Protect Their Farm

The total of privately protected land in Greene is now over 10,380 acres. This past year, an additional 212 acres were protected. One of the standout conservation easements was the 118-acre Morris-Tata Farm. The property is important because of its scenic location just north of Stanardsville, but the landowners have also been part of the Greene County community for many generations. Jeraldine Tata, owner of the farm, said placing the property on a conservation easement with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation was a way of honoring her uncle, the original owner, and his wishes to preserve the farm.

FAQUER
Oldest Residence in the Warrenton Historic District

It was an exceptional year for the conservation of several historically significant properties in the county such as the Paradise Manor House. Built a year before Faquier became established, it is the oldest dwelling in the Warrenton Historic District. Additionally protected properties such as Woodward Turf Farm and O.B. Messick and Son’s dairies and produce farm are properties with historical and agricultural significance. Both were protected through the efforts of the Faquier Purchase of Development Rights Program. The farms are located along the Rappahannock River, and they are central to the Mount Holly Ridge-Marsh Run Rural Historic District and historic Norman’s Ford. Over 1,140 acres in Faquier County were protected by conservation easements in 2013. This brings the total of conserved land in the county to approximately 97,748 acres.

CULPEPER
Family Farms and Historical Sites

Ten properties in Culpeper, totaling 1,144 acres, were protected in 2013, bringing the total of protected land to over 16,000 acres. This past year, the Durrer family worked with Virginia Outdoors Foundation to protect their 189-acre farm, which is located directly across the Hazel River from the historic Mount Pleasant. Both the husband and wife grew up on farms, and they wanted to protect their property “for their son.” Approximately 785 acres were also protected by the Va Department of Historic Resources, with assistance from local resident and 2013 easement donor, Jamie Craig. These properties included the Johnson Farm, Qual Haven and Craig’s Beechtree Farm.

LOUDOUN
New Regional Park

In 2013, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) acquired a 68-acre property from PEC that is essential to the plan for a new regional park near Route 15 and Route 50, known locally as Gilbert’s Corner. The land, which includes portions of the June 1863 Battle of Aldie, will be joined with an adjacent NVRPA property to create the Gilbert’s Corner Regional Park. Ten properties in Loudoun, totaling more than 1,100 acres, were protected by conservation easements this past year. To date, over 224 miles of streams and rivers, 37,385 acres of prime farming soils, more than 19,270 acres of forests, 10,090 acres along scenic byways, over 7,050 acres in historic districts and 5,427 acres of historic battlefields have been protected through conservation easements.

MADISON
Protecting Sag Top

Six properties in Madison County, totaling approximately 1,160 acres, were protected by conservation easements in 2013. This brings the total of conserved land in the county to approximately 14,362 acres. Red Cliff Farm, located along John Tucker Road in Madison, was one of the properties protected this past year. Owner Judy Mahanes partnered with PEC to conserve the family farm that her great grandparents began. Another easement protected Sag Top, a peak adjacent to Shenandoah National Park along Quaker Run Road. Ralph England, the land owner, became interested in conservation easements after attending a gathering co-hosted by PEC, Blue Ridge Forthills Conservancy and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. PEC assisted England with developing the easement, which he donated to the Virginia Department of Forestry.

ORANGE
Conserving Prince Mountain with Honor

Five of the eight properties conserved this year in Orange are located along the Rapidan River, including a scenic property on Clark Mountain, an expansive 625-acre farm and the historic Fort Germanna. Through an easement with PEC, Prince Mountain, which is located between Barboursville and Somerset, was also among the properties conserved last year. In the 1970s, Kai Dozier and his wife Jan Spiers began acquiring parcels on the forested ridge, the site of an early African American community. Dozier and Spiers named Prince Mountain after Prince Jones, the last local surviving member of the family who originally settled on the property. Over 1,450 acres in Orange were protected by conservation easements in 2013, which brings the total of protected land to over 34,075 acres.

RAPPAHANNOCK
Coming Together to Protect Thornton River and Farming Soils

Four properties in Rappahannock, totaling over 826 acres, were protected by conservation easements this past year, which brings the total of protected land to over 31,250 acres. Georgia Romine worked with the Virginia Department of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service to protect 261 acres of her productive forest property in Laurel Mills. Now, Romine’s entire 354-acre property is protected, which ensures that over 3,200 feet of the Thornton River will be preserved for years to come. Chris Parrish, who owns Thornton River Farm, also decided to protect an additional piece of his property in 2013. The newly protected 100 acres includes a mile along the Thornton River and highly productive farmlands, which adjoin two additional easements that were donated by Parrish’s sisters, Laura and Carol, in 2009.
Protected Lands in the Piedmont

### 11,568 Acres Protected in 2013

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pecva.org | March 13, 2013 | JWR

Although efforts have been made to verify data, accuracy is not guaranteed. For more information, please visit www.pecva.org. February 10, 2014 | JWR

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Map created by PEC for presentation purposes only. Data source: American Battlefield Protection Program, County Governments, USGS, VA Department of Historic Resources, VA Department of Conservation and Recreation. Although efforts have been made to verify data, accuracy is not guaranteed. For more information, please visit www.pecva.org. February 10, 2014 | JWR
Dear Friends,

Here at PEC, the new year always brings new possibilities for land conservation and stewardship as we respond to a new group of landowners who want to protect the places that make our Piedmont special. This year is particularly hope-filled since Governor McAuliffe, as his two predecessors had done, has pledged to protect 400,000 acres during four years in the Governor’s mansion. Achieving this ambitious goal will take a concerted effort on the part of state government, citizens and landowners of the Commonwealth and conservation organizations like PEC. We have already offered our advice and assistance to the new administration and look forward to working with them on this important goal.

Conserving land of all types is an investment in our future and our children’s future. In addition to providing clean air, water and land for growing fresh food, our conserved lands provide jobs in the form of tourism and mental relief from the grind of daily life. All of this takes a sustained effort—over the span of decades—to accomplish, and it is the result of a multitude of tools.

Conserving land through easements is just one of the ways we protect the culture and integrity of our communities. Land conservation goes hand in hand with good planning and zoning that identifies areas where the community wants to grow and places that want to be kept available for important activities like farming and public recreation.

PEC’s focus on both conservation and thoughtful planning is what makes us unique. It’s what makes us successful. And it’s what makes PEC an exciting, dynamic, energetic and effective organization that helps maintain a high quality of life in the northern Piedmont of Virginia.

Sincerely,

Heather Richards
Vice President for Conservation and Rural Programs

Chris Miller
President