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A Legacy of Love

By Paula Combs

Distracted by an iconic red barn sitting atop picturesque rolling hills, I passed the gravel driveway I was supposed to turn down. As I found my way back, I saw the very reason I was visiting the Goodall property in Madison County. Long rows of newly planted trees nestled inside light green tubes stretched along a tributary of the Robinson River.

I met with brothers, Paul and Joe Goodall, to discuss their family's participation in the Headwaters Stream Initiative, a partnership program coordinated by Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) and The Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) to protect and restore the Rappahannock River watershed by working with landowners to plant native trees and shrubs and re-establish riparian buffers along waterways, which provide a healthy habitat for fish, wildlife and livestock.

We met at, what they charmingly call, the Johnson Place, one of their farmhouses. The Goodalls pay homage to each family they purchased land from, by continuing to call the property by the original owner's name. The first, still referred to as the Goodall Place, was purchased in 1906 by Paul and Joe's grandfather. Their father, Culton Goodall, later purchased the Thomas Place in the mid 30's and also the Johnson Place in the late 60's. All

three pieces connect and come to approximately 600 acres, encompassing a variety of valuable landscape.

"The diversity on the property you get to see is pretty unique. You have a huge wetland area, a tiny creek, a farm pond, rolling hills with giant boulders, and cattle pasture and flat hayfields; and then you have the Robinson River.

So many different ecosystems, all on the same property," said Bryan Hofmann, programs manager at FOR.

"Dad was a very good farmer. A good dad too. And he was very appreciative of the land, and kept trying to improve his agricultural practices," said Paul.

Following their father's footsteps and wishes, the Goodall brothers have continued implementing best management practices (BMPs). Through the Headwaters Stream Initiative, an astounding 3,765 trees were planted on 16 acres, including 4,600 linear feet of stream, this past spring. The partnership between PEC, FOR, Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) and the Virginia



Brothers Paul Goodall (far left) and Joe Goodall (far right) check on native trees that were planted on their family's property in Madison County as part of the Headwaters Stream Initiative, along with Bryan Hofmann from Friends of the Rappahannock.

Photo by Paula Combs

Department of Forestry (VDOF), along with over 100 student volunteers from six schools, made this project possible.

"It was, far and away, the largest single-season planting we've done," said Peter Hujik, field representative for PEC. "I enjoyed working with the Goodalls, and it was great to see so many students involved."

As part of a different clean water effort, the Goodalls worked with CSWCD to install a mechanical watering system for cattle and approximately 1.5 miles of fencing.

The brothers are already planning for their next steps. "We are definitely going to fence off the streams on the east portion

Continued on page 4

The Future of Loudoun County

By Gem Bingol

A comprehensive plan is extremely important for every locality. For a county like Loudoun, one of the consistently fastest growing jurisdictions in the United States, it is crucial residents stay informed and engaged during updates to the plan.

The county's comprehensive plan is currently being revised through a process called *Envision Loudoun*. In extensive public input sessions over the last 18 months, citizens have echoed key themes that have been relatively constant over the past 20+ years of growth.

They want less growth, less congestion, existing growth to be managed more effectively, more transportation options, more affordable housing, more trails and parks, and better environmental and historic protection.

Loudoun needs an even more visionary plan than what is currently on the table to keep the county a great place to live,

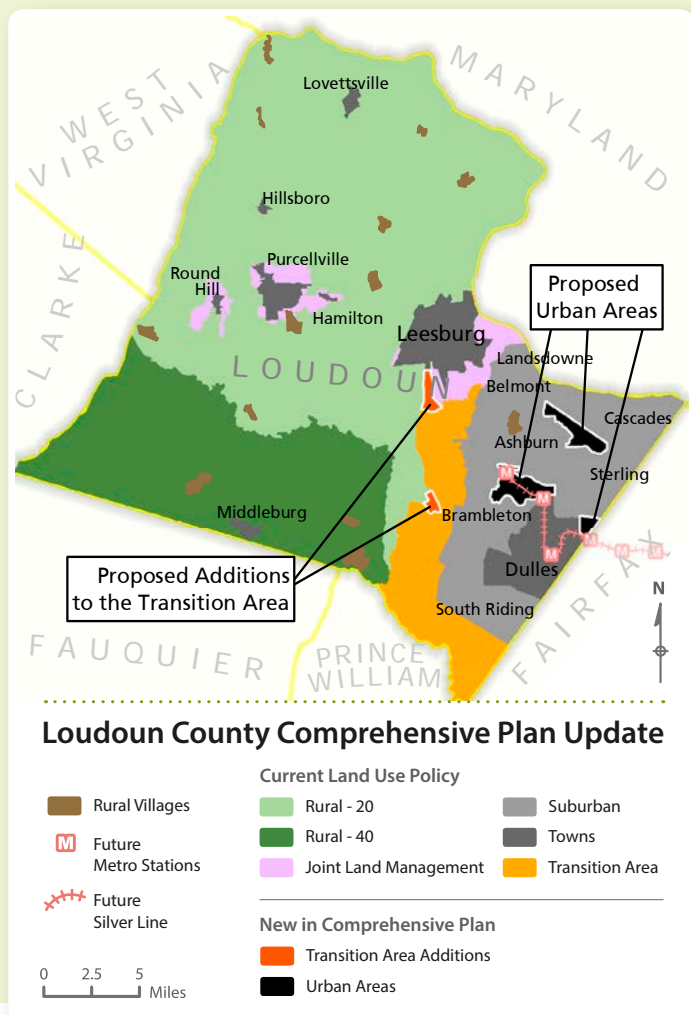
work and play, as well as meet the desires of residents. In order for this to happen, citizens have to stay involved as the process continues.

What improvements can help the plan meet the vision of Loudoun residents?

Innovative ideas, with an emphasis on sustainability and resilience, will be needed. The status quo will also need to be challenged in order to get the services residents need. We need to find new ways to preserve and increase affordable housing, create partnerships to provide desired trail and park amenities, and find more options to protect and restore the county's natural and heritage resources.

The biggest flaw in the draft plan revolves around the growth potential, with the lack of any

Continued on page 2



Meet Kayla Stanley

PEC Intern, January - May 2018 • Senior, Kettle Run High School

What type of tasks did you take on during your internship?

Everything from going to court, tracking bills, compiling news emails; I could go on. I was very happy to be of use as an intern and not sit around bored. PEC trusted me with their work and that's what made my time there so great.

What was your favorite part about spending time at PEC and with staff?

Staff at PEC didn't treat me like a little kid. They included me in conversations and even the jokes. I wasn't a shadow at PEC. I was like another employee to them.

What was the most valuable thing you learned while at PEC?

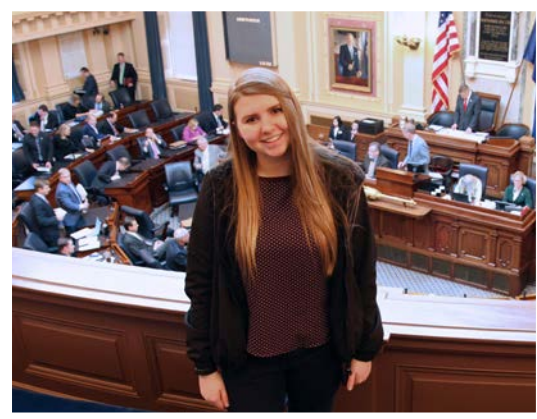
The most valuable thing I learned was 'character.' President Chris Miller has led PEC as an example to the community. **Once PEC has met one of its goals, they don't sit around and give themselves a pat on the back. Instead, they celebrate their success by exceeding their goals and pushing the limits of what a nonprofit can do.** Taking away how goal-driven, humble and character-driven PEC is, is what I see as the most valuable because I carry it with me every day in my own life.

Where are you planning to attend college, and what will you be studying?

I am going to attend Christopher Newport University. I plan on double majoring in Environmental Science and Environmental Studies, along with a minor in Spanish. PEC helped me confirm that I wanted to study environmental science, but more importantly, it encouraged me to do the double major instead of picking just science or just studies.

Anything else you would like to add?

I am very thankful for all the staff at PEC who have supported me through everything for the past five months. This experience is one i'd recommend to any senior in high school. Without PEC stepping up and taking the chance on me, I would have missed all the valuable insight I gained in an area I truly love. I will remember these people forever and I won't be gone for long.



PEC Intern Kayla Stanley visits Richmond during the 2018 General Assembly. Photo by Dan Holmes

Larson Native Plant Garden Opening

By Erin McNamara

Friday, May 18, 2018 was just like every day that week — rainy and gray. But that didn't stop the mood from being welcoming and bright at The Piedmont Environmental Council office.

With umbrellas in hand, attendees of the Larson Native Plant Garden Reception ventured out to admire the well-designed landscape around PEC's headquarters office in Warrenton, Va. Named in honor of the organization's former vice president, Doug Larson, the visionary of the project, the garden has 118 species of native perennials, woodies and grasses.

"It's already proving to be an educational tool," says Doug. "People in our beautiful front yard were reading the names of the plants and really taking it all in; and that's just folks walking down the street. I think it's going to show people in Warrenton what they can do with native plants."

The garden was designed by Dan Holmes, director of state policy for PEC, who has a background in horticulture and a masters in landscape design.

"Our goal was to increase people's comfort with the use of native plants in their own

yard," says Dan. "The result was a demonstration garden showcasing two different design aesthetics. The front of the property mimics a typical residential landscape, replacing commonly used exotic or horticultural varieties with native species. The backyard is quite the opposite, more wild and designed to slowly succeed into a woodland garden."

PEC's habitat and stewardship specialist, Celia Vuocolo, selected the native perennials and grasses for the garden, focusing on species that attract pollinators.

"Surprisingly, urban areas can sometimes have higher pollinator diversity than rural areas, so I was curious to see what sort of pollinator species we could attract with the right plants," explains Celia.

A plaque honoring Doug Larson was installed in the garden and unveiled during the reception.

Everything turned out gorgeous and the planting is wonderful," says Doug. "Many people helped make the garden a reality, but I especially want to recognize Grelen Nursery and Mark Ohrstrom who donated most of the trees and shrubs."



Former PEC Vice President Doug Larson and PEC President Chris Miller stand beside a plaque honoring Mr. Larson for his efforts in helping create the native garden at PEC's headquarters office in Warrenton, Va.

Photo by Paula Combs

The Future of Loudoun County

Continued from cover

clear guidance on how to ensure that growth will be well managed. It allows too much residential development, scattered in too many places without adequate growth management tools to control the impact on schools, roads, taxes and quality of life for existing residents. The county estimates the plan will allow 15,000+ new units, but the vague policy language, in effect, invites more growth proposals.

Loudoun already has an "approved but unbuilt" pipeline of almost 30,000 housing units and current zoning that would allow ~20,000 additional units (which is stated in the Loudoun Foundations Report). Scattering even more housing just increases traffic congestion and compounds the challenge of providing services to existing residents.

The overall density increase is based on the notion we need more residential growth in order to increase the commercial tax base. And that the commercial tax base will offset the costs that come with residential growth. However, there is no real evidence that enough commercial development would fill in the scattered mixed use locations to make that a reality. This is especially true with the changing

office and retail markets and Loudoun's lagging office and employment sectors.

Included in the plan is the premise that simply building more housing will solve our issues with affordability. But experience has taught us that developers don't sell for less than the market will bear and affordable housing does not come without proactive policies.

In Loudoun, if you build residential, new residents will most certainly come, forcing school redistrictings and additional traffic congestion. And although residents generally approve of growth at the Loudoun Metro stations, they don't favor scattering growth increases elsewhere.

Another way to think about it:

Loudoun County has already made a significant investment in the two new metro stations, and is planning for the kind of high-density urban walkable development that most residents want there. But in order to fully capitalize on this investment and make these locations successful, we need to focus growth within half of a mile of the metro stations. It will be much more difficult for these areas to reach their potential if we allow

high-density development beyond half a mile, as the draft plan currently does.

The county plans to have four distinct policy areas based on density and design features. This is a great idea, but the areas each have too much development potential within the plan.

Suburban Area:

The plan allows up to 24 residential units to the acre and up to 80 percent residential in a variety of mixed-use "place types" that are scattered around eastern Loudoun. This could certainly result in too much residential growth.

Also, there is no integrated transit or school siting and land acquisition plan. Without a way to manage the growth through phasing development areas, the county could have too much development all at once, which would increase the County and taxpayer debt burden.

Transition Area:

The plan also allows for greater residential and commercial development in the Transition Area—the stretch of land between suburban and urban development in the east, and the rural area to the

west. Aside from being a visual and spatial transition between the east and west, the area was created to protect critical drinking water, heritage and natural assets, and those purposes are no longer evident.

With only vague language describing a rationale and criteria for more residential development, developers are likely to push for higher density throughout the whole Transition Area.

Rural Area:

The draft proposes to convert over 800 acres of land from the Rural Policy Area into the Transition Policy Area, which would allow more residential and industrial development there.

What's Next:

The last public input session on the draft language is now over. After two final stakeholder meetings in mid-June and early July, the draft will go to the Planning Commission. Currently, we expect a revised draft to go to public hearing no earlier than October.

To review the draft plan, visit envision-loudoun.org



Burning for Wildlife

Using Prescribed Fire at Piedmont Memorial Overlook



BEFORE

March 19, 2018 — A view of PEC’s Piedmont Memorial Overlook property right before a prescribed burn.



DURING

During the prescribed burn, which was coordinated by PEC and conducted by the Virginia Department of Forestry.

After the prescribed burn was completed.



AFTER



1 MONTH AFTER

Growth begins to come up after the prescribed burn at Piedmont Memorial Overlook. The fire will help restore the field to native warm season grasses and flowers. Photo by Marco Sanchez

Back in 2015, PEC restored a 17-acre field to native warm season grasses and flowers at our Piedmont Memorial Overlook property near Paris. Now that the 16 species of native field plants are established, the meadow needs almost yearly care to maintain the new ecosystem.

“On the east coast, the land wants to be forest. Our landscape is always in varying stages of forest succession, with meadows being kind of the baseline. In order to keep the Overlook meadow in an open state and inhabited by early-successional plants, we need to disturb the habitat and set back the clock,” says Celia Vuocolo, PEC’s habitat specialist and manager for the Overlook property. “And the best way to do that is with fire.”

At the Overlook, the meadow is being managed in two sections, each on a three-year burn cycle. By only burning one part of the meadow at a time, we are preserving some of the habitat so wildlife can still use it. The first 5 acres were burned last year, and the remaining

acreage was treated just this past March. The Virginia Department of Forestry conducted the burn with seven foresters and fire suppression equipment on-hand as a safety measure.

A prescribed burn is one of several tools in a land manager’s toolkit for managing wildlife habitat. Much of Virginia’s landscape has evolved with fire. Entire ecosystems are built around it and some plants even need it to reproduce. As our country began to develop and industrialize, natural fire regimes were suppressed and fire was seen as a destructive, rather than restorative force. It’s really only been in the last 50 years that mindsets have changed about fire and how important it is to our environment.

Fire removes dead vegetation, releases some nutrients back into the soil, and stimulates plant growth; all of which is important to maintaining healthy habitat. Within a week of this year’s prescribed burn, the ground was flushed with vegetation and the site was being actively used by wild turkey.

Spotted Lanternfly: New Pest Eyes Up Virginia

A new pest is in town, and it could be a cause of concern for vineyards, breweries, homeowners and farmers alike. The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is native to China, where it hosts mainly on Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), another U.S. invasive species. However, this bug can dine on roughly 70 species of plants, including hops, grapes and other commercial crops. It was first spotted here in 2014 in Pennsylvania, and was found in Winchester, Va. this past January.



ABOVE • Spotted Lanternfly nymphs (black with white spots) on top of their egg sac. Photo by Mark Sutphin



LEFT • Spotted lanternfly fourth (final stage) instar nymphs. Photo by Eric Day



An invasive adult Spotted Lanternfly. Photo by Eric Day

The concern is we don’t know what kind of impact this pest is going to have since it’s so new to the U.S. It has the potential to be a major issue for agriculture producers as well as homeowners.

“Everybody could be affected,” says Celia Vuocolo, PEC’s Habitat Stewardship Specialist. “There’s just not enough information yet.”

The spotted lanternfly also has the ability to lay its eggs on practically any surface, which likely allows it to readily infiltrate new areas. Anyone who thinks they may have the spotted lanternfly on their property is urged to contact their nearest Virginia Cooperative Extension office.

Members Make Everything Possible

Thank you to everyone who participated in PEC’s March Membership Month! From the March drive, we have 228 new and renewing members! Each of you make the work we do possible. If you didn’t have an opportunity to join or renew your membership, it’s not too late. Your membership is an investment in your community and in the environment. You will receive this quarterly newsletter, action alerts and invitations to special events and community meetings. Major donors who give \$1,000 or more receive additional benefits.

Another way to contribute

Consider making a contribution through your Individual Retirement Account. If you are over the age of 70 and a half, you can direct distributions of up to \$100,000 from your IRA annually. The distribution counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution.

For membership or contribution inquiries, contact Nan Moring at (540) 347-2334 ext. 7005 or visit www.pecva.org/donate

A Legacy of Love

Continued from cover

of The Thomas Place; and we’re interested in tree planting over there too. So hopefully next spring we can have a reprise of this,” said Paul.

The Goodall family not only planted seeds to grow trees — literally by their own hand and shovel — but clearly a seed of love for the land was planted long ago by their father. And it continues to grow to this day.

These projects were made possible through the generous support of our Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Virginia Department of Forestry, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, PEC’s Krebsner Fund for Rappahannock Conservation, Richard Lykes and Patagonia. And an enormous thank you to the many others who have contributed to these efforts. To see a full list of partners and funders, visit pecva.org.

Additional Headwaters Stream Initiative projects completed this year

Ridder Property, Last Resort Farm – Rappahannock River

PEC and FOR teamed up with 15 students from Wakefield Country Day School to plant 235 native trees and shrubs and 250 live stakes for a .75-acre buffer along the Rappahannock River, near Flint Hill. This is the third phase of an extensive HSI project that has improved 3 acres of riparian buffer to date.

Bagley Property, Fields of Athenrye – Hazel River

Over 75 students and community volunteers, including Rappahannock High School, Mountain View High School and Belle Meade Montessori, joined together to lend a hand planting 280 trees on one acre along the Hazel River. This riparian buffer brings new native shrub and tree species that will provide new habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife along the river.

Ward Property – Hughes River

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP), FOR, PEC and community volunteers joined with landowners to plant 65 trees and shrubs along 500 linear feet of a tributary to the Hughes River. The landowners selected native paw paw trees and indigo bush, among other fruit and flower producing tree and shrubs, to ornament their stretch of Sherman’s Run, a headwater tributary to the Hughes River.

Hussen-Lewis Property – Buck Run

PEC, John Marshall SWCD, and FOR worked together for a second round of riparian planting on Buck Run with the help of 25 Highland School students and other volunteers who planted 150 trees on 1.25 acres of riparian buffer, and they received special instruction from VDOP’s Joe Rosetti on proper planting techniques, riparian tree ecosystem services and invasive species.

Marriott Ranch – Fiery Run

FOR, John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and PEC held the 5th Annual “From the Rappahannock, For the Rappahannock” on Earth Day, April 22, 2018 at the Marriott Ranch. This celebration of protecting clean water brought together 95 volunteers, who planted 320 trees along 2,300 linear feet of stream and along 3 riparian acres of Fiery Run and the Rappahannock River, which is within the cattle-exclusion fencing that was installed by JMSWCD through the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program (VACS).

Allen Property – Robinson River

FOR worked with 37 students from Orange County High School joined together to plant 185 trees along 1,000 linear feet of the Robinson River.

The **Headwaters Stream Initiative** is designed to provide free technical assistance, project design expertise, and materials and labor for the planting of native trees and shrubs in riparian zones on qualifying properties in the headwater counties of the Rappahannock River Watershed, including: Rappahannock, Fauquier, Culpeper, Madison, Greene and Orange Counties. For more information, please contact Bryan Hofmann at bryan.hofmann@riverfriends.org.



UPCOMING Events

Event details subject to change. Please check pecva.org/events for the latest information.

Field Walk at Quail Wood Farm

When > Saturday July 7 • 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Where > Quail Wood Farm, 12102 Leeds Chapel Ln., Markham, VA

PEC staff will be leading a property walk to showcase agricultural best management practices on a small farm in Hume. Please join us if you’re interested in seeing how rotational grazing, wildlife habitat and water quality can work together on one property!

Register via PEC website. For more information, contact Celia Vuocolo at cvuocolo@pecva.org.

Farmscaping: Promoting Beneficial Insects

When > Thursday July 26 • 6 - 8 PM

Where > Fauquier Education Farm, 8428 Meetze Rd., Warrenton, VA

Join PEC and the Fauquier Education Farm to learn how you can create a healthy, balanced insect population while making your garden more beautiful along the way.

Contact Jim Hankins at fauquieredfarm@gmail.com or (540) 336-4338.

The Slave Dwelling Project Comes to Fauquier

When > Saturday, August 25

Where > The Clifton Institute

After a kick-off talk at the Afro-American Historical Museum, spend the day visiting three historic Fauquier slave dwelling sites with interactive public history demonstrations, and wrap up the evening with dinner, conversations and a sleepover with Joseph McGill at The Clifton Institute. PEC is a co-organizer and sponsor of this event.

Contact info@cliftoninstitute.org for more information.

12th Annual Heritage Harvest Festival

When > Saturday, September 22

Where > Monticello, Charlottesville, VA

Get your tickets before they sell out! Celebrate Jefferson’s legacy as a gardener, foodie and epicure at beautiful Monticello. Learn about organic gardening, and explore Jefferson’s 1,000-foot-long vegetable garden and ornamental mountaintop landscape. PEC is a sponsor of the event.

Ticket price varies. Purchase tickets at www.heritageharvestfestival.com.

Farm to Table Showcase

When > Monday, September 24 2 - 5 PM

Where > Rock Hill Farm, 14461 Norman Rd., Culpeper, VA

Spend an afternoon with PEC and connecting with local food producers and buyers! Area food producers will display their products, and buyers will have the opportunity to learn about goods available from local farms.

Registration open in Summer 2018.

Pop Quiz

QUESTION

How many counties does the Rappahannock River pass through?

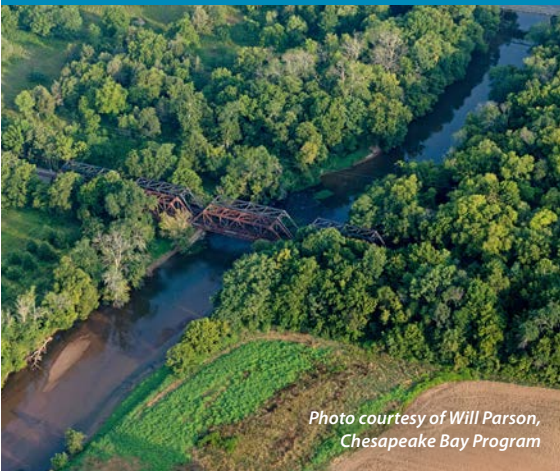


Photo courtesy of Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program

ANSWER

c) 12

The River passes through 12 counties, three of which are within PEC’s service area.

Save the date for PEC’s Annual Meeting!

When > Saturday, October 20

Where > Castle Hill in Keswick, VA

Join us for our annual meeting at a beautiful historic property, with extensive gardens and amazing views. Our keynote speaker, Chuck Marohn, Founder and President of Strong Towns, will speak directly to the “Growth Ponzi Scheme” embraced by too many local governments. Chuck is an influential thought leader and strong advocate for incremental town and city revitalization, while being mindful of issues related to displacement.

On the Ground

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Albemarle

> Community Connections and Transportation Planning

As part of PEC’s collaboration with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission to envision and implement safe and beautiful community connections for pedestrians and cyclists, we are talking to residents of the Charlottesville/Albemarle urban area. We are hosting meetings and focus groups, as well as attending public gatherings to listen to what other locals have to say. We’ve been on the downtown mall and at Fridays After Five, visited neighborhoods (such as Fifeville, 10th & Page and Southwood) and attended community picnics and events. You can learn more and take our short 13-question survey at www.pecva.org/cvillegreenways.

In other news, the Charlottesville/Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization has endorsed several area transportation priorities, including the Hydraulic and 29 grade-separated interchange, which are part of the Places29 package and favored over the formerly proposed Western Bypass. Unfortunately, Delegate Peake is still pushing for an eastern bypass around Charlottesville. We are working closely with citizens to push back against this destructive, ill-conceived project.

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Clarke

> Celebrating Nature Artistically

PEC and the Barns of Rose Hill are proud to sponsor a community art project celebrating nature in Clarke County. Selected artwork will be featured in a book and later exhibited as part of a show at the Barns, both titled “Clarke’s Great Outdoors.” Submissions of photography, essays, short stories, sculpture, painting, mixed media, fiber arts and other mediums that celebrate Clarke’s outdoors will be featured. Save the date for the show’s opening reception and book signing at the Barns of Rose Hill on October 5, 2018.

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Culpeper

> Proposed Solar Projects

In April, the Culpeper Board of Supervisors approved a policy establishing guidelines for utility-scale solar projects. Now, two proposals are before the county. Proposed by Virginia Solar, the first project, Culpeper North Solar, would be a 20-MW facility located on 178 acres between Brandy Station and Stevensburg. The second, Greenwood Solar, would be a 100-MW facility south of Stevensburg and Rt. 3, and is proposed by Open Road Renewables.

Virginia Solar had pulled its original application in February over concerns raised by the planning commission, but has made changes and re-submitted. Culpeper North Solar is slated for a work session with the planning commission on June 18 at 6 pm. The Greenwood Solar project is scheduled for public hearing before the planning commission on June 13 at 7 pm. The Board of Supervisors could potentially consider the proposals later this summer.

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Fauquier

> Workshops, River Access and Cell Towers

This April, 30 landowners from southern Fauquier attended PEC’s land and farm conservation workshop in Bealeton. Made possible by PEC’s Julian Scheer Fauquier Land Conservation Fund, the workshop highlighted the benefits of easements and participating in Fauquier’s PDR program. In May, the Fund raised \$50,000 for our Fauquier conservation projects, such as purchasing easements, assisting landowners with the cost of donating an easement, and working with the county’s PDR program.

Also in southern Fauquier, we have been working along with John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District, Friends of the Rappahannock, American Battlefield Trust and Supervisor Chris Butler to create public river access on the Rappahannock River. Thanks to funding from American Battlefield Trust, an ideal site has now been acquired, but more work is needed before it can be opened. With support from our partners, the state is also exploring the possibility of a public access point along the river at the C. F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area.

Additionally, the Board of Supervisors are providing incentives for industry investment into additional towers that will help provide better broadband service for citizens. The Board committed to two agreements: the Calvert Crossland LLC agreement provides cash incentives for tower construction in seven “search ring areas” including Green Road, Hume, Saddle Ridge, Botha, Orlean, Zulla, and Rectortown, the Milestone Development Inc agreement promotes access to County owned property for tower construction. The county hopes to incentivize tower construction in rural areas where private industry has been hesitant to invest. We are seeking feedback from our members about how they feel about these incentives."

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Greene

> Land Conservation Workshop

PEC hosted a “Sources of Funding for Land Conservation” workshop for landowners at Jack’s Shop Kitchen in Ruckersville. About 30 attendees heard presentations on topics related to land conservation, agricultural best management practices, forestry and establishment of wildlife habitat. Alan Yost, the director of economic development and tourism for Greene County, opened the workshop, describing the importance of partnerships between localities, PEC and other agencies to protect our region’s quality of life. He said, "as growth continues to come to the area, strategic planning with key players will insure the county’s rural, agricultural, and mountain heritage will remain a characteristic of the community's future."

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Loudoun

> Route 15 Traffic

Safety and congestion are the primary concerns for the Rt. 15 corridor north of Leesburg.

The county’s draft Transportation Plan proposes to make the Rt. 15 corridor an “expressway,” like Loudoun County Parkway and Rt. 7 in Sterling. Access would be at-grade and highly controlled with right and left turn lanes. The county says this will take traffic off other roads as far away as I-495, but they have not been forthcoming about the other issues it could create locally.

PEC has filed a letter of concern and a report, “Learning from Loudoun’s Route 50 Traffic Calming Project, a National Model,” by transportation expert Ian Lockwood, on alternatives with the Board of Supervisors in partnership with The Journey Through Hallowed Ground, Coalition for Smarter Growth and Southern Environmental Law Center.

Also in Loudoun, over 85 people attended two “Sources of Funding for Land Conservation” workshops we hosted in Waterford and Middleburg. For more information on the funding options that were discussed, contact Tracy Lind at tlind@pecva.org.

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Madison

> Battlefield Study Completed

Over the last 2 years, PEC has worked with Rivanna Archaeological Services to conduct a study of the Civil War battlefields at Jack’s Shop and James City, with funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service. Rivanna Archaeological Services drafted a report that refines boundaries, analyzes the battles through a combination of original source documents, describes the local oral history, and includes an evaluation of landscape features. We will finalize the report and present it to the public at a community meeting this fall.

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Orange

> PEC Sells Conserved Farm

Andrewsia Farm, a 259-acre property located on the edge of the Town of Orange, was slated to become The Ridges at Laurel Run, a 319-home subdivision. However, in 2009, during the economic downturn, the property was donated to PEC by the Artery Group. During our ownership, we secured the productive farmland on the property with a conservation easement, took down several dilapidated buildings and leased the fields to a local farming family. In 2013, we conveyed 9 acres of the farm to Grymes Memorial School to expand its campus. Several weeks ago, the family leasing Andrewsia purchased it, thereby expanding the farm they own across the road. After almost a decade, the farm, now protected from intensive residential development, has been returned to the local farming community.

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Rappahannock

> Krebser Fund Supports Dark Skies

To save the wonder of our night skies for future generations, residents of Rappahannock are dimming their lights to keep skies dark for star-gazing, wildlife and the integrity of the rural community. The Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection (RLEP) is seeking to designate Rappahannock locations as an internationally recognized “Dark Skies Friendly Community” by the Dark-Sky Association. PEC’s Krebser Fund for Rappahannock County has partnered with RLEP to promote the retrofit of private homes outdoor lighting fixtures with “Dark Skies Compliant” LED fixtures, which is offered by Rappahannock Electric Cooperative. Upon request, a landowner can apply with RLEP to change outdated and high-intensity lighting fixtures for a downward-shielded fixture at no cost, thanks to a cost-share program for Rappahannock residents.

Out & About

Mountain Heritage Lesson

UPPER POCOSIN MISSION, SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK
GREENE COUNTY, VA • APRIL 12, 2018



▲ PEC’s historic preservation manager, Kristie Kendall, speaks to third-grade students from Nathanael Greene Elementary about the once-thriving communities that existed in the mountains prior to the creation of Shenandoah National Park. *Photo by Larry Lamb*

The Path to Native Plant Landscaping

GRELEN NURSERY
SOMERSET, VA • APRIL 15, 2018



▲ In partnership with Grelen Nursery, PEC held an event to teach residents about the use of native plants in landscaping at home. Dan Gregg (center), founder of Grelen Nursery, speaks to guests about the types of native species they offer, with PEC native habitat and stewardship specialist Celia Vuocolo (right). *Photo by Karissa Epley*

Bluebell Walk

BONNY BROOK FARM
CATLETT, VA • APRIL 14, 2018



▲ PEC’s Celia Vuocolo and her family enjoy the bluebells at our Annual Bluebell Walk. *Photo by Cynthia Benitz*



▲ Guests walk down to view the bluebells along Cedar Run. *Photo by Cynthia Benitz*

Raised Bed Garden Planting

THE COMMUNITY HOUSE ON HAITI STREET
WARRENTON, VA • APRIL 21, 2018



▲ PEC partnered with Habitat for Humanity to help install a vegetable garden. Volunteers pose after working hard to plant the garden in front of The Community House on Haiti Street. *Photo by Robin Cross*



▲ PEC staff and other volunteers work on a vegetable garden as part of PATH’s “Let’s Volunteer Day.” *Photo by Robin Cross*

From the Rappahannock, For the Rappahannock

MARRIOTT RANCH
HUME, VA • APRIL 22, 2018



▲ Friends of the Rappahannock, PEC and the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District partner for the annual “For the Rappahannock, From the Rappahannock” event, which celebrates the Rappahannock River watershed. The event showcases Marriott Ranch’s conservation work and celebrates healthy water. In the morning, volunteers helped plant a riparian buffer along Fiery Run. Volunteers Karen Vargas and Tyler Zander pose with PEC’s Claire Catlett, who took part in the planting. *Photo by Marco Sanchez*



▲ After enjoying local oysters from the Oyster Company of Virginia, guests lounge on the lawn at Marriott Ranch. *Photo by Marco Sanchez*



▲ John Odenkirk, a fish biologist from Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, demonstrates electrofishing, which is a common scientific survey method used to sample fish populations to determine abundance, density, and species composition. *Photo by Robin Cross*

Solarize Info Session

OLD BUST HEAD BREWERY
WARRENTON, VA • MAY 21, 2018



▲ PEC’s Julie Bolthouse and Old Bust Head co-owner Julie Broaddus at our Solarize Info Session. *Photo by Tiffany Parker*

Out&About

Sources of Funding for Land Conservation & Land Management

THE HILL SCHOOL
MIDDLEBURG, VA • MAY 22, 2018



▲ PEC hosted three ‘Sources of Funding’ workshops this spring to provide a comprehensive overview of available programs and sources of funding for property owners. From left to right: Piedmont Environmental Council’s Tracy Lind and Michael Kane, Sally Price, executive director of Land Trust of Virginia, Chris Dematatis, Chairman, Land Trust of Virginia, Lori Keenan McGuiness, co-chair at Goose Creek Association, Amanda Scheps, Forest Conservation Specialist, VA Department of Forestry, Allan Rowsome, executive director of Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, Jessica Baker, loan officer at Farm Credit, Marilyn Adams, branch manager at Farm Credit, Kris Jarvis, conservation specialist at John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District. *Photo by Marco Sanchez*

Hip Hop Vibe Ride

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA
MAY 27, 2018



▲ PEC and Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee partnered on Hip Hop Vibe Ride, an event where Charlottesville Mayor Nikuyah Walker and residents biked to promote cycling and healthy lifestyles. *Photo by Peter Krebs*

Dear Friends,

These are challenging times to be a champion for conservation and long-term sustainability in our communities. Although enthusiasm for conservation and restoration is high among individual landowners and communities, there are significant threats to the policies and funding that provide incentives.

Unfortunately, there have been cuts to state funding at a time when we need to invest in expanding participation in agricultural and stormwater best management practices to achieve local water quality goals; and also in meeting the Chesapeake Bay restoration goal by 2025. Additionally, we need investment in the conservation infrastructure of urban and rural communities to strengthen local economies; as well as increase conservation and preservation in the face of renewed development pressure, which often targets the best farm soils. And although the level of federal appropriations for 2018 are consistent with previous years, there is no agreement on the Farm Bill, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other programs that provide a match for state, local and private investments.

On one hand, the number of landowners coming to PEC, other land trusts and public conservation agencies for assistance with conservation, restoration and best management projects is high and increasing. On the other hand, the budget the General Assembly negotiated with Governor Northam does not adequately fund either the conservation

programs or the necessary technical support in state and local agencies.

The level of funding for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, for Battlefield Preservation, and for Farmland Preservation is not sufficient to meet demand or to encourage the level of voluntary participation anticipated by the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. And there is not significant progress toward investing in urban and suburban programs that incentivise conservation and restoration. In addition, the budget agreement provides no funding for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, despite the desperate need to control runoff from major rain events.

Governor Northam has announced that he hopes to increase overall funding for natural resources

by 200 percent, raising the total expenditures for natural resources from 0.6 to 2.0 percent of the total state budget in the coming years of his administration. This is a laudable goal and one that we can support, but, at the same time, he has also proposed to narrowly focus land conservation funding.

On the surface, the proposal sounds like a model of priority setting, targeting the top 10 percent of conservation priority lands while recognizing a longer-term goal of

We need to encourage our elected officials and agencies to understand the widespread appeal of community based conservation.



Photo by Joyce Harmon

millions of additional acres across the Commonwealth. Combined with the broader budget goal, that sounds like more resources for land conservation to meet the demand and policy goals of protecting historic, scenic, agricultural and natural resources. However, the actual message from the Secretary of Natural Resources is that we need to be prepared to do more with less, and focus our efforts on the top one percent of potential projects. Ironically, by limiting the number of communities that benefit from conservation and restoration investment, this strategy will further reduce support for those programs. Instead of limiting the programs, we need to encourage our elected officials and agencies to understand the widespread appeal of community based conservation.

Sincerely,

Chris Miller, President



A MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE PIEDMONT ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL SUMMER 2018



INSIDE

Headwater Stream Initiative, Loudoun Comprehensive Plan, Prescribed Burn at Roundabout Meadows and more!

Photo courtesy of Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program

Pop Quiz

QUESTION:
How many counties does the Rappahannock River pass through?
a) 10 b) 11 c) 12 d) 13

ANSWER ON PAGE 4



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