



Piedmont
Environmental
Council

2012

ANNUAL REPORT



YELLOW BREASTED CHAT
Photo by Mark L. Watson

PEC was founded
“...to insure that the
total environment
of the northern
Piedmont region
of Virginia and
its citizens are
considered as an
integrated whole.”

Dear Friends,

On December 18, 1972, a group of concerned citizens came together to form The Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC). They realized that the Piedmont was an exceptional place—beloved for its scenic beauty, bountiful natural resources, diverse ecology, significance to American history, productive family farms, thriving communities and vibrant economy.

Forty years have gone by, but our founders’ proactive vision for the Piedmont—and for an organization that would work to protect it—has truly strengthened our region. PEC is guided by, and remains committed to, the original words in our *Articles of Incorporation*. As it states, PEC was founded:

“...to insure that the **total environment** of the northern Piedmont region of Virginia **and its citizens are considered as an integrated whole**.

...to **support logical development** and to assure that what takes place is done in a purposeful, planned and orderly way and at a proper pace.

...to see that development takes into account the desires of the residents and the **preservation of the natural beauty, historic sites** and structures and traditional **rural and agricultural character**.

...to **help educate the citizens** of the Piedmont as to the natural assets of their region and the threats to them.

...to **assist by example** other areas faced with similar problems.”

PEC is proud to have carried on this mission for the last four

decades. We will continue to take on the tough challenges as well as carry out **the day-to-day work** that helps make this region such a wonderful place to call home and to visit.

During 2012, PEC continued to implement critical elements of the Strategic Plan, which was approved in 2010 to strengthen our ability to be effective in the face of the very real changes to the region’s demographics and economy. We know that people’s willingness to help protect the Piedmont depends on their relationship to the area’s natural assets, cultural values, and the land itself. For this reason, PEC organized dozens of events in 2012—beginning with lectures by Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, in Leesburg and Charlottesville. Some events are annual, such as our Bluebell Walk on privately conserved land along the Cedar Run, to celebrate rebirth in the spring. Other events address an immediate concern, like our public meetings concerning the possible impacts to the Piedmont if the ban on uranium mining and milling is lifted. In the end, all of our events are opportunities to increase citizens’ appreciation for the Piedmont and its communities, as well as share with them a positive vision of our future.

PEC continues to invest in the capacity to meet the land conservation goals of the Piedmont. The stewardship function that PEC has committed to in perpetuity is endowed and we have policies in place to build that endowment from a variety of sources. We also continue to provide professional staff to assist landowners in the Piedmont region who are considering donating a conservation easement. And we continue to play a lead role within the land conservation community in improving policies to encourage effective conservation.

The Piedmont's lands serve as crucial habitat for wildlife. Many residents—whether they are farmers, suburban homeowners, or city dwellers—are interested in what they can do to encourage a healthier natural environment. PEC's investment in our Sustainable Habitat Program has helped hundreds of landowners plan and implement habitat restoration practices on their properties. Along Thumb Run, a tributary to the Rappahannock River in western Fauquier, we hope to demonstrate that neighboring landowners can work together to accomplish meaningful habitat restoration at a larger scale.

Our region, which includes several of the fastest growing jurisdictions in the nation, has faced serious challenges over the decades. There is the persistent threat of scattered and poorly planned residential, commercial, and even industrial development—leading to a steady loss of productive farm and forest land. There have been proposals that have shaken our region. There was the push in the early 1980s to mine uranium in the Commonwealth, a push that came back in 2007. Then there was a proposal by Disney in 1994 to build a massive amusement park just outside of Haymarket. In the early 2000s, we saw proposals for dozens of new power plants in Virginia. And then came the push for more transmission lines in 2006. Today, we face poorly planned, ineffective transportation projects—like the Charlottesville Rt. 29 Bypass or the Outer Beltway through Loudoun & Prince William—highways that remain the most important public subsidy for speculative land development.

We have figured out how to respond to these types of large scale challenges. A new, more difficult challenge is residents' increased interest in finding ways to capture the monetary value

of the beloved Piedmont landscape. In other words, how to make a buck off of beauty. In nearly every community, we are seeing proposals to expand commercial ventures in the rural, agricultural areas—entertainment venues at farm wineries; paintball facilities; historic sites converted to event halls and retreat centers; retail centers that start as farm stores but sell anything and everything; expanded equestrian facilities, some of which include rural subdivisions. On the one hand, we need to find ways to encourage sustainable economic opportunities for the rural areas of the Piedmont that we have all worked so hard to protect and enhance. On the other hand, we need to recognize the impacts these practices will have on the quality of the product we are trying to market.

As always, PEC is leading the debate on these difficult challenges in communities throughout the Piedmont. We rely on your support and your willingness to participate in the discussions and the decisions. We have been honored to serve this region for the past four decades, and we hope to be here for decades to come.

Sincerely,



Chris Miller
President



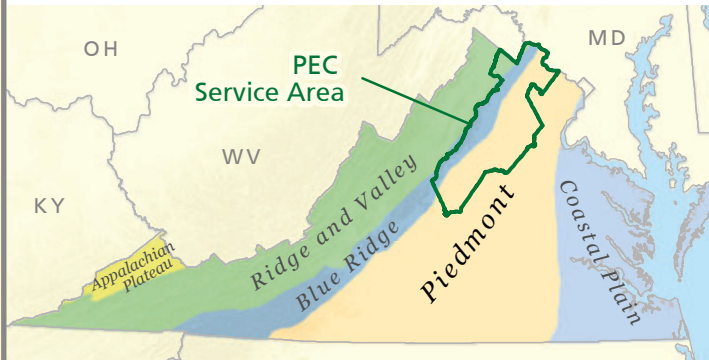
Tony Vanderwarker
Chair of the Board



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Physiographic Regions of Virginia



Virginia's northern Piedmont is an exceptional place. Located at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Piedmont is beloved for its scenic beauty, bountiful natural resources, diverse ecology, significance to American history, productive family farms, thriving communities and vibrant economy.

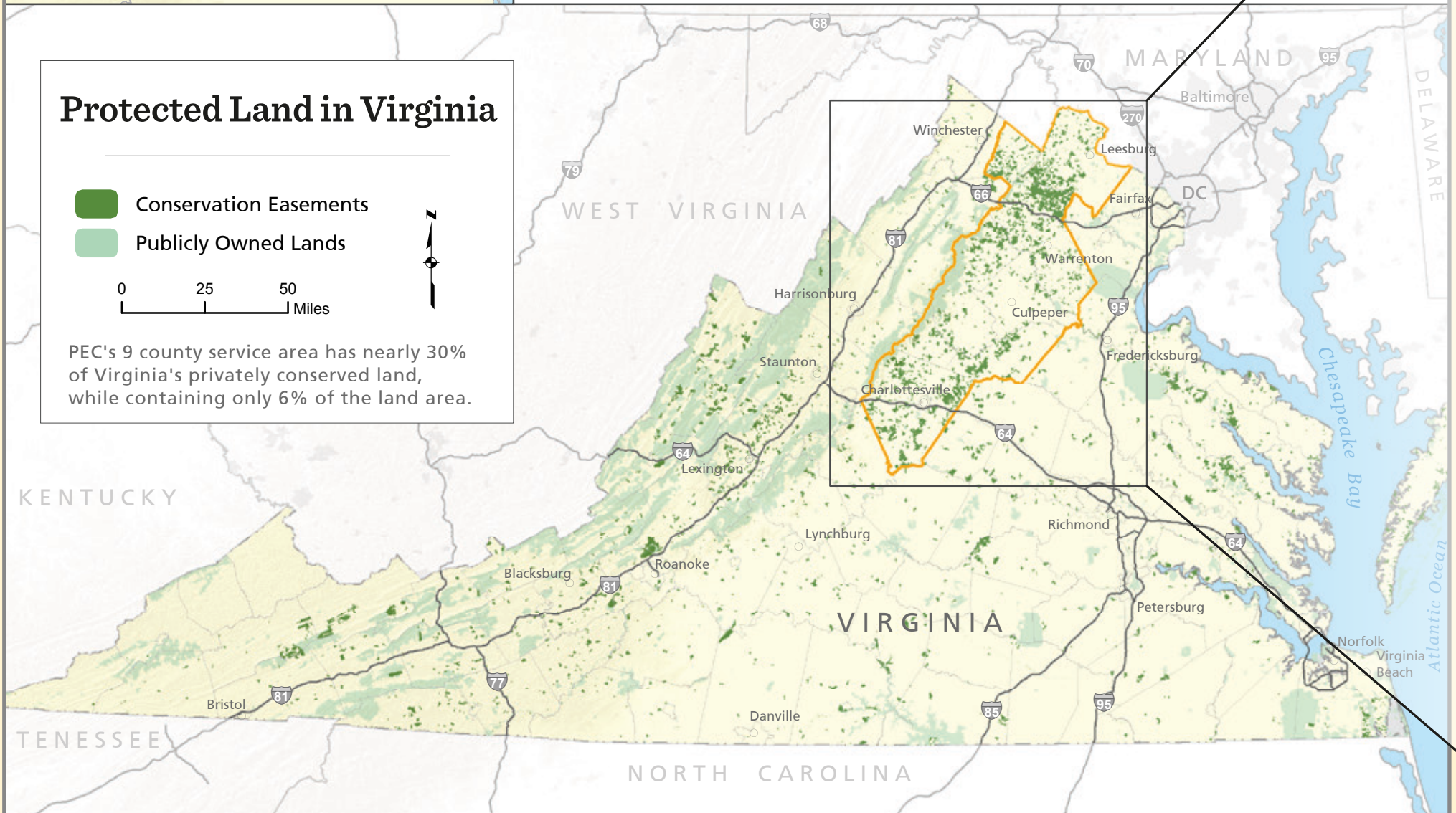
Protected Land in Virginia

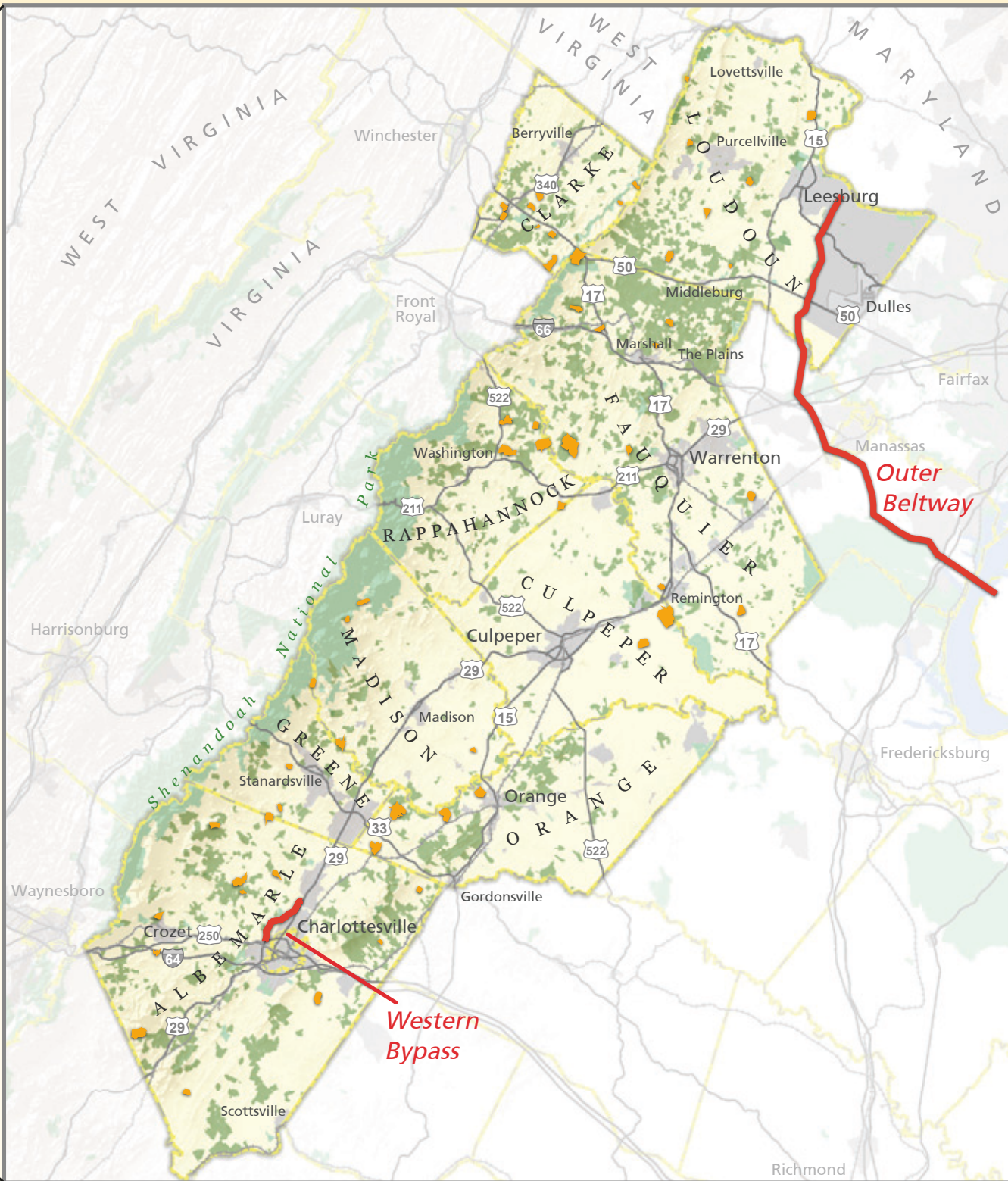
-  Conservation Easements
-  Publicly Owned Lands

0 25 50 Miles








PEC's 9 county service area has nearly 30% of Virginia's privately conserved land, while containing only 6% of the land area.





The PEC Region

-  Easements Recorded in 2012
-  Conservation Easements
-  Publicly Owned Lands
-  Planned for Growth
-  Planned Road Projects

0 10 20 Miles



For more information on the ill-conceived DC Outer Beltway and Charlottesville Western Bypass, see page 13.

For more information on PEC's land conservation successes in 2012, see page 5.

Maps created by PEC for presentation purposes only.
Data source: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, County Governments, VDOT.



land conservation

VOLUNTARY ACTION • OUTSTANDING SUCCESS • SAVING PLACES PEOPLE LOVE

IN 2012, PEC ACCEPTED AN EASEMENT ON OVOKA FARM,
LOCATED IN FAUQUIER AND CLARKE COUNTIES.
Photo by Ken Garrett

PEC protects five properties in 2012

In addition to our extensive outreach, assistance to landowners, and advocacy for strong conservation policies, PEC now more frequently serves as the ultimate easement holder. By accepting more easements, PEC can better meet landowners' needs and make more conservation projects possible in our nine-county region.

In 2012, PEC accepted easements on three exceptional properties. One of these is the 481-acre Ovoka Farm, near Sky Meadows State Park, in Fauquier and Clarke Counties. This land is part of the vista that George Washington enjoyed when he lived in a cabin nearby. It is also visible from the Appalachian

Trail, Scenic Route 50, the village of Paris and many places within the Crooked Run Historic District. Another is the Andrewsia property, just outside the Town of Orange. Andrewsia was once slated for over 300 houses, but was donated to PEC instead and will remain open, scenic farmland. The third is the Beier family's property in Madison County, near the White Oak Canyon trailhead. This easement helps to protect a high quality trout stream and a scenic gateway to Shenandoah National Park.

PEC also received two properties in 2012, with plans to protect them in perpetuity. We accepted a fee-simple donation of 154 acres adjacent to a rural

subdivision near Earlysville in Albemarle County, which we will protect with a conservation easement. In Rappahannock, with support from the Krebsner Fund for Rappahannock County Conservation (*see p. 20*), we purchased a 17-acre property that is surrounded on three sides by a designated wilderness area within Shenandoah National Park. PEC intends to transfer this property to the National Park Service.

PEC is an accredited land trust. We now hold easements on a total of 46 properties, protecting over 6,600 acres, and we own 495 acres in five counties.



More 2012 Highlights

- ▶ PEC dedicated the **Piedmont Memorial Overlook** at Ovoka, a 50-acre ridgetop property that we own in Fauquier and Clarke Counties, next to Sky Meadows State Park. With breathtaking views across one of the most privately protected landscapes in America, this site serves as a memorial to some of the Piedmont's great conservationists.
- ▶ PEC supports local **Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs** by building citizen support, collaborating on projects, and providing matching funds from donations or grants. In 2012, PDR programs helped to protect working farms in Albemarle, Clarke and Fauquier.
- ▶ PEC conducted extensive **conservation outreach**, including a targeted mailing that reached over 5,000 landowners. PEC's staff consulted one-on-one with over 250 interested landowners about their conservation options.
- ▶ Through the Piedmont Foundation, PEC manages **ten land conservation funds** focused on specific places within our region (*see p. 20*). In 2012, these funds helped to purchase an easement on a historic family farm in Clarke; provide a loan for the upfront costs of a donated easement in Madison; and acquired a property in Rappahannock that will be donated to the National Park Service (*see above*).



PEC'S REX LINVILLE RECORDS A PHOTO DATA POINT DURING A CONSERVATION PROPERTY MONITORING VISIT.

9,500+ Acres Protected

County	2012 Acres Protected by Conservation Easements	Total Land Protected by Conservation Easements	% of Land Protected by Conservation Easements
Albemarle	1,550	87,250	19%
Clarke	800	21,500	19%
Culpeper	1,250	14,850	6%
Fauquier	2,100	96,600	23%
Greene	150	10,200	12%
Loudoun	750	51,000	15%
Madison	400	13,200	8%
Orange	1,450	32,600	15%
Rappahannock	1,150	30,450	18%
PEC Region	9,500	357,650	17%

See more conservation highlights throughout this Annual Report.



clean air and water

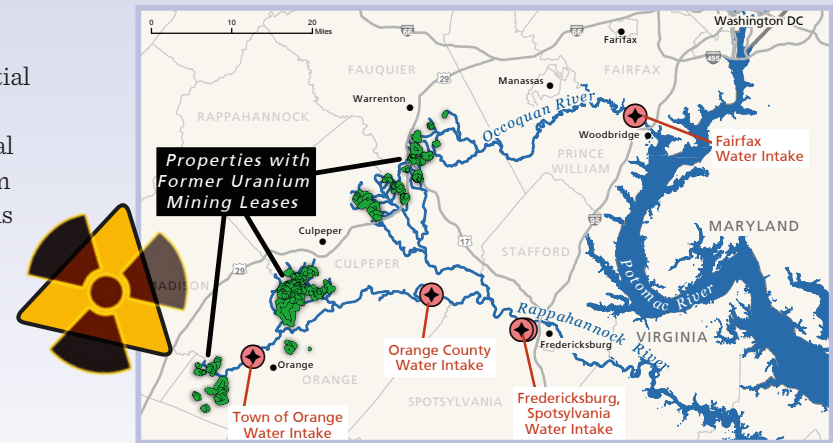
SAFE DRINKING SOURCES • CLEAR VIEWS • GOOD HEALTH • PLACES TO SWIM AND FISH

Photo by Scott Hellenbach

Uranium mining—Going, going, gone?

Good news for Virginia's air and water—in the wake of the National Academy of Sciences study, which found that uranium waste sites represent “significant potential sources of contamination for thousands of years,” opposition to uranium mining and milling in Virginia has grown. PEC, an early opponent, has been joined over time by local governments, regional Chambers of Commerce, the Virginia Lt. Governor, the Virginia Farm Bureau, environmental groups, tireless citizens, and many others who oppose this dangerous experiment. Our collective efforts in 2012 put us in a great position for the 2013 General Assembly session, where legislation that would have opened up the Commonwealth to uranium mining was ultimately defeated. Though this issue has not been laid to rest entirely, the recent victory in the General Assembly was news for celebration!

Properties with Former Uranium Mining Leases and Downstream Water Supplies



More 2012 Highlights

- ▶ Approximately **40 miles of streams and rivers** were protected by conservation easements in 2012, bringing the total to approximately 1,480 miles. Over **500 acres of wetlands** were protected by conservation easements, bringing the total to approximately 8,700 acres. All of these protected resources contribute to the restoration of the **Chesapeake Bay**, since water flowing through the Piedmont eventually enters the Bay.
- ▶ Three new easements along the **Jordan River in Rappahannock** contribute to nearly five miles of riparian buffers along this tributary of the Rappahannock River.
- ▶ Farmers used unique incentives coordinated by PEC, to fence livestock away from an additional 10.6 miles of streams in Culpeper, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock. Since its launch three years ago, this program has resulted in over 22 miles of new fences that keep **1,700 cattle out of local streams**.
- ▶ What's good for local streams is often good for wildlife habitat—so PEC is helping landowners in the **Thumb Run watershed in northwest Fauquier** to improve both. This initiative supports landowners' efforts to fence livestock out of streams, plant riparian buffers, and cultivate habitat. Field walks will showcase successful projects.
- ▶ PEC held four **Sustainable Landscaping Workshops** in suburban Loudoun, teaching people how to reduce their use of chemicals, cultivate native plants, and create wildlife habitat in their own backyards.
- ▶ PEC co-organized the 11th annual **Loudoun Family Stream Day**, an educational event for students and families.
- ▶ PEC is working with citizens in Clarke County to **clean up Spout Run** (currently on the state's Impaired Waters list) through thoughtful land stewardship and improved stream monitoring—as well as tracking results through a new biomonitoring program for county streams.
- ▶ An advocacy campaign by PEC helped to **stop a biosolids facility in Culpeper**, which would have stored sewage sludge from DC—endangering the health of the nearby Rappahannock River.
- ▶ PEC's expertise in transmission line issues was key in **defeating the massive coal-by-wire PATH transmission line**, which would have crossed Frederick, Clarke, and Loudoun along its 275-mile route. Unable to stand up to rigorous analysis that PEC pushed for, the utilities canceled this proposal in 2012.



HEALTHY BROOK TROUT POPULATIONS INDICATE CLEAN, SHADED STREAMS.

Photo by Chris Anderson



history and beauty

.....

SENSE OF PLACE • SCENIC VIEWS • BATTLEFIELDS • HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Photo by David Anhold



SYCAMORE SUN BY CHRISTOPHER STEPHENS

Painters of the Piedmont art show celebrates artists in our distinctive region

As part of our 40th anniversary celebration, PEC brought together a traveling art exhibit featuring works by eleven of the Piedmont's leading artists. The thirty works on display represented a wide variety of styles and media, but together they evoked a powerful sense of place—a vision of Virginia's Piedmont.

The exhibit was shown, for a month at a time, in three locations: Chroma Projects in Charlottesville, the Montpelier Visitor Center in Orange, and the National Sporting Library in Middleburg. Proceeds from the sale of the paintings benefited PEC's 40th Anniversary Fund, which supports our expanded outreach initiatives. PEC also hosted a lecture series in connection with the art show, featuring talks on contemporary mural painting and the history of the horse in art.

More 2012 Highlights

- ▶ Talented photographers submitted hundreds of striking images in the 2012 **PEC Photo Contest**, and over 600 people voted for this year's winners. This annual contest has become a great way for Piedmont photographers to display their best shots and celebrate special places. Many of the gorgeous pictures in this Annual Report came from the Photo Contest!
- ▶ PEC's work helped lead to **victory on the PATH transmission line**, preventing 275 miles of giant, ugly metal towers along a route that included Frederick, Clarke, and Loudoun Counties.
- ▶ PEC is working to **maintain Albemarle's excellent cell tower ordinance** in the face of industry pressure. We hold up Albemarle's ordinance as a model for localities that want to facilitate expanded cell service with minimal intrusion on scenic landscapes.
- ▶ PEC is partnering on a yearlong study of **Madison County during the Civil War**. Public school students and others will explore life in Madison 150 years ago, culminating in a commemoration of the 1863 Battle of Jack's Shop in 2013.

- ▶ PEC helped organize a hike in Lambs Hollow, in Greene County, that revisited **life in the mountains before Shenandoah National Park**. Members of the Lamb family welcomed about 80 guests to a restored cabin where their ancestors once lived, on a mountain homestead.



DESCENDANTS OF HIRAM AND LUCY LAMB JOINED THE HIKE AT OUR SUCCESSFUL EVENT IN GREENE COUNTY. Photo by Kristie Kendall

- ▶ PEC helped obtain funds to restore **historic buildings in downtown Culpeper** that were destabilized by the 2011 earthquake, including St. Stephens Episcopal Church, which was built in 1821.
- ▶ Over 1,300 acres of **Civil War battlefields** were protected last year, including a nearly 1,000-acre property in Culpeper that lies within the Kellys Ford, Brandy Station, and Rappahannock Station Battlefields. In total, conservation easements protect approximately 23,600 acres of battlefields in the Piedmont.
- ▶ Over 2,400 acres of land in **rural historic districts** were protected last year for a total of approximately 92,700 acres.
- ▶ Over 3,000 acres of **land visible from the Appalachian Trail** were protected last year for a total of approximately 106,000 acres.
- ▶ Over 2,100 acres along **Scenic Byways** were protected last year for a total of approximately 99,100 acres.



better communities

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT • GREAT PLACES TO LIVE • MANAGING TRAFFIC AND TAXES

Photo by James Marshall

PEC Fellowship Program trains a new generation of advocates

Now entering its seventh year, the PEC Fellowship Program—a hands-on, educational experience for college and graduate students interested in environmental careers—is creating a network of bright, capable young advocates in Virginia and across the country.

Each summer, this seven-week program introduces twelve students to PEC's proven model for environmental advocacy. Through field trips and classroom activities, PEC Fellows encounter a wide variety of topics, from urban planning to sustainable agriculture, and then complete a useful practicum. Last year's practicums included an analysis of access management on Rte. 29, a study of the availability of native versus invasive plants in area nurseries, and groundwork for a guide to farming regulations.

PEC FELLOWS TAKE A TOUR OF THE BROAD RUN WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY.

Photo by Andy Washburn



More 2012 Highlights

- ▶ PEC launched a more robust **volunteer program**, starting with an online system that helps us match people's interests with opportunities to get involved in their community.



ANDY WASHBURN TALKS WITH VISITORS TO PEC'S TENT AT THE HERITAGE HARVEST FESTIVAL IN SEPTEMBER.

Photo by Marco Sánchez

- ▶ PEC **strengthens citizens' involvement in local issues** by sending timely action alerts to a network of 15,000 subscribers. Our emails also help increase turnout at important public meetings and publicize worthwhile community events.
- ▶ PEC helps localities form better Comprehensive Plans—**blueprints for future growth**—by offering our input and increasing citizen participation. In 2012, our staff took part in Comprehensive Plan reviews in Fauquier, Madison, and Orange.
- ▶ PEC advocates for local control over **commercial events at wineries**—allowing local governments to decide how best to support the agricultural economy while reducing impacts on rural roads and quality of life. PEC supported the ordinance passed by Fauquier County as a reasonable balance.
- ▶ PEC is mobilizing citizens to address a **land-use crisis in Orange County** that leaves all agricultural land open to immediate subdivision into two-acre lots, as well as proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan that could dramatically increase development.
- ▶ PEC fought **changes to regulations in Loudoun County** regarding tree conservation, archaeology reports, and public input that would lead to increased development with weaker environmental protection.
- ▶ PEC is the fiscal agent for the **Coalition for Smarter Growth (CSG)**, the leading advocate for smart growth in the Washington D.C. region. In 2012, CSG led effective campaigns for great neighborhoods, affordable housing, and transit-oriented development—goals that improve the capital region while reducing development pressure on the Piedmont. CSG stands with PEC as a major opponent of the proposed Outer Beltway (*see p. 13*).



sensible transportation

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY · LESS SPRAWL · MORE OPTIONS

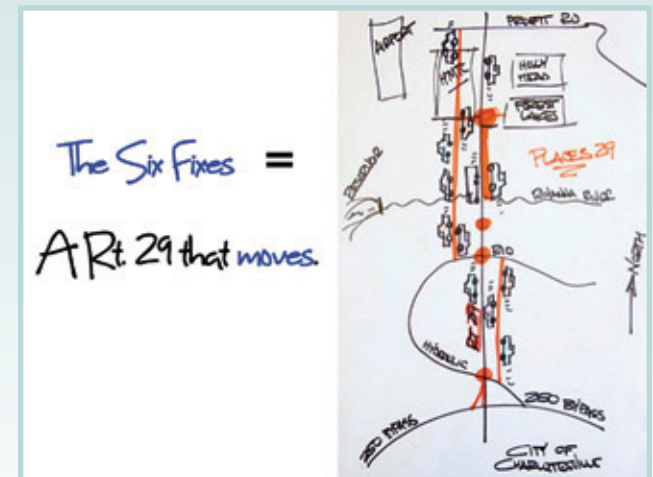
Photo by Katherine Vance

Promoting smart alternatives to the Charlottesville Bypass

PEC has long advocated for solutions that will improve traffic flow on Rt. 29 in Charlottesville and Albemarle. We worked with the County, the City of Charlottesville, VDOT and local citizens to develop the smart growth transportation plan known as “Places29,” which was approved in 2011. Despite this promising local plan, bypass proponents have managed to bring back the long-rejected Charlottesville Western Bypass and push it through the political process. This 6.2 mile, \$250 million bypass would drain funding away from more useful transportation projects. But PEC is fighting back.

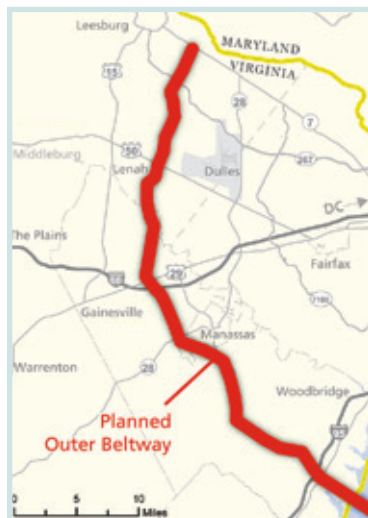
To keep citizens engaged, we decided to try a new approach—visual instead of verbal. We produced two hand-drawn slideshows that show, rather than tell, why Places29 is a better plan. We circulated these pieces by email and social media, and we got great results. The pictures got through to people in a way that words alone never did.

We’ve made progress at the federal level, too. The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers, which play a role in the permitting process, have raised caution flags, calling on VDOT to do a more rigorous analysis of the bypass and its alternatives. That’s a big step in the right direction —because it’s hard to justify this bypass once you take a good look at the options.



PLACES29 WOULD EASE PRESSURE ON RT. 29 BY IMPROVING THE LOCAL STREET NETWORK, WHICH MAKES SENSE SINCE 88% OF VEHICLES ON THIS STRETCH OF RT. 29 ARE LOCAL TRAFFIC.

More 2012 Highlights



- ▶ PEC used online advocacy and media outreach to call attention to **wasteful transportation priorities** at the state level, favoring expensive and unnecessary new highways over practical improvements to the transportation networks that people use every day.
- ▶ PEC is battling the proposed **D.C. Outer Beltway** that would open up vast amounts of land to sprawling development, in the Piedmont region and beyond. The highway, which would cut through Loudoun and Prince William, would cost well over a billion dollars, but it wouldn't fix Northern Virginia's traffic problems because it runs north-south, while most commuters need to go east-west.
- ▶ PEC opposes the **Western Outer Loop road in Culpeper**, because it would open a large amount of prime agricultural land to residential development, and, if extended to Rt. 29, it would endanger Lake Pelham, which provides the town's water supply.
- ▶ PEC is monitoring the possibility of a new, permanent **stoplight on Rt. 29 in Greene County**, in connection with the Creekside development. This section of Rt. 29 is already cluttered with stoplights, and we believe that this additional one can be avoided.



ELINOR GLASSCO AND HER BROTHER AMORY FISCHER COLLECTED HUNDREDS OF SIGNATURES ON PETITIONS OPPOSING THE CHARLOTTESVILLE WESTERN BYPASS.

Photo by Katherine Vance

strong rural economies

THRIVING FARMS • LOCAL FOOD • INNOVATION • HEALTHY, WORKING LAND



Photo by Patricia Temples

Workshops explore a new frontier for local food

PEC's *Buy Fresh Buy Local* campaign has gone a long way to connect individual consumers with fresh, healthy local food. But institutions like schools, hospitals, and nursing homes—which serve hundreds or thousands of meals every day—face a different set of challenges. How can local farms provide good food on the scale they need, on their schedule, at the right price?

In 2012, with support from the USDA Specialty Agriculture Grant Program and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, PEC hosted four *Farm to Food Service* workshops in Charlottesville and Warrenton. These workshops brought local food providers and food-service directors together to examine successful models and address challenges. PEC also organized three field tours of innovative programs that are providing local food on a large scale.

These events have put PEC in touch with nearly 100 interested institutions, and they've sparked some valuable connections. For example, one workshop introduced representatives of Woodberry Forest School and the Local Food Hub. Now the two are working together, and 10-15% of the food served at the school every day—up to 1,500 meals—comes from local farms.



PEC'S SUE ELLEN JOHNSON AND JESSICA PALMER TALK WITH CLYDE FIRMAN (RIGHT) OF WOODBERRY FOREST SCHOOL AND CHEF TONY DEWALT (CENTER) OF FAUQUIER HOSPITAL, DURING A PEC FARM TO FOOD SERVICE TOUR. Photo by Katherine Vance

More 2012 Highlights

- ▶ PEC put out new versions of our popular **Buy Fresh Buy Local food guides** for the Charlottesville Area, Northern Piedmont, and Loudoun County. We also partnered on the Shenandoah Valley guide. PEC sent these guides to every home in our nine-county area—about a quarter million homes! We also produced two *Buy Fresh Buy Local* holiday guides, listing local sources for seasonal meals, gifts, and decorations.
- ▶ PEC held a **Meet the Farmers Dinner** at King Family Vineyards in Albemarle. Guests enjoyed delicious, gourmet food in the company of the people who grew it—celebrating the connections between good food, good land, and good work.
- ▶ PEC was a sponsor of the popular **Heritage Harvest Festival** at Monticello and was involved in the Tasting Tent, where hundreds of visitors sampled unique, heirloom melons and tomatoes. We also welcomed visitors to *Buy Fresh Buy Local* booths at the Albemarle County Fair, Greene County Fair, Orange Edible Fest, and Virginia State Fair.
- ▶ PEC helped the Rappahannock County Schools celebrate their annual **Local Foods Day**, with a delicious local lunch for all students.
- ▶ PEC helped coordinate a year-long **Holistic Management International program** for farmers who want to improve their profitability, productivity, and quality of life. The program was spearheaded by Mount Vernon Farm in Rappahannock, with over 20 farms participating.
- ▶ In the Piedmont, conservation easements now protect approximately **168,000 acres of prime farmland and 164,000 acres of forests**. These protected resources assure that the necessary base for strong, sustainable rural economies will be available in the long term.



Photo by Bridget Bryant





habitat restoration

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS · BIODIVERSITY · POLLINATORS · NATIVE PLANTS



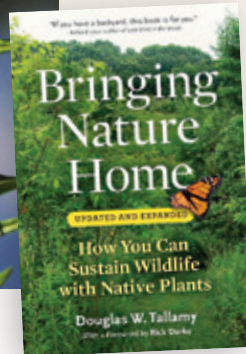
SWALLOWTAIL ON LIATRIS. Photo by Bruce Jones

How to **bring back native plants**—and why

Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, addressed a PEC-sponsored workshop in November on how to control invasive plants. The famous researcher offered a reason why people should take on this daunting task on their land: Insects have evolved to eat plants that are native to their area, he said. So, when you grow native plants, you get more bugs. Excited yet?

By supporting more insects, native plants not only bring more useful pollinators and beautiful butterflies, they provide more food for the entire food chain, Tallamy explained. More bugs means more birds, more mammals, and so on, in greater diversity and abundance.

About 200 people took part in two day-long workshops, organized by PEC and our partners, in Warrenton and Middleburg. Each featured panels of experts—including scientists, foresters, and farmers—who discussed a range of options for controlling specific invasive species, as well as the tangible benefits that result.



More 2012 Highlights

- ▶ PEC launched an expanded habitat section on our website—www.pecva.org/habitat—where people can find practical how-to information about supporting wildlife on all kinds of properties, large or small. The site includes a searchable database of funds available for habitat projects.
- ▶ PEC's Sustainable Habitat Manager consulted one on one with over 110 landowners about their **personal goals for restoring habitat**. PEC also held 18 outreach events about habitat restoration, with over 700 people participating.
- ▶ PEC is actively restoring **wildlife habitat at Ovoka**—the ridgeline property that we own in Fauquier and Clarke counties, next to Sky Meadows State Park. We are controlling invasive species and growing wildlife-friendly native plants, including warm-season grasses and wildflowers. This beautiful habitat, overlooking a gorgeous expanse of protected land, will be enjoyed by people at PEC workshops and nature walks, visitors to Sky Meadows, and hikers on the Appalachian Trail.
- ▶ PEC is supporting landowners' efforts to improve habitat in the **Thumb Run watershed in Fauquier**. Focusing on a watershed, rather than scattered individual properties, can help restore adequate habitat to boost populations of many species, including bobwhite quail, while also improving water quality.



- ▶ PEC held four free **Sustainable Landscaping Workshops in Loudoun**, informing suburban residents about how they can cultivate their yards and gardens to support a more robust natural community.
- ▶ PEC led a **Wildlife Friendly Farm and Forest Tour in Albemarle**, with about 45 participants. The tour visited two properties featuring a native warm-season grass meadow, protected buffers along streams, and a shallow duck pond, and then stopped for refreshments at a local vineyard.
- ▶ PEC is calling attention to **native brook trout streams in Madison** and encouraging conservation of these fragile resources. Successes include three new conservation easements along waterways.

PEC'S SUSTAINABLE HABITAT PROGRAM MANAGER, JAMES BARNES, OUT IN THE FIELD.

Photo by Katherine Vance



connecting people and nature

OUTREACH • PARKS AND TRAILS • OUTDOOR EVENTS • NATURE AT HOME

Moving beyond ‘Nature Deficit Disorder’

PEC brought best-selling author Richard Louv to the Piedmont to give two talks about how people can bring more nature into our lives—and what we gain when we do. Louv sparked an international movement with his book *Last Child in the Woods*, describing what he calls “nature deficit disorder” among today’s children. His latest book, *The Nature Principle*, explores how people of all ages can live happier,



healthier lives by reconnecting with the natural world. Addressing a rapt audience in both Leesburg and Charlottesville, Louv spoke about the importance of moving toward a positive, inspiring vision for the future.

These events inspired hundreds of people, and they gave PEC the opportunity to connect with new audiences as we celebrated our 40th anniversary. At Louv’s talks, we debuted a video featuring some of our most active members—among them, a dairy farmer, a teacher, a camp director, and a community activist—who embody the positive vision that Louv invokes.



More 2012 Highlights

- ▶ PEC significantly **expanded our outreach efforts** in 2012 in order to engage more people with our work in the Piedmont—a key goal in our recent Strategic Plan. With a new Outreach Coordinator on staff, we were able to host more events, including nature walks, sustainable landscaping workshops, wildlife habitat tours, and Meet the Farmer dinners. We’ve also introduced a more robust volunteer program.
- ▶ PEC invited the public to celebrate our **40th Anniversary** at special events including Richard Louv’s talks, the *Painters of the Piedmont* art show (see p. 9), and an open house party at our headquarters in Warrenton.
- ▶ PEC offered our **Community and School Garden Awards** to recognize outstanding gardens where folks are growing healthy food, cultivating native plants, and connecting people with the earth. Of 22 inspiring applicants, six won prizes to support their efforts.

- ▶ PEC presented the documentary film **Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time** to receptive audiences in Warrenton, Charlottesville and Stanardsville.



CITY SCHOOLYARD GARDEN AT BUFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL IN CHARLOTTESVILLE WON A \$500 PRIZE IN OUR FIRST COMMUNITY & SCHOOL GARDEN AWARDS.
Photo courtesy of Bev MacWelch

- ▶ PEC once again helped to organize **EarthDay@Loudoun**—an annual celebration that engages thousands of people in a positive vision for their local and global environment.
- ▶ PEC led our annual **Bluebell Walk** along protected land on the banks of Cedar Run in Fauquier—a beautiful spring tradition.
- ▶ Every summer, PEC sponsors **Natural History Day Camps**—opening doors for children to explore the natural world.
- ▶ PEC’s wildlife habitat program helps people to cultivate **vibrant natural areas on their own land**, so that our lives are graced by more bees, butterflies, songbirds, raptors, salamanders, frogs, foxes, bobcats, bears, and other wild creatures. (See p. 17).

The Piedmont Foundation

Established to hold and manage special funds in support of PEC, the Piedmont Foundation assures PEC's capacity to respond to key opportunities and challenges as they arise and to fulfill our core mission over the long term. A separate 501(c)(3) charitable organization governed by a six-member board, the Foundation accepts gifts of cash, securities, property and appreciated assets. The Foundation also offers opportunities for tax advantaged planned gifts including trusts, bequests and life income plans.

Currently, the Piedmont Foundation manages funds in the following categories:

- ▶ **Core Mission Endowment**
- ▶ **Conservation Stewardship Fund**
- ▶ **Legal Defense Fund**
- ▶ **Education and Outreach Fund**
- ▶ **Headquarters Expansion Fund**
- ▶ **Land Conservation Fund**

Within this fund, the following Regional Land Conservation Funds have been established:

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OLD RAG MOUNTAIN
Photo by Amy Fewell

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With much gratitude, PEC presents the names of individuals, families, foundations, businesses and organizations that supported The Piedmont Environmental Council during 2012. Although we do not have the space to honor everyone, we are extremely grateful for the generosity of each of our members. We offer sincere thanks for your ongoing commitment to promoting and protecting the Piedmont region.

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Jerome and Marjorie Prochaska
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Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Purcell Jr.
Matilda Purnell
Mr. Dean N. Quinney
John and Tiffany Randolph
Ms. Muriel M. Ratcliff

2012 PEC FELLOWS CONDUCT A MACROINVERTEBRATE SURVEY OF THE BOLLING BRANCH STREAM IN DELAPLANE.





JOAN FINE, CLARKE COUNTY RESIDENT AND MEMBER OF PEC'S LEGACY SOCIETY—A GROUP OF FOLKS WHO HAVE DECIDED TO INCLUDE PEC IN THEIR WILL. *Photo courtesy of Joan Fine*

Edward M. Reardon
Andrea Reese
Mr. Paul Reisler
Lisa Richard
Sarah Richardson
Ms. Robina Rich-Bouffault
Ms. and Mr. Stephanie Ridder
E.M. and Linda Risse
Charles Roe
Felicia W. Rogan
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rop
Richard Rose
Victor Rosenberg
Ms. Dawn Rosenthal
Mrs. Elsa S. Rosenthal
Diane Rosin
Nikki Rovner
Joseph Y. Rowe
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Russell

Mr. and Mrs. Paul K. Russell
Gene Santucci
Robert Sargent
Steve Satterfield
Natalie C. Pien &
Steven W. Sawtelle
Lynne C. Sayles and
Mark M. Newland
Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Scharer
Ms. Susan Scheer
Kevin Schmidt
Mr. Jan Schoonmaker
Mr. Donald L. Schupp Jr.
Anne D. Schwartz
Mrs. Frederic W. Scott
Mrs. Francis P. Sears
Mr. and Mrs. Charles
H. Seilheimer, III
Ann F. Sentz
Dr. Thomas C. Sentz

Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Severin
Mr. and Mrs. V. R. Shackelford, III
Maitland Sharpe
Matthew J. Sheedy
Mary Sherman
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Sherwood
Mr. and Mrs. Stanwyn G. Shetler
Skyline Tent Company
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Smith Jr.
Dell W. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Smith
Larry Smith
Mr. Turner T. Smith Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Marion H. Smoak
Dr. and Mrs. David M. Snyder
Mr. Mark T. Snyder
Mr. William H. Speiden
Angela Steffey
Ms. Ted Stelter

Dr. Christopher Sten
R. Lee Stephens
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Merril and Jeremy Stock
Jeremy Stone
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Stout
Henry Stribling
Leo and Lynne Subler
Susan Davenport & W.
Edgar Spigle Fund
Ms. Joanne Swift
Evelyn R. Talbert
John J. Taylor and
Jeannette Walls
Mr. Stewart F. Taylor
Mark and Laura Tekrony
Donald R. Tharpe
Jessica Thayer
The Covington Family Fund
The Fauquier Bank
The Hoerner Planning
Group, LLC.
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The Newstead Foundation
The Stern Foundation
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Anita Vere Nicoll
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Carey C. Whitehead
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Loring Woodruff
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Mr. and Mrs. Henry
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Gregory M. Yates
E.D. Yost
Dr. Harold E. Young
Deborah Younger
Gary Younklin
W. D. Zirkle

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VICE-CHAIR
Scott Kasprovicz
VICE-CHAIR

Mark Ohrstrom
VICE-CHAIR

Jack Snyder
VICE-CHAIR

Alton Keel
SECRETARY

Barry Hamilton
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Leslie Cockburn
David Massie
Merrill Strange *

** Denotes Executive Committee member*



PEC Staff

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Watsun Randolph, Chris Miller, Heather Richards, Katherine Vance, Bri West, Douglas Stewart, Mike Kane, Tiffany Parker, Rex Linville, Rob Marmet, Marco Sánchez, Tom Bolan, Gem Bingol, Kristie Kendall, Jay Clevenson, Ed Gorski, Dawn Wilmot, Julie Bolthouse, Dan Holmes, Jonathan Marquisee, Jessica Palmer, Don Loock, Jeff Werner, Diana Norris, Sue Ellen Johnson, Peter Hujik, Andy Washburn.

NOT PICTURED: James Barnes, Trish Carter, Sabrina Dohm, Tim Dunn, Diana Gebhart, Brian Higgins, Karen Hunsberger, Doug Larson

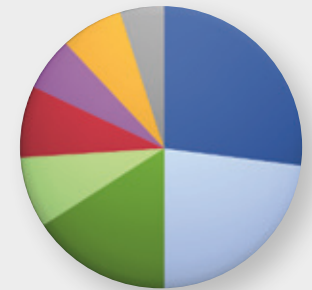
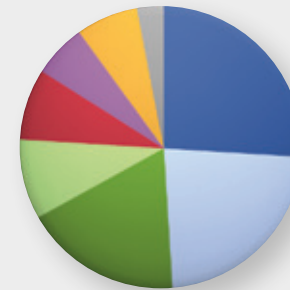


Statements of Financial Condition

Support

	2012		2011		2010	
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%
Donations and Grants	\$ 3,630,000	76%	\$ 4,003,000	92%	\$ 4,213,000	96%
Revenue from Sale of Assets, Net	827,000	17%	0	0%	0	0%
Special Events, Net	257,000	5%	249,000	6%	126,000	3%
Investments/Other	91,000	2%	99,000	2%	48,000	1%
Total Support	4,805,000	100%	4,351,000	100%	4,387,000	100%

Uses of Funds



Expenses

● Conservation, Stewardship and Habitat	\$ 1,206,000	26%	\$ 1,167,000	26%	\$ 1,141,000	27%
● County Issues and Planning	1,080,000	23%	1,029,000	23%	953,000	23%
● Policy*	835,000	18%	787,000	18%	675,000	16%
● Farms and Food	406,000	9%	397,000	9%	352,000	8%
● Transportation and Growth Management	346,000	8%	335,000	8%	325,000	8%
● Outreach and Education	259,000	6%	262,000	6%	240,000	6%
● Development	291,000	6%	306,000	7%	292,000	7%
● Administration	168,000	4%	155,000	3%	191,000	5%
Total Expenses	4,591,000	100%	4,438,000	100%	4,169,000	100%
Change in Net Assets	\$ 214,000		(\$ 87,000)		\$ 218,000	

Copies of our most recent audited financial statements and IRS Forms 990 and 1023 are available by request. They may also be found on PEC's website at www.pecva.org/donate

For more information, please contact PEC's accounting office at (540) 316-9974.

Note: PEC's financials incorporate all activity of organizations for which we act as fiscal agent, including the Coalition for Smarter Growth, Shenandoah Valley Network, Earth Day-Loudoun, Virginia Food System Council and the Virginia United Land Trust Conference (VaULT).

* Policy reflects regional and state-level work on policy related to energy, uranium, air quality, water quality, telecommunications, land conservation and land use.



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BARN OWL IN FLIGHT. Photo by Bruce Jones

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Find contact information for PEC staff throughout our region at www.pecva.org



PRINTED BY Progress Printing, Lynchburg, VA
DESIGNED BY Keith Damiani, Sequoia Design