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# Planting by Example

By Paula Combs

If you happen to walk by our office in Old Town Warrenton, you may notice some changes around the building — a little more green, some dashes of color and new trees to boot. And along with it being aesthetically pleasing, it is sustainable.

It has been a year and a half since we finished the renovation of our headquarters office. Soon after we moved back in and unpacked, planning for the restoration of the grounds began.

“Once we completed the building addition, I was anxious to see PEC keep up the momentum and continue with the landscaping. We made such an effort to have the building reflect the organization’s values — from the reuse of an old building, geothermal HVAC system, solar panels, state-of-the art windows and insulation — it was important the landscaping also make a statement that was in keeping with our programmatic goals,” says Doug Larson, former vice president at PEC.

Our office and its surrounding landscape is a demonstration of PEC’s values for a more sustainable future. We want the land to serve as a showcase for future workshops to educate the

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## BEFORE >

The front yard of PEC’s headquarters office in the summer of 2016, before habitat restoration.

Photo by Carolina Leonard



## < AFTER

The front yard of PEC’s headquarters office in May, 2017, after habitat restoration.

# Remington Walks

By Julie Bolthouse

Thanks to a grant from the PATH Foundation, PEC has been working to make Remington more walkable and bikeable.

Walkable locales with recreation options are, simply put, nicer places to live and visit, and they increase quality of life. That is why we have partnered with the Town of Remington and various community groups to develop a plan for future walking routes, trails, sidewalks, parks and bikeways in Remington.

We brought in the Toole Design Group, who are nationally-recognized experts in walkability. They developed recommendations from a series of events we hosted, which included interviews, open houses, listening sessions, stakeholder groups and a walking tour, this past April.

“It shows a great deal of foresight for the Town and PEC to tackle issues like these at this time. Around the country, there are countless examples of small cities and towns that have invested in parks, trails and sidewalk projects only to see big payoffs over the long run in terms of community cohesion and

economic development,” says Alia Anderson, Mid-Atlantic regional planning director at Toole Design Group. “What we heard from the people of Remington is that they want more places to be together, to hang out, to play and exercise — these are the goals that are at

the heart of this effort. Our report recommends a handful of priority projects — some small and a few large ones.”

The consultants considered the main roads of Remington — Route 15 business and West Main Street — and separated them

into different categories such as gateways, transition zones and the town center.

One of their ideas was to make the main intersection in the center of town a four-way stop. It would have sidewalk extensions, marked crosswalks and a textured midsection that would look and feel like brick.

The Toole Design Group also suggested that parking only be on one side of the downtown’s Main Street, which would allow for the sidewalk on the Town Hall side to be widened. It was suggested that the extra land next to the Town Hall become a public playground and garden. Additionally, they made trail and sidewalk improvement recommendations for three “loops” around the Town.

The first loop is identified as the ‘play loop,’ which encompasses the downtown area. Along the route is a new proposed playground, the current community garden, the carnival grounds, the elementary school and the Lee’s

Continued on page 2



PEC’s Julie Bolthouse leads a walking tour with Toole Design Group consultants, stakeholders and Remington residents.

Photo by Paula Combs

## Support PEC

Make a donation or get in touch with PEC at:

Post Office Box 460  
Warrenton, VA 20188  
540.347.2334  
pec@pecva.org

or make a secure online donation at [www.pecva.org](http://www.pecva.org)

Thank you for helping to protect the Piedmont!





# Welcome the New Fellow Crew!

Each year, we select twelve students from around the country to spend the summer with our staff in the Virginia Piedmont, studying land conservation, planning, agriculture, transportation, historic preservation and more.

The Fellowship Program hosts a variety of activities such as a visit to Richmond to learn about policy issues at the state level, stream monitoring in the Thumb Run watershed to assess water quality, instruction on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) at the state-of-the-art GIS lab at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, visiting properties protected by land conservation easements and getting their hands dirty at a farm while learning how to integrate habitat conservation efforts with agriculture.

“This year’s Fellowship Program is jam-packed with activities that will ensure our Fellows leave with a good foundation for futures in the world of conservation. I can’t wait to get started!” says Robin Cross, fellowship coordinator at PEC.



The 2017 PEC fellows at the Piedmont Memorial Overlook. Photo by Mike Kane

## Let’s give a warm welcome to this year’s fellows!

Abigail Chan

University of Virginia, Class of 2018

Andrew Olive

The University of North Carolina, Class of 2018

Josh McGhee

University of Maryland, Class of 2019

Harrison Premen

University of Virginia, Class of 2020

Dana Ek

George Mason University, Class of 2017

Jacquelyn Smith

American University, Class of 2017

Quyen Ha

George Washington University, Class of 2017

Drake Starling

The Catholic University of America, Class of 2014

Callee Manna

University of Georgia, Class of 2017

Emma Will

University of Michigan, Class of 2018

Katherine Moody

University of Virginia, Class of 2018

Shayne Willette

Oakland University, Class of 2016  
George Washington University, Class of 2018 (MA)

# To 20 Years of a Better Region

On May 17, the Coalition for Smarter Growth (CSG) celebrated its 20th anniversary. In 1997, PEC founded CSG with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Audubon Naturalist Society, Sierra Club and other organizations and individuals to advocate for smarter growth in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

“We are proud of CSG’s many accomplishments and progress over the last two decades,” says Chris Miller, PEC President. “We remain the fiscal sponsor of CSG and are pleased to be a partner on many issues and programs. Together, we have envisioned and helped enable a significantly better and more sustainable future.”

Over the last 20 years, CSG has been dedicated to supporting and fighting for smart growth in the greater Washington, D.C. region. Their mission is “to promote walkable, inclusive and transit-oriented communities, and the land use and transportation policies and investments needed to make those communities flourish.”

To mark CSG’s milestone, the reception took place in the grand art deco space at Historic Terminal A at Reagan Washington National Airport in Arlington, Virginia. During the event, they honored the recipients of their 2017 Prince Livable Communities Leadership Award and Sanders-Henn Community Hero Award.



CSG Executive Director Stewart Schwartz presents the Sanders-Henn Community Hero Award to PEC President Chris Miller. Photo by Matt Ha Photography

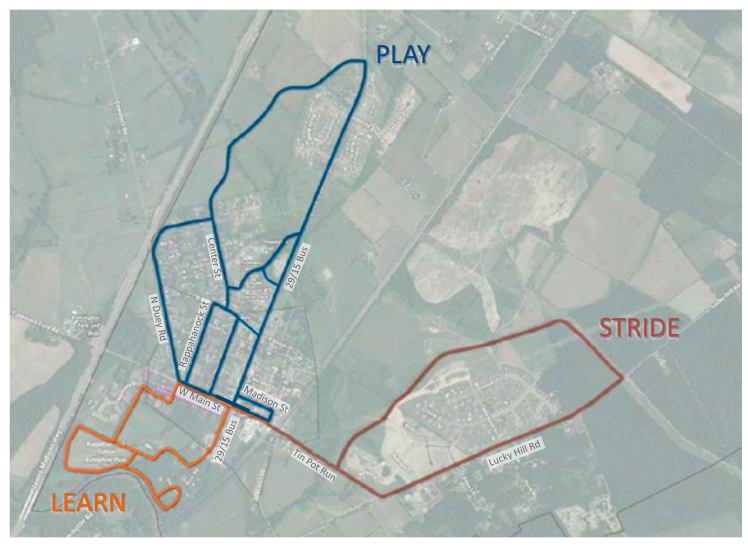
The awardee of this year’s Sanders-Henn Community Hero Award went to a name you may recognize, PEC President Chris Miller! The award honors local residents who demonstrate records of service and dedication to their community and make outstanding contributions to smart growth in the region.

“I deeply appreciate being recognized for a career dedicated to making our region a better and more sustainable place to live, work and play. As a parent of two young women coming of age in a period of great change, I am very committed to making sure that they have cleaner air, safe water to drink, access to better food and great places to live and work and get outside,” says Miller.

# Remington Walks

Continued from cover

Glen subdivision. The second loop, the ‘learn loop,’ would also include part of downtown, but it would bring you south toward the river and Civil War battlefield, where you could walk around the Rappahannock Station Battlefield Park and possibly along the river to the Rector tract owned by Civil War Trust. The third loop, the ‘stride loop,’ goes out toward Lucky Hill Road, and it would be more geared toward exercise, including features like stretching and exercise stations (akin to more adult-like “playgrounds”).



The recommendations were positively received by the Remington community, but the obvious question came up almost immediately, “how do we afford this?”

The Toole Design consultants explained that the projects will need to be implemented incrementally over time. The most important thing is for the Town and its partners to take advantage of every opportunity to implement these concepts — for example, through redevelopment or roadway repaving. While the Town and County are key players, the broader community has an important role to play in implementation, too. Many of the ideas might be championed by a group of residents, business owners or a ‘friends of the park’ group,” says Alia.

PEC’s next step is to present the consultant’s recommendations to the Town of Remington and Fauquier County for discussion and possible adoption into their respective comprehensive plans. We will be presenting to the Town of Remington on June 19 and to the County Planning Commission on July 20.

The three loops suggested by the Toole Design Group for the Town of Remington.

## Pop Quiz

Approximately how many bee species are native to North America?

This mining bee species (*Andrena erigeniae*) is a pollinator specialist of spring beauty flowers. Photo by Judy Gallagher



### ANSWER

b) There are about 4,000 identified native bee species in North America. Honey bees (which were brought over from Europe) get most of the attention, but native bees are also really important pollinators of native flowering plants and many crops we grow for food.



MEET PEC

Claire Catlett

Field Representative for Culpeper and Rappahannock County

Claire joined PEC this spring! She is from Warrenton, Va, but has lived and worked for the last eight years in the Southwest, dedicating her studies and work toward the conservation and protection of rivers. Claire holds degrees from Roanoke College (B.A. French, International Relations), and University of Denver (M.A. International Development, Sustainability and Environment). While out West, she served as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) for three years in New Mexico and Arizona.

“I am finding myself most impressed by the translation of ecosystems and their services across watersheds. From Arizona to Virginia, there are a wealth of similarities as there are differences, and both ends of the spectrum show the resilience of nature. I’m caught in the middle of what is both wonderful and frightening for our natural world; and am inspired to act as a citizen-scientist and restoration-practitioner.”

At PEC, Claire is developing stewardship initiatives that restore and protect healthy watersheds for the communities of the Piedmont, and will be working primarily in Rappahannock and Culpeper Counties.

In her spare time, Claire enjoys exploring nearby mountains and rivers with her dog, and is always looking for an excuse to put her paddles in the water and go kayaking!

If you have questions or want to say hello, you can reach Claire at (540) 347-2334 ext. 7060 or ccatlett@pecva.org



Headwater Stream Initiative is Flowing Along Nicely

By Claire Catlett

Have you seen the ribbon of green growing along a stream, edging fields and mountains with vibrant life? What you are looking at is a riparian buffer, an essential part of our ecosystem in Virginia’s Piedmont. Riparian buffers are a landowner’s best friend. The streamside forests protect streambanks from erosion, as well as improve water quality by reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and bacteria from entering waterways. Native trees and shrubs along a creek are important for fish and wildlife habitat, too. PEC and Friends of Rappahannock (FOR) are working together to accelerate the restoration of riparian buffers in the six counties that makeup the headwaters of the Rappahannock River through the Headwater Stream Initiative. “The Rappahannock River has hundreds of stream miles without adequate forest buffers, and we see this as an opportunity to work with property owners to restore riparian buffers,” says Bryan Hoffmann, FOR Project Manager.

The Initiative targets property owners who live on streams within the Rappahannock watershed, and offers free technical assistance, design, materials and installation of riparian buffers.

In its first year, the program resulted in 6.4 acres of new riparian buffer, with 1,035 native trees and shrubs along 1.32 miles of streams and rivers. This great effort was made possible with the help of 180 community volunteers throughout the project.

The Initiative is part of a larger effort to protect and restore the Rappahannock River and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. By improving water quality at the headwaters, we can ensure the water we drink throughout the watershed is clean and can be a sustainable resource for future generations.

Visit [pecva.org/headwater](http://pecva.org/headwater) to find out more. For questions or to see if your property qualifies, contact me, Claire Catlett, at (540) 347-2334 ext. 7060.

*This project was possible thanks to funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Rappahannock Electric Co-op, PEC Krebsler Fund for Rappahannock County Conservation, Virginia Environmental Endowment, Virginia Department of Forestry Trees for Clean Water, and the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund.*



Partners on the Headwater Stream Initiative, PEC’s Claire Catlett, Virginia Department of Forestry’s Kyle Dingus and Friends of the Rappahannock’s Bryan Hoffmann at a riparian buffer planting in Flint Hill, Va. Photo by Marco Sanchez

Successful March Membership Month

You made a difference! Thank you to each of you who participated in our March Membership Month. March was a *huge* success with more than 200 new and renewing members. A very warm welcome to those of you that have joined us as new members and a hearty ‘welcome back’ to our renewed members. It is the support from members like each of you that make the work we do possible. If you didn’t have an opportunity to participate, it’s never too late to become a new or renewed member of PEC for \$35. Contact Nan Moring at (540) 347-2334 ext. 7005 or visit [www.pecva.org/donate](http://www.pecva.org/donate). Again, we thank you!



Things Heated Up at the Piedmont Memorial Overlook

As part of our ongoing habitat restoration project at our Piedmont Memorial Overlook property near Sky Meadows State Park, the Virginia Department of Forestry helped us conduct a prescribed burn on 5 acres of our native warm season grass meadow. Prescribed fire reduces fuels, suppresses some woody species, recycles nutrients and stimulates plant growth — all of which improves habitat for wildlife.



The prescribed fire cleared the vegetation down to bare soil at the Overlook, giving space for new growth. Photo by Marco Sanchez



Just two months after the burn, the ground was once again covered with vegetation. Photo by Marco Sanchez



# On the Ground

## Albemarle

### > Utility Scale Photovoltaic Power Generation Sites in Albemarle

On May 23, the County Planning Commission approved a zoning text amendment (ZTA) that will allow the construction of Utility Scale Photovoltaic Power Generation Sites in the Rural Area, by a Special Use Permit. It will go to the Board of Supervisors in early June, where final approval is expected. The ZTA is necessary for the County to consider a proposed 148-acre photovoltaic site in eastern Albemarle.

PEC offered only conditional support for the ZTA because we feel the county should develop and adopt stringent guidelines and requirements for utility scale projects. Among the specific issues that must be addressed are protection of agriculture soils, requirement of a comprehensive viewshed analysis to evaluate visibility and a provision to require removal of the facility (if the use is discontinued).

## Clarke

### > Zoning, Planning and Conservation Updates

The County is in a lengthy process of updating its Wireless Communications Facilities (WCF) ordinance to comply with FCC regulations. Proposed text amendments go to the Board in June for public hearing to replace the current 100-foot maximum with five different ‘classes’ of facilities and associated requirements based on height and type, including permitted or special use designations, up to 199-foot maximum.

Also, the Comprehensive Plan Committee of the Planning Commission is working on updates to the Water Resources and Historic Resources Plans.

The Conservation Easement Authority has recently recommended the purchase of 9 Dwelling Unit Rights for three properties totaling 392 acres.

## Culpeper

### > Waterloo Bridge Update and Brandy Station Battlefield

The first public hearing for Waterloo Bridge was held on May 17, with nearly 100 people in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to gauge public interest in rehabilitation of the structure. Although there were differing views about specific plans, the overarching sentiment was that Waterloo Bridge needs to be saved for future generations. PEC has been involved in a number of planned historic bridge replacements — four of which are metal truss bridges. In each case, we have strived to find the best preservation outcome possible. In both our research and specific involvement with these types of structures, we have found that conversion to pedestrian or park use is only successful when the structure is rehabilitated fully, a new owner is found and the park is heavily used. In this situation, we believe the most viable option for saving the structure is rehabilitation as a vehicular structure due to limited funds for rehabilitation as a pedestrian structure, no interest from the localities in taking ownership and its rural location. For more information, visit [pecva.org/waterloobridge](http://pecva.org/waterloobridge).

In other news, the Civil War Trust closed on a 70-acre conservation easement, one of the first of the year, that will protect a portion of the Brandy Station Battlefield.

## Fauquier

### > Blackthorne Inn and Walker Drive Proposals

The proposal for Blackthorne Inn still has not officially gone before the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors, but it continues to attract more opposition. The property is located on agricultural zoned land along Rt. 50 between Upperville and Paris. The scale of the proposed additions and renovations remains excessively large with a new 19,000-square-foot event building, a 30 percent increase to the current restaurant, 20 new cabins for a total of 38 private units, 3 new support structures (3,000 sq ft), and a new spa with gym, as part of the proposal. The applicants are also requesting a total of 108 events per year (34 large events with up to 250 guests, 30 small events averaging 140 guests, and 44 corporate/social events between 25-75 guests). For more info about PEC’s concerns visit [pecva.org/fauquier](http://pecva.org/fauquier).

Another proposal we have been following is for mixed use and residential along Walker Drive, which will likely be voted on by the Warrenton Town Council in June or July. The site is the largest remaining undeveloped commercial/industrial parcel in the Town of Warrenton, but the only firm part of the proposal is for multi-family residential. It represents an extraordinary opportunity for this Town Council to enhance the gateway from Rt. 29 and Meetze Road and encourage context sensitive and appropriately scaled development along Walker Drive. PEC continues to have serious concerns about the economic viability of this project and the lack of guarantees of proposed amenities and a detailed master plan.

## Greene

### > Mountain Heritage Event A Success

In April, we hosted a successful Mountain Heritage open house at the Cecil Mission in Greene County. Over 100 people attended the celebration and participated in tours of the historic church and the surrounding area. Members of local families shared family photos of and discussed their memories of life in the mountains of Greene County. The event was sponsored by the Greene County Economic Development and Tourism office. Music was provided by “Pickin’ Daisies” and the well-known local autoharp player Judy Pagter.



The Waterloo Bridge has been closed for three years. VDOT held a public hearing in May about its potential restoration. Photo by Julie Bolthouse

## Loudoun

### > How and where should Loudoun grow?

The Board of Supervisors has many decisions to make about the County’s future growth over the next year, including how to integrate transportation infrastructure and demand management measures to reduce traffic impacts going forward. The Board will also decide on Town Center ordinance changes, the Silver Line Comprehensive Plan Amendment and the Comprehensive Plan update. In June, the County has 5 public input meetings scheduled on the proposed Comprehensive Plan’s vision, goals and objectives and more. Additional input on changes to accommodate growth may also be solicited, though specifics are not yet available. Online input opportunities will be available after June 15 at [envision-loudoun.org](http://envision-loudoun.org).

## Madison

### > Robinson River Flows Free

There are several culvert removal projects lined up by PEC and partners, and the first one was implemented on the Robinson River in April. The project removed an old culvert that acted as a dam and impeded movement of brook trout and other aquatic species of conservation significance. The culvert removal reconnected over 5 miles of aquatic habitat. The project included grading the riverbed and installing in-stream stone structures to restore the riverbed to a more natural course.

## Orange

### > Tree Planting along the Rapidan

The Headwater Stream Initiative, a collaborative between Friends of the Rappahannock and PEC, was introduced to Orange County in early May. Orange County High School students taking ecology and biology classes, planted 100 native trees and shrubs along the Rapidan River. The students’ planting efforts established a 50-foot riverside buffer, which will shade the river, help maintain cool water and protect the bank from erosion. After planting, Beth Seale, owner of the Rapidan Kayak Company, led students on a paddle down the Rapidan River, where they enjoyed a beautiful spring afternoon learning more about the ecology of the river.

## Rappahannock

### > Got Buffers?

This spring kicked-off with a busy season of tree-planting for the Headwater Stream Initiative in Rappahannock County. Friends of Rappahannock and PEC worked together with Virginia Department of Forestry to design and plant 2.75 acres of stream-side private property in Rappahannock County. Four riparian restoration project sites were completed with plantings of native trees and shrubs. Thanks to 76 volunteers from local schools — The Summit Academy, Mountain Laurel Montessori and Mary Washington University, as well as local community groups RappFLOW and Trout Unlimited — the effort to protect headwater streams’ water quality with healthy riparian buffers has been a great success.



# Planting By Example

Continued from cover

public on the use of natives to create backyard habitat.

“Completing Doug’s vision of PEC’s headquarters being a demonstration of best practices for sustainable development has been a huge priority,” says Chris Miller, PEC President.

Leading the restoration project is our very own Dan Holmes, director of state policy, who has a background in horticulture and received his masters in landscape design from the Conway School, a graduate program focused on sustainable landscape planning and design.

“What we’re doing on the grounds of the office will be an example of what people can do in their own backyard,” says Dan. “The front of the property was designed with the suburban homeowner in mind. Therefore the design is more traditional, mimicking the residential landscapes we have grown accustomed to in the U.S., but we replaced the ornamental European and Asiatic varieties with native plants.

“In the back, we wanted to be a little more wild. So while there is a definite form, we did our best to recreate habitats we find in wilderness. We are also taking a slow approach to recreate woodlands and edge habitat. We are first establishing shade trees (linden and

maples) and flowering understory and edible trees (redbud, dogwoods, paw-paw and persimmon) and seeding the area with sun-loving meadow species. Over time, as the shade trees establish, the area will transition and allow for more shade-loving perennials. Thickets of winterberry and smooth sumac extend up from the woodland area, and the landscape transitions to low-growing, shade-loving perennials closer to our back patio.”

Since native plants are supposed to be in our local habitat, they use less and provide more. They require less water, and they don’t need pesticides as the plants have developed their own defenses against local pests. Natives also provide food and shelter to local wildlife, which helps build a stronger ecosystem, and in turn keeps the population of undesirable insects like mosquitoes under control, for example.

One of the first outdoor implementations was the creation of a pollinator garden, spearheaded by our habitat and stewardship specialist, Celia Vuocolo. Some of the plants include scarlet beebalm, blazing star, garden phlox, swamp milkweed and oxeye sunflower. When in bloom, these flowers have been buzzing with pollinators.

“A lot of people think providing



The pollinator garden at PEC’s headquarters office.

wildlife habitat means working on a large scale, but PEC will be able to demonstrate what can be done in a relatively small space,” says Doug. “I think people feel like they can only plant roses or boxwood bushes, and that the other native ‘wild stuff’ is for people who live in a more rural space. But once you see how beautiful the natives are, you realize how great they actually are for smaller urban spaces. And everyone benefits—residents and wildlife.”

PEC board member and long-time supporter of our organization, Mark Ohrstrom, and the founder of Grelen Nursery, Dan Gregg, generously donated many of the plants to our restoration effort.

“We jumped on the opportunity to donate plants to PEC for its native

plant garden. Grelen Nursery looks for opportunities to give back to the local community, and this donation was perfect; not only did it help beautify the site, but demonstrates our support for PEC’s mission of protecting open space through conservation and education,” says Dan Gregg.

The restoration of the landscape is still a work in progress, and it will continue to evolve overtime. We are grateful to everyone who has been involved so far and has provided input. We would like to thank Dan Holmes, Chris Miller, Doug Larson, Mark Ohrstrom, Dan Gregg, John McGee, Bruce Jones, Jeannie Perin, Celia Vuocolo, Marco Sanchez and to all of the donors who made this effort possible.



Bill Backer and his beloved dog.

## The Bill Backer Legacy Society

Our Legacy Society has been renamed to honor the former Piedmont Foundation President and avid conservationist, Bill Backer. His long engagement with PEC took on national stature during the 1993-1994 debate over the Disney’s America development proposal near Haymarket, Virginia. His ideas became known as the “Disney: Take a Second Look Campaign,” which focused on alternative sites. The campaign became the basis for the Coalition for Smarter Growth’s “Blueprint for a Better Region.”

We invite you to share his vision and make a commitment to preserve the Piedmont by leaving a gift in your will and becoming a member of the Bill Backer Legacy Society. Members have the opportunity to include their name on a plaque located at the Piedmont Memorial Overlook.

If you already included PEC in your estate plans, let us know so we can add you to the Legacy Society. For more information, contact Nan Moring, our director of development, at (540) 347-2334 ext: 7005.



## UPCOMING Events



Photo by Rose Jenkins

### Sustainable Landscaping Workshop

**When** > Sunday, September 29  
**Where** > PEC Office, 45 Horner St. Warrenton, VA

Learn how to implement sustainable landscaping practices around your home and take a tour of our newly planted gardens and rainwater retention swales. Experts from Fauquier Master Gardeners, Virginia Department of Forestry, Prince William Conservation Alliance and Hill House Farm and Native Plant Nursery will detail how to create a balanced backyard ecosystem, improve your soil and make a better habitat for native birds, butterflies and other pollinators.

Event is free, but registration is required. Contact Julie Bolthouse at [jbolthouse@pecva.org](mailto:jbolthouse@pecva.org) with questions.

### HOA Garden Tour #2

**When** > Thursday, August 10  
(Rain date: Friday, August 11)  
**Where** > Sycamore Hill Homeowners Association, 402 Ginkgo Terrace NE, Leesburg, VA

The second of three HOA garden/landscape tours for interested HOA property managers, boards, grounds/landscape committees and residents. This is an opportunity to learn about what others are doing and ask questions about lessons learned. General Manager Kimberly Spiegel will be joined by her landscape provider, Matt Coughlin of Blake Landscapes, Inc.

Event is free, but registration is required. Contact Gem Bingol at [gbingol@pecva.org](mailto:gbingol@pecva.org) with questions.



Photo by Oya Simpson



# Out&About

## Bluebell Walk

BONNY BROOK FARM  
CATLETT, VA • APRIL 8, 2017



▲ Attendees walk across Bonny Brook Farm to see bluebells along Cedar Run. Photo by Cynthia Benitz



▲ Attendees walk along Cedar Run with the bluebells. Photo by Cynthia Benitz

## Solar Power Social Hour

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA • APRIL 17, 2017



▲ PEC's Rex Linville (back left) and partners from LEAP talk over solar options with interested residents. Photo by Dan Holmes

## From the Rappahannock For the Rappahannock

MARRIOTT RANCH • HUME, VA • APRIL 9, 2017



▲ Attendees depart on a hayride to see how Marriott Ranch is improving the health of their cattle through conservation best management practices. Photo by Paula Combs



▲ Kyle Dingus of Virginia Department of Forestry and volunteers plant a tree as part of the riparian buffer on Marriott Ranch. Photo by Paula Combs. Photo by Paula Combs



▲ Guests enjoyed local Rappahannock River oysters from the Oyster Company of Virginia. Photo by Paula Combs



## Greene Mountain Heritage Event

CECIL MISSION  
STANARDSVILLE, VA • APRIL 22, 2017



▲ PEC's Jeff Werner interviews Catherine Meadows Dvorscak and Linda Butler. Photo by Tiffany Parker



▲ From left to right: Don Pomeroy, PEC director of development Nan Moring, PEC director of state policy Dan Holmes and PEC sirector of information systems Tiffany Parker. Photo by Bri West



▲ PEC's Rex Linville and Kristie Kendall speak inside Cecil Mission to guests. Photo by Tiffany Parker

## Earth Optimism Summit

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
APRIL 21-23, 2017



▲ PEC board member Leslie Cockburn addresses the panel at the Earth Optimism Summit. PEC President Chris Miller was thrilled to be invited to this year's Summit, a gathering of thought leaders, practitioners, pioneering scientists, environmentalists and others to discuss solutions on how to preserve biodiversity, protect natural resources and address climate change.

## Annual Meeting

MIDDLEBURG AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER  
MIDDLEBURG, VA • MAY 20, 2017



▲ PEC's Mike Kane leads Annual Meeting guests on a guided tour of our property at Roundabout Meadows. Photo by Marco Sanchez

Robert Bonnie, former Undersecretary of Agriculture at the USDA, gives the keynote address at our Annual Meeting. Photo by Paula Combs



Out&About



## Summer Safari

SMITHSONIAN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE  
FRONT ROYAL, VA • JUNE 3, 2017

◀ PEC President Chris Miller presents the conservation award to Mary Scott and John Birdsall, along with PEC Board Co-Chair George Ohrstrom, Executive Director of Shenandoah National Park Trust Susan Sherman and John and Adrienne Mars Director Steve Monfort. Photo by Ann Gregorio

After dinner, guests enjoy a beautiful sunset. Photo by Ann Gregorio





Dear Friends,

Many of our supporters may not be aware that we are the fiscal sponsor for the Coalition for Smarter Growth, an organization that focuses on planning and policies that support the best possible solutions for the greater Washington D.C. area. Earlier this month, CSG celebrated their 20th anniversary (see page 2 for article).

CSG staff have worked relentlessly over the last two decades to help build stronger communities. Together, we have moved from a time when D.C. was losing population, Metro was underutilized and thousands of acres of vacant land surrounded station areas, air quality violated public health standards, the Potomac was not fishable or swimmable and most stormwater went uncollected and untreated. Also, there was only one restaurant, Nora's, that relied on local food production. Now, two decades later, D.C. is fiscally healthy, gaining population and leading its neighbors in its commitment to transit funding, affordable housing and green and grey infrastructure. Local jurisdictions in Virginia and Maryland are implementing smart growth policies — from zoning to bike shares to climate resiliency.

The success of smart growth in the core has

PEC is working with partners in communities throughout the Piedmont on a network of connective trails to join the rural conservation areas and local park lands to the vibrant urban development that attracts so many.

inspired small towns and urbanizing areas in the larger region. In Loudoun, with the comprehensive plan review of the Silver Line station areas, we have the opportunity to focus future development and even shifting development potential to more sustainable patterns. In Charlottesville, the community rejected a bypass and is embracing a grid network that links emerging communities along Rt. 29 to the core of the city and urban areas of Albemarle County. PEC is working with partners in communities throughout the Piedmont on a network of connective trails to join the rural conservation areas and local park lands to the vibrant urban development that attracts so many.

In small towns like Remington, there is a growing recognition of the value of connecting development to trails and open space to achieve quality of life, increasingly recognized and expected in the region. The Coalition's focus on smarter growth over the past two decades, beginning with the "Blueprint for a Better Region" vision and working through the details of project implementation at hundreds of sites has resulted in better quality of life — better designed communities, better housing opportunities, commute options, cleaner air, cleaner water, better food and expanded recreational opportunities. At the same time, PEC and other conservation partners in Virginia and Maryland have worked to permanently protect more than 500,000 acres of farmland, new state, local and regional parks, watersheds that include the drinking water sources for all of our communities, and important historical and cultural landmarks and landscapes.



Photo by Matt Ha Photography


The Piedmont Environmental Council and Coalition for Smarter Growth staff at the 20th Anniversary event for CSG.

It is the combined effort of making better communities in urban, suburban, exurban and rural areas of the region and a commitment to large landscape scale conservation that will provide for the sustainable future.

On a personal note, during that same time period, my wife Katie and I had the good fortune to raise two wonderful girls, Caroline and Claire. Caroline was born the same year as the Coalition, and Claire a few years later. Both of them live in a better world as a result of CSG's vision, the hard work of its staff, the dedication of Stewart Schwartz, and the collaboration of its partners. Thank you all for the opportunity to work collaboratively to leave the region a better place for my girls and the generations to follow.


Sincerely,

Chris Miller, President



# The Piedmont View

A MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE PIEDMONT ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL SUMMER 2017



**INSIDE**

Welcome Fellows, Coalition for Smarter Growth's 20th Anniversary, Headwater Stream Initiative, Prescribed Burn at Piedmont Memorial Overlook and more!

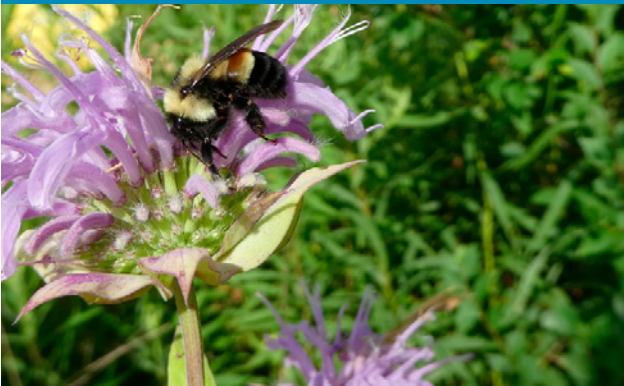
Photo by Tracy Carmichael

## Pop Quiz

Approximately how many bee species are native to North America?

a) 500    b) 4,000    c) 85    d) 1,200

ANSWER ON PAGE 2



**Rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*).**  
Photo by The Xerces Society/Sarah Foltz Jordan



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