



Photo: Nicole Anderson-Ellis

SOWING SEEDS FOR HENRICO CONSERVATION

For nearly a decade, 4th-generation Varina landowner Virginia Lipford has been seeking help protecting her nearly 10 acre family farm with a conservation easement. This November, that dream finally came true.

It's easiest to understand a conservation easement, if you think of buying land as similar to buying a bundle of sticks. Each stick represents a right, including the right to prevent trespassers, the right to build or run businesses (within the zoning laws), and the right to divide your land into smaller parcels. When a land owner gets a conservation easement, they volunteer to return a few of those sticks. Each easement is different, but they usually set limits on how a property can be subdivided or built upon. A land trust signs on as guardian of the easement to make sure the legal limits are upheld.

This voluntary conservation method has been touted by the last four governors as critical tools for guarding the green space that supports Virginia's two largest industries: agriculture and tourism.

But for landowners, the motivation is more heartfelt. "I love my land," says Ms. Lipford. "I've walked these fields since I was a child, and I just couldn't bear the idea of them being paved over."

Now that fear is gone. Thanks to a new

partnership between the Capital Region Land Conservancy and the Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District, small-acreage land owners now have the chance to preserve their properties as well.

"I've walked these fields since I was a child, and I just couldn't bear the idea of them being paved over."
- Virginia Lipford

"I remember Grandma saying, 'The land will be there when everything else is gone,' says Ms. Lipford. "And now that's true."

"Most conservation easements in Virginia involve properties with 75 acres or more," notes Tara Quinn, Executive Director of the Capital Region Land Conservancy. "But this partnership means people in Henrico County seeking to preserve a 50 acre farm, or 25 acres of forest, or 10, have equal access to this opportunity."

"It's a win/win for the people of Henrico," says Nicole Anderson Ellis, Chair of the Board of the Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District. "The landowner gets to exercise their right to an easement, the farmer gets to keep farming, and it means cleaner water for us all."

Henrico County loses an average of 1,600 acres of green space – forest and farmland – each year, according to the US Dept. of Agriculture. When that happens, rain that once fell on soil and soaked into the ground now falls on roofs and parking lots and roads and driveways where it picks up speed (as well as leaked oil, litter and other pollutants) and washes it into local creeks and rivers. In recent years this flood – known as stormwater runoff – has become a major problem and expense across Virginia and in Henrico County.

"The cheapest fix for stormwater runoff is prevention," says Anderson Ellis. "And with an easement you get the benefits of open space while keeping the land in private hands."

"A donated easement is a gift to all residents of Henrico," says Quinn. "Both current generations, and those to come." □



♥ VIRGINIA LIPFORD'S FARM IN VARINA



Photo: Tara Quinn



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As you'll see here, CRLC was thrilled to celebrate the recording of our first co-held easement with the Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District on nearly 10 scenic agricultural acres in eastern Henrico. This new groundbreaking partnership will allow for the protection of lands strategic to soil and water quality protection, and creates a whole new way for small area farms to be sustainable and provide a multitude of benefits to the community.

This commitment to the community will be an even stronger focus for CRLC in 2015. As we finalize our 2015 Strategic Plan, CRLC will seek to play a larger role in the protection of community parks and open spaces, and work to support the development of trails to enhance our quality of life and create healthier communities. We exist to conserve and protect the places you love – for clean water, for local farms, for breathtaking, scenic views...for us all. Help us continue to serve as the Richmond Region's only local land trust. Let your legislators know you support land conservation, support us with a financial gift, or contact us for help protecting your land today. We look forward to working with you to make an even greater impact in the New Year.

TARA QUINN

BROWN & WILLIAMSON CONSERVATION AREA

FALL NATURE HIKE

On November 15th, CRLC and naturalist Mark Battista led a 4-mile hike through the wild and wonderful Brown & Williamson Conservation Area in Chester, Virginia situated along the James River. The 226-acre area is now protected by a conservation easement co-held by CRLC and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. Hikers of all ages bushwhacked and explored the area, stopping for a chilly picnic in a clearing halfway through. We journeyed along the southern border, dropped down into Big Hollow and followed the stream. We then then ascended to the bluff to view the James River and bald eagles

perched atop trees there. Fun surprises along the way included remains of animals long gone and even a lost hunting dog who joined us along the hike. We are looking forward to another trip at this wild and wonderful spot!



Photo: Tara Quinn

CONSERVATION AT BELMEAD



Photo: Tara Quinn

On November 2nd, CRLC held a "Conservation Conversation" at Belmead on the James, a free community event to help explain the purpose and benefits of placing a conservation easement on property you own. The event was coordinated by CRLC, FrancisEmma, Inc., and Reed and Gail Schweickert.

Both the Sisters of FrancisEmma and the Schweickert's shared their personal experiences of donating a conservation easement on their respective properties in Powhatan County.

FrancisEmma is located on the James River in Powhatan County, VA. This sacred and beautiful 2,265-acre property is owned by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. 1,000 acres of its beauty is protected by a conservation easement. The Schweickert's 500-acre property, Gobbler Knob, lies just adjacent to it and was protected by a conservation easement in late 2013. Both properties have been featured in past editions of the CRLC newsletter.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SUCCESS

2014 was a very active year for CRLC and the Our Land and Water program, which focuses on protecting the region's drinking water and helping restore the Chesapeake Bay through strategic land conservation in the Richmond region. Achievements this past year included:

- Recording our first co-held easement with the Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation district on nearly 10 acres of high-quality farmland
- Assisting numerous landowners in preserving their property
- Coordinating a guided nature hike of the 262-acre Brown & Williamson Conservation Area in Chester and a tour of the 70-acre Tucker property in Hanover
- Hosting an oyster roast and fly-fishing clinic at the historic Tuckahoe Plantation
- Merging with a local conservation group, Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront
- Seeing nine press pieces published about our work
- Welcoming over 20 new members



TUCKAHOE PLANTATION OYSTER ROAST

Save the Date! RVA Environmental Film Festival



On **February 2nd - 8th, 2015**, several local organizations will partner to present the Fourth Annual RVA Environmental Film Festival at Tuckahoe Library, VCU's Grace Street Theater, the Visual Arts Center, and the Byrd Theatre. The festival will showcase local and national films selected to raise awareness of environmental issues relevant to the Richmond region, our nation, and our planet. This event is free and open to the public. For more info email rvaenvfilmfest@gmail.com or visit rvaenvironmentalfilmfestival.com.

DO YOU SHOP AT KROGER? Buy food and save land!



Starting September 1, 2014, the Kroger Cares program changed to Kroger Community Rewards. You can now help CRLC raise needed funds just by scanning your enrolled Kroger Plus card at checkout. Kroger's new Community Rewards Program makes donating to the land conservancy as easy as swiping your Kroger Plus card. Just go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards to link your regular Kroger rewards card to support CRLC.

FOR MORE INFO: Contact Tara Quinn at (804) 301-5352 or tara@capitalregionland.org.

Newest Segment of the Virginia Capital Trail Completed

On October 15th, the Virginia Capital Trail Foundation hosted a ribbon cutting for the newest completed section of the Virginia Capital Trail, the 13-mile Sherwood Forest section in Charles City.

The Virginia Capital Trail is part of the East Coast Greenway's historic coastal route in Virginia. Twenty-nine miles of the ultimately 50+ mile long trail are now completed. Once complete, the Trail will traverse approximately 52 miles, four jurisdictions, and more than 400 years of history along one of the first inland routes in North America.



TRAIL IN CHARLES CITY COUNTY

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- Leader – \$100.00
- Sponsor – \$250.00
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- Patron – \$1,000.00
- Other _____

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Capital Region
Land Conservancy

MAIL TO:
CRLC
P.O. Box 17306
Richmond, VA 23226

DONATE ONLINE:
www.GiveRichmond.org

Join us in our effort to preserve our region's natural resources and open space for future generations.

Capital Region Land Conservancy is a member- and grant-supported nonprofit organization that is dedicated to conserving and protecting the natural and historic land and water resources of Virginia's Capital Region for the benefit of current and future generations.

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Capital Region Land Conservancy is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible as allowable by law.

Clip this out and send your contribution to Capital Region Land Conservancy

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OUR MISSION: To conserve and protect the natural and historic land and water resources of Virginia's Capital Region for the benefit of current and future generations. CRLC is Central Virginia's only land trust dedicated solely to serving the City of Richmond and Chesterfield, Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan, New Kent, and Charles City counties.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS:



CRLC IS ALSO SUPPORTED BY:

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation ■ *Kroger Mid-Atlantic
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...and individual donors and members like you!

SAVE THE DATE



RVA Environmental Film Festival
February 2nd-8th, 2015 - Even Bigger and Better!
STAY TUNED TO: rvaenvironmentalfilmfestival.com

To learn more about
conservation easements or
CRLC, please call:

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