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Message from the President

On May 1, 2011, the land conservation community lost one of its most passionate members with the passing of John McVickar. John was a founding board member of the Capital Region Land Conservancy since its beginning in 2005. John gave much to his community and to the world as a lawyer, Foreign Service Officer, and founding member of both CRLC and the Stowe Land Trust in Vermont. He will be greatly missed and always remembered. In honor of his life-long efforts, a fund has been established which will support the ongoing stewardship of the land he sought tirelessly to protect.

John was a true visionary, but the work he began lives on in the landscape that surrounds us. At CRLC, we continue to be inspired both by his vision and those of the many people with whom we work daily to preserve the legacy of our land. So many of us in the Richmond Region understand the value of our special places and work to steward them for future generations; this understanding, this "conservation ethic", is an integral part of who we are.

However, CRLC needs your financial support now more than ever to ensure that we can continue the work that pioneers such as John helped begin. Please make a contribution now in whatever amount that is possible for you. Mail a check using the enclosed membership form, or donate online at www.GiveRichmond.org by typing in "Capital Region Land Conservancy" and clicking the "Donate Now" button. Without CRLC, the land and places you have loved may not be there for future generations to enjoy as we do now. Give today.

Bill Greenleaf

Do you shop at Kroger? Buy food and save land!

How would you like 5% of your grocery bill to go to land conservation? Well, it's easy to make this happen at no extra cost to you. Through a special charitable program from Kroger, CRLC will receive 5% of every purchase made with a special CRLC Kroger gift card. Contact Tara Quinn at 804-301-5352 or tara@capitalregionland.org for more information

Landowner's Legacy Realized as Future Community Park

People of the Land

In the 1940's, Paul and Anna Atkins purchased the Chesterfield County property that would be their home for more than 60 years. Mr. Atkins built a home for the couple there where they raised their family and lived off the land, growing and canning their own produce, raising livestock and "making do". The Atkins were truly people of the land.



Paul and Anna Atkins

CRLC and the executors of the estate, John and Caroline Coe, continued working on her behalf to fulfill her dream of protecting her land and her legacy.

By 2007, Mrs. Atkins was 89 years old, widowed, and concerned about the future of the 113 acres she had nurtured for so many years. Over the years, developers regularly (and at times aggressively) contacted her, urging her to sell the property. Her land was now encircled by development, but within that development lay her acres of natural open spaces, farmland, forestland, and wetlands. She began to research her options and came in contact with The Nature Conservancy, who ultimately referred her to the Capital Region Land Conservancy (CRLC). While preservation through a conservation easement was initially explored, this option proved not to be feasible for the property. So from 2007 through 2010, CRLC worked with Mrs. Atkins to explore viable methods to permanently protect and preserve her land in its natural state.

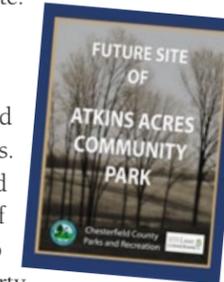
The Dream Becomes Reality

In 2010, CRLC facilitated discussions between Mrs. Atkins and the Parks and Recreation Department of Chesterfield County to determine how the property could one day become a public park under the ownership of the County – a solution that pleased Mrs. Atkins very much and one that would preserve the open spaces, farmland, forestland, and wetlands. Sadly, she passed away in the summer of 2010 at the age of 92 before the donation was completed. However,

Chesterfield County agreed to accept the land as a donation for a future park and in June 2011, the Atkins property was deeded to the County with restrictive covenants limiting its future uses and development. The parcel, which is located in southern Chesterfield County, off Courthouse Road, is designated for eventual use as a county park, and contains uplands and frontage along several streams, which are protected by a riparian buffer zone. Thirty percent of the land will be developed into a park, with the remaining 70 percent protected in its forested natural state.

"Chesterfield County is honored to serve as a steward of this land," says Michael Golden, director of the Parks and Recreation Department. "This park will be a wonderful opportunity for Chesterfield County residents and visitors to enjoy the land that meant so much to the Atkins for nearly 65 years." CRLC will remain a partner with the County in the stewardship of the property by providing annual monitoring.

Throughout their lives, the Atkins were people of the land – making their home upon it, nourishing themselves from it, and protecting the natural beauty and integrity of it with all their power. They produced their food on their property and raised a family there. Atkins Acres Community Park will be the manifestation of years of dedicated stewardship of the land by two very unique people, and it will ultimately benefit everyone who lives in or visits Chesterfield County as a public space of natural – and lasting - beauty.



Or visit our website at www.capitalregionland.org.

To learn more about conservation easements or CRLC, please call:
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CRLC is also supported by funds generated by the sale of Chesapeake Bay license plates, and from individual donors and members.



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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.

The vital link: A Connection to Nature

Capital Region Land Conservancy's mission is 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. Because the value of our special places and need to steward them for future generations is inherent in our mission, this understanding – this “conservation ethic” – is an integral part of who we are.

In this issue of our series on the public benefits of land conservation we highlight the importance of connection to nature. Previous issues have focused on other public benefits of land conservation such as preservation of water quality and local agriculture. We hope this edition will offer you an opportunity to reflect on the places that have connected with you... the unique lands you love.

What are the benefits of natural areas to me?

Studies have shown that access to nature provides physical and mental health benefits such as reducing obesity by offering opportunities for outdoor exercise, speeding recovery from illness and surgery, and combating depression. Studies reviewed in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine showed that easy access to a place to exercise results in an increase in aerobic capacity, along with weight loss, a reduction in body fat, improvements in flexibility, and an increase in perceived energy.

Time spent outdoors can also stimulate creative energies, providing inspiration for great works of art including many by such masters as Monet, Van Gogh, and Georgia O'Keefe. Direct experience of the natural world also offers people the opportunity to connect to something greater than themselves, an experience that can prove both spiritual and inspirational. Consider how the giant redwoods of the West Coast inspired John Muir to initiate the creation of the Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks and to found the Sierra Club.



In short, a connection to nature fosters a commitment to nature.

While most of the lands that CRLC has helped protect are privately owned, even private lands preserved provide a vital public benefit. As discussed in previous issues, privately conserved lands can protect the water quality to communities by providing natural filtration services. With 80% of our local farms in private ownership, these lands nourish the whole region by growing the nutritious, local foods on which our families rely. Protection of privately owned lands also preserves our region's scenic and historic viewsheds, whose beauty also serves to attract valuable tourism.

In recent years, CRLC's conservation efforts have increasingly involved public lands as well. In 2009, the Conservancy helped to facilitate protection of 280 acres of the James River Park System. In 2011, we helped a dying resident fulfill her wish of preserving her 113 acres by donating her land to Chesterfield County for use as a future planned public park.

Simply put, it can be difficult to appreciate the value of nature unless one experiences it directly. So get out there and walk, hike, kayak, or paint! Savor the beauty of those places you love.

Cut here to send your contribution to Capital Region Land Conservancy

SUPPORT CRLC!

- Member — \$35.00
- Sustaining — \$50.00
- Leader — \$100.00
- Sponsor — \$250.00
- Partner — \$500.00
- Patron — \$1,000.00
- Other _____

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 promotes the conservation of the capital region's historically significant land, scenic natural areas and ecologically sensitive land, water and wildlife resources.

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Please make checks payable to “Capital Region Land Conservancy” and mail to:
CRLC / P.O. Box 17306 / Richmond, VA 23226 OR log onto www.capitalregionland.org and join on-line.

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.



About The Farm

For 30 years, husband and wife team Sam and Marian Moody ran a dairy which produced milk for a dairy co-op. In order to plan for retirement, the Moodys transitioned from dairy farming to beef cattle farming in 2007. Working with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the Moodys placed a conservation easement on Bandana Farm the same year. In addition to the financial benefits of the conservation easement, the Moodys are greatly satisfied knowing their farm will stay in one piece in perpetuity.



Statewide Volunteer Opportunity



Help the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) fulfill its mission to preserve open spaces for future generations by becoming a volunteer. With eight offices across the commonwealth, they have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available. Earlier this year, VOF unveiled a new volunteer program that will help with, among other things, stewardship of the 3,000+ conservation easements that they protect. While most volunteer opportunities are geared toward individuals, VOF occasionally needs groups of volunteers for short periods of time, such as for a trash cleanup or invasive species removal on a VOF conservation property.

Visit <http://www.virginiaoutdoorsfoundation.org/volunteer> for more information. You may also contact Jason McGarvey, Communications & Outreach Manager, at 804-786-9603 or jmgarvey@vofonline.org.

Spotlight on our Success:

2011 has been an incredible year so far for the *Our Land and Water Campaign*, which works to protect our region's drinking water and to help restore the Chesapeake Bay through strategic land conservation in the Richmond region. Accomplishments achieved so far this year included:

- Preservation of 300 forested acres in Goochland under conservation easement with the VA Department of Forestry
- Completion of a Virginia Outdoors Foundation conservation easement on 47 historic and scenic acres in Powhatan
- Co-holding a conservation easement with the Land Trust of Virginia on 70 acres in Hanover
- Mailing of over 1,200 postcards to rural landowners in the Richmond area to educate them about conservation easements and the enhanced tax benefits available this year
- Mailing of a newsletter to over 400 citizens to educate them about the public benefits of land conservation and the work of CRLC
- Exhibiting at 6 community events and presenting at 5 civic and community group meetings, allowing us to personally educate and inform over 200 people
- Protection of 113 acres in Chesterfield County for use as a future planned public park – Atkins Acres Community Park
- Conducting 3 land education seminars to educate landowners and the community about land protection tools.