

Message from the President

The Capital Region Land Conservancy is a young organization, but one privileged to have the collective talents of many committed and talented individuals who have served as our staff, directors, and members. We are also grateful for the generous support of foundations and corporations committed to helping preserve our region's land, water, and wildlife resources.

I am now thrilled to announce that CRLC has recently been awarded a \$25,000 grant from **Dominion Resources** in support of CRLC's *Our Land and Water Campaign*. With Dominion's support, as well as that of **Altria Client Services** and other supporters, we will be able to continue our efforts to improve and protect water quality in the Richmond area by protecting from development lands which significantly impact water quality. The campaign focuses on educating landowners about land conservation tools, facilitating conservation easements, and educating the community about the connection between land conservation and water quality.

This year, we celebrate our Fifth Anniversary. Please take this opportunity to renew your membership or to join CRLC for the first time in 2010. Memberships to organizations like CRLC are very much like votes – votes in favor of the preservation of historic areas, working farms, clean water, wildlife habitat, and so much more. Please take a minute to complete the enclosed membership form and join the CRLC today.

Finally, this issue of the CRLC newsletter begins our focus on the public benefits of land conservation by highlighting the importance of local agriculture. Look for future issues discussing other benefits such as the preservation of water quality, wildlife habitat, and historic resources. Preserved lands benefit not only those who protect them; intact natural areas offer a gift to all who view their beauty, taste the fruits their farms produce, and drink the water which has been cleansed by them.



Bill Greenleaf

CAPITAL REGION LAND CONSERVANCY

PRESERVING THE LAND YOU LOVE | Summer 2010

Fourth Generation Farmer Preserves Family Farm

Sam Moody is a 4th generation farmer on his 95-acre western Hanover County farm in Beaverdam, Virginia. He is the fourth of six children born to Lunsford and Alese Moody, but the only one to have farming in his blood. "I was born here," says Sam, and "I have my plot right over there", he says, pointing to the small family cemetery beside the old family home place.

Sam's ancestors bought the Moody property in 1857. Since then, the family has done everything from growing tobacco and small grains, to milking dairy cows, to selling milk for the production of ice cream made in Farmville, Virginia. For the last 30 years, Sam and his wife Marian ran a dairy which produced milk for a dairy co-op.

Sam and Marian, his childhood sweetheart and wife of 36 years, have poured their heart and soul into Bandana Farm, the name they gave to the farm because the area was historically known as Bandana, Virginia. Sam and Marian's strength and dedication have helped this small family farm survive. As Marian put it, "when you have a dairy farm, it's your whole life."

So what do you do when you're looking at retirement years quickly approaching and you own a dairy farm? In 2007, Sam and Marian began researching placing a conservation easement on their property in order to "keep it from being built up." At the same time, milk prices shot up. It was a good time to "get out", and they were ready.

Sam Moody knew that his father's goal was to keep the farm intact, so when it came time to plan for the future of this



Sam and Marian Moody at Bandana Farm — Photo by Jane Myers

property Marian and Sam wanted real peace of mind. Since neither of their daughters planned to farm the family land, the Moodys decided to place a conservation easement on their property. As Sam said, "It's the only thing you can do that gives you a glimmer of hope that it will be what you want it to be a hundred years from now."

Working with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the Moodys placed a conservation easement on Bandana Farm. By doing so, they were able to

use Virginia State Tax Credits to pay off debt on the farm and use the Federal tax deductions to offset the gain from selling their dairy cows. In addition to the financial benefits, they are also greatly satisfied knowing that their farm will stay in one piece – just as Lunsford Moody would have wanted.

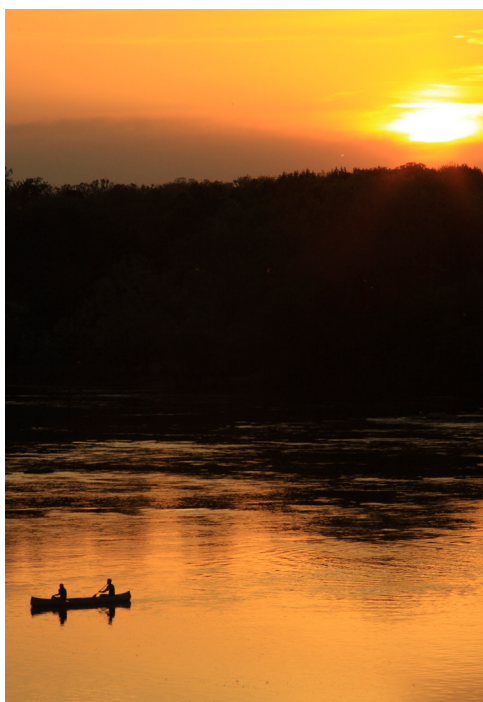
While the Moodys no longer run a dairy farm, they are far from retired. Marian works as a Conservation Specialist with the Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District, and Sam works in equestrian maintenance at a local resort. And Bandana Farm itself has entered a new era. In 2008, the Moodys purchased Hereford beef cattle and are now working towards organic certification with 43 head. By 2013, they hope to have received the certification and be fully operational. Sam looks out over his fields and grins and refers to his Herefords as "big pets" and the calves as "his babies"; it's clear that he is exactly where he wants to be. And as for Marian, she adds with a smile, "This will hopefully be income for our retirement years."

Our Land And Water Campaign

This year, CRLC began a campaign focused on protecting our region's drinking water and helping restore the Chesapeake Bay through strategic land conservation in the Richmond region. The *Our Land and Water Campaign* aims to do this by raising public awareness of the connection between land conservation and water quality, facilitating voluntary land conservation, and educating landowners about land conservation tools available.

Land conservation has a direct impact on water quality. The run-off from developed areas is 16 times greater than the run-off from natural areas. A stream is negatively impacted when impervious cover reaches 10% in its watershed. At 25% impervious cover, a stream becomes damaged. At 60%, it is severely damaged.

Additionally, protecting land in the James River and York River watersheds also protects water in the Chesapeake Bay. Thus the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries – and all those who boat and fish and extract drinking water from them – depends on conserved land within the Richmond area, among many other areas. In May 2009, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Executive Council, chaired by



*The James River in Richmond
— Photo by Jonathan Bullock*

former Governor Kaine, charted a new course for the Bay's recovery. Two-year goals will now be used to monitor restoration work, and the Council adopted a new end date for Bay restoration efforts of "No Later Than" 2025. This is the date by which all necessary restoration actions must be fully implemented. Land conservation can play a significant role in this effort.

A Consensus on Conservation

Conservation of land makes sense for our community, our environment, and our economy. Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell has committed to continuing the work of his predecessor by conserving another 400,000 acres of land in Virginia during the next four years. Virginians have said repeatedly in surveys, polls, and at the ballot box that they are willing to invest in the protection of open space. Join others in helping the Capital Region Land Conservancy protect our land and water. Contact us for more information on land conservation or to speak at your civic event, or become a supporter or member today.

Protecting our land and water can't wait - we must do it for future generations, today.



INSTAR — a collaborative project between the Center for Environmental Studies at VCU and several agencies— is a dynamic and interactive mapping and data visualization application that allows users to access and manipulate a comprehensive database representing over 2,000 stream and river data collections statewide. INSTAR supports a wide variety of stream assessment, management, and conservation activities aimed at restoring and protecting aquatic living resources throughout the Commonwealth.

Check out the health of waters you love at <http://instar.vcu.edu>.

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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS (to receive our newsletter) _____

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.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits future development of the land in order to protect its conservation values.

The terms of the easement are negotiated between the landowner and the organization that will hold the easement (the vast majority of easements in Virginia are held by the state-established Virginia Outdoors Foundation).

- The primary provision of a conservation easement is a limit on subdivision of the property.
- Landowners continue to own, use, and control their land, and can sell it or pass it on to heirs.
- Easements generally allow for the continuation of current uses such as agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing.
- An easement does not require landowners to provide public access to their land.
- Depending on the size of the property, the landowner may retain the right to build one or more additional structures, or do one or more subdivisions.
- Easements protect the land “forever”— the terms of the easement apply to all future landowners.
- The organization holding the easement is responsible for making sure the easement’s terms are followed.
- Owner may qualify for a federal tax deduction and state tax credits.

The Importance Of Local Agriculture

Sweet, red-ripe tomatoes. Delicious, locally-grown chicken and meats. Dairy-fresh eggs. Why is local agriculture important to our community, and what does it have to do with land conservation?

Local farms supply fresh food to farmers markets and to our kitchen tables. Yet, farms are vanishing from our landscape; once gone, they are unlikely to return. Nearly 67% of farms in the U.S. have been lost to development since 1920¹. In the Richmond Region from 1974 to 1997, there was a decline of over 25% in the number of acres farmed².

While many people don't realize the significance of farming as a small business in the Capital Region, approximately 80% of the area's more than 1,800 farms are family- or independently-owned³. Many of these farmers often face a financial crisis: sell their land for development or find another source of income. Land conservation tools such as conservation easements and others can help farmers keep their land and livelihood, while also preserving their heritage for future generations.

Food Security: No Land, No Farms

The loss of the ability to produce food within a region forces it to become increasingly reliant on outside sources of food and the availability of local and reliable sources of food depends upon the presence of local farms. As the phrase goes, “No Farms No Food”. Similarly, without land, there can be no farms.

A 2006 study by the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission showed that the region produces over 3.7 million bushels of food crops annually. This production helps support the more than 12 farmers markets in our region. These, as well as area co-ops and Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, reflect the energy of a growing movement to help provide fresh, local, in-season fruits and vegetables. However, these markets cannot offer local produce without growers to serve them.

So why support locally-grown food?

Excellent taste and freshness. Locally-grown food tastes great because it reaches your table quickly and is often bred for taste and freshness rather than hardiness to travelling.

Supporting our neighbors on family farms. A local support base helps farmers stay in business and keep providing our community with the food we need to survive.

Protecting the environment by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and packing materials. Locally-grown food travels a much shorter distance to your table, thereby reducing the amount of CO² and packing materials required for transit.⁴

Preserving our rural heritage and scenic beauty. Area farms not only provide us with food; their golden pastures, picturesque barns, and sleepy cattle napping under oak trees form the scenic imagery of rural Virginia.

6 Ways to Support Local Agriculture

- 1 Shop at farmer's markets (find your local market at www.buylocalvirginia.org) or look for locally grown food in your grocery store. Encourage your store to stock more locally grown produce and packaged foods made in Central Virginia.
- 2 Join a CSA to receive a weekly or monthly “share” of the farm. You may even be invited to tour or help at the farm!
- 3 Eat at and recommend restaurants that feature locally grown, seasonal produce.
- 4 Thank a farmer by introducing yourself and sharing why you appreciate them.
- 5 Stay informed on policies that impact agriculture and let your elected officials know what you think.
- 6 Join and/or contribute to CRLC!

¹ Richmond Region Planning District Commission / ² Southern Environmental Law Center

³ Richmond Region Planning District Commission / ⁴ FoodRoutes.org

CAPITAL REGION LAND CONSERVANCY



If the name on your address is preceded by an asterisk you are not on our direct mailing list. If you would like to keep receiving our newsletters in the future, please contact info@capitalregionland.org and let us know.



Printed on
100% recycled stock

CAPITAL REGION LAND CONSERVANCY



Our Mission:

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

Board of Directors

Bill Greenleaf
Norman Burns
Dan Jones
Bobby Lamb
John McVickar
Doug Palmore
Rebecca Randolph
Scott Reed
Brooks Smith
Tad Thompson
Charles Vosmik

Advisory Council

Chris Albert,
Hunton & Williams
Ben Cummings,
Millennium Retail Partners, LLC
Sarah Richardson,
*Virginia Department of
Conservation and Recreation*

Spotlight on our Success:

- CRLC received a 2010 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for its work to help preserve more than 280 acres of the James River Park System in the heart of Richmond. CRLC and its partners developed a conservation easement to protect land around the James River from development in perpetuity.
- To date, CRLC has helped to protect more than 4,500 acres of land in the Capital Region; 2 miles of James River frontage; and 31.6 miles of streams in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- Bill Greenleaf, CRLC Board President, is one of five recipients of the 2010 Green Heroes Award, which recognizes individuals for their contributions and commitment to bettering our environment and the Richmond community.

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

Jane Myers, Outreach Coordinator for Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Charles City at 804-745-3110 or email Jane at jane@capitalregionland.org

Susan Kuroski, Outreach Coordinator for Powhatan, Chesterfield and Goochland at 202-262-1198 or email Susan at susan@capitalregionland.org

Tara Quinn, CPSM, Community Education Coordinator at 804-301-5352 or email Tara at tara@capitalregionland.org

Or Visit our website at www.capitalregionland.org.