2011 Annual Report

Mission:
The Capital Region Land Conservancy 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. Our 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.

CRLC seeks to safeguard natural areas through the donation of conservation easements or other legal tools which extinguish development rights. It carries out its mission by educating landowners and communities in the Capital Region about land protection resources. Although there are other Richmond area organizations which serve a variety of conservation needs, CRLC fulfills a unique role in the region because it is *the only regionally-focused land conservancy*. CRLC exists to increase the amount of conserved land in the Capital Region, and it alone devotes its resources to increasing area landowners' knowledge of conservation easements and other land protection tools, and by assisting landowners during the often lengthy and confusing easement donation process.

A **conservation easement** is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently prohibits specified uses of a property in order to protect its conservation values. A property owner foregoes certain land development options in exchange for the legacy of permanently protecting the land in its natural state, and for state and federal tax incentives associated with the charitable donation of an easement. Ownership is not affected and he/she can sell the property or will it to heirs.

Since its inception in 2005, the Capital Region Land Conservancy (CRLC) has facilitated the protection of over 5,000 acres and 33 miles of stream frontage in the Richmond region.

In 2011…

Our outreach efforts included continuation of 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. Achievements this year included:

Conservation Land - Powhatan County

- Mailing of over 1,200 postcards to rural landowners owning 75 acres or more in the Richmond area to educate them about the enhanced federal tax incentive for donated conservation easements;
- Mailing of 2 newsletters to 500 citizens to educate them about the public benefits of land conservation and the work of CRLC;
- Exhibiting at 6 community events, allowing us to personally educate and inform over 200 people;
- Presenting at 6 civic and community group meetings;
- Attracting 30 new committed CRLC members;

- Conducting 5 land education seminars to educate landowners and the community about land protection tools, including 1 seminar which offered continuing legal education credits;
- Garnered 7 press mentions discussing CRLC's conservation work and the relationship between land conservation and water quality in such publications as the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, *The Chesterfield Observer*, and *Virginia Business*;
- Partnering with other conservation organizations such as the Green Infrastructure Center, the Partnership for Smarter Growth, the Williamsburg Land Conservancy, the VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, and Conservation Partners on 5 outreach and education events; and
- Managing and building upon our existing 4 County Advisory Councils, as well as sowing the seeds of a new council in Chesterfield County in October.

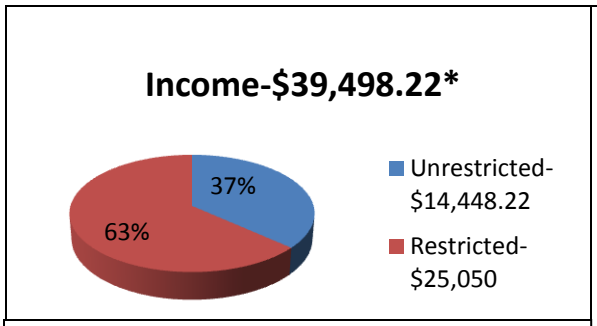
Educational event at Bandana Farm - Hanover

As a result of its outreach efforts, CRLC began working this year with 8 new landowners interested in exploring their land protection options. But most significantly, our ongoing work on 4 projects over several years yielded tangible results. By the end of 2011, CRLC had facilitated ***the preservation of 4 parcels of land totaling over 500 acres***. These included:

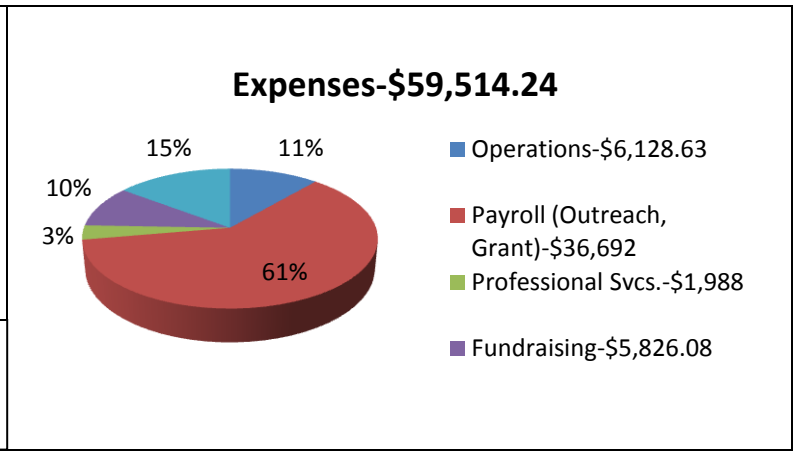
- Fulfilling an area resident's dying wish: to forever preserve her 100+ acre property from future development. Ms. Atkins' land will soon benefit all of us as a planned public park Atkins Acres Community Park (see photo at right)
- Preserving of 300 forested acres in Goochland under conservation easement with the VA Department of Forestry
- Completing 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

The late Paul and Anna Atkins on the land of the future Atkins Acres Community Park

2011 Financial Data:



**** beginning cash balance was $63,697.25 at 01/01/2011 and year-end cash balance was $43,681.23; the year-end loss shown is due to the timing of the receipt of certain 2011 grant funds in the last quarter of 2010***



Sources of funding in 2011 included Altria Group, Dominion Resources, Defenders of Wildlife, Luck Stone, Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, Vulcan Materials, and individual donors. One hundred percent of the CRLC board provided funding to support our mission and goals.

CRLC uses its funding to conduct educational outreach to inform landowners about conservation tools, to educate the public and community about the benefits of land conservation, and to facilitate the donation of conservation easements.

Due to the size of the 2011 budget, CRLC did not have its financial statements audited.