



Photo: Tara Quinn

PRESERVING A LEGACY: GOBBLER KNOB

Thanks to Reed and Gail Schweickert, a 513-acre portion of Powhatan County will stay a little greener for years to come. Their large timber farm with 1.3 miles of frontage along the James River in Powhatan County has been protected by a conservation easement donated to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and facilitated by the Capital Region Land Conservancy.

The property, called Gobbler Knob, is one of the largest riverfront tracts remaining in a rapidly developing county. It is composed of mature upland mixed pine and hardwood forest, cropland, pastureland, ponds, and tributaries to the James River.

Gobbler Knob also lies directly adjacent to Belmead, one of our region's most historic cultural and ecological places. Belmead is also protected by a 1,104-acre VOF conservation easement and was placed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Most Endangered List in 2012. The proximity of the two easements not only provides continuity of natural habitat, but also preserves significant views of scenic, rural, farming, and forested landscapes. Beyond its role in providing habitat for area wildlife, Gobbler Knob's name also speaks to its connection to Virginia Tech, where Schweickert graduated from in 1963.

Reed and Gail donated the easement to

ensure that the land would be available as wildlife habitat and also for timber and farming in the future. They felt that development has already broken up many of the larger farms in Powhatan. The most

"I was not going to let this property get developed."

- Reed Schweickert

traditional tool for conserving private land, a "conservation easement" is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits industrial, commercial, and residential development of the land in order to protect its conservation values. In this case, the Capital Region Land Conservancy helped facilitate completion of the easement for which the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, a state agency, is the easement holder. As the holder, VOF will ensure that the conservation goals stated in the easement are perpetually upheld.

"We really didn't go at it strong into a conservancy until about a year ago," Schweickert said. "We had put the property into an LLC — Limited Liability Corporation. I was not going to let this property get developed. Gail and I both had great passion

for the wildlife and to keep the property free and we used to go walk the hills, walk all the trails of the farm," Schweickert said. "It's just beautiful."

The Schweickert's decision to place a conservation easement on their land took a lot of time and a lot of thought. Reed suggests, "Anyone interested in an easement should carefully consider it and determine whether or not it's a good fit for your family now and in the foreseeable future. You have to take your time and make sure it's right for you. It is also vital to involve knowledgeable partners upfront and throughout the process, such as the Capital Region Land Conservancy, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and experienced legal and tax advisors with knowledge specific to conservation easements." ❑



❑ GAIL AND REED SCHWEICKERT



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This spring, the breadth and strength of CRLC’s work grew when it finalized a merger with the Friends of Chesterfield’s Riverfront (FoCR). As part of the merger, conservation easements held by FoCR are now assigned to CRLC. The restrictions, land use limitations, and reserved rights listed in each easement remain unchanged. CRLC now co-holds eight conservation easements around the region; following the merger, it surpasses the 1,000-acre stewardship mark and now co-holds over 1,200 acres. The organization will now be able to do even more conservation and stewardship ... and do them better. This combined strength promises to create an unprecedented force to accomplish our mission to conserve and protect our region’s land and water resources.

As the acreage of land we protect increases, so do the resources required to steward and defend these lands. The work we do is only made possible by supporters like you. As always, we serve as the area’s only regionally-focused land trust.

TARA QUINN

CRLC BECOMES MEMBER OF TERRAFIRMA

THE PROMISE OF PERPETUITY

CRLC has taken another important step to help preserve the lands we protect, forever, with your support. In all, CRLC co-holds eight conservation easements totaling over 1,200 acres. Until recently, CRLC and hundreds of other local land trusts such as ours stood alone in their efforts to defend and enforce the conservation easements that they were charged to uphold.

We are pleased to report that CRLC has become a member of a one-of-a-kind liability insurance company created by the national Land Trust Alliance called Terrafirma Risk Retention Group LLC (Terrafirma). Terrafirma will help CRLC defend easements throughout the Richmond Region, as well as over 20,000 other properties

conserved by community land trusts, like ours, across the country.

Permanence is an important aspect of the conservation movement. Land trusts often make promises—to their donors, to their communities, and to the government—that land placed in their care will be preserved forever. Addressing threats to the permanence of conservation is an important part of keeping these promises. Our membership in Terrafirma not only enhances CRLC’s capacity to defend our own conservation easements, but those of the larger land trust community as well. ▣

VOF CHANGES POLICY



The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) has changed a controversial provision in its conservation-easement policy. At its quarterly meeting in Montpelier this April, the agency’s board of trustees voted to no longer accept easements with retained oil and gas rights. That provision was the subject of a public forum in Fredericksburg in March. About 100 people turned out for that session, with many voicing concerns about the prospect of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in the Taylorsville basin east and south of Interstate 95. ▣

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SUCCESS

2014 has been 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 year have included:

- Assisting numerous landowners in preserving their property
- Coordinating a tour of the 70-acre Tucker property in Hanover for our members
- Hosting an oyster roast and fly-fishing clinic at the historic Tuckahoe Plantation
- Completing a merger with a local conservation group, the Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront
- Seeing five press pieces published about our work
- Welcoming 13 new members



Photo: Jane Myers

CRLC Welcomes New Board Member



Brian Watson

Brian joins the CRLC board with over 20 years of diverse experience in business and financial management across Fortune 1000, technology and distribution organizations. Over the past 12 years Brian has been with the Federal Reserve Bank working in financial and investment management. Originally from the northeast, Brian obtained his degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, New Jersey, in 1993. We welcome Brian and look forward to benefiting from the expertise he brings to our board.

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. Join the 35+ people that are already participating!

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

SUPPORT CRLC!

- Member – \$35.00
- Sustaining – \$50.00
- Leader – \$100.00
- Sponsor – \$250.00
- Partner – \$500.00
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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

CURIOUS ABOUT SOLAR? SolarizeRVA through July 15

Ever wondered if solar energy is right for you? Solar is no longer a thing of the future – it makes sense right here, right now. Find out more about how SolarizeRVA is making solar simple. Visit www.SolarizeRVA.org.

Free neighborhood workshops are taking place through June 19th around the region. Sign up now or get more information by emailing reaoutreach@gmail.com. SolarizeRVA is coordinated by the Richmond Region Energy Alliance. And for every CRLC member who signs a contract on a solar system with one of SolarizeRVA's two pre-qualified contractors by July 15, 2014 and mentions CRLC, **RREA will donate \$100 to CRLC!**



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALTENERGY

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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:



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CRLC IS ALSO SUPPORTED BY:

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...and individual donors and members like you!

SAVE THE DATE



Nature Hike of Conserved Property in Chesterfield County
November 15, 2014 - Details to Come!

STAY TUNED TO: www.capitalregionland.org/news-events

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

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