



MAKING A DIFFERENCE HERE AT HOME

“We just can’t take it for granted. We’ve got to improve things locally.”

The desire to do something about conserving land for future generations is why Larry Eiben and his wife, Virginia, first chose to financially support the Capital Region Land Conservancy (CRLC) five years ago. COO of TFS Capital, Larry saw more and more land being lost to development across the state, including the vital farmland and pristine forests that provide us with local food and protect our air and water. They couldn’t just stand by quietly and continue to watch our natural landscapes disappear without trying to make a difference.

Between 2002 and 2007, Virginia lost 208,600 acres of forest, farm, and other rural land to development. Much of that land was lost in the Richmond Region, which saw an even higher rate of population growth than the state overall. In fact, if a similar rate of growth continues the population of our region in 2030 will be double that of 1990. That reality poses a serious question about how and where we want to plan for growth, and what natural resources should be protected in order to preserve the quality of life that makes so many people want to call the Richmond Region home.

While they call Richmond home, the Eibens have ties to Nelson County where development pressure is also very strong.

“Educating future generations about the importance of preserving our land and natural resources starts with the little people in our house!” - Larry Eiben

And their commitment to making a difference doesn’t stop at supporting CRLC as major donors. The Eibens also placed a conservation easement on one property in Nelson County with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and are exploring conserving another.

“We feel the development pressure in Nelson County as well as the Richmond Region, and believe that conserving these places is vital to the health and sanity of our entire community,” Larry says. “And for us, educating future generations about the importance of preserving our land and natural resources starts with the little people in our house!” Larry and Virginia regularly sit at the dinner table and talk with their children about how farms, forests, and natural areas are so precious and what we can do to protect them.

That philosophy is perfectly matched to CRLC’s 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 entire Eiben family recently joined the Conservancy for a guided hike of Atkins Acres, the newest community park in Chesterfield which CRLC helped to conserve. And if the Eiben children’s excitement about experiencing and learning about nature is any indication, we can expect to have three more passionate stewards of the land for many years to come!



 MADDY OVERSEES THE EIBEN’S NELSON PROPERTY



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This fall, a conservation easement was recorded on over 500 acres of pristine land in Powhatan along the banks of the James River. CRLC worked with the owners and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to ensure that this scenic property, rich with wildlife and vital to protecting the James River it lies along, is protected in perpetuity. This land is situated adjacent to Belmead, one of our region's most historic cultural and ecological places and also protected by a conservation easement.

In October, CRLC partnered with the Center for Rural Culture to present the Powhatan Farm Tour 2013, and assisted numerous landowners with their conservation options via one-on-one meetings and workshops conducted in partnership with local conservation attorneys, Conservation Partners, and others.

As the year's end approaches, we remain proud to serve as the area's only regionally-focused land trust. The work we do, made possible by supporters like you, enriches not only the place we call home, but also protects the home of generations to come.

TARA QUINN

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

TAX INCENTIVE SET TO EXPIRE

Did you know? *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.*

Conservation-minded landowners now have until December 31, 2013 to take advantage of a significant tax deduction for donating a voluntary conservation agreement to permanently protect important natural or historic resources on their land. When landowners donate a conservation easement, they maintain ownership and management of their land and can sell or pass the land on to their heirs, while foregoing future development rights.

The enhanced incentive applies to a landowner's federal income tax. It:


- Raises the deduction a donor can take for donating a voluntary conservation agreement from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
- Allows farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and
- Increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years.

The enhanced conservation tax incentive has helped conserve one million acres per year since its passage and it is expiring on

December 31. Unless Congress acts, some of the farms, forests and ranches that are the essence of America today will become the parking lots and traffic jams of tomorrow.

However, the Conservation Easement Incentive Act of 2013 (H.R. 2807) and the Rural Heritage Conservation Extension Act (S. 526), propose to increase the contribution base limit on gifts of Conservation Easements from 30% to 50% of the donor's contribution base. "Contribution base" is the adjusted gross income of the donor, excluding any net operating loss carryback from the year of contribution of the Conservation Easement. The Bill also proposes to permit qualified farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their contribution base. In addition, the Bill proposes to increase the carryover for unused tax deductions from the current 5 years to 15 years.

The enhanced tax deduction has helped land trusts work with farmers, ranchers and other modest-income landowners to increase the pace of conservation. Making the incentive permanent will help more landowners receive tax benefits from the generous donation of development rights on their land.

Learn more about this issue and how you can help at <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/tax-matters/campaigns/how-you-can-help>. 

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SUCCESS

2013 has been a very active year for 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. CRLC marked strong progress on our capacity-building and programmatic initiatives. This year, CRLC:

- Facilitated a record-setting three conservation easements in 2013 alone;
- Assisted landowners in preserving a 500+-acre property on the James River in Powhatan County;
- In conjunction with the Office of the Governor, hosted an educational event for landowners along the Pamunkey River about their land conservation options
- Conducted a guided hike in March
- of Atkins Acres Community Park, Chesterfield County's newest park - and a place protected in large part through CRLC's efforts
- Hosted exhibit booths at various events attended by over 6,000 people;
- Conducted, with our partners, four educational seminars for landowners on land conservation tools and benefits;

Our team has also been working with various landowners on their land preservation plans and speaking to local civic groups throughout the community. Five press pieces were published in 2013 regarding our vital work to protect the lands that help to preserve our region's water quality. □

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.

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
- Patron – \$1,000.00
- Other _____

CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
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

CRLC Welcomes New Board Member

Leah Henschen, Esquire

Leah is an Estate Settlement Officer with U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management. Prior to joining U.S. Trust, Leah spent time at SunTrust, JPMorgan Private Bank, and Virginia Estate & Trust Law, PLC, working with clients on trust and estate planning and administration. She has a law degree from the University of Richmond and a bachelor's degree in Marketing from the University of Maryland.

SAVE THE DATE! RVA Environmental Film Festival

On February 8th and 9th, 2014, the Falls of the James Group, Sierra Club, EarthCraft Virginia, the Capital Region Land Conservancy, the James River Green Building Council, and the Enrichmond Foundation are proud to present the Fourth Annual RVA Environmental Film Festival at the historic Byrd Theatre in Carytown. This multi-day event will showcase local and national films selected to raise awareness of environmental issues relevant to the Richmond region, our nation, and our planet. This year, the Festival will also include a local documentary film contest and VIP reception on February 7th!

For more information visit us at: <http://rvaenvironmentalfilmfestival.com/> or on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/rvaenvironmentalfilmfestival>.

Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are still available. For details on sponsorship opportunities, contact Tara Quinn at tara@capitalregionland.org.



2013 RVA ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

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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:

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

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 /CapitalRegionLandConservancy
www.CapitalRegionLand.org

SAVE THE DATE



Fourth Annual RVA Environmental Film Festival
February 8 and 9, 2014 at the Byrd Theatre

MORE INFO: www.rvaenvironmentalfilmfestival.com

Send us your email to receive
communications from us electronically.