

Message from the President

Since April, you have heard frequently from us as we worked to raise matching funds in order to benefit from an anonymous \$25,000 challenge grant opportunity. On October 1, excitedly we report that we not only met our goal, but exceeded it at nearly \$28,000!

On behalf of the entire board of the Capital Region Land Conservancy (CRLC), I would like to thank each and every one of you that gave generously to us during this challenge, helping CRLC to realize its vision for conserving land in the Capital Region.

This challenge not only brought newly inspired donor investments, but will increase our organizational stability and allow CRLC the opportunity to deepen our service to the Richmond area community. Thank you for your passion for saving land and for serving as our partner in building an organization that will have a lasting impact on conserving and protecting the lands and waters of the Richmond Region for future generations to enjoy as we do today.

Funds raised from the challenge grant campaign will support:

- The John McVickar Land Conservation Stewardship Fund, which supports our annual obligations to monitor the six conservation easements we currently co-hold;
- Establishment of a legal defense fund for future easement defense; and,
- Support of our ongoing capacity building campaign, outreach and education activities, and work toward national land trust accreditation.

We thank you all for helping us to continue working to preserve the precious places that make the Richmond Region so very special.



Bill Greenleaf

CRLC and Hunton & Williams: A Partnership for Preservation

Teamwork is an essential element in the success of any endeavor. The partnership between the Capital Region Land Conservancy (CRLC) and the Richmond-based law firm of Hunton & Williams LLP is a shining example of how individuals and organizations, working together, can accomplish great things.

Attorneys from Hunton & Williams have been involved with CRLC since the organization's beginnings in 2005. Partners in the firm's Richmond-based environmental law practice, including founding CRLC board member Brooks Smith, helped charter CRLC as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and develop its guiding vision, values and mission statement. The roster of former and current Hunton & Williams attorneys who have since provided legal advice and additional support to the organization has grown to include Chris Albert, Miranda Yost and current advisory board member, TJ Mascia.

These lawyers provide a broad range of legal services to CRLC. They have helped negotiate and draft many of the easements held by CRLC, including one that protects the heart of the James River Park System, in perpetuity, from the threat of commercial development. Members of the firm have also helped draft and establish many of the policies and processes that not only make CRLC a more effective organization, but also help it in its pursuit of accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance, a national accrediting body for non-profit land trusts.

The firm's work with CRLC is an extension of its broader commitment to helping protect the region's environmental treasures, wild places, scenic viewsheds and open spaces. "Collaborative environmental stewardship is of vital importance to everyone," notes Smith. "Through wise use and intelligent management of our natural resources, we can support economic growth without sacrificing the quality of life of our children and grandchildren.

For generations, Hunton & Williams has taken an active role in voluntary land preservation, in the Richmond area and across the country."

Hunton & Williams has a long history of work in the conservation arena, even prior to its involvement with CRLC. Hunton & Williams senior counsel George Freeman helped draft landmark legislation authorizing the use of conservation easements in the state, affording organizations like CRLC this critical conservation tool. Additionally, in 1997, firm lawyers George Hettrick and David Ledbetter helped establish the 500-Year Forest Foundation, which works in partnership with private landowners to protect land and promote future old-growth forests

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through easements restricting timbering and requiring Forest Conservation Planning to help landowners develop and implement preservation standards and establish

parameters for the study of old-growth forests. Ledbetter remains an active contributor to the organization and currently serves as Secretary and member of its board of directors, and Miranda Yost now serves as pro bono counsel to the Foundation.

In 2002, Brooks Smith helped form Virginia's United Land Trusts (VaULT), an organization that helps to coordinate and empower land trust activities throughout the Commonwealth. Furthermore, yet another firm partner, Turner Smith (now retired), is an active contributor to the Land Trust of Virginia and has served as its president, and now as chairman emeritus.

In its work with CRLC, the 500-Year Forest Foundation and numerous other cooperative land and water conservation organizations in Virginia and across the country, Hunton & Williams has demonstrated the value of partnership. Says Mascia, "We look forward to continuing our work with CRLC for many years to come — and to enjoying the benefits of the land we have all helped protect."

Land Conservancy Invites Hikers for Sneak Peek of New County Park

The Richmond Region is rich with many parks, but on Saturday, December 15th, hikers will have the opportunity to visit Chesterfield County's newest park, the future Atkins Acres Community Park. Atkins Acres was the home to Anna and Paul Atkins beginning in the 1940's. The Atkins' nurtured their little corner of the world, 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.

After initially exploring other options to preserve the land in 2010, the Capital Region Land Conservancy (CRLC) facilitated discussions between Mrs. Atkins and the Parks and Recreation Department of Chesterfield County to determine how the 109-acre property might 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, 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.

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. 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.

Now you can have a chance to walk one of the most wild and unspoiled areas in this area of Chesterfield County. Hike along with local expert and Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Naturalist, Robert Smet, as you roam along uplands and descend along the streams that feed a small wetland along the southern border.



When? Saturday,
December 15th, 2012
10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Where? Hikers to meet
at Rockwood Park
Nature Center

Cost? No charge
for the hike

For all trips, the Land Conservancy asks that participants bring water, snacks, and wear hiking boots and appropriate clothing for the conditions. For more information and to register for the hike, call 804-301-5352 or email tara@capitalregionland.org. Be sure to register early, as space is limited.

\$25,000 Challenge Grant Campaign a Success!

Together we made it happen! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to our anonymous challenge grant donor and to all who supported CRLC during its challenge grant drive! It was a tremendous effort to raise over \$25,000 in less than 7 months but so many new members and friends showed their support of our important work to save local land. We now have \$50,000, and YOU are the reason we will be able to provide top quality educational events to the Richmond community and enhance our area-wide efforts to help preserve the best of our region!

There is no other organization like CRLC in our area, with its singular focus on the Richmond region.

In 2013, your support will:

- Help CRLC provide education and then support to property owners who desire to gift our community and future generations with the stewardship of their land through the donation of permanent conservation easements
- Enable your award-winning local land trust to pursue national land trust accreditation
- Support CRLC in protecting conservation lands forever by strengthening our Stewardship and Legal Defense Funds
- Help CRLC continue working to preserve the precious places that make the Richmond Region special...for now and for future generations

We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!

Save the Date: 2013 RVA Environmental Film Festival!



On February 9th and 10th, 2013, the Falls of the James Group, Sierra Club, the James River Green Building Council, the Enrichmond Foundation, and the Capital Region Land Conservancy are proud to present the **Third Annual RVA Environmental Film Festival at the historic Byrd Theatre in Carytown**. This two-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.

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

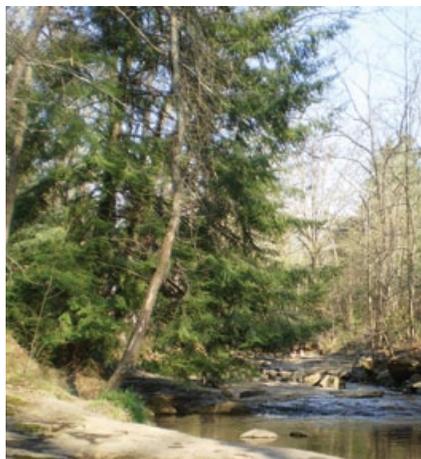
Spotlight on our Success:

2012 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 has been very busy educating the community through our land conservation informational events around the area including:

- Presenting two seminars on land conservation tools in Hanover and Powhatan Counties in collaboration with Conservation Partners LLC
- Sponsoring a two-part farm transition seminar in Powhatan County with Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Partnering with the Virginia Department of Forestry to present a day-long workshop and panel discussion on the details of placing a conservation easement on your land at the New Kent Forestry Center in New Kent County
- Joining Virginia Conservation Credit Exchange in Goochland County to help inform local residents about their land preservation options

Our team has also been working with various landowners on their land preservation plans, speaking to local civic groups, and exhibiting at events throughout the community. Six press pieces were published this year regarding our vital work to protect the lands that help to preserve our region's water quality. We look forward to an even more active 2013, saving land that protects our clean water!

Giving the gift of Stock



If you are considering a charitable contribution to the Capital Region Land Conservancy, it is in your best interest to seek out the most effective manner in which your money can work for you. Gifting appreciated stock is one of the most effective means of tax savings available – courtesy of today's United States tax laws.

What are the benefits to you?

1. **The satisfaction of knowing your money is supporting CRLC's great conservation work.**
2. **You'll avoid paying capital gains taxes on the stock sale.**
3. **You will be eligible to receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift.**

In the end, of course, a stock gift is more than just a financially smart move—it helps you support the Conservancy's efforts to protect the lands and waters that sustain us all. It is a great way to satisfy your personal and charitable goals.

For details on how to support local land conservation by gifting appreciated stock, contact Tara Quinn or have your broker do so at 804-301-5352 or tara@capitalregionland.org.

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 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.

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 donate at www.GiveRichmond.org.

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.

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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.

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Thank You to Our Supporters:

CRLC is also supported by: The Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront • Hirschler Fleischer
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To learn more about conservation easements or CRLC, please call:

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