

let's JOIN In Volunteer EXcitement

What's Inside?

let's Jump!

Land Stewardship Workdays
Places We Protect
In Review

"Blast from the past"

Conservation Highlights

let's Jig!

Additional Opportunities
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Global Strategies

let's Jazz it up!

Did You Know?

The greatest Seasonal Snowfall in VA was in Wise Co. 124.2 inches in 1995-1996.

Green Idea

Fix any leaks where you feel cold air coming inside. With doors, add a piece of weather stripping to the bottom of the door.

I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape - the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show. -Andrew Wyeth, artist

FACES OF CONSERVATION

Celebrating 50 years of Conservation in Virginia

Volunteer Recognition

The Challenge— this past year we challenged you to volunteer at least 50 hours for The Nature Conservancy in Virginia in celebration of our 50th anniversary. How did you do? **results as of 12/15/10

Over 100 volunteer hours in 2010:

Tricia Dunlap (245 hrs), Linda Firesheets (219.5 hrs), Tonnica Ford (131 hrs), Katie Layman (335 hrs), Katherine Maloney (147.5 hrs), Andy Merkle (186.5 hrs), Kent Radwani (165 hrs), Debbie Roberts (235 hrs), Seth Wilmore (107 hrs)

50-99 volunteer hours in 2010:

Collette Anderson (51.5 hrs), Margaret Chatham (50 hrs), Julie Ericksen (50 hrs), Mike Frakes (52 hrs), Thor Gormley (50.5 hrs), Peggy and Fred Harris (69 hrs), Marvin Mitchell (66 hrs), Jim Nix (50 hrs), Edward Peetz (66 hrs), Marshall Timm (52 hrs), Alanna Warnick (63.5 hrs), Scott Weiss (55.5 hrs), Tim Williams (64 hrs), Adam Wilson (69 hrs), Jana and Scott Young (54.5 hrs)

25-49 volunteer hours in 2010:

David Allen (28 hrs), Chris Barksdale (40 hrs), Dan Buteau (26.5 hrs), Bonnie Cady (29.5 hrs), Megan Carras (38.5 hrs), Daly and Georgina Chin (25 hrs), Susan Forth (30 hrs), Steve Fox (37 hrs), James Gano (28 hrs), Helen and Bill Gordon (27 hrs), Mona Griswold (34 hrs), Nancy Halgren (25 hrs), Judd Knecht (31 hrs), Richard Kretz (39 hrs), Brian Maday (46 hrs), Tom McIntosh (25 hrs), Jane McLean (25 hrs), Bill McNown (25.5 hrs), Robert McSwain (32 hrs), Stephanie Mitesser (32 hrs), John Naler (36.5 hrs), Peter Nebel (49 hrs), Charlie Proffitt (25 hrs), Richard Smith (27 hrs), Nikole Swaney (25 hrs), Pat Thacker (25 hrs), Tina Wade (31 hrs), Tex Weaver (43 hrs), Toine Wyckoff (25 hrs)



© Jen Rich

MY VOLUNTEER STORY

Volunteers: The Key to Success in the words of JEN RICH, volunteer coordinator, The Nature Conservancy

The key to our success rests in people like **you**, who embody the spirit of greatness by your conservation-minded works. The Nature Conservancy is grateful for the energy, enthusiasm and dedication volunteers bring to advance our mission of protecting nature and preserving life. We cannot thank you enough for your invaluable contributions and passion for our natural world. Too often we underestimate the power of a smile, a kind word, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn the world around.

You've accomplished great things in 2010: monitored countless trails, lopped thousands of overgrown branches, burned hundreds of acres as part of our prescribed fire program, pulled invasive species after invasive species, restored acres of eelgrass, planted hundreds of trees and put stamps on countless envelopes and you did it all with a smile on your face.

It's been a pleasure and a privilege to work with you this year and I look forward to seeing you in 2011!



Jen Rich © TNC

let's Jump! Land Stewardship

Burn Crew

Southwest Virginia and Western Mountains of Virginia

Are you interested in coming out to help with prescribed fire in 2011? Do you have the right qualifications? Conservancy volunteer burn crew members must meet the same standards as Conservancy staff burn crew. Specifically, you must be a NWCG Type II Fire Fighter. This means you must possess a valid red card, or have taken courses S-130, S-190, and be able to furnish signed task books and course certificates and have completed the pack test, which entails walking 3 miles in 45 minutes carrying a 45-pound pack.

Interested in becoming a volunteer burn crew member, but don't yet meet the requirements? Becoming a Type II Fire Fighter in Virginia may be easier than you think. You can take the course online (a field component will be needed) <http://training.nwcg.gov> or check out the training schedule at www.dof.virginia.gov/fire.

Trail Clearing: Cumberland Marsh Preserve (east of Richmond)

Saturday, Jan. 8: tentative depending on weather: 10AM-3PM

Winter is a good time to clear trails of downed branches and post trail markers. We are re-opening a section of trails at our Cumberland Marsh Preserve (New Kent County, 30 miles E of Richmond) and need 10-15 volunteers to help. Volunteers will be removing deadfall, swamping for staff who will chainsaw downed trees, re-posting trail markers and making a new short section of trail. The trails are located in forested, flat terrain near Holtz Creek which flows into the Pamunkey River. Come out on January 8 to help and start the New Year off with service! Date is tentative based on weather. Sign up with Jen Rich, volunteer coordinator, at jrich@tnc.org or 434-951-0572. Carpooling may be available from Charlottesville.

PLACES WE PROTECT

What are Cooperative Projects?

From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay, from the Great Dismal Swamp to Cumberland Gap, Virginia's natural areas offer havens for rare species and recreational opportunities for people.

The Nature Conservancy often partners with federal and state agencies like the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Forestry and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to work cooperatively to protect thousands of acres of land and water.

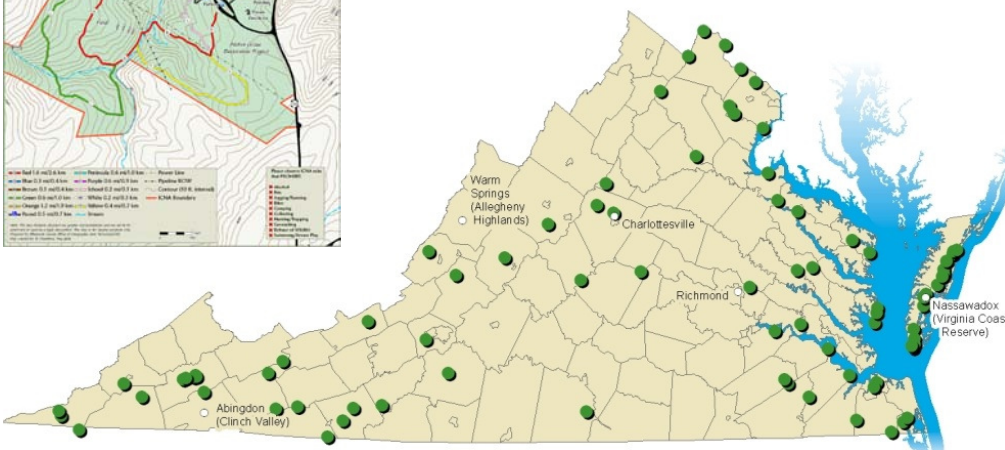
The map below, created by our geographic information systems manager, Chris Bruce, shows the location of many of our cooperative projects or transfer properties—properties the Conservancy acquired and transferred, with conservation protection, to other agencies for management.

Example Cooperative Projects or Transfer Properties include:

- Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve (Russell County) see photo above
- Ivy Creek Natural Area (Charlottesville) see map left
- Big Woods (Sussex County)
- Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (southeast VA)
- Bethel Beach Natural Area Preserve (Mathews County)
- Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge
- Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve (Roanoke)



Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve © Jen Rich



IN REVIEW a look at some accomplishments

Fall was FABULOUS! A big **thank you** goes out to the many people who have helped us both in the field and in the office. Over 450 volunteers boast more than **7,213** hours since January, with an estimated value of over \$211,340; however, to the Conservancy they are priceless. Enjoy a little fall review.



Monitoring: Volunteers spent the fall wrapping up various monitoring projects including vegetation monitoring at several of our trust fund sites and stream sampling at our Meadow Creek site.

Volunteer Visitation Committee Orientation: A new preserve monitoring program is up and running at Cumberland Marsh Preserve. Volunteers will be maintaining the boardwalk and re-opening sections of trail once the dam removal process is complete. See photo left.

Day of Caring: Nearly 20 volunteers spent the day clearing and improving the trail system at our Fortune's Cove Preserve. A big thank you to the Charlottesville Albemarle Airport Authority. See photo right.



Research from Home: As field season slows during the winter months, many volunteers help with indoor projects like researching training opportunities and marine spatial planning.

Den Creek Tree Thinning: Volunteers spent a windy day thinning trees at our Den Creek Preserve to open the canopy for a rare plant, smooth coneflower. See photo left.



Mailings: A big thank you to our many office volunteers who help with philanthropy mailings, newsletter mailings, answering phones at the front desk and helping with our 50th anniversary events. See photo right of volunteer Pat Thacker.

Artists: We have some talented volunteers! Several artists have painted landscape views of various preserves around Virginia including Warm Springs Mountain Preserve and Falls Ridge Preserve. See photo left– Susan Forth and photo right– Tina Wade.



What about me?: Thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers around the state who have worked hard this fall to volunteer from home or to help out in the field or in the office. Your work is greatly appreciated!

BLAST FROM THE PAST: TNC VA TURNS 50!

Groundwork Spring 1993: The spring issue of the volunteer newsletter, Groundwork, featured this map and a list of the volunteer stewardship projects including #1 Berger Preserve boundary posting, #2 Wildcat Mountain Preserve trail clearing, #3 Gasburg Granite Flatrocks invasive removal, #4 Fernbrook Preserve new trail marking, #5 North Landing River Preserve trash removal, #6 Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve trail stewardship, and #7 Fraser Preserve trail clearing.



"The color of springtime is in the flowers, the color of winter is in the imagination." -Terri Guillemets

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS with the help of volunteers

Year in Review 2010 *volunteer accomplishments*

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so below are volunteers hard at work throughout the year. Projects vary from invasive plant removal to research and seagrass restoration to prescribed fire. We look forward to seeing you out in the field or in the office with the many volunteer projects planned for 2011! If you have ideas about ways you can help let us know.

JANUARY Invasive species control @ Fortune's Cove; AmeriCorps NCCC @ Piney Grove & Warm Springs



© Nancy Weiss



© Bobby Clontz

FEBRUARY Cattail Control @ Lamb



© Jen Rich

MARCH Fire Line Creation @ Den Creek



© Jen Rich

Prescribed Fire @ Piney Grove



© Jen Rich

Bridge Work @ Berger



© Jen Rich

APRIL Chestnut Planting @ Fortune's Cove



© Linda Crowe

Tree Planting @ Clinch valley



© Matt Carroll

Garden Work @ Charlottesville Office



© Robbie Butler

MAY Redbud Wrapping @ Charlottesville Office



© Jen Rich

Bird Hike @ Fortune's Cove



© Jen Rich

Seagrass Restoration @ Virginia Coast



© Jen Rich

JUNE Trail Maintenance @ Falls Ridge



© Jen Rich

JULY NYC Interns @ multiple locations



© Jen Rich

Vegetation Monitoring @ Warm Springs Mtn.



© Jen Rich

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS with the help of volunteers

AUGUST Oyster Counting @ Piankatank River



© TNC
Pole Barn Dismantling @ Bottom Creek Gorge



© Fred Cramer

Wavyleaf basketgrass Control @ Fraser



© Jen Rich

SEPTEMBER Day of Caring with CHO



© Jen Rich

OCTOBER Monitors @ Cumberland Marsh



© Jen Rich

NOVEMBER Tree Thinning @ Den Creek



© Jen Rich

Let's Jig! Additional Opportunities

Adopt a Garden – all levels of experience welcome.

Charlottesville Office

We are seeking people to adopt different sections of our gardens. You'll be able to volunteer for a leading conservation organization and use your green skills on your own schedule. We'll provide the necessary tools and supplies for you at any time of the week.

Volunteering will entail one (or more) person assigned to a section of our building's gardens. A group from your office, store, organization or a group of friends can adopt one space (or more) and together keep the area in good condition throughout the year. This will entail cutting back shrubs, deadheading perennials and shrubs, weeding, mulching, and raking. No more than a few hours of volunteering per month for each area will be required.

CONTACT: Theresa King, operations assistant, at 434-951-0586 or theresa_king@tnc.org

Forestry Field Assistant

Winter/Spring: Clinch Valley (Washington, Tazewell, Russell, Smyth and Scott Counties)

The Nature Conservancy's Clinch Valley Program located in southwest Virginia is looking for a volunteer field assistant to go out in the field and help our Conservation Programs Forestry Manger. We are looking for a volunteer(s) who is available either on an "on call" basis or available one or more days during the work week (M-F, 9-5). Activi-

Job Postings: Want to work for The Nature Conservancy?

All jobs (including paid internships) are posted at www.nature.org/careers.

ties include, but are not limited to, boundary marking using GPS units, marking timber, general stewardship projects, data entry, invasive plant control, etc. Volunteers will need to be field savvy and have the ability to deal with the weather, insects, briars, and long days outside in the elements. Forestry experience and basic tree identification is preferred, but not necessary. Primary work locations include Washington, Tazewell, Russell, Smyth and Scott Counties and carpooling may be available from Abingdon. If you are interested and available contact Jen Rich, volunteer coordinator, at 434-951-0572 or jrich@tnc.org.

Volunteer Preserve Visitation Committee Members

Berger Preserve, Fortune's Cove Preserve, Bottom Creek, Gorge Preserve, Falls Ridge Preserve, Voorhees Preserve, Wildcat Mountain Preserve, Fraser Preserve, Cumberland Marsh Preserve, Milldam Creek Boardwalk

We need your eyes, ears and muscles! With many preserves to manage around the Commonwealth, it's not always possible to monitor them as often as we'd like. Our goal is to form volunteer visitation committees at our public access preserves to conduct routine surveys of the preserve and note visitor activities. Committee members will also help to remove debris, fallen branches or overgrown vegetation from trails as needed with hand tools. We are looking for long-term committed people to monitor between 4 and 6 times a year. For more information visit www.nature.org/vapreservemonitors.

PRESERVE HIGHLIGHT



Fortune's Cove Preserve: Straddling Virginia's Piedmont and Blue Ridge, Fortune's Cove Preserve is an ecological crossroads that supports a great diversity of plants and wildlife. The 755-acre preserve in Nelson County near Lovings-ton, features a series of rocky glades that host globally rare grass communities.

Hike the nearly seven miles of challenging hiking trails and enjoy stunning mountain views. Hikers should be in good physical condition and allow six hours to complete the entire five-mile upper loop. The 3.7-mile lower loop offers a shorter option.

Join the volunteer visitation committee and help monitor the preserve. Visit www.nature.org/vapreservemonitors.

LOOKING AHEAD



Want to know what volunteer projects we plan to have in 2011? Here's a sneak preview of the possibilities.

January/February: AmeriCorps NCCC team invades the Eastern Shore. Help out with habitat restoration and board-walk/deck repair.

March: Three Alternative Spring Break crews will be in VA at our Piney Grove Preserve, Clinch Valley and the Narrows.

March/April/May: Prescribed fire volunteers needed.

May/June: Mark your calendars for seagrass restoration. We'll need 100 volunteers!

June/July/August: Monitoring season: bird monitoring, invasive species monitoring, vegetation monitoring, etc.

Summer/Fall: various preserve workdays planned: Falls Ridge Preserve, Fortune's Cove Preserve and others.

Summer: Volunteer recognition potluck picnic at Wildcat Mountain Preserve and Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve.

Ideas? Please let me know at jrich@tnc.org or 434-951-0572.

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

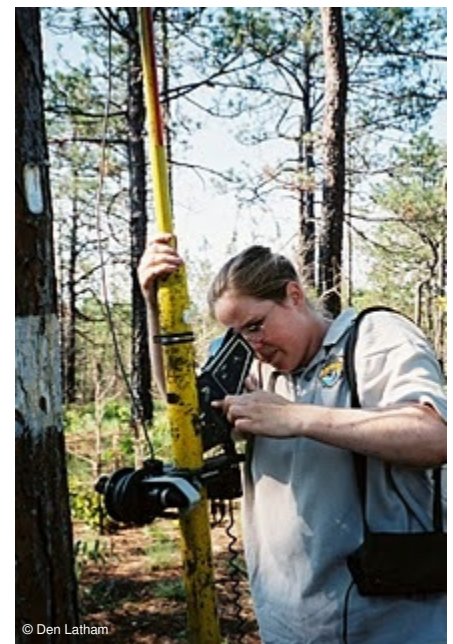
PEEPER SCOPES by Maddy Breen and James Miller, The Nature Conservancy

Home to the northernmost population of red-cockaded woodpeckers, Virginia's Piney Grove Preserve is a popular place to find the cleverly named "peeper scope."

Equipped with a small camera and light source on the end, this 50-foot-tall telescopic fiberglass pole can "peep" into a red-cockaded woodpecker's nesting cavity, while scientists watch the action via a monitor on solid ground.

The peeper scope can quickly assess the condition of a tree cavity and spot any uninvited guests — like the intrusive southern flying squirrel — that may try and take advantage of the woodpecker's hard work.

Scientists at Piney Grove perform bird bandings to keep track of the population and to restore this rare bird. During the breeding season, frequent monitoring helps determine when eggs are laid and hatched. The scope also helps determine precisely when to band the little chick, which is critical due to the small 5-10 day window to perform bandings for this endangered species.



GLOBAL STRATEGIES big ideas for the future of conservation

CAMPAIGN FOR A SUSTAINABLE PLANET a focus on **MONGOLIA** a conservation priority.



With our \$5 billion campaign, the Conservancy has set out to protect at least 10 percent of each of the world's major habitat types— forests, rivers and lakes, deserts and aridlands, grasslands and oceans— by the year 2015.

Mongolia: Mongolia is home to the largest remaining temperate grasslands (69 million acres)—a habitat that is among the least protected and most imperiled on Earth. Like forests, grasslands are remarkably effective at storing carbon and stabilizing soils to prevent grasslands from turning to deserts. Threats to this ecosystem include, —mining and oil operations bringing in roads and development, causing landscape fragmentation and —climate change which is impacting vegetation, precipitation and temperature. Mongolia's temperature has risen twice as fast as the global average.

The Conservancy is Taking Action:

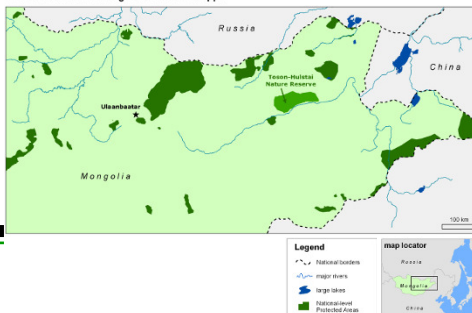
- Serving as a high-level advisor to the government of Mongolia, helping to incorporate wise land use

and nature-based adaptation into their national and international development and climate change policies.

- Working with diverse stakeholders to effectively conserve over 6 million acres of grassland on Mongolia's Eastern Steppe

What can you do to help? Please join us in conserving our world's protected areas by making an investment in The Conservancy's priorities through the Campaign for a Sustainable Planet.

Protected Areas in Mongolia's Eastern Steppe



ONE CONSERVANCY beyond our borders

CALIFORNIA

Location: Dye Creek Preserve

Title: Various Volunteer Opportunities, studio apt/bunk room available

Contact: Andrea Craig
(530) 527-4261, acraig@tnc.org

Located in the foothills below Mount Lassen, the 37,540 acre Dye Creek Preserve is an expansive landscape of blue oak woodlands, volcanic buttes, and rolling wildflower fields. The landscape is dissected dramatically by Dye Canyon with its vertical cliffs, clear-water creek and diverse riparian forests. Volunteer opportunities vary throughout the year; a studio apartment and bunk room are available to volunteers as lodging.

FLORIDA

Location: Disney Wilderness Preserve

Title: Various Volunteer Opportunities, RV spaces available in exchange for 32 volunteer hrs/week

Contact: Letty Zook, Outreach/Volunteer Programs
lzook@tnc.org, (407) 935-0002 x 125 (phone)

The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve is a remarkable place to experience natural Florida. Located just south of Orlando, the preserve protects the headwaters of the Everglades ecosystem. This 12,000-acre preserve is an innovative model of ecological restoration and one of the largest off-site wetlands mitigation projects in the U.S. Volunteer opportunities include Florida Scrub-Jay monitoring, gopher tortoise burrow mapping, well monitoring, invasive plant removal, interpretive guiding and more. Two RV spaces available in exchange for 32 hours/week.

MONTANA

Location: Pine Butte Guest Ranch

Title: On-Site Host, room and board provided

Contact: Jim Culver, Ranch Manager, jculver@tnc.org
(406) 466-2158

Pine Butte Guest Ranch has a strong volunteer program, and has volunteers on site most of the summer. Volunteers help out in any area that needs assistance – maintenance, building projects, fencing, landscaping, gardening, prepping food for the cooks, driving guests around, etc. We provide room and board in return, and generally ask folks to volunteer for at least 2 weeks at a time. Our season runs from roughly May 1st until October 1st.

OREGON

Location: Clear Lake Ridge Preserve

Title: On-Site Host

Contact: Molly Dougherty, (503) 802-8100
mdougherty@tnc.org

The Nature conservancy in Oregon seeks volunteers to live in a rustic cabin in northeast Oregon and take care of the remote and beautiful Clear Lake Ridge Preserve during the months of July through October. Volunteers must be willing to: commit to at least two weeks, maintain barbed wire fences, familiarize themselves with the location and condition of fences, interact comfortable with landowners, ranchers, and the public, monitor road closure violations, assist with invasive species removal efforts. A four-wheel drive vehicle with high clearance is a must. We also need to ask that dogs be left at home.

“No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.” -H.E. Luccock

let's Jazz it up!

MISSION

To preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

let's J.I.V.E. is the volunteer newsletter of The Nature Conservancy's Virginia Program.

Please contact Jennifer Rich, volunteer coordinator, at (434) 951-0572, or jrich@tnc.org, for more information on volunteering or if you have any ideas, suggestions or questions.

If you are interested in helping with the production of this newsletter through writing, artwork or by sharing ideas for future editions please contact Jen Rich at (434) 951-0572 or jrich@tnc.org.

Visit our website at www.nature.org/virginia/volunteer for more volunteer updates.

Have you participated in a Nature Conservancy volunteer workday or related event? Do you like to take pictures? Do you want to share your experience with others? If you've answered yes to any of these questions, we have a fun contest for you. In each issue of *let's J.I.V.E.*, Conservancy staff will select and publish the most interesting volunteer-related photo right here for over 1,000 volunteers to see. We will also feature it online at nature.org/virginia/volunteer. Photos may be used in other Conservancy products too. Email your photo to Jen at jrich@tnc.org or send a non-returnable copy to 490 Westfield Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901. Please include a photo title/caption, your name and contact information, and a brief description of the photo, location and workday event.

Share your volunteer picture. Email Jennifer at jrich@tnc.org to submit your photo.

Volunteer professional photographer, Jack Looney, took the picture right at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond during our 50th anniversary celebration in October.



© Jack Looney



Volunteer Collette Anderson submitted this photo from a friend who went hiking at our Fortune's Cove Preserve. Read more about Fortune's Cove in the "Preserve Highlight" section of this newsletter.