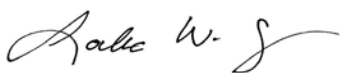




© Kyle LaFerriere

Saving a Place for You

Supporters like you have been critical to every conservation success The Nature Conservancy has achieved, and your generosity has made a profound difference in the lives of everyone who lives in or visits Virginia. Thanks to you, we've helped to conserve almost 350,000 acres across the state, and more than a third of this acreage is protected as public lands and waters that are open for your enjoyment. Our ongoing partnerships with the state and federal agencies who carry out day-to-day management of these special places are also crucial to long-term, large-scale success. From expanding the range of imperiled wildlife to implementing natural solutions to climate change, we're making historic strides toward overcoming the most urgent environmental challenges of our time, and I thank you for your loyal support.



Locke Ogens, Virginia Director



Little Stony Creek, Clinch Valley © Shane Hanlon

Want to Get Away?

Preserves and public lands to visit this fall

The Nature Conservancy manages more than a dozen preserves across Virginia that are open for you to hike, paddle or simply enjoy connecting with the natural world. Since many TNC preserves are located near or nestle alongside public lands, you can easily connect multiple sites to create your own custom getaway. And we're here to help. Members of our TNC team across Virginia recently shared their favorite destinations and attractions. Our insider tips range from where to hike, paddle or swim in the Allegheny Highlands to where to catch the most spectacular sunsets along the Eastern Shore. You will even find suggestions for where to rest and refuel after a long day on the trail. Start planning your fall "Virginia Getaways" today at nature.org/virginia.

Visit Warm Springs Mountain Preserve

Location: Bath County, near Hot Springs, Virginia

What to see: The annual display of autumn foliage is a must-see. Each of three public trails offers a distinctive experience, from a close-up look at a globally rare pine barren to expansive mountain vistas.

Access: The Ingalls Overlook, Sandy Gap and Bear Loop trails are open daily. Find maps at the site below.

Plan your visit: nature.org/warmspringsmountain



© Mary Porter

The Power of Partnership in Western Virginia

When The Nature Conservancy established Warm Springs Mountain Preserve in 2002, we knew that a good working relationship with the U.S. Forest Service, with whom we share a boundary, would be crucial. We began building our partnership from the ground up, on a foundation formed from working side by side on fire lines bridging our preserve and the adjoining national forest.



© Robert B. Clontz/TNC

Over the last dozen years, the Forest Service has been challenged with significant budget and staff reductions. But by working together, we have not only maintained a steady fire program—conducting controlled burns on nearly 15,000 acres this past year alone—but also continued to expand the scope and scale of forest restoration and research in western Virginia.

“We have the largest fire-effects monitoring program in the Appalachians,” says Blair Smyth, Allegheny Highlands program director. “Our success with fire has led to a complex, multi-tiered partnership.”

By sharing science and expertise, TNC helps the agency determine and achieve ecological objectives over an ever-increasing portion of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests’ 2 million acres.



Dr. Bryan Watts climbs toward a red-cockaded woodpecker nest at Big Woods Wildlife Management Area. © Robert B. Clontz/TNC

Big News from Big Woods

First endangered woodpecker chicks hatch

The Nature Conservancy’s supporters and partners received a major return this past spring on long-term investments in the recovery of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and its iconic forest habitat. On the morning of May 16, 2019, representatives from TNC, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) at William & Mary hiked into a restored pine savanna. Their objective: band the first red-cockaded woodpecker chicks to hatch within the state’s Big Woods Wildlife Management Area. CCB Director Dr. Bryan Watts climbed nearly four stories to reach two six-day-old chicks in a nest cavity their parents had carved into a living tree. The young breeding pair left populous Piney Grove Preserve for the wide-open welcoming suburbs of Big Woods. The state acquired Big Woods from TNC in 2010, and we continue to collaborate on restoration efforts such as controlled burns to expand pine savanna habitat on which the woodpeckers and hundreds of other plants and animals depend. Learn more at nature.org/rcwsuccess.

Celebrate OktoberForest

October is just around the corner, and that means it’s almost time for The Nature Conservancy’s annual celebration of OktoberForest. Craft brewers across Virginia will be helping raise awareness of the connections among healthy forests, clean water and good beer. Meet participating brewers and find special events at nature.org/oktoberforestva.



OktoberForest © Daniel White/TNC