

NATURE

VIRGINIA

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Locke Ogens © Kyle LaFerriere

Conservation's New Frontier

Virginia's Clinch Valley was once the American frontier. Today, it's fitting that the region is gaining recognition—most notably in a recent *National Geographic* cover story—as a new frontier for revolutionary approaches to conservation in this era of climate change. As the article states, “You have to make conservation pay better than destruction.” That’s why we ventured into uncharted territory in 2019, when Virginia joined with Tennessee, Kentucky, and our NatureVest arm to attract impact investors and acquire the 253,000-acre Cumberland Forest. While recognition is great, our true rewards come from results, including economic benefits to local communities. Thank you for helping us lead conservation into the 21st century!

Locke Ogens, Virginia Director



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To learn more and support our work in Virginia, use the QR code or go online to nature.org/virginia.



The Cumberland Forest provides a “home on the range” for Virginia’s restored elk herd. © Daniel White/TNC

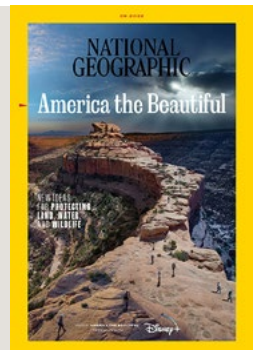
Visionary Virginia

Reimagining conservation in the face of climate change

The Nature Conservancy’s Cumberland Forest Project and Abingdon-based Clinch Valley program are highlighted in the September issue of *National Geographic*. The magazine’s cover story profiles four sites across the United States representing the leading edge of conservation in the 21st century. “To safeguard all our species, all our ecosystems—and to make sure that they have the resources and space to adapt as the climate continues to warm—we need to do conservation everywhere,” the article states. That includes working lands in Appalachia, where large-scale conservation success hinges on buy-in from outside impact investors and local communities alike. Learn more about our vision and innovative strategies at nature.org/cumberland.

“The [Cumberland Forest] property is a complex set of discontinuous parcels punctured by inholdings, an Appalachian lace. But it contains a variety of latitudes, altitudes, and microclimates that offer options for the future—and enough continuity that animals can range freely. Among those animals is one long missing from these woods: elk.”

—Excerpt from September 2022 cover story



Courtesy of National Geographic



Clockwise: Basia Scott and Vanessa Moses at Brownsville Preserve; Studying interpretation of enslaved people's lives at Montpelier © Daniel White/TNC; Claudia Moncada (far left) with high school group on Parramore Island © Suzanne Noseworthy

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Brewing Up Tastes of Virginia

Hosted by The Nature Conservancy and Black Narrows Brewing—in collaboration with Fine Creek Brewing, Crooked Run Fermentation and Väsén Brewing Company—Oktoberfest 2022 in Chincoteague celebrated the lands and waters on which all life (and beer) depends. Each of the four breweries teamed up with a TNC landscape program to craft a new beer for release at the festival. A special wild ingredient, carefully collected by hand from each conservation area, gives each creation a unique taste of Virginia's lands and waters: chanterelles from Warm Springs Mountain, eelgrass from the Eastern Shore, spruce tips from Clinch Mountain and longleaf needles from Piney Grove. Learn more at nature.org/oktoberfestVA.

Lands and Lives

Interns help broaden support for conservation

Three summer interns—undergraduate Basia Scott, recent graduate Vanessa Moses and graduate student Claudia Moncada—helped The Nature Conservancy expand our outreach to underserved communities and enrich our interpretation of the places we protect.

Basia Scott, Virginia Lands and Lives, Statewide

“Producing more content geared toward communities of color and fostering more genuine collaboration with these groups are important, because when people can see themselves in a story or organization, they might be able to more easily understand and support TNC’s mission.”

Vanessa Moses, Brownsville Preserve History, Eastern Shore

“It was an impactful step for TNC to focus on the first stewards of the land, the enslaved people who changed and worked the landscape of Brownsville. I have created a family tree of approximately 80 enslaved people living at Brownsville between 1782 and 1855.”

Claudia Moncada, Spanish Language Conservation Outreach, Eastern Shore

“The big community engagement event I planned was for Latino Conservation Week, a nationwide event from the Hispanic Access Foundation that aims to get more Latino and Spanish-speaking people out in nature.”

Meet our interns and explore their work in depth at nature.org/virginia.



Illustrations by Jessica Battista