

Land Legacies

BLUE RIDGE FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY

A Local Resource for Madison and Greene

Volume 10 Number 1

Spring 2012



Cedar Waxwings
Photographed by
Pat Temples

"It gives me great satisfaction to work with landowners to protect the beautiful and beloved fields and forests of Greene and Madison; work I could not do without many partners who share my goals. The Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy's annual barn dinner is a great opportunity to hear neighbors speak passionately about protecting their land, and to feel a part of a community of lovers of the land. Our legacy is to give to the future the same rich landscape that greeted us."

Beth Burnam, PEC



2011 - A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR LOCAL LAND CONSERVATION

In terms of both numbers of owners and total acreage, 2011 was the second best year for new conservation easements since the Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy began working with landowners in 1998. Last year 14 landowners in Madison and Greene counties put a total of 1,583 acres under protection.



Bob Roberts

With the addition of those acres the total acreage under easement in both Counties now stands at 13,406 acres in Madison, representing 7.5% of the County's private land, and 10,098 acres in Greene, representing 12.2% of the private land there.

Also new this past year was having the Virginia Department of Forestry join as a conservation partner in holding easements on four properties in Greene consisting of 385 acres of mostly forested land. They join the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the Piedmont Environmental Council, and the Land Trust of Virginia in holding easements in our two Counties. Land owners can choose which agency they wish to work with to hold their easements.

Continued on page 2

Also noteworthy is that 12 of the 14 new landowner properties under easement contribute to one of the 13 Conservation Areas, where from 2 to 20 neighbors have put their land under easement. By preserving areas much larger than a single property, they protect large view sheds, contiguous farmland and forests, lands critical to wildlife habitat and watersheds critical to our drinking water. Being in a Conservation Area also serves to enhance the property values of the Area’s landowners because of the local protection afforded against future development.

CONSERVATION FUNDS

Both Madison and Greene Counties now have Conservation Funds. These funds are managed by the PEC with BRFC participation that offers a qualified landowner a no interest loan to pay for the costs of obtaining an easement. The loan is then paid back out of the State tax credit earned by the landowner. BRFC committed \$5,000 to match the funds already raised by members to establish the Greene County Fund.



CONSERVATION BARN DINNER ON MARCH 30TH AT FIRNEW FARM

“The area of Madison and Greene Counties is certainly one of the most wonderful spots on earth, and I am heartened to see interest in preserving the farms we love going strong. It was great to see and hear from some of the many landowners who have protected their farms for generations to come. We are very lucky in Madison and Greene that we have so much interest and so many options for protecting our beautiful land and productive open spaces. I am happy to talk with anyone interested in learning about options for protecting their farms.”

Kristin Ford, Virginia Outdoors Foundation
434-293-5196

Madison and Greene County Conservation Scorecard From the End of 1999 to End of 2011

Areas	Under easement	Landowners	Private Land	Conservation Areas
Madison End of 1999	1,181 acres	5	0.7%	None
Madison End of 2011	13,406 acres	58	7.5%	6
Greene End of 1999	374 acres	3	0.5%	None
Greene End of 2011	10,098 acres	54	12.2%	7

Rex Linville, Piedmont Environmental Council Land Conservation Officer for Greene and Albemarle County, who spoke at the Firnew Farm barn dinner said, "The BRFC pulled together a wonderful event that introduced past conservation easement donors with new landowners in Greene and



Madison Counties who are considering the preservation of their own properties. In 2011 14 landowners decided to preserve their property with a conservation easement after attending the event. We hope that 2012 will be an equally good year for land conservation in the region." He went on to say that, "it is important to hold events like these to ensure that landowners have accurate information about their land conservation options so they can make educated and informed decisions."

Alton Keel listens intently to Rex's informative presentation



Special thanks to DuCard Vineyards



BRFC Calendar

June 10, 2012

Tucker Hill Legacy Scholarship celebrates the high school recipient at DuCard Vineyard

November 4, 2012

BRFC Annual Meeting
in Madison County

It is the mission of the Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy to help facilitate an effective partnership between all of the various conservation groups and willing landowners who desire to make a commitment today for the benefit of future generations.

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Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy, Inc.
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Sunrise on the Blue Ridge

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BRFC Membership

<input type="checkbox"/>	Member	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steward	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protector	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/>	Friend	\$500
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservator	\$3,000 +

Contact me about volunteering

I would like more information
on land conservation

Name

Address

Phone

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The Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy is a 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization. Your contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law