

Land Protection

NEWS



WESTERN VIRGINIA LAND TRUST

SPRING 2008

Record 10,000 Acres Conserved in WVLT Service Area in 2007 *36,000+ acres now under easement*

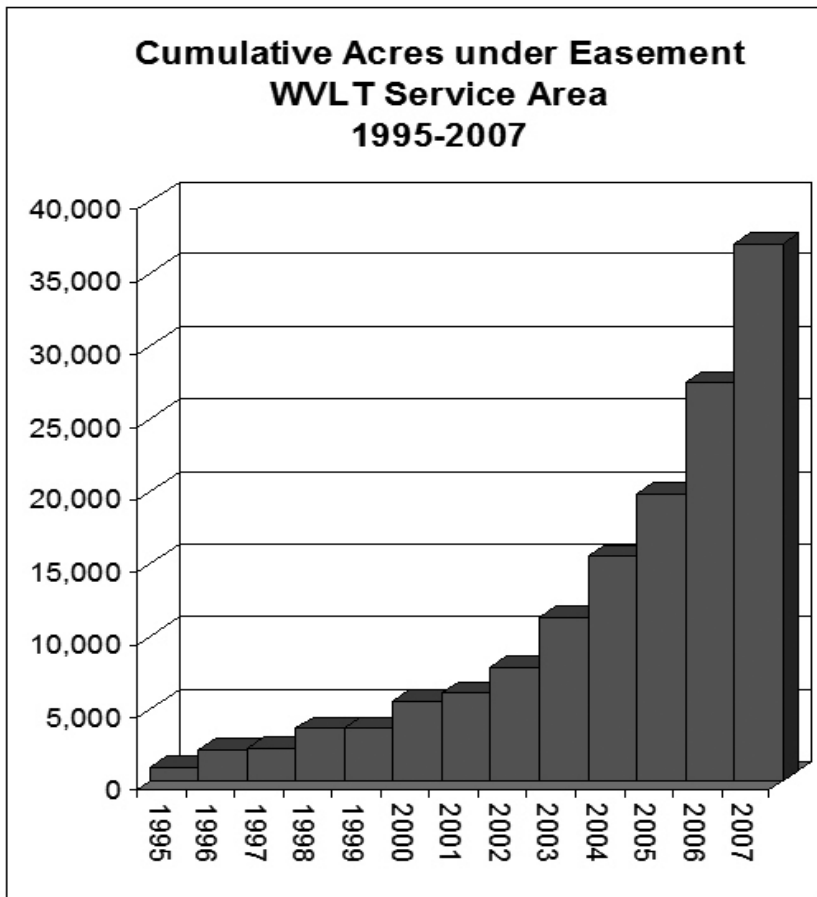
By David Perry

Conservation projects completed by the Western Virginia Land Trust and their partners netted more than 10,000 acres placed under easement in 2007 in the WVLT service area. The total acreage under easement in WVLT's service area now stands at over 36,000 acres.

In 1996, the year WVLT was founded, there was only one easement west of Lynchburg, a 1,000-acre easement in Craig County on Lanier and Thecla Frantz' property.

Projects completed in 2007 included Jim Wilson's easement on 878 acres in Franklin County along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Ray and Faye Hundley's easement on 855 acres containing the headwaters of Sinking Creek in Botetourt County, an easement on 590 acres on Poor Mountain donated to VOF, and the first ever conservation easement donated in the City of Roanoke, on George and Louise Kegley's historic Monterey homeplace in northeast Roanoke. Mr. Kegley is on the WVLT Board of Trustees.

"The word is out about conservation easements," said WVLT Executive Director Roger Holnback. "We're proud to accept some responsibility for nearly every easement that's completed in our service area, since most landowners who are doing easements now have at the very least received our newsletter, talked to us on the phone, or attended one of our landowner meetings. And more and more attorneys, financial advisors, and tax professionals have been educated through WVLT training seminars."



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**Look inside for your free copy of "Your Land, Your Legacy...Your Choices:
A Conservation Easement Guide for Virginia Landowners."**

From the President

Jim Kermes

What is success? How do we measure success? When do we know we have achieved success?

Speaking personally, I believe success is constantly around us. Some success has been achieved, and there is always more success to be achieved. You can establish goals and when those goals are achieved, you can declare success. Then it is time to establish a new and usually more ambitious goal. Therefore, some could argue that ultimate success is constantly sought but never achieved.

Throughout my corporate life, I always stressed that no matter how good we were perceived by our clients or the marketplace, we must always strive to do better. The client can always be better served and in the marketplace, there is always a competitor working hard to replace you.

So how does this somewhat philosophical discussion relate to land conservation, and more specifically, the Western Virginia Land Trust?

The WVLT operates with a long-term strategic plan. Annually, the Board updates specific goals for the organization as a whole and for specific committees of the Board. These goals provide both a directional and quantifiable benchmark against which we can measure our success.

This issue of our newsletter discusses the amount of acreage that has been placed under protective conservation easements. During 2007, over 10,000 acres, or 15 square miles, were placed in protective conservation easements in our 10-county service area. Since the inception of WVLT eleven years ago, more than 36,000 acres have been protected. That is more than 54 square miles! I believe that qualifies as success. However, we know there is still much more land that can and must be preserved. There is still much work to do. The Board and staff of WVLT deserve tremendous credit for their dedication to our Mission and the success that has been achieved. They are also fully aware of how much more WVLT can do.

There are two Board committees I would like to recognize at this time for their contribution to this success. You have probably noticed during the last couple of years that barely a week goes by without there being some type of newspaper, magazine, radio or television coverage of activities involving protective conservation easements and the activities of WVLT. That did not just happen by itself. The Education and Public Relations Committee, under the able leadership of George Kegley and Richard Wells, together with the WVLT staff, have consistently worked hard and been very focused on keeping the media educated and informed about the issues, opportunities and accomplishments associated with land preservation and protective conservation easements in our area.

Another Board Committee that is truly an unsung hero is the Stewardship Committee, led by Liz Belcher. They have the overwhelming task of reviewing all aspects of a proposed conservation easement, including specific language in the easement document, the land itself, and countless other details, to ensure everything is in proper shape to qualify as a legitimate conservation easement. They also ensure that land previously placed under easement is periodically inspected to ensure that terms of the conservation easement are being followed. These responsibilities are an awesome and never ending task for the Stewardship Committee and the WVLT staff.



Jim Kermes

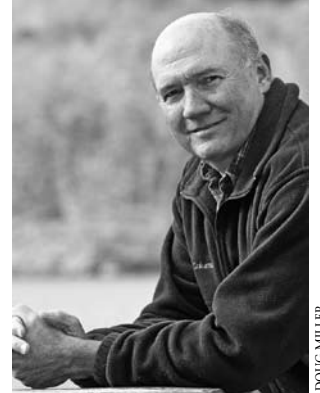
DAVID PERRY

Last, and of great importance to the future success of WVLT is you, our membership. You provide us with the moral and vocal support, the information and leads to interested future conservation easement donors, and the all important financial support to keep us functioning. On behalf of the Board and staff, thank you for contributing to the financial health and land conservation success of WVLT. We thank you and look forward to your continued support.

From the Director

Roger Holback

Conservation easements are really catching on in southwest Virginia. When you combine significant land value increases in the past few years, with an awesome package of Federal and State tax incentives, our region's landowners are excited about conservation easements and are doing a record number of them. The chart on the front of this issue tells the story when it comes to the numbers, but the numbers are the product of the increased awareness among our landowners of agricultural and forested lands of the alternatives they have to protect their land for their heirs.



Roger Holback

DOUG MILLER

I have vivid memories of making presentations six years ago, in communities where easements were as yet untried, and folks were rightfully skeptical of this "snake oil salesman from the city" who came preaching conservation and talking tax deductions. And like my predecessors Rupert Cutler and Michael VanNess, I made my pitch, handed out the materials and was patient. I kept reminding myself that you can lead a horse to water...but I could not make these good people do it my way.

I shared my passion for conservation, provided what education the opportunities allowed and let nature take its course, and given time conservation easements started to get completed. We told the stories of the families and the land in person and in our newsletter, and more people heard about easements. The easement donors talked to their neighbors, each year more easements were recorded, and more land was protected for future generations.

More families had the often difficult conversation with their children and grandchildren about the future of their land in the face of change and fewer farmers working the land, and looked into easements as a way to secure the legacy of their land for their children and their grandchildren.

In time the press picked up on the positive impact conservation easements were having in our communities, and now the paper talks about conservation easements on Read Mountain, Tinker Mountain, Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove on a regular basis and without having to explain what one is each time.

This winter Project Manager David Perry has taken the lead in the production of a wonderful DVD on easements, which we will give out at a series of 14 landowner meetings throughout our service area beginning April 1st, with easement donors, professionals and our staff ready to answer attendees' questions. We are on a roll and will keep it rolling as best we can, with the help of our great board, members, and those wonderful landowners who help us all by telling their story across the fence, at the farm store and in the parking lot after church. Thank you all for making WVLT a success.



JOSH GIBSON/VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION

A sweeping view of Galen and Ruby Brubaker's farm near Rocky Mount.

Brubakers Preserve Prime Franklin County Farm

By George Kegley

Galen and Ruby Brubaker have saved 434 rolling acres of Franklin County pasture, cropland and forest because they “love open space” and they want to keep it that way. After negotiations with their four daughters and seven grandchildren, they happily signed a conservation easement, co-held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the Western Virginia Land Trust. Conservation Partners, LLC, helped the Brubakers through the easement process and the sale of their state tax credits.

Their farm is located on the Carolina Springs Road between Boones Mill and Callaway, just across the Blackwater River from the 283-acre Sumrell farm, which has been under a conservation easement since 2003. Brubaker, a longtime dairyman and board member of national farm organizations, grew up five miles toward Callaway and his wife, Ruby, was born five miles in the other direction.

When they sold their herd of 150 Holsteins in 1995, after almost 50 years of milking at the GaleRu Dairy, they rented the farm to Paul Barnhart, a neighbor who operates a large 800-cow dairy. Under the easement, the Brubakers can keep the land for farming or timbering, sell it or leave it to their children and grandchildren.

Galen Brubaker, once a board member of the Federal Farm Credit, Cobank and Southern States Cooperative, said he wants to preserve the farm “like it is.” He and his wife, slowed by ailments and walking with canes, look back with pride at the land they’ve worked and improved since they bought the old Franklin County poor farm in 1949. They have seen what has happened to farmland in Loudon and Botetourt counties and the residential and commercial growth at Smith Mountain Lake, and they are satisfied that they have prevented such expansion on their acres.

In the future, Ruby Brubaker said, “We hope someone who wants to continue farming” will be working on their land. Her husband added, “I visualize someone who works hard may want to buy it.” From his experience on the Farm Credit board, Brubaker is “amazed” by the rising prices of farmland.

Their easements on three tracts require that forested buffers be maintained along streams,

excluding livestock, to protect the Rocky Mount drinking water supply and water quality in the Blackwater River, flowing into Smith Mountain Lake. Their land fronts on the river for about 5,000 feet, and this section contains two vertebrate aquatic species classified as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. About 80 percent of the riverfront land is comprised of prime soils and soils of statewide importance.

This section of the river is a popular segment of the Franklin County Blueway System. Brubaker Park, a public park and canoe launch that the Brubakers donated to the county, is immediately upstream. The Town of Rocky Mount has a public drinking water intake downstream from the farm, and this section of the river is within a Source Water Protection Area of the Virginia Health Department.

The Brubakers’ other two tracts are wooded and used for timber production. About 4,000 feet of Madcap Creek, a bold mountain stream, flows through the farm immediately before emptying into the Blackwater River. An extensive no-build zone and riparian buffers help protect the stream.



Boadhus Fitzpatrick/Conservation Partners, LLC.

Galen Brubaker poses at his and wife Ruby's Franklin County farm.

The easements protect scenic views from the Carolina Springs, Hickman, Coles Creek and Madcap roads. The scenic quality of the tracts also is protected through restrictions on colors and building materials for two homes permitted by the easements, setbacks from public roads, no-build areas along the highest elevations and forestry language which requires best management practices and limits the size of clear-cutting.

The Brubakers’ protected property is “absolutely wonderful farmland that could have easily become a subdivision one day,” said Roger Holnback, executive director of the Western Virginia Land Trust.

WVLT to hold Landowner Workshops this Spring

Free informational DVD to all who attend

by David Perry

The Western Virginia Land Trust will hold a number of landowner workshops all across the WVLT service area this spring to help educate landowners on conservation easements. Each will be about an hour and a half in length and will be held at public meeting spaces such as schools or libraries. Interested landowners are encouraged to come out and learn more about the latest news on conservation easements.

There is no cost or obligation to attend. Each landowner will receive a copy of WVLT's "A Conservation Easement Guide for Virginia Landowners—2008 Edition," as well as the Land Trust's new informational DVD on conservation easements.

Partners for this project include the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Conservation Partners, LLC, the Larry Woodrow Vest Fund of the Foundation for Roanoke Valley, the New River Land Trust, Valley Conservation Council, Bedford Citizens for Land Preservation, and Roanoke County.

This project received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Program at the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), via grant number 319-2005-39-SR

Additional partners: Roanoke County, VA, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Larry Woodrow Vest Fund of the Foundation for Roanoke Valley, Bedford Citizens for Land Preservation, Conservation Partners, LLC, New River Land Trust, and Valley Conservation Council.



Grace Terry Saves Poor Mountain slopes

By George Kegley

Drive out Honeysuckle Road atop Poor Mountain in western Roanoke County and you will come to Street's Crossing, a backwoods road intersection where Grace Terry has saved 590 acres of steep mountain land with a conservation easement. Almost a wilderness, these slopes are more suited for wildlife habitat than for human residence, Terry said.

The mountain easement, spilling over into Montgomery County, is donated to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. Under the easement, Terry's tract cannot be divided and only one house can be built, but that is not in her plans. Terry was introduced to conservation easements when she attended a landowner meeting sponsored by WVLT and heard WVLT Executive Director Roger Holnback speak.

Terry saved her part of a large family inheritance of land because "it made sense when there was a chance to protect the mountain and beautiful Laurel Creek," which flows down through rapids into Bottom Creek and on into Roanoke River. The property, just west of the television towers on Poor Mountain, is at an elevation of 3,900 feet. A sister and two brothers own nearby property which has been in the family since about 1835 when the first Terrys came from Pittsylvania County to purchase land from heirs of Gen. Andrew Lewis. The siblings are sixth-generation Terrys.

Terry, a teacher at the Science Museum of Western Virginia, worked in Austin, Tex., and Richmond before returning home. She recalls horseback riding and woodland walks as a child with her great-aunt Grace Moncure, for whom she was named, on the family farm on Bent Mountain. When she walks on the mountain today, she sees wild turkeys, grouse, deer and other animals and birds in their natural habitat.



Grace Terry stands on her Poor Mountain property.

GEORGE KEGLEY

2008 WESTERN VIRGINIA LAND TRUST LANDOWNER MEETING SCHEDULE

For more information, contact the Land Trust
at (540) 985-0000.
rev. 2/12/08

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Tuesday, April 1	6:30-8 pm	Patrick County Library Stuart, VA
Thursday, April 3	7-8:30 pm	Gereau Center Rocky Mount, VA
Tuesday, April 8	7-8:30 pm	Botetourt Co. Courthouse Fincastle, VA
Thursday, April 10	7-8:30 pm	Meadows of Dan Community Center Meadows of Dan, VA
Tuesday, April 15	7-8:30 pm	Carroll Co. Public Library Hillsville, VA
Thursday, April 17	7-8:30 pm	Maison Beliveau B&B Blacksburg, VA
Thursday, April 24	7-8:30 pm	Floyd Country Store Floyd, VA
Thursday, May 1	7-8:30 pm	Henry Co. Admin. Building Martinsville, VA
Tuesday, May 6	7-8:30 pm	Bedford Central Library Bedford, VA
Thursday, May 8	7-8:30 pm	Moneta/Smith Mountain Lake Library Moneta, VA
Tuesday, May 13	7-8:30 pm	Lanier Frantz Place New Castle, VA
Thursday, May 15	7-8:30 pm	Catawba Center Catawba, VA
Thursday, May 22	7-8:30 pm	Mt. Pleasant Fire Station Roanoke, VA
Thursday, May 29	7-8:30 pm	Back Creek Elem. School Roanoke, VA

Ed Talley Saves Bedford County Forest

By George Kegley

Ed Talley, onetime human resources man for Kentucky Fried Chicken in 58 countries and later an executive search consultant for 22 years, saved 104 acres of Bedford County woodland with a conservation easement donated to the Western Virginia Land Trust and the Peaks of Otter Soil and Water Conservation District. He and his wife, Melinda, three cats and a dog, live near Hales Ford on Smith Mountain Lake, about 12 miles from the forest off Rt. 24, near Body Camp.



ROGER HOLNBAC

Bedford County easement donor Ed Talley poses on his property near Moneta.

Talley, a native of the Richmond area, bought the former farmland from a timber company after a harvest and he immediately planted loblolly pines and hardwood trees. No trapping of fur animals is allowed along the creek, and he's proud of three coveys of quail in his forest. Talley said he has "no desire to do anything except watch the trees grow. It's a nice piece of property." His easement allows one primary and one secondary dwelling.

The easement provides for a 100-foot riparian buffer for about 1.5 miles along Creasy Mill Creek, which flows into the Leesville Lake, below Smith Mountain Dam.

Once part of a farm, the land belonged to three sisters and eventually to 27 heirs. A timber company "made a mess when they clear-cut the property, but we cleaned it up and planted more trees," he said. Talley wants to preserve more land but he hasn't located any open property.

This project received funding from the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) via grant number WQIA-2006-43.



ROGER HOLNBAC

Creasy Mill Creek flows along the edge of Ed Talley's land. A 100-foot riparian buffer protects the stream from erosion.



DAVID PERRY

Debbie and Larry Bright stand in their pasture along with their Tamworth hogs on their Floyd County farm.

Brights Market Hogs, Chickens & Cattle in Floyd

by George Kegley

Transplanted Pennsylvanians Larry and Debby Bright have conserved a 250-acre livestock farm in the hills of Floyd County with a conservation easement, held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. They sell their products—grass-fed beeves, hogs, chickens and Thanksgiving turkeys—to local markets and directly from their farm off Spangler Mill Road, about 1.5 miles northeast of the town of Floyd.

The Brights looked all over the state before they found their farm and began production with a lot of hard work. Larry Bright, a builder, cut the timber and constructed their handsome log home. Debby Bright, a former riding instructor, keeps in practice by riding every day.

Explaining their easement, Debby Bright said, "When we're gone, we want the farm to be used in a similar fashion... We hate to see land cut up with houses all over in a nice rural community."

They raise two litters of 10 to 12 Tamworth pigs a year, hauling the porkers all the way to Russell County for butchering to produce bacon, sausage and pork chops. Their 40 head of Angus beef cattle are solely grass-fed, a popular and healthy product nowadays. They sell eggs from about 250 commercial Red chickens, process three batches of 500 Cornish X broilers every year, and market about 50 turkeys at Thanksgiving.

On a snowy afternoon, the Brights were busy feeding their livestock. "Sometimes it seems like that's all we do," Larry Bright said. He doesn't have much time to enjoy the warmth of the Russian stone fireplace which he built. Its fuel is wood from the farm.

The Brights are "great people with a great vision," said Ruth Babylon, easement specialist in the Outdoors Foundation's Blacksburg office. "It was great to be able to work with a couple who are looking to the future."

They became interested in conservation easements after a conversation with Roger Holnback, executive director of the Western Virginia Land Trust. The Brights are "working hard to create an integrated, sustainable farm," he said. "It's a win-win situation when you can combine progressive farming methods with perpetual stewardship of the land."

The Brights' farm products can be purchased at Harvest Moon in Floyd, Annie Kay's Whole Foods in Blacksburg, Sweet Providence Farm Store in Check, and Roanoke Natural Foods Co-op in Roanoke.

From the Board

Richard Chaffin

Interest in land conservation has reached unprecedented heights, in very recent years. This is due in no small part to the efforts of the Western Virginia Land Trust, and other like-minded organizations, spreading the message of conservation. Partnerships have been forged, credibility has been secured, and conservation value is becoming better understood and defined.



Richard Chaffin

We must all remember that the value issue continues to be the most challenging aspect of promoting conservation. When an individual elects to consider placing land in an easement, he or she is making an economic decision, but the first decision must be of the heart and soul. What is the goal? As a landowner, do I care if another home is built on my property? Do I care what the view is for my neighbors? Do I care if there is more traffic, more children to educate, more people to commit crimes, more people to become sick or injured?

These are the core questions of the heart and soul. On the way to answering those, each of us must ask, "What is enough to leave to those who will inherit the land?" Is it enough to leave green grass, unspoiled vistas, forests of hardwood trees, and clear streams? Or must we leave every opportunity for economic betterment and forgo the aesthetic elements? These are the tough questions, and they vary with each person, family and set of circumstances.

While we all recognize those values of the heart, the economic values for conservation have improved quite a bit over the years as well. Tax incentives, cost sharing initiatives, and outright monetary exchange options have been tremendous benefits to conservation. They continue to play a role in offsetting the economic loss which will be sustained by investing in a conservation easement.

Most often, land which is "conserved" is also farmed in some manner. Though agriculture continues to be a major business in Virginia, the number of people entering farm work is diminishing each day. It will likely continue to do so, when those considering it evaluate the return on investment, and the risk involved to produce that return. The majority of Virginia farmers have other sources of income to achieve the lifestyle they desire. Most folks farm because they enjoy the work, the outdoors, touching the earth, and so forth – not because it's the most economically productive way to make a living.

The next, simultaneous phase of our educational work must be to work with government to find ways to more evenly distribute the tax burden, whereby provisions are made for expanding conservation. Many taxpayers are quite strong about talking a "green plan," but very opposed to supporting additional financial commitments to achieve its implementation. Those financial commitments come in the form of purchase of development rights, tax incentives, and simply paying the additional development costs when proffers are expanded on residential development.

Major conservation success has a long, uphill battle ahead, as it has for many years in the past. It is doubtful that I will witness a great

swell of spirit, during my lifetime. But the elephant can be eaten – just one bite at a time.

Richard operates a commercial beef cow/calf operation on the Bedford County farm on which he grew up. To support that cause, he is involved in residential and commercial real estate development, and is in partnerships with two small construction companies. He has the privilege of serving on several boards, which include for profit, and not for profit, organizations. He says it is a privilege to serve on the WVLT Board.

Easter Seals Virginia, Land Trust Work on Joint Conservation Project

Volunteers Needed for April 19 tree planting!

By David Perry

Easter Seals Virginia and the Western Virginia Land Trust are working on a joint conservation project to protect nearly two-thirds of a mile of Craig Creek in Craig County.



On Saturday, April 19, from 9 am – 12 pm, volunteers from the Land Trust and Easter Seals, along with Easter Seals program participants, will plant some 200 trees at Camp Easter Seals, the residential summer camp for children and adults with disabilities located just northeast of New Castle. The trees will be planted along the banks of Craig Creek to help reinforce the stream bank and guard against the severe erosion that can take place during high water events.

The Land Trust needs volunteers to help with the tree planting. If you'd like to help with this great project, please call David Perry at (540) 985-0000 or e-mail dperry@westernvirginialandtrust.org. No tree planting experience is necessary, but wear old clothes and bring work gloves and a shovel if you have them.

Additional partners on the project include the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation District, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.



**Western
Virginia
Land Trust**

STAY INFORMED! Sign up for WVLT E-News - periodic updates on the latest conservation news, delivered right to your e-mail in-box. Just send an e-mail to dperry@westernvirginialandtrust.org with the message "Sign me up for E-News!"



Area school children interact with the new WVLT kiosk at the Science Museum of Western Virginia.

WVLT Video Kiosk to Educate Kids on Conservation Issues

By David Perry

Area school children have a fun new way to learn about conservation thanks to a new WVLT exhibit at the Science Museum of Western Virginia. The exhibit is part of "The Living River," which features live marine animals and charts the course of a body of water from the mountains to the sea.

A rock- and moss-covered facade surrounds a video kiosk and eight buttons, labeled with such topics as "Why Should Stream Banks Have Trees?" and "What is a Conservation Easement?" Pressing a button plays a 30- to 45-second video on a widescreen display with sound coming from a directed "sound cone" speaker hanging over the exhibit.

"It's great to be able to expand our conservation message to a new audience—schoolchildren," said WVLT Project Manager David Perry. "It's so important to reach people while they're young."

The exhibit presented a number of technical challenges for Land Trust staff, including how to assemble an interactive kiosk from scratch. Ultimately, staff decided on the widescreen TV attached to a desktop computer under the exhibit.

"This was a project that took us a little out of our comfort zone," said Perry. "Not in terms of content, but in terms of Roger and I putting our heads together and finding a way to make the electronics work."

"We're very pleased with the way it turned out," added Perry.

The exhibit was funded with support from the Virginia Department of Forestry's Urban Forestry program and the Carilion Foundation. Lee Hartman and Sons of Roanoke provided the sound cone speaker and installation at a reduced cost. Truelove Fabrications of Wilmington, NC, crafted the realistic-looking rock facade from fiberglass. Chad Durham from Durham Imaging and Kirk Wray from Motion Adrenaline, both of Roanoke, helped prepare the videos and create the TV to PC connections.

The Science Museum of Western Virginia is located in Center in the Square in downtown Roanoke. For more information, visit www.smwv.org or call (540) 342-5710.



Hollins intern Emily Smith, stewardship volunteer Sandy Light of Roanoke, and WVLT Trustee George Kegley study a map at Twin Falls in Floyd County.

Hollins Student Interns with Land Trust

By David Perry

EMILY SMITH, a junior environmental studies major at Hollins University, completed an internship with the Western Virginia Land Trust during the month of January. Her duties including bringing WVLT's conservation easement documentation in line with Land Trust Alliance standards, as well as assisting with easement monitoring visits, writing press releases, working on E-News updates, fundraising, and other duties.

Emily is from Leesburg, VA, and enjoys equestrian activities. She hopes to pursue a career in an environmental field when she graduates. Thanks for your help, and best of luck, Emily!



Volunteer Luann Fitzpatrick of Roanoke (left) and Hollins University intern Emily Smith share a laugh while organizing records.



Carvins Cove Easement Update

By Janet Scheid

A conservation easement on portions of Carvins Cove Natural Reserve is proceeding quickly with an expected recordation date later this spring. The conservation easement will be held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) and the Western Virginia Land Trust.

City staff and representatives from WVLT and VOF have reviewed a draft conservation easement that would place approximately 6,150 acres of the most environmentally sensitive Cove property under permanent protection. The easement will be the largest ever recorded in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and would allow for trail construction and maintenance, small structures such as restrooms, kiosks and park shelters, and roads and utilities to serve these structures.

The next steps include having the easement approved by the WVLT board in March and the VOF board in April. Then, Roanoke City Council must formally approve the easement and record it.

The City of Roanoke has stated their intention to place additional Carvins Cove property under easement as follow-up management and capital project plans are completed. It is the hope of the Western Virginia Land Trust that eventually all of Carvins Cove Natural Reserve will be permanently protected by conservation easement to ensure that this property is available for future generations to enjoy.

In the fall of 2007 the City of Roanoke began work on placing a portion of the Carvins Cove Natural Reserve under permanent protection. The Cove encompasses 12,463 acres of natural woodland, forested ridges and water protection lying in both Roanoke and Botetourt Counties. The property makes up a vital part of the Roanoke Valley's water supply and is a prime location for outdoor recreation.



Janet Scheid

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