

Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy Member Leaves a Legacy

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because it was new and exciting. He went into active duty in July 1941 as a Second Lieutenant in the Reserve Forces and served throughout the entire war.

In January 1942 he married Betty Parker while he was on leave from Fort Drum at Christmas. She was in college, so after she finished her semester, she joined Tom in Antwerp NY, near Fort Drum, where they rented an apartment. Tom and Betty had five children, all of whom were born on military bases. She was a willing military wife and they had many adventures together after the war, returning to some of the places in Italy where he had served.



THOMAS F. HAYES

Tom and Betty anticipated a move to Richmond for an assignment there in the 60s, so they took a vacation to the area. They were not impressed with where they would be living in Richmond, so they dismissed that possibility. They traveled on to Charlottesville and they proceeded up Route 29, where they encountered Greene County. They decided this could be a place for them to buy land. In 1967, he bought a 227-acre farm on Middle River Road with several buildings, including a farmhouse, a barn and several chicken coops. He was in civil service at this time, and he would come to Greene periodically and stay in the old washhouse on the property. In 1981, after retirement, Tom and Betty made their full-time home in Greene in the quaint, somewhat run-down farmhouse.

Tom found that there was a lot of work to be done on the property. He and his son Bruce renovated the house, room by room, and removed and rebuilt fences all around the property. In the period of 1967-1981 Tom and his neighbor Al Ferry, a retired Lt. Colonel in the Air Force, made an arrangement whereby Al would have loan of Tom's cornfields, and in return he would manage Tom's small herd of cattle, six cows and a bull. This was an agreeable arrangement and by the time Tom moved to the property he had a sizable herd. So he settled into farming, taking that as seriously as he had his role in the Army.

Betty died in 1998 after a 56-year marriage. Tom was heartbroken and a bit lost. He made trips back to Illinois to see friends and relatives there and kindled a romance with Betty's friend, Louise Hinton. Tom and Louise knew each other well because Louise had been married to Betty's brother, but was now divorced. That meant that Tom was Uncle Tom to her

children, and she was Aunt Louise to his! They married in 2001 and built a second house on the property in Greene in which to start their life together. At his death they had been married almost 18 years. They thoroughly enjoyed their land, putting in beautiful zinnias, peonies, and vegetables, and basking in their view of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Tom was an active member of the American Legion. He served as chairman of the Greene County Electoral Board and was an active member of the Friends of the Library. He was devoted to the scouting program, and was a scout leader for two different troops. Because he was an Eagle Scout as a youth, he felt that scouting was a major influence in his life.

Tom was not only committed to protecting his land from development, but instituted conservation measures to protect forest and water elements on his land. He was a long-term member of the Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy.

In 2005 Tom put 121 acres of his land under Conservation Easement. His acreage, together with that of five other landowners nearby, created the Conway River Conservation Area of 1,310 acres. This is an area in both Greene and Madison Counties that provides land conservation protection in the vicinity of the Conway River. Tom was not only committed to protecting his land from development, but instituted conservation measures to protect forest and water elements on his land. He was a long-term member of the Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy.

Humble to the end, when asked about his part in the Greatest Generation, Tom's response was this: "When you're talking about the Greatest Generation, you are talking about the US citizenry, not talking about just the people in combat. Everyone in this nation joined in. Everyone tried to adhere to the new laws that placed restrictions on how you lived. There was rationing of gasoline and sugar, the grease you used for cooking was turned back in for ammunition, and you were limited in clothing you could buy. That feeling of being part of a whole community that was fighting the war, that's what caused them to call it the Greatest Generation."



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.

Website: www.brfoothillsconservancy.org | Email: TheLegacyoftheLand@gmail.com
Telephone: (540) 948-5444

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If you wish to receive your newsletter by email, please let us know at TheLegacyoftheLand@gmail.com

Please help support the hard work of the Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy

- Member \$35
- Family \$50
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I would like more information on land conservation.

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Please mail donations to the following:

PO Box 116
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VIRGINIA



VOLUME 20

SPRING 2019



Salute to a War Hero and Conservationist

by Patricia Temples

ON FEBRUARY 20, JUST FOUR DAYS AFTER HIS 99TH BIRTHDAY, **THOMAS F. HAYES** DIED AT HIS HOME ON MIDDLE RIVER ROAD IN GREENE COUNTY. "Colonel Hayes," as many knew him, was a highly decorated veteran of World War II, having fought in Africa and Europe in the U.S. Army 93rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion. He commanded an artillery battalion in fighting up the spine of Italy, liberating Rome, making an amphibious assault into France, fighting north into Germany and Austria at war's end. His leadership and bravery earned him a Silver Star and a Bronze Star during the war. He received a Legion of Merit Citation for his performance of duties for the HAWK Missile project from 1964-1967 during his career in the military following the war. He retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1967 after twenty-six years in the Army, but he served an additional ten years as a civil servant.

Tom was not a big man, standing at 5'9" and of slight build. Stature, however, is not about size, but about character, and Tom had more of that than most people. He was a stickler for details, for courtesy, and for integrity. He was an avid reader, and there were few topics that arose in conversation that Tom

In 2005 Tom put 121 acres of his land under Conservation Easement (*above photo*). His acreage, together with that of five other landowners nearby, created the Conway River Conservation Area consisting of 1,310 acres.

had not studied extensively and about which he knew even the most minor of details. He was the ultimate gentleman, standing when a woman entered the room, helping her with a coat, and standing when she left.

Tom was born and raised in Illinois where he attended the University of Illinois, which required two years of ROTC. He admittedly never considered a career in the Army, but he craved adventure. He rode horses and played polo in college, and later, when he found himself signing up for military duties, he wanted to be in a Horse Drawn Field Artillery Battalion. There was no such thing by that time, but there was the newly formed battalion of Armored Field Artillery. That was okay with him

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Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy Annual Meeting, November 18, 2018



The Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy (BRFC) held our Annual Meeting on November 18, 2018 at the PVCC Giuseppe Center in Gordonsville. Our meeting was very well attended. During our meeting Carl Schmitt indicated that 2 board member's terms would be expiring at the end of the year including Carl himself and James Maloney. They have both indicated that they would stay on if nominated and elected. Also, Kendall Tata has agreed to serve if nominated and elected. All three were nominated and elected.

After the business portion of the meeting, Sherry Buttrick introduced Lisa Mountcastle, President of Scenic Virginia, and Leighton Powell, Exec Director of Scenic VA. Ms. Mountcastle spoke to the group about scenic resources in VA and their organization, Scenic VA. Scenic VA is a statewide non-profit organization that works to preserve, protect and enhance the scenic beauty of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It was a very informative presentation about the importance of preserving the scenic beauty of Virginia. For more information on Scenic Virginia go to their web page <http://scenicvirginia.org>.

Following Ms. Mountcastle's very informative talk, we enjoyed dinner catered by Exchange Catering.



Three generations of the Henshaw family at the Annual Meeting (above). Lisa Mountcastle, President of Scenic Virginia (above right).

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2019, 6:30-9:00 PM

The Socrates Project, Poisonous Plants of Virginia

Speaker Alfred Goosens, Master Naturalist

First showing of poisonous plant paintings by Firnew Farm Artists Circle

Firnew Farm Silo, 19 Wolfstown-Hood Road, Hood, VA

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 6:00 TO 8:00 PM

Land Conservation Celebration

This will be a social gathering at the Morris-Tata Farm pavilion with a presentation on conserved lands and how conservation easements are used by local landowners.

Morris-Tata Farm, 874 Madison Rd, Stanardsville, VA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 4:00 PM

BRFC Annual Dinner Meeting

PBCC Eugene Giuseppe Center, Second Floor of Greene Library, 222 Main Street, Stanardsville, VA

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019, 6:00 PM

Funding for Land Management & Conservation

Free dinner and seminar

Orange County Train Depot Meeting Room

RSVP Peter Hujik, PEC, 540-395-2911

The Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy & The Virginia Master Naturalists present

THE SOCRATES PROJECT:

Poisonous Plants in Virginia

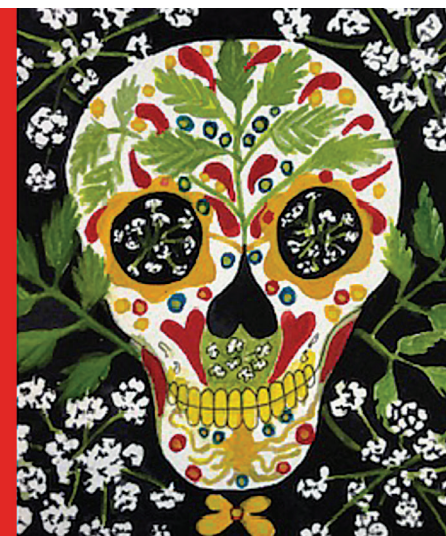
Alfred Goosens, speaker

Sponsored by Firnew Farm Artists Circle, Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy and Virginia Naturalist.

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019
6:30 - 9:00 PM

Firnew Farm Silo
19 Wolfstown-Hood Road
Hood, Virginia 22723
www.brfoothillsconservancy.org

Patricia Temples, Master Naturalist photographer



Mary Allen, watercolor

The Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy, Virginia Master Naturalists and the Firnew Farm Artists Circle present a unique program of horticulture and art. The heart of the program is a presentation by Mr. Alfred Goosens, a Master Naturalist living in Madison County. Because of the lack of information on poisonous plants and the effect they can have on humans, Mr Goosens, and some of his fellow Old Rag Master Naturalis, embarked on a major effort to identify and provide extensive information on 11 poisonous plants in our area, including the notorious giant hogweed. The publication documenting this research is called the Socrates Project, Poisonous Plants in Virginia.

Mr. Goosens happened to meet the founder of the Firnew Farm Artists Circle, Trish Crowe, who is also a Board member and past President of the BRFC. Their discussion led to the idea that artists in the Firnew Artist Circle would create a picture of each of these fearful but uniquely beautiful plants. This program will be the first time you can see these artworks while also being able to hear Mr. Goosen's presentation on the Socrates Project.

Conservation Score Card as of January 2019

As of January 2019, the total acreage under easement stands at 16,365 acres in Madison, and 10,543 acres in Greene. The groups holding easements are the Virginia Department of Forestry, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the Piedmont Environmental Council, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Land Trust of Virginia, who co-holds easements with the Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy. This diversity shows the options landowners have in terms of who may hold their easements.

Thirteen Conservation Areas have been established, areas where neighbors have joined together to put their land under easement. By preserving areas much larger than a single property, they protect larger view sheds, contiguous farmland and forests, lands critical to wildlife habitat and watersheds essential to our drinking water. Being in a Conservation Area also can serve to enhance the property values of the Area's landowners because of the local protection collectively afforded against future development.

Conservation Scorecard from End of 1999 to January, 2019

	Land Under Easement	Number of Landowners	Percent of Private Land
Madison 1999	1,181 acres	5	0.7%
Madison 2019	16,365 acres	72	9.3%
Greene 1999	374 acres	3	0.5%
Greene 2019	10,543 acres	61	12.9%

From the end of 1999 to November 2017 the number of Conservation Areas in both counties has gone from 0 to 13.

Join Us For A Land Conservation Celebration

Hosted by Kendall Tata
Morris-Tata Farm Pavilion, Greene County

Please join the Tata Family, Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy, and the Piedmont Environmental Council for a celebration of local land conservation. This will be a social gathering at the Morris-Tata Farm pavilion with a presentation on conserved lands and how conservation easements are used by local landowners.

PHOTO CREDIT: PATRICIA TEMPLES

Sunday, July 7th from 6pm—8pm
Morris-Tata Farm
874 Madison Road
Stanardsville, VA 22973

Light refreshments and snacks will be provided.
Please RSVP to:
Kendall Tata
(757) 343-9908 or kendall.tata@gmail.com

Blue Ridge Foothills 2019 Annual Meeting

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

PVCC EUGENE GIUSEPPEI CENTER, STANARDSVILLE, VA, 4 PM



We have an exciting annual meeting planned this year. In addition to the shortest business meeting known to land conservancies, we will recognize those deserving of a conservation award this year and have a delightful meal.

We have a particularly special speaker on tap for our meeting program. Professor Thompson M. Mayes, vice president and senior counsel at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Will speak to us from his acclaimed book, *Why Old Places Matter; How Historical Places Affect Our Identity and Well-being*.

Professor Mayes has spent his professional career preserving old places. In 2013, he was awarded the National Endowment for the Arts Rome Prize in Historic Preservation by the American Academy in Rome, and subsequently spent a six-month residency in Rome as a fellow of the Academy.

To wet your appetite, here is comentary from the book.

“While many people feel a deep-seated connection to old places—from those who love old houses, to the millions of tourists who are drawn to historic cities, to the pilgrims who flock to ancient sites throughout the world—few can articulate why. The book explores these deep attachments between people and old places—the feelings of belonging, continuity, stability, identity, and memory, as well as the more traditional reasons that old places have been deemed by society to be important, such as history, national identity, and architecture.”

President's Message

Recently, the local PBS station has been running excerpts from Ken Burns documentary, The National Parks, America's Best Idea. Filled with stunning photography of natural wonders and wildlife, it gives you special pride that our nation has taken measures to protect these wondrous places. But the series also explores how difficult it was to get support for creating the Parks even though they were always intended for the public to see and enjoy forever. Central to the Parks development was an honor role of individuals who persevered against strong opposition to create these permanent gifts to the nation and to form the National Park Service to oversee their protection.

Those of us who reside in Madison and Greene Counties are blessed to live life in the shadow of the Shenandoah National Park and experience first hand its contribution

to our environment. While not as grand as the idea for our National Parks, the concept of individual landowners voluntarily placing conservation easements on their land has many similar objectives. A conservation easement protects land from development in perpetuity while conserving open space, scenic vistas, farms, forests, rivers and wildlife. This tool allows neighbors to protect multiple private properties that create protected areas having a much larger conservation impact.

A conservation easement protects land from development in perpetuity while conserving open space, scenic vistas, farms, forests, rivers and wildlife.

While the National Parks may indeed be “America's Best Idea”. I would vote for the Conservation Easement to be one of America's Next Best Ideas”, one that lets individual landowners join the league of committed conservationists that have gone before.

Please take note elsewhere in the newsletter of the remarkable events we have in store for you this year.