

Land Legacies

BLUE RIDGE FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY

A Local Resource for Madison and Greene

Volume 10 Number 2

Fall 2012

BRFC Celebrates Conservation



Keynote Speaker
2012 Annual Meeting

Ben Cummings
Managing director
of Birch Capital LLC

Ben is currently a member of the Advisory Council of the Capital Region Land Conservancy in Richmond.

Conservation Awardees

Madison County

Bob & Dani Bernard

William von Raab

Nicholas von Raab

Greene County

Mark & Jill Myer

Carroll & Ellen Dean

Ronde and Claudia Barber

Andrea & Floyd Wilkinson

Frances & Eleanor Biasioli

Scott Sinclair

David & Paul Saunier

Bill & Brenda Jones

Victor & Janice Rosenberg

Carl & Priscilla Schmitt

Geoffrey & Suzanne Best

Stephen & Sharon Morris

Jay & Kathi Mason

“Join us for an interesting conversation on the mission of land trusts within the larger conservation and sustainability framework.

How important and effective is Virginia’s Land Preservation Tax Credit?

What are some of the challenges facing land trusts? And what can we do as individuals to expand our conservation initiatives?”

Ben Cummings

What is a Conservation Easement

Conservation easements are voluntary restrictions on the use of land negotiated by the landowner and the organization chosen by the landowner to "hold" the easement. The purpose of a conservation easement is to conserve some aspect of the land.

The terms of the conservation easement are entirely up to the landowner and the prospective easement holder to negotiate. However, the Internal Revenue Code established standards for easements that, if met, qualify the donation of the easement for tax deductions.

The protection of farm land, timberland, and open space, particularly where such land is under residential or commercial development pressure and where local planning identifies such activities as valuable to the community, are typical objectives of conservation easements. In addition to protection of wetlands, floodplains, areas providing habitat to important wildlife, and land possessing unusual beauty are also appropriate uses of easements.

Although easements must create a public benefit to qualify for tax deductions, this does not mean that the public gains access to the land. Unless the purpose of the easement is the conservation of some feature that is meaningless without public access (such as the preservation of a beautiful view), no public access is required.

In addition, easements normally permit the continuation of the rural uses being enjoyed by the landowner at the time of the donation of the easement. Land subject to conservation easement may be freely sold, donated, passed onto heirs and transferred in every normal fashion, so long as it remains subject to the restrictions of the easement. It is even possible to retain some rights to limited development of the land, including residential construction, so long as the retention of such rights does not undercut the conservation purpose of the easement.

BRFC Celebrates Community Gifts



Photo by John Mitchell

Ethyle Cole Giuseppe *"I just like doing things for people"*

As the Salutatorian of the Monroe High School Class of 1936, Ethyle Cole thanked the "kind friends" who had supported the class and said, "[I]f we give voice to our principles, we will never be ashamed to know that the boys and girls of the school are watching the career of this class. . . to follow in the steps of us, who lead the way."

For the better part of a century, Ethyle Cole Giuseppe has been leading the way in our community--to educate children, to cheer the discouraged, to preserve farmland, and to lend a hand to anyone in need.

A woman of strong faith, Ethyle has furthered God's Kingdom on earth one covered dish at a time. A lawn party at the South River Methodist Church on a sparkling spring day offers a glimpse of the hopes of heaven. People from all walks of life gather at Ethyle's tables laden with fried chicken, sweet pickles, deviled eggs, and every kind of cake and pie imaginable. Never sitting down, Ethyle greets everyone, keeps the food coming, and darts off to the kitchen to prepare platters to deliver later to folks who need a balanced meal, or friendly face, or simply a piece of German chocolate cake as a reminder that God loves them.

A woman of frugal habits, Ethyle is leading the way in our community in generosity. At a reception celebrating the opening of the Eugene Giuseppe Center of Piedmont Virginia Community College, made possible by her gift of \$500,000, Ethyle received a compliment on her elegant teal pantsuit. She confided that she had purchased the outfit at a Ruckersville thrift store for about \$12. The children and families of Greene County are also enjoying clean restrooms and healthy concessions thanks to her donation of \$100,000 for a comfort station at the community playing fields.

As a landowner, Ethyle is leading the way in the stewardship of our pristine landscape. The rolling hills and open pastures of the family farm, where Ethyle and her brother Linwood grew up, are preserved for future generations through their generous gifts of conservation easements on their properties.

But even her extraordinary donations of financial resources pale in comparison to the lifelong gift of service Ethyle has made to our community. Her energy puts most of us to shame. In recognition for her astounding commitment to community, the Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy is privileged to honor Ethyle Cole Giuseppe with its 2012 Conservation Award. Her remarkable stamina comes from her joy at helping others.



by Carole H. Schmidt

**BRFC Celebrates our Counties' youth
through the
Tucker Hill Memorial Scholarship**

**Shawn Sudduth
Madison County High School receives award
from Jeff Early –Chairman of the
Madison County School Board**



Annual Meeting Highlights

Chicken Roast and
Oyster Dinner
Blue Ridge Cafe

Ethyle Giuseppe
South River Methodist Church
Treats

Coming Events

January or February 2013-Join
BRFC, PEC, and Potomac Appa-
lachian Trail Club for a hike from
Meadows Cabin, Madison, VA

Non-Profit Social
Prince Michel Winery
Feb 2013

150th Sesquicentennial Civil
War Remembrance
Cavalry Battle of Jack's Shop
(Rochelle, VA)
September 21, 2013

BRFC Membership

Member	\$35
Family	\$50
Steward	\$100
Protector	\$250
Friend	\$500
Guardian	\$1,000
Conservator	\$3,000 +

Contact me about volunteering

I would like more information
on land conservation

Name

Address

Telephone

E-mail



Photo by Carl Zitzmann

**Rebekah Liberatore-William Monroe High School
Greene County shares her portfolio with Richard Young
and Leslie Barham at our 3rd annual *DuCard Vineyard*
event on June 9, 2013**

Land Legacies

Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy, Inc.
P.O. Box 116
Hood, VA 22723

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.

www.BlueRidgeFoothillsConservancy.org [E-Mail: Thelegacyoftheland@gmail.com](mailto:Thelegacyoftheland@gmail.com)
 Telephone: 540/948-5444

Sunday November 4, 2012
 4:00-7:00pm
 American Legion Hall
 310 Thrift Road Madison, Virginia

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 Board of Directors

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Artwork by Kit Johnston