

VIRGINIA

# Land Legacies

BLUE RIDGE FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY *A Local Resource for Madison and Greene*

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Volume 12

Fall 2013

## Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy 2013 Annual Meeting



*Cows in a Row, Patricia Temples*

**Piedmont Virginia Community College  
Eugene Giuseppe Center  
222 South Main Street, Stanardsville, Virginia  
November 10th, 2013, 4:30 - 7 pm**

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### Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker Matt Lohr

Matt Lohr serves as Virginia's 14th Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He was appointed to the position by Governor Bob McDonnell in May 2010. Raised on a century farm in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, Matt has been passionate about the agricultural industry his entire life. He was very active in the FFA organization where he served as state president and national vice president in the early 1990's before graduating from Virginia Tech in 1995. Matt and his family currently operate a 250 acre farm that includes commercial poultry, beef, row crops, and sweet corn. Matt has been deeply involved in the Farm Bureau organization, winning the American Farm Bureau "Excellence in Agriculture Award" in 2003. He also served several years as his county Farm Bureau president and chaired both the Rockingham County Planning Commission and School Board. From 2005 until 2010 Matt represented the 26th House District in the Virginia state legislature. Matt was recently elected to serve as the president of the Southern Regional Association of State Agriculture Secretaries and Commissioners (SASDA).

## VOICES of the LAND

The Blue Ridge Foothills Annual Meeting on the afternoon of Sunday, November 10th, 2013 will be the public unveiling of the VOICES of the LAND Project. Photographer Patricia Temples has documented Fairview Farm, the Lamb dairy farm in Greene County. Patricia has spent over twelve months documenting an agricultural way of life that demonstrates the connection between breathtaking landscapes and the agricultural enterprise. This is a traveling photo exhibit, showcasing the beauty of the



*Patricia Temples, Photographer*

farmland and a web-based presentation documenting the "behind-the-scenes" life of

the farm, from 3 a.m. milking to afternoons cutting hay, to midnight transfers of milk from the holding tank to the 18-wheeler transporting it down the road. Also to be included is a testimony of the Lamb brothers who currently run the farm, as did their father and grandfather. Part journalism, part oral history, their reflections on farming will be captured in a digital audio

format to interface with both the photo exhibition and digital slide

presentation through web-based distribution technology.

Patricia Temples, a resident of Greene County, has spent months photographing the Lamb farm night and day, rain and shine. Her portfolio as a professional photographer demonstrates an acute eye for a diverse array of circumstances and interactions.

John Berry of Madison County brings sophisticated and indispensable technical expertise to the project. John can provide the technical magic that will transport the voices of the Lamb farmers from their fields and barns to anywhere someone is holding a smart phone. He will produce the QR-Code and web accessible digital audio and visual files for the project.

Our inaugural sponsors include the Farm Bureaus of Greene and Madison Counties and Piedmont Environmental Council and Ambassador Alton Keel.

## LAMB BROTHERS

In 1952, John Henry Lamb bought Fairview Farm along the Rapidan River in Greene County. At his death in 1957, his son Carl took over the operation, purchased two more farms and more than doubled the acreage. Despite testing their wings in their early adult lives, three of Carl's sons returned to the life they knew and loved, and worked with their father until his death in 2010. Davis left the farm to pursue higher education in accounting. He is the "politician" in the family, serving on the Board of Supervisors in Greene County and as a director of the Greene County Farm Bureau. His speciality on the farm is crop management and dealing with all the agencies who bombard them with regulations and requirements. Steve served three years in the Navy stationed in Guantanamo Bay, but after serving, he decided that the peace of the farm and the



*Cornfield at Sunset, Patricia Temples*

cows was what felt comfortable to him. His primary responsibilities on the farm are breeding the cows, and monitoring the health of the animals. Charles married into a family of restauranteurs, and considered that life for himself, but one day he felt a calling to return to dairy. He traveled the US looking for a farm to purchase, but the financial demands of owning a dairy led him back to his family's farm in Greene. Charles is the dairyman. He manages the milking parlor, pays the bills and the workers, and keeps records on the productivity and health of the milking herd. Each brother has a personal perspective on how the farm should be run, but through mutual respect for the others' viewpoints and a willingness to assist each other with tasks as the need arises, they have combined their talents for a successful operation.

### **Civil War Lectures A Success**

Congratulations to Doug Graves & Willie von Raab for a fantastic Battle of Jack's Shop commemoration that included four separate lectures and re-enactors in period clothing, and a Living History Camp provided by the 7th VA Co "A" Infantry on its 150th anniversary. Over two hundred people made this possible. DVDs and tee shirts will be available. For more information, contact the Madison Historical Society.



*Willie von Raab introduces Frank Walker*

### **Blue Ridge Heritage Project**

Interested citizens of Greene County and surrounding counties have been meeting this year around a proposal to build a physical memorial to the families displaced from their homes by formation of the Shenandoah National Park. Also under discussion is development of a related educational program about the culture of the people who lived adjacent to the Blue Ridge Mountains before the Park's advent.

Greene County resident Bill Henry is heading up the Blue Ridge Heritage Project. The project aspired to establish a memorial in Greene County to the residents. An ultimate objective is to establish memorial sites in each of the seven counties where land was taken to establish the park. The Blue Ridge Heritage Association has formed as a non-profit to guide the project. Initial directors of the Association are Bill Henry, Jim Lawson, Kristie Kendall, and Ann and Roy Dye.

For more information, contact Bill Henry at (434) 985-7905, or [onarock01@yahoo.com](mailto:onarock01@yahoo.com).

### **Virginia Better Deal Fencing Aid Available**

Last spring, the State announced a new Enhanced Conservation Initiative (VECI) for Virginia farmers that provides improved cost-sharing terms for stream exclusion and pasture-land conservation practices.

Under the new and improved program, farmers can be reimbursed up to 100 percent of the costs of installing systems that manage grazing and keep livestock out of nearby waterways. Previously, reimbursement for this was capped at 75 percent.

The new VECI is managed by the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and available locally through the

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD). To apply, farmers need to have an approved program year 2013 cost-share contract with CSWCD. Call (540) 672-1638, Ext. 3.



*Restoration of Graves Grist Mill*

(L-R) Bob & Doug (BRFC Treasurer) Graves (cousins) are 12th generation Graves from the original Thomas Graves that arrived at Jamestown, with the second supply of settlers, in 1608. His descendants migrated west. One of his descendants was Thomas Graves, who married Sarah Delaney. They settled in Graves Mill (Madison County, VA) in the mid 1700's and about 1795, they constructed the Graves Mill grist mill. Doug and Bob are rebuilding their ancestors' grist mill which was in operation until the mid 1940's.

### **Tucker Hill & Diana Fackenthal 2013 Scholarship Recipients**

Thanks to the generosity of the Diana Fackenthal estate, the BRFC Tucker Hill's Scholarship was enhanced. This was a banner year of talent within our counties' schools and we were able to increase our scholarship gift and number of recipients.

#### Greene County

Megan Herring  
Alison Robertson  
Kelly Crawford  
Allison Dodson

#### Madison County

Tess LeLand



*Recipient Alison Robertson at  
DuCard Vineyard*

VIRGINIA



Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy, Inc.  
PO 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](http://www.BlueRidgeFoothillsConservancy.org) Email: [TheLegacyoftheLand@gmail.com](mailto:TheLegacyoftheLand@gmail.com)  
Telephone: (540)948-5444

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

Member	\$35
Family	\$50
Friend	\$500
Guardian	\$1,000+

I would like more information on land conservation.

Name

Address

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