

VIRGINIA

Land Legacies

BLUE RIDGE FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY

A Local Resource for Madison and Greene

Volume 15

Spring 2015

20th Year Observance of the Flood of June 27, 1995



*Leighton Brown and Stephanie Mendlow's Criglersville home
after the Flood*



Randall and Ruth Lillard's Graves Mill home



Graves Chapel invites you to Madison County High School
68 Mountaineer Lane, Madison, VA
June 27, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. L. Scott Eaton

Graves Mill 1995 Flood, 27-30" of Rain in 24 Hours

The public is invited to attend the observance of the June 27, 1995 Flood. Please join us at Madison County's High School Auditorium at 6 PM on June 27, 2015. Dr. L. Scott Eaton, professor of geology at James Madison University, will speak at 7 p.m. A video presentation of *NBC 29 News'* coverage of the event, which President Bill Clinton declared a federal disaster, will be shown.

The New York Times ran an article a week after the event:

GRAVES MILL, Va., July 1 - When violent thunderstorms hit and swollen creeks flooded central Virginia last week, this small farming town tucked among the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains found itself caught in the middle. Kinsey Run and the Rapidan River broke their banks in the valley below, and boulders and mud slid down from the mountains above. Much of what was in between just washed away.

'This was the most beautiful place in the world,' said Susan Hull, who spent a large part of her childhood here and returned today to help clean the mud out of her family's old plantation house. 'I guess you can still get a sense of that, even though there is this lunar landscape.'

The floodwaters carried off whole barns, toppled silos, destroyed farmhouses and transformed the grassy valley into a rocky, muddy mess. Dozens of trees, uprooted by the swift currents and stripped of bark, lay in piles where the waters left them. Acre after acre of cornfields resembled rice

paddies, with corn stalks plastered flat to wet ground scored by little streams of water.

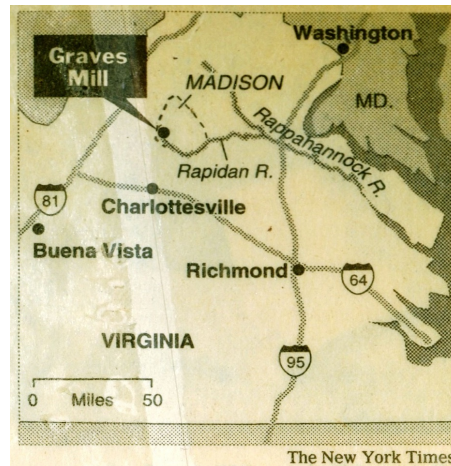
Graves Mill is in northwestern Madison County, one of three Virginia counties declared Federal disaster areas by President Clinton after a week of flooding killed at least eight people, forced thousands to evacuate and caused millions of dollars in property damage. State officials said that Madison County was hardest hit, and people in Madison County say that Graves Mill saw some of the worst damage.

The old Graves Chapel, built in 1885, still stands. So does the town's namesake grist mill. But the flood swept away the voting house, the garage, two abandoned country stores, the blacksmith's and the post office."

The Flood of 1995 dropped 27-30 inches of rain in 24 hours. Emergency facilities were set up in the high school gymnasium. Miraculously there was only one official death in Madison, Doris Frisbie of Criglersville; although Lance Estes suffered a heart attack as he was being airlifted to safety. He was admitted to the hospital, subsequently released, and passed away 15 days later in his home in Alexandria, VA.

The Hood bridge washed away. The Rt. 29 bridge peaked at 31 feet: 4-5 feet above the bridge where 795,000 gallons of water per second were measured flowing at the monitoring station. This is the highest recorded flow of water ever measured East of the Mississippi River for the size of the watershed.

For more information, contact Doug Graves at 540-948-3306 or DUGMILL@aol.com.



Conservation Workshops Update Landowners About New Programs



Rex Linville, PEC, Greene County Conservation Officer

Rex Linville spoke on April 2nd at our Sources of Funding for Land Management & Conservation Workshop at Greene Hills Golf Course. It included an overview of conservation easements and landowner assistance programs, options and cost-share incentives for landowners, and habitat restorations projects and how to make them more affordable for homeowners.

Presenters were as follows: Carl Schmitt, Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy; Kristin Ford, Virginia Outdoors Foundation; Kim Biasioli, Virginia Department of Forestry; Ashleigh Cason, Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District; Justin Folks, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Thank you to Greene & Madison Farm Bureaus, Farm Credit, Fox Hill Farm Excavating, Rivanna Conservation

Society, Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District, Madison County Conservation Fund, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Virginia Department of Forestry, and PEC for sponsoring this event.

2015 Tucker Hill Scholarship Recipients



Three \$1000 scholarships were awarded this year to Sheridan Santinga, Loni Woolridge, and Sarah Wagner. Trish Crowe and Richard Young presented these awards at Firnew Farm Artists' Circle's Mother's Day Show, *Small Treasures*.



Patricia Temples Receives Award for VOICES of the LAND Photograph

Congratulations for receiving an honorable mention at the Juried Art Exhibition of the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community. Her photograph, commissioned by BRFC, *Transporting the Milk*, was taken on June 23, 2013 at Fairview Farm in Greene County. DVDs of her project are still available. Contact Trish Crowe at thelegacyoftheland@gmail.com.



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 Email: TheLegacyoftheLand@gmail.com
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***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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