

# The Piedmont View

A MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE PIEDMONT ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

WINTER 2016

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Thank you for helping to protect the Piedmont!



# Trail Blazing

Pedestrian and bicycle trail systems can improve our health, increase property value, provide sustainable transportation choices and even strengthen a community's economy — especially in an urban area.

By Paula Combs

Something not everyone may know about PEC is that we've been working to increase public access to parks, historic sites and a number of different trail networks. This type of work helps provide more options for people in the region to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and connect with the land. Trails in urban settings can also provide a more sustainable and healthy way of traveling in and around neighborhoods. These benefits are why we have raised funds for the extension of the Warrenton Branch Greenway in Fauquier County and partnered with James Madison's Montpelier and Grelen Market to facilitate the creation of the Montpelier-Grelen trail, to name a few.

At the beginning of this year, it came to our attention that a 2.5-acre property adjacent to the unopened Biscuit Run State Park was available for sale. A seemingly small parcel, one might think, but — given the adjacency to the State Park — it was important to protect and secure this land for public use. The acquisition would also help ensure that other conflicting uses would be avoided on the property in the future. Sometimes, even a small plot of land can have a big impact.

"The property is landlocked, with the State Park just to the east, and it has a historic

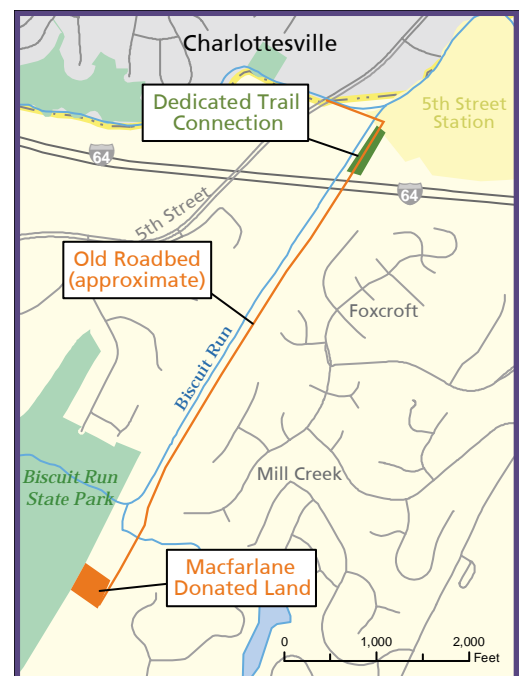
right of way along an old roadbed that could be used for access," says Rex Linville, Albemarle County's land conservation representative for PEC. "We reached out to the Department of Conservation and Recreation to see if they wanted to add the land to their park boundary, and they showed interest."

"The property would make a wonderful addition to the Biscuit Run State Park," says Clyde E. Cristman, director for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. "The land's potential right of way could provide recreational access to the park along the Biscuit Run stream corridor, and it would facilitate an important element of our master plan for the park."

With DCR excited about the potential addition, we strategized on how to acquire the land. John and Dudley Macfarlane expressed a desire to help with the project, and they purchased the property this past September from the prior owner and then donated the property to PEC.

"My wife Dudley and I were excited about the land acquisition because it achieved two important goals — preserving open space and connecting a network of trails for sustainable mobility," says Macfarlane.

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The above map shows the unopened Biscuit Run State Park, 5th Street Station shopping center, and the 2.5-acre property that was donated to PEC by John and Dudley Macfarlane in an effort to join the property with the Park and help connect a network of trails.

# Protecting Thumb Run

"What's good for wildlife is often good for water quality," said Celia Vuocolo, PEC's wildlife habitat and stewardship specialist, as she spoke to guests at the fifth Annual Thumb Run Open House.



PEC's wildlife habitat and stewardship specialist, Celia Vuocolo, speaks to guests at the fifth annual Thumb Run Open House.

This sentiment was reinforced at the event, held on November 13 at the Orlean Fire Hall, by speakers Amy Johnson of Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute's Virginia Working Landscapes Program, Janet Davis of Hill House Farm and Nursery and Dr. Tania Cubitt of Performance Horse Nutrition LLC, whose presentations focused on grassland bird conservation, landscaping for wildlife and healthy horse pastures, respectively. While the presentation topics varied, the underlying theme was the same — land stewardship supports clean water.

The Thumb Run Watershed Wildlife Corridor Project began in 2012 with a generous grant from The Volgenau Foundation, which remains committed to partnering with PEC and funding work in the watershed. Thumb Run is clas-

sified as an impaired waterway by the Department of Environmental Quality due to high levels of *E. coli* bacteria. The east and west branch of Thumb Run flow through Hume and parts of Marshall, before joining together near Orlean and emptying into the Rappahannock River near Amissville. Roughly 600 landowners call the Thumb Run watershed home.

Our project's focus is to create and strengthen wildlife corridors throughout the watershed, particularly around riparian buffers, which help filter runoff and contaminants before they enter waterways.

"Essentially, wildlife habitat serves as a vehicle to get to clean water. And we've expanded our focus to also include other land stewardship goals in order to support landowners who wish to improve the health of their property through other

Continued on page 3

# 2016 PEC Photo Contest And the Winners Are...

We want to give a big thank you to everyone who submitted to our photo contest! All submissions help us tremendously with building our photo gallery, and we are grateful for your participation. PEC would also like to thank our guest photography judge, Ken Garrett. As usual, we received many beautiful entries from our wonderful region — it made for a tough judging session to pick out the finalists. But, the people have spoken. By public vote, the winners of this year's contest are:

**BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES WINNER ▶**  
*Historic Slave Quarters  
at Ben Venue Farm*  
by Joyce Harman



**NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDLIFE WINNER**  
*Ring-Billed Gull* by Susan Tucker



**YOUTH WINNER ▶**  
*Shenandoah Mountain Path*  
by Jack Hardie



**LOCAL FARMS AND FOOD WINNER ▶**  
*Braving the Storm* by Becca Pizmoht



## PEC Fellow Success

Congratulations to one of our 2016 fellows, Annie Weidhaas, on securing her new job as a program and outreach coordinator at Scenic Virginia, one of our great partner organizations. The Richmond based nonprofit does critical advocacy work to protect and enhance scenic beauty across the Commonwealth.

Before participating in this year's summer fellowship program, Annie graduated from The University of Virginia, with a major in Global Studies, a concentration in Environment and Sustainability, and a minor in urban planning.

When we congratulated Annie on

the new job, she told us that having the fellowship on her resume was one of the biggest reasons she landed the position.

"After the fellowship program, I felt confident and qualified to search for jobs in the nonprofit world that work toward similar goals as PEC, like Scenic Virginia," Annie explains. "Not many students graduate with an understanding of tools for land conservation, and PEC provides fellows with an understanding of many, like land use planning, conservation easements and more."

Help us spread the word that the application for our 2017 Fellowship Program is now open! We will select twelve students or recent graduates

from across the country to spend seven weeks gaining hands-on experience in a unique mix of topics such as land conservation, land use, sustainable agriculture, energy policy, habitat stewardship, historic preservation, transportation planning and geographic information systems (GIS) with experienced professionals. Fellows end the program by developing and presenting in-depth practicums.

**For more information about the program, please visit our website at [www.pecva.org/fellowship](http://www.pecva.org/fellowship). The deadline to apply is February 21, 2017.**



Annie Weidhaas, 2016 PEC Fellow.

# Protecting Thumb Run

Continued from cover

paths," said Vuocolo.

Land use in the Thumb Run watershed is similar to how land is used in much of the Virginia Piedmont. It consists of large horse and cattle farms, wooded lots and mixed use properties that are 50 acres and under. In order to assist all landowners with their property goals, we have partnered with several organizations that provide varied expertise and cost-share opportunities, such as John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District, Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Working Landscapes and Friends of the Rappahannock. We've also helped organize watershed outreach events every year, which includes the annual Thumb Run open house and the popular "For the Rappahannock, From the Rappahannock" springtime event held at the Marriott Ranch in Hume, Va.

In 2014, we launched the "Backyard Habitat Cost-share Program," which assists landowners of any acreage with the installation of a wildlife habitat garden. This

program covers approximately 75 percent of the cost of native plant material and supplies, which are provided through a partnership with Hill House Farm and Nursery, one of the few nurseries in our region that sells only native plants.

Landowners are provided native plant groupings, which is a suite of plants (10-20 different species) that work well as a designed wildlife habitat, as well as installation advice and a garden design specific to their property. The landowner is responsible for 25 percent of the plant material costs and "sweat equity."

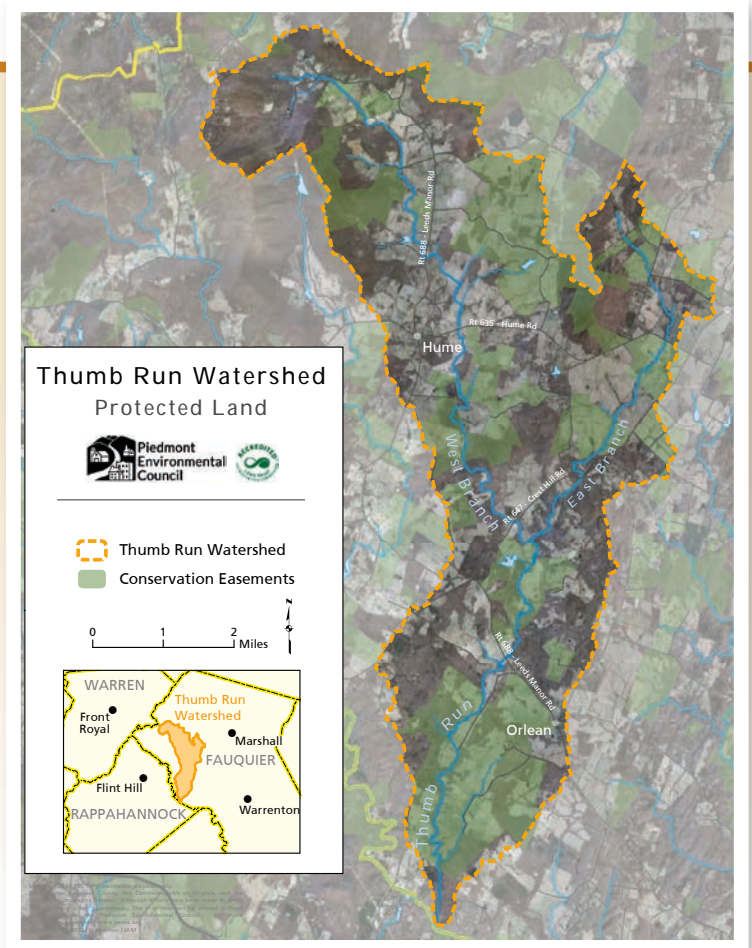
Since this program's launch, six private gardens have been installed in the watershed. Additionally, as part of the

program, a public demonstration site at the Orlean Fire Hall broke ground this past fall. The demonstration site will allow local landowners the opportunity to see a completed habitat project. Once finished, the site will contain a small 'pocket' meadow and a creekside native shrub and perennial planting. The Orlean Community Trail System is stewarding the project and providing volunteer labor. Native perennials, grasses and shrubs were chosen for this project that provide habitat and food sources for pollinators.

Since the project's inception in 2012, both PEC and John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District (JMSWCD) have implemented many on-the-ground projects. JMSWCD has been working in the watershed for a

decade, and has completed 26 livestock stream-exclusion projects, which have protected over 40 miles of stream bank. We have completed over 60 landowner site visits to provide technical advice, finished 10 projects and held 17 outreach events in the watershed.

Despite these successes, Thumb Run remains impaired and needs more work. We and our partners are committed to providing continued assistance to landowners interested in making their watershed a healthy place to live — both for them and their neighbors, but also for their livestock and local wildlife.



The Thumb Run watershed is shown above in the northeast portion of Fauquier County.

A view of Hume, Virginia, from Marriott Ranch.

Photo by Paula Combs



## MEET PEC

# Danielle Castellano

Development Specialist



Join us in giving a warm welcome to Danielle Castellano, who joined the

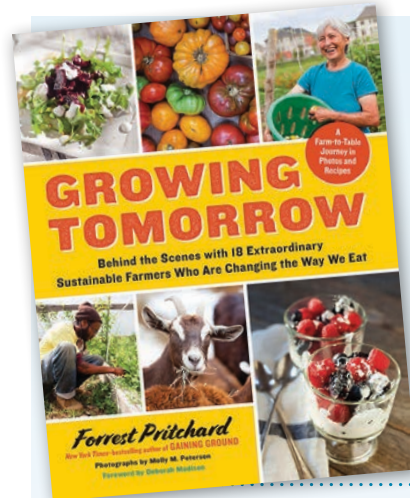
PEC team this past November. Danielle comes to us from George Mason University's Office of Sustainability, where she worked as a the Manager of Community Engagement. For over eight years, she worked at Mason on increasing the university's contribution toward creating an environmentally responsible campus.

Danielle says her passion for the environment stems from her love of food and food production. She believes there is a linkage between environmental health and human health, and sees the important role that the agricultural sector plays between the two. That is why she picked out this recipe from Forrest Pritchard's farm-to-table book to share with you (see right).

"For me, food has always been a great 'gateway issue' for getting people excited about caring for our planet. It's very easy to see the causal relationship between soil care and produce yields. High-quality produce grown on carefully managed land is something people can connect with," says Danielle.

An avid cyclist, hiker and gardener, she has a profound admiration and respect for our natural world. Danielle has shown great excitement to work with our donors, and she helps them identify and protect the aspects of nature they treasure the most.

Danielle holds a B.A. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution and a M.A. in Sustainable Food Systems from George Mason University.



# Mustard-Braised Pork Shoulder

From **Heritage Hollow Farms**

(Inspired by Black Oak Holler)

SERVES 4-6

From *Growing Tomorrow: A Farm-to-Table Journey in Photos and Recipes* by Forrest Pritchard and Molly M. Peterson

- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons sea salt
- 2 tablespoons mustard powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon Spanish paprika
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- One 4 to 5-pound bone-in pastured pork shoulder (Boston butt)
- 2 tablespoons grapeseed oil
- 1 white onion, chopped
- 3 cups stock (chicken, beef, or pork)

1. Combine the dry ingredients in a small bowl. Coat the pork shoulder completely with the rub. Refrigerate overnight, or for up to 24 hours. Remove the roast from the refrigerator 1 hour prior to cooking.
2. Preheat the oven to 300°F.
3. Heat the oil in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the onion and cook for 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, then remove the onion from the pot.
4. Add the pork shoulder to the Dutch oven and sear each side for 7 to 10 minutes. It should be brown, but not burnt. Turn the roast, then return the onions to the pot and add the stock.
5. Cover the pot and place in the oven. Cook for 5 hours, basting the pork shoulder every hour with pan drippings. Test the roast with a fork; you should be able to easily pull the meat off of the bone.



# On the Ground in

## Albemarle

### > Courthouse Relocation and Route 29 Solutions Progress

Under the guise of promoting economic development and using very general cost estimates, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors appears determined to move forward with a plan to relocate the county court house out of the City of Charlottesville, its location since 1762 and where both Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe practiced law. County officials heard, but seemed to ignore, the pleas from the legal community, who had valid concerns about the administration of justice and overwhelmingly argued against the move. The proposed move would separate the city and county courts by miles, as well as separate shared court facilities. Any final decision to make the move requires a county-wide referendum, which could come as early as November 2017.

PEC is disappointed that the county has taken this step. This is a pivotal moment in the county-city relationship — one anchored in a shared identity and, until recently, a commitment to a shared future. Moving the county courts out of the city will splinter that relationship and pit the two as adversaries in the competition for economic development and economic activity. Instead, the county should look for ways to unite more closely with the city toward a shared and cooperative future.

On a more positive note, there has been noticeable progress in 2016 on the implementation of the Route 29 Solutions plan, kick-started after the 2014 demise of the ill-conceived Western Bypass. Earlier this year, the lane widening and 29/250 ramp improvements were completed. In July, ahead of schedule, the new interchange at Rio Road was opened. Progress continues on the Berkmar Drive Extension, the Route 29 widening (north of the South Fork Rivanna River), and the Hillsdale Drive Extension — all three are to be completed by fall 2017, corresponding with the full activation of the adaptive signal system. Late next year or early 2018, planning should begin on the final component of Route 29 Solutions, which are improvements to the intersection of Hydraulic Road and Route 29.



Route 29 in Charlottesville, Va.

## Culpeper

### > Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park

There is an ongoing conversation about creating a new state park for the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain Battlefields. Unfortunately, there is also the reality of a large budget shortfall for the state. Given this shortfall, it will be difficult to get the state to consider the acquisition of any new property, but this battlefield park is better positioned than most proposals.

The battlefields are located in an undisturbed area of Virginia — there is not a state park within a 1-hour drive. The properties are owned by the Civil War Trust, and it could be offered to the state at a discounted price. The Trust is also offering to provide maintenance for the first 5 years of state ownership. The proposed park's viewshed is buffered by additional acreage in conservation easement, many of which were achieved with PEC's assistance. Lastly, there is a strong group of partners advocating for the project, including PEC, the county, and a slew of other groups and nonprofits. An official from the Department of Conservation and Recreation has claimed it is the best deal to be presented to the state in recent memory. We continue to work with our partners to ensure this anchor for conservation is realized, including a continued push with the General Assembly this session.

## Fauquier

### > 2016 Was a Full Year

We've had a lot to report on this year, including preventing the Warrenton-Wheeler-Gainesville transmission line that would have crossed 9.2 miles of new right of way through land in eastern Fauquier County; and working with the local community to reverse VDOT's decision to build a truck stop west of Markham off I-66. We are also continuing to encourage a thorough review of more cost effective alternatives to the proposed VRE extension to Haymarket, which in earlier iterations included potential rail storage facilities as far west as The Plains in Fauquier County.

This coming January will be the third year that Waterloo Bridge remains closed. We've applied heavy pressure to both VDOT and Fauquier and Culpeper counties this year, including a private donor offering to match up to \$500,000 toward rehabilitation, but there still isn't movement. VDOT won't pay for rehabilitation through usual maintenance

funds, and the counties won't contribute funds. We are unfortunately stuck waiting for VDOT to pursue demolition or replacement, which will trigger a federal review and allow us to comment.

There are also two major development proposals we are currently following into 2017: the mixed use development on Walker Drive in Warrenton and the Blackthorne Inn expansion proposed on Route 50 between Upperville and Paris. We are keeping our eyes on both, and will send updates on any significant happenings.

On the habitat front, volunteers from the Orlean Community Trail System broke ground on a public habitat demonstration site at the Orlean Volunteer Fire Department, this past November. Volunteers planted native flowering shrubs, perennials and grasses along the creek under the guidance of Wildlife Habitat and Stewardship Specialist Celia Vuocolo and Janet Davis of Hill House Farm and Nursery, who also supplied the plants. Work on a small native pollinator meadow, which will adjoin the creekside planting, will commence this winter. This planting is part of our Backyard Habitat Cost-Share Program, which is part of the greater Thumb Run Wildlife Habitat Corridor initiative. The cost-share program is open to residents of the Thumb Run watershed and is funded by the Volgenau Foundation. See cover story, "Protecting The Thumb Run Watershed," for more details about the project.

## Greene

### > Honoring Mountain Heritage

The Town of Stanardsville was awarded a \$1 million revitalization grant in September by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Part of the funds will go to a performance pavilion and market construction near the Greene County Administration Building, as well as the construction of the Blue Ridge Heritage Project memorial, to honor families displaced by Shenandoah National Park. A temporary monument was placed on site in late October to help raise awareness of the project, and the permanent stone chimney monument will go on the northeast corner of the same property. Construction of the monument is expected in the spring of 2017, with mason Darryl Whidby doing the stone work for the chimney. The improvements funded by the Downtown Revitalization project and the Blue Ridge Heritage Monument will both be great additions to Stanardsville that will benefit residents and visitors alike. Our historic preservation manager, Kristie Kendall, serves on the board of the Blue Ridge Heritage project.

## Loudoun

### > Planning for the Future

We helped four Homeowner Associations (HOAs) plant approximately 1,800 native trees, shrubs and perennials. We provided them with urban nutrient management plans, and finished up the effort in the spring with our first HOA forum, "Common Space for the Greater Good." Our goal was to help local HOA boards and managers consider more environmentally and economically sustainable landscaping practices. Over 150 HOA and landscaping company representatives attended and gave overwhelmingly positive feedback.

## Clarke

### > A Monarch Oasis and Educating the Next Generation

This fall, PEC and numerous public and private partners joined together to plant over 1000 plants to attract native pollinators at the Virginia Department of Transportation park-and-ride lot in Boyce. We hope this will serve as an important habitat for monarchs and other critical pollinators.

We also helped coordinate the 10th Annual Clarke Conservation Fair at the Powhatan School, this year. Fourth graders from all public and private schools in Clarke County rotated through stations, which were led by different conservation practitioners and had hands-on learning opportunities.

In October, we held a sporting clays event to fundraise and bring awareness to our conservation efforts in Clarke County. Many new and old members of PEC came out for the day.

This past summer, we finished the first step in restoring the health of Howser's Branch at Roundabout Meadows, the property that was donated to us by Roundabout Partners and is located near Gilbert's Corner. The cattle on the property have now been fenced out of all of the streams, allowing the stream banks to heal and streamside vegetation to recover.

We also facilitated the first Nature Stewardship Day this fall, in support of environmental education and coordinated on-the-ground tree planting projects at two schools in eastern Loudoun.



**PEC's Gem Bingol speaks to over 150 HOA members and landscaping company representatives.** Photo by Marco Sanchez

In 2016, Loudoun County initiated an 18-month work plan to review and draft a community-endorsed revision to the comprehensive plan. The Board of Supervisors has highlighted nine areas for discussion and potential revision, including the Transition Policy Area. Weakening or shrinking the transition area would spread development farther west, thereby increasing traffic congestion for residents already struggling with east/west commutes, putting additional development pressure on the rural area, and burdening existing and future taxpayers.

Though the Rural Policy Area isn't under review, there are clear signs that the county must address

points of conflict, because the current ordinance allows multiple uses that have the potential to be very disruptive to neighboring residents. We are encouraging the county to address the conflicts in a community-based approach now. The situation will only get worse if it's not addressed before the county experiences an even greater influx of rural commercial businesses.

### Madison

#### > Free Flowing Trout Streams

Over the past year, we have made significant progress in coordinating partners and lining up resources to remove antiquated stream crossings that serve as barriers to fish passage in trout streams throughout Madison County. On the Robinson River, we are in the permitting phase of removing its first culvert on the Robinson River, and we have worked with Trout Unlimited to secure partial funding to replace a failing crossing further upstream. When implemented, these two projects will reconnect over 12 miles of aquatic habitat on the Robinson River and its tributaries.

In related restoration efforts, Friends of the Rappahannock River and Ecosystem Services, our partners, received grant funding to replace stream crossings on Kinsey Run that were identified as replacement priorities in the regional stream crossing assessment conducted by us a few years ago.

### Orange

#### > Farmland Conserved, Montpelier District Proposed

This fall, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation awarded PEC \$250,000 to conserve working farmland along the Rapidan River. The project will result in a conservation easement to be co-held by us and the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). This partnership among farmers, PEC and SWCD represents a new state-local-private model in Virginia for protecting farmland and enhancing water quality — two key conservation priorities in

the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

There is also an important discussion going on right now about the future of Montpelier, specifically what types of uses and activities will be allowed on the historic property and its outlying parcels. We are aware of and share some of the concerns being expressed by the neighboring community about the Montpelier District. Those concerns are largely related to the type and location of some proposed uses, such as expanded retail, lodging, brewery and distillery, and the traffic — and the change in character they necessitate, especially along Route 20. As drafted, some of these uses would be allowed without a public comment opportunity. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on December 1, 2016. No action was taken and they are considering additional changes to the draft based on citizen comment. There was mention of the county hosting a town hall forum on the issue before a recommendation makes its way to the Board of Supervisors.

### Rappahannock

#### > Shenandoah Expanded, Brook Trout Swim Free and Community Tree Partnership

In 2016, PEC donated a property we owned to the National Park Service for inclusion in Shenandoah National Park. The property is surrounded by the Park on three of its four sides and adjacent to a federal wilderness area.

We are in the final stages of our first brook trout stream restoration project. This multi-partner effort will reconnect over two miles of native brook trout habitat and remove the only man-made barrier to trout passage on Sprucepine Branch.

This fall, PEC and Friends of the Rappahannock launched the Headwater Stream Initiative, an effort to provide free technical assistance, plant materials, and labor for the planting of native trees and shrubs in riparian zones. For more information visit [pecva.org/buffers](http://pecva.org/buffers). This initiative and the brook trout restoration work both are supported by generous funding from the Krebsler Fund for Rappahannock County Conservation.

# Why I Give



*"I give to PEC because I know my contribution makes a difference to the places and initiatives locally that I care about most. They have been an invaluable partner in my efforts to promote wildlife habitat and encourage the use of native plants, two issues that I care about deeply. While there are national organizations that work on the*

*same issues, when I give to PEC my contribution counts more and I can directly see the impact of it in my community."* — Lonnie Murray

*"This picture was taken at a Clarke County wedding. One look at the landscape and you know why I support PEC."* — Leslie Cockburn



*"I live in NYC but visit my sister Ellen Hill in Haymarket where she lives with her family and our horses. It's about five miles from the site where Disney wanted to build, which horrified us. I love PEC because you are so smart, articulate, and effective in working to safeguard the beautiful Piedmont. I'm so grateful."*

— Barbara Hill Chacour

*"Even though I live in Los Angeles, I support PEC because my sister lives in the Virginia Piedmont, and I have visited there regularly for more than 35 years. My heart is in those mountains. PEC remind's us that we have the power to influence our local, regional and state decision-makers. And as PEC members, we have something we all can agree on: the necessity of preserving the Piedmont for future generations."* — Sarah S. Forth



PEC wouldn't be able to carry out the holistic mix of conservation, planning and advocacy that we are known for without supporters like you. Make a secure, tax-deductible donation online at [pecva.org/donate](http://pecva.org/donate). You can also send a check made payable to PEC to PO Box 460, Warrenton VA, 20188, or call Nicole Erickson at 540-347-2334 ext. 7004 to make a donation by phone. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

# Trail Blazing

Continued from cover

“Without the Marcfarlanes’ help and charitable contribution, it would have been very difficult for us to protect this property,” says Linville.

We plan to hold the 2.5 acres until the property can be incorporated into the State Park.

Another unique aspect of the property — it’s only one mile away from the 5th Street Station, a new commercial development with businesses such as Wegmans, Dick’s Sporting Goods and Alamo Drafthouse Cinema. If a trail corridor could be established, it would connect

the park to the shopping center.

Due to the potential of trail connections in this area, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission secured a transportation grant to fund planning and construction associated with helping the 5th Street Station shopping center act as a bicycle-pedestrian hub. This could allow residents to do things like go for a bike ride through the park and swing by the grocery store on their way home.

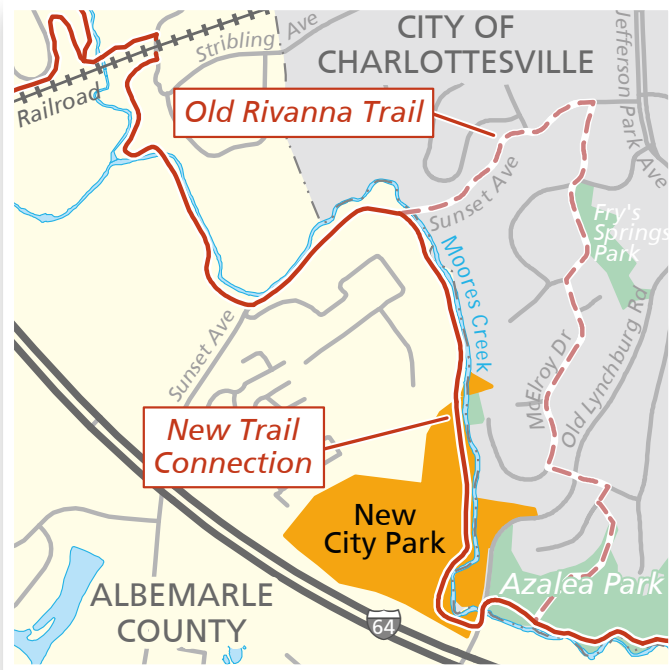
Looking at the even bigger picture, earlier this year we finished a multi-year effort to facilitate the transfer of a 27-acre property to the City of Charlottesville. The parcel runs along Moores Creek and is immediately across Old Lynchburg Road from Azalea Park. The land acts as an important link along the Rivanna

Trail. It also opens a section of the trail corridor that was previously routed along city street, since there was no access permitted on the north side of the creek. At one point, the property was slated for a 280-apartment complex, but it was a challenging site because of steep slopes, a large floodplain and poor access.

“After years of working with the family that owned the property, we were eventually able to connect them with musician Dave Matthews and his band manager, Coran Cap-



The historic old roadbed (on the left) runs along the 2.5-acre property near the unopened Biscuit Run State Park, which could act as a potential right of way to the Park. Photo by Rex Linville



PEC facilitated the transfer of a 27-acre property to the City of Charlottesville (shown in orange), earlier this year. This map shows how the parcel acts as an important link to the Rivanna Trail corridor, along Moores Creek and to Azalea Park.

shaw, who were interested in acquiring the property and donating it to the city as parkland and as part of the future Moores Creek greenway corridor,” says Linville.

The two different properties are about 2 miles away from each other. However, Moores Creek and Biscuit Run — the water corridors that border the properties — intersect at the 5th Street Station shopping center.

There are a number of other possible acquisitions in the works, along Moores Creek in particular, that would

tie into the overall effort. Biscuit Run State Park also has another desirable parcel by it that is landlocked, along the same right of way as the 2.5-acre property.

“We are encouraging the state to open Biscuit Run in some capacity soon, instead of waiting on the \$42.5 million called for in the master plan. A softer launch would come with a much lower price-tag, and might include a parking area, some trails, signage and day-time access to the park” Linville explains with a hopeful voice.

## Reflecting on the life of John Jaske

We would like to remember John Jaske, who passed away on October 15, 2016. John served on the PEC board with distinction since 1998, following the lead of his wife Pam, who served on the Board in the early 1990s.

He helped lead the fight against Disney’s America, championed the creation of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, and encouraged a new approach to transportation and land use in Virginia.

He supported our Orange County effort and championed the beautiful Rapidan River valley. “Over the past few months, I’ve been driving River Road on my trips to Montpelier and Charlottesville in honor of John. My sincerest hope is that in his last few weeks, he enjoyed the beautiful autumn weather and the sun on the incredible green, fertile valley that was his home,” says Chris Miller, PEC President.

John chaired the Virginia League of Conservation Voters, presiding over the successful effort to make the League a major force in Virginia politics, both in the General Assembly and in elections of statewide offices.

He also helped lead a small group of business leaders, the New Dominion Business Council, who argued for an end to the state subsidy of sprawl,

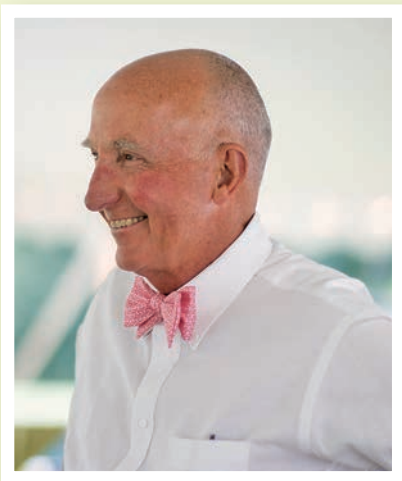


Photo courtesy of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters

particularly the Outer Beltway. The Coalition for Smarter Growth and the campaign to stop the sales tax for highways in Northern Virginia owe their success to John’s efforts.

John was always a great supporter, an objective legal mind, and a kind friend. He was a great counsellor, patiently listening to all sides, then delivering a succinct summary and a set of choices. He did this professionally with great success. His willingness to volunteer that role for the conservation community of the Piedmont and the Commonwealth of Virginia was a priceless gift to us all.

## Remembering Leading Loudoun Conservationist Su Webb

Su Webb, a fierce advocate for conservation and historic preservation, passed away on October 18, 2016. Su served on the PEC board beginning in 2012 and chaired the PEC Loudoun advisory board as one of her many leadership positions in Loudoun County. She was honored for her lifetime of work when she was named the 2012 Heritage Hero by the Mosby Heritage Association and was inducted as a Loudoun Laurel.

She pushed to make the former Greenvest development project into a state park, spearheaded the efforts to create a regional park at Gilbert’s Corner, sponsored our Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign in Loudoun County, and

provided a bridge to many Loudoun organizations. She was also a founding member of the Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy.

“Su was a master networker, and had the power to connect people doing important work in different organizations. She knew the power of a quiet conversation versus strident public protestations,” says Chris Miller, PEC President.

She also led the effort to create and sustain the Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum and its collection of farming implements and records. Su was a member of the Loudoun Preservation Society, the War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee for Loudoun, Aldie Heritage Association and Loudoun Heritage and Conservation Coalition.

Additionally, Su had a passion for public recreation, having served as Chair of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and spending 20 years on the Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board, 6 years as vice chair and 12 years as chair.

All of us who work on issues in Loudoun will miss Su and her absolute dedication to conservation and preservation.



# Out & About

## Sporting Clays Fundraiser

KEARNEYSVILLE, WV • OCTOBER 19, 2016

PEC's Gem Bingol and Nan Moring tabling at the Sporting Clays event. The event raised funds and brought awareness to our conservation efforts in Clarke County.  
*Photo by John Moring*



Guests mingle outside of Prospect Hall Shooting Club at the Sporting Clays event.  
*Photo by John Moring*



## 5th Annual Thumb Run Open House

ORLEAN, VA • NOVEMBER 13, 2016



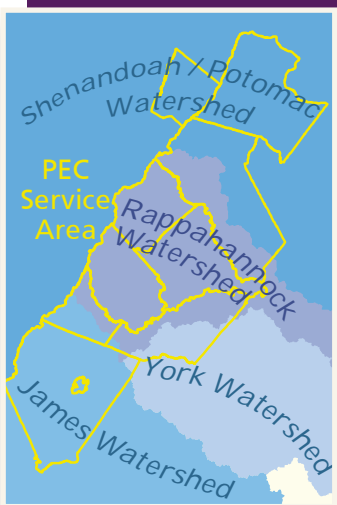
Amy Johnson, from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute's Virginia Working Landscapes Program, speaks to guest at the fifth annual Thumb Run Open House about landscaping for wildlife.  
*Photo by Paula Combs*



Dr. Tania Cubitt of Performance Horse Nutrition LLC talks about healthy horse pastures to guests at the fifth annual Thumb Run Open House.  
*Photo by Paula Combs*

## Pop Quiz

How many 'major' watersheds are in our nine-county service area (Albemarle, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier, Greene, Loudoun, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock)?



ANSWER

**c) 4**

There are four major watersheds in the PEC's nine-county service region, which are:

- 1) Potomac-Shenandoah watershed (Fauquier County, Clarke, Loudoun)
- 2) Rappahannock watershed (Fauquier, Rappahannock, Culpeper, Madison, Greene, Orange County and a tiny corner of Albemarle County)
- 3) York watershed (Orange County, and a tiny corner of Albemarle County)
- 4) James watershed (Greene and Albemarle Counties)

Watersheds often cross multiple county lines, so counties can be a part of multiple watersheds.

## Headwater Stream Initiative Kicks Off

UPPER RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY, VA  
FALL 2016



PEC's Rappahannock land conservation representative, Carolyn Sedgwick and PEC partner Bryan Hofmann, from Friends of the Rappahannock work together on the Headwater Stream Initiative. Read more about the project on page 5 in the Rappahannock County update.  
*Photo by Bryan Hofmann*

## Brook Trout Stream Restoration Projects

RAPPAHANNOCK AND MADISON COUNTIES, VA • THROUGHOUT 2016

PEC's Rappahannock land conservation representative, Carolyn Sedgwick (middle), and PEC's wildlife habitat and stewardship specialist, Celia Vuocolo (right), speak with reporter Whitney Pipkin (left) about our brook trout stream restoration project in Rappahannock and Madison counties, while showing her culverts that need to be replaced on Sprucepine Branch, a Rappahannock tributary.  
*Photo by Paula Combs*



# Dear Friends,

A lot of people have asked for my take on the recent election. And it is clear from the emails and phone calls I've received that there is concern — particularly from members of the environmental community — about what direction federal policy will go over the next four years.

What parts of campaign rhetoric will become reality? On that subject, only time will tell. With each new administration comes the need to reach out, listen well and advocate for what you believe in.

Here at The Piedmont Environmental Council, we have historically tried not to rely on federal policies, but rather the direct actions of residents, landowners and businesses in the Piedmont region. It's a bi-partisan approach, and something people of all political stripes can rally around.

This type of local work is why groups like PEC exist in the first place.

It is because so much of what impacts our environment and quality of life is determined by decision-makers at the local, regional, and state level. It is because we have never in our history been able to rely solely on the federal government for the changes or protections our communities need. And it is because individuals, like you, can and do make

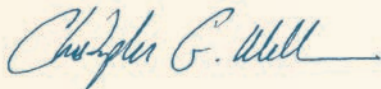
.....  
**So much of what impacts our environment and quality of life is determined by decision-makers at the local, regional, and state level.**  
.....

a difference.

The bottom line is that I am more determined than ever to continue our work. Every day we tackle projects that can make our communities and their environment better. Some days we make a little bit of progress. Occasionally we have setbacks. And sometimes we have big successes. But the key is that we are working hard every day, all year long to improve the quality of the water we drink, the air that we breathe, the food that we grow and the land that we love.

So join me in rededicating ourselves to making good things happen.

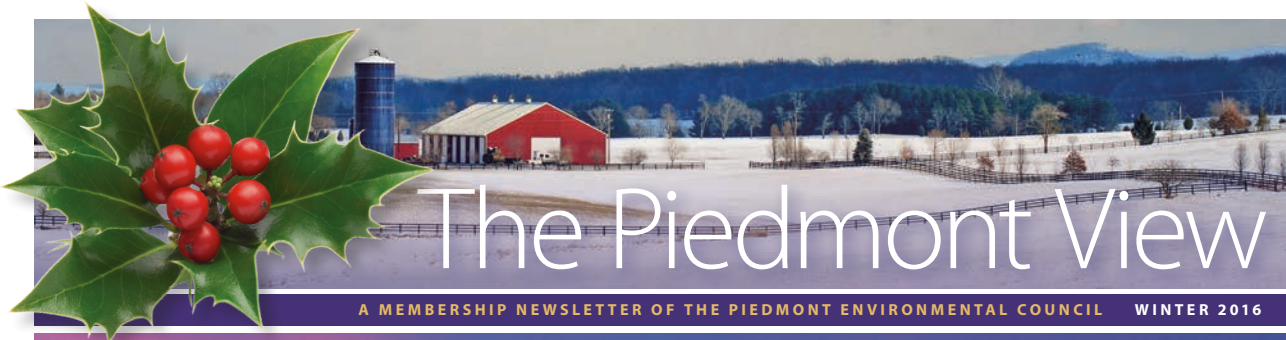
Sincerely,



**Chris Miller, President**



Photo by Joyce Harman



## The Piedmont View

A MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE PIEDMONT ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL WINTER 2016



### INSIDE

See the winners of PEC's 2016 Photo Contest, read an update on the Thumb Run Watershed project, learn about the work PEC is doing with trail networks, and so much more!

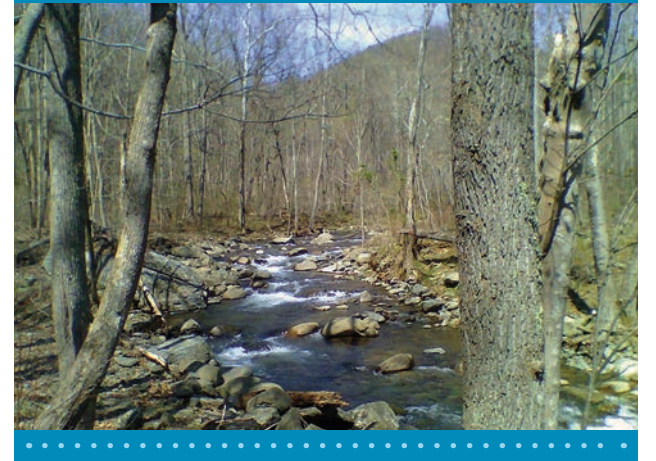
Cover photo by Jacob Chang-Rasclé  
Banner photo by Kathy Russell

## Pop Quiz

How many 'major' watersheds are in PEC's nine-county service area (Albemarle, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier, Greene, Loudoun, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock)?

- a) 2    b) 3    c) 4    d) 5

ANSWER ON PAGE 7



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