



# VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION

Spring 2007 Newsletter

## VOF Moves Virginia 70,000 Acres Closer to Governor Kaine's 400,000 Acre Conservation Goal

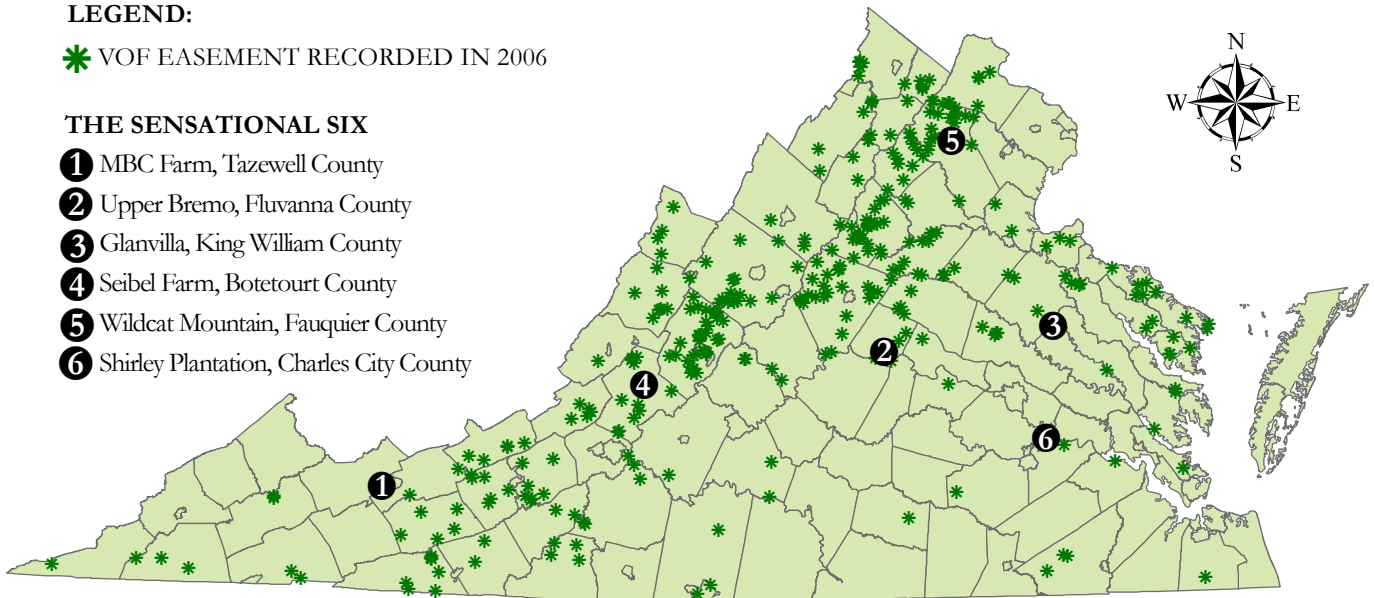
### VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION 2006 EASEMENTS

#### LEGEND:

\* VOF EASEMENT RECORDED IN 2006

#### THE SENSATIONAL SIX


- ❶ MBC Farm, Tazewell County
- ❷ Upper Bremo, Fluvanna County
- ❸ Glanville, King William County
- ❹ Seibel Farm, Botetourt County
- ❺ Wildcat Mountain, Fauquier County
- ❻ Shirley Plantation, Charles City County




In his January 10, 2007 State of the Commonwealth Speech Governor Kaine stated, “One of our greatest responsibilities is to protect our natural heritage so that our children and our grandchildren can look on these places with the same awe and wonder we feel. In honor of our 400th anniversary, I have made it a goal to protect 400,000 acres of open space by 2010. Together, we will reach that goal. Since January of 2006, we have conserved 93,000 acres, the vast majority of which has been preserved through the Virginia Outdoors Foundation – for whom this has been a record year.” It certainly has - in 2006 alone, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation received new easements on approximately 70,894 acres, and strengthened terms on existing VOF easements on another 5,759 acres. These perpetual easements protect valuable farms and forests, open-space and scenic vistas, historic properties and buildings, important archeological and scientific sites, and critical watersheds throughout Virginia.


ENCOURAGING THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE

## 2006 VOF Acreage Breakdown By County

LOCALITY	2006 ACRES	TOTAL ACRES		LOCALITY	2006 ACRES	TOTAL ACRES
Albemarle	4,527	53,427		Lee	32	331
Alleghany	386	4,336		Loudoun	740	21,336
Amherst	345	2,164		Louisa	179	4,417
Augusta	2,436	10,523		Lunenburg	140	484
Bath	2,616	13,784		Madison	2,565	8,896
Bedford	51	3,110		Middlesex	476	753
Bland*	1,015	1,015		Montgomery	692	6,653
Botetourt	2,422	4,258		Nelson	940	7,156
Campbell	1,118	2,826		Northumberland	231	864
Caroline	1,696	2,385		Orange	1,684	21,394
Carroll	471	1,051		Page	152	1,065
Charles City (Co.)	148	1,231		Patrick	771	824
Chesapeake (City)	153	542		Pittsylvania	179	544
Clarke	472	14,951		Powhatan	1,341	1,637
Craig	927	3,362		Prince George	475	853
Culpeper	771	5,860		Pulaski	1,566	2,212
Danville (City)*	73	73		Rappahannock	1,873	24,730
Dinwiddie*	100	100		Richmond	136	3,134
Essex	2,110	4,121		Roanoke	89	640
Fauquier	2,776	62,138		Rockbridge	6,918	17,630
Floyd	167	3,270		Rockingham	1,085	2,197
Fluvanna	2,458	7,102		Russell	96	925
Franklin	832	2,028		Scott	156	428
Frederick	605	2,502		Shenandoah	442	2,646
Giles	836	2,191		Southampton*	436	436
Gloucester	43	444		Spotsylvania	617	2,057
Goochland	392	1,215		Stafford	157	713
Grayson	933	3,868		Surry	308	308
Greene	2,714	5,335		Tazewell	4,330	4,568
Hanover	1,002	1,426		Warren	181	5,695
Highland	2,568	4,423		Washington	226	541
King & Queen	101	2,809		Westmoreland	1,494	5,335
King George	231	2,896		Wythe	1,034	2,379
King William	1,070	4,175		York*	18	18
Lancaster	618	976		Total:	70,942	389,716

 See complete and updated tables on our website: [www.vofonline.org](http://www.vofonline.org)

 \*Localities where landowners gave easements to VOF for the first time in 2006

 Localities with VOF Easements but no projects in 2006 include: Accomack, Amelia, Appomattox, Bedford (City), Buckingham, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Fairfax, Fredericksburg, Galax, Halifax, Henrico, Henry, Lynchburg, Mathews, New Kent, Northampton, Nottoway, Orange (Town), Prince Edward, Prince William, Radford, Smyth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Winchester, and Wise.



## ***A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, G. ROBERT LEE: PRESERVING VIRGINIA'S "UNCOMMON WEALTH"***

Calendar Year 2006 was a phenomenal year for land conservation in Virginia. Records maintained by the Department of Conservation and Recreation indicate that VOF easements constituted 84% of all easements recorded in Virginia in 2006. Total land conservation for the Commonwealth in 2006 was more than 90,000 acres. VOF easements were placed on over 70,000 acres of cultural and natural heritage lands in 2006 bringing the total lands under perpetual VOF easement to more than 400,000 acres. This record acreage for VOF represents an increase of almost 70% above any previous year.

The recordation of an easement is truly just the beginning of VOF's equitable interest in the 'uncommon wealth' represented by the cultural and natural heritage landscapes that we jointly hold in trust with private landowners. Each new easement - and there were approximately 350 new easements in 2006 - brings with it a permanent stewardship responsibility. This entails record keeping, visiting each property on a regular basis, answering landowners' questions and educating subsequent land owners about the easements on their properties.

We will continue to strive to work with both public and private sector partners to expand the Virginia conservation lands portfolio, but we must also seek and allocate adequate resources to fulfill our ongoing legal obligation to protect the conservation purposes enumerated

in the easements we hold. The VOF Stewardship Division has grown dramatically in the last several years, as has the number of easements held by VOF. Virginians can be proud of the good work of all the dedicated VOF employees, but we can be particularly proud of the significant strides we have made in our stewardship program.

The members of the VOF Board of Trustees are to be commended for their extraordinary diligence in carefully reviewing each easement recorded in 2006. The Board agenda packages were larger than the size of major metropolitan area phone books, and the Governor's appointed Trustees maintained their established practice of discussing and voting on each and every easement project. The citizens of Virginia are well represented by these stewards of the public trust.

Finally, I wish to commend the VOF staff, private attorneys, and conservation partners who helped VOF and the Office of the Attorney General complete a new easement template. The new template was the result of a complex iterative process, and the careful attention to detail exhibited by all participants will serve VOF and conservation-inclined landowners well for many years to come.

### **Board of Trustees:**

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*Jeffrey K. Walker  
Northampton*

*Molly Joseph Ward  
Hampton*



### **Welcome!**

Our newest Board Member, appointed by the Governor, is Molly Joseph Ward. Ms. Ward is the Treasurer for the City of Hampton and is active in many community activities and organizations.

# VOF's "Sensational Six" of 2006

A selection of easement projects from across the Commonwealth



*Conservation of MBC Farm will protect productive farmland and views from the Appalachian Trail.*

## Southwest Virginia

### 1. MBC FARM

**TAZEWELL CO. | 4,329 ACRES**

This substantial holding is the largest easement that VOF has accepted to date. The property contains a significant portion of Burke's Garden. The easement forms a boundary for the neighboring Beartown Wilderness Area of the George Washington-Jefferson National Forest, and it is visible from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Natural Heritage Program has catalogued a number of endangered and unique species of bats and insects, especially in wetlands and karst features that are found in a wide area of the property. This property also fronts on two designated VA Scenic Byways.

## Central Virginia

### 2. UPPER BREMO

**FLUVANNA CO. | 1,563 ACRES**

Overlooking the James River in Fluvanna County, the historic Upper Bremo manor house was completed in 1820 by Gen. John Hartwell Cocke

and represents the epitome of Palladian architecture. Listed in both the Virginia and National Historic Registers, the house and grounds are part of an original 1725 land grant that has remained in the family for generations. In addition to having over one mile of frontage on the James, the property represents a variety of uses including wildlife habitat and agricultural production. This easement is also co-held with the Virginia Board of Historic Resources, ensuring protection for both the significant open-space and historic values of the property.

## Northern Neck

### 3. GLANVILLA

**KING WILLIAM CO. | 1,070 ACRES**

This property located north of Aylett contains open land in agricultural small grain rotation, mixed hardwoods and pine plantation and over three miles of shoreline on the Mattaponi River. The property lies just over a few miles from two other easements on the Mattaponi and has been in the donor's family since 1834. The easement protects the shoreline of the river with a 100-foot forested buffer. The property has been cited for excellent forestry practices through the years and has been recognized through the Virginia Department of Forestry's "Tree Farmer of the Year" program.



*Upper Bremo's Main House (c. 1820) was designed by John Nielson, a master carpenter who worked at Monticello.*



# The “Sensational Six” Continued...



*Seibel Farm was named Conservation Farm of the Year 2004 by the Mountain Castles Soil and Water District.*

## Shenandoah Valley

### 4. SEIBEL FARM

#### **BOTETOURT CO. | 557.98 ACRES**

This productive farm located east of Eagle Rock contains primarily open pastureland and nearly four miles of James River frontage, along a segment designated as a VA Scenic River. The property also contains piers and anchorings from the historic Kanawa Canal, abandoned in the 1850s. The owner uses various Best Management Practices (BMPs) to preserve the topsoil, and the property was named the Conservation Farm of the Year in 2004 by the Mountain Castles SWCD. The farm is in the drainage area of two known caves and in an area determined by DCR's Natural Heritage Program to contain endangered plant species.

## Northern Piedmont

### 5. WILDCAT MOUNTAIN

#### **FAUQUIER CO. | 258 ACRES**

The property is a pristine tract of forestland encompassing the northernmost end of Wildcat Mountain (elev. 1,100+). The property lies within Carter's Run Valley, recognized by The Nature Conservancy as one of the finest examples of intact Piedmont hardwood remaining in Virginia. Additionally, the easement is located in the Northern

Watery Mountains, a 4,218-acre area designated by DCR's Division of Natural Heritage as a conservation site containing significant natural communities. The easement is adjacent to the TNC-owned Wildcat Mountain Natural Area, which is accessible by the public. The mountain also serves as a prominent natural feature along heavily-traveled Rt. 17 and Rt. 691, a Virginia Scenic Byway.

## Eastern Virginia

### 6. SHIRLEY PLANTATION

#### **CHARLES CITY CO. | 121 ACRES**

This property is Virginia's oldest plantation and was settled in 1613 by Sir Thomas West, then acquired by the family of its present owners in 1638. Recently this easement, co-held with the VA Board of Historic Resources, was honored by Governor Kaine. During a February 22, 2007 ceremony at the Plantation, Gov. Kaine stated, "What a great gift to future generations of Virginians and Americans that this historic Virginia property will be preserved through a stewardship partnership between its current and future owners and the Commonwealth. This agreement means that Shirley Plantation will always be here along this stretch of river, where the first cradle of settlement took shape, and from which a new nation eventually sprang." The easement property is listed in the VA Landmarks Register, the

National Register of Historic Places, and the National Historic Landmarks Register. In addition to the important historic structures, the easement protects the 1,600 feet of the property's frontage on the James River.



*Shirley's Great House (c. 1728) is still lived in by descendants of its original owner.*

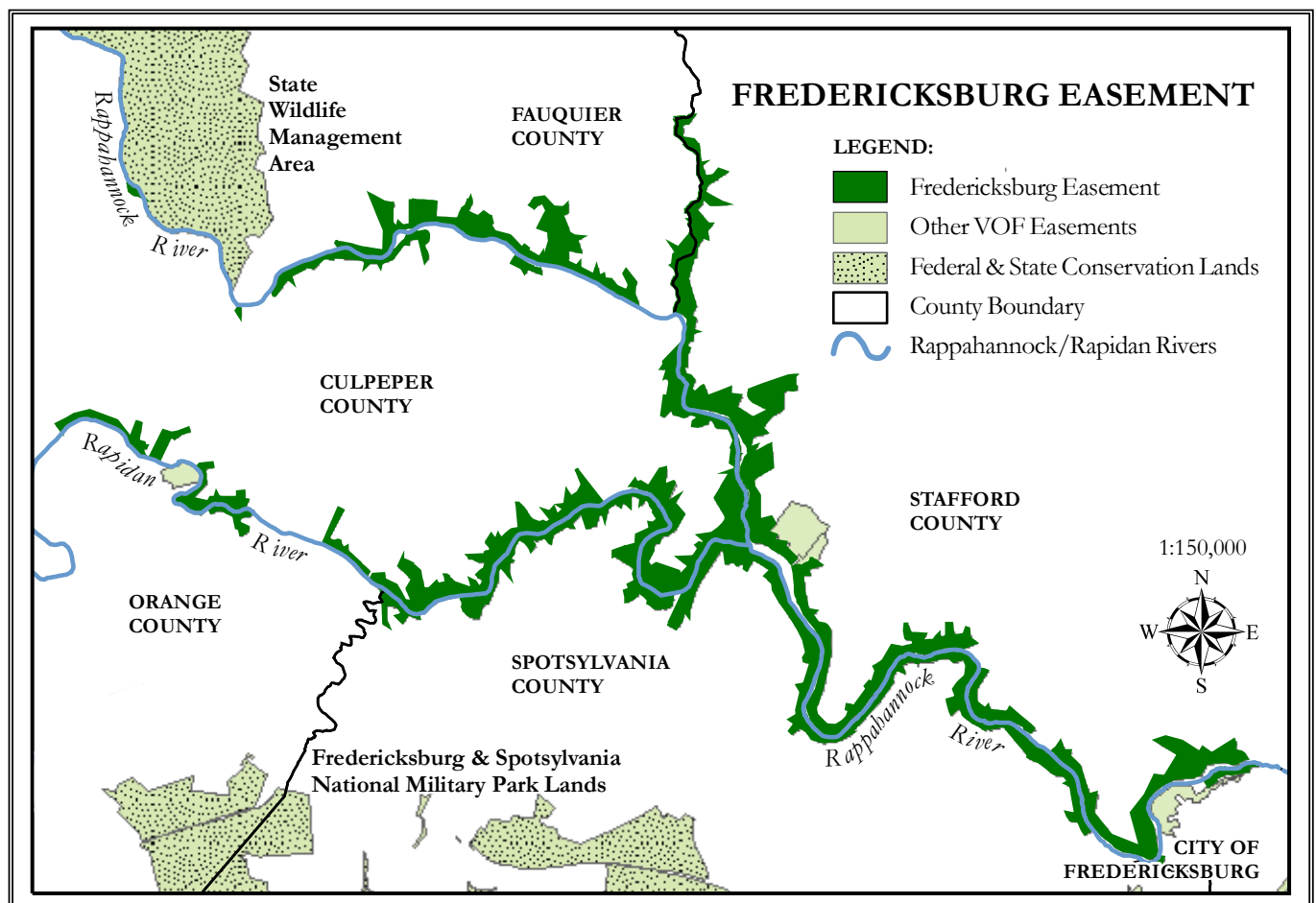
## 4,232 Acre Fredericksburg Easement Recorded, Protecting Fragile Riparian Lands Along the Rappahannock River

March 14, 2007 - The City of Fredericksburg recorded a conservation easement preserving approximately 4,232 acres of city-owned land along the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers. This conservation easement is co-held by The Nature Conservancy, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF). This unique easement protects nearly 60 miles of riparian lands along the Rappahannock River, and extends from the City of Fredericksburg into the counties of Spotsylvania, Stafford, Culpeper, Orange, and Fauquier.

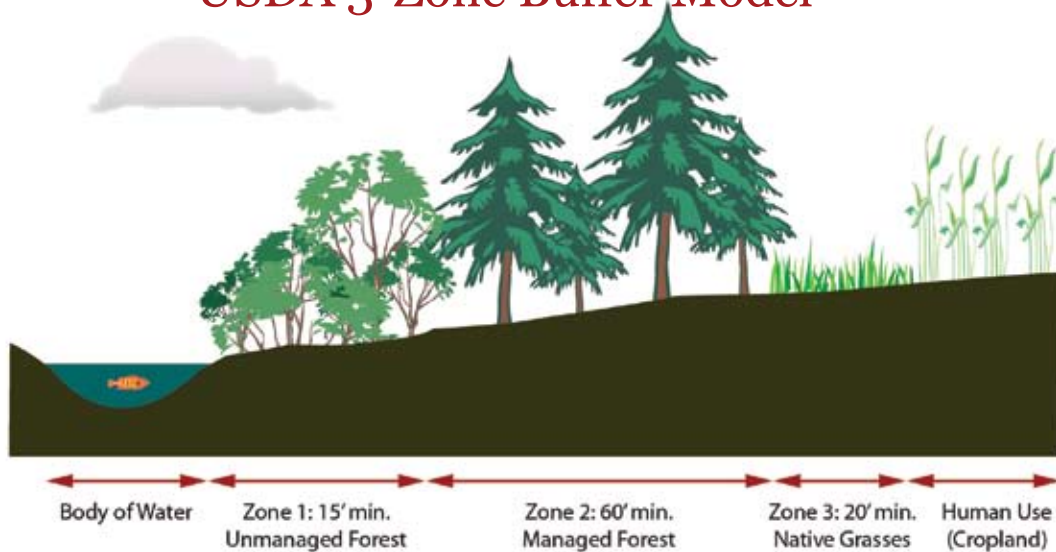
The eased lands contain riparian buffers, which provide natural protection for Fredericksburg's water supply. With more than a million people living within 30 miles of the property—and with two surrounding counties ranked among the nation's fastest growing—these river lands face unprecedented development

pressures. Riparian buffers protect water quality by reducing the amount of sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants that enter the body of water. They also provide physical protection from erosion, which leads to sedimentation in the river, stream, or other surface water. This easement will help protect more than 32 miles of riverfront along the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers and 26 miles of land along their tributaries.

The City of Fredericksburg conservation easement allows area residents to continue to use the forest and river for hiking, canoeing, camping, and other outdoor recreational activities. Forty-two acres of the property can be used for new structures related to river access, conducting educational programs, and for other limited governmental purposes—otherwise, the property will be kept in its natural state, preserving valuable riparian buffer lands.



# USDA 3-Zone Buffer Model



## Riparian Buffers: An Introduction

Riparian buffers consist of vegetated areas surrounding a body of water such as a river, stream, lake, reservoir, pond, or wetland. Benefits from healthy riparian buffers include: water quality enhancement, stormwater and floodwater management, streambank and shoreline stabilization, water temperature modification, wildlife habitat protection, and absorption of pollutants. By protecting and restoring these areas, we protect and restore our water supply as well as our natural resources.

The USDA has developed a 3-zone buffer planning model for landowners who wish to implement riparian buffers on their properties. Zone 1 begins at water level and extends a minimum of 15 feet, and consists of natural or undisturbed forest. Zone 2 consists of managed forest area and extends for a minimum of 60 feet. Zone 3 consists of native grasses to control runoff from human land uses, such as cropland, and extends for a minimum of 20 feet.

There are many sources of assistance available to landowners who want to add or improve their buffers, and many VOF easement deeds require buffers. The current VOF template recommends a 100-foot riparian buffer, and within the Tidewater localities the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act's regulations require a 100-foot buffer. Other localities outside the Tidewater area have also adopted these regulations to preserve the health of their water supply.

## Resources for Landowners: Sources of Assistance for Water Quality

**DCR:Division of Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance:**  
Regulations for Tidewater Localities

Web: <http://www.cblad.virginia.gov/>

Phone: 1-800-CHESBAY

**VA Department of Forestry:**

Riparian Buffer Tax Credit

Web: <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/>

Phone: (434) 977-6555

**VA Assn. of Soil and Water Conservation Districts:**

Web: <http://www.vaswcd.org/>

Phone: (804) 559-0324

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:**

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP),  
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP),  
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Web: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Phone: (804) 287-1691

**USDA Farm Service Agency:**

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP),  
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Web: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Phone: (202) 720-3467



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