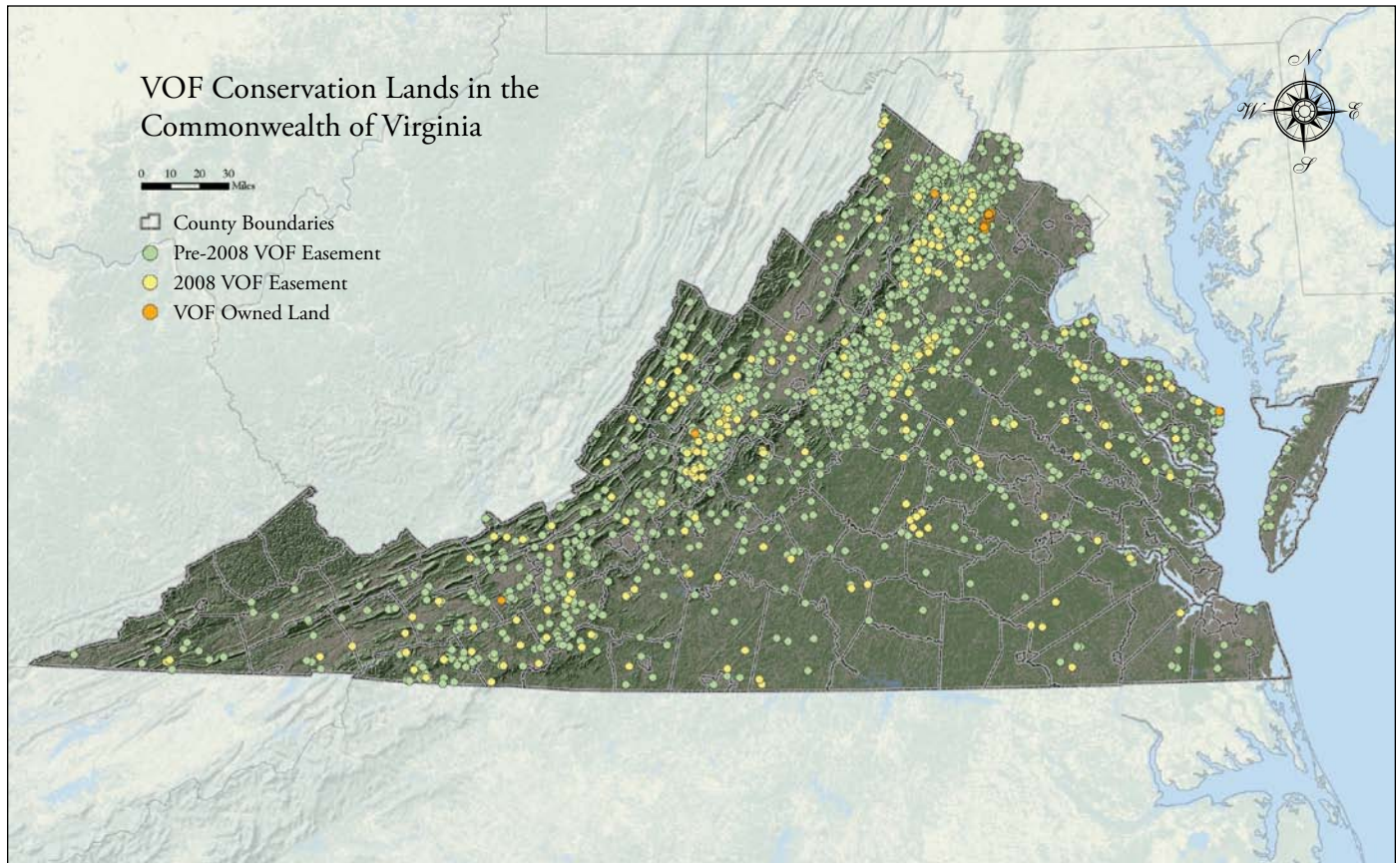




www.virginiaoutdoorsfoundation.org | Spring 2009

VOF Protected Nearly 65,000 Acres in 2008

Gov. Kaine's 400,000-acre conservation lands goal within reach



Map created 3/27/2009. Hill shade data provided by VDCR, forest cover data (2000) provided by VDOF. Easement points are not to scale. While efforts have been made to verify data, accuracy is not guaranteed.

For the third consecutive year, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation broke the 60,000-acre mark, pushing its portfolio of protected land past half a million acres and showing no sign of slowing down.

VOF permanently protected nearly 65,000 acres across 64 localities through conservation easements in 2008, making it the second-biggest year in VOF's 42-year history, surpassed only by the 71,000 acres recorded in 2006. VOF now protects roughly 530,000 acres across 102 cities and counties—an area two-and-a-half times the size of Shenandoah National Park and more than half the size of Rhode Island.

The 2008 total pushed the Commonwealth to within striking distance of Governor Kaine's goal of protecting 400,000 acres during his administration. As of March 2009, about 69,000 were needed to reach the goal. Of the 331,000 acres protected so far,

about 237,000—or 72 percent—are VOF easements.

Governor Kaine lauded VOF's role in conserving Virginia's land. "The Virginia Outdoors Foundation has protected more land since 2004 than it had in the previous four decades. This accomplishment demonstrates that Virginians care deeply about the preservation of open space and that the Commonwealth has one of the strongest land conservation programs in the nation."

VOF Board Chairman Hank Hartz, of Goochland County, noted that many of the easements donated to VOF protect working farms and forest lands. Together, the agriculture and forestry industries contribute \$79 billion to Virginia's economy each year. "These economic benefits, combined with the scenic, recreational, and open-space benefits of donated easements, underscore the importance of sustaining land conservation in Virginia," he said.

YEAR-END continued on page 3

EASEMENT ACREAGE BY COUNTY

Locality	2008 Acreage	Total Acreage	Locality	2008 Acreage	Total Acreage
Accomack	0	1,222.00	Lee	0	331.74
Albemarle	1,814.56	58,308.82	Loudoun	121.44	22,846.15
Alleghany	1,070.41	5,406.98	Louisa	617.67	5,353.66
Amelia	6,999.49	8,367.29	Lunenburg	0	484.03
Amherst	749.55	4,498.30	Lynchburg (City)	0	39
Appomattox	0	781.03	Madison	548.05	9,462.44
Arlington	0	0.64	Mathews	0	60.25
Augusta	1,400.28	14,305.14	Middlesex	297.83	1,622.97
Bath	3,693.21	18,764.60	Montgomery	323.5	8,579.24
Bedford	1,510.93	6,462.97	Nelson	221.22	8,409.95
Bedford (City)	0	44.92	New Kent	0	257.5
Bland	467.75	1,482.75	Northampton	0	1,621.03
Botetourt	3,962.55	10,593.13	Northumberland	366.52	1,233.50
Buckingham	0	934.16	Nottoway	0	275.05
Campbell	547.04	3,591.25	Orange	1,751.99	25,804.2
Caroline	830.2	3,342.78	Page	0	1,230.37
Carroll	1,098.22	2,959.45	Patrick	271.58	1,188.58
Charles City County	0	1,225.89	Pittsylvania	411.96	4,978.53
Charlotte	355.34	2,060.01	Powhatan	0	1,691.68
Chesapeake (City)	0	542.71	Prince Edward	429.3	917.81
Chesterfield	0	502.03	Prince George	389.09	1,242.09
Clarke	0	15,215.39	Prince William	0	819.98
Craig	191.54	3,671.42	Pulaski	0	2,292.33
Culpeper	123.92	8,427.54	Radford (City)	0	149
Cumberland	197.76	457.91	Rappahannock	947.29	26,646.60
Danville (City)	0	73.15	Richmond	436	4,066.64
Dinwiddie	0	217	Roanoke	2,706.59	3,889.45
Essex	2,517.50	8,805.02	Roanoke (City)	0	116.04
Fairfax	0	127.72	Rockbridge	6,472.40	28,900.51
Fauquier	2,317.34	66,281.54	Rockingham	107.2	2,654.32
Floyd	397.64	4,731.85	Russell	0	924.19
Fluvanna	1,954.14	9,056.16	Scott	221	979.38
Franklin	164.66	3,718.54	Shenandoah	600.12	3,288.41
Frederick	1,500.30	4,212.06	Smyth	2,693.00	3,689.28
Fredericksburg (City)	0	128.96	Southampton	698.2	1,134.36
Galax (City)	0	50	Spotsylvania	0	3,695.67
Giles	543.08	3,166.04	Stafford	0	2,196.80
Gloucester	0	444.69	Staunton (City)	0	2.7
Goochland	604	1,935.83	Suffolk (City)	65.88	357.76
Grayson	1,106.00	6,364.49	Surry	1,051.80	1,579.15
Greene	193.48	6,201.76	Sussex	784.48	1,051.95
Greensville	746.2	746.2	Tazewell	0	6,104.73
Halifax	701	2,969.07	Virginia Beach (City)	0	341.69
Hanover	224.05	2,994.01	Warren	11	6,153.51
Henrico	108.1	108.1	Washington	314	855.77
Henry	227.59	960.92	Westmoreland	738	6,484.17
Highland	491.68	8,197.58	Winchester (City)	0	115.27
James City	0	400.93	Wise	0	96.47
King and Queen	570.76	3,572.70	Wythe	276.59	5,610.67
King George	625.14	3,733.98	York	0	18.5
King William	375	4,625.09			
Lancaster	218.24	1,777.00			
Figures are as of April 1, 2009			TOTALS	64,472.35	530,614.57



A Letter From the Executive Director

There is an old adage that says “If you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there.” Well, in the near-term, Virginia conservationists and VOF know where we are going. We are well on our way to achieving the ambitious 400,000 acres of additional permanent land conservation that Governor Kaine set as a goal early in his administration. When that goal is achieved, probably later this year, VOF easements will constitute the majority of the land protected for future generations. Additionally, in 2008 VOF surpassed 530,000 acres under easement. It was just four years earlier, in 2004, that we celebrated the 250,000-acre milestone, so it is clear that the pace of land conservation in Virginia has greatly accelerated.

The longer-term “road to somewhere” needs to be better defined with consideration of current and pending trends that may impact future land conservation for Virginia. Therefore, VOF has engaged in a strategic planning process and we hope to present a completed plan to Virginia’s next Governor and appointed Secretary of Natural Resources. It is clear to me that VOF, as presently structured, cannot continue to sustain the same dramatic growth of the last few years. We are looking for a responsible and sustainable way forward. Pursuant to that task, we have created a Strategic Plan Core Group and engaged the short-term professional services of a recognized expert in the field of public and non-profit strategic planning. We anticipate participation in this process by a number of interested parties in the land trust community, state agency partners, and our dedicated staff.

The serious economic challenges that face Virginia and the nation will impact land conservation, but some of these challenges will also create unique opportunities. Examples of our nation’s most important conservation projects and programs were devised by farsighted leaders as part of a response to the economic stresses of the Great Depression. Potential conservation lands for the enjoyment and nurturing of future generations have not been so reasonably priced in many years. Now may be the best of times to work collaboratively and proactively to protect our best cultural and natural heritage landscapes. Conservation easements represent a cost-effective voluntary land conservation ethic, and VOF hopes to maintain its more than four decades of consistent leadership in this arena. Stay tuned!

Bob Lee

YEAR-END continued from page 1

Amelia County was the acreage leader in 2008 with 6,999 acres placed under easement, all donated by local timberman Ronnie Pemberton and his partners. Rockbridge was a close second, with 6,472 acres, followed by Botetourt and Bath counties with 3,962 and 3,693 acres, respectively. The Botetourt acreage included a portion of 6,185 acres donated by the City of Roanoke in Carvins Cove Natural Reserve—the second-largest municipal park in the nation.

The Pemberton and Carvins Cove projects are the first- and second-largest easements recorded in VOF’s history.

VOF also recorded its first easement ever in Greensville County—746 acres of timberland, cropland, and wetlands that constitute the county’s largest waterfront tract on the Nottoway River.

“It’s important to note that many of these easements were placed on farms that have been in the same family for multiple generations and otherwise might have been broken up or sold off to developers were it not for the state and federal tax incentives,” added VOF Executive Director Bob Lee. “When it comes to protecting family farms, easements are a powerful tool.”



Photo courtesy of PEC

In February, U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA), far right, visited the farm of Tom and Donna O’Halloran of Culpeper County, who donated an easement to VOF in 2008. Rep. Cantor was there to receive an award from the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) for his efforts to promote tax incentives for land conservation in Congress. The O’Hallorans, pictured holding the sign, credit the tax incentives as one of the reasons behind their decision to donate the easement. Pictured with them from left to right are PEC Chairman Tony Vanderwarker, VOF Executive Director Bob Lee, and Land Trust Alliance Director of Public Policy Russ Shay. About a month after the event, Rep. Cantor joined Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) in introducing the Conservation Easement Incentive Act, which makes permanent easement tax incentives for ranchers and farmers that are set to expire at the end of the year.

Smyth County



Appalachian Highlands Region

Grayson County continues to be the hot spot for easements in the Appalachian Highlands region, with four projects recorded in 2008 totaling more than 1,100 acres, including one project with nearly two miles of frontage along the New River, a designated U.S. Heritage River. VOF also broke two records in the region, recording the largest easements to date in both Smyth County, with a 2,693-acre project (*pictured*), and Washington County, with a 288-acre project. The Smyth County easement also happens to be the second-largest easement in the region, and was given a Governor's Environmental Excellence Award in April 2009 for its permanent protection of forest, watershed, open-space, and recreational resources.

Orange County



Central Region

The Central region recorded more than 9,500 acres of new easements across 14 counties in 2008. Orange County had the most new projects, with 10 in all. The largest and most significant in the county was Bloomsbury (*pictured*)—632 acres near the Town of Orange. Notably, the property contains the oldest standing house in the county, constructed in 1722 for James Taylor II, ancestor of Presidents James Madison and Zachary Taylor. The property served as the winter encampment for General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in 1863-4. In Albemarle County, VOF recorded its largest easement in the region: 1,112 acres of land connected to other properties under easement, forming a contiguous block of more than 2,400 acres of protected open space. Albemarle ranks second in overall VOF easements in the state, with more than 58,300 acres.

Southwest Region

The first half of 2008 proved exceptional for the Southwest region, with announcements in April by the City of Roanoke and Appalachian Power Company to place large tracts of land—at Carvins Cove (*pictured*) and Smith Mountain, respectively—under conservation easement. These two tracts total more than 11,000 acres and represent two of the largest conservation easement donations in the history of Virginia. The easement at Carvins Cove (6,185 acres spanning Roanoke and Botetourt counties), co-held with the Western Virginia Land Trust, was completed in May 2008. The Smith Mountain easement (4,993 acres spanning Bedford and Pittsylvania), co-held with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, was recorded in January 2009. Bedford County was particularly active in 2008, with five properties comprising managed hunting and wildlife lands, productive farmland, and historic family farms totaling nearly 1,300 acres preserved.

Botetourt & Roanoke Counties



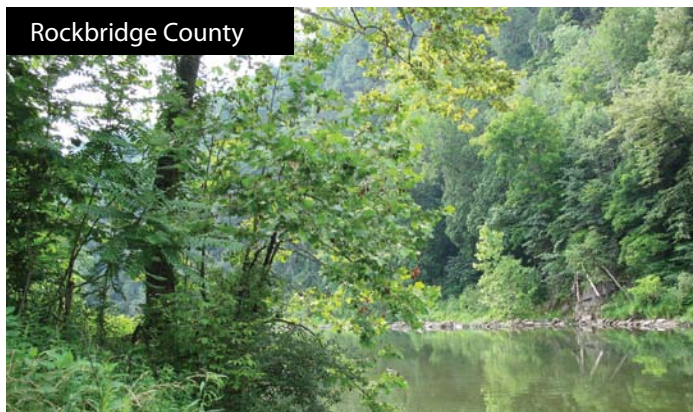
Essex County



Tidewater Region

VOF preserved more than 6,000 acres in the Tidewater region in 2008. Several projects protect the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay, including bald cypress and tupelo swamp areas along the Dragon Run watershed in King and Queen and Middlesex Counties, and a 1,800-acre family farm in Essex County (*pictured*) with more than five miles of shoreline on the Rappahannock River that provides habitat for bald eagles, waterfowl, and fish. VOF also protected four properties adjacent to Fort A.P. Hill as part of an Army program to buffer the military base from development encroachment, as well as a historic property in King George County known as Marmion, with its impressive collection of intact 18th-century plantation outbuildings—a project done in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Rockbridge County



Shenandoah Valley Region

In 2008, more than 21,000 acres of land in the Shenandoah Valley region were protected by VOF easements, making it the fourth consecutive year that the region led in both the number and acreage of easements recorded. The county leader was Rockbridge, with 23 new easements. Of those, 17 protect working family farms. That was the case for most of the easements recorded throughout the Valley, and many of the properties have the added value of bordering other protected land, including George Washington National Forest. One of the properties protected in 2008 contains a famous cave, Breathing Cave, that is accessible to the public. Another, 702 acres along the Maury River (*pictured*), is managed for wildlife including bobcat, bear, turkey, grouse and quail.

Northern Piedmont Region

Land conservation in the Northern Piedmont region remained consistent in 2008, with nearly 4,000 acres placed under easement. One highlight was a 420-acre farm in Rappahannock County that protects the viewshed from Shenandoah National Park. In Fauquier County, several easements contributed to the greenbelt surrounding Warrenton, including an 890-acre easement on land owned by a non-profit organization (*pictured*) and a 490-acre cattle farm. A trend in the region was the increased number of amendments. Approximately 25 percent of the projects were improvements to existing easements, resulting in an additional 150 acres under easement, the reduction of several development rights, and improved buffers.

Fauquier County



Prince George County



VOF Finalizes 5,000-Acre Smith Mountain Easement

Nearly 5,000 acres of scenic Smith Mountain in Bedford and Pittsylvania counties are now permanently protected, thanks to a conservation easement donated to VOF and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) by Appalachian Power, a subsidiary of American Electric Power (AEP).

"Appalachian Power has made a significant contribution to conserving Virginia's natural resources," said Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.

"The company's donated easement at Smith Mountain is one of the largest we have received in recent years. From now on, this property will remain as it always has been."

The easement comprises the majority of Smith Mountain, which sits along the eastern side of Smith Mountain Lake and forms the ridge on both sides of the dam. It is almost entirely forested and contains more than 10 miles of shoreline. The property allows some access for public recreational activities through VDGIF, including fishing, camping, hiking, and hunting. It also contains two rare vertebrate species and a rare ecological community identified by the state. Because of its size and proximity to Smith Mountain Lake State Park, the mountain is perhaps the mostly highly

visible and recognizable landmark in the area.

The project represents the largest easement recorded so far in 2009 by VOF. Approximately 4,022 of the acres lie in Pittsylvania County and 973 acres lie in Bedford County. AEP announced its intention to place the land under easement in April 2008, and the project was formally recorded in January 2009.



"The scenic benefit to the public of preserving this mountain is enormous," said Josh Gibson, VOF easement specialist. "It's a dominating feature on the landscape, visible from several surrounding counties."

"This easement is good for the Commonwealth, Appalachian Power customers, and for generations of Virginians who admire Smith Mountain underfoot or from afar," said Dana Waldo, Appalachian Power president and chief operating officer.

"We've had a long-standing, highly successful partnership with AEP providing access for hunters, anglers, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts and look forward to partnering with VOF," added VDGIF Executive Director Bob Duncan.

Challenge Grant Campaign Nets More Than \$100,000

Last fall, VOF received a challenge grant from a group of donors who pledged to match, dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000, whatever we could raise by December 15, 2008. Thanks to an enthusiastic response from our supporters, we not only met our goal,

we exceeded it—raising \$58,000, giving us a total of \$108,000.

As we celebrate this milestone, there is still much more work to be done. We still need your help. VOF expects a reduction in general appropriations from the Commonwealth in fiscal year 2010 of 5 percent, or \$102,500. Despite this, we expect to add tens of thousands of new easement acres to our portfolio this year. In order to maintain the capacity and quality of our conservation and stewardship work, we look to our private supporters to continue the momentum of the Challenge Grant Campaign.

Here are three ways you can provide financial support to VOF:

- Make a secure gift online at www.virginiaoutdoorsfoundation.org/donate.
- Call our Warrenton office at (540) 347-7727 to make a credit card donation.
- Send a check made payable to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation using the envelope provided.

All donations are tax deductible. Thanks for your support!



Photo courtesy of debsdesign.etsy.com

Virginia's Quail Action Plan

Like much of the country, Virginia has experienced tough times for bobwhite quail over the past 30 years. Virginia was the first state to adopt a statewide quail management plan back in 1996, and now it is the first state to have a second quail management plan.

Virginia's new Quail Action Plan (QAP) was adopted by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) Board of Directors in February, and it officially begins on July 1, 2009. The QAP, and all things quail, can be read online at www.dgif.virginia.gov/quail/. The Web site is designed to help landowners develop their own management plans for quail. The page also features an Upland Gamebird Trail, which is a listing of commercial gamebird hunting preserves in Virginia.

VDGIF hopes to work with Virginia landowners to develop concentrations of quail habitat that the department is calling "quail quilts," or "quilts" for short. The idea behind a quail is that people come together, each bringing a piece of land that in and of itself may not be large enough to help, but sewn together with other lands in their area, may form a quail quilt for the landscape.

The five-year plan outlines six major goals: 1) generate new

funding mechanisms to support quail restoration; 2) educate the public on the status of quail and early succession wildlife species; 3) improve quail populations in their primary range in Virginia; 4) establish quail and early succession wildlife focus areas; 5) increase statewide recreation related to quail; and 6) provide quail management demonstration areas.

The QAP will be citizen based and driven, and will revolve around locally led Quail Recovery Teams, which will help landowners understand what they need to do, how to do it, and how to get financial assistance. Some strategies include: creating a Virginia Quail Council to develop partnerships; working with partners to develop new funding initiatives; developing new educational DVDs; developing a volunteer corps of habitat advisory teams; working with utility and power companies to develop best management practices for early succession species on rights-of-ways; working with commercial hunting preserves to offer youth hunts; and creating a comprehensive, interactive quail Web site.

For more information, contact VDGIF

Quail Action Plan coordinators Marc Puckett at (434) 392-8328 or Gary Norman at (540) 248-9360, or visit www.dgif.virginia.gov/quail/.



© BS Thurner Hof



On April 1, VOF Trustee Dr. M. Rupert Cutler (center) accepted the Governor's Gold Environmental Excellence Award for land conservation on behalf of the City of Roanoke for the conservation easement it placed on more than 6,000 acres in Carvins Cove last year. Joining him are, from left to right, Secretary of Natural Resources L. Preston Bryant, Jr., VOF easement specialist Josh Gibson, VDEQ Director David K. Paylor, and VDCR Director Joseph H. Maroon. A second VOF easement, donated by John and Sandra LaPrelle in Smyth County, received the bronze award.

Stay in Touch With VOF

Make it easier for VOF to stay in touch with you by sending us your e-mail address, along with any updates to your mailing address or phone number. In the coming year, we will be developing more electronic communications to provide you with information on protecting and managing your land, whether it has an existing conservation easement or not. Please send an e-mail to bcabibbo@vofonline.org or call (540) 347-7727 to update your contact information or be added to our list.

Board of Trustees

Hank M. Hartz, III
Chairman
Goochland County

Mark S. Allen
City of Alexandria

Harry F. Atherton
Fauquier County

Dr. M. Rupert Cutler
City of Roanoke

Charles H. Seilheimer, Jr.
Orange County

Jeffrey K. Walker
Northampton County

Molly Joseph Ward
City of Hampton



EXECUTIVE OFFICE /
NORTHERN PIEDMONT:
324 Waterloo Street
Warrenton, VA 20186
(540) 347-7727

APPALACHIAN HIGHLANDS:
468 Main Street, Suite 400-B
Abingdon, VA 24210
(276) 623-8256

CENTRAL:
1010 Harris Street, Suite 4
Charlottesville, VA 22903
(434) 293-3423

SHENANDOAH VALLEY:
11 East Beverley Street
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 886-2460

SOUTHEAST:
1108 East Main Street, Suite 700
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 225-2147

SOUTHWEST:
900 South Main Street
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 951-2822

TIDEWATER:
P.O. Box 909
Tappahannock, VA 22560
(804) 443-3029

For more information about VOF and land conservation in Virginia,
visit our Web site at www.virginiaoutdoorsfoundation.org



324 Waterloo Street
Warrenton, VA 20186

*It is our mission "to promote
the preservation of open space
lands and to encourage private
gifts of money, securities, land
or other property to preserve the
natural, scenic, historic, open-
space and recreational areas of
the Commonwealth."*



*Printed on recycled paper.
Please recycle or reuse.*