



www.virginiaoutdoorsfoundation.org | Winter 2010

## Governor Kaine Commends VOF for Record Conservation



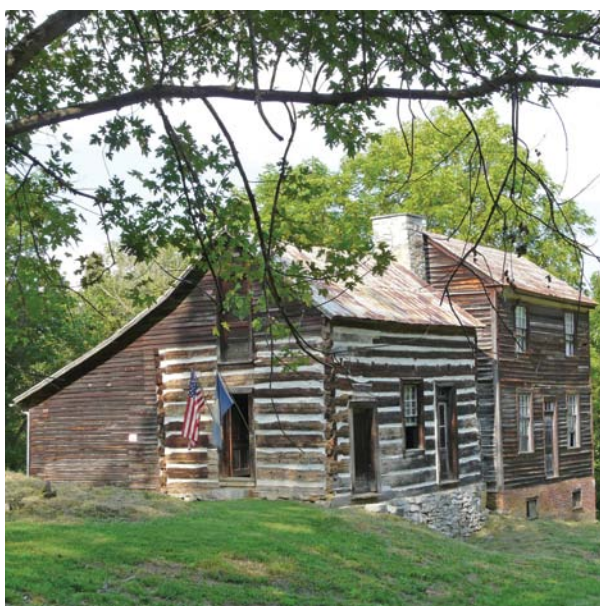
**High praise:** From atop Mill Mountain in Roanoke, Gov. Kaine thanked VOF for its preservation efforts during the past four years. VOF trustee Dr. Rupert Cutler (pictured at right with the Governor) drew special accolades for his role in preserving more than 11,000 acres on Carvins Cove.

Calling the Virginia Outdoors Foundation the “powerhouse” behind Virginia’s land preservation movement, Governor Tim Kaine thanked VOF in October for protecting more land in the past four years than it had in the previous four decades. He expressed his thanks personally to the staff and trustees at the October 22 board meeting, which was held in the Discovery Center atop Mill Mountain in Roanoke. There, the trustees approved an additional 17,000 acres to be

placed under easement. Following the meeting, the Governor, VOF staff, and trustees joined about 200 people from the land conservation community, including state officials, land trust staff, and easement donors, for a celebration of all that has been achieved since the Governor announced in 2006 he wanted to conserve an additional 400,000 acres by 2010.

“One of the best things we can do for our children today is to preserve the environment for tomorrow,” Governor Kaine

*Gov. Kaine continued on page 3*



## Ingles Ferry Farm Protected

In 1755, in what is now Pulaski County, a pioneer named Mary Draper Ingles was captured by Shawnee warriors and taken to an area near present-day Cincinnati. Somehow she escaped and walked hundreds of miles back to her homestead in Virginia following the Ohio, Kanawha, and New rivers. When she arrived, it’s been written, she was “naked, skeletal and white-haired despite her age of just 23 years.” She eventually recovered and went on to raise a family on a tract of land along the New River.

Now, thanks to an easement donated to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) by Mary Draper Ingles’ descendants, that piece of land, known as Ingles Ferry Farm, is protected forever.

The 313-acre tract contains the historic Ingles Ferry Tavern (circa 1772), which was placed on both the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places in 1969. It also includes portions of the original Wilderness Road, a major migratory route in the westward expansion of colonial and later U.S. citizens. In addition, the property contains the

*INGLES FERRY FARM continued on next page*

remains of Ingles Ferry, which operated from the mid-1700s to the 1940s, and remnants of the Ingles Ferry covered bridge, which was destroyed in the aftermath of the Civil War Battle of Cloyd's Mountain. VDHR has also identified several Native American archaeological sites in the property's mile long riverfront meadow.

Mary Ingles Barbour, a fifth great-granddaughter of Mary Draper Ingles, stated, "I am pleased that my family, through a conservation and historic preservation easement, has been able to protect the historic Ingles Ferry Farm and Tavern. While the story of Mary Draper Ingles is well known, her bravery and ability to endure incredible hardships were characteristics shared by many of the early settlers and explorers of this region. I hope that this easement will help preserve the legacy of all those who settled in this region of Virginia and those who crossed the ferry to continue westward to settle and explore what was then uncharted wilderness."

"Ingles Ferry Farm evokes epic history," said Kathleen S. Kilpatrick, director of VDHR. "There is the site's Native American prehistoric archaeological resources, and its ties to the legendary Mary Ingles Draper, whose heroic story foretold the vital role women would play in America's pioneering history. There is also the site's significance as a major river crossing on the Wilderness Road, when settlers poured through the Valley of Virginia and onward to the Ohio Valley. And then there is its association with the Civil War. Amazingly, the property remains within the Ingles family, who have secured it for all Virginians, now and into the future, with this easement."

In addition to the historic resources on Ingles Ferry Farm, the property contains large open pastures, hayfields, mixed hardwoods, and more than one mile of frontage on the New River. All of these natural resources will be protected through the easement.

Another part of Mary Draper Ingles' ancestral home is located on the eastern side of the New River. That property, known as Ingles Farm, was placed under easement with VOF in 2002 by Lewis Ingles "Bud" Jeffries, another direct descendant of Mary Draper Ingles. Jeffries and his son, John, have rebuilt Mary Draper Ingles' cabin at this site and it is open to visitors at various times during the year.

"Some easements protect farmland, some protect historic resources, some protect water quality, some protect scenic landscapes—Ingles Ferry Farm protects it all," said Hank Hartz, chairman of VOF's Board of Trustees. "It's a prime example of why Virginia's land conservation programs are the best in the nation."

The New River Land Trust (NRLT) applied for a state grant in 2007 to protect the tavern and farm. The proposal was the top-ranking Virginia Land Conservation Fund project that year. The grant allowed for the purchase of a portion of the easement at its appraised value. The three landowners—Robert Steele, Mary Ingles



**Joint effort:** (from left) Beth Obenshain of the New River Land Trust secured a grant for partial purchase of the easement. Mary and Mike Barbour, along with others in their family, donated the rest.

Barbour, and Andrew Ingles, Jr.—are donating the balance of the easement's value.

The push to protect Ingles Ferry Farm began in 2002, when the late Roberta Ingles Steele, one of the family owners, contacted the New River Land Trust about protecting the historic property with a conservation easement. Earlier, she had also contacted VDHR for advice on maintaining the historic tavern—a centerpiece of her family's rich heritage.

"Mrs. Steele invited me to come out and give some pointers on maintaining the building," recalls Mike Pulice, an architectural historian with VDHR who is based in Roanoke. "I put together a little report with suggestions on what the family could do to help conserve it a little better. She paid close attention to everything I said. If there's any property in this area that is deserving of such close and diligent attention over the years, this is certainly one of them. Mrs. Steele was an excellent steward of that property. Without her, it might not be there today."

Mrs. Steele passed away in 2004, but her niece Mary, son Robert, and nephew Andrew continued the effort to protect the property, culminating in their generous donation of the conservation easement.

"The sight of this intact 237-year-old tavern where settlers stopped on the way west is amazing because it is virtually unchanged from days when Daniel Boone visited there," said NRLT executive director Beth Obenshain. "The Ingles Family has cared for this tavern and farm for generations—protecting one of Virginia's unique historic sites. Roberta Ingles Steele contacted us seven years ago to determine how the tavern and ferry site could be protected forever. We are elated that her son, niece, and nephew have now realized Roberta's dream."

## Planning to Harvest Timber on Eased Land?

Before you begin, please be sure to contact your local VOF stewardship staff to ensure compliance with the terms of your easement. You can find contact information for our regional offices on the back of this newsletter or on our Web site.



View of the New River where the Ingles Ferry first operated in 1762.





## Letter From the Executive Director

Shortly after Governor Kaine took office, he indicated that permanent preservation of Virginia's natural and cultural heritage landscapes would be one of the cornerstones of his administration. This was in keeping with the strong support that land conservation and private property stewardship have evidenced in Virginia going back to Thomas Jefferson and culminating with the adoption of the Land Preservation Tax Credit legislation in 1999.

I am pleased that the Virginia Outdoors Foundation could be a leader in carrying on these quintessential Virginia conservation traditions. During the last four years, VOF has worked with Virginia landowners to record more acres under conservation easement than had been protected since the Virginia Open-space Land Act was enacted in 1966. That represents more land conservation progress in four years than had been realized in the previous four decades. It is encouraging that Governor-elect McDonnell has indicated that he intends to continue emphasizing land conservation during his administration. VOF easements represented about 70 percent of all land conservation acreage from 2006 through 2009, and we see no indication of that trend changing in the near future.

To meet our goals, the VOF Board of Trustees and staff engaged in strategic planning throughout 2009. The VOF Strategic Plan for the period 2010-2013 was adopted by the VOF Board of Trustees in Roanoke in October. This effort entailed serious engagement with internal and external stakeholders and interested partners over a period of more than six months. The strategic planning process provided an opportunity to assess opportunities and challenges pursuant to charting a sustainable future course. The new VOF 2010-2013 Strategic Plan is posted on the VOF Web site. We welcome opportunities to discuss this guidance document with our many friends and advocates, and we look forward to working with the new administration to sustain the momentum of land conservation for the benefit of current and future Virginians who share appreciation for the cultural heritage for which our Commonwealth has long been revered.

*Bob Lee*

Gov. Kaine continued from page 1

said. "These actions will bring us even closer to meeting my goal of preserving 400,000 acres of open space by the end of the decade."

The Department of Conservation and Recreation officially reported about 15,000 acres needed to meet the goal as of November 30. VOF, which has been protecting between 60,000 and 70,000 acres each year since 2006, usually records most of the acres in November and December. Final numbers will be available after the dust settles in January.

Of the acres counted toward the Governor's goal so far, VOF easements account for more than two-thirds.

Following the Governor's remarks, VOF's Executive Director Bob Lee thanked private land trusts and state agencies for their role in educating the public about easements and VOF's program. "These partnerships on behalf of current and future Virginians have resulted in a land conservation fabric that serves as a national model," he said.



## Donate by January 31st to Receive a VOF Tote

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation is extending its offer of a sturdy VOF tote with your tax-deductible donation of \$100 or more until the end of January 2010. Your donation will help to offset the most recent 5-percent reduction in our state funding, which amounts to \$97,376. This cut impairs our ability to meet the demand for conservation easements in the state and threatens our capacity to provide stewardship on the easements we already hold. Please consider donating one of three ways:

- Make a secure gift online at [www.virginiaoutdoorsfoundation.org/donate](http://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. Thank you for your support!

Help us keep our records up to date. Please notify us of any recent changes to your mailing address, e-mail address, or phone number by sending an e-mail to [bcabibbo@vofonline.org](mailto:bcabibbo@vofonline.org) or by calling (540) 347-7727 x226. If you have questions regarding your easement, please contact your local stewardship staff. Office contacts are on the back of this newsletter.

# Managing Springs for Fish and Wildlife

By Louis A. Helfrich, James Parkhurst and Richard Neves

The word spring comes from the German word *springer*, which refers to leaping from the ground. Springs may range from tiny seep holes through which groundwater oozes to form puddles or wet spots on the ground, to large fissures in rocks or openings in the ground.

Natural springs are important aquatic resources. They are a reliable source of clean, high-quality groundwater that flows at a relatively constant rate and temperature. Because springs are dependable, they are an increasingly valuable supply of water for people and wildlife, particularly during droughts. Thousands of rural households in Virginia rely on springs for domestic use and watering livestock. Springs supply water to commercial enterprises (breweries, distilleries, fish hatcheries, water bottlers) and agriculture (cropland irrigation, livestock watering). They support recreational uses, such as fishing, swimming, and boating. Property values escalate on land with a natural spring, spring-fed stream, or spring pond. Springs offer critical habitat for Virginia's fish and wildlife populations, including some endangered and threatened species. They also help keep downstream water temperatures low and stream flows regular, thereby extending the distribution of trout and other coldwater fishes.

Natural springs occur throughout Virginia, but the greatest concentration and largest springs occur in the Valley and Ridge Province. Springs in this province are particularly common in karst areas, where fractures, cracks, and channels promote rapid groundwater recharge, movement, and storage. Large springs usually occur in limestone formations at low elevations. Groundwater may discharge as small springs or seeps along hill slopes in the Cumberland Plateau and Blue Ridge provinces. The soil is thin, and relatively nonporous rock, such as granite or marble, is near the

surface. In the Piedmont and Coastal Plain provinces, springs are rare and small with flows generally less than 20 gallons per minute (gpm).

Landowners with springs on their properties can manage these waters to enhance wildlife habitat. Here are some tips to make the most of natural springs.

## Preserve Riparian Areas

Protecting the critical buffer zone along the riparian areas of springs and spring-fed streams is the best way to ensure good water quality and to benefit fish and wildlife. Trees, grasses, and shrubs provide shade, cool temperatures, food, and shelter for fish, birds, and other animals. The thick roots of grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs bind the soil to the banks, slow storm runoff, and prevent erosion and sedimentation. A lush filter strip of vegetation around the spring pool and along the spring-fed stream traps harmful nutrients, sediments, and pesticides on land before they can enter the water. Damaged, denuded riparian areas should be replanted with native vegetation.

## Fence Stream Banks

Fencing promotes better pasture management and limits access by livestock to springs. It also lessens the chance of livestock injury on steep, eroded banks, reduces erosion, improves water quality, and protects fish and wildlife habitat. Water-borne diseases (leptospirosis, mastitis) can occur when livestock drink from and defecate into the same water source. Livestock needs can be met by providing watering tanks located off the spring site to supply cleaner, safer water or by restricting watering and cattle crossings to

**Build a buffer:** Landowners can protect springs by limiting development, soil disturbance, and livestock activity around them. The easement pictured here uses fencing and vegetation to create a buffer. Technical and financial assistance is available for such projects.







**Spotting springs:** Identifying springs on your property is the first step to protecting them. These two pictures taken from the same easement in Montgomery County show that springs can take many different forms, from soggy patches of ground to flowing streams.

small areas where the banks and bottom of springs and spring-fed streams can be graveled to minimize erosion.

### Limit Livestock

Livestock are attracted to springs and the surrounding spring environs (riparian areas) for drinking water, food (forage grasses), and shade. Livestock, especially cattle, trample and overgraze vegetation and increase erosion and siltation. Unfenced spring pools and spring-fed pasture streams—where livestock can enter unimpeded—tend to be shallow, muddy, and silted-in and to have bare banks, scarce wildlife habitat, few pools and riffles, low oxygen concentrations, high water temperatures, and reduced fish and insect populations.

Livestock wastes, such as manure and urine from pastures, barnyards, and feedlots, can contaminate spring waters with excess nutrients, poisonous methane and ammonia gases, and disease-causing bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Waters polluted with animal waste acquire an unpleasant taste and a foul odor and are unfit for drinking, swimming, and fishing. Disease-causing bacteria and viruses can infect healthy livestock herds and humans downstream.

### Reduce Soil Erosion

Each year millions of tons of topsoil are washed each year from freshly plowed fields, over-grazed pastures, logged forests, urban developments, and strip-mined lands into Virginia's waters. Topsoil regenerates slowly, and erosion removes this richest part of the soil where nutrients, organic matter, and beneficial soil microbes are found. On land, erosion can lower soil fertility and decrease plant production, and in the water, these fine soil particles can cover spring and spring-fed stream bottoms and suffocate aquatic life. Harmful chemicals may be associated with materials eroded from the land. Limiting land disturbance around springs and spring-fed streams and adopting best management practices when clearing land, plowing, burning, building structures, constructing roads, dumping, filling, mining, and dredging will help keep the soil on the land and out of your spring.

### Minimize Fertilizer and Pesticide Use

Reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers on farmland, gardens, and lawns can significantly reduce the contamination of springs, streams, and groundwater. Testing the soil

to determine the amount and type of fertilizer needed can save money and protect water quality. Avoid spreading manure or applying fertilizers near springs, streams, or on steep slopes, especially during rainy weather or when the ground is frozen. Site animal-waste storage tanks and manure piles well away from waterways.

Pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides) are toxic chemicals widely used by farmers, foresters, exterminators, and homeowners to kill harmful insects and weeds, to increase crop and timber harvests, and to prevent the spread of plant, animal, and human parasites and diseases. When applied improperly, pesticides can poison waters. Use less toxic chemicals and select pesticides that are readily degradable. Integrated pest management (IPM), an alternative to relying solely on pesticides, includes the use of biological control (natural pest predators and competitors), cultural practices (types of plantings and tillage), genetic manipulation (pest-resistant crop varieties), and carefully planned use of chemicals to protect crops, forests, and livestock. When using pesticides and fertilizers, follow directions and properly dispose of residues and containers.

*This article is adapted from "Managing Spring Wetlands For Fish and Wildlife Habitat," published by Virginia Cooperative Extension. The full article is available online at [pub.ext.vt.edu](http://pub.ext.vt.edu).*

## Trout Unlimited Program Targets Springs in the Shenandoah Valley

If you live in the Shenandoah Valley and have a spring on your property, you may be able to get technical and financial assistance to protect it through Trout Unlimited's Shenandoah Headwaters Home Rivers Initiative. The initiative aims to restore the water quality and habitat of spring creeks in the Valley to the point where native brook trout can be reintroduced and sustained. Efforts will focus on implementing agricultural BMPs such as exclusion fencing and riparian buffer plantings, as well as streambank stabilization, instream habitat improvements, and reconnecting habitat by removing impassable stream crossings. For more information, contact Seth Coffman at (540) 459-8163 or [scoffman@tu.org](mailto:scoffman@tu.org).



## The Power of Preservation

Ralph and Chris Bolgiano have been striving to reduce their energy consumption for years. They designed their home in Rockingham County to be highly energy efficient. They drive fuel-efficient cars. They buy Energy Star appliances.

"The next thing that was staring us in the face was our electric bill and the knowledge of where the electricity was coming from, which in this country is coal mines," says Ralph. "So the use of renewable energy was the next step of us trying to be environmentally conscience."

Using solar power made the most sense for the Bolgianos, but solar panels aren't cheap. A complete setup, including batteries for backup power, can easily cost in the five figures.

Then, they learned about Virginia's financial incentives for conservation easements. As a nature writer, Chris had written about easements, and the couple decided a forestry easement would be the best future for their 100 wooded acres. Working with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and Valley Conservation Council, they learned that the property did qualify for an easement. The tract adjoins the George Washington National Forest, providing a buffer for open space and habitat on that public land. It also contains several headwater creeks of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, and Chris has documented 124 bird species on the property. In mid-2007, the VOF Board of Trustees accepted

their easement, and by the end of the year it was recorded.

Once the Bolgianos got their tax credits for their easement donation, they worked with a broker to sell them for about 72 cents on the dollar. Their next step was to purchase a solar setup consisting of nine panels, inverter, and batteries and have it installed in May

2008. They got some help from federal tax incentives, as well. In their first year, the panels produced about 70 percent of the home's electricity, substantially reducing their electricity bill. There have been other benefits, as well. For one, the Bolgianos have peace of mind knowing that they are reducing their carbon footprint by not relying entirely on coal-produced electricity. For another, because they live at the end of a power line in a very rural area, they had previously been experiencing outages 10 to 20 times a year. "Now we're protected against brownouts and blackouts," says Ralph. Contrary to what some people believe, the panels continue to produce electricity even on cloudy days. What isn't used is stored in the batteries, and

excess electricity is sold back to the grid (called net-metering).

Based on their own experience, the couple has been encouraging their friends and neighbors to consider both easements and on-site energy production. "Whether it's just a small wind turbine on a farm or solar panels on a poultry house," says Chris, "it would make a huge difference if everybody did it."



**Bright idea:** Ralph and Chris Bolgiano used the sale of their tax credits to purchase solar panels for their house.

## Landowners Gather in Middleburg

Magalen O. Bryant, a long-time supporter of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, graciously opened her Locust Hill Farm in Middleburg for a September afternoon of barbecue and music celebrating VOF's preservation efforts in the Piedmont. Local easement donors were invited to meet VOF staff, trustees, and fellow landowners, and to learn more about opportunities and challenges facing VOF over the next few years. Local food and wine were provided by Mount Vernon Farm and Piedmont Vineyards, both protected by VOF easements. Beer and wine were generously underwritten by Brook Middleton of Purcellville.





## 11,000+ Acres Now Protected in Carvins Cove

The City of Roanoke recently completed the donation of a two-part conservation easement in Roanoke and Botetourt counties that permanently protects 11,363 acres of open space, making it the largest easement in the state. The first part, comprising 6,185 acres, was placed under easement in 2008; the remaining 5,178 acres were placed under easement in September.

The easement, co-held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the Western Virginia Land Trust, is on the Carvins Cove Natural Reserve, the second-largest municipal park in the nation. The property is owned by the City of Roanoke and surrounds Carvins Cove Reservoir, the largest source of public drinking water for several municipalities in the Roanoke Valley, including the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, and the Town of Vinton. The Western Virginia Water Authority owns the reservoir and water treatment plant, not included in the easement.

"The latest easement is the culmination of a decade and a half of efforts by the local land preservation leaders, state agencies, and local elected officials," Gov. Tim Kaine said.

"It exemplifies the spirit of partnership that makes Virginia's land conservation program so successful, and is a testament to the foresight of Roanoke's citizens to protect this critical resource for generations to come."

The Carvins Cove Natural Reserve is managed for watershed protection and public recreation, including hiking, fishing, boating, and equestrian use. The property is located near Interstate 81 and borders 14 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The rock outcrop at nearby McAfee's Knob, which overlooks the conserved property, is one of the most frequently visited and photographed panoramas on the Appalachian Trail. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage has identified rare biological communities on the property, which the easement will protect by limiting future development.

"From wildlife habitat to public recreation to drinking water for thousands of citizens, no VOF easement protects as many public values as these 11,000 forested acres," said Roanoke resident and VOF trustee, Dr. M. Rupert Cutler, who also is a member of Roanoke City Council.

## In Brief

### Land Preserved at Montpelier

More than 700 acres of land at James Madison's Montpelier in Orange County, was permanently protected in August through a public-private partnership between the Piedmont Environmental Council, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Of the four easements purchased at the site, two will be co-held by VOF and PEC: The East Woods, a 200-acre forested tract adjacent to the "Landmark Forest," a nationally recognized old-growth Piedmont forest; and Chicken Mountain, a 245-acre forested tract in the Somerset area. The easements help to conserve the water quality in local streams, as well as the forested backdrop to Montpelier.

### Federal Tax Incentive Update

The Land Trust Alliance in Washington, D.C., is leading efforts to make permanent the enhanced federal tax deduction for conservation easement donations, which is set to expire at the end of 2009. LTA reported in early December that the House of Representatives has passed a one-year extension of the deduction, and that the alliance will work to make the incentive permanent in the Senate in 2010. For the latest news on this issue, you can visit LTA's Web site at [www.landtrustalliance.org/policy](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy).



## Meet Our New Trustee: Suzanne Lacy

As the owner of Sandy River Equestrian Center in Pittsylvania County, Suzanne Lacy understands the importance of preserving open space. "We are slowly losing our land to development, so I am very interested in conserving all of these beautiful farms and lands," she says. That's why in 2006 she and her husband donated an easement to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation on a 323-acre farm in Patrick County that contains the headwaters of the Smith River. It's also why she accepted Governor Kaine's request this year to serve a four-year term on the VOF Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Lacy is no stranger to volunteering.

She served on the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) Board of Trustees under the appointment of Governor Gerald L. Baliles, and is now serving on the VMNH Foundation board. In October 2008, she completed a three-day, 60-mile walk for breast cancer.

She plans to bring that same energy to VOF. "The VOF board to me looks like it's very well thought out. Everybody is passionate about the mission." Like other trustees, she sees outreach and finances as our biggest challenges. "I would like to see us get the word out more about our program," she says. "This is what you can do with the land. You don't have to give it to developers."



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