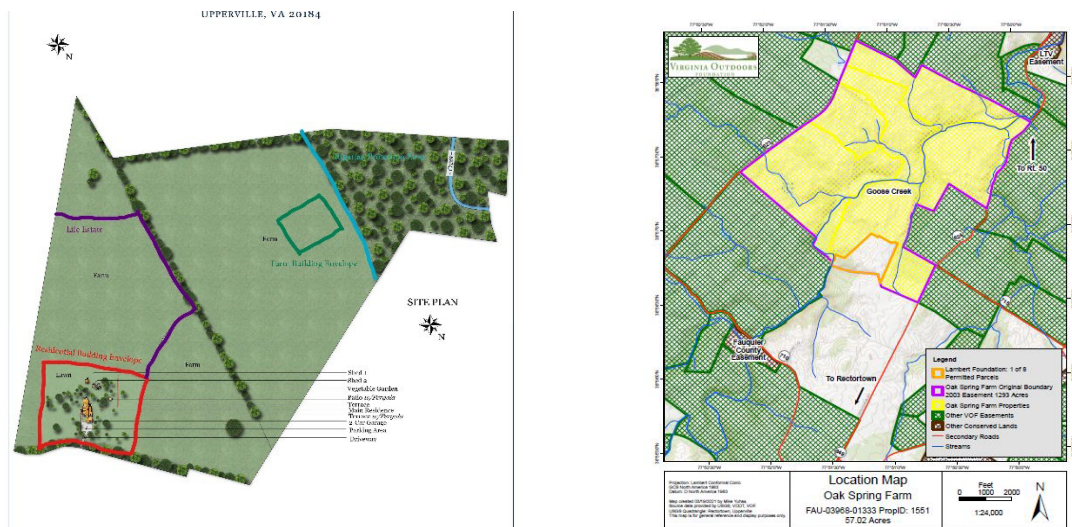


Virginia Outdoors Foundation
OWNED LANDS ACTIVITIES REPORT – Prepared for March 2023 Board Meeting

LAMBERT FOUNDATION PARCEL

57 acres in Fauquier County

The Lambert Foundation gifted this parcel to VOF in August 2021. At the June 2022 board meeting the Trustees approved a resolution to return the parcel to private ownership subject to an enhanced open space easement designed to protect the conservation values of the property and dedicate the proceeds to further support the Bull Run Mountains project. The tract is surrounded by other VOF easement land in a prime area of northern Fauquier County. The parcel is planned for listing in late March. It will be sold subject to the life estate and an open space easement retained by VOF.



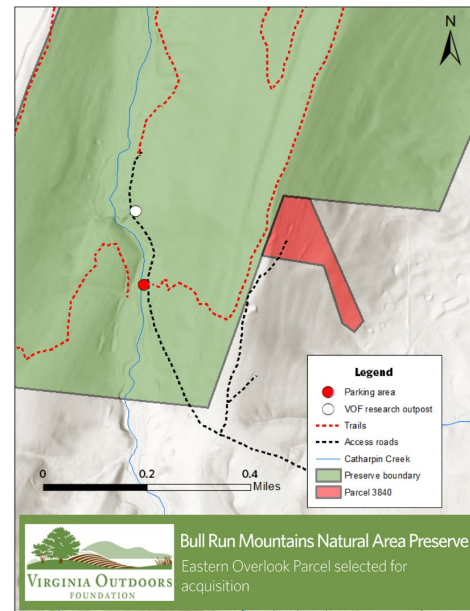
BULL RUN MOUNTAINS NATURAL AREA PRESERVE

2,350 acres in Prince William and Fauquier Counties

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation grant to Acquire Adjacent Parcel

VOF submitted an application to the fall 2022 VLCF grant round in the Natural Areas category to acquire a threatened parcel adjacent to the Jackson Hollow section of the Preserve. The ~10 acre parcel is situated on a high ridge on the edge of the Preserve with a rare view to the east and DC metropolitan area. The tract adjoins the natural area preserve and has been assigned a BMI (biological management intent) score of 1, the highest possible ranking.

This parcel (highlighted in red in the accompanying figure) is identified by ConserveVirginia as important for Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience. Due to location, it will secure an area that has had recurring trespassing issues by off-roading vehicles, and also provide a place to observe and collect data for bird migrations and other species, via observation and potential installation of a small-footprint MOTUS tower. Motus is an international collaborative research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry to facilitate research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals. VOF was awarded a grant of up to \$500,000 from VLCF to acquire the parcel. We are close to completion of all due diligence items and should be in position to close on the property in March.



Chesapeake Gateways Grant Application Submitted

The National Park Service Chesapeake Office recently announced a new competitive grant opportunity to advance the *Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998* within the full 41-million-acre Chesapeake Bay watershed. VOF was encouraged to apply during a recent meeting of partners in January. VOF Communications Specialist, Anita Angelone, took lead in writing a grant application to the Chesapeake Gateways Grant Program for \$70,000 to further enhance the cultural history research and fellowship program at VOF's Preserve at Bull Run Mountains, while increasing access for regional K-12 public school students. Award announcements are expected in August.



Garden Club Grant Awarded to VOF's Preserve at Bull Run Mountains

A grant of \$5,000 plus donated plants, expertise, and installation effort was awarded in the end of 2022 to implement a Biocultural & Pollinator Garden to be installed around the historically renovated stone house. The building is proposed to become the home of the growing cultural history collections. This grant from the Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club, along with their energetic support, puts us closer to making this site a community hub for the cultural significance of the Bull Run Mountains.



DCR Director Matthew Wells visits VOF's Preserve at Bull Run Mountains

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Director, Matthew Wells joined VOF Deputy Director, Leslie Grayson, VOF Preserve Manager Joe Villari, and DCR-DNH's Mike Lott in early January for an afternoon hike to explore VOF's Preserve at Bull Run Mountains. Director Wells is photographed here in the Preserve's quarry trench, which was utilized as a strategic stronghold during the American Civil War. He requested a visit to the Preserve after a long day of meetings in DC and clearly enjoyed the opportunity to be outside, to experience one of the 66 Virginia State Natural Area Preserves (he is trying to visit as many as possible) and to learn more about VOF's programs and projects.



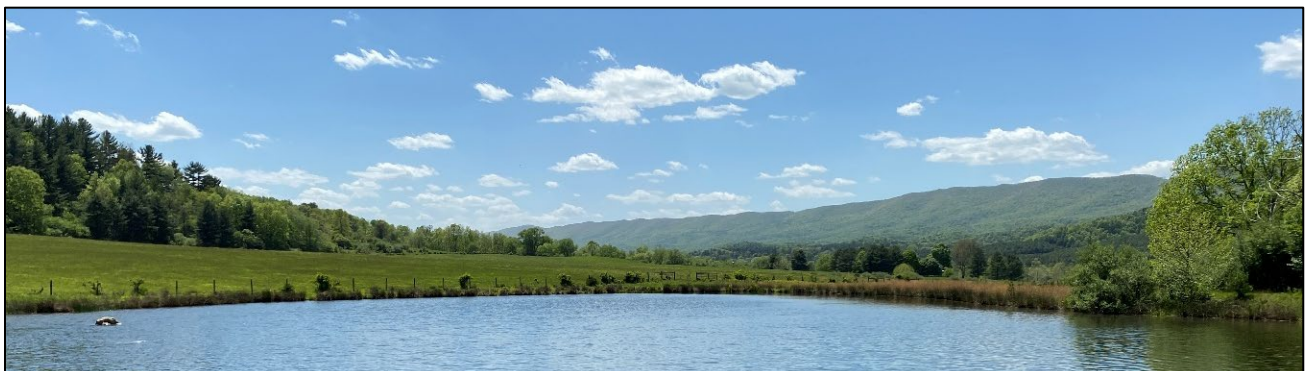
The Phenomenal Spotted Salamander Migration Begins

Spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*) are a type of mole salamander that are about the size of a hotdog and spend most of the year in underground burrows, except for a couple of weeks in late winter when they migrate to vernal pools to breed. On rainy nights, they emerge en masse where they can be seen strutting across the wet forest floor. Folks, young and old, eagerly anticipate this annual phenomenon so that they can come out to join VOF Preserve staff on one of our free night hikes to experience this magical mass migration for themselves! These animals are very sensitive to changes in water quality and therefore are important indicators of environmental health.



HAYFIELDS RESERVE to become STATE PARK

1,034 acres in Highland County



In accordance with the Governor's budget, VOF will transfer the Hayfields Farm property to DCR no later than June 20, 2023. The process involves various due diligence requirements and prescribed steps. In preparation for such conveyance, VOF is coordinating and cooperating with DCR on all matters, including meetings and tours of the property. VOF is currently developing an open-space deed of easement for the property, as required by the terms of the deed through which VOF acquired the property. VOF is also exploring options related to extinguishing the agreements associated with a small wetland restoration project near the Bullpasture River. Staff at DCR and VOF are working diligently together to meet the legislated deadline.

HOUSE MOUNTAIN RESERVE

861 acres in Rockbridge County

Reserve Land Acquisition Updates

VOF has recently completed a multi-year effort to add to, and further protect, House Mountain Reserve and to enhance stewardship and the visitor experience. Acquisition of the 7.77 acre Tim Smith parcel adjoining Little House Mountain is the final real estate transaction currently outstanding. This acquisition is funded by a Forest Core Fund grant. A new appraisal has been commissioned in order to determine if the owner is willing to sell.

House Mt. featured at Environment Virginia Symposium

Based on the popularity of last year's hike, VOF is leading a hike at House Mountain as a field trip option during the 33rd annual Environment Virginia Symposium at Virginia Military Institute that will be held in Lexington on March 28 through 30. The event, organized and co-hosted by the [VMI Center for Leadership & Ethics](#) (CLE), is expected to attract nearly 500 attendees from state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, higher education, and the private sector.

Property Management

Property management plans for the spring season include clearing down trees and treetops from the trails and saddle area after several damaging wind and ice storms this winter. The saddle will be mowed in late spring ahead of prime nesting season. Staff will be hiking portions of the property boundary now established by recent survey work. Most of these boundary areas are adjacent to VOF open-space easements so will double as monitoring of the easement properties.

