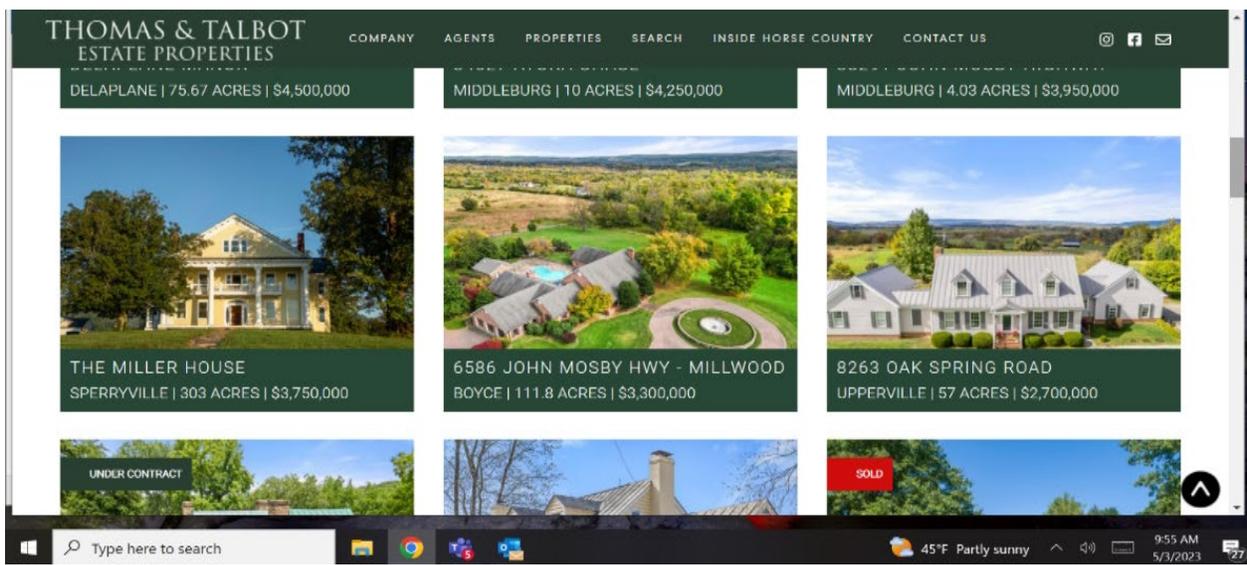
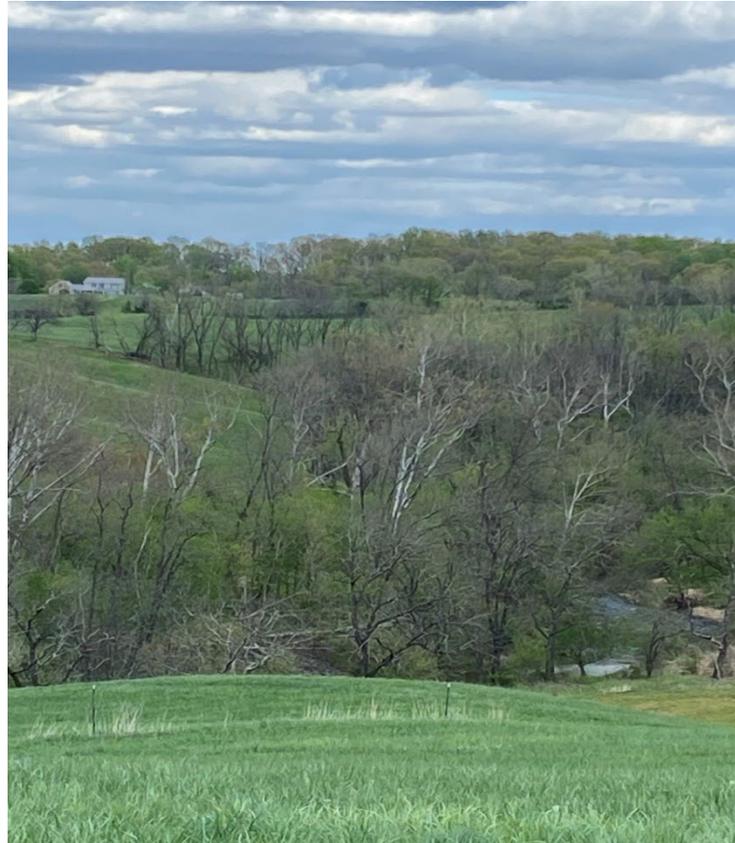


LAMBERT FOUNDATION PARCEL

57 acres in Fauquier County

The Lambert Foundation gifted this parcel to Virginia Outdoors Foundation (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 support the VOF Bull Run Mountains project. The parcel was listed with Thomas and Talbot realtors in early April. Largely surrounded by other VOF easement land in a prime area of northern Fauquier County with frontage on Goose Creek, it will be sold subject to the life estate and an open space easement.



BULL RUN MOUNTAINS NATURAL AREA PRESERVE

2,350 acres in Prince William and Fauquier Counties

Resolution for Board consideration re: gifts of land connecting the North and South sections of the Bull Run Preserve

VOF acquired its first parcels of land in the Bull Run Mountains in 1978. During the 1980's VOF was very active acquiring additional land in the Bull Run and consolidating their holdings. The current VOF landholdings were officially recognized by the Commonwealth for their ecological significance when designated and dedicated as the 35th State Natural Area Preserve in 2002. VOF has acquired several parcels in the Bull Run Mountains over the past two decades using state grants, private donations, and partner funds. The resolution for board consideration would encourage and enable gifts of land within the defined Protected Landscape Resilience area between the north and south sections of the Preserve, inholdings, or priority contiguous parcels.

***See Resolution attached** to this report

Eastern Overlook Parcel Acquired

VOF was a recipient of a grant of up to \$500,000 to acquire 10.13 acres known as the Eastern Overlook parcel as part of the 2022 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) grant round in the Natural Areas category. The formerly threatened 10.13 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. VOF closed and acquired the parcel on March 31, 2023.

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. The ridge provides a unique place to 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. The parcel also contains one of the last existing den sites not already protected by the BRMNAP for the threatened population of *Crotalus horridus*, the eastern timber rattlesnake.



Girl Scouts Explore BRMNAP and Learn “Leave No Trace” Ethic

VOF’s Conservation Assistant, Deneith Reif, teamed up with Nation’s Capital Girl Scout’s Program Specialist, Courtney Bigbee to host over one hundred Girl Scouts to explore VOF’s Preserve at Bull Run Mountains. Over the course of two weekends, participants arrived in groups to go on expeditions around our red trail and earn a badge for learning how to employ “Leave No Trace” ethic. Organized by age, each group was thoroughly engaged and provided us with hope for the future of land stewardship in the Commonwealth. More sessions are planned.



Globally Rare Lichen Discovered at VOF’s Preserve at Bull Run Mountains

Our Preserve Manager, Joe Villari, joined The Clifton Institute's Executive Director, Dr. Bert Harris, to scour the Bull Run Mountains for a previously unrecorded, globally rare lichen - *Canoparmelia alabamensis*.

It took significant searching, but we are thrilled to report that 400 individuals were discovered.

Dr. Harris is helping collect data for the upcoming IUCN red list report. Established in 1964, the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Threatened Species is the world’s most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi, and plant species. This data will be used to establish a state ranking with DCR – as this mysterious lichen does not yet even have a state conservation status.



VOF's Preserve at Bull Run Mountains Connects People to Place... and to Their Past

Deputy Director, Leslie Grayson, and Preserve Manager, Joe Villari, joined forces with the Afro-American Historical Association of Fauquier County on April 13th to host members of the Robinson family lineages, to continue researching their family genealogy and record oral histories. Three family members have memories from growing up on homesteads within the Preserve and others have family stories. This critical information will enable us to better understand and care for a number of historic cultural holdings within the Bull Run Preserve and help us share that history with the communities we serve.



A Season of Trail Improvements

Our trails have seen the addition of several new bog walks and bridges as trail renovations continue in preparation for the new trailhead, entrance, and parking area. Our volunteer Stewardship Committee, a consortium of Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and VOF volunteers, and our staff have worked together to make these improvements and additions possible. Seen here are our VOF Conservation Assistants, Deneith Reif and John Lenox, showing off the new diamond color coded trail blazes that all of our trails now sport. The south section of the Preserve currently has almost seven miles of trails open to the public.



HAYFIELDS RESERVE to become STATE PARK

1,034 acres in Highland County



Timeline:

- December 2017 - VOF received the Hayfields Farm as substitute land from the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC and Dominion Transmission, Inc. to satisfy statutory requirements associated with the development of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline through nine open-space easements held by VOF in western Virginia.

- 2020 – State budget directive issued instructing VOF and DCR to review suitability of Hayfields Farm as a recreational area for development as a state or regional park.
- 2021 – DCR publishes report identifying Hayfields Farm as suitable for development as a recreation area or a state park.
- 2022 – State budget directive issued instructing VOF to convey the property to DCR no later than June 30, 2023.

Most current status update on the project will be provided at the June 1 meeting.

HOUSE MOUNTAIN RESERVE

861 acres in Rockbridge County

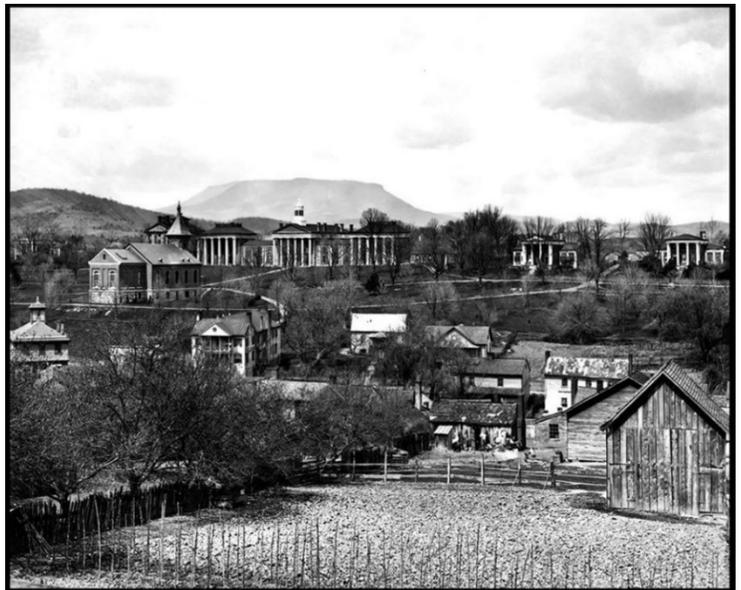
Reserve Land Acquisition Updates

VOF 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 approved for funding by a Forest Core Fund grant. We have a new appraisal just completed and are preparing to engage the owner and determine if he is willing to sell.

House Mt. Guided Hike at Annual Environment Virginia Symposium

VOF staff led a group of Environment Virginia Symposium participants on a guided hike at the Reserve. We had great weather for the hike and the group was able to learn about the history of House Mountain, its management, and forest types. VOF had a great presence at the Symposium with the guided hike being the only field trip and being presented a Gold Medal in the Land Conservation category along with our partners for the Blackwater Park Project in Franklin, VA.

VMI with House Mountain in the background Mid 1800's





RESOLUTION
VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION (VOF)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT GIFTS OF LAND
CONNECTING THE NORTH AND SOUTH SECTIONS OF BULL RUN PRESERVE

WHEREAS, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation owns 2,350 acres of land in the Bull Run Mountains of Prince William and Fauquier Counties, which was designated and dedicated in 2002 as the Bull Run Mountains State Natural Area Preserve; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution adopted by the VOF Board of Trustees at their August 18, 2000, special meeting, the Trustees endorsed the concept of linking the northern and southern VOF landholdings in the Bull Run Mountains and authorized the Executive Director to accept gifts of land and/or money to purchase such lands; and

WHEREAS, the Bull Run Mountains are specifically identified by Conserve VA and the Virginia Outdoors Plan as a significant resource recognized for its intact ecological core and corridor potential. The area connecting the North and South VOF holdings, along with inholdings and some contiguous parcels is specifically identified by these State planning documents as a priority Protected Landscape Resilience Area and a focus for land conservation and land protection efforts.

WHEREAS, there is the prospect of gifts of parcels within the Bull Run Mountains Protected Landscape Resilience Area in 2023 and the Board of Trustees would like to encourage and enable such gifts; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation Board of Trustees this 1st day of June 2023 hereby authorizes that the Executive Director, in consult with the Chair and counsel, to accept gifts of land within the Bull Run Mountains Protected Landscape Resilience Area provided that the gift contains acceptable and reasonable terms and conditions; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director is authorized to execute all documents and take actions necessary on behalf of VOF to accept such gifts.

ADOPTED by a vote of ___ in favor and ___ against

ATTEST: _____
Brett Christina Glymph, Executive Director