

NORTHERN NECK LAND CONSERVANCY

The Land We Love

Preserving the rural heritage of the Northern Neck since 2004

Volume 7, Issue 1

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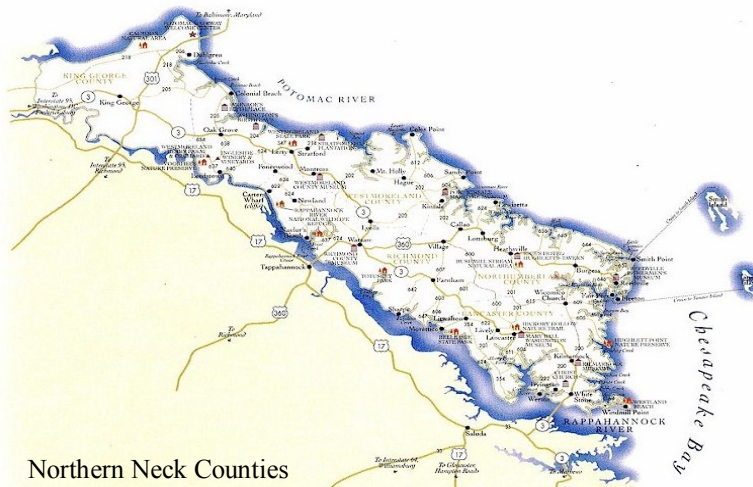
Five Counties Partner with NNLC to Co-Hold Land

All five counties on the Northern Neck; Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, King George and Lancaster; have approved agreements to co-hold conservation easements with the Northern Neck Land Conservancy, which could result in the preservation of more open lands, farmed lands and wooded lands on the Neck. When landowners voluntarily decide to protect their land, a land trust organization or other conservation organization assumes the responsibility to assure that the restrictions of the easement are upheld as the landowner has specified in the deed of easement. This is referred to as "holding" the easement. Some entities that hold easements, such as the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, may place a minimum limit on acreage that they will consider to hold. Now, with the five

county governments agreeing to co-hold land with NNLC, a landowner with smaller parcels of land, such as less than 100 acres, may have the opportunity to have their land protected. Landowners on the Northern Neck wishing to have their properties permanently preserved in a state of conservation and forego any future development rights, can place a conservation easement on their land, thereby becoming eligible for possible tax benefits if that property meets the criteria for conservation.

The conservation characteristics for a property to be considered for a conservation easement may include the existence of wetlands, riparian corridors, wildlife habitat, biological diversity, unique species, historic resources, productive agricultural and forest lands, scenic resources, unique geological features, critical slopes, or priority watersheds.

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell has set a goal of protecting 400,000 acres of land in the Commonwealth during his term in office. (cont. on p. 2)



Northern Neck Counties

Special Points of Interest

- THE NNLC WEBSITE: WWW.NNCONSERVE.ORG FEATURES INFORMATION ON CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND BENEFITS. CHECK IT OUT!
- FIVE COUNTIES NOW HAVE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH NNLC: RICHMOND, KING GEORGE, NORTHUMBERLAND, AND LANCASTER.
- THE NORTHERN NECK LICENSE PLATE HELPS SUPPORT NNLC. PLEASE GET YOURS TODAY AND SUPPORT CONSERVATION EFFORTS ON THE NECK. GO TO WWW.DMV.STATE.VA.US.COM TO PURCHASE YOUR PLATE!
- BOOTS AND BARBECUE PLANNING FOR 2012 IS UNDERWAY... PLEASE VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME- CALL NNLC TODAY!

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"ONE OF MY TOP ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES IS TO PERMANENTLY PRESERVE 400,000 ACRES OF LAND DURING MY ADMINISTRATION, MUCH OF WHICH WILL BE WORKING FARMLANDS AND FORESTS."

Governor Bob McDonnell of Virginia -Jan. 17, 2012 news conference

The Land We Love

Five Counties Can Co-Hold (continued from page 1)

The Virginia Land Conservation Incentives Act of 1999 encourages the preservation and sustainability of Virginia's unique natural resources. The act provides transferable state tax credits to landowners who donate some or all of the value of their property to a qualified land trust. Additionally, the Federal government provides for a tax deduction and other tax benefits for the donation of a conservation easement.

The mission of the Northern Neck Land Conservancy is to preserve the rural heritage of the Northern Neck by conserving its lands, waters, economies and culture for future generations. This small land

trust, and the only land trust on the Northern Neck, has been in existence for seven years. It has grown from a backyard outbuilding to an office in Lancaster, VA with two part-time employees and a contracted conservation specialist. NNLC has assisted in the preservation of 14,545 in the five counties on the Northern Neck and over 12 miles of shoreline.

In the Chesapeake Bay watershed, we lose approximately 188 acres per day to development. The loss to our natural and cultural environment impacts our state economy. Agriculture and tourism are both dependent upon natural and historic resources. Residential development is ad-

vancing rapidly through the agricultural landscape of Virginia. According to the Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, farmland in Virginia has shrunk from 13.5 million acres to 8.5 million over the last 50 years. If the Northern Neck's rural character and our cultural heritage are to be preserved, it will be because private property owners are concerned enough to become involved in conservation.

If you own property in any of the five Northern Neck counties and you wish more information about preserving your land with a conservation easement, go to the NNLC's website at www.nnconserve.org, or call us at 804-462-0979.

New Additions to the NNLC Board

The Northern Neck Land Conservancy's Board of Directors has three new members. We welcome Candy Carden, who lives in her restored 1890's home *Mt. Pleasant* in Westmoreland County; John O'Shaughnessy, Executive Vice President of Chesapeake Bank and resident of Lancaster County; and Stuart Ashton, former Navy pilot and current Vice President of Test Engineering and Flight Operations at Wyle Laboratories, living in King George County.

The talents and skills of these individuals will now be added to an already highly qualified Board. Current members are John Allen, Andy Ball, Mason Brent, Hank Hartz, Carol Hughes, Karsten Kondering, Jen Kostyniuk, Temple Moore, Mercer O'Hara, Andrew Packett, Mary Louisa Pollard, Hillary Pugh, and Steve Walker.



John O'Shaughnessy, Candy Carden & Stuart Ashton

Join in 2012

NNLC will mail out its membership drive letter in March. Please support our efforts by joining us in 2012. Send your \$35 check payable to NNLC; PO Box 125, Lancaster, VA 22503.

Additional contributions can be made along with your membership & will be appreciated.

Show Your Support & Help Protect Land!

A Message from The President

Happy New Year!

As you read this newsletter our legislators in the Commonwealth are in session and we are in hopes that they are working to protect adequate funding for the variety of programs and approaches necessary to continue the valuable benefits of land conservation to all Virginians. I urge you to follow the progress of your legislators' commitment to these conservation programs as the necessary funds must be provided in Virginia's next budget in order to achieve the governor's 400,000 acre land conservation goal.

However, your community's local land trust, the Northern Neck Land Conservancy, has continued its commitment to provide our local communities with effective champions and long-term caretakers of criti-

cal land resources. With the adoption of the Lancaster County Ordinance to co-hold conservation easements with the NNLC, all five counties on the Northern Neck are now providing leadership in protecting the benefits we derive from land conservation.

Our on-going educational outreach activities are continuing to address the value of protected land – saving our limited resources, air and water. In addition to healthy communities, protected land contributes to a stronger rural economy, clean water, affordable public services and low taxes, and increased school funding.

Remember that we can support you and give you the knowledge you need to reach out and work with your neighbors to protect the place we all need and cherish.

Visit us on our website to follow the progress of our Cat Point Creek Special Project, a 48,000 acre area containing farms, forests and wetlands connecting the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers. Join us on Facebook and let us know what you value on the Northern Neck and the benefits you receive from protected land. And if you have been considering protecting your land and want to learn more about the benefits, please contact us.

Our strength is that we are small and local. Our Northern Neck communities remain rich with opportunity. Share the benefits of land protection with a friend or neighbor for it is humanity that is collectively deciding the preservation of our limited resources. Working together we can tell the compelling story of why conservation matters.



"IT IS HUMANITY THAT IS COLLECTIVELY DECIDING THE PRESERVATION OF OUR LIMITED RESOURCES."

Carol T. Hughes
NNLC
Board President



The Northern Neck License Plate—
Get Yours Today and Help NNLC.
Go to dmv.org to register your plate.

Are you Connected to NNLC?

The Northern Neck Land Conservancy will be updating our website and launching a new look in March 2012. Be sure to go to www.nnconserve.org to see our facelift! In addition, we will be using Constant Contact to send out electronic newsletters to our members. The use of an electronic news

provider, will enable us to present a professional and up-to-date image of our organization. If you have changed your email address in the past two years, please let us know so that you can be connected to us. Email us at nnlc@kaballero.com. We promise not to share your email address and we will only be sending

you occasional newsletters and announcements about upcoming events. You can also keep up with what we do on our Facebook page, so look us up, and give us some feedback. We'd love to hear from our supporters!



Check out the Northern Neck Land Conservancy on Facebook or go to our website at www.nnconserve.org

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NORTHERN NECK
LAND CONSERVANCY

\$\$ NNLC Financial Report \$\$

NNLC continues to utilize our contributions with diligence and purposeful allocation. We appreciate the support we receive that enables us to continue our efforts to protect land. At the end of 2011, our total contributions were down by \$13,000. Our Boots, Bids & BBQ event went well, however due to inclement weather, attendance was low, which caused our revenue to suffer by about \$7,000.

But, 2012 is starting off on a more positive note. Two of our supporters, Mason Brent and Dave & Betty Evans have each put forth \$5,000 challenges for our donors to match. In response to their challenges, several people have contributed, resulting in a total of \$27,945. These challenges will continue until June 30, 2012.

If you would like to contribute to match the challenges or if you wish to pose your own challenge, please call us at the office or send a note with your check to the NNLC address. We also accept stock donations through our Davenport account in White Stone. Our contact at Davenport is Sherry Germain and her phone number is 804-435-7705.

Or, if you wish to make a special contribution as a personal recognition to honor individuals for birthdays, accomplishments or to memorialize them, please write a note and include it with your donation. We will gladly inform the individual or the family of your generosity. We truly appreciate and value your support.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!

NNLC can use your help. Can you stuff envelopes? Man the NNLC booth at a Farmers' Market? Make a dessert for an event? Make phone calls to supporters? Direct parking or bartend at Boots? If you can answer YES to any of the above, please phone or email us. **WE THANK YOU.**

Northern Neck Land Conservancy
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Lancaster, VA 22503

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