



2016 Annual Report

Preserving the rural heritage of the Northern Neck since 2004

November 2016

You Helped Conserve Nearly 300 Acres This Year!



Ditchley Historic Gem Forever Protected

In 2016, NNLC launched *Vision 2020: a commitment to conserve 1,000 acres by 2020*. This effort is off to a great start!

This year NNLC was selected to conserve Ditchley, the historic home of Jessie Ball DuPont. The 161-acre Northumberland County site has a historic past, abundant natural resources, and an innovative future. NNLC was also awarded Federal and State grants to purchase the easement.

Ditchley is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a wonderful example of a working plantation from the Colonial Period.



Restoration efforts continue at Ditchley under current owners.

Ditchley also has abundant natural resources. The site has 2 miles of pristine, deep water frontage on Dividing Creek, Prentice Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. The untouched beauty and abundance of wildlife associated with undeveloped areas of the Chesapeake Bay is stunning.



Belted Galloway cattle are now being raised at Ditchley

Today Ditchley is a working farm anchored by hard apple cider production with 1,500 newly planted heritage cider apple trees. "Rivah Cidah" will soon be available. The farm also produces grass fed beef and heritage pork. Ditchley is an "Agro Tourism" site, listed on the Virginia Artisan Trail. Ditchley will not only be preserved, but also be highly productive, generating new income and tourism for the community.



Bayne Easement Connects Park and Stratford Hall

The 61-acre Bayne Easement in Westmoreland County contains mature stands of forest, providing scenic value, wildlife habitat, and water quality. The easement was granted to NNLC in October 2016 and is directly adjacent to Westmoreland State Park.



NNLC Board Member Kirwan King and owners visit the site.

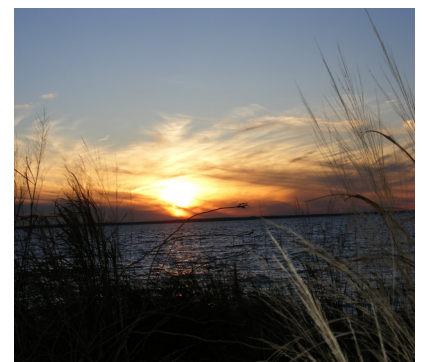
The easement provides scenic views from Stratford Hall and Westmoreland State Park and Route 3. The site is within the Cat Point Creek Special Project Area, a water quality focus area for NNLC.



Henry's Island A Virginia Treasure

The Henry's Island Conservation Easement was just named a Virginia Treasure by the State of Virginia. A Virginia Treasure designation recognizes Virginia's most important ecological, cultural, scenic and recreational assets.

This easement was granted to NNLC late last year and is a rare example of Chesapeake Bay maritime forest near the tip of Windmill Point in Lancaster County. The conservation of this 51-acre property will leave much of the tip of Windmill Point as permanent open space that will never be developed.



Sunset at Henry's Island.

CONSERVATION IN OUR COMMUNITY

The NNLC Board's 2016 Strategic Plan put forth new and innovative ideas for conservation, education and financial sustainability. Land conservation efforts are proceeding well. NNLC has also **tripled youth education efforts** by joining "A River Runs Through Us" team teaching sixth graders about the local environment. NNLC also participated in an **unprecedented number of community events** like Farmer's Markets and historic tours. Financially, we have been successful with our Vision 2020 outreach and grants, but there is much work still to ensure financial sustainability for the future of the NNLC.



Left- Teaching at Lancaster Middle School

Right-Fossil Hunt at Stratford Hall with Ches. Bay Gov. School students



Left - Ditchley tour

Right- Think Outside the Sink event with area 6th graders Belle Isle



Financial Sustainability

Do you like what you see here? **We need your help to make 2017 as successful for conservation as 2016!** Our financial sustainability relies upon our members, donors, fundraising, NNLC license plate revenue and grants. Here's how you can help NNLC preserve the land you love:

1. Provide an **End -of the - Year tax deductible donation** by 12/31/16.
2. **Become a member in 2017.** Membership letters are sent in early 2017. (you may always donate at nnconserve.org)
3. Consider an one-of-a-kind unique **Northern Neck License plate.** A portion of the proceeds benefits NNLC.
4. **Remember NNLC in your will.** Conservation is a forever legacy for your community.
5. **Talk about NNLC and conservation.** Staff and Board members can meet anytime with potential easement donors or community partners.
6. **Volunteer—we always need help** for events, field-work and office work.

CELEBRATING CONSERVATION AT BOOTS 2016

On September 25, 300 of our closest friends gathered for NNLC's Boots and BBQ held at Juggs Farmhouse at Sabine Hall in Richmond County. The owners graciously provided a beautiful setting on the Rappahannock River, and the music, food, drink and an abundance of oysters made for a **festive educational "party with a purpose"**.

Great speakers, 20 environmental booths, the Conservation Champion award, a raffle drawing that included a stand up paddle board and "Virginia Adventures" all made the day very special.



Above- Speakers under the tent
Below-Oysters are served!



Above-Rap. Wildlife Refuge Exhibits . Below—Jr. Volunteers help with transport

