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Clarke County Easement News

WINTER

2023

Tribute to an Early Volunteer “With Endless Energy and a Can-Do Attitude”

Prue Anderson Wins Ninth Wingate Mackay-Smith Land Conservation Award

When long-time Easement Authority volunteer Prudence “Prue” Anderson arrived at the conservation award luncheon in her honor, she sheepishly admitted she had three easement signs in the back of her car – from nearly eight years ago!

In January, Anderson earned the prestigious 9th Wingate Mackay-Smith Clarke County Land Conservation Award. At a ceremony held at the Millwood Country Club, her devotion as a volunteer was applauded by the gathering of Easement Authority members and other county leaders.



Prue Anderson (center) accepts the Wingate Mackay-Smith Land Conservation Award from Easement Specialist Alison Teetor (left) and land conservation pioneer Winkie Mackay-Smith (right)

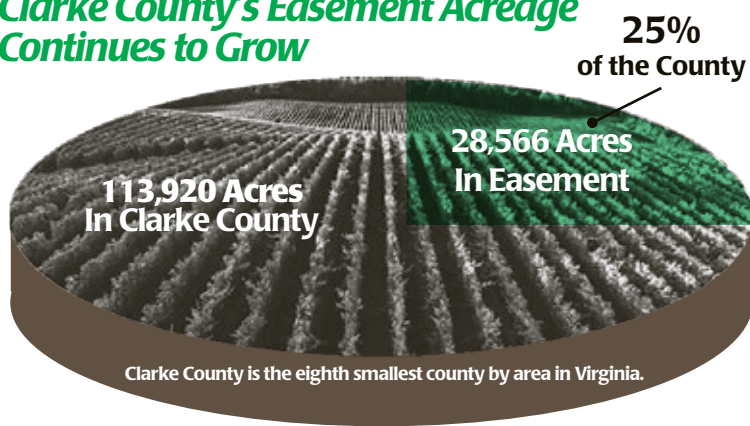
Said Buckley, “Winkie’ was – and still is – instrumental in identifying parcels for easement and educating landowners about the benefits. I think we all agree she’s ‘the Queen’ of conservation easements in Clarke County.”

The goal of the award is to honor individuals, groups, or organizations for outstanding contributions to protect our open spaces in Clarke County; build awareness of the need for land conservation in Clarke County; and showcase the positive role that conservation easements

play in preserving the natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources of the county.

The Little County That Could...

Clarke County's Easement Acreage Continues to Grow



Thanks to you, after 20 years, Clarke County's conservation easement initiative continues to be successful!

A Farewell to Preservation Planner Jeff Feaga

...and a Search for a New Conservation Planner-GIS Coordinator

After more than a year as Clarke County's Preservation Planner and GIS Coordinator, Jeff Feaga has left his position with Clarke County and accepted a role with Potomac Conservancy.

Much of Feaga's time with Clarke County was spent supporting the county's management and protection of natural resources, sharing information about environmental issues and trends with community members and assisting with the Easement Authority's work.

As a resident of Shepherdstown, West Virginia, Feaga realized the lengthy commute affected his quality of life more than anticipated. "I'm crossing my fingers [my new position] will strike the right work/family balance," he said. "Clarke County sets a pretty high bar for work satisfaction though."

Join us as the Easement Authority thanks Jeff for his work and wishes him well on his new environmental adventure!

Resumes Wanted

With Feaga's departure, the county is seeking to fill the position of Conservation Planner-GIS Coordinator.

The minimum requirements are a bachelor's degree in natural resource management, environmental science, planning, or a related field; three years of experience as a natural resource professional (water resources, forestry, geology, or a similar field) or a planner with a municipality, a planning or engineering consulting firm, and/or a non-profit organization; and extensive experience in the use of GIS.

For the complete job description, please visit <https://www.clarkecounty.gov/Home/Components/JobPosts/Job/118/1179>



Award winner Prue Anderson (left) studies the county easement map with Easement Specialist Alison Teetor

enthusiastically traveled miles of county roads to post the metal easement identifier signs along fences and at entrances to county properties as they were protected by easements. She says she 'put up most of the signs in the county,' and we believe her!"

Anderson worked with then Natural Resources Planner Alison Teetor from 2005 to 2015, first volunteering to help with mailings and moving quickly to on-the-road support.

"Prue has always been an amazing volunteer, with endless energy and a can-do attitude," Teetor said. "That helped her not only get projects done but also made her fun to be around."

In accepting the award, Anderson noted, "It's been a pleasure working with you and I hope to help again soon."

Then she added with a laugh, "But I have permission to wait until the weather warms up a bit before putting up a few more easement signs."

The Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority established the Wingate Mackay-Smith Land Conservation Award nine years ago.



Clarke County leaders gathered for the Land Conservation Award luncheon in January

Quarterly newsletter published by the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority dedicated to preserving properties with natural, cultural or scenic resources worthy of protection

Is a Conservation Easement Right for Your Property? Watch the Workshop Video

If you missed the workshop hosted by the Conservation Easement Authority in November – "Is a Conservation Easement Right for Your Property?" – you're in luck. You're able to watch a video of this educational program through this link to the session: <https://tinyurl.com/ClarkeCountyEasementWorkshop>

The hour-long presentation explores these important topics: What is a conservation easement? What are the tax benefits? How will an appraisal of my property work? What are the myths about easements?

You'll hear from easement and taxation experts, as well as two county landowners who explain how they took advantage of the benefits of placing their property in easement.



Summer Interns Needed

Flexible and resume-building work!

Each summer, the Conservation Easement Authority hires one to two interns to assist with easement property recordkeeping by traveling throughout the county, visiting easement properties, and recording any changes that may affect compliance.

We're looking for students who are currently enrolled in college, about to enter college, or recently graduated, preferably studying environmental science or a related field. Excellent writing and communications skills, ability to read maps, and familiarity with the county's geography and roads are pluses.

The work schedule is flexible, typically at least 16 hours per week during the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. A \$1,000 stipend will be provided. Interns must supply their own transportation with travel costs reimbursed.

If you know someone who may be a good fit, please direct that person to submit a resume to Alison Teetor at ateetor@clarkecounty.gov or call 540-955-5177 for more information.

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(Our most recent donors are included here. Please consider joining this list.

Together, we can protect Clarke County's open spaces.)

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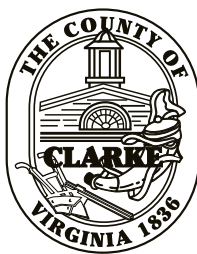
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Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority

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Winter 2023

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