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The Joseph Pines Preserve Expands! *The Sussex County, VA Preserve Adds 131 Acres*

We would like to extend a big thank-you to all of our members and donors! Thanks to your continued support, we paid off the initial 101 acres of the Joseph Pines preserve in January 2010! We want to thank everyone for their passion, dedication and commitment to this very important cause.

We are pleased to announce that the Joseph Pines Preserve has acquired an additional 131 acres (Posey and Conservation Forestry tracts). The Sussex county preserve's size is now expanded to a total of 232 acres. To accomplish this, the Meadowview Biological Research Station team successfully pursued and was granted a principal forgiveness loan (essentially a grant) of \$145,000 from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ). The \$145,000 VDEQ award was announced in 2009. The Research Station also obtained a ten year \$145,000 loan from the Virginia Resources Authority at an amazing interest rate of 0.25% interest. The \$290,000 real estate transaction closed on June 30, 2012.

As part of the expansion effort, the Joseph Pines Preserve is now placed in a permanent conservation easement with the Virginia Dept. of Forestry, ensuring permanent protection of the 232 acres.

(Joseph Pines continued on page 2)

State Matching Grant Awarded for Central Virginia Preserve ! *The Caroline County, VA Preserve*

Meadowview Biological Research Station's Central Virginia Preserve is located adjacent to the Research Station in Caroline County, VA. Meadowview has formed a strategic plan to acquire a series of target properties. The goal is to protect the northern most pitcher plant population in Virginia (see 2009 newsletter at www.pitcherplant.org for details). We're off to a great start!

The Sheridan Tract. In May 2010, Meadowview purchased the first tract of interest from Margie and Phil Sheridan. The "Sheridan Tract" abuts the Meadowview operations center. The land is characterized by sandy loam soils, a mixed pine hardwood forest, and bubbling sphagnum springs. The 3 acre property appraised for \$20,000, the board then voted and approved the purchase (Phil Sheridan recused to avoid conflict of interest), and the tract was purchased for \$19,000. A fund drive in the fall of 2012, supported by an International Carnivorous Plant Society donation of \$2800 and matching donations from an Australian group headed by Adam Cross, resulted in paying off the note in late November.

The Gatewood Tract. The 14 acre "Gatewood Tract" boasts the headwater of the native purple pitcher plant bog above Meadowview. When the property became available for purchase in 2010, Meadowview member Dr. Ernest Wilson (at right), came forward and purchased the property for \$95,000. Meadowview then signed an exclusive lease to own contract with Dr. Wilson. This partnership allows restoration work to proceed and provides confidence that the bog's headwaters are protected.



(Central Virginia Preserve continued on page 3)

(Joseph Pines continued from page 1)

Meadowview's Joseph Pines preserve establishes a managed area where the Virginia longleaf pine/pitcher plant ecosystem is restored and preserved. Virginia longleaf pine once covered 1.5 million acres, but populations have dropped to 4432 trees remaining on less than 800 acres, based on our 1998 census. To date, the Joseph Pines preserve is protecting 18 state listed rare plant species (including the entire remaining population of native Virginia yellow pitcher plant) and habitat for 3 rare animal species. Prior to the establishment of Joseph Pines, no preserve in Virginia existed to protect this very unique community.

The Joseph Pines Preserve expansion significantly expands the scope and magnitude of our restoration work and gives us nearly complete control of the watershed, preserving precious groundwater quality and quantity for seepage wetland pitcher plant bogs. The expansion also provides better control of prescribed burns and generates additional habitat for pitcher plant and longleaf pine restoration. We've already got the best pitcher plant bogs in Virginia and the expansion puts us in a new league to showcase our preserve against premiere southeastern U.S. pitcher plant wetlands. We also anticipate the installation of several new trails and primitive camp sites (permission required to camp).



Joseph Pines Preserve, Sussex County, VA
6/30/12 - Meadowview Biological Research Station

660 0 660 Feet

| Legend | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | Campsite | Yr. Est. Acres |
| | Trails and roads | 1.0 |
| | Turpentine stump | |
| | Powerline | 2.6 |
| Stand type and features | | |
| | Sphagnous seeps | 12.0 |
| | Loblolly plantation | 1970 27.0 |
| | VA Longleaf pine | 2001 0.6 |
| | VA Longleaf pine | 2005 5.9 |
| | VA Longleaf pine | 2006 14.6 |
| | VA Longleaf pine | 2009 25.0 |
| | Pine Hardwood buffer | 4.0 |
| | Bamboo swamp | 2.0 |
| | Cypress swamp | |
| | Beaver pond | |
| | Quail meadow | 6.3 |
| Total | | 101.0 |



Above. Photographs of Joseph Pines, June 2012, by Jim Robinson.

MEADOWVIEW BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH STATION NEEDS YOU

DONATE for the JOSEPH PINES PRESERVE EXPANSION

DONATE for the CENTRAL VIRGINIA PRESERVE

CONTRIBUTE TO MEADOWVIEW'S OPERATIONS

BUY PLANTS

VOLUNTEER

LET OTHER FOLKS KNOW ABOUT THIS WORK AND HOW THEY CAN HELP PREVENT EXTINCTION

The Bass Tract. In January, 2011, Meadowview member Bill Scholl signed a sales contract on the 15.7 acre “Bass Tract” for \$59,000, and Meadowview signed a lease to own contract with Mr. Scholl. This acquisition is now delayed due to a title issue with the seller. We hope to be able to proceed with the purchase contract and protect this important preserve parcel with crystal clear springs and hardwood forest. Stay tuned...

The Travesty House. A foreclosure property of 10 acres, dubbed “The Travesty House”, is currently in Bank of America foreclosure processing. We hope to put a bid on this property and secure valuable sphagnum seeps and potential future dwelling for interns and guests. We’re keeping a close eye on the foreclosure status of this property. Stay tuned...

The Hall Tract. Meadowview member Jon Davis is underwriting a lease of the native pitcher plant bog on the Hall tract (\$100/month). The lease allows us to enter and work on the 3 acres of bog on this property harboring the northern most purple pitcher plant bog in Virginia.

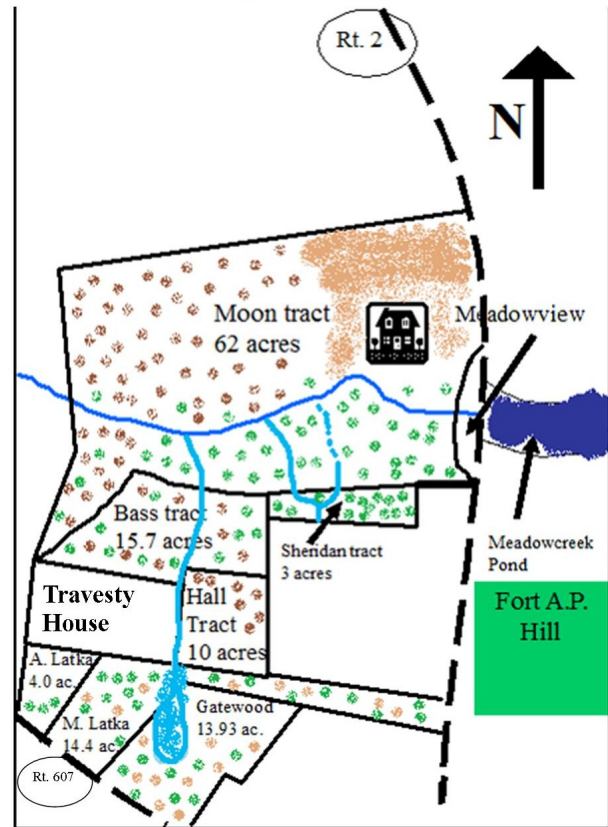
Controlled pollinations of the native *S. purpurea* on the Hall tract have resulted in almost 90 seedlings (right). These plants are undergoing intense propagation at Meadowview for return to the Hall tract and introduction to seeps on the Gatewood/Wilson tract.

Central Virginia Preserve Grant Awards.

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) Award: The VLCF awarded Meadowview a matching grant of \$56,500 in 2011 towards the purchase of the Gatewood and Sheridan tracts. The agreement was executed in Dec. 2011 and we have two years to raise the matching funds. To date we have raised \$20,000 in donations (equity in the 3 acre Sheridan tract) and still need to raise another \$37,500 within the next year to obtain the grant funds. Both properties will be permanently protected by a conservation easement which our county, Caroline, has agreed to accept, providing matching funds are raised.

The Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region Award: Meadowview was awarded the Duff McDuff Green Jr. grant in both 2010 (\$2500) and 2011 (10,000). The grant has funded complete restoration (invasive hardwood removal) of the Sheridan tract, trail completion on Sheridan and Gatewood/Wilson tracts, signage, bench seating, and tree pruning equipment.

Central Virginia Preserve Plan



!!!FALL HOLIDAY FUNDRAISING SALE!!!

50% OFF PLANT STOCK WITH MEMBERSHIP DONATION

Letter from the President - Pitchers for the Public!

Dear Members and Friends:

The past several years have been a period of tremendous growth for Meadowview. We have waited to release a newsletter until we completed and finalized the Joseph Pines expansion - a three year process. I have also been extremely busy with Meadowview work after the successful completion of my Ph.D. in Ecological Sciences from Old Dominion University in 2010. This newsletter is focused on our preserve expansions, why they are important, and what you and others can do to help. Upcoming newsletters will brief you on other exciting field, educational, research, and infrastructure work. Meanwhile, check Meadowview Biological Research Station out on FaceBook and You Tube!

I can't emphasize enough the importance of your financial contributions, whether by plant purchases, membership donations, or membership renewals. We expended almost all our working capital to pay expenses associated with the Joseph Pines Preserve expansion's loan requirements. For example, a survey and environmental report alone cost \$5000. All of these Joseph Pines Preserve expansion expenses have drained money that otherwise would have been in the bank to get us through the slow time of winter. We need your help to maintain our general operations and fund loan payments (\$7,345.00 due semi-annually on January and July 1 of each year) . We appreciate your continued support. Together we can keep up the momentum and truly make a difference. It is very satisfying to work together to prevent extinction, and to achieve tangible results that can be enjoyed by future generations!

This newsletter also emphasizes how our membership has come together to make Meadowview's preservation efforts possible. One member has pledged \$1000/month toward the Joseph Pines Preserve expansion note and has placed over \$29,000 in a reserve escrow account required by our lender. This is a remarkable level of support and philanthropy. Members generous partnerships have made the Central Virginia Preserve concept a reality. We've updated our on-line donor lists for both Joseph Pines and the Central Virginia Preserve so you can see the many people and organizations that have donated for preserve acquisition. Whatever you can do to help support this effort is appreciated. It's now even easier to donate since we're including a donation form and envelope with this newsletter or you can go to our website and donate on-line. Many companies offer employer matching programs that can double your charitable contributions. This is a great way to make your donations go further! Check with your human resources department to determine whether your company has a corporate matching program (if not, you may be able to ask them to start one), and we will be happy to provide any information about our non-profit organization that is required.

We are working to continue preservation efforts with our new campaign, "Pitchers for the Public!". **Pitchers for the Public!** reflects the public's right to see beautiful, restored, pitcher plant ecosystems in Virginia. With support from you, government organizations, and private foundations, our preserves in southern and central Virginia are providing exemplary, native, pitcher plant beauty for the public to enjoy. Thank you for your support and we hope you can visit soon.

Sincerely,

Phil Sheridan

Phil Sheridan, Ph.D.
Director and President
Meadowview Biological
Research Station

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