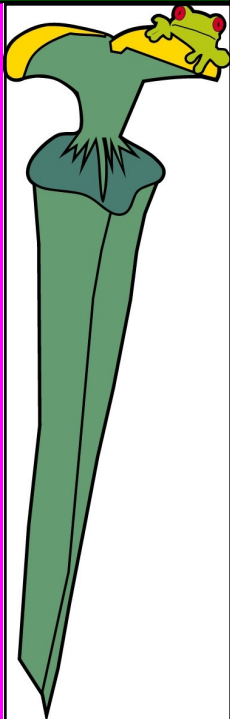


\$50K Challenge Grant Awarded for The Center for Biodiversity at Joseph Pines Preserve, DEQ Approves Loan



**A non-profit
501(c)(3)
organization**

The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation awarded Meadowview a \$50,000 challenge grant in November 2013 for the purchase of the education and biodiversity center at Joseph Pines Preserve. We must raise a match of \$50,000 by November 2014 to receive the grant. This grant success was followed by the Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approving our loan request of \$449,000 for the project. We received the second highest score in the state for the project from DEQ, just below Natural Bridge. The loan is contingent on acquiring donor or foundation support for the note. The project is outlined in our 2013 newsletter and as a detailed pdf prospectus on our Joseph Pines link (both available on our web site).

So.. what do we need to do to complete the purchase of the center and why is it important to the mission of Meadowview?

1. We need to obtain member donations to match the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation challenge grant. This money will be the down payment on the biodiversity center. You can go right to our website and donate on-line for this cause or mail a check stating you want the funds applied as a match.
2. WE NEED THREE MEADOWVIEW MEMBERS TO SPONSOR THE DEQ LOAN. The Virginia Resources Authority will provide financing for the DEQ loan with a maximum of three qualified Meadowview member donor pledges. THE THREE MEADOWVIEW MEMBERS would make seven annual payments of \$20,250/year. Philanthropy at this level includes naming rights to the center for biodiversity. Please contact us if you can be one of these donors.

The Center for Biodiversity at Joseph Pines Preserve is important to the mission of Meadowview because it will allow us to greatly expand our discovery, propagation, research, reintroduction, and education efforts at the preserve and in southern Virginia. The center will give us an excellent southern Virginia headquarters to support and enhance field work in the area to search for remaining rare plant populations. We couldn't build a facility of this quality for this price. The center, which is adjacent to our Joseph Pines Preserve, will allow us to setup a rare plant nursery specifically tailored for the restoration of native species on the preserve and in the region. Not only is the biodiversity center property much larger and better equipped than our existing headquarters in Woodford, VA, but we will be able to avoid the potential for genetic contamination of reintroduction propagules from horticultural material. We will also be able to greatly increase the scope and scale of reintroduction efforts at Joseph Pines Preserve. The center will also give us premier facilities to conduct our research and educational programs - far above what we can do with our Woodford facility.

In short, the center for biodiversity at Joseph Pines Preserve will define a new era in the development of Meadowview Biological Research Station. We hope you share that dream and will join with us in making that dream become a reality. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. The property is still on the market for sale and could be lost at any time if we don't close the deal soon.



Propagation and Signage

340 square feet of new bed space was added to the propagation area at Meadowview in 2013. Partial funding for bed lumber was obtained by Heidi Davis from a VDACS Virginia FFA Building Our American Communities Grant . Bed timber carpentry was done by Massaponax FFA members, Mike Hammond, and Mike Anderson. The new bed space is allowing us to divide the collection and provide more space for sale plants. A grant from the Community Foundation gave us a handsome new sign highlighting the Duff McDuff Green Jr. Birding and Wildlife trail on the Central Virginia Preserve.



Equipment donations sought

Meadowview could use several key equipment donations. Maybe you, or someone you know, could help us out. With a preserve system of almost 250 acres in central and southern Virginia we're doing a lot of driving and need equipment to manage the properties. Our 1997 Toyota 4-runner does a great job hauling heavy loads and going down tough trails but we need a reliable, fuel efficient, passenger car for preserve inspection and everyday use. Thanks to a fall 2013 grant from the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region Duff McDuff Green Jr. Fund, we were able to purchase a DR tow behind field and brush mower to attach to our 1969 10 h.p. John Deere 112 garden tractor. While this assemblage now allows us to mow our preserve trails, we really need a serious tractor (38 h.p. +), bush-hog, and front loader to service our preserve system. Donations are tax deductible.

Conservation Easement Placed on Central Virginia Preserve

On January 14, 2014 Meadowview closed on the purchase of the Wilson tract and both it and the Sheridan tract were permanently protected by a conservation easement with Caroline County, VA. The Caroline County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to hold the conservation easement on both properties. The easement was a milestone since this is the first conservation easement ever held by Caroline County. The easement was particularly important because it recognizes and permits the unique management needs required in pitcher plant habitats. The Central Virginia Preserve is dedicated to protecting and restoring the northern-most native pitcher plant bog in Virginia and a globally rare gravel bog with state threatened New Jersey Rush, *Juncus caesariensis* Coville.

The deal was facilitated by a \$50,000 matching grant from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation. Dr. Wilson became the lienholder on the property for the balance of funds that still need to be raised to pay off the note (\$48,000). The note is interest only for ten years with the principal balance due at the end of the note. We hope to pay off this debt within the next few years and are busy writing grants for the project and soliciting donations for the Central Virginia Preserve.



Photographs.

Left. Restoration ecologist intern Emily Gotschalk leads tour of Central VA Preserve with Governor's School students.

Right. Turk's-cap lily, *Lilium superbum* L., in bloom on Central VA Preserve.



Repairs Underway at Meadowview Headquarters

Thanks to a generous donation of \$1200 by Meadowview Director Jim Robinson, the north side of Meadowview was successfully repaired with installation of house wrap and vinyl siding. Meadowview staff spent almost two months scraping and painting the rest of the siding, windows, and a good portion of the roof. Plans for the spring and summer include repair and replacement of roof over kitchen and gift shop, and repair and replacement of damaged sliding glass doors and rotten sills. Together these repairs will put our Caroline County headquarters back in good shape.



Two New Directors Added to the Meadowview Board



Mr. Whitehead

In order to meet foundation grant requirements, Better Business Bureau standards, and improve the intellectual talent in our governing board two individuals have accepted positions on our Board of Directors in the fall of 2013: Charles Michael Hammond and Hinton Bradford Whitehead. Both Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Hammond have a long history working with Meadowview either as exceptional volunteers with degrees in biology (Mr. Hammond) or as long-term supporters of Meadow-

view with a business background and instigators of the Joseph Pines Preserve (Mr. Whitehead). Full biographies of both gentlemen are available on our website on the “About Us” link.



Mr. Hammond

Job News & Openings

Richard Curzon was hired as the Meadowview Horticulturist in March 2014. The horticulturist is a full time position and handles all ornamental botanical activities at the research station including filling plant orders, repotting and grooming the collection, bed construction, green-



Richard Curzon

house upkeep and maintenance, and more. Richard was a restoration ecology intern at Meadowview in the summer of 2011 and recently completed his B.S. degree at Brigham Young University in Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation.

We still have a job opening for vice president. The v.p. will be trained in all aspects of Meadowview operations with the ultimate goal of filling the president position. The v.p. candidate will spend one year in an intern position, with supporting room and board, and move to the official vice-president position upon successful completion of training. The ideal candidate will have a masters degree or above in biology or ecology with some business background. Compensation is dependent on the candidate’s ability to procure grant funding. Additional details and application forms are on our web site under “2014 Job Openings”.

Kew intern helps Meadowview

Duncan Brokensha interned as a restoration ecologist at Meadowview from 3/29 -



4/12/14 as part of his program with the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England. Duncan helped plant pitcher plants on the Central VA Preserve, build a boardwalk, and get Meadowview ready for spring.

The Future of Meadowview

Staffing

2015 marks the 20th year in the history of Meadowview Biological Research Station. As we contemplate two decades of success preventing the extinction of pitcher plants in Virginia we must look towards the future and how that success will be sustained and supported. Our preserve system and nursery are growing and they are going to require more staff, resources, and work in the future. Meadowview is currently run by a full time, non-compensated president, interns, and volunteer crew with auxiliary help from contractors and professionals. The division between horticultural (plant orders and nursery) and conservation activities over the past couple years has shown the need for increased staff in both areas. While this staffing need is currently being met with exceptional volunteer effort, we will need paid, full time staff in the future to remain a viable organization. We start to address our staffing needs in this newsletter by soliciting applications for the vice-president and horticulturist positions. These positions will require individuals with exceptional motivation and dedication to the work of Meadowview. Since our success to date has been driven by highly motivated, non-compensated officers and staff, we think it only fair to expect the same in individuals who want to join our organization.

The Preserve System

Our preserve objectives have clarified over the past several years with a focus on the Virginia nature preserves. While we need a pitcher plant preserve on the western shore of Maryland, the political and legal obstacles combined with the lack of habitat due to development, have made this proposition untenable. Therefore, we will continue to work on preserving, restoring, and expanding the longleaf pine/pitcher plant ecosystem at the Joseph Pines Preserve towards a goal of almost 2000 acres. We hope to expand the Central VA Preserve to 140 acres to protect the northern-most pitcher plant bog and globally rare gravel bog with state threatened species. Land is continually becoming available at both preserves and our greatest challenge is having ready capital to quickly acquire these critical properties. The cost of fully implementing acquisition of both preserve designs is over three million dollars.

Endowments and Bequests

One way to fund Meadowview operations, staffing, and land acquisitions in the future is by setting up an endowment fund and receiving bequests. Non-profits typically draw on the annual interest from the principal in an endowment fund to support operations. A bequest might be donated to the endowment fund or assigned to a specific purpose, depending on the wishes of the donor (e.g. land acquisition or staffing). We realize this is a long-range plan but also know that it is something we need to start on now to have significant resources in 20 years for operations and land acquisition. The Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region, a local charity in Fredericksburg, VA that has awarded us several grants, can start an endowment fund with only \$10,000. Having an independent non-profit community foundation as steward of our endowment funds is also good business and accounting practice. If you, or someone you know, is interested in supporting the Meadowview endowment fund, or making a bequest, please contact us for further discussion.

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Principal office and contact information:

8390 Fredericksburg Tnpk., Woodford, VA 22580.
Ph. 804-633-4336
meadowview@pitcherplant.org
www.pitcherplant.org

Board members and officers

Dr. Phil Sheridan, Director and President
James Robinson, Director
Dr. Robert Wright, Director
Charles M. Hammond, Director
Hinton Bradford Whitehead, Director