

OWNED LAND ACTIVITIES REPORT
June 2013

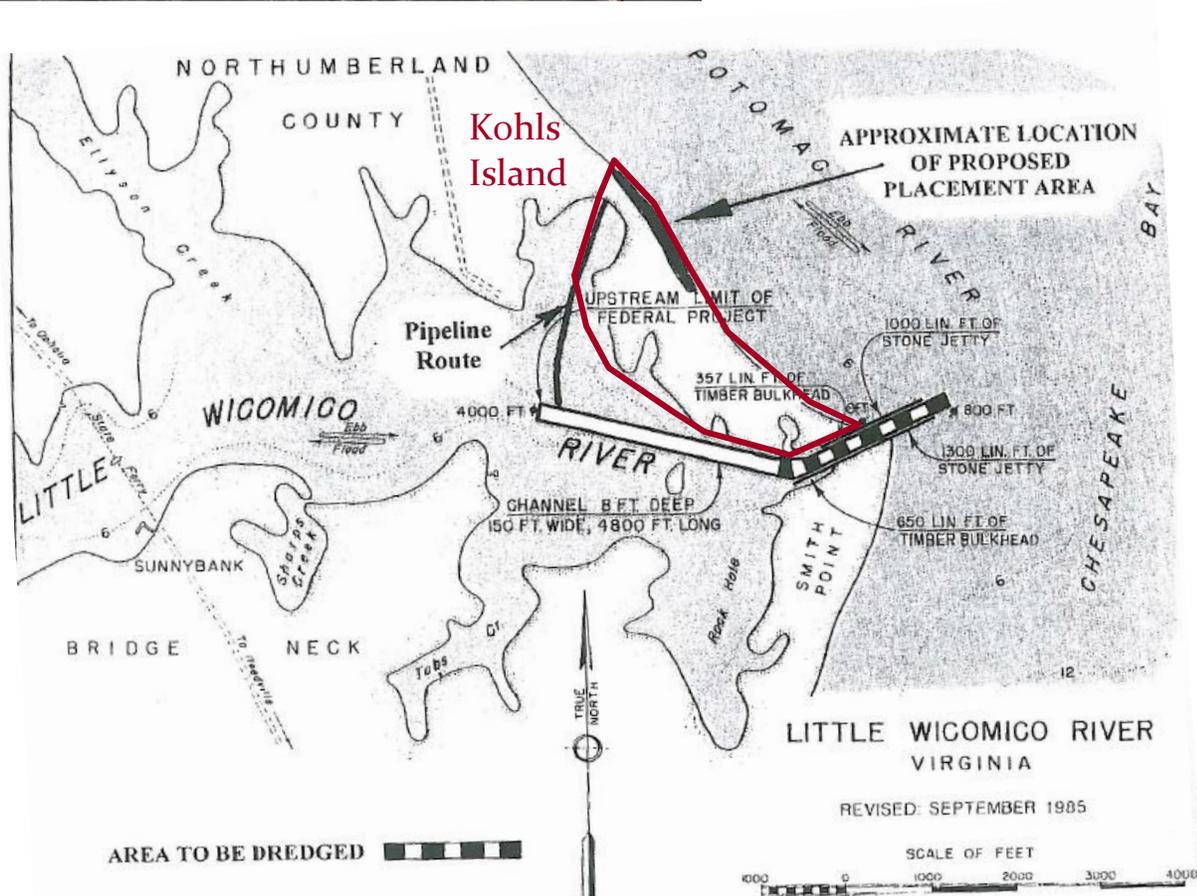
KOHL'S ISLAND



This month, VOF granted a dredging easement to Northumberland County. This will allow the Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the navigability of Little Wicomico River. The work is scheduled for this fall.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been dredging Little Wicomico River and using Kohls Island in conjunction with the operations since at least 1936 when Edward Kohls deeded part of the island to the Corps to construct the jetties on either side of the channel to the Potomac River.

Since VOF has owned the island, we have entered into six agreements with the Corps to allow dredge spoils to be placed on VOF property. The last agreement was signed June 22, 2009.





Kohls Island is one of only five remaining sites of the Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle, an insect whose historic range was from Massachusetts to Virginia. Since the 1990 inclusion of the Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle on the federal list of threatened species, there have been questions about how spoils deposition impacts tiger beetle habitat. In 2000, Dr. Knisley, a tiger beetle researcher, conducted a survey of the larval and adult tiger beetle populations on the island and prepared a report on the potential impact of dredge spoil deposition on tiger beetle habitat. He made the

following recommendations for the conduct of the dredging work:

- Carry out the project work after November 1, ideally November to mid-March when larvae are inactive and overwintering in their burrows. Even larvae in the proposed deposition area would experience some reduction in impact with this timetable.
- Reduce or eliminate use of equipment and heavy foot traffic and other activity in the primary larval habitat. This is the area south of the deposition area (see survey).
- If equipment is to be used, it should, if possible, avoid the area at and 2-4 meters above high tide where larvae occur.
- If sand deposition and dune restoration is to be done, keep the depth of sand deposited in the forebeach (within four meters of high tide line) to less than 2-3 feet. In the area behind this zone, deposition depth could be greater (perhaps five or more feet) without impacting larvae.
- If sand transport pipe is to be laid down through the area of prime larval habitat, place it in the more heavily vegetated back beach, behind the forebeach where larvae occur.
- Post construction, follow-up surveys are recommended for at least two years following the project work so that potential impacts on beetles and changes in their habitat can be evaluated. This should include one summer adult survey and one larval survey in the fall per year.

In 2001, following the dredging work, Dr. Knisley conducted a follow-up survey of the larval and adult tiger beetle populations on the island. As a result of this survey, he offered these findings:

In this study adults and larvae of Cicindela dorsalis and Cicindela hirticollis were surveyed and several physical beach parameters measured to determine possible impacts of dredged spoil deposition at Smith Point [Kohls Island]. The results indicate a significant number of C. dorsalis (possibly 100) did emerge from the action area in June 2001 and that there was some loss of larvae from the disturbances to the beach by the sand deposition and equipment. However, it was clear from these results that adult tiger beetles, both C. dorsalis and C. hirticollis readily utilized the action area at the north end of the site for foraging, mating, oviposition, etc. and recruited large numbers of larvae as well. Significant numbers of adults were found in this area throughout the summer and, in August, there was a greater proportion of adults in this section than in the other shoreline areas. Numbers of C. dorsalis larvae were significantly higher in the modified wide beach in the action area than in other sections of the shoreline, including the area that has been consistently the prime habitat for this species. Numbers of C. hirticollis were also high in the action area. The deposit material included a significant amount of fine sand and silt, producing a finer and more compact substrate as a result of the deposition. However, this difference in particle size did not seem to negatively affect adult activity

(oviposition) and larval numbers. Survival of these larvae through the winter on this low, artificially created beach is, of course, unknown, but preliminarily it seems that the deposition may have enhanced the habitat for these two tiger beetle species.

HOUSE MOUNTAIN

In May, the Rockbridge Area Conservation Council (RACC) was presented with a draft of a partnership agreement for the management of the property. RACC has met twice to review VOF's draft, but has not yet commented or sent their proposed revisions.

A Woodberry Forest student has submitted a proposal to begin some preliminary work on a reroute of the Little House Mountain Trail. The existing trail is virtually vertical and somewhat hazardous. With supervision and assistance, Perry Hammond will spend a week camping on the mountain and clearing vegetation from the new trail. Woodberry Forest has contributed \$2000 toward Perry's project.

From Perry's proposal:

I. Personal Goals

As an Eagle Scout, Order of the Arrow serviceman, and outdoor volunteer with trail building experience at BSA Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico (OATC), one of my many dreams is to experience life in the wilderness, another is to preserve it. This trail building project will help me accomplish both of these personal goals. Billy Osterman, a Boy Scout, outdoorsman, and fellow Woodberry Forest classmate, will also be joining me in this project. Lexington's BSA Troop 5, other members of the Woodberry community, and board members of the House Mountain Committee may also contribute to the project's completion.

BULL RUN MOUNTAINS NATURAL AREA PRESERVE

The VOF owned Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve continues to be enjoyed and appreciated by an increasing number of people from the local and greater DC metropolitan area. As an example of the level of use, Brian Laposay our Preserve Ranger, counted approximately 370 cars over the course of Memorial Day weekend. Brian has a schedule that ensures he is present on the Preserve when the highest use and visitation by the public occurs. We continue to receive regular praise and positive feedback from the public regarding his on-site management work and helpful presence.

The Warrenton office of VOF enjoys a great working relationship with the Fauquier County office of the Department of Forestry. In addition to including Brian Laposay in much of their training activities, DOF staff have constructed and maintained fire access roads on VOF property. This summer DOF will be building a new access road to the Preserve on the Prince William County side of the mountain. This will enable VOF to access our property without having to cross other properties and give DOF better access to the heavy forest surrounding a densely developed neighborhood in the event of a fire.

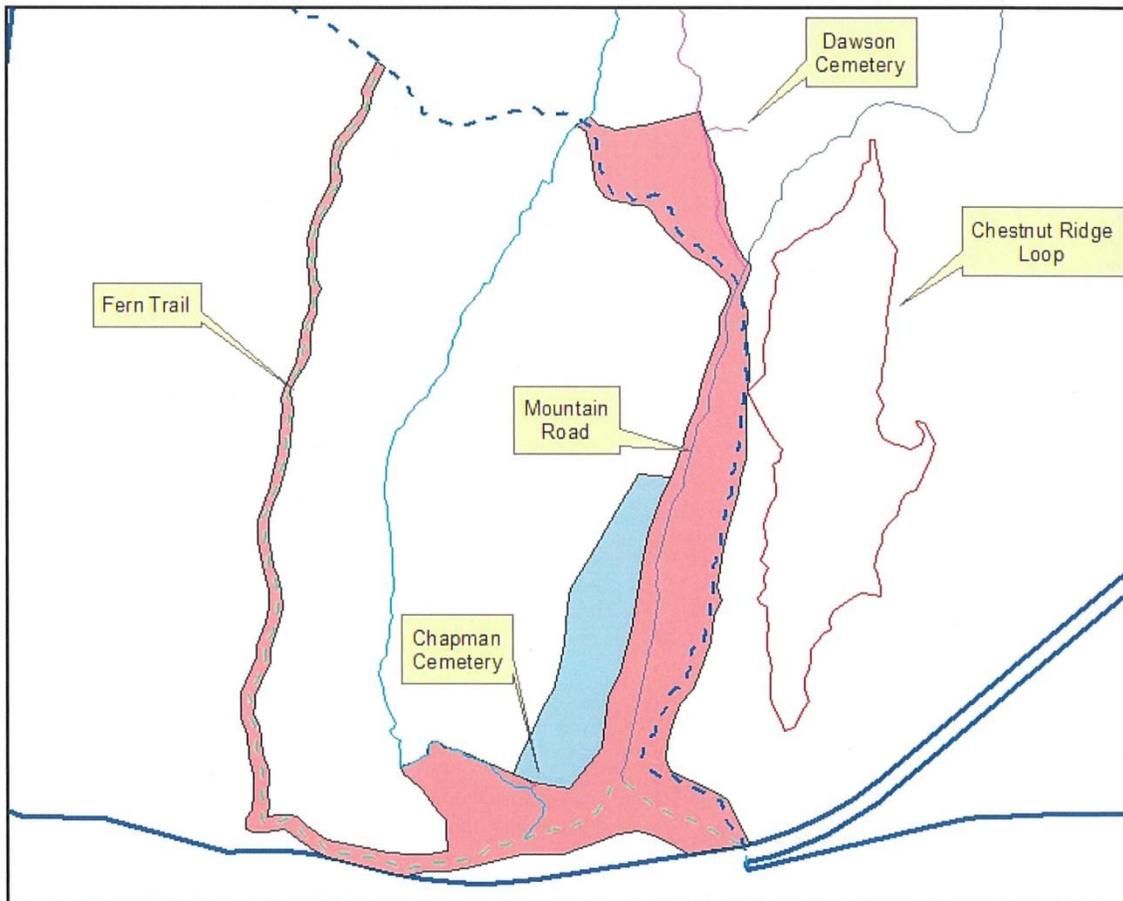
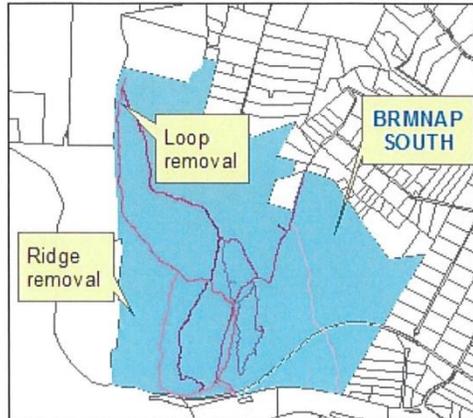
Brian Laposay has been continuing his battle against invasive plant species on the Preserve. Brian began mapping the extents of the most noxious invasives last spring and now updates those maps to reflect his treatments.



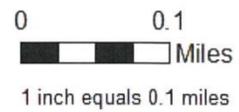
Legend

-  Rubus phoenicolasius, Cut
-  Rubus phoenicolasius, Pulled

This map shows the areas of mechanical removal of Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*) along approximately 30 acres of the lower trail corridors and a few outlying spots during the winter 2013. Approximately 40 hours were invested in this project. A follow up spot treatment of glyphosate will be applied as new growth sprouts in the spring. The removal of these vines also allows easier access for treating future invasive plants.



BRMNAP
South Unit
Wineberry Removal
May 2013



Map created 04/29/2013 by Brian Laposky. This map is for general reference and display purposes only.