

PUBLIC LANDS DAY – SEPTEMBER 30

September 30th is Public Lands Day. Virginia Public Lands Day was established by the 2017 General Assembly. The last Saturday in September has been designated as National Public Lands Day for more than 20 years. The Department of Conservation and Recreation has organized events at every state park. A good number of land trusts are also planning events. VOF will participate by having special activities at the Bull Run Preserve on Saturday, September 30th. There will be information available about VOF and its programs as well as the Bull Run Mt. Conservancy and Turn the Mill Around Campaign. VOF guides highlighting the special flora and fauna at the preserve will be on hand. A local produce vendor (and VOF easement donor) will have pumpkins and cider tasting. There will be nature based activities for kids, including making seed balls with native plants.

GIFT OF LAND IN RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY

On August 7th VOF received fee simple title to 61.7 acres by gift from Judith Karen Jones, Trustee of the Judith Karen Jones Trust. The property is located 4 miles west of the town of Washington in Harris Hollow. It is forested land on the upper slope of Jenkins Mountain in a small subdivision of 25+ acre lots. The Shenandoah National Park lower trailhead for Big Devils Stairs is ½ mile away. It is valued for title insurance purposes at \$372,000. VOF staff will make a recommendation to the Board regarding protection and disposition of this property once we have more time to analyze the site.

HOUSE MOUNTAIN RESERVE

876 acres in Rockbridge County

The trial date is currently set for December 5th and 6th in Rockbridge County. Depositions were taken on September 11 and 18 by RACC. Depositions were taken on August 17th and 21st by VOF. Additional deposition dates are being scheduled.