

WHITE HOUSE FARM FOUNDATION
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(540) 743-4526
www.whfarmfoundation.org

Summary Report 2013



Mission Statement: To enrich individuals with knowledge of and involvement with our natural ecological systems, sustainable agriculture, holistic community planning, and respect for local history and culture.

Summary: Thank you to all of our partners and supporters who helped make 2013 a great year at the White House Farm Foundation!

We hosted more than 600 students, groups and visitors - surpassing our goal for participation this year. Classes from the Page County School System visited the farm including the GIS class, history class, the astronomy club and a combination of horticulture/agriculture/ecology students who planted native wildflowers along the river trail. The students from Massanutten Regional Governors School finished their year-long research on water quality at the farm pond and groups from Rappahannock, Warren and Rockingham County came out to learn about geology, native warm season grasses, birds, native plants, trees, watersheds, history, agriculture, ecology, etc.

We enjoy sharing the farm with groups whose missions align with those of the Foundation. We hosted meetings of the Page County Heritage Association, the Pure Water Forum, the Shenandoah National Park Association, the Page County Water Quality Advisory Committee, the Luray Garden Club, the Luray Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy, the Old Rag Chapter of Master Naturalists and the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, among others. We enjoyed working with Lord Fairfax Community College which held a fundraiser at the farm in September. It was a wonderful event and the amount of money raised doubled the number of scholarships available to students.

Our outreach this year included participating in Watershed Days for the Warren County 6th graders at the Shenandoah River State Park and Shenandoah Riverfest also at the Park, we had a booth at the Page County Earth Day celebration and the Page County Fair, we provided presentations on the history of the White House and the Page Valley as part of the Shenandoah Valley Regional Studies Program and to the Friends of the Shenandoah River State Park.

We have highlighted some of our 2013 projects and partnerships in this report and have many more great initiatives planned for 2014 including hosting more student classes and research, sharing the farm with groups and moving ahead with restoration of the White House. We are always interested in working with the community and with students on various projects. Please check out our [website](#) for more information on our projects and initiatives.

Scott C. Plein, Chairman, White House Farm Foundation

Chris Anderson, Executive Director canderson@whfarmfoundation.org

Page County High School



A combination of Page County High School students from agriculture, horticulture and ecology classes install native plants along the new river trail. Virginia Master Naturalists Jack & Sally Price assist and provide information on the importance of planting native species. Funding was provided in part by a grant from the [Pure Water Forum](#).

We plan to enhance the river trail even more in 2014 by planting a variety of native wildflowers, plants and shrubs. This will become a feature in the 52 acre riparian buffer where we are experimenting with planting techniques and management practices with native warm season grasses and monitoring the ecological changes.

Lord Fairfax Community College Fundraiser Event “An Evening with the Stars”



Photo by Mary Clark



Attendees enjoy the hors d'oeuvres provided by West Main Market and socialize before the auction



Farm owner and Chair of the Foundation Scott Plein welcomes everyone to the farm

Page County School Participation



Ms. Tara Meadows **Luray High School GIS** class collected coordinates in the riparian area



Mr. B.H. Snellings brought his **astronomy club** to the farm for an evening of stargazing

In addition to our local Page County School System, we also hosted groups from **Warren, Rappahannock and Rockingham Counties** and worked with the **Massanutten Regional Governors School** in Shenandoah County.



Students from Ms. Alison Coltrane's ecology club at **Thomas Harrison Middle School** in Rockingham County visited the farm in May to learn about watersheds, the history of the White House and farm and to tour the gardens



Home school '**Classical Conversations**' students from Warren County enjoy the outdoors and learn about geology on a field trip to the farm



The farm offers many fun places to climb, run and play.

Professional Geologist Roger Eubank teaches a course

[Mountain Laurel Montessori School](#)



We really appreciated the help of the students from the [Mountain Laurel Montessori School](#) with the garden. The junior high students have their own garden at the Flint Hill campus where they grow vegetables which they consume, sell at the farmers market and donate to the local food pantry



The Mountain Laurel Montessori School has two campuses with the infants to 6th graders attending the Front Royal campus. These students came down in the early summer to stroll along the river path, explore the native warm season grass area and play in the South Fork of the Shenandoah River.



Students from the Rappahannock [Child Care and Learning Center](#) learn about the history of the White House and life in the Shenandoah Valley in the 1760s.

Flint Hill & Virginia Master Naturalists



Jack Price discusses birds and the differences between various types of feathers



Grace Cangliosa & Jinx Fox demonstrate native vs. nonnative plants



Local historian Bill Ricketts, dressed in period garb, lets students play leap frog, an historic game



Bill & Deirdre Clark teach students about the Shenandoah River and watersheds





James Madison University students conduct [benthic testing](#) for macroinvertebrates in Big Run.

As their environmental science class [capstone project](#), Scott McNally, Ashley Carpenter and Lani Furbank conducted the research to determine stream health based on the organisms found living in the water.



We are pleased at our new partnership with the Old Rag Chapter of [Virginia Master Naturalists](#)



The [Page County Heritage Association](#) held a picnic at the farm in conjunction with their June meeting



Dr. Verl Emrick with the Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech works with students



Francie Shroeder with the VA Working Landscapes Project surveys plants in the riparian buffer



We are very grateful to the [Valley Conservation Council](#) for awarding us a grant for the [garden](#) this summer. We grew more than 1100 pounds of produce which was shared with volunteers, sold to local restaurants and donated to the food bank. We followed “old fashioned” practices of composting, companion planting and growing without the use of chemical herbicides or pesticides and planted many heirloom varieties which could have been grown by many of Page Valley’s early settlers



In the fall of 2013, the White House was nominated to the [National Register of Historic Places](#). It is currently listed on the [Virginia Landmarks Register](#). Once the application is accepted, the White House will be eligible for grants to help with its restoration. Built in 1760, the White House is one of the oldest structures in Page County and serves as a great way to talk about the history of the Page Valley, settlement patterns and life along the Shenandoah River.

In addition to the groups and classes we hosted at the farm, we received recognition from several regional organizations:

The farm and Foundation were featured by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation in their June [newsletter](#) and the research underway in the riparian buffer was featured in the Smithsonian Institute’s Virginia Working Landscapes [newsletter](#). Scott C. Plein won the Valley Conservation Council’s [Rural Heritage Award](#) through the Better Models of Development contest for the beautiful restoration of the brick farmhouse on the property. The White House Farm Foundation was also highlighted in the update from the Luray chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in their national magazine.

We had many more events at the farm in 2013 and appreciate all of our partnerships with local and regional schools and organizations who helped us meet our goals of using the farm as an outdoor laboratory.

We are always interested in discussing projects with additional partners to learn more about our local ecology, history, conservation and other aspects of natural history.

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