



Catawba Landcare Update January 2008

Catawba Landcare had a successful year in 2007 and the schedule is filling in for 2008. Read on to learn more about our accomplishments, current projects, and upcoming meetings. As always, feel free to suggest topics for meetings, make comments, or provide suggestions. Please pass this email on to others that might be interested.

Stream Restoration and Enhancement

Last year Catawba Landcare spent a great deal of energy and time focused on water quality and stream restoration and enhancement in the Catawba Creek and North Fork watersheds. Catawba Landcare and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) created an effective partnership promoting stream restoration and riparian enhancement by holding educational meetings, developing outreach materials, as well detailing financial assistance available through DGIF's Landowner Incentive Program.

To date 2,965 ln. ft. of stream and riparian buffer have been restored in the North Fork watershed with 2400 linear feet proposed for 2008!!

**We have also received a number of inquiries from landowners interested in stream restoration in the Catawba

Creek watershed. Unfortunately the Landowner Incentive Program is not active in this watershed. We are currently exploring other opportunities and options for these landowners. **

Catawba Farm

Catawba Landcare and other residents are concerned that the Catawba Farm may be sold and want to take strides to keep it in active agricultural production. Catawba Landcare held an informational meeting about the farm in November and is helping to organize an advisory team made up of landowners, VT and other stakeholders. At the meeting, it was agreed the most important first step is to generate activity (projects on the ground) at the farm and to research the possibility for a conservation easement. If you want to learn more or are interested in serving on a steering committee for the farm please let me know.

Upcoming Meetings

January 27th -- "Forest Landcare for our Mountains and Valleys" offered by the Blue Ridge Forest Cooperative at the Blacksburg Country Club, 1-3pm (**formal invitation attached**)

Those interested in Forest Management may also want to check

out the short course "Online Woodland Options for Landowners" offered by Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension. For more information go to www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate or contact Jennifer Gagnon at 540)231-6391 or jgagnon@vt.edu.

February 15th, "The Potential of Warm Season Grasses for Use as a Forage and Cash Crop", 11 am – 1 pm, Catawba Community Center, lunch provided

RSVP requested - Christy Gabbard 540 357 3744

February 19th -- "Adding Value to your Products" - Location and time to be announced -- please call or email for more information.

March 2nd- Whole Farm Management, Location To Be Announced.

April 13th – "Capitalizing on Agritourism" at the Maison Beliveau

Bed & Breakfast, 3-5 pm, directions see

<http://www.maisonbeliveau.com/directions.html>, refreshments provided

Support:

We could not have been as effective without the generous support from the landowners in Catawba, United States Department of Agriculture, Western Virginia Water Authority, Western Virginia Land Trust, New River Land Trust, and Virginia Tech. Thank you!

Funding for the Landowner Incentive Program was provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Landowner Incentive Program) & FishAmerica Foundation

If you would like your name added to this email list or taken off send a request to cgunnels@vt.edu. Thank you for your interest in Catawba Landcare.