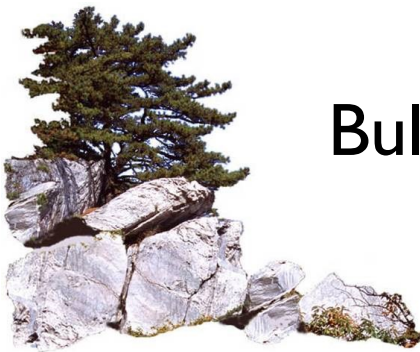




# Annual Report

## FY 2020



**Bull Run Mountains Conservancy**

Education • Research • Stewardship

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# From the President

This summer I had the pleasurable experience to attend The Budding Naturalist Camp with my granddaughter who is four and a half years young. The weeklong camp met on three separate sites, Prince William County's "Silver Lake Park", White House Farm's "Leopold's Preserve" and the Virginia Outdoor Foundation's "Bull Run Mountains Nature Area Preserve." Each location provided a different experience to the participating students.

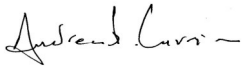
"Silver Lake" had wine berries ringing the lake, other visitors, and an injured young snapping turtle. "Leopold's Preserve" had summer fields, and a quiet wetland sink with pond life under and on top of the water's surface. It had a box turtle. The "Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve" had a wooded canopy of trees, a steep warm trail to climb, and a very cool spring to refresh in.

According to the personal styles of each family, there was chatter or silence. The lessons of the day were delivered at the relevant stations along the way, or in questions as they naturally occurred. These half days spent in a summer reverie of motion, sound, texture, with my brain hitching a ride alongside, were a simple treat.

My granddaughter, as Autumn installs itself and Winter will follow, will also carry the cadence in her feet, sounds in her inner ear, textures on her hand, smells, sights, and tastes in her memory. Next Spring will awaken these senses, and Summer will follow with a new layer of sensations, experiences, and familiarity.

Awakening these core features of ourselves shapes our instincts and becomes our manual for understanding and navigating life in its many patterns. These basic instincts together create the poetry and humanity of our walk through life.

Best wishes,



Andrea B. Currier



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## Board of Directors

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## From the Executive Director

Bull Run Mountains Conservancy, Inc. (BRMC) goals include: creating outdoor enthusiasts for life, encouraging preservation of land around the Bull Run Mountains to increase outdoor recreation opportunities, supporting and utilizing ongoing scientific research on the mountains to involve citizen-science volunteers and jump-start future conservation professionals.

With challenges there is opportunity and we fully adopted “just find a way”. This was evident when we successfully hosted our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Halloween Safari. All participants obeyed our Covid-19 plan without complaints. The event ran smoothly, the animal characters were educational and entertaining, Peter McCorry, the One Man Band, was awesome, the volunteers rallied to the plan and carried out the logistics of the event, and the participants were very thankful that we offered Safari this year. Some participants travelled quite a distance to attend with the record being from Blacksburg VA.

In 2020, BRMC served over 1,000 children and adults with over 3,200 impact hours in 2020 through in person programs and volunteer activities. Through our social media platforms, we encouraged followers to conduct Backyard Conservation by sharing simple tips to make our yards friendly for native pollinators and native birds while providing hours of entertainment. We used YouTube to increase our reach for our Speaker Series such as posting Bob Jacobs lecture on the historical importance of the Thoroughfare Gap community.

Our Youth Outdoors Program is the backbone of our education program. We engage kids of all ages to show them that the outdoors is fun and exciting and to teach them that we all have a responsibility to protect and enhance our landscape. Here are some of the parent/participant comments from their program evaluations—summer 2020.

***“We really enjoyed the parent +child format of this year’s Budding Naturalist Camp.”***

***“My 7 year old twins asked if they could go to nature camp all summer. It was perfect!”***

Parents and guardians are essential for encouraging and reinforcing curious and healthy lifestyles in children. Our adult education program develops a love for our landscape, inspiring them to nurture this passion in children.

BRMC engaged 100 volunteers who contributed over 1,000 hours in 2020 to various volunteer projects including those who made our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Halloween Safari a great success, worked on mailing lists, monitored bluebird boxes, worked in multiple volunteer cleanups and invasive plant removals, and helped maintain the grounds and infrastructure at our Mountain House headquarters .

Your contribution continues to be vital and provides the means to diversify our programs and continue research studies. Thank you!

Warmest regards,



Michael J. Kieffer





***Mission*** To preserve the Bull Run Mountains region through education, research, and stewardship for the benefit of the general public.



***Our Vision*** is for an active and healthy community, where preservation is an engaged and committed endeavor by people who love and care for our landscape



# David Roos Legacy

## *Support Our Core Programs*



### Halloween Safari

BRMC creates three magical nights of hikes, stories, and music around a bonfire with popcorn roasted over the fire, along with marshmallows and sinfully delicious hot chocolate.

**Conservation Patron, \$5,000**

**2 Benefactors, \$1,000**



### Youth Outdoors Program

BRMC's Youth Outdoors Program engages children to show them the outdoors is fun and exciting and teach them that we all have a responsibility to protect and enhance our landscape. Equal opportunity scholarships provided.

**Conservation Patron, \$5,000**

**2 Benefactors, \$1,000**



### School Ground Programs

BRMC offers school site programs integrated into their curriculum & after school programs that increase schools' opportunities to provide students outdoor activities.

**Conservation Patron, \$5,000**

**2 Benefactors, \$1,000**



### Speaker Series

BRMC's Speaker Series provides opportunities for scientific researchers, local conservation organizations, historians, and archeologists to share their work with the community.

**Conservation Patron, \$5,000**

**2 Benefactors, \$1,000**



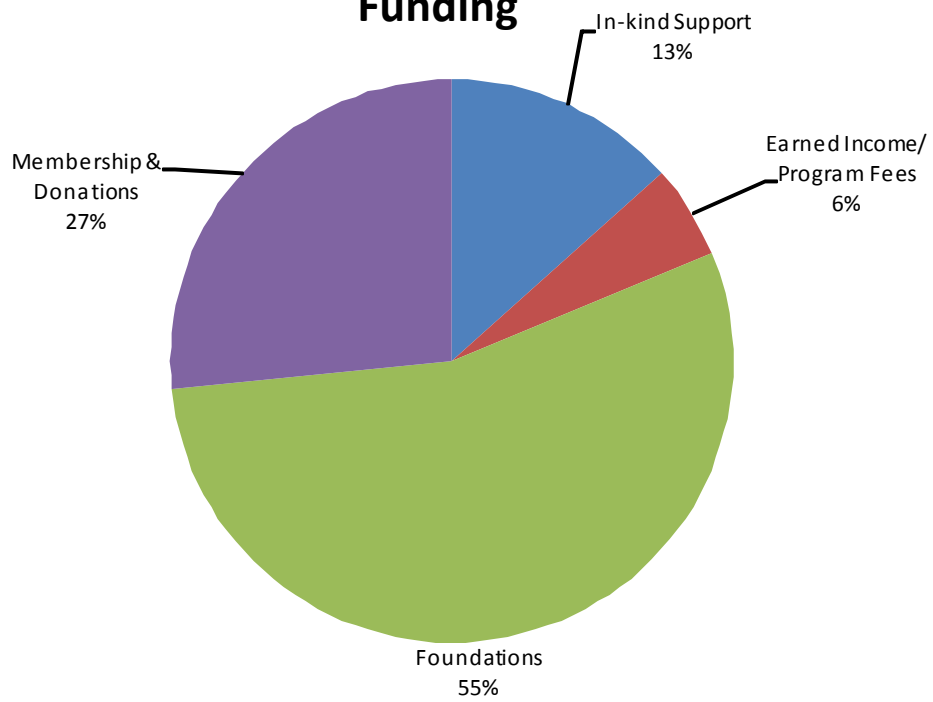
### Homeschool Programs

BRMC's Homeschool Program focuses on larger concepts, such as evolution, plate tectonics, and how the Bull Run Mountains came to be the home of the plant & animal life that the students explore.

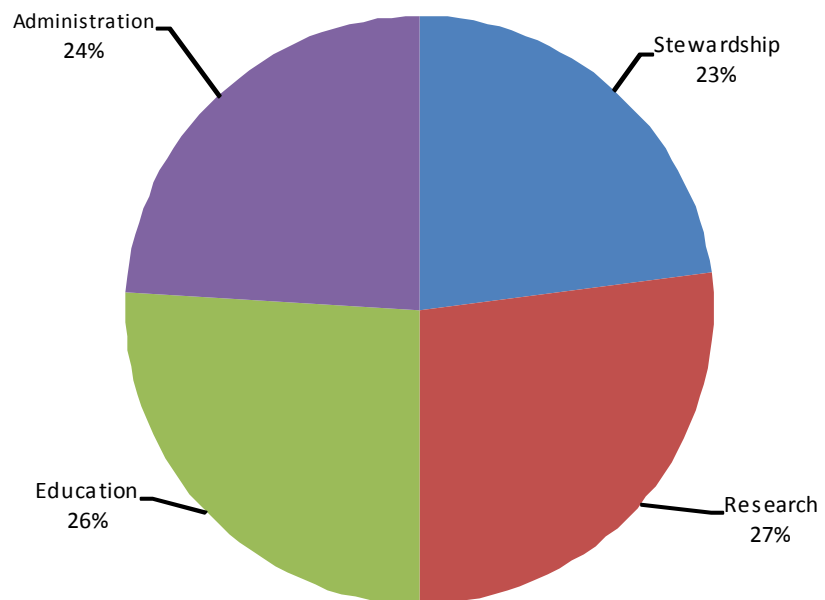
**Conservation Patron, \$5,000**

**2 Benefactors, \$1,000**

## Funding



## Expenses



## Contributors

(Donations received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020)

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Ms. Mary C. Morgan  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Ohrstrom  
PATH Foundation  
The Plein Family Trust  
Wrinkle in Time

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