

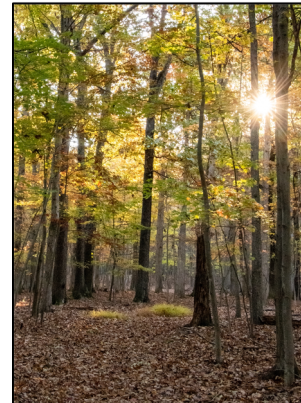
NEWS FROM THE RIDGE

Welcome to RRC's 100-Acre Wood! We did it!!!

On a gorgeous October day, friends and colleagues and supporters gathered to celebrate a huge milestone as we folded the 100-Acre Wood securely into Rolling Ridge Conservancy land now and for generations to come. After a year and a half of hard work launching a capital campaign and raising \$270,000 in generous donations, a grant, and a huge bridge loan, we purchased the land from FLOC (For Love of Children). While we have lots more work ahead to safeguard this sacred haven and further our mission, we are jubilant to have accomplished this vital goal!

We have many to thank for believing in RRC's mission and working together to make this happen:

- ◆ the RRC Board of Trustees who had the courage to reframe challenges into opportunities and who have continuously donated endless hours of work, with persistence, grace, and dedication
- ◆ our fund-raising consultant who guides us with wisdom, expertise, and enthusiasm
- ◆ our partner organizations, Friends Wilderness Center and Rolling Ridge Study Retreat Associates, for all their support
- ◆ the WV Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund for a \$95K grant
- ◆ The Conservation Fund for a significant bridge loan to help us meet our deadline
- ◆ and all our donors for their incredible generosity!



Rob Glenn turned over the deed to outgoing Board Chair, Linda DeGraf.

Josh Evans talked about the ecological value of native serviceberry trees and gave excellent guidance on how best to plant trees.



Everyone pitched in, planting two serviceberry trees and ten native ferns, to create a lovely threshold leading into the 100-acre wood.

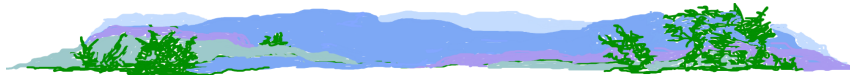


Christian Mollitor, new Board Chair, cut the cake!

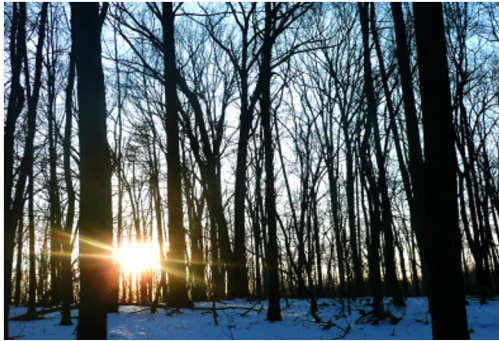


Our donor tree, shown here as of October 22nd, continues to grow.

To read all the opening remarks given at the celebration, and to join us in the next phase of the campaign, visit our website at: rollingridgeconservancy.org/



Looking Toward the Future – Matching Fund Challenge!



The RRC Board of Trustees has ambitious plans for carrying our work forward into 2023 and beyond. Our capital campaign had three goals: to enable the purchase of the 100 acres, to do needed repairs and maintenance on the Outdoor Education Center (OEC) facilities, and to grow our capacity to carry out conservation work by hiring a full-time Conservation Steward.

Now that we have closed on the 100 acres and have done substantial work on the OEC facilities, we need to raise additional funds to pay back the bridge loan we took out with The Conservation Fund for the land purchase. If we can accomplish repayment by the end of February, we will avoid accruing more interest fees.



While these milestones have been exciting and essential, the real heart and soul of our mission is protecting this land and ensuring the health and resilience of forests, waterways, and wildlife now and for generations to come. Even the most committed and passionate volunteers cannot sustain conservation efforts and implement stewardship recommendations over 1600 acres.

We are excited to announce that we have an anonymous donor pledging to match contributions dollar for dollar - up to \$44,000! This means every dollar given moves us twice as far toward our goal of providing long-term sustainability and resilience of RRC so that we can steward, protect, and nurture these forests and streams while ensuring that our human impact on this land is mutually beneficial.

