



## HSF Speaker's Series

Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, in partnership with Longwood University's Hull Springs, is hosting a series of talks focused on the Northern Neck and its environment. The first talk of the 2017-18 series, "Ecological Restoration at Hull Springs Farm: Wetlands, Streams, and Forests," will be held Thursday, Sept. 28 at 1 p.m. in the Mallory Room, Hull Springs, Montross.

Guest speakers, Tara Kelly and Kelsey Gray, from Angler Environmental, a RES Company, will discuss wetlands, as well as stream and nutrient bank land conversion.

Ms. Kelly manages and provides technical input and oversight for projects within RES' Regulatory Division, including wetland and stream mitigation projects. She has overseen the management of 14 wetland and stream mitigation bank sites and over 60 project-specific mitigation sites. Ms. Kelly's additional responsibilities include overall project management; preparation and supervision of Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 and 404 permit applications and support documents; and credit sale management. Ms. Gray is an Ecologist with Angler Environmental. After graduating

from Xavier University with a B.S. in Biology, she focused her work on wetland and stream assessment, restoration, monitoring, and maintenance. She has helped guide many restoration projects throughout Virginia for public and private entities, ranging from small wetlands to large-scale reforestation.

Hull Springs is a 662-acre property which was bequeathed to the Longwood University Foundation by Mary Farley Ames Lee, a 1938 alumna of Longwood College. Bordered by Glebe and Ames Creeks, the property is poised to be a model of sustainability, dedicated to demonstrating the many ways to use low-impact design to enhance and sustain the environment. More than 214 acres of wetlands are being restored, enhanced and preserved, improving water quality and wildlife and ecosystem diversity, and, at the same time, qualifying Hull Springs for the mitigation bank used to offset adverse impacts on nearby habitats.

Hull Springs is selling wetland, stream and nutrient credits to developers and government agencies who are required to offset the disturbance or destruction of nearby ecosystems

when building roads, bridges and other infrastructure within its watershed.

Other featured speakers and their topics slated for the coming year include:

- Dr. Dina Leech, 2 p.m., Friday, Oct. 13: "Bacterial Sampling at Hull Springs as it Relates to the New Public Sewer Line"
- Brian Wood, Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association: Date, time to be announced
- Dr. Ken Fortino, 2 p.m., Friday, April 13: "Longwood Environmental Observation project"
- Dr. James Jordan, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 19: "Their Voices Have Become Weak"—a slide and artifact exhibit. Artifacts dug from Hull Springs since 1972 will be featured, along with objects from Nomini Hall, Stratford Hall, Westmoreland State Park and other Northern Neck sites.

All talks are free and open to the public. Because seating is limited, pre-registration is required. To register, please click on the link provided, and fill out the registration form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNRQ8SmnAyaLi7flgMR-gizeAIJJLShh5iaKlvBYKt51IYSUg/viewform>

### HSF Updates

A Charlottesville architectural firm, Train Architects, has been hired to prepare a limited-scope lodging and academic facilities study for Hull Springs Farm. The study will evaluate and develop options for the renovation or replacement of the Camp House and existing student lodgings. The new facilities will be planned to accommodate week-long visits by students and faculty/staff. The design will be in accordance with the Cooper Robertson Master Plan prepared for the University and approved by the BOV in 2016.

A business plan is being prepared for Hull Springs in tandem with the facilities study conducted by Train. In coordination, Longwood's Institutional Advancement team will begin an initiative to fundraise for the construction of extended-stay facilities.

Dr. Kathy Gee, assistant professor of biology, is teaching a class this fall, "Watershed Monitoring and Assessment." The class is meeting at Hull Springs Nov. 17-19, where Dr. Gee will be assisted by Kelsey Gray, of Angler Environmental, on a case-study module on wetland mitigation bank monitoring and assessment. Students will see how monitoring

occurs in the "real world," including techniques used for different types of monitoring, methods of data collection, as well as some of the challenges associated with monitoring.

The Cook-Cole College is preparing to purchase a Carolina Skiff for faculty and students engaged in research projects at Hull Springs. Easy to navigate in the shallow waters of Ames and Glebe Creeks that border Hull Springs, the boat will comfortably accommodate 6-7 passengers.

The second Longwood University Camp for Environmental Exploration (LUCCEE) was successfully held in July in partnership with Westmoreland County Public Schools (WCPS). Over 60 rising 4th-6th graders attended a two-week long, day camp at HSF, led by Longwood students paired with certified teachers from WCPS. Among the activities were lessons on oyster gardening, fossil hunts, seining, and a field trip to nearby Westmoreland State Park.

In August, volunteers from the Youth Conservation Corps, under the direction of staff from Westmoreland State Park, built two paddle-in, paddle-out campsites near the Hull Springs Camp House. These sites are a part of

the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The campsite construction was funded through a grant from the National Park Service, US Department of the Interior.

An upland buffer was planted to protect a portion of the shoreline at the Camp House, thanks to a partnership with and grant funding awarded to the Friends of the Rappahannock.

More than 40,000 trees were planted this spring in the areas bordering the Camp House and former agricultural fields, as part of the wetlands initiative. Additional trees will be planted this winter. The farm fields planted as upland forest were ripped to promote suitable soil conditions. The remaining upland and wetland plantings will occur after construction is complete, which is wrapping up this month. Herbaceous seed mixes and woody tree material are native and have been curated specifically for this site. The site will be maintained and actively monitored for 10 years by Angler/RES before going into long-term stewardship.

The Big and Yellow Houses are scheduled to be hooked into the Westmoreland County public sewer line by the second week in September.

#### Hull Springs Donor Card



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