

Letter to the Editor

For Immediate Release: June 3, 2009

On May 27, 2009, the Buckland Preservation Society hosted the "Conservation Program" at Buckland Hall to discuss the conservation opportunities in Virginia's 11th Congressional District. The speakers were U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly, 11th District, David Blake, the Buckland Preservation Society, David White, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Mike Kane, Piedmont Environment Council.

The Buckland Preservation Society would like to thank Congressman Gerry Connolly and his staff for taking an unprecedented and proactive role in sponsoring a recent "Conservation Program" at Buckland Hall. With an audience of approximately 100 citizens, Senator Chuck Colgan delivered the introduction for the Congressman. Also in attendance were Delegate Bob Marshall; Occoquan Mayor Earnie Porta; Cate M. Wyatt, President of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground; Staff from Prince William County and from the Prince William County (PWC) Soil and Water District; representatives of the Prince William Historic Preservation Society, The PWC Conservation Alliance, The Sierra Club, and other conservation organizations.

As the sun set over the Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance, the program tackled the serious questions of conservation and historic preservation in Prince William. Following an overview of the preservation efforts in Buckland by David Blake, Jack Bricker with the USDA and Mike Kane from the PEC delivered conservation presentations on best practices, incentive programs, progress made, and lessons learned. This spurred a round of questions that left the audience thinking, "All of this interest is great and quite frankly a surprise, and now what is next?"

The Buckland Preservation Society, committed to stewardship of Buckland, is heartened to have a Congressman taking a leadership role in the historic preservation and environmental conservation efforts in Buckland and in the larger issues of conservation in PWC. However, it was clear from this forum that if a concerted conservation effort in Prince William is to happen, landowners will need to understand the conservation tools that are available and elected officials will need to know that the community is tackling these issues in earnest. *Communication and cooperation are the foundation of our community.*

The Buckland Preservation Society, a non-profit organization, was formed for the purpose of conducting a state-of-the-art, interdisciplinary investigation of the archaeology, architecture, industrialization, transportation, cultural landscape, and historical record of the Town of Buckland as well as the earlier Manohoac Indian Settlement that was located on this site along the Susquehanna Plain Path (Old Carolina Road) on Broad Run. Located half-way along the Journey Through Hallowed Ground, the Buckland Preservation Society is devoted to preserving this site for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Nation.

To join this conservation effort, please contact:

Congressman Connolly's office, 703-670-4989
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