

Celebrating Kenny Smith – 2021 Kitty Smith Award Recipient

By **Kevin Ramundo**
CFFC President

On October 18th, approximately 80 supporters of Citizens for Fauquier County gathered at Hope Porter's lovely farm to celebrate Kenny Smith, this year's recipient of CFFC's Kitty P. Smith Conservation Award. Hope was a driving force in establishing CFFC over 50 years ago and setting the organization on its mission of protecting open space, preserving historical resources and supporting agriculture.

Kenny is the first recipient of this award from the agricultural community. He is the largest dairy farmer in the county, a deeply committed conservationist, a mentor of the next generation of farmers, and a successful entrepreneur, who started the Moo Thru ice cream business with his wife, Pam, 11 years ago. His daughter, Taylor Gough, and her husband, Kyle, manage the business which includes an ice cream production plant on the farm; employs 65 people; and, has multiple locations in the area including the original one in Remington. Kenny and his son, Ben, run the farm.

Kenny is a fourth-generation dairy farmer who cares deeply about open land preservation and helping the next generation of dairy farmers. When Kenny took over the Cool Lawn Farm from his father in 1981, it was home to 120 cattle on 270 acres. Today, the farm includes 1,250 acres and 2,000 cattle. More than 75 percent of the land is in permanent conservation easement, and Ken was first in line when Fauquier County established its Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program.

Kenny is concerned about open space and the future of farming. He is quick to point out that for agriculture to remain viable and to thrive, there must be plenty of affordable land, and local businesses that sell products and services farmers



Kenny Smith

need. He's concerned about suburban sprawl and is a strong supporter of zoning that concentrates development so that open land remains in good supply at affordable prices.

The highlight of the evening were remarks Kenny shared in accepting the award. His comments about his and his father's love of the land were truly heartfelt and inspirational.

In addition to an engraved crystal pitcher, Kenny received a check for \$1,000 that he donated to the Food Bank of Fauquier County. Another highlight was the Moo Thru ice cream truck that provided dessert after the awards ceremony.

In his remarks, Kevin Ramundo, CFFC's president, expressed sincere gratitude in having Kenny as this year's recipient, and delight that so many members of Fauquier's conservation community and his family and friends were able to join in the celebration. And he thanked everyone for their help in supporting CFFC and protecting Fauquier's future. 🏡

Kitty P. Smith Award

This award was established by Citizens for Fauquier County to honor outstanding conservationists who have contributed greatly to preserving the county's rural landscape, historic resources and agricultural economy.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Smith, a long-term Fauquier resident, set the standard for advocating wise land conservation. She served as a board member of CFFC and Goose Creek Association, staff member of the Piedmont Environmental Council and was a hands-on participant with numerous civic organizations. Her influence was also felt on the Fauquier County Agricultural and Forestal District Committee and Capital Improvements Committee.

Awardees

2015 — **Kitty Smith**

2016 — **George Thompson**

2017 — **Jocelyn Sladen**

2018 — **Georgia Herbert**

2019 — **Hope Porter and Bob Lee**

2021 — **Ken Smith**



Kenny at the awards event

Kevin Ramundo
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Jonathon Nuckles
Vice President

Board of Directors

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Harry Atherton

Chris Bonner

Leslie Cheek

Doug Larson

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David Norden

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Kevin Ramundo

Jim Rich

Mary Root

Susan Russell

Sally Semple

Mimi Abel Smith

Jim Stone

Jessica Swan

Amy Trotto

Board Advisors

Julie Broaddus

Feroline Higginson

Hope Porter

Sue Scheer

Land Use Advisor

Julie Bolthouse

Communications and Administrative Manager

Montana Ruffner

Meet CFFC's Vice-President

By Kevin Ramundo

Jonathon Nuckles joined CFFC's board in 2018 and was elected vice-president in January, 2021. Since joining the board, Jon has worked on various committees focused on land use, membership and outreach, and improving Warrenton's new Comprehensive Plan. He is currently leading CFFC's effort to evaluate the placement of utility-scale solar projects consistent with Fauquier's Comprehensive Plan's goals of preserving and protecting its fertile farmland.

Jon is a former Marine who served in both Afghanistan and Iraq and holds a bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary and a master's degree in public policy analysis from George Mason University. He currently works as a senior auditor with a federal inspector general's office where he is responsible for identifying and preventing waste, fraud, and abuse within government programs.

A native of Fauquier, Jon lives near Orlean with his wife, Erin, and their two small children,

Alvin and Rosalie. In his free time, you can often find him enjoying the outdoors, whether its hunting, fly-fishing, or just spending time with his family.

He firmly believes that Fauquier's success in preventing urban-sprawl and protecting its rural character, despite its location just outside of one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country, is due in no small part to the efforts of CFFC's dedicated board of directors, members and volunteers. Through their efforts and those who follow them, CFFC will be able to continue to protect Fauquier's future. 🇺🇸



#TheVillagesofFauquier – The Heart of Fauquier County

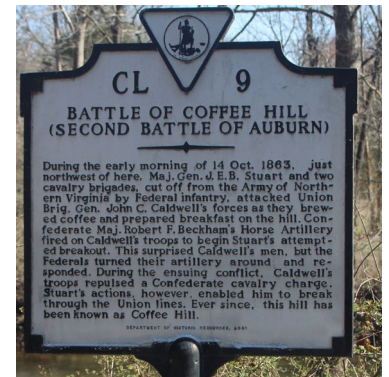
By Montana Ruffner

Fauquier County was founded in 1759 and is home to twenty-four unique villages. These villages have seen the changes that come with the passage of time, from horsepower to steam power, and so much more. And while time has marched on, these villages have remained the heart of our county.

Given CFFC's focus on preserving historic resources, Susan Russell, who serves on the organization's board as secretary and historic preservation chair, wanted to educate and remind residents about our wonderful villages. So in keeping with how more and more people are getting information these days, the #VillagesofFauquier social media campaign was established so each village could be highlighted in the a regular series of posts.

Every other week, a different village is featured on CFFC's Facebook and Instagram, highlighting its history and evolution, noteworthy residents, architectural styles, and its significance to the county and the state. Each post offers beautiful images that bring the village to life on people's screens across the county.

CFFC's Villages of Fauquier campaign has amassed a group of dedicated followers who check back every other Friday to see what village will be featured next. With each



Auburn



Halfway

see #Villages page 4

Hidden Creek Farm: Leaving the land better than they found it

By Lani Allen

A long gravel road leads to Hidden Creek Farm in Delaplane, where visitors are greeted by a baa-ing flock of grazing sheep and a view of Virginia's rolling hills burning with the rust orange of autumn in the Piedmont.

Clucking chickens wander about the driveway and nest happily in a small, shaded grove of pines across from the main house, where Andrea Young, the owner and self-taught expert in regenerative farming, greets her visitors.

"We built this farm to show both the public and other farmers that you can farm responsibly by leveraging the environment and not working against it. Our vision was to build a regenerative farm that's constantly improving so we could leave the land better than we found it," says Andrea. Almost all of the farm's 550 acres is in conservation easement.

Based on science, Hidden Creek has evolved through a combination of self-driven research, trial and error, dedicated teamwork, and a common passion for working with the genius of Mother Nature. The farm is certified organic and humane.

Since buying the farm in 2015 with her husband, Dendy, Andrea has built a team of seven employees focused on the two pillars of regenerative farming: soil health and water-cycle management. As Andrea puts it, "Everything you see above ground is a product of what lies beneath."

Paige, the farm's soil nutrient and pasture management expert, uses a test garden to develop methods for maximizing soil nutrients for their produce. Dominic, the farm's garden manager,

designs the actual garden in elevated plots to effectively preserve and hydrate the diverse array of organic vegetables grown there.

Andrea is also intent on safeguarding the health and well-being of the animals. For example, she selected a breed of sheep specifically for parasite resistance, increasing their chances of survival and eliminating the need for drugs that can sacrifice the quality of the meat.

She used a similar strategy in choosing her cattle, a heritage cattle breed called Red Poll known for their gentle demeanor, nutrient-dense meat, and compatibility with the Virginia climate. These cattle produce milk that is high in butterfat, allowing them to support the steady growth of their calves, which are born smaller than commercial breeds and therefore easier to birth. The breed is also resistant to salmonella and E. Coli.

Finally, the farm's drove of pigs is a proprietary Tamalitsa breed that has been bred for traits like floppy ears that protect their eyes from harmful brush, and shorter snouts that minimize damage to the soil, roots, and plant life where they forage.

Thanks to patient dedication, Hidden Creek Farm produces flavorful, nutrient-rich vegetables, meat and eggs that can be found locally at the Market at Bluewater Kitchen, Field & Main, Whole Ox, Upperville Farm and Feed Store,



Red Poll cattle grazing

Photo Credit: Andrea Young

Locke Store and various farmer's markets. The farm also has a Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) program where folks can sign up for regular deliveries of the farm's products.

Much of Hidden Creek Farm's success over the years can be attributed to the team's hard work and an extensive support system in Fauquier County that includes the American Farmland Trust, John Marshall Soil and Conservation, and Virginia Working Landscapes, organizations that have "built an incredible foundation for helping farmers and communities learn and succeed, according to Andrea."

Conscious of the legacy she will leave behind, Andrea views her role as translating theories and science into practice, and then sharing what she's learned with the community to build "the most environmentally regenerative food system possible."

"We are so fortunate to farm in Fauquier County," Andrea humbly concludes, "Our county is totally committed to providing the support, leadership, and resources we need to make our vision possible." 🌱



Tamalitsa Pigs

Photo Credit: Andrea Young



Produce at Hidden Creek Farm

Photo Credit: Andrea Young

#Villages from page 2

post, past and present residents reminisce and share their experiences about their childhoods, old hangouts, and the area's unique features. Each post receives an average of 3,000 views, and since May, 2021, CFFC's Facebook site has reached over 32,000 people. The campaign has reminded folks to slow down and appreciate our wonderful villages.

Don't forget to follow CFFC on Facebook and Instagram @citizensforfauquiercounty, so you never miss a #VillagesofFauquier post.

Not on social media? Find the #VillagesofFauquier online at www.citizensforfauquier.org.



Orlean



Upperville



PLEASE JOIN US

Please support Fauquier County's oldest conservation nonprofit dedicated to preserving the county's rural character. CFFC is a strong advocate for open space, historic preservation and a healthy agricultural economy. We track every land use rezoning or special exception before the Planning Commission and are quick to engage when inappropriate development threatens to bring Northern Virginia sprawl to Fauquier. Planning Commission developments are covered monthly in CFFC's exclusive Land Use Report.

Fauquier County is under tremendous pressure to grow as regional population soars and residents flee neighboring, built-out counties. Help protect Fauquier's future by joining CFFC, a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization. Visit citizensforfauquier.org and become involved.