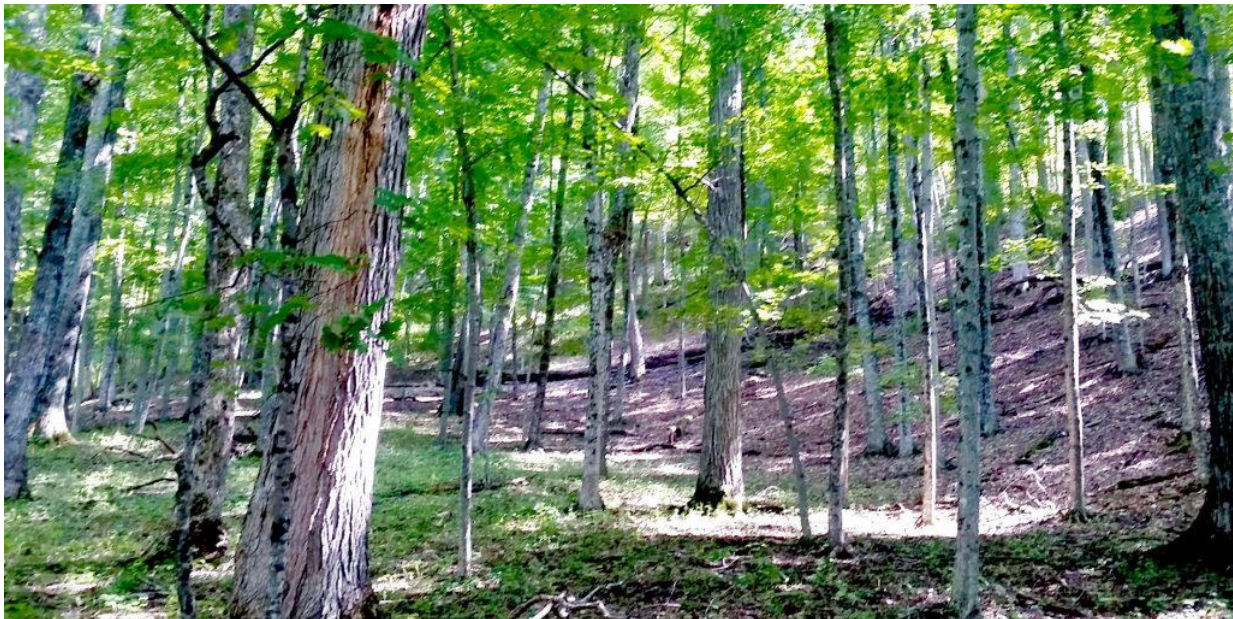


# The Recorder

*Inclusive, independent, indispensable.*

## Visitor to Bath County tours property in pipeline path

September 13, 2018



*The old-growth forest at Miracle Ridge in Bath County is in the path of Dominion's proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline.*

Editor, The Recorder,

On Aug. 7, I read an evocative opinion piece in the Washington Post by Mike Tidwell about Dominion Energy's attempt to construct a portion of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline in Bath County, directly through an old growth forest and the private property of Bill and Lynn Limpert.

The piece was illustrated with a photograph of the Limperts standing next to a 260-year-old tree named Ona, and describes their attempts to halt the project by a combination of public protest and appeals to Virginia state and local governing bodies with the power to stop the project.

Never having visited Little Valley in Bath County, my wife and I decided to accept an open invitation to the public to visit the Limperts' property and view the site and witness the old growth forest that was at risk.

On Wednesday of this week, we arrived at the Limperts and were part of a small party of visitors that included an anti-fracking environmentalist who drove up from North Carolina, a flower farmer from Nellysford, whose property was also at risk from the pipeline, a concerned citizen from the Dulles area, and a young activist who was part of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a group that was helping to organize public awareness about the destructive nature of this project.



*Angela De Simone, far right, stood next to "Ona," a 260-year-old tree.*

Bill Limpert took us on a two-hour tour of the ridges and hollows that formed his 120-acre mountainside, and he talked about the land, the trees, the water and the property rights that were at risk from the construction of the pipeline.

About an hour into the hike, we came upon the ridge, named by the Limperts "Miracle Ridge," where the pipeline would be built. This narrow strip of the Highlands that quickly fell off into deep hollows on both sides led directly to some of the richest and oldest parts of the forest.



Ancient sugar maples, red and white oak, and some poplar would be removed, and using explosives, a deep cut would be made into the mountain top creating an open plateau, topped not with earth for replanting but a stone thoroughfare that would forever scar the beauty of the Blue Ridge tree line.



*Bill Limpert led a two-hour tour of ridges and hollows that form his 120- acre mountain side at risk from construction by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. (Photos courtesy Dan De Simone)*

The pipeline would come within feet of the centuries old Ona, and Limpert worries about the harm the construction project will have on the forest and the natural springs of Little Valley.

While talking with Bill Limpert, I was struck by this modest man's determination to do everything he could to change the trajectory of Dominion Power's plans for Miracle Ridge.

I was also struck by his feeling that Virginia state government and its agencies were failing property owners, tax payers and the public, with its embrace of Dominion Power's plan to alter the natural beauty of this swath of the historic Blue Ridge for all time.

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Washington, D.C.