

VIRGINIA: WHERE WE LIVE, WORK AND VOLUNTEER

Each year VOGA member companies and their employees donate tens of millions of dollars and countless volunteer hours to Virginia charities.

From assisting local schools in meeting the needs of extracurricular and sports programming, to support for area food pantries, to supporting habitat restoration or helping to create multi-use trail systems for both local residents and tourists to enjoy, Virginia Oil and Gas Association member companies are generous in their community outreach endeavors.



One of the industries most successful community projects has been the industry's work with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and a local sportsmen's club in the elk restoration project. That project has repeatedly shown and continues to show that industry and the environment can and do co-exist. In fact, because of the seed mixes and plantings along pipeline rights of way, those areas remain some of the favorites for elk seen grazing on them in Southwest Virginia.

"Without the support of the natural gas and coal industries in Southwest Virginia, this project would not have been possible," Leon Boyd, a member of the DGIF, chairman of the Southwest Virginia Coalfields Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and president of the Southwest Virginia Sportsman's Club, has noted in the past when talking about the elk restoration project.

"We live here and we work here, it's important to our member companies and their employees that we are involved in our communities, both as financial givers and as volunteers."

VOGA President Ian Landon.



The first elk were released into the habitat area in 2012 and two subsequent releases followed in 2013 and 2014 to bring the release number to 71 over three years. At last count, the herd, which has multiplied is now estimated to number near 200.

EnerVest Operating LLC (EnerVest) one of the companies that has helped to support the elk herd was recognized this previous year by Virginia DMME with an award for its work donating money and employees' time to local charities, schools, clubs, events and churches. EnerVest began a community outreach initiative, within the company, by giving each employee 16 hours per calendar year to use for volunteering within their communities, however they see fit. Employees of EnerVest donated more than 265 hours in 2017 to the communities of Southwest Virginia. From April 2017 through April 2018 EnerVest also donated financially to non-profit group and school programs operating in Southwest Virginia.

Another member company, who was also recognized by DMME with a community outreach award, CNX Resources Corporation (CNX) has worked closely with the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority's Spearhead Trails System. CNX assisted in the development of recreational trails in Buchanan County -- a crucial part of the county's tourism expansion efforts. CNX allowed for an additional 11 acres of its land to be used recreationally by ATVs, UTVs, cyclists, hikers and horseback riders. This particular project opened an additional 4.5 miles of trails that display the beauty of Buchanan County. The additional trails provide increased economic growth potential.



In the past, SRRA has recognized both CNX and EnerVest and its predecessor, Range Resources, for their generosity in working with Southwest counties and SRRA to develop the trail system. In fact, SRRA Director Shawn Lindsey has credited the gas industry in past remarks with opening up the region to the great outdoors and refers to the industry as "the gateway for outdoor recreation in the Cumberlands."

"Spearhead Trails was made possible by the partnerships extended to us by the extractive industries from the gas, coal and timber industries," Lindsey said. "With the help of our gas partners, Spearhead Trails has been able to build more than 400 miles of trails ... and it is expected with their support, we will continue this growth with more than 100 miles of new trails per year for several years."

The support and outreach did not only reach SWVA however.

Virginia Natural Gas working with, Tidewater Community College & Virginia Gas Operators Association were also recognized by the DMME/VOGA awards program for their work in the Virginia Values Veterans Program. The program worked to train veterans to fill needed roles in the natural gas industry. A week-long certification program at TCC's Virginia Beach campus, led by natural gas industry



professionals from Virginia, focused primarily on natural gas pipeline safety, code compliance and operations.

Participants learned basic pipeline safety standards and proper field techniques, including line locating and pipe installation, through classroom instruction and hands-on training. Those who successfully completed the program, received a certificate signed by VNG, TCC and the VGOA, which they could then add to their resume to aid in securing employment in the industry.

Through a partnership with The Nature Conservancy, VNG worked to support efforts to restore the Loblolly Pine back to its former prominence in Southeastern Virginia, VNG set out to plant 150 loblolly pines in Virginia Beach - Lake Lawson/Lake Smith Natural Area and Mount Trashmore Park.



The Virginia Oil and Gas Association, working with its partners, the American Petroleum Institute, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, (an extension of Virginia Tech) and the Virginia Coal and Energy Alliance, hosted it's inaugural Virginia Energy Bowl competition held in Dickenson County, Va. The Energy Bowl follows a game show-type format, quizzing students on their knowledge of energy, including coal, gas, wind, solar and biofuels. The program was offered for the first time this year and was piloted in Dickenson County. Sixth grade students participating were given study guides by their teachers earlier in the year to prepare for the competition. Information in the study guide was reviewed by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, API, Virginia Cooperative Extension agents and the two sponsoring organizations. Questions asked correlated to Virginia Standards of Learning material. Based on the success of the inaugural program, plans are to expand the competition to additional counties next school year and to see the program continue to grow.