

Land Matters

A NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGIN RIVER LAND PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Come to Our Party on October 23rd— We're Turning 20!

For a non-profit organization to make it to its 20-year anniversary is no small feat, and it provides the perfect occasion for reflection, planning, and celebration.

In 1993, a roomful of local citizens debated how, in the face of rapid development, to protect lands in Washington County that were part of our sense of place. From those meetings, motivated by big dreams, the Virgin River Land Preservation Association was born.

Over our first 20 years, many friendships have been formed, challenges faced, funds raised, and successes celebrated in active honor of the organization's mission statement of working with landowners and communities to protect southwestern Utah's heritage of scenic vistas, open lands, and quality of life. Accomplishments become candles on the cake and conserved jewels upon the landscape—here are some of our sparkling highlights:

- Grafton
- Babylon
- Pine Valley Meadows
- Smith Mesa
- East Zion
- Confluence Park



Little Babylon (detail), Photo: David Pettit

The total acreage in conservation easements we now hold is an impressive 3,100 acres! To learn more about these projects, please visit our website: www.virginriverland.org.

We couldn't do this work without the friends who follow and support us, volunteers who give so much of their time and energies, landowners who understand how land conservation strategies can serve their goals, and partners who join us to make a project possible. We would like to celebrate with all of you!



Pine Valley, Photo: Bill McMurrin

WHEN: Wednesday, October 23rd, 2013; 5-8pm

WHAT: Our 20th Anniversary Bash, on the exact date of our founding. It will be an open house, so stop by sometime between 5 and 8 pm to enjoy refreshments, light nibbles, and live music; visit with others interested in land conservation; and learn more about VRLPA, what we've accomplished, what we do, and what we hope to do.

WHERE: River Rock Roasting Company, 394 S. State Street, La Verkin, UT

We look forward to seeing you!

Contributions through October 31st to be Doubled—Help Us Protect MORE of What You Love!

Land conservation is a responsibility that never quits and a passion that never ends. The conservation easements we hold are meant to endure into perpetuity. VRLPA is committed to maintaining its strength as an organization into perpetuity, as well, so it can effectively steward these lands and conserve MORE. **One of our dear friends sees this challenge, and has made the generous pledge to match all contributions made through the end of October, up to \$20,000.** Your support through a tax-deductible gift today makes it possible for us to move forward tomorrow with our work to protect MORE open spaces, MORE wildlife habitat, MORE recreational opportunities, and MORE agricultural

land in this unique and beautiful southwestern corner of Utah.

How to contribute: You can give online through our website (www.virginriverland.org) or mail a contribution to Virgin River Land Preservation Association, PO Box 1804, St. George, UT 84771.

Another important step in our ongoing responsibility is to earn official accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance, the organization that provides small land trusts such as VRLPA with guidance and a strong, unified voice for land conservation standards and practices. The accreditation process is demanding, but will be well worth it, giving VRLPA public recognition for professionalism and reliable long-term protection of lands in the public interest.



Little Babylon, Photo: David Pettit



East Zion, Photo: Zion Mountain Ranch

One Percent for Greater Zion

We are excited to launch the Greater Zion Conservation Fund to collect voluntary contributions from Zion National Park visitors. Participating local businesses collect voluntary 1% contributions from their customers based on the value of purchases. VRLPA will use funds from this initiative to acquire conservation easements or to purchase properties that protect critical areas adjacent to the park. If you patronize Springdale businesses, look for this opportunity to support land conservation in the Greater Zion area. And if you are a business owner who would like to participate or learn more, please e-mail us at: vrtpa@infowest.com.

Making Connections

Learn more about VRLPA at www.virginriverland.org, find and like us on Facebook, and/or contact us via e-mail at vrtpa@infowest.com.

