

VISION

HURT & PROFFITT, INC.



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Jonathan Sweet Takes the Helm at Pulaski County

By Su Clauson-Wicker

Five months into his job as Pulaski County administrator, Jonathan Sweet is a happy guy.

“I’m glad to be here,” he says. “I was interested in this position because of Pulaski County’s many strategic assets – its industrial parks and interstate proximity – as well as the vision of our board of supervisors and quality of our staff. Also the value-add of partnership opportunities with Virginia Tech, Radford University, and New River Community College. I am confident that the economic development work we do here will benefit all of Southwest Virginia.”

Sweet, a native of Grayson County, is loyal to Southwest Virginia. Named the national County Leader of the Year for 2015 by *American City and County* magazine, Sweet could have his pick of jobs. Within five years of his taking the Grayson County administrator post in 2009, Grayson went from one of Virginia’s most financially challenged counties to one of the region’s most financially stable, seeing the announcement of 800 new jobs within a 24-month period.



In his first six months in Pulaski, Sweet says he’s focusing on capacity building and economic development. The county recently embarked on two international marketing trips. Sweet sees Pulaski County establishing itself as Southwest Virginia’s premier location for advancing manufacturing and the center for international business. He wishes to add to the likes of Colombia-based Phoenix Packaging, Volvo Trucks from Sweden, Korona Candles from Poland, and Red Sun Farms from Mexico.

“One of our goals is to double Pulaski County’s international business presence by the end of 2020,” Sweet says.

Hurt & Proffitt employees have worked well with many of these companies and the county. “Pulaski County has benefited tremendously from partnering with this great, very professional team,” Sweet says.

Sweet started his career in economic development in Carroll County and Danville before moving to Bland County to become one of the state’s youngest county administrators at 24. He took on the Grayson County administrator post when Grayson was struggling and left it with a strong financial position and four thriving new employers seven and a half years later.

“I have developed somewhat of a reputation as a turnaround guy,” he says. “I enjoy a challenge.”



Levy Rowland: H&P Land Surveyor



Levy Rowland enjoys hiking, history, and cartography, so his position in the survey department at H&P is a natural fit. He spent the first seven years of his career in Nelson County, Virginia, but during the economic recession opportunities in the area diminished and he was forced to look for employment elsewhere. That's when he joined the H&P team.

Working at Hurt & Proffitt allows Levy to travel across Virginia, and beyond. He also enjoys working with surveyors from multiple generations. "Each surveyor has their own take on things, which allows me to learn from different perspectives and various approaches to surveying challenges."



Since joining H&P in 2011, he's worked on a number of projects for numerous clients, and one of Levy's favorite aspects of surveying is the variety it provides. "There is no typical day in surveying. That's the beauty of it. One day you may be smack in the middle of the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains, the next day you could be in Northern Virginia, and the next day you could be in the middle of a hot, miserable, vine choked cutover running from yellow jackets with a razor sharp machete in your hand."

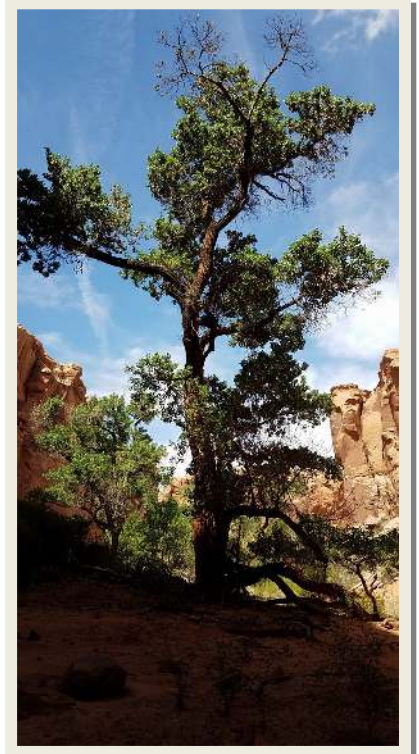
An adventurous spirit at heart, Levy has dreamed of traveling

out west and "getting lost for a while" in the desert. This year, he finally had his chance.

He booked a flight to Salt Lake City, and visited the national parks that he'd always wanted to see, and spent the rest of his time in the public lands going on routes recommended in a book he's poured over for years about canyoneering in the Colorado Plateau.

The route finding proved to be more difficult than he anticipated. It was also difficult to comprehend the scale of the vast desert landscape compared to the Appalachian Mountains that he's used to.

One of the routes involved a solo rappel over a cliff face and then having to later ascend the rope which he had never done before. He was overcoming these obstacles, while the immense solitude weighed down on him, and the realization that he only had himself to rely on if he were to experience trouble. "I guess that's part of



Levy Rowland: H&P Land Surveyor



the thrill,” Levy admits.

Towards the end of the trip, he did a loop route which included a 15-mile bike ride from where he left his rental car, to Granary Springs and the entrance to Blue John Canyon.

Luckily, he bumped into a couple of canyoneers who knew the area. Levy says, “Otherwise I may have chickened out of going through with the Slot Canyon route.” Not only did they do Blue John, they did the advanced technical “squeeze” fork of Blue John Canyon.

This was followed by a 19 mile hike through Blue John and Horseshoe Canyon back up to the rental car and was definitely the highlight of his trip.

Although Levy went on this adventure alone, he had safety in mind. He left his itinerary with multiple people in case something went wrong. He left a schedule and maps with his parents, girlfriend, and H&P’s very own Joe Schupee, who recently completed the entire Grand Canyon in a solo canoe trip.

Along with traveling, hiking, and climbing, Levy enjoys reading, and spending time with his two children, Keira and Thane.



DCR Approves VCLF Grant Round for 2018

DCR has approved a new Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VCLF) grant round of \$3.6 million for 2018. Funds will be divided into four grant categories:

\$900,000 for farmlands and forest preservation

\$900,000 for historic area preservation

\$900,000 for natural area protection

\$900,000 for open spaces and parks



VCLF applications are due by 4 pm on August 10, 2017.

In 1999, the General Assembly and the governor established the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation to help fund protection of Virginia’s natural resources. VCLF Grants are awarded to help fund the purchase of permanent conservation easements, open spaces and parklands, lands of historic or cultural significance, farmlands and forests, and natural areas. State agencies, local governments, public bodies and registered (tax-exempt) nonprofit groups are eligible to receive matching grants from the foundation.

H&P attended the workshop for grant applications, held in Charlottesville on June 29. We are happy to assist our clients in the application process. Please contact [Brian Cossman](#) for more information.



Emory & Henry: Save the Duck Pond!

Originally built in 1950, the Duck Pond at Emory & Henry is the very heart of the campus. In recent years, the condition of the pond has deteriorated and the walls of the basin have started to collapse and erode the banks, causing leaks to completely drain the pond at times. In an effort to preserve the Duck Pond for generations to come, the college is re-building the pond basin while augmenting the pond with a new pavilion and gazebo. A pedestrian bridge over the adjacent creek, brick paver paths with ADA accessibility, landscaping and lighting will complete the redesigned landscape. Hurt & Proffitt, Inc. provided engineering and surveying services for the improvements to the Emory & Henry campus Duck Pond. Services included site design, grading, spillway design, pedestrian crosswalk design, landscape design, and coordination of structural and electrical plans.

In December 2016, E&H announced its *Save the Duck Pond!* Fundraising initiative. The goal is to raise \$600,000 in contributions to complete the project. For donations of \$150 to \$2,500, the College offers the option to inscribe a name and/or message on a paver. Your message may be to honor a beloved professor or staff member, commemorate class years, proclaim the names of grandchildren and more. Naming opportunities are also available.



For more information, or to donate, visit their website at:

<https://www.ehc.edu/alumni-and-friends/giving/save-duck-pond/>



Bif Johnson Receives Emeritus Status from DPOR

H&P President and CEO, Bif Johnson has received Emeritus status from DPOR for his service on the Virginia Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architect from 2005 to 2017. Congratulations Bif, and thank you for your service.

