



*Celebrating 25 years*

of learning, discovering and  
exploring at Radford University's  
Selu Conservancy.

**RU**  
RADFORD  
UNIVERSITY



# The 380-acre Selu Conservancy

## Transforms...

classroom lessons into real-world research in the natural environment.

"At Selu, I'm measuring stress hormones in Eastern bluebirds as they leave the nest and as they age. Selu is such a beautiful place. It has provided me an opportunity to conduct field work and learn about the birds in their own environment."

—Amanda Pendergrass, senior biology major







...*Inspires...*

students to reach beyond what they thought possible - from creating nature-inspired art to conducting original research.

"Selu offers an opportunity for our students to learn and explore under their own power, to develop one-of-a-kind personalized research experiences, and to engage in first-hand scholarship connected integrally to the unique features and history of southwestern Virginia. Supporting Selu is supporting the best practices in education and scholarship."

— **Jason Davis**, Assistant Professor of Biology







## ...Enhances...

students' appreciation for the history and culture of Appalachia.

"Since 2007, the Farm at Selu has welcomed university classes, K-12 school groups, professional organizations, international visitors and civic organizations. These groups spend time learning about life in the 1930s through guided tours, demonstrations, exhibits and hands-on activities. Through your generous support we keep the spirit of Appalachia alive!"

— **Ricky Cox**, Coordinator of the Farm at Selu





## A Short History of Selu

Radford University's Selu Conservancy is located just minutes from campus on 380 acres along the Little River. Founded in 1989, when John Hargrove Bowles donated 185 acres of his ancestral land to RU, Selu Conservancy was named by poet Marilou Awiakta for the mythical Cherokee "grandmother corn-spirit." Several years later, a gift from the Bowles family expanded the tract to its present acreage.



## Experiential Learning

**The Farm at Selu Conservancy** features a farmhouse typical of the 1930s time period as well as original and restored outbuildings used by a farm family of that era. The Appalachian Studies Program interprets farm and home life for students, public and private schools in the region, and community residents. Traditional folkways, folk architecture and oral history of the region are all part of the offerings at The Farm at Selu.

**The Retreat Center** features a wrap-around porch with views of the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains and multiple meeting rooms for discussion sessions and project planning.







*The Selu Teams Course* is operated by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism's Radford University Adventure Based Learning Experience (RU ABLE) program and provides structured programs run by RU students and faculty. These programs include staff development, team building and education-based services for community groups and organizations.



*The Barn at Selu* features a large conference room, state-of-the-art research laboratories, and a serpentarium. The building houses an aviary for undergraduate and graduate research that features robotic feeding and observation technology. Graduate students from universities across the region visit this advanced facility to conduct research with RU faculty and students.

*The Observatory at Selu* is used for Radford University astronomy classes and is free and open to the public every clear Friday night. Sessions usually last about two hours.







*"Imagine if you were a student that had the opportunity to spend the summer on 380 acres of wild and beautiful land.* Students can do everything from conducting original research in geospatial science and biology to developing trail systems as a part of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism. Students can be inspired by the landscape to write essays, poems, and plays or create original artwork. Simply graduating from college is no longer enough. Students must demonstrate skill through research, internships and other educational experiences. Selu is an established location to provide needed training for students. Let's make it part of the experience for more students!"

— **Stockton Maxwell**, Assistant Professor of Geospatial Science



Students in a wildlife management course participate in a controlled burn at Selu Conservancy.



Continue the legacy of giving at Selu Conservancy by supporting its mission and operations with a gift to the Selu Endowment Fund to help sustain, enhance and improve the Conservancy for future generations.

*Become a Friend of Selu today!*

*Be a part of the next 25 years of Selu Conservancy.*

Please tear off and return the attached card with your gift information, or call 540-831-5108, or visit [giveto.radford.edu](http://giveto.radford.edu) to make your gift.

[radford.edu/selu](http://radford.edu/selu)

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*Thank you* for supporting Selu Conservancy!

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*Thank you very much for your support this year. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.*