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### BLUE RIDGE PRISM MEETS \$20,000 VEE CHALLENGE GRANT

The Virginia Environmental Endowment awards a \$20,000 grant to Blue Ridge PRISM.

**Charlottesville, Virginia:** Blue Ridge PRISM announced that it has met and exceeded a \$20,000 matching challenge from the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE), resulting in a combined grant and fundraising total of more than \$45,000.

“We are grateful for the support from VEE and their ongoing investment in Blue Ridge PRISM's education and outreach programs,” says Beth Mizell, Program Director at Blue Ridge PRISM. “It makes a big difference in what workshops we can offer.”

“We raised the matching funds from 65 different sources, mostly individual donations,” says Rod Walker, President of the Board of Directors for Blue Ridge PRISM. “Community support and environmental partners like VEE are vital in our efforts to reduce the impact of invasive plants in Virginia.”

This funding will be used to build landowner education for landscape-scale conservation, focusing on the identification and management of invasive species in a series of new workshops.

Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) is the first Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) headquartered in Virginia and is a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to reducing the negative impact of invasive plants in the Blue Ridge area of Virginia. It is a 501(c)(3) public charity.