



For Immediate Release

Contact: Jim Woltz / 540.342.3560

Natural Bridge of Virginia Has a Bright Future
Owner generously gifts the Bridge and 188 acres—valued at \$21 million—
to Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund

Natural Bridge, Va. (Feb. 6, 2014)—Woltz & Associates, Inc. today announced the sale of Virginia’s historic Natural Bridge and 1,500 surrounding acres to the Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund (VCLF). In the coming years, as part of the terms of the agreement, VCLF will deed [Natural Bridge](#) and its surrounding properties to the Commonwealth of Virginia to become a Virginia State Park. This arrangement was made possible because the Bridge’s owner, Angelo Puglisi, generously gifted the Bridge and 188 acres of the property—valued at \$21 million—to VCLF.

Since 1988, the Natural Bridge, the hotel, attractions and more have been owned and operated by Washington, DC area real estate developer [Angelo Puglisi](#). He purchased it all with the intent of keeping it accessible to visitors forever.

Commenting on the new ownership, Puglisi said, “This incredible property is filled with inspiring splendor and history. I am pleased that this national landmark—once owned by Thomas Jefferson and surveyed by George Washington—now has a path into the Virginia State Park system that will allow upcoming generations to enjoy it just as I have enjoyed it.”

Jim Woltz, President of [Woltz & Associates](#), said, “This agreement has been months in the making and we’re very pleased with the result. It’s a great accomplishment to put the last piece of a complicated puzzle together. The result is a tremendous benefit to the region and the state. It would not have happened without such a wonderful owner and seller, Angelo Puglisi.”

Multiple parties—including the [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation](#) (DCR), the [Department of Environmental Quality](#) and numerous conservation groups and organizations—worked together to find a solution that was true to Mr. Puglisi’s vision to preserve Natural Bridge and its surroundings for visitors for years to come.

“I admire Mr. Angelo Puglisi and his efforts to conserve Thomas Jefferson's Natural Bridge for the benefit of future generations. Virginians, indeed all Americans, should be grateful. One of our nation's most iconic natural landscapes is now protected in perpetuity,” said Joe Elton, Interim Director, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

VCLF will purchase the balance of the conservation land assets of 1,300 acres with a loan from the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund administered by the Virginia Department of Environmental

Quality and the Virginia Resources Authority. Repayment of the loan will be funded through donations and operations of the Bridge. Upon repayment of the loan, the property and operations will be conveyed to DCR—managers of the Virginia State Park system.

The Natural Bridge itself is designated as a Virginia Historic Landmark as well as a National Historic Landmark. Known as one of the world’s natural wonders, the Natural Bridge of Virginia has attracted visitors from around the globe since the time of Thomas Jefferson’s ownership. It is a significant local, regional and national attraction.

Woltz added, “Through the work of many people, Natural Bridge will remain one of the top scenic destinations not only in Virginia but across the U.S.”

###

About Woltz & Associates:

[Woltz & Associates](#), Inc. is one of the Mid-Atlantic’s largest real estate auction/brokerage companies and specializes in estates, farms, ranches, commercial, industrial and investment properties, residential developments, office buildings, and timber, hunting and recreational land.

About Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund:

Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, Inc. (“VCLF”) is a nonprofit organization which seeks to conserve an appropriate portion of Virginia’s natural resources for public access and enjoyment. Their work in preserving and restoring wildlife habitat is also designed to create economic activity through the recreational and mixed use of Virginia’s vast forests and open spaces. VCLF is a member of the 25 year old Roanoke, Va.- based Kissito Healthcare, Inc. (“Kissito”) a nonprofit charity working both domestically and internationally in health, aging, nutrition, and human development. The relationship between health, nutrition, and our natural environment is well documented. VCLF and Kissito seek to blend these three disciplines to improve the quality of life for the people of Virginia while sustaining our natural resources.

About the Natural Bridge:

The [Natural Bridge](#) is a portal to U.S. history. Easy to get to and hard to forget, it is just off Interstate 81 in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. Over five million years old, standing 215 feet at its highest reach, surveyed by George Washington and once owned by Thomas Jefferson, the Natural Bridge is in the esteemed list of being one of the most notable natural wonders of the New World.