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March 27, 2019

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New Book Describes Farming with Nature in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia

Noted farmer and conservationist serves up the humor and life lessons of farm life

Swoope, Va.: Bobby Whitescarver's writing and public speaking about farming and the environment have charmed and informed audiences for over a decade. Now, the award-winning writer, conservationist, and farmer describes the hardships and joys of farming and nurturing the land while raising cattle, restoring streams, and creating wildlife habitat in this newly released book, *Swoope Almanac: Stories of Love, Land, and Water in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley*.

"Taste the wine, feel the soil, smell the rain, hear the warblers, see the wonders...join me on these pages to experience the surge of life's energy in spring, the healing power of trees, and life on the farm with a ninth-generation, pearl earring-wearing, calf-roping farmer, my wife, the Princess of Swoope. Restoring streams, wildlife habitat, and soil are core themes that weave through this journal," the author says.

Whitescarver spent thirty-one years as a soil conservationist with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and is now a private watershed restoration consultant. He teaches natural resources management at James Madison University and has received many awards for writing from the Virginia Outdoor Writers Association including first place for his widely read conservation blog, *Getting More On The Ground*. He is a sought-after speaker among farm groups and watershed associations alike. He and his wife Jeanne Hoffman were chosen as Soil Health Champions by the National Association of Conservation Districts.

The paperback edition of *Swoope Almanac* (pronounced Swope) will be available on Earth Day (April 22) and is the result of a lifetime of experiences. The book is illustrated by local artists and is published by the Shenandoah firm of Lot's Wife Publishing with generous grants from the Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment and from George Ohrstrom II.

A small quantity of signed and numbered hardback editions will also be available while supplies last. "We are thrilled to help bring Bobby's insights and humor to print," said Bill Howard, executive director of The Downstream Project, which serves as fiscal sponsor and provides production and marketing support. "When you buy one of these inspiring nature books, a portion of the proceeds will be used to plant a tree in your honor and give you a membership in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation."

Reserve a copy of the *Swoope Almanac* today for yourself or your favorite earth lover.

Copies can be preordered at www.SwoopeAlmanac.org

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