

The



Overlook

Vol. 4, No. 4

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is to preserve the natural areas, scenic beauty, and green spaces of Highlands and Cashiers for the enjoyment and benefit of the public.

Our goals are to:

- Acquire and manage natural areas.
- Protect native species of plants and animals.
- Preserve our rural and cultural heritage.
- Sustain air and water quality and biological diversity.
- Provide opportunities for outdoor education and recreation.
- Enhance and buffer our communities.

We accomplish our goals by:

- Protecting land through land donations, purchases and conservation easements.
- Building partnerships with landowners, developers, realtors and communities.
- Working with landowners to preserve significant natural areas.
- Conducting public education and information seminars and lectures.

Three new natural areas protected

Three new properties have been permanently protected by their owners through collaboration with the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust.

This fall, one property in Highlands has been donated in fee and two others have been protected by donated conservation easements.

Doug Lacy donated four, half-acre lots across from the Highlands School track along Fifth Street. Small springs run through the wooded lots and empty into Harris Lake. In making the donation, Lacy said, "Thank you and all your members for your dedication to preserving green space in and around Highlands."

We are grateful to Doug for his willingness to help keep some of the area around Harris Lake from dense development.

Greg Gregory placed 22 acres of land he owns along Buck Creek Road in a conservation easement. He plans eventually to protect up to 45 acres of property along Buck Creek Road that adjoins Carpe Diem Farm and contains streams and an Appalachian

mountain bog.

"The decision to do this came over time," Gregory explained. "We learned about conservation easements in working with the Trust for Public Lands. The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust provided the vehicle and God gave us the opportunity, so we did it."

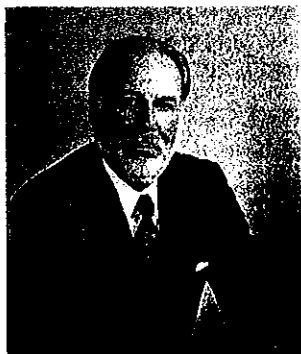
The third donation is a 12-acre tract along Arnold Road near Lake Sequoyah. Robbie Reid, who developed the residential area on the west side of the lake, kept that tract as a green space. It borders U.S. Forest Service land on the west side.

These parcels are good examples of how green space and the protection of natural areas make our community a more attractive place. All of these land owners could have fully developed their land, but, because they appreciate the natural beauty of our area, they chose to protect significant portions. We appreciate their confidence in the land trust.



On Arnold Road a groomed common area merges with a newly protected green space.

Land Trust elects new director



The newest member of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust board of directors is Joseph E. "Pat" Patrick, who was elected to a six-year term to replace Dr. Amy Patterson, who retired from the board after 10 years of service.

A retired businessman from Atlanta, Patrick has had a summer home at Highlands Falls Country Club for several years.

"We are delighted to have Pat on our board," said Bill Stiefel, board president. "He is very enthusiastic about our mission and will bring enormous energy to helping us develop the resources to preserve the natural beauty of the community we all love."

After working for 11 years with the John H. Harland Co. in sales and as vice president for marketing, Patrick founded Label America, a label printing company in Stone Mountain, Georgia, in 1980. It was very successful and in 1985 was recognized as an "Inc. 500" fastest growing U.S. private company. Patrick was named

Georgia Small Business Person of the Year in 1990. He served two terms as president of the North American Label Manufacturers Association. He sold his company in 1997 and retired.

Patrick graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1967. He served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969 as a lieutenant.

He and his wife Hilda live in Covington, Georgia. He currently is on the boards of Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina; The Community Foundation for Metropolitan Atlanta; and the Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. He has served on the boards of Main Street Bank in Covington, Georgia; The Arts Association in Newton County; and Highlands Falls Country Club. He is an elder in the First Presbyterian Church, Covington.

Among his retirement activities, Patrick is very enthusiastic about landscape painting.

Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust memberships are renewed annually in June. If you haven't already renewed your membership, please do so today. Your support makes it possible to save the places you love!

How You Can Help Save Our Natural Heritage

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust accomplishes its mission in several ways, as the front-page statement explains. You can greatly advance our goals by making a donation to one of the following areas of land trust activity.

Please accept my donation of _____ and put it to work in the:

- Land Conservation Fund (helps pay for future purchases)
- Zahner Conservation Lecture Series

I'm not a member yet, but I want to join. Please sign me up at the following level:

\$35+ Individual	\$100+ Friend	\$500+ Patron	\$5000+ Satulah Steward
\$50+ Family	\$250+ Conservator	\$1000+ Benefactor	_____ Other

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. _____ E-mail _____

(memberships are renewed annually in June)

Make checks payable to: Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust

P.O. Box 1703, Highlands, North Carolina 28741

Executive Director's remarks

Convergence of interests are timely for land trust

There are times in an organization's history when it seems all the stars are lined up to make things happen. For the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, this seems to be one of those rare times.

Last year we went through the process of creating a strategic plan that would guide us through the next three to five years. One of the goals was to be more systematic about our approach to conservation in the new service area that includes large sections in and around Cashiers.

Helping us in our deliberations has been Chuck Roe, who was the founding executive director of the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, and is now Southeast Program Director of the Land Trust Alliance, which helps all the land trusts in America. Chuck is our mentor in creating a strategic conservation plan for our expanded service area.

This fall we got an intern from the Carolina Environmental Program who is helping us use GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping to evaluate and depict the important natural features of our conservation service area. These maps will help us prioritize high value conservation areas that deserve special protection. The intern is Andrew Roe, who is Chuck's son. He is doing an outstanding job, and his father should be very proud of him.

By this spring we should have completed our planning and have a road map showing how we want to proceed in protecting the enormous natural beauty we sometimes take for granted.

Along the way, property owners in Cashiers are taking notice. I say Cashiers because that area has the largest amount of unprotected undeveloped land in our area. Highlands is mostly surrounded by U.S. Forest Service land.

We are delighted by the response we are receiving from property owners who care very much about the future of their community. Donor granted conservation easements under serious consideration amount to more than 1000 acres of beautiful mountain land that should get some kind of permanent protection within the next 12 months.

All of this would not happen without the support of our members and donors who have made our existence possible. Because we operate on a continuing basis, property owners have a local organization that will join with them to protect the land they love for many generations to enjoy.

Everything seems to be coming together in a way that all of you should take great pride in.

Mike Cavender



Board President **Bill Stiefel** (above, right), and Secretary **Mercedes Heller** (left) give Dr. **Amy Patterson** a certificate of appreciation for her 10 years of outstanding service to the land trust. Amy retired from the board last summer and was replaced by Pat Patrick. During her tenure, Amy served as vice president and secretary. She performed extraordinary service during the 1998 Satulah campaign when more than \$600,000 was raised to buy additional acreage on the top of Satulah Mountain.

Board Vice-president **Alan Marsh** (below, right) presents a certificate of appreciation to **Griffin B. Bell, Jr.**, who completed his six-year term last summer. Griffin chose not to continue on the board because of the demands of his time on the Town of Highlands Planning Board. Griffin served as president of the board during his tenure. He also was an outstanding leader during the Satulah capital campaign. Both of them will be missed, but we know they will help out when needed.



A SUCCESSFUL EVENING

Mercedes Heller (far right), land trust board secretary, welcomed Highlands Falls Country Club members to a cocktail reception last summer to learn about our mission, activities and plans. More than 100 guests turned out for the festivities. Board member John Warren and his bluegrass band, Cashiers Music Company, entertained. (Near right) Board president **Bill Stiefel**, presented honored guests **Ray and Diane McPhail** a print by artist Rosemary Stiefel in appreciation for their donation of the 11-acre Valley of the Giants property next to the Fodderstack Mountains. Ray and his partners, Will Stoltz and Alan McRae, donated the property last year. The party resulted in 23 new members, 8 renewed members and donations totaling \$14,700. We really appreciate the turnout from a club whose members always makes Highlands a better place to live.



HONORING A LONG CONSERVATION TRADITION

Lydia Sargent Macauley and her brother **Hugh A.A. Sargent** show off a plaque they installed this summer on the beginning of the land trust's Kelsey Preserve. The monument honors their grandparents, Lydia and Alexander P. Anderson, who were married in Highlands in 1898. Dr. Anderson was one of the original trustees of the Highlands Improvement Society, the predecessor organization of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. The Sargent/Anderson families' substantial donation to the land trust in 1998 made possible the purchase of the first three acres of the 11-acre Kelsey Preserve, which protects the old Kelsey trail that once went from Fifth Street to the top of Whiteside Mountain.

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS LAND TRUST
 POST OFFICE BOX 1703
 HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA 28741-1703
 (828)526-9938 EXT. 250

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED