



Highlands-Cashiers LAND TRUST

"Saving Special Places since 1909"

Spring 2010

HCLT Annual Report

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2009 was a Year to Celebrate

Not only did Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust celebrate 100 years of conservation in 2009 but it managed to complete nine conservation easements and conserved more than 340 acres. Nine easements are the most HCLT has ever completed in a single year. It also means we have protected more than 2000 acres since 1909 and doubled our conserved acreage since 2006. All in all, it was a pretty good year.

The Warren family placed a conservation easement on 132 acres of Timber Ridge, conserving several endangered species and a North Carolina

Significant Natural Heritage Area. This is our second largest protected tract.

Debbie and Brad Word placed their 66-acre property, *Firewater*, into a conservation easement that protects a part of Robinson Creek and is adjacent to Panthertown.

Erich and Anneliese Schweistris placed *Haus im Wald*, located on Shortoff Mountain, into a conservation easement conserving a part of the headwaters of Shortoff Creek in a 47-acre easement.

Continued on page 3

The mission of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is to protect valuable land resources for all generations.





HCLT

Board of Directors

- Thomas Bates, President
- John Warren, Vice President
- Jeff Zahner, Secretary
- Linda Wright David, Treasurer
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- Julie Schott, Director of Development



By Thomas Bates
President, HCLT

HCLT...even better!

When I first joined the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust years ago, I remember being impressed with the overall quality and effectiveness of the organization. There was a level of commitment and dedication witnessed in few other groups. I'm pleased to report that, even with these strong organizational roots, we are not content to simply maintain the same level of quality, rather, we are actively working to enhance our professionalism in 2010.

This past October, the board of directors unanimously voted to pursue full national accreditation as a land trust. While it might have been tempting to rest on the laurels of our past hundred years of success, we agreed that in order to continue on a path of excellence, we must continue to take intentional, progressive steps in that direction. In keeping with this commitment, we have already adopted improved standards and practices that are recognized as the desirable norms of our in-

dustry.

We are working directly with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC) based in New York to improve and establish guidelines that will better ensure our effectiveness as your land trust for generations to come. Once we have operated under our new policies for one year, we will voluntarily submit to a rigorous review process administered by LTAC.

This is roughly similar to someone walking into an IRS office and asking to be audited. So what's the point, and why would we choose to do this?

The point is that you and our other members are essentially investing in our integrity and capability as a land trust. Full accreditation will serve as further validation of our credibility, accountability and transparency.

The point is that you and our other members are essentially investing in our integrity and capability as a land trust. Full accreditation will serve as further validation of our

credibility, accountability and transparency. More to the point, we value your confidence in our efforts to protect and preserve our threatened mountain resources. Accreditation will strengthen our standards and practices, thereby further encouraging your confidence and trust. Improved trust means that we will share a stronger partnership. And our strong partnership with you is essential to our ongoing success.

We are excited for the year ahead, with all of its challenges and opportunities. We deeply appreciate your active participation with us, and we look forward to continuing to earn your trust.

Land Trust Day is Saturday, June 5

Mark your calendars and prepare to pamper yourself – guilt free – all in the name of land conservation!

Participating 2010 businesses and details to be announced.

If you would like to learn how your business can be a part of Land Trust Day 2010 or about becoming a Conservation Business Partner, contact Julie at (828) 526.1111 or julie.hitrust@earthlink.net.

Thanks to last year's LTD participants:

Fressers Eatery

Highland Hiker

Lakeside Restaurant

The Chinquapin Company

The Orchard

Victoria's Closet & V.C. for Men

Whole Life Market

A Year to Celebrate *continued from page 1*

Beth Greenlee put her 41 acres, located in Whiteside Cove along Norton Creek, into an easement that protects several waterfalls and a beautiful forest.

Barry and Paula Jones put 16 acres of Frog Pond Farm into an easement that protects the headwaters of Overflow Creek upstream of Glen Falls.

Twelve acres next to Sliding Rock were conserved by **Lucy and Bill Christopher**.

The Killebrew family put 11 acres into an easement on Turtle Pond Creek.

The Hill House, one of the oldest structures in Horse Cove was placed into an easement by the **Hill descendants**.

Sarah and Bob Fenton placed their property on Hickory Hill Road into an easement. Their three-acre easement protects a portion of the Big Creek Watershed.

Should you run into one of your neighbors that choose to protect their land through a conservation easement this year, take time out to thank and congratulate them! 🌿



The Hill House

If you drive east on Main Street out of the Town of Highlands you will descend into historic Horse Cove. As you motor along you cannot help but notice the white Hill House on the left side of Horse Cove Road near Walking Stick Road.

Construction on this house started sometime in the 1880's when Frank Hill used logs to roll an old store across the road. This old store, which was built in the 1840's, today forms the back of the house. The descendants of Frank Harrison Hill still own the house.

This December, Frank Hill's descendants placed the ten-acre Hill House tract into a conservation easement that will protect the property from development forever. These descendants are Lynn T. LaChance, Leigh T. Trant, Col. Luther S. (Trey) Turner III, William Lamb, and J. T. (Tom) Flippin. In a conservation easement, the owners donate their development rights to a qualified non-profit organization.

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust worked with the Turner family and, with the support of grants from Blue Ridge Forever and Janivere Foundation, was able to place an easement on this house and the associated ten acres.

By protecting this site from development, the house and the incredible view of Blackrock Mountain behind it can be viewed without obstructions by all who pass.

Members and Donors, 2009

These people and businesses are the backbone of our financial support, and we are deeply grateful for their belief in our mission. We've made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the various lists. If your name was omitted, please let us know so we can give you recognition in our next newsletter.

CENTURY CIRCLE PARTNERS

John Akridge
Ann Austin
Page and Sally Bernstein
Gene and Sue Brigham
Jack and Judith Brinson
William Britton
Margina Cogswell
Ed and Denise Crenshaw
Susan B. Day
Robert and Cathy Fisher
Larry and Nancy Fuller
Henry and Amanda Gregory
Bobby Haynes
Mercedes and David Heller
Slocum and Lila Howland
Robert and Patricia Lanzillotti
Phillip and Karen Leabo
Lydia Sargent Macauley
William and Sara Mann
John and June Manor
Alan and Patty Marsh
The Knox Massey Family
Jeri and Bill Mauldin
Carolyn Ritchey McCall
Howard and Mary Eliza McMillan
Richard and Margie Melvin
Kent and Alice Nelson
Sarah and Phil Nelson
Pat and Hilda Patrick
Charlotte Pippin
David and Barbara Postles
Mary and Ib Raae
Albert and Sue Redd
Charles and Susan Reeder
H. English and Marcia Robinson
Jim and Dean Day Sanders
Charles and Susan Sheehan
Bill and Rosemary Stiefel
James and Allison Tate
James and Caroline Theus
Gary and Pamela Turnley
John and Marsha Warren
Mrs. Charles Webb
Bert and Viola Westbrook
David and Carol Wilkes
Suzanne Williams
William and Patsy Wolff
Peggy Woodruff

PARTNERS

Daniel Allen
Kelly and Nancy Allgood
Ron Altmann and Melissa Madura-
Altmann
Frances and James Alu
Michael and Debra Andrews
Jack Apperson
John Apperson
Lacy Apperson
Margaret Apperson
Charles and Linda Arnold
James and Mary Jo Askew
Helene and Joe Baird
Carl and Maxine Balli
Bank of America Matching Gifts
Barbara Barnett
Thomas and Lisa Bates
William and Romney Bathurst
Hans and Jean Baumgarten
Percy and Barbara Beard
Griffin and Glenda Bell
Mary Berry
Joseph and Diane Biggers
Martha Crouch Black
Paul Black and Rebecca Schilling
Carl and Kathie Blozan
Jack A. Bornemann
Waldo and Jenny Lynn Bradley
D. Hines and Linda Brannan
Margaret Brannen
Lella Bromberg
James S. and Lynne Browne
Nancy and Carter Bruns
Robert F. Bryan, Jr.
Linda S. Bryant
Bill and Nina Bugg
Wallace and Ann Bunn
Dianne Bunnell
Frances B. Bunzl
Frank and Nina Burke
Frank and Emily Buskirk
Vanna and Albert Cameron
Tim and Emily Campbell
Pat and Wendy Carlton
William and Maryanne Carraway
Chuck Carver
Mike Cavender and Paulette Webb
Dot and Dallis Champion
Joseph and Marilyn Chanda
Leila S. Chapman
Linda and Tom Clark
William and Marian Clark
Janet and Scott Clarke

John and Edwina Cleaveland
Ike Cobb
Mrs. David L. Coker
Mary Coker Joslin (in honor of William
Chambers Coker)
Wade and Geri Coleman
Beverly Cone
Billy and Deborah Conery
Janet Connell
Peggy Connor
Lane and Rodney Cook
Lynn Coris
Richard Cornell and Margaret Payne
(in honor of Dr. Baumrucker)
James and Leslie Costa
Marie Cranston
Neil and Peggy Crawford
Timothy and Joyce Cross
Bill and Carol Crowe
Mary Palmer and Hugh Dargan
Linda and Kenton David
Bill and Ellen Davis
Charlton and Pat Davis
Jarrett Davis and Mary Virginia
Joseph and Ruth Davis
James and Susan Davis
Garrett and Aidan Dee
Gregory and Jane Delaney
Richard and Melissa Delany
Rita Deloach
Ralph and Marilyn deVille
Bill DeVries
James and Ellen Dewar
Wendi Diamond
Robert and Lynn Dicks
Doris and Edward Dietrich
Larry and Marjorie Dimmitt
H.C. and Paula Dodson
Donald and Sylvia Dorough
William and Leslie Doster
Avary and Gerry Doubleday
Dan and Mary Duckham
Raynor Duncombe
James and Denice Dunn
Christopher and Rachel Dyer
Sylvan and Alice Dyer
J. William Edwards
Steve and Marie Edwards
Wiley and Clare Ellis
Vicki and Ross Elsberry
James and Barbara Estes
Mary Lee Farrior
Joanne Fleming

John and Ann Foster	Christy Kelly	Mary Peterkin
Thomas and Julia Franken	Virginia Kennedy and Kevin Naylor	Joseph and Pam Pilkington
J. K. and M. M. Franklin	John and Jane Killebrew	Edwin and Kay Poole
Louis and Judy Freeman	Carlton King and Joyce Fleming	Hillrie and Beverly Quin
Donna Jean Gardy	Larry and Ann Klamon	Randolph and Minor Ramey
Thomas and Barbara Garwood	Frazier and Martha Knight	Carol and Billie Ray
Samuel and Barbara Gassaway	Donald Krebs	Larry and Mary Ann Ray
Barbara Gates	Roy Lambert	David and Anne Reddick
Joe and Fran Gatins	David and Rebecca Landis	Russell and Helen Regnery
John and Shirley Geary	James Landon	Charles and Agnes Richards
Robert and Sylvia Gibson	Doug and Barbara Landwehr	James and Diane Riddle
James and Justine Gillis	Kenneth and Elaine Langone	Holly Roberts
Bobbie and Jon Golden	Bernard and Kathleen Lanigan	Chuck Roe and Charlotte Jones-Roe
Travis and Carol Goodloe	Harley and Shirley Layow	Jim and Betty Rogers
Edwina and Bill Goodman	David and Nancy Lea	Grat and Diane Rosazza
Edwin and Tayloe Graves	Jane LeBus	Bill Sands
Billy Gray	J. Bancroft Lesesne and Randolph	Hugh and Cheryl Sargent
John and Shirley Geary	Henning	Nathalie Sato
Holcombe and Nancy Green	Carole Light	Ashley Schott
Shelly and Jan Griffin	Anthony and Ursula Long	Julie Schott
Arthur and Barbara Grossman	Colin MacDonald	Laura Schott
Kim Gruelle	L. Gillis and Brooke MacKinnon	Ron and Pat Schott
William and Julia Grumbles	Jo Ann Main	Charlie Scott
Dennis and Linda Hall	George and Sara Maloney	Hill Scott
Tom and Margaret Hall	William and Judy Maner	Jane Hill Scott
Rachel Hamilton	Seth and Glenda Marshall	Stacey Scott
Charles Hammock	David and Elizabeth Martin	Julie and Frank Seta (in honor of
Pat Handley	Curtis and Carol Mathews	Mercedes S. Heller)
Corbet Hankey	Mary Matthews	Ran and Margaret Shaffner
Patricia Hardin	Penny and Ed Mawyer	Clay and Emilie Shaw
Sandy and Joe Hardy	Elizabethine McClure	Charles and Judy Shirk
William and Bonnie Harper	Don and Jean McCormick	Bill and Wyn Shoptaw
Rufus Harris	Charlie and Gladys McDowell	Donald and Janice Shure
Shirley Harris	Richard McGowin	Carole Simmons
Virginia Harris	William and Becky McKee (in honor of	Wiley and Sarah Sloan
Walker Harris	Ann McKee Austin)	Grady and Anna Smith
Robert Harrison	Mary Louise McLaurin	Peggy Smith
John and Sandi Hart	Richard McRae	Robert and Susan Smith
Karen Hawk	Kent and Judy Mergler	Kathleen Smithson
Robert and Jennifer Hays	C. F. Meyer	Bill and Cynthia Soderstrom
Christine Hazelip	Judy Michaud	Ethan and Marilyn Staats
George and Elizabeth Heery	Juan and Lourdes Milciunas	Herman and Vicki Stahl
Mike and Sue Hightower	Josephine Miller	W. Stancil Starnes
Anya Hinkle	Jerry Mitchell	Randall Steffler and Maurice Helms
Deborah Hoops	Jill Williamson Montana	Linda Steigleder and Clark Wiedmann
John and Laurie Hopkins	Marcia and John McCarley	James Stokes
David and Linda Hughs	Ann White Morton	John Stowers
Tim and Gail Hughes	Ted Morton	Claude and Ann Sullivan
Brock and Patty Hutchins	Thomas and Lynette Moss	Roland and Sylvia Summers
Joseph and Shirley Insoft	Don and Patsy Mullen	Jim and Jonnie Swann
Jackie Jack	Jane Nardy	Everett and Lora Tarbox
Sidney and Dale Jackson	Virginia Neely	Tate Landscaping (in honor of Art and
Bill and Jacobs and Susan Posey	Albert and Linda New	Angela Williams)
Laura James	Bill and Connie Newman	Judith Taylor
George and Sara Janvier	Anne and Carl Norman	David and Rebecca Thomas
C. D. and P. A. Jensen	James and Arliss Oesterle	Tracy Thomas
Carol Johnson	Tim Osment	Michelle Thurmond
Edward Jones	Carlisle Overstreet	Terry and Judy Tindel
Katherine Kaiser	Jeffrey Owens	Tom and Jane Tracy
Gay Kattel	Judith Panders	Luther and Ann Turner
George and Connie Kaye	Gene and Libby Pearce	Andre and Kathleen Vanteeckelen-
Janet Kelley	Amanda Peterkin	burgh
Catherine Kelly	Brien Peterkin, Jr.	Thomas and Sylvia Wade

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Rick and Carolyn Waghorn
Hollis and Wilda Walker
John and Diane Walker
Will and Christie Wardowski
Mrs. Charles Webb
Gary Wein and Beverly Collins
Toby Wells
Gerald and Jeri Lee Wexelbaum
Robin McCulley Wheaton
Jim and Elaine Whitehurst
Art and Angela Williams
Charlie Williams
Janet Wilson
Woodrow and Melinda Wilson
Walter and Sarah Morgan Wingfield
Lynne Winship
Bob and Lynn Womsley
Betty Wong
Ed and Sharon Woods
Butch and Brenda Woodward
Phyllis Woolsey
Robert Wyatt and Ann Stoneburner
Carole Marschall Yancey (in honor of
Linda David)
Jimmy Ray and Sheryl Youell
Glenda Zahner
Jeff and Jodie Zahner

CONSERVATION BUSINESS

PARTNERS

All Species Photography and Sound
Bryson Food Store
Carefree, Inc.
Chattooga Gardens
Conservation Advisors of N.C., Inc.
Faraway Publishing
Fressers Eatery
High Country TV
Highland Hiker
Jones, Key & Melvin
Lakeside Restaurant
Macon Bank
Natural Landscapes
N.C. Bartram Trail Society
Summit One
Tate Landscaping
The Chinquapin Company
The Orchard
Victoria's Closet and V.C. for Men
Whole Life Market

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Frances Dear Dewey

Marie T. Cranston
Whiteside Estates

Arthur Douglas Hancock, II

Lawrence and Dede Austin

Susan W. Harrison

Marie T. Cranston

Daniel B. Hodgson

Lane and Mark Murrah

Mary Fernhout Hollings

Patricia T. Boyd
Kay and Bruce Donnellan
Barbara Horlbeck
Joan Horlbeck
Shand H. and Gary J. Lesemann
David M. and Posey M. Royall
Eleanor Horlbeck Thompson

Jerry Wayne Temple

Read and Jody Branch
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Carithers
John and Susan Claytor
Neil and Peggy Crawford
John and Ann Day
Hugh and Lucy Boyd Edmunds
Susan and Sam Evins
Mitzi Brown Kintz
Neal and Betty Rose
Paul and Katherine Rutledge
Patricia and Conrad Sauer
William and Jeane Stone
Elizabeth Whitaker

LAND AND CONSERVATION

EASEMENT DONATIONS

Big Creek Tract

Sarah and Robert Fenton

Chestnut Oaks

Lucy and William Christopher

Firewater

Debra and Bradley Word

Frog Pond Farm

Barry and Paula Jones

Haus im Wald

Erich and Anneliese Schweistris

Hill House

Luther Turner, III

Lynn LaChance

Leigh Trant

William and Regina Lamb

John and Barbara Flippin

James E. Warren, Sr. Estate

John and Marsha Warren

Sally and A.D. Hammond

James and April Warren

Mary Elizabeth and Greg Mullee

Joseph and Tiffany Brooks

Mary Peckham

Killebrew

Pixie and Bob Killebrew

Elizabeth Killebrew and Dale Conwell

Summer Solstice

Beth Greenlee

GRANTS

Conservation Trust for North Carolina
Cullasaja Women's Outreach
Land Trust Alliance
Laurel Garden Club
Merck Family Fund
Mountain Garden Club

Southern Appalachian Highlands

Conservancy

The Blue Ridge Forever Coalition
with funding from the Wal-Mart
Foundation

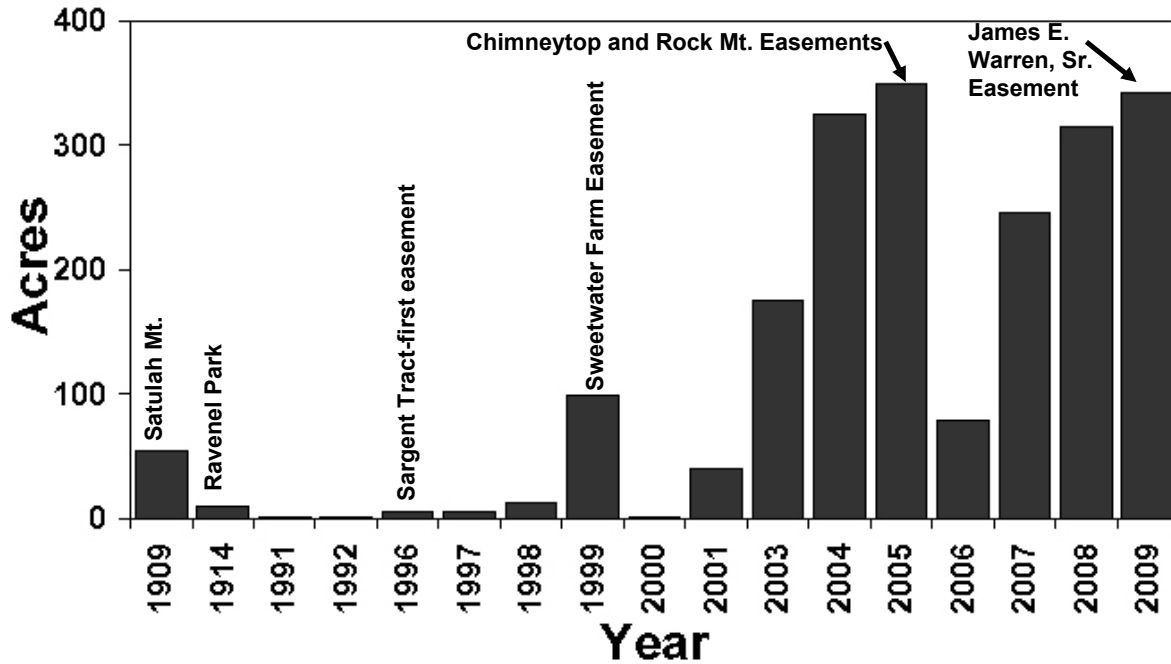
Wild Azalea Garden Club

Z. Smith Reynolds



*A view of Whiteside Mountain from the
James E. Warren, Sr. Estate, a 2009
conservation easement donation.*

Number of Protected Acres

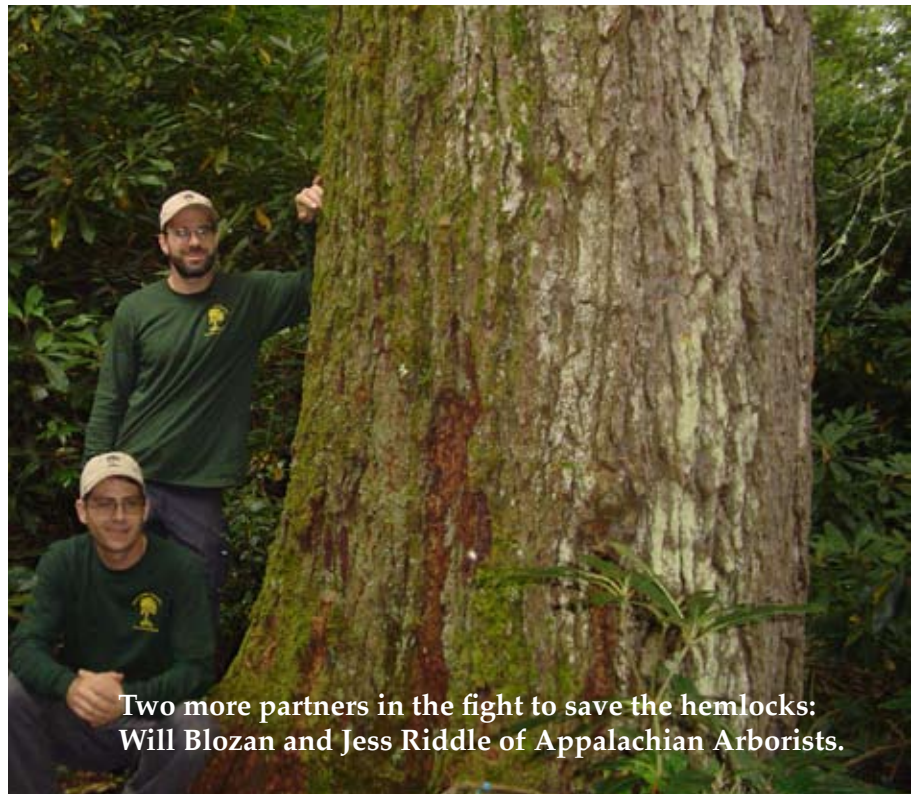


This graph reflects the progress over the years in land conserved by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. The figure shows the number of protected acres from 1909 to 2009. Since 1909, the Land Trust has protected 66 properties totaling 2059 acres.

Partners in Protecting the Cheoah Hemlock

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance (JMCA) is partnering with the Land Trust to protect the big hemlocks at the Henry Wright Tract from the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. JMCA is donating the necessary Imidacloprid chemical to treat 14 of the largest trees at this 22-acre site. One of those trees to be treated is the world’s largest and tallest living hemlock, the Cheoah. This wonderfully healthy tree stands at just over 160 feet tall.

The purchase of the chemicals was made possible by the donations of local citizens to JMCA’s Preserve the Hemlocks Fund, and the necessary soil injector was paid for through a grant from the Cullasaja Women’s Outreach. Great things can be achieved through partnerships.



Two more partners in the fight to save the hemlocks: Will Blozan and Jess Riddle of Appalachian Arborists.

New HCLT Stewardship Page

This new section of our newsletter is for all readers, but focuses on issues important to the Donors of Conservation Easements.

Conservation Easement Estate Planning

Estate taxes have led to the break-up, sale and development of family-owned farm and forestlands, even when landowners would prefer to keep these lands intact.

The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 phased down estate taxes by gradually moving the unified credit (amount of an estate that is not subject to tax) from the previous \$675,000 to \$3.5 million in 2009. For tax year 2010, there is no estate tax at all (although there continues to be a gift tax).

However, if Congress fails to enact a change between now and the end of 2010, the 2001 law will expire, and in 2011 the estate tax will be reinstated with a \$1 million unified credit and 2001 tax rates (up to 55 percent). It is likely that Congress will take up estate tax reform this year. In the course of that reform, it is very likely that the unified credit against estate tax will be raised to \$3–5 million per person, meaning that, for the most part, estates of less than \$7 million will not be affected by the estate tax at all.

Thanks to the Land Trust Alliance's advocacy with Congress, a tax bill enacted in 1998 expanded an important conservation tax incentive. (Visit www.lta.org for more information on conservation options for heirs.) Section 551 of the law removes the geographic limits from Internal Revenue Code 2031(c). Now, a conservation easement donor is eligible for an additional exclusion from estate tax of up to \$500,000, beyond the value of the easement itself — regardless of where the land is situated. Previously, the exclusion was limited to land within 25 miles of a metropolitan statistical area, a national park, or a federal wilderness.

The law is of greatest benefit to those who inherit valuable land during the next nine years, when estate taxes will continue. Those individuals can use 2031(c) to make a post-mortem election to donate a conservation easement, which

could save them considerable estate taxes.

Several members of Congress are working on reforms that provide special treatment for lands protected by conservation easements. For example, there are those that advocate an expansion of the existing estate tax incentive for conservation easements, IRC 2031(c), and there are proposals to exempt all agricultural lands from estate tax. Be sure to contact your Congressmen and Senators and let them know what you think on this issue.

Working for a Permanent Easement Incentive

The enhanced Federal tax deduction, approved in the 2006 Pension Bill, for conservation easement donations helped America's land trusts work with farmers and other modest-income landowners to increase the pace of conservation by about 250,000 acres a year!

On March 10, the Senate voted 62 to 36 to pass H.R. 4213, a package of tax "extenders" and other provisions that includes a one-year extension of the enhanced tax deduction for conservation easements! With today's action, the House and Senate have both passed this one-year extension, but changes elsewhere in the bill will require additional action by the House. The extension would last through December 31, 2010 and be retroactive to the beginning of this year. The status of the extension should be resolved later this spring.

Fortunately, majorities of both Democrats and Republicans in the House have cosponsored legislation to make the enhanced easement incentive permanent. 264 Representatives and 41 Senators from all 50 states have already signed on as cosponsors for H.R. 1831 and S. 812. The hold up has been getting the bill on the House and Senate Floors attached to another bill. It was hoped it would be attached to the recent jobs legislation, but that ran into problems not associated with this effort. We need your support

to get the incentive renewed retroactively — and made permanent!

Visit your Senators over recess and urge them to extend the incentive ASAP. In North Carolina nine of our 13 Congressmen and one of our Senators, Richard Burr (R), have signed on as cosponsors of this initiative. If you know Virginia Foxx (R) of District 5, G. K. Butterfield

(D) of District 1, Walter B Jones (R) of District 3, or Melvin L. Watt (D) of District 12, suggest they support H.R. 1831. HCLT staff recently met with Senator Kay Hagen's (D) staff in Asheville and sought her support for S. 812. They indicated she was leaning that way but was focused at the moment on support for the 75th Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

It Takes a Village to Protect our Mountains!

The Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust's mission is all about protecting land for future generations, but this cannot be accomplished just by the Land Trust. All of us need to pitch in.

One of the nine conservation easements we did in 2009 was Beth Greenlee's Summer Solstice. Beth's easement started with a conversation about property taxes. She was worried about being able to pay them without having to sell her land and see it developed. It took nearly three years, but with the help of the Mountain

Garden Club, a grant from WalMart directed to low income land owners, and some pro bono work from local attorney Richard Melvin, we were able to place her 42 acres into a conservation easement. When asked about the easement, Beth said, "I have gained some tax advantages, but make no mistake — I could have sold this land for much more than the tax advantages I received. What I have really gained is the tremendous satisfaction of knowing that this beautiful piece of our mountains, which my family and I love so much, will never be 'developed' out of existence."

Beth's 42 acres contains some beautiful forest including a marvelous old basswood tree. This easement will protect some 2,000 feet of small creeks that feed the trout stream, Norton Mill Creek. On the property are two beautiful waterfalls; the one pictured is the small one. Just upstream is one that measures some 40 feet in height.

In a conservation easement, the donor still owns their land but donates the development rights to a land trust. By placing their land in a conservation easement, the owner protects their land, but also receives a federal tax deduction, a state tax credit, and eligibility for reduced county property taxes.

Beth commented that her favorite quotation from *Gone with the Wind* isn't "I'll think about that tomorrow," or even Rhett's "Frankly my dear..." but Scarlett's "I'll always have Tara." And that's what it's all about after all, isn't it? And thanks to the Land Trust, we in Western North Carolina will always have Summer Solstice.

To learn more about your local land trust, contact us at 526-1111 or visit our website at www.hicashlt.org. Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust is a proud member of Blue Ridge Forever.



A lovely waterfall on the Greenlee property, now protected through a conservation easement.



A Friend Remembered

This past December professional photographer and friend of the Land Trust, Mark W. Hutchison, passed away at the age of 55. Mark was a gifted photographer and writer who enthusiastically contributed his work to a number of projects including HCLT's coffee table book, *First Creation*. This past autumn, he led the Land Trust's elk photo tour to Cataloochee Valley where he taught participants tips on how to capture images of wildlife in their habitat through the camera's lens.

While working on *First Creation*, Mark wrote in his online blog about his many visits to Land Trust properties in search of the perfect photographic light. About these visits he wrote,

"I am an audience of one awaiting others to see what I have captured. But it is not mine, regardless of a copyright symbol neatly tacked onto the picture. How vain to believe this view is mine."

Mark loved this area and understood the importance of preserving it for future generations. This theme shines through in his photographs and writings. Among the last of his online writings, in October of 2009, he spoke to his love for these mountains and left us with these words:

"It is easy to see why so many travel here, only to return again and again. And why I refer to this place as my sanctuary....as with any special or sacred place, a fine line must be walked between preservation and practicality. The land truly belongs to us all. Creation sings here, but you have to listen, you have to see how it shines in the earliest hour of the day, and last remnants of dusk. And the camera allows me to capture what one day I shall fondly remember."

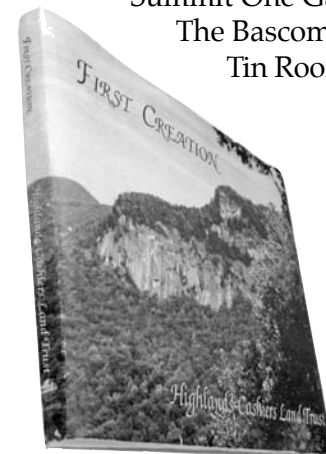
HCLT's limited first edition coffee table book, First Creation, is available.

This beautiful collection of photographs, celebrating 100 years of Land Trust conservation in Highlands and Cashiers, is \$40 plus tax for HCLT members, \$50 plus tax for non-members. Shipping is available.

Email julie.hitrust@earthlink.net or call the office at 828-526-1111 to reserve your copy now.

First Creation can also be bought at the following local stores:

- Cyrano's
- Dry Sink
- Highland Hiker
- Nora & Co.
- Rusticks
- Ryan & Co. Antiques
- Sashay Around
- Speckled Hen
- Stone Lantern
- Summer House
- Summit One Gallery
- The Bascom
- Tin Roof Studio



Join us on Facebook

Keep up to date on upcoming events and HCLT happenings on HCLT's Facebook page! Become a fan and suggest that your friends become a fan today.

THREE WAYS TO DONATE

- Clip the form below and mail to HCLT at PO Box 1703, Highlands, NC 28741
- Online at www.hicashlt.org
- Call 526-1111

Help Save Our Natural Heritage

apr10

Please accept my donation of \$_____ and put it to work.

I want to be a member of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust. Please sign me up at the following level (circle one):

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| \$35+ Individual | \$100+ Friend | \$500+ Patron | \$5000+ Satulah Steward |
| \$50+ Family | \$250+ Conservator | \$1000+ Kelsey Benefactor | _____Other |

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

(memberships are renewed annually in June)

Make checks payable to: Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, P.O. Box 1703, Highlands, NC 28741

OR charge your donation to Visa Master Card American Express Discover

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Card Number _____

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Donations to the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust are tax deductible. We are a 501(c)3 tax-exempt public charity, solicitation license #SL 003035.

Order your copies of *First Creation*

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Copies of First Creation are \$43 including tax for HCLT members (\$54 including tax for non-members) if picked up at the HCLT office at the Peggy Crosby Center, 348 S. Fifth Street, Highlands. Please call ahead to arrange a time.

828.526.1111 www.hicashlt.org



Highlands-Cashiers LAND TRUST

"Saving Special Places since 1909"

Post Office Box 1703
Highlands, North Carolina 28741-1703
(828)526-1111
hitrust@earthlink.net

Visit our web site at www.hicashlt.org

Save the date for these events sponsored by the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust

Eco Tours: \$35* (\$5 for HCLT members). Reservations: julie.hitrust@earthlink.net, 828.526.1111

May 10, Pink Shell Azalea Hike to Panthertown (moderate)

June 15, Birding with the Audubon (easy)

Sept 28, Elk Excursion (easy)

(Date TBA) Tropical Ferns in WNC (moderate)

(Date TBA) Buck Creek Serpentine Barrens Walk (moderate)

(Date TBA) Geocache in Panthertown (challenging)

(Date TBA) Peak's Creek (moderate)

Village Nature Series: Free; no reservations required. 6:00 pm, Cashiers

May 26, "Turtles & Snakes & Toads, Oh my!" Children's program w/ Patrick Brannon

June 23, "Wonder of Wildlife," Bill Lea

July 28, "The Mystery of George Masa," Ran Shaffner

Aug 25, "Landslides in WNC," Rick Wooten

Sept 22, "Hunters of the Sky," Michael Skinner

Zahner Conservation Lecture Series: Free; no reservations required. 7 pm, Highlands Nature Center

July 1, "The Blue Ridge Parkway, 75 Years Down the Road," Philip Coyle

Other Events

June 5, Land Trust Day: participating businesses TBA in Highlands & Cashiers

Oct 7, "Sunset on Sunset" Celebration

*Cost includes a HCLT membership along with tour and lunch.



Elk Excursion

For more information visit www.hicashlt.org, visit us on Facebook, or call 526.1111.