



View from the Highlands

38 Years Protecting the World's Oldest Mountains

Winter 2012, Volume 42, No. 3



THE *View* INSIDE:

- Land Protection Updates, p. 4
- Rocky Fork News, p. 6
- Anderson Farm Projects, p. 7
- Roan Stewardship, p. 8
- Outreach, p. 11
- Members' Corner, p. 12
- Business Partnerships, p. 23
- Annual Report, p. 14

photo by Ken Maness
Skiing in the Roan - Roan High Knob

Thank you all for another incredible year for the Southern Appalachians! We had some truly amazing successes, surpassing a new record of 60,000 protected acres. In this Annual Report issue, we bring you new stories about our exciting farmland, volunteer, and outreach endeavors, as well as a summary report of what we've accomplished. And, most importantly, a HUGE thank you to everyone who makes our work possible!





Appalachian.org

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Valerie True	Coordinator, Blue Ridge Forever



Skiing the Appalachian Trail across the Roan - Ken Maness



LETTER FROM THE

Director

Thank you for being a part of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy! We are grateful that we have been able to continue saving the places you love in Western North Carolina & East Tennessee, including a recent 89-acre acquisition in the Yellow Mountain State Natural Area (p. 4). We also have great news to share about public lands in North Carolina (p. 5) and Rocky Fork in Tennessee (p. 6).

This year, we're embarking on a number of endeavors at our Anderson Farm in Alexander, NC (p. 7), including a stream restoration & mitigation banking project, as well as an farm & food community initiative. Have you ever wondered how farmland and wildlife habitat go together? Read about these important edge zones on page 8. This fall, volunteer crews also continued habitat restoration in the Highlands of Roan (p. 9-10).

In this issue, our Annual Report begins on page 14, and contains a summary of our land protection achievements, as well as financial information and grateful acknowledgement of those who make our work possible. Thank you for all you do to help save our beloved Southern Appalachian landscape.

Carl Silverstein
Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS:

- New Acquisition in the Yellow Mountain State Natural Area (see page 4)
- Public Land Transfers to the State of NC (see page 5)
- Rocky Fork: Announcing Tennessee's 55th State Park (see pages 6)
- Myriad New Projects at the Anderson Farm (see page 7)
- Life on the Edge - Habitat and Farmland (see page 8)
- Conservation Field Journal: Volunteers (see page 9-10)
- Outreach: Hikes & Yoga (see page 11)
- Members' Corner (see page 12)
- Business Partner Profile: New Morning, Ltd. (see page 13)
- Annual Report (see page 14 - 27)
- Legacy of Land & People (see page 16)

If you have a photo or story to share, please contact us at 828.253.0095 or sahc@appalachian.org.

The mission of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is to conserve the unique plant and animal habitat, clean water, farmland and scenic beauty of the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee for the benefit of present and future generations. We achieve this by forging and maintaining long-term conservation relationships with private landowners, owning and managing land and encouraging healthy local communities.

LAND PROTECTION

Updates!



PROTECTING A SOUTHERN GATEWAY TO PUBLIC LANDS

Whichard Property

HIGHLANDS OF ROAN FOCUS AREA

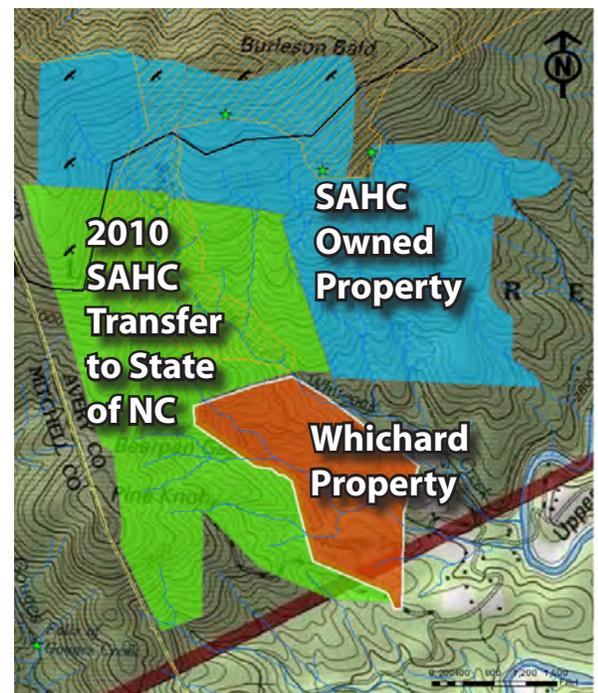
This recent 89-acre purchase in the Yellow Mountain State Natural Area anchors our land protection in this scenic region, and can provide a gateway to hundreds of protected acres.

In November, we purchased 89 acres in the Highlands of Roan, at the southern end of the Yellow Mountain State Natural Area. Known as the Whichard Property, it can provide access to parcels we have previously protected in this state designated scenic area.

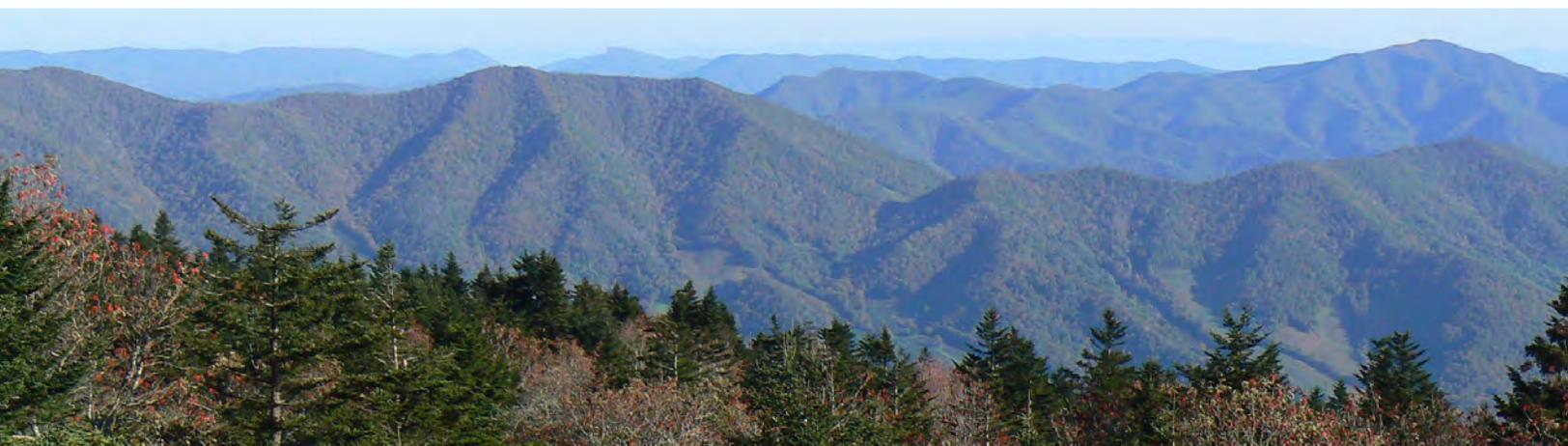
“Gaining a gateway to the other lands we have protected at Burleson Bald has been a priority for SAHC,” said Jay Leutze, former SAHC trustee and author of *Stand Up That Mountain: The Battle to Save One Small Community in the Wilderness Along the Appalachian Trail*. “We are thrilled to add this tract to the other lands we have protected.”

This property is adjacent to and visible from hundreds of acres of public lands. It adjoins the White Oak Creek property, which we purchased and conveyed to the state of North Carolina in 2010, and is very close to our Burleson Bald properties.

White Oak Creek, a tributary of the North Toe River, flows through the property, and it is close to the Roan/Cane Creek Mountain Important Bird Area.



The recently protected Whichard Property (89 acres), creates a protected southern gateway to the NC Yellow Mountain State Natural Area.



View of the Yellow Mountain State Natural Area, from the observation deck of the Rhododendron Gardens on Roan Mountain.

TRANSFERS TO THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Public Lands

HIGHLANDS OF ROAN FOCUS AREA

Since our beginning almost four decades ago, SAHC has pursued a commitment to secure and transfer conservation lands into the public trust. This year, we transferred 244 acres in Avery County to the State of North Carolina, to be forever visited and enjoyed by the public.

“Our ability to move quickly as a non-profit organization enables us to protect properties with incredible conservation values from future development,” said Carl Silverstein, SAHC Executive Director. “The opportunity to transfer ownership of these protected properties to the

state means that they will continue to be visited and enjoyed by the public far into the future. These transfers exemplify land protection at its best, preserving beautiful places for the benefit of present and future generations.”

Two of the transferred properties, Indian Saddle and the Mollies Branch waterfall, adjoin the 113-acre Mollies Branch tract that SAHC transferred to NC in 2010. The 104-acre Indian Saddle tract has a spectacular high-elevation flat grassy meadow and will be a centerpiece of the Yellow Mountain State Natural Area.

Transferred in October, the 136-acre National Trails Tract is in close proximity to the Appalachian Trail and adjacent to the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.

Chart: SAHC transfers to the State of NC in 2012



The beautiful Mollies Branch waterfall was transferred to the State of NC this year. The waterfall's source can be seen springing straight from the earth.

Tract	Acreage	Transferred
Indian Saddle	104 Acres	March 2012
Mollies Branch Waterfall	4.25 Acres	March 2012
National Trails Tract	136 Acres	October 2012



This view from the National Trails tract, looking into the Yellow Mountain State Natural Area, now belongs to the people of NC.

Did You Know?

Since 1974, we have transferred **thousands of acres** into public ownership, including parcels in:

Mt. Mitchell State Park

Pisgah National Forest

Cherokee National Forest

SAHC's land protection provides **Access to Public Trails,** including:

Appalachian Trail

Overmountain Victory Trail

Mountains-to-Sea Trail

Snowball Mountain Trail

COLLABORATION FOR EDUCATION:

In September, SAHC trustee David Ramsey led Mars Hill College faculty and students on a hike to the protected 10,000-acre ecological treasure known as Rocky Fork. It was the perfect day for some learning, hiking, and fishing.

The hike was part of a series themed "Where There Are Mountains," hosted by the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Regional Studies at Mars Hill College.

"We adopted it as a theme to address a range of issues facing this region, as well as the physical realities of this landscape and the meanings that humans

place on mountains," says Professor Karen Paar, Director of the Center.

Also as part of this series, Jay Leutze, former SAHC trustee and author of "Stand up that Mountain," gave a public presentation on "Protecting Southern Appalachian Biodiversity – and Scenery – One Acre at a Time." A colorful orator, Leutze brought Rocky Fork to life for the audience.



This native rainbow trout was caught in the pristine waters of Rocky Fork.

David Ramsey led a Mars Hill College hike to Rocky Fork in September.



TENNESSEE'S 55TH STATE PARK

Rocky Fork

On a chilly October day, with early snow still blanketing the ground and a swelling group of attendees packed into the Tennessee Welcome Center, plans were announced for Tennessee's 55th state park on the stunning Rocky Fork.



SAHC trustee David Ramsey (right) presents a framed photo at the ceremony to Sen. Lamar Alexander (left) and Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam (center).

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Bob Martineau joined members of the General Assembly, local elected officials and members of the community for a special ceremony announcing the future conveyance of more than 2,000 acres in the Rocky Fork area of Unicoi County, that will eventually become Tennessee's 55th state park.

The property is part of the 10,000-acre Rocky Fork tract, and will be conveyed to the state of Tennessee in the coming months.

Located along the Appalachian Trail corridor and the Tennessee-North Carolina border near Asheville, Rocky Fork is named after the cool waters flow through it. The property is adjacent to more than 22,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service-designated wilderness, including Sampson and Bald mountains.

The future development of Tennessee's 55th state park has been made possible through heroic public and private

efforts, including the leadership of Governor Haslam, the Tennessee

Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the ATC, the Conservation Fund and U.S. Forest Service. Federal funding for the Rocky Fork land acquisition was championed by Sen. Lamar Alexander and the Tennessee Congressional Delegation to secure support from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and through significant private contributions totaling more than \$4 million.

SAHC has served at the center of all these federal, state, and private funding initiatives.

The entire Rocky Fork wilderness area provides a wide range of world-class recreational opportunities, including hiking the popular Appalachian Trail, fishing more than 16 miles of blue-ribbon trout streams, and hunting bear, turkey, deer and grouse. The area is also home to both state and federally endangered species, including the Peregrine falcon.

SAHC is thrilled to be an instrumental partner in the protection of Rocky Fork.

A MODEL PROJECT ON MANY LEVELS

*Anderson Farm***So much is going on at our Anderson Farm!
How many different projects can we do on these 103 acres?**

SAHC accepted donation of this 103-acre in 2010, with the intention that it would continue to be used as agricultural land in the future. Holding this incredible asset (including 35 acres of gently to moderately-sloped grazing land and 60 acres of woodlands and stream corridors) made us ponder – how can we best use this farm to serve our community?

Community Farm & Food Project

Our Community Farm & Food initiative is a multi-faceted project that aims to serve diverse groups within our region - providing access to farmland, healthy food, and education. The goals for this project include an agricultural business incubator for new and beginning farmers, an agricultural-based job and life skills training site for members of economically underprivileged communities, an agricultural & environmental education center for youth, and a public, interpretive trail.

Partial funding for this project is provided by CTNC through the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

Access Service Incubator Program

As part of our developing Farmland Access Service, the Anderson property will also serve as an incubator site for beginning farmers. This “incubator farm” will provide beginning farmers with access to land and equipment at reduced rates for a certain period of time to help initiate new agricultural businesses. While at the incubator farm, the new farms will also receive support,

training, and implementation tools to help them manage successful farm businesses on their own. Assisting these developing farmers will keep valuable Western North Carolina farmland productive and ready replacements for the many current farmers in the region reaching retirement age.



Partial funding for the work reported here was provided by the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.

Stream Restoration and Mitigation Banking Project

Along with the agricultural projects at this site, we are performing a stream restoration and mitigation banking project on stream corridors passing through the Anderson Farm. This 5-year restoration project will repair severely degraded streams and create over 24 acres of wildlife habitat. With this project, we aim to demonstrate how a farm can be managed for both agricultural and wildlife resources.

Special thanks to the Pigeon River Fund & private philanthropic leaders for making this project possible.



Learning about food, on the Anderson Farm.

Workshop at the Anderson Farm



In October, SAHC hosted a Stream Restoration and Mitigation Banking workshop for landowners at our Anderson Farm in Alexander, NC. The workshop provided an introduction to the benefits of stream restoration for mitigation banking purposes, as well as the profit-earning potential for private landowners.

Presenters included:

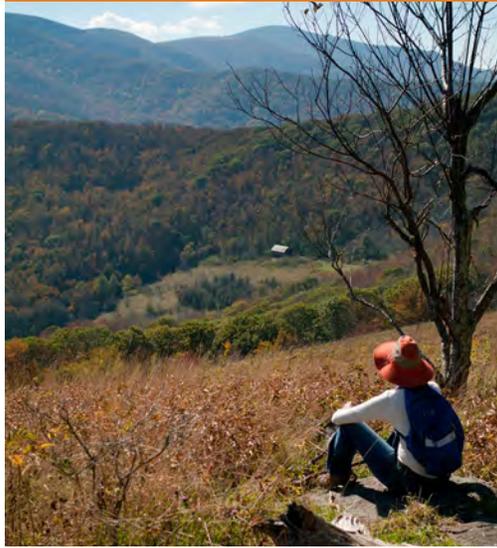
Allison Kiehl,
SAHC Farmland Stewardship
& Sustainability Director

Brent Manning
of Headwaters Restoration

Joel Lenk of
Altamont Environmental, Inc.

Maria Wise of
Buncombe County Soil & Water
Conservation District.

Following the presentations, participants took a tour of SAHC's stream restoration site at the farm. As the restoration progresses, we will offer additional on-site workshops at the farm. Contact Allison Kiehl, 828.253.0095 ext 203 for details.



Field Ecologist Chris Coxen monitors wildlife in the Highlands of Roan.

FARMLAND MAKES IMPORTANT WILDLIFE HABITAT

Life on the Edge

Early morning fog sat thick in the valleys as cattle grazed on the steep pastures. This spring, SAHC Field Ecologist Chris Coxen surveyed for Golden-winged Warblers around East Tennessee farms in the Roan. Along the field borders, black locusts and blackberry patches mixed with tall grass, providing the kind of ground cover that biologists call "habitat structure."

Wildlife species that live in these scrubby field borders are in decline because habitats like this are disappearing across our landscape. Those of us familiar with the Southern Appalachians know our beautiful mountain farms are a sense of pride for both the farmers and their community. Local farms can not only provide healthy food, scenery, and livelihood, but also critical habitat for wildlife. From East Tennessee to Fairview, agricultural landscapes can be managed to grow both food and wildlife populations, cultivating the land while protecting

threatened mammals, songbirds, reptiles, and amphibians. As small farms disappear, it doesn't just hurt the community, it also hurts our fauna. Below are a few programs that offer incentives to improve wildlife habitat on private lands.

Programs like the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) can provide assistance with habitat improvement on private agricultural or forest land. Funded by the US Department of Agriculture, WHIP is administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who provides technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in improving wildlife habitat on their property.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrolls eligible private landowners in a cost share program that aims to stabilize

and pastureland can receive financial and planning assistance to improve stream buffers and restore native habitat that both benefit wildlife and protect water quality.

The new Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Program, a joint national program with NRCS and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, targets seven priority wildlife species for habitat restoration and maintenance. The Golden-winged Warbler is the only priority species found in North Carolina, but landowners with property near existing Golden-winged populations may be eligible to receive planning and financial assistance from the NRCS. Biologists help landowners create and maintain early successional breeding habitat in an effort to bolster the Golden-winged population in the Southern Appalachians, decreasing the need for the species to be listed under the Endangered Species Act. Financial aid may be available for common management activities already taking place on pastures and fields, helping the landowner maintain their working land while also benefitting threatened wildlife species.

Why should a farmer or landowner with pastureland care about incorporating habitat improvements on their land?

- Quality habitat will improve overall ecosystem function on the land- stabilizing soil and improving water quality
- Native wildlife habitat can support beneficial predators that naturally reduce pest populations
- It will make your land more aesthetically pleasing and increase biodiversity on the landscape, benefitting native plants and animals and being a good steward may increase happiness!

erodible soil, improve water quality, and improve wildlife habitat. Landowners with cropland

For more information on WHIP, contact the Wildlife Resources Commission, Division of Wildlife Management at 919-707-0050

For more information on the WLFW program, contact your local NRCS office from the directory at <http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/directory/index.html>

CONSERVATION *Field Journal*

ON THE ROAN WITH SAHC FIELD ECOLOGIST CHRIS COXEN

This fall, SAHC continued two great volunteer management partnerships on the Roan. Asheville Green Opportunities and AmeriCorps Project conserve came out for two separate management days, restoring grassy bald habitat on the western slope of Round Bald. It is always rewarding to bring young volunteers to a beautiful place they have not been before, especially when their work can build a sense of connection to the land. It affords me the chance to look at the Roan and its vistas with new eyes and underlines the importance of SAHC's protection efforts.

Volunteers used hand tools to remove isolated clumps of woody plants that are encroaching on the grassy bald. Left unchecked, blackberry, rhododendron, blueberry, spruce, and fir trees will gradually expand outward into the grassy bald community,



Green Opportunities of Asheville volunteers, on Carvers Gap

a process called natural or ecological succession. Our Golden-winged Warbler habitat restoration work also continued this fall on Little Hump. Warren Wilson College Forestry students kicked off this arm of our National Forest Foundation Wildlife Habitat Improvement project, working at the southeastern edge of the Little Hump bald. The BRIDGE crew expanded on the student's work, continuing their record of invaluable contributions to SAHC's Roan management work.

Support from the National Forest Foundation, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and Constellation Energy allows SAHC to recruit volunteers and organize these work days. As always, resource protection is only possible through partnerships. We are thankful we can continue this important work and share our management efforts with volunteers that may now visit and protect the Roan for years to come.

Americorps work group on Little Hump Mountain



Enjoy the View!



View of the Great Smoky Mountains, from Hemphill Bald hike

FALL HIKE & OUTING RECAP

This fall, our members and guests enjoyed a variety of outings across our region, including a trek to Twin Falls and Clawhammer Mountain as part of the "For Love of Beer and Mountains" partnership with Highland Brewing Company and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. In mid-October, hikers to Hemphill Bald at the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains were blessed with a Carolina Blue sky sans clouds, a crisp but refreshing temperature, and a landscape bursting with fall color. We braved a steep climb to the top of Hemphill Bald where everyone was rewarded with an unbelievable view of the Smokies and Maggie Valley at the peak of leaf season. Also in October, member and supporter Laura Webb hosted a hike and picnic on land which her family has permanently protected by conservation easement. Hikers on the Webb property were rewarded with views of flaming fall foliage in Jackson County. Look for a new slate of outings for 2013!

FIND OUT MORE! For recent updates & additional information about our hikes & events, sign up for our email list or visit our website! Appalachian.org

JOIN SAHC - HIKE FOR FREE!

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Please check applicable boxes.
New Member Renewal Gift Membership Business Membership
 Other \$ _____ Family \$50
 Organization \$100 Single \$35

Credit Card #: _____
Name as it appears on the card: _____
Expires: _____ 3-digit security code: _____

Please enroll me in your monthly giving program at \$ _____ per month for _____ months

(Donations and annual membership dues are tax deductible. Make checks payable to SAHC. Mail to: **34 Wall Street, Suite 502, Asheville, NC 28801**)

Membership Benefits:

As a member of SAHC you receive:
Free guided hikes on protected properties, "View from the Highlands" newsletter, monthly E-news, discounts on merchandise, invitations & discounts to special events. Our membership draws from a wide variety of backgrounds and income levels. Please know that whatever you give will go toward active, focused, and sensible land conservation work. Thank you!

Apply at Appalachian.org or fill out & mail this form.

UPCOMING!

Enjoy yoga and benefit SAHC!

When?
Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013

What?
Double Yoga by Donation

Where?
Two Great Studios —
Lighten Up Yoga
One Center Yoga

Enjoy having TWO talented teachers for each 90 min Playshop! **Sessions start at 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm.** Body-Wise Yoga for ALL. Offering expert guidance for the discriminating student. Mindful alignment, flow, slow, back care, yoga after 50, woman's health and more.

50% off all proceeds will be donated to SAHC.

Special thanks to Lillah Schwartz of Lighten Up Yoga, for her continued support!

Full Details Visit:
Lighten Up Yoga.com
60 Biltmore Ave,
(Parking at Aloft hotel, 1st Hr free).

Onecenteryoga.com
120 Coxe Ave- 3rd Floor,
(Free parking, entry behind building)

Yoga on the Mountain
Sunday, April 28, 2013
(details TBA)

New Members

Welcome to SAHC! We couldn't do this without you!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dr. & Mrs. Edmond Alley | Maggie Marshall |
| Robin Bagby | Sandra McCarver |
| Warren & Larissa Bare | Jeanne & James McGlenn |
| Vicki Bennett & Richard Luker | Carl & Holley Mersch |
| Rachel Bledsoe | Tim & Debi Moore |
| Peter Boggs | Jennifer Mullendore |
| Phyllis Bosomworth | Buddy & Joan Nickels |
| Nancy Brown | Jung J K Noh, MD |
| William Bruce | Doug & Darcy Orr |
| Dorothy Chappell | Greg Overholser |
| Lindsay & Jeff Crick | Jim & Sarah Parham |
| Thad and Ingrid Davis | Ann & Gregory Riccardi |
| William & Carol Falender | David & Lydia Roane |
| Kathi Ballard | Michael Sebert |
| George Gurley | Glen & Blenda Singletary |
| Jacqueline Michel & Miles Hayes | Mike & Cindy Smathers |
| Eberhard & Jean Heide | Stefan Stackhouse |
| Derik Hultquist | Wendy Tanner |
| John Hultquist | Bob & Carla Taylor |
| Sandy Jones | Michael & Fran Vavrek |
| Jackie Highley Kelly | Ben Wicker & Libby Henderson |
| Anne Kilgore | Joelle Wicker |
| Douglas Kriek | Tom & Laurie Williams |
| Stephen Lampl | Alexia Zutz |
| Christina Mann | |

10TH ANNUAL RECEPTION FOR THE

Blue Ridge Society



Blue Ridge Society member Marc Rudow joins musicians David Holt and Will McIntyre for a song.

Musicians David Holt and Will McIntyre set the scene for the incredible 10th annual Blue Ridge Society reception at the home of SAHC trustee Courtney Blossman on September 27th.

The Blue Ridge

Society is a group of philanthropic leaders who support the work of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and the Conservation Trust for North Carolina at a gift level of \$1,000 & above annually. We want to thank all the members of the Blue Ridge Society and participants who attended the event.

Memorials

We share in honoring the memory of those friends who have passed. Memorial gifts are gifts of flowers in perpetuity.

In memory of Tim Jones
Mountain View Garden Club
John C. Cate

In memory of Sondra Honsell
Helen C. Gift

In memory of Charles Fowler
Bill & Wanda Melton
Judy Murray and Tom Gatti
Mike and Cindy Smathers

Tributes

Tributes are gifts in honor of someone or a special occasion.

In honor of Zellie Earnest
Josephine Morrison

In honor of Darrol & Georgia Nickels
Buddy & Joan Nickels

In honor of Jasper B. Tait
Megan Sutton & Andy Tait

In honor of Jay Leutze and Kathy Singleton
Dorothy Wilson Chappell

In honor of Dwaume Stutzman
Sara Davis

Right: Laura Webb, Jean Webb, and Laura McCue at the 10th Annual Blue Ridge Society reception.



Below: Guests enjoyed the reception at the home of SAHC Trustee Courtney Blossman.



STALWART SUPPORTERS OVER THE YEARS

New Morning, Ltd.

Matt Chambers (left) and John Cram (right), community business owners & philanthropic leaders.

John Cram and Matt Chambers of New Morning, Ltd. have been stalwart supporters of SAHC's work over the years. They have participated in annual Land Trust Day since it began in 2005, donating a percentage of sales each June to support land & water conservation. John Cram has also hosted several events for us, including a film premier of "Expeditions with Patrick McMillan – Grassy Balds: The Heart of Roan" at the Fine Arts Theatre and multiple receptions for the philanthropic leaders of the Blue Ridge Society at Blue Spiral 1 Gallery and his home. We are incredibly thankful for the support of these individuals and their businesses.

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is a small organization with large goals and ambitions that exhibits amazing success. The fact SAHC focuses entirely on our region makes it LOCAL — so it is easy to BUY into their objectives and programs. It is a very satisfying day when I can write them a check.

-John Cram

The New Morning, Ltd. businesses are:

New Morning Gallery - Art for living craft gallery for 35+ years. Ceramics, garden art, wall hangings, jewelry, wood, furniture & much more. www.newmorninggallerync.com or 800.933.4438

Blue Spiral 1 Gallery - Fine art gallery presenting work by exceptional Southern artists and object makers in a 15,000 SF gallery in the heart of Asheville. www.bluespiral1.com or 828.251.0202

Fine Arts Theatre - Asheville's home for art and independent film, located downtown. www.fineartstheatre.com or 828.232.1536

Bellagio Art to Wear - Since 1991, Bellagio showcases many exquisite collections of distinctive clothing, jewelry, accessories as well as event wear. www.bellagioarttowear.com or 828.277.8100

Bellagio Everyday - Offers versatile and innovative clothing for the modern woman at work and on the go. www.bellagioeveryday.com or 828.255.0221

The Will Henry Stevens Revolving Loan Fund

The Will Henry Stevens Revolving Loan Fund is a permanently endowed revolving loan fund that helps SAHC and the Conservation Trust for North Carolina save the places you love in WNC. Its use enables us to respond quickly to protect properties imminently threatened by development. The Fund was created in 2006 by Asheville residents Lynn Hill, great niece of Will Henry Stevens, and John Cram, owner of Asheville's Blue Spiral 1 Gallery. Blue Spiral 1 donates a percentage of sales of Will Henry Stevens' artwork to the Loan Fund. The Fund has helped us protect 138 acres in the Sandy Mush area of Buncombe County and 4 tracts in the Highlands of Roan totalling over 650 acres.

Who was Will Henry Stevens?

Will Henry Stevens (1881 - 1949) was an amazingly productive artist, a quiet and gentle man with a mystical and passionate love for nature. Stevens was a Southern regional painter who captured the spirit of the Southern landscape from the Louisiana delta to the Southern Appalachian Highlands.

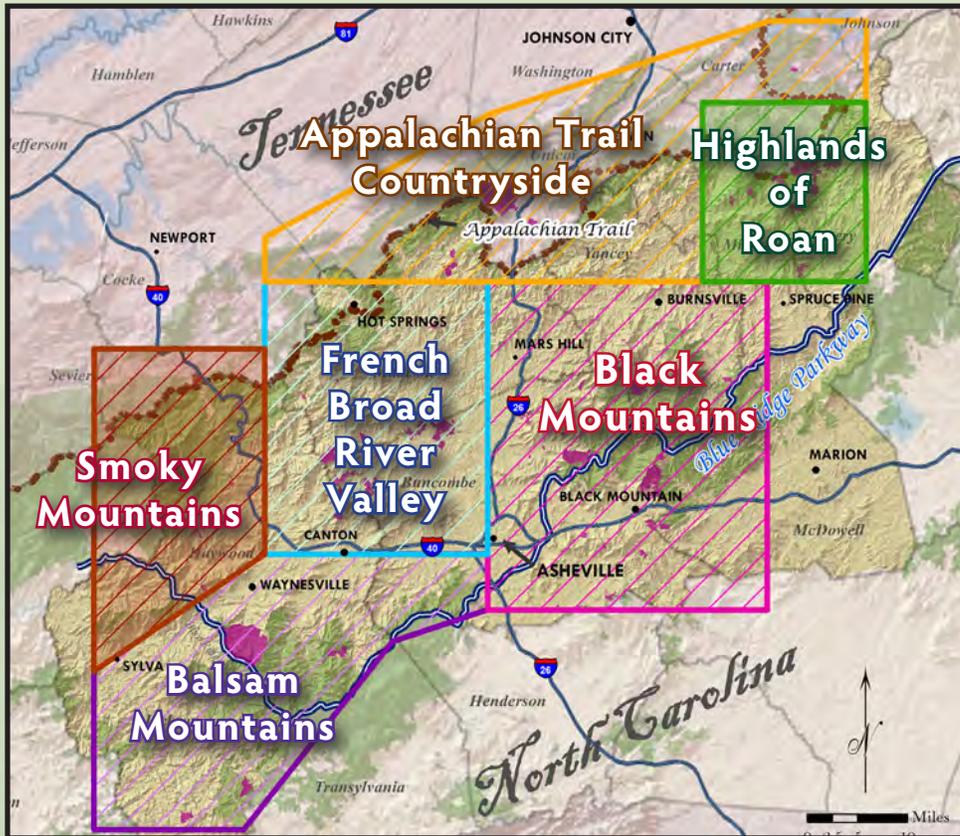
Puzzling

Glicée prints of an Oil on Canvas Painting; artist Ward Nichols. Limited edition of 350, signed and numbered, Glicée on archival paper, 17-1/2" H x 26-3/8" W. Prints offered for \$300.

Enjoy stunning local art while supporting conservation. Artist Ward Nichols has painted vivid images from the WNC rural landscape for over forty years. Shipping available. Call Blue Spiral 1 Gallery to arrange options at 828-251-0202 or SAHC at 828-253-0095. John Cram is donating 100% of the proceeds from the sale of each framed or unframed print to SAHC.



2012 Annual Report



Map: SAHC Focus Areas

The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy protects land in **six distinct focus areas**, spanning the region from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the Highlands of Roan.

Across this region, we have protected **60,000+ acres**.
(60,209 to be exact)

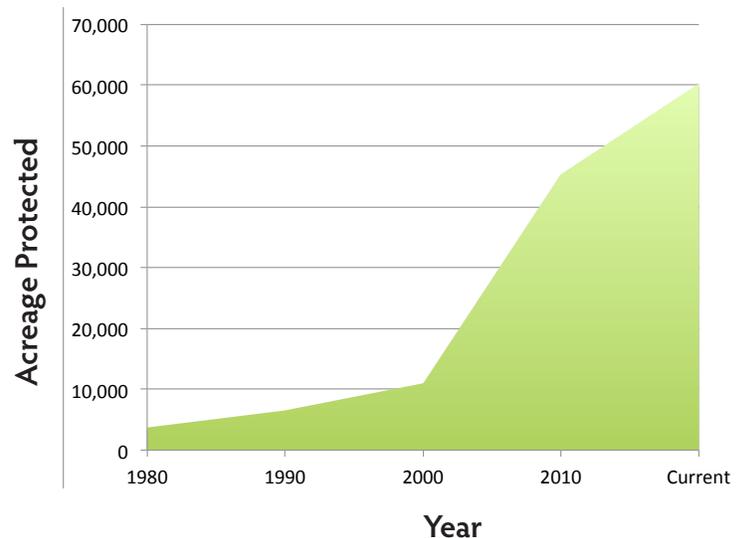
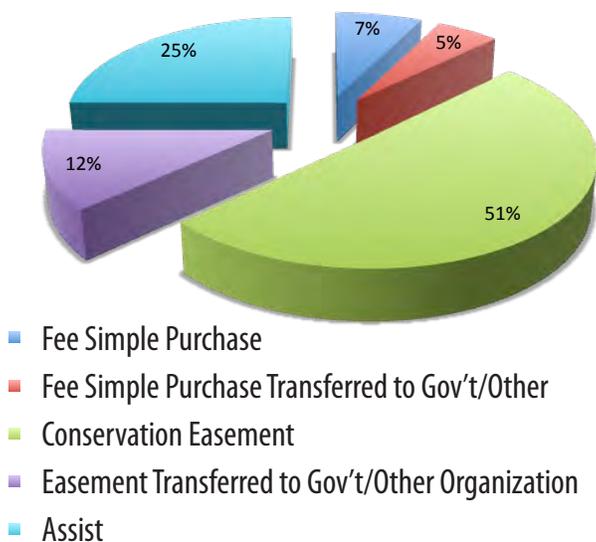
222 Completed Projects

Incorporated **1974**

Flagship focus area:
Highlands of Roan

SAHC Cumulative Land Protection

Percentage of Acreage Protected by Project Type



SAHC Timeline



Invest in the Future

2012 Financial Summary

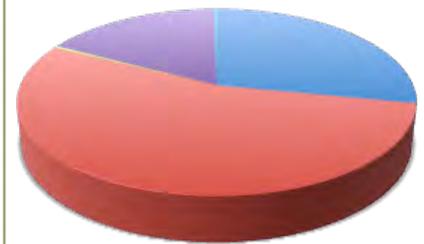
	2012	2011
	Consolidated	Pre-AFFP Formation
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,297,518	\$ 1,031,604
Grants Receivable	30,000	77,643
Receivable from Timber Sale	-	30,000
Pledges Receivable	20,000	-
Prepaid Expenses	9,078	15,904
Total Current Assets	<u>1,356,596</u>	<u>1,155,151</u>
Long-Term Assets		
Property and Equipment, Net	224,838	226,792
Trade Lands	54,000	1,516,334
Land Assets Subject to Life Estate, Net	1,073,651	1,051,311
Conservation Lands	19,339,984	12,752,240
Investments/Endowments Held by Brokerage Firms	2,538,814	2,474,417
Endowments Held by CFWNC	787,996	824,643
Total Long-Term Assets	<u>24,019,283</u>	<u>18,845,737</u>
Total Assets	<u>25,375,879</u>	<u>20,000,888</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	4,386	12,739
Payroll Tax Liabilities	9,384	13,177
Current Maturities of Notes Payable	568,443	284,222
Total Current Liabilities	<u>582,213</u>	<u>310,138</u>
Long-Term Liabilities		
Notes Payable, Net of Current Maturities	378,058	861,144
Total Liabilities	<u>960,271</u>	<u>1,171,282</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets		
Investment in Property & Equipment, Trade Lands and Life Estate Assets Available for Operations	<u>1,352,489</u>	<u>2,794,437</u>
Total Unrestricted	<u>2,290,269</u>	<u>3,782,614</u>
Temporarily Restricted	1,589,060	1,287,322
Permanently Restricted	20,536,279	13,759,670
Total Net Assets	<u>24,415,608</u>	<u>18,829,606</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 25,375,879</u>	<u>\$ 20,000,888</u>

To obtain a copy of the complete SAHC financial statements, please send us a note:
34 Wall Street, Suite 502, Asheville, NC 28801 or email: sahc@appalachian.org

Financial information about the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at (919) 733-4510. The license is not an endorsement by the state.

2012 Revenues

(Includes land/easement acquisition and stewardship)



- Grants:
- Contributions:
- In-Kind Donations:
- Donated Lands & Bargain Sale Contributions:
- Special Event/ Merchandise Sales:

2012 Expenditures



- Program: 92%
- Management & General: 6%
- Fundraising: 2%

2010

Accredited by the national Land Trust Alliance

2011

Achieved major milestone of 50,000 acres protected.

2012

Surpassed 60,000 protected acres



A LIVING LEGACY

Pat Tompkins' Farm

If you ever walk across the mossy wooden bridge that leads onto Pat Thompson's property in Mitchell County, you will first notice the abundance of mountain sounds. Crickets chirp, trees rustle, and a small stream gurgles gently. Walk a little further past the apple orchard and see the small cabin that Pat built herself out of salvaged wood, and you'll start to realize what a special place this is.

Pat has lived here ever since she and her former husband bought the 81-acre property 23 years ago. Although the property had a long history as working farm where residents grew potatoes and beans and raised cattle, the cultivated acres had become overgrown. Determined to revive the land's farming roots, Pat and her husband cleared the three lowest acres and began planting.

Today, Pat lives on the property with her one-eyed dog Abby and her cat Freddy, running the farm by herself. This is no easy task—along with the 60 apple trees sheltering her cabin, she grows peaches, pears, cherries, plums, raspberries, blackberries, and a variety of vegetables, along with raising chickens. A little further up the mountain, a long sloping row of grapevines spans the width of the property, followed by three rows of 250 blueberry plants. The furthest corner of the blueberry patch, where the small farm meets 78 acres of protected forest, is



one of Pat's favorite places, providing an incredible view of the Black Mountains in the distance.

Pat explains that selling her land to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy in 1995 while retaining a life estate (a type of planned gift) made her "one-woman farm" possible. The proceeds from the sale, along with her tax exemption, have enabled her to live out her dream in the place she is so deeply connected to.

"This place nourishes me— literally, figuratively, and spiritually," says Pat. She is a tall woman, but with a quiet, soothing voice, and her pale blue eyes grow serious when she speaks about her property. She clearly feels a great deal of responsibility for protecting this land. One reason is because the stream that runs through her land is exclusive to her property, so it is up to Pat to keep the watershed pure. Another motivation to protect the land is the abundance of wildlife that lives in the rocky woods above the farm; Pat often spots bears, deer, foxes, raccoons, and a variety of birds on her hikes.

"My aim is to live a very sustainable, simple lifestyle with limited resources in mind and be responsible for what I use," Pat explains. For this reason, she

practices organic and sustainable farming methods and uses a single solar panel to light her cabin. Her interest in protecting the environment also led her to contact SAHC about conserving her land after she read about the organization's work with the Highlands of Roan. She was drawn to the idea of permanently protecting the land from development and having enough income to run a small farm. Recently, she has been brainstorming ways to share her property with others, such as teaching nature awareness classes and offering primitive camping.

"It's an amazing piece of land," Pat says quietly. "When you live here, you really get connected to it."



Leave a legacy of conservation

The Legacy Society of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is to recognize the extraordinary commitment and foresight of people who make a life income or bequest provision for SAHC. When you include a gift to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy in your estate plans, you join a growing number of visionary conservationists committed to protecting the special places of Western North Carolina and East Tennessee.

Members of the Legacy Society receive special invitations to events and outings, and annual recognition in View from the Highlands. This special recognition acknowledges the long-term impact of their support, which builds a strong, solid foundation for SAHC's ongoing land conservation work.



Photo courtesy of Witt Langstaff, Jr.

If you have made a lasting gift, please let us know so we can thank you and welcome you to the Society.

Let us welcome you into the Legacy Society. Learn how you can help protect our beloved Southern Appalachians through your:

- Will
- Living Trust
- Retirement Plans & Life Insurance
- Real Estate Gifts

If you would like more information about creating your legacy, please contact **Kristy Urquhart at 828.253.0095, ext. 201**. Gifts of any amount are sincerely appreciated, and we can tailor your legacy to meet your unique financial and conservation goals. All inquiries will be held in confidence.

We gratefully recognize members of the Legacy Society of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy:

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Farewell to a Friend



Gayle Childress (far left) was a member of SAHC since 1984. She passed away this December, and will be sorely missed by many.

Gayle Hancock Childress, 85, avid hiker, gifted storyteller, and committed humanitarian, died peacefully on December 3, 2012. Quick to make friends, she formed diverse and devoted relationships for over 60 years in the Asheville community. A certified volunteer at the Mediation Center for 12 years and leader of numerous civic organizations, she delighted in learning new things and enjoying people. Gayle was a board member and volunteer at The Rathbun Center Hospitality House. She and her husband Gran were proud founding members of SAHC and worked to protect the mountains they loved.

Mariella Dumont, Jane Alexander, and Gayle (left to right) were in the "Brown Bottom Club" initiation on the bushwacking birthday hike celebrating Mariella 80th birthday.



In lieu of flowers, the family asks friends to please consider a memorial donation to SAHC, The Rathbun Center, or Central United Methodist Church.

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Wear a piece of SAHC:



We have new merchandise!

Locally & sustainably printed in Asheville, NC, our new “Access” line of shirts celebrates access to those things you support - Trails for recreation, Local Farms for local food, Habitat for wildlife, and Clean Water. Our “For Love of Beer & Mountains” shirts celebrate our partnership with Highland Brewing Company and the US Fish & Wildlife Service, raising awareness of the natural treasures that make our area unique.

Appalachian.org/shop

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We sincerely thank you all for your support, and we apologize in advance for any names that may have been inadvertently omitted. If your name does not appear, please call or email us so that we may include you in the next newsletter.

Hiking & Gardening Clubs



Photo courtesy of Witt Langstaff, Jr.

The French Broad River Garden Club enjoyed stunning views hiking in the Highlands of Roan this fall.

Thank you to these organizations for supporting our work, and the beautiful places we love & enjoy:

Four Seasons Garden Club
French Broad River
Garden Club Foundation
Friends of Roan Mountain
Laurel Ridge POA, Inc.

The Leaksville Garden Club
Middle Atlantic Chapter -
American Rhododendron Society
Mountain View Garden Club
Shady Oaks Garden Club

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club
Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club
Town & Country Garden Club
Valley Forge Chapter -
American Rhododendron Society

THANK YOU | SUPPORTERS & DONORS

Grants Strengthen Our Strategic Conservation Work:

We would like to thank the following for providing grants that strengthen our work.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy: We received \$4,650 from the Appalachian Trail license plate grant program, to support grassy balds management, improving public outreach, and tracking data in the Highlands of Roan.

Buncombe County: We received \$353,839 for land protection project in Fairview; this project protects the summit of Little Pisgah Mountain, visible from Chimney Rock State Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Also, Buncombe County granted \$73,275 for the purchase of conservation easements on prime farm bottom land along the Drovers Road scenic byway in Fairview, securing the property for future agricultural use.

Beattie Foundation: We received a \$5,000 grant to assist land & easement purchases, long-term stewardship & monitoring, and to help build strong relationships with land owners and conservation partners to protect key tracts in our focus areas.

Carolina Bird Club: We received \$4,000 for our work in the Highlands of Roan, gathering robust baseline data on Golden-winged Warbler concentrations occurring on Hump Mountain, Bradley Gap and Little Hump Mountain.

The Conservation Fund granted \$19,000 for a trail building project with access along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Look for more about this project in upcoming newsletters.

Conservation Trust for North Carolina - Acres for America subgrant: We received \$22,400 for maintaining Golden-winged Warbler and native trout habitat on the National Trails Tract in the Highlands of Roan.

Constellation Energy Star EcoGrant: We received \$5,000 to recruit volunteers to perform 15 acres of grassy bald habitat restoration and maintenance on the Highlands of Roan.

Merck Family Fund: We met our 2011 Annual Giving Challenge and received \$35,000 for supporting our conservation work.

National Forest Foundation: We received \$45,000 for the Roan Massif Community Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project. This project will restore and maintain 30 acres of grassy bald, enhance shrub/scrub edge, and provide habitat connectivity corridors on four of the five NC/TN state-line ridge balds in the Roan system.

Volunteers perform trail improvements to protect quality, as part of the Nature Valley/ National Parks Conservation Association grant.

Nature Valley & National Parks Conservation Association: We received \$25,000 from a grant awarded to improve animal habitat, plant life, & water quality at the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Pigeon River Fund grant from the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. We received \$20,000 to help fund the stream restoration project at the Anderson Farm.

SARE Grant: We received \$10,000 to fund farmland access, specifically the agricultural business incubator program at the Anderson Farm.

Walmart Foundation: We were awarded a \$10,000 grant to conduct conservation projects in the active farming community of Fairview, NC.

Z. Smith Reynolds subgrant from the Conservation Trust for North Carolina: We received \$15,000 to fund the Community Farm & Food Project at the Anderson Farm, a multi-faceted project that aims to serve diverse groups within our region - providing access to farmland, skill training, healthy food, and education.

Blue Ridge Forever

We are the fiscal agent for this collaboration of 10 local land trusts in Western North Carolina. The following grants were awarded to the partnership:

Merck Family Fund – \$20,000

Park Foundation – \$15,000

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation – \$20,000



Our local business partners and organizations of all sizes provide invaluable support for SAHC's mission and operations. We are grateful for their support, so please support them.

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Batton Clayworks
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Double or triple your gift!

Make your donation go further. Ask your company about matching your charitable contribution. If your employer participates, simply request a matching gift form and mail it to us.

Our partnerships within the business community

bring strength and character to our efforts to preserve and steward our beloved landscape. We are currently expanding our corporate partner program, and would love to create a benefits package for you.

Contact Cheryl Fowler at 828.253.0095 ext 209 or cheryl@appalachian.org to find out more.

Corporate Partners

Waterrock Knob Partners:

(elevation 6,292 ft.) - \$15,000+
Appalachian Realty Associates

Roan Mountain Partners:

(elevation 6,285 ft.) - \$10,000+
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Legacy?

To leave a legacy for future generations, remember SAHC in your estate planning. The Legacy Society of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy secures our incredible landscape and mountain heritage for future generations. Contact us at 828.253.0095 to be recognized as a part of the Legacy Society.

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UPCOMING!

Yoga by Donation

January 26, 2013

Yoga on the Mountain

April 28, 2013

More details inside, or visit our website:



Use this QR code to view
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