



View from the Highlands

38 Years Protecting the World's Oldest Mountains

Volume 42, No. 2 - 2012



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Little Explorers on Little Hump Mountain

See story pg. 17

What gorgeous weather we enjoyed this past spring and summer in the highlands of Western North Carolina and East Tennessee! As the weather turns cooler and fall approaches, we're happy to share stories about the exciting hikes, events, and volunteer excursions that have gone on this year. Habitat and trail work in our flagship area, the Highlands of Roan, was particularly great this year. Peek inside for more on these stories – as well as updates about our most recent land protection and farmland preservation work!



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Sarah Marcinko, Navitat's Environmental Program Leader, joined SAHC, Highland Brewing Company, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for a partnership outing at Nativat Canopy Adventures in August. Thank you for an incredible experience!



Nativat Canopy Adventures recently became an SAHC corporate partner. See pg. 17 for more about our Corporate Partner Program.



LETTER FROM THE

Director

Congratulations! This year, we are thrilled to share with you the celebration of a major milestone — We have surpassed **50,000 protected acres**. Throughout the year, we've been spreading word of this accomplishment, based around the theme **“50,000 Acres — For You, Forever.”**

Our achievements in land protection have been made possible by many visionary members, volunteers, business partners, staff, Americorps associates, interns, supporters, and conservation partners. In this issue, we bring you stories to reflect on some of the people behind SAHC, who are responsible for our mutual successes.

Celebrating this milestone, over 200 people enjoyed the annual membership event at Highland Brewing Company in May (see page 20). We also had an excellent turnout for all six hiking adventures in the Highlands of Roan for the June Jamboree (see page 18) .

We have had a lot of growth, and a lot to be proud of in the last 38 years of protecting the world's oldest mountains. And, we look forward to a lot more. Thank you for all you've helped us achieve.

Carl Silverstein
Executive Director

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

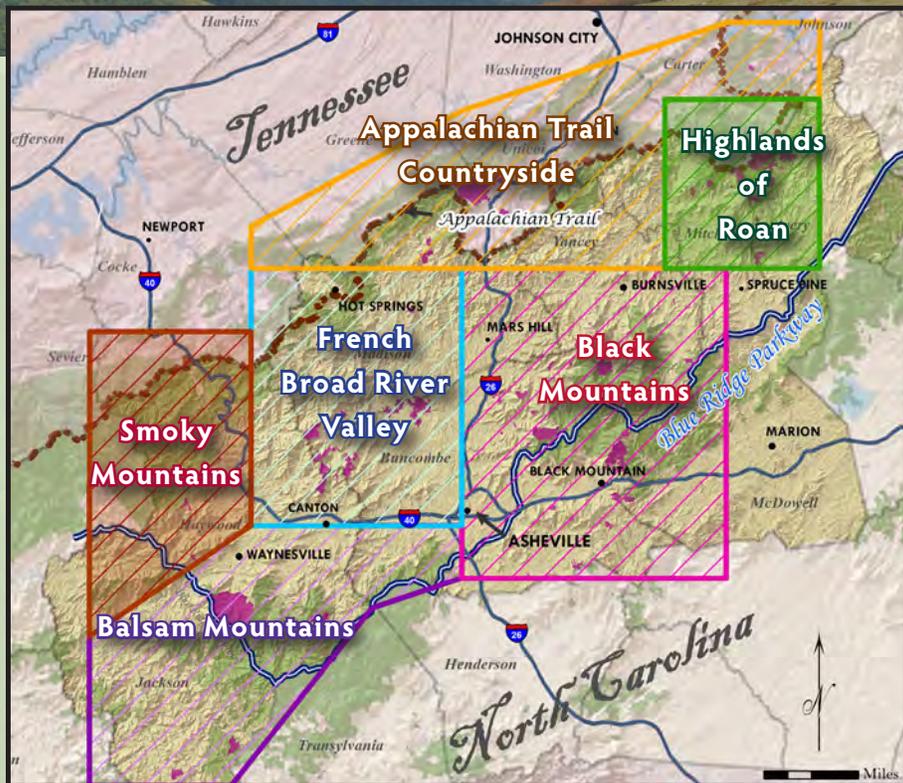
HIGHLIGHTS:

- Big Tom Wilson Preserve (see page 4)
- Little Pisgah Mountain (see page 6)
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- Americorps (see page 8)
- Growing Volunteer Program (see page 9)
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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!



SAHC Focus Areas Map

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 over 60,000 acres.

Land Protection Projects this quarter:

Black Mountains Focus Area

- Big Tom Wilson Preserve Conservation Easement Assignment - 8,515 acres
- Little Pisgah Mountain: Paul Morgan Conservation Easement - 15 acres

ASSIGNMENT OF BIG TOM WILSON CONSERVATION EASEMENT

An Honor & Privilege

BLACK MOUNTAINS FOCUS AREA

Standing on the observation tower atop the summit of Mt. Mitchell, you can look westward and face a vast bowl rimmed by the rugged face of the Black Mountains. In July, SAHC assumed guardianship of this remarkable 8,500-acre property, including the headwaters of the Cane River.

Located in the Black Mountains adjacent to Mt. Mitchell State Park, the Pisgah National Forest, and Blue Ridge Parkway, the Big Tom Wilson Preserve contains the headwaters of the Cane River as well as important breeding habitat for bear, deer, and other large mammals.

“The landowners are pleased with the assignment of the conservation easement to SAHC and have confidence in SAHC as a long-term stewardship partner for the benefit of the property,” said John Willingham, one of the owners of the property.

SAHC has a long history of conservation achievements in the area, notably protecting views from Mt. Mitchell State Park. For example, we have purchased and transferred tracts to the state for inclusion in Mt. Mitchell State Park, and





Rendering (above) shows the outline of the Big Tom Wilson Preserve, and its position adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Mt. Mitchell State Park. Courtesy of Google Earth.

we also hold several conservation easements near the Big Tom Wilson Preserve, including a conservation easement on the adjoining 1,300- acre property.

“We are honored to have been assigned this conservation easement. It is a testament to the history and high standards of our organization,” said Carl Silverstein, SAHC Executive Director. “We look forward to working with the landowners to help ensure that their conservation goals are met.”

The Big Tom Wilson Preserve is one of the largest privately owned tracts of land in the Southern Appalachians. Named for a historic figure of local renown, the preserve was protected by a donated conservation easement with the American Farmland Trust

(AFT) in 1990.

AFT is based in Massachusetts, and this was AFT’s only conservation easement in Western North Carolina. The long distance monitoring responsibility presented challenges. AFT transferred the easement to SAHC because of our reputation and track record – especially our longevity, regional focus in the area, and diligence in monitoring and stewarding conservation easements.

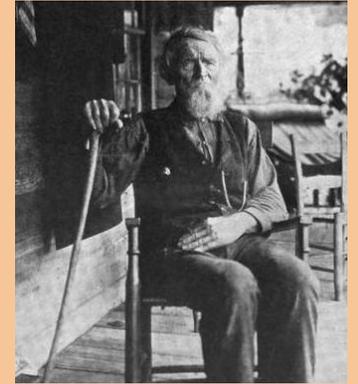
As part of the assignment, SAHC will continue to monitor the property each year, ensuring the protection of conservation values. The preserve will continue to be privately owned, and SAHC will help support the conservation goals of the landowners.



Contextual map of the preserve, showing adjacent forestlands, state park, and conservation easements.



Upper Blue Sea Falls on the Big Tom Wilson Preserve.



WHO WAS

Big Tom Wilson?

He was born in 1825 in the rugged Black Mountains and grew into a towering 6’ tall mountain man, a renowned guide and bear hunter who matched the landscape he called home. ‘Big Tom’ Wilson lived in a log cabin on the headwaters of the Cane River, making a living as a gameskeeper, farmer, hunter, and mountain guide. In 1857, ‘Big Tom’ joined other area guides in a search for Dr. Elisha Mitchell, who had returned to the Black Mountains to prove that Mt. Mitchell was indeed the highest peak east of the Mississippi. It was Wilson who tracked Mitchell’s final movements and located his body at the base of a waterfall. Living into his 80s, ‘Big Tom’ Wilson left an indelibly mark - and his name - across the region. Big Tom summit, just northwest of Mount Craig, also bears his moniker.



CONTINUING THE PROCESS, ONE PIECE AT A TIME

Little Pisgah Mountain

BLACK MOUNTAINS FOCUS AREA

Conservation is a process — A step-at-a-time, often complicated process. Quilting together various pieces for a contiguous protected landscape requires patience and diligence, as recently demonstrated in the Little Pisgah Mountain region along the continental divide at the Buncombe/Henderson County line.



This new easement atop Little Pisgah Mountain preserves high elevation pastures as well as views from Chimney Rock State Park.

This summer, SAHC accepted donation of a 15-acre conservation easement in Fairview, NC. The tract is part of an assemblage of protected properties that together preserve

the summit and north face of Little Pisgah Mountain. These tracts join with neighboring conservation easements and other preserves to protect over 1,400 acres of land around Little Pisgah.

“Ridgelines are a threatened resource, and conserving them is important to ensure the future enjoyment of our beautiful land,” said landowner

Paul Morgan. “I really appreciate the efforts of SAHC toward preserving the ridgeline at Little Pisgah Mountain.”

Visible from Chimney Rock State Park and a state scenic byway, the property adjoins six parcels protected by SAHC in December 2011. It is also in close proximity to other conservation properties, including Bearwallow Mountain and the Florence Preserve. Although a relatively small parcel, the new easement is important because it adds to this contiguous protected landscape in the Blue Ridge Mountains, helping to preserve the rural scenic quality for visitors and local residents alike.

This new conservation easement permanently protects high elevation pastures and forestland from future development, and will help protect tributary streams of the Broad River watershed from sedimentation and other types of pollution.



Sol Food Mobile Farm bus.

INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE - FARM ON WHEELS: *Sol Food Mobile Farm Visits Fairview*

“ We began our tour with a stop in Fairview, NC at Hickory Nut Gap Farm. Owned and operated by the Clarke and Ager families, the property has been in operation since 1916. Including both wooded mountain top ridges and low bottom land pastures, the farm

now has hundreds of protected acres under a conservation easement with SAHC.

That afternoon we hosted members of the farm community onto the bus and talked through our programming and greenhouse layout. We ended our stay in Fairview with one of the most beautiful firefly shows we had ever seen, and the following morning we continued moving west across the NC mountains!”

Sol Food Mobile Farm was created as an experiential, hands-on teaching program based around planting & harvesting garden vegetables. What is so special about Sol Food Mobile Farm is that it operates out of a retro-fitted school bus! This non-profit is making a 6 month tour around the US this summer, stopping to hold workshops that focus on gardening, nutrition, composting and alternative fuels. The bus runs on waste vegetable oil, complete with a variety of sustainable systems, including solar panels, a living green roof, vermacompost, rain water collection tanks, a mobile greenhouse & a livable interior built with recycled materials. For more info: www.solfoodmobilefarm.org

Farmland section this month provided by Claire Solomon, SAHC's summer intern from Smith College.

Baled hay at the Anderson Farm in Alexander.

WE'VE PROTECTED THIS FARM...

Now, Who's Going to Farm it?

Growing healthy communities is the driving inspiration behind SAHC's new farmland access program.

Over the past seven years, SAHC's Farmland Program has been incredibly successful, preserving over 5,000 acres of farm and working forests throughout local farming communities such as Fairview, Sandy Mush, Bethel, and Spring Creek. Not only are these farms now permanently protected from the threat of development, but their conservation easements have allowed many of these farms to stay productive or expand their operations.

Unfortunately, even if farmland is protected from development, it may not remain in agricultural production.

This is because the region's farmer population is rapidly aging—statewide, 59% of farms are run by principal operators older than 55, and the average age of farmers in the French Broad region is almost 70 years. Many of these farmers do not have family to continue running their farms after they retire. These farmlands then go fallow because beginning farmers cannot afford to purchase them.

In response to these concerns, SAHC is proud to announce its new Farmland Access Initiative. The program will increase regional farmland access by matching beginning farmers and expanding operations with landowners looking to sell or lease their high-quality, affordable farmland.

"We are creating a safe venue for landowners who don't have a solution for their farmland to be owned and cared for beyond their

lifetime," explains William Hamilton, Farmland Program Director. "Some landowners need a stable institution to turn to in order to meet the overwhelming responsibility of ensuring that the farm they have taken care of for decades is in the right hands. SAHC is well suited to the task."

SAHC will facilitate the matches and transactions between landowners and farmers to ensure the program is successful.

"Once the farm is transitioned to a new owner/farmer, SAHC will serve the role of a third party watchdog, enforcing contracts that stipulate the land remains a farm in perpetuity," Says Hamilton. "At some point in the future, the farm will need to change hands again. SAHC will be there to see that the farm is sold at an agricultural rate, not at an estate rate, and that the farm remains intact forever."

SAHC's past work conserving agricultural land has positioned the organization well for undertaking this new task. For example, SAHC has established close relationships with the farming communities of the region and has developed a highly regarded professionalism in facilitating land transactions with agricultural owners. SAHC is well qualified to begin this addition to its Farmland Program and is excited to embark on the next step in assisting local farmers, keeping our agricultural lands productive, and supporting our local economy.



When a retired engineer and his wife bought a 103-acre farm in Alexander in the early 1950s, they sought the help of local extension agents to learn about raising cattle. Their relationship with the extension agents led the couple to get interested in protecting their land from future development, which resulted in one of Buncombe County's first conservation plans. The staff at SAHC were thrilled when the landowners approached them in 1999 about donating the farm to the organization. The deal was finalized in 2010, resulting in a property with exciting possibilities for SAHC.

"We are carrying on a legacy of conservation at this property," explains Carl Silverstein, SAHC's Executive Director. "Seeing this farm permanently protected a decade after we first met the family is deeply rewarding."

SAHC plans to use the farm to host a new incubator project, which will improve regional farmland access by leasing small plots to beginning farmers at reasonable cost.

ALWAYS, SEEK THE JOY OF BEING ALIVE...

Americorps Project Conserve

"All of us did a lot of good this year, and we did because we knew that we could make a difference. We made that difference with passion, skill, and the desire to do good."

- Rich Preyer, Americorps PR & Outreach Associate



Above: Jamie Ervin monitors a protected property for stewardship.



Right: Rich Preyer teaches fun stream ecology during the Kids in the Creek hike (p. 20).



Margot Wallston (left) and Emily Bidgood (right) on the Snowball Mountain Trail.



Amy Annino – Stewardship Associate. Amy is joining the team after completing her masters in Landscape Architecture at the University of Oregon, where she focused on landscape ecology and landscape planning. Her thesis work evaluated a portion of the Upper Willamette River (OR) and adjacent floodplain for restoration opportunities that would improve habitat for threatened spring Chinook salmon. Amy is excited to return to Asheville, which is her hometown and where she received a BA in Environmental Studies from Warren Wilson College in 2002. **Welcome to the team, Amy!**

We are thrilled to again participate in the Americorps Project Conserve program. This is usually a bittersweet time of year, as we say farewell to our current Americorps associates and prepare to adopt new team members (who begin 11-month terms in September). This year, however, we are ecstatic that three of our 2011-2012 Americorps service members will be returning! To these folks, we simultaneously say good-bye and hello. To Emily Bidgood, who served an exemplary term as Land Protection Associate, we sincerely wish you the best of luck in your new Americorps Vista position in Tennessee.

AMERICORPS TEAM FOR 2012-2013 SERVICE YEAR:

Jamie Ervin - Land Protection Associate

Jamie hails from Morganton, NC and studied Environmental Management and Policy at UNC Asheville, where he also led many students' environmental efforts. Last year, Jamie was an AmeriCorps Stewardship Associate. He has a keen ability for local geography, plays a multitude of instruments, and, as an avid rock climber, categorizes each of our property's significance by boulder type.

Rich Preyer - Public Relations & Outreach Associate

Originally from Hillsborough, Rich has a long history of working at The Green River Preserve in Cedar Mountain, where he has been a naturalist, mentor and counselor. Rich graduated from Wake Forest University. Known for his enthusiasm, revelry, and good humor, he is returning for a second term as Public Relations & Outreach Associate.

Margot Wallston - Stewardship Associate

Margot lives in Asheville and has studied ecology, biology and GIS at UNCA and Highlands Biological Station. She has worked with the American Chestnut Foundation and volunteered with the Carolina Vegetation Survey. Margot is interested in restoration work and worked several years restoring wetlands in Oakland, CA. This will be her second year as a Stewardship Associate, and in addition to her natural resource background, she brings great skills in volunteer organization.

CREATIVE IDEAS SPROUT STEWARDSHIP SUCCESS

Volunteer Program Grows this Spring

Our returning Americorps Stewardship Associate Margot Wallston has an uncanny knack for inspiring volunteers with exciting, creative stewardship projects. This spring, Margot and our stewardship team led volunteers in three innovative work days.

Wrapping up “Invasive Plant Awareness Week,” volunteers removed invasive garlic mustard from a protected property in Sandy Mush on Saturday, April 7th. At this time of year, garlic mustard is easy to identify and pull out of the soil. Afterward, the crew broke out cooking gear to whip up an afternoon lunch of wild edible salad & cooked garlic mustard greens with ramps.

Volunteers & staff returned to Sandy Mush to celebrate Earth Day weekend on Saturday, April 21st. The team removed debris and invasive princess trees from Robinson Rough, a beautiful mountain farmstead acquired by SAHC last December. Abandoned farmsteads create prime habitat for exotic invasive species, which grow prolifically in areas with high sunlight and significant soil disturbance. Managing these species



Volunteers Megan, Diane, Zan, Jamey, and Margot swing from cut oriental bittersweet vines during the May 5th workday.

is an arduous task, but it is crucial that organizations like SAHC work to control invasives now before they grow to unmanageable levels. In the case of Robinson Rough, SAHC is working to confine the most-dense infestations on the

32-acre farmstead so that they do not spread into the more mature forest communities uphill.

Another volunteer team at Robinson Rough on May 5th worked throughout the majority of the day to clear several acres of decades-old oriental bittersweet infestation. If left uncontrolled, this species will invade native forest communities and pull down trees, endangering sensitive natural communities and creating habitat for future infestations.

In the afternoon, volunteers gathered the smaller vines and participated in a basket-weaving class.

SAHC would like to give a very loud and sincere thank-you to all of our volunteers! Removing invasive species is a difficult, time-consuming task, but it is essential to preserving our valuable native ecosystems.

Garlic Mustard – Pull n’ Eat!

The month of April revealed a forest floor covered in a rich diversity of wild flowers. Unfortunately, rich soil also makes it susceptible to invasion by non-native, invasive species. After four hours of solid work time spent clearing approximately 2 acres of invasives on April 7th, we celebrated our accomplishments and the beauty of the biodiversity we aim to protect by cooking up a veritable feast of greens we had collected on site.



(Left) Enjoying the fruits of the day’s labor. (Right) Pull n’ Eat volunteer crew.

NATURE VALLEY, NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION , & SAHC TEAM UP FOR THE

Cataloochee Work Day



Cataloochee volunteers atop Hemphill Bald.

31 volunteers and staff rallied to help the Smokies this July. In a partnership with Nature Valley and the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), several SAHC projects are underway at the protected Cataloochee Ranch (directly adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park) to improve animal habitat, plant life & water quality.

Under a clear sky with beautiful views of the Plott Balsams, Mt. Pisgah, and the Smokies, volunteers improved an eroded section of popular trail mere meters from the border of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Haywood County, NC. Fueled by camaraderie and an endless supply of Nature Valley granola bars,



The song bird habitat work group.

volunteers used shovels and trail tools to reshape a badly incised section of trail into a good slope to efficiently shed water instead of catching sediment and carrying it to the streams.

Volunteers also helped improve bird habitat adjacent to the park. Many migratory song birds, such as the Chestnut-Sided Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, and Field Sparrow, nest in open areas with a mix of forbs, grasses, shrubs, and scattered trees, called “early successional” habitat. They especially like the fuzzy edges found where fields and forests meet, which once flourished in the area due to the number of farms. As the number of farmed fields decreases and development increases, early successional habitat is either maturing into forest or being converted into housing and commercial infrastructure. Led by Chris Coxen, SAHC’s ecologist, volunteers sawed and lopped a selection of trees and shrubs between a pasture and section of forest to open up more

sunlight, promoting the new growth of grasses and forbs for song bird habitat.

The work portion of the day was followed by a program atop Hemphill Bald. Judy Coker, one of the family owners of Cataloochee Ranch, shared the rich history of the ranch and the story of their family’s decision to permanently protect their property, which was SAHC’s first conservation easement (1993). Cataloochee Ranch



Trail crew improving section of a popular trail to protect water quality.

is a three-generation, family-run operation that has protected more than 300 acres of high elevation land adjoining Great Smoky Mountains National Park, serving as a valuable refuge for wildlife on the boundary of the park.

Volunteers arriving at the site learn about SAHC’s land protection work.

In appreciation of a hugely successful day, SAHC sends a big thank you to our volunteers and our partners, Nature Valley and the NPCA!



For more info about the Preserve the Parks partnership making this project possible, visit <http://www.naturevalley.com/preserve-the-parks.aspx>



PARTNERSHIPS MAKE GREAT THINGS POSSIBLE

Outward Bound

This Summer, the SAHC Stewardship Team partnered with North Carolina Outward Bound volunteers to begin constructing a trail on a protected property in the Highlands of Roan. When completed, the trail will be over a mile long, and will be incorporated into SAHC's outings program to help educate others about our conservation work.

NCOB volunteers began creating the trail on June 26.

In fair weather and foul, these young volunteers energetically persevered — sparking a great new partnership that joins conservation management, education, and community service.

The tract lies in the higher reaches of the Roaring Creek Valley between Grassy Ridge and Big Yellow Mountain. SAHC successfully acquired the 113-acre tract in 2008 and has since maintained the property as open pasture and forestland. Cascading waterfalls and deep pools of clear, clean water abound on the two streams (Roaring Creek and Elk Hollow Branch) that run along the property's southern and eastern boundaries. These water resources, coupled with striking views of the Roaring Creek Valley, make the property truly remarkable.

Trail building in the rain.



The July 11th work crew persevered despite rainy weather.

With the valuable input of the volunteers, the team created a trail that weaves through a variety of natural environments including open pasture, locust groves, and beech forest. A highlight of the new trail is a switchback system that accesses the flowing waters of Elk Hollow Branch. This switchback system will concentrate human visitation to a single area of the creek and will prevent deterioration of water quality by channeling sediment away from designated trout waters.

NCOB volunteers crew and SAHC stewardship staff.



Congratulations!



TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau and Deputy Governor Claude Ramsey present Gary Barrigar of Elizabethton (center) with the Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award.

At the 2012 Governor's Environmental Achievement Awards in Nashville, TN, the prestigious Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Carter County native & SAHC former trustee Gary W. Barrigar, an award-winning science teacher and long-time advocate of Tennessee's environmental heritage.

"Each year, we recognize an individual who has devoted a lifetime of exemplary service to environmental protection or conservation stewardship in Tennessee," said Bob Martineau of the TN Department of Environment & Conservation.

"Gary Barrigar has imparted the value and importance of the natural world to thousands of students, parents, administrators and various organizations throughout his 40-year career by using nature as a classroom and integrating environmental education into daily curriculum."

WHAT IS THE GRASSY RIDGE MOW-OFF?

Grassy Ridge is a spectacular grassy bald that lies on the south side of the Appalachian Trail. It has a swag or gap where volunteers set up camp about 2.5 miles from the parking area at Carvers Gap. SAHC has been holding mid-July bald restoration and maintenance weekends there for 20 years.

Over the years, we have made tremendous strides in returning Grassy toward its historic boundary, releasing many Gray's lilies to their open habitat along the way. And over time, the Mow-off has become synonymous with great camping, scrumptious outdoor dinners, and fellowship with friends.

VISIT GRASSY RIDGE

Enjoy the stunning views from Grassy Ridge along the Appalachian Trail, and you'll see why our volunteers love to work here! To get there, hop onto the AT at Carvers Gap parking lot, located near the NC/TN line where NC Hwy 261 becomes TN Hwy 143 — just south of Roan Mountain State Park. Access the trail across the road from the parking lot and head north roughly 2 miles to reach Grassy Ridge Bald.

A ROUSING SUCCESS!

Grassy Ridge Mow-off

The 2012 Grassy Ridge Mow-off was held on the weekend of July 13-15th — A true labor of love for this treasured resource, and one that continues to go down in the record books and the grassy balds' chronicle.

This year's 23 Grassy Ridge Mowoff volunteers and Field Ecologist Chris Coxen far exceeded expectations. They hand-mowed three large areas of grassy balds in the Highlands of Roan, bolstering overall successes in balds' restoration.



Over the weekend, the crew also enjoyed stunning views, fellowship, and delicious meals on the mountain. If you missed it this year, make plans to join us in July 2013!



Grandfather Mountain profile, viewed from camp.



EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEERS CONTINUE COMMITMENT

Roany Boyz

Celebrating 12th year maintaining grassy balds in the Highlands of Roan.

A dozen years ago, SAHC Board of Trustees past-president Carol Coffey introduced several of his hiking buddies to the wonders of Roan's magnificent grassy balds. Former Appalachian Trail maintainers, the guys took up weed whackers and became grassy balds' maintainers, pushing back woody invaders such as blackberry. They took up weed whackers and continued working in the AT corridor, to conserve both this globally imperiled habitat and the viewshed for miles in all directions. Dubbed the "Roany Boyz" by member Jamie Branham, over the years they have expanded their numbers to include Girlz as well.

Each July, following the Grassy Ridge Mow-off, the Roany Boyz set up camp in Engine Gap and spend four days maintaining the balds. The Boyz take pride in their work and enjoy the camaraderie.

This year's crew included Carol Coffey, David Goforth, Mike Fisher, Jamie Burnham, Jerry Thornton, Bruce Byers, and Clyde Mackaman, assisted by SAHC's Field Ecologist Chris Coxen. New members are always welcome!



Roany Boyz & Girlz at Engine Gap



For the last several years, SAHC has helped the North Carolina US Forest Service monitor Gray's lily plots on Round Bald. Enthusiastic AmeriCorps members also lent a hand this summer, helping the work get done in record time.

Monitoring is done to measure the ongoing health and determine if mowing is having any effect on this particular Round Bald population. It's always a pleasure to get up close and personal with the beautiful Gray's lilies, and to work with our great North Carolina National Forest botanist Gary Kauffman.



A BRIDGE for new beginnings...

For over a decade, the NC Division of Prisons & Division of Forest Resources BRIDGE Crew has been the "right arm" of SAHC's grassy balds' management program. The BRIDGE (acronym for Building, Rehabilitating, Instructing, Developing, Growing & Employing) Crew is made up of youths between the ages of 18 and 24 who receive on-the-job training in construction and forestry techniques while participating in work projects for public or non-profit organizations.



For two weeks in July, SAHC directs the crew's work in handmowing invasive plants on the Roan's grassy balds. The crews have also assisted in grassy balds restoration on Round Bald and in Golden-winged Warbler habitat restoration on Little Hump Mountain.

The BRIDGE crew also provides invaluable support by helping with equipment and supplies for our annual Grassy Ridge Mow-off volunteer weekend.



Roan stewardship work in progress.



Why steward this habitat?

SAHC partners with the US Forest Service and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission in an effort to create and maintain early-successional wildlife habitat around the Highlands of Roan.

Early-successional habitat is associated with several wildlife species whose populations are in decline, including the Golden-winged Warbler. This migratory song bird is an “umbrella” species; that is, habitat management that benefits the Golden-winged Warbler will benefit a suite of other species.

Golden-wing populations are threatened by habitat loss from forest succession (trees growing older into a closed canopy forest) and development. Due to the high elevations of early-successional habitat around the valleys and mountains of Roan (3,200-5,000+ ft), it may serve as a future genetic stronghold for Golden-wing Warbler populations.

SAHC hopes to create more of this important habitat around the Roan Highlands and maintain as much existing habitat as possible. While mature forest is beautiful and important, it is critical to have a mosaic of habitat types across a landscape. Many mature forest wildlife species also use early-successional habitat, especially during juvenile stages of development, which makes the Highlands of Roan an ideal location for this work.

REPORTING STEWARDSHIP SUCCESSES, THANKS TO

Funding for the Roan

SAHC depends on grants from multiple sources and agencies to support maintenance and restoration for Roan’s grassy balds. Thanks to the Wildlife Conservation Society, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Forest Foundation and Constellation Energy, we’ve been able exceed expectations!

Like a fine wine, our Roan Stewardship Project seems to only get better with age. This summer, we exceeded our expectations for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Wildlife Action Opportunities grant, accomplishing an unprecedented amount of volunteer hand crew work on Round Bald, Grassy Ridge, and Little Hump Mountain.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) also provided critical support, enabling us to increase our volunteer recruitment and effectively track our management program.

With WCS and ATC support, SAHC has been able to channel volunteers to perform a significant amount of grassy bald and early successional wildlife habitat management.

This spring, SAHC also received funding support from the ATC North Carolina License Plate program and from a new partner, Constellation Energy, through their EcoStar grant

community-based environmental stewardship program. We recently were approved for a grant from the National Forest Foundation (NFF), which will continue expanding our early successional habitat restoration project on the grassy balds. This project with the NFF will build on our accomplishments under the WCS grant. Over the next year, we will host several volunteer work days on the balds, channeling members of the public to have a tangible impact on the National Forest land held in their trust.

These partners will enable us to further expand our habitat management efforts across the Roan Highlands. This summer has already witnessed some great volunteer work, and we are organizing several more events that are sure to be both fun and productive!



Volunteer Contributions on Roan through July 2012

Round Bald, Jane Bald & Grassy Ridge, Little Hump	Volunteer Hand Management Acreages	Volunteer Management Hours
Management Totals:	47.7 Acres	3,668 Hours

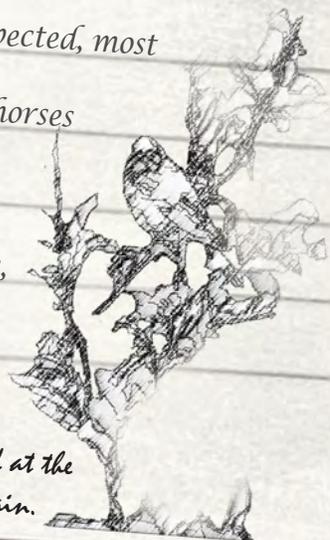
CONSERVATION *Field Journal*

ON THE ROAN WITH SAHC FIELD ECOLOGIST CHRIS COXEN

This year's Golden-winged Warbler field work involved private lands monitoring. I assisted with the multi-partner Roan Massif Golden-winged "Warbler Blitz." Folks from agencies like the US Forest Service, NC Audubon, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and the TN Wildlife Resources Agency all scampered around public and private lands, searching for previously undocumented Golden-winged Warblers. For two weeks, I had the privilege of speaking with landowners in the valleys around the Tennessee side of the Roan, obtaining permission to walk their fields and pastures. Everyone was friendly and inviting, though I did get several sideways glances. Admittedly, such a response is unsurprising when a skinny 5'10" man wearing a floppy sun hat, large binoculars, and a faded field vest walks up to a sleepy house in a hollow in East Tennessee.

I found over 30 singing Golden-winged Warbler males around the valleys, which further underlines the significance of the Roan to the population of Southern Appalachian Golden-wings. As expected, most of the territories are located in pasture, grazed by either horses or cattle, near the forested edge of the pasture. Just like in Hampton Creek Cove, these areas show how working farms, when properly managed, can also support a suite of early successional wildlife species.

Male Golden-winged warbler perched at the top of a hawthorn on Hump Mountain.



Partnerships

IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

New Business Members

Altamont Environmental Services, Inc.
Navitat Canopy Adventures
North Carolina Bar Association
Spiritex
Troy & Sons Distillers
Ventures Birding & Nature Tours, Inc
Webb Investment Services

Congratulations!

SAHC volunteer and supporter Marc Rudow, partner at Roberts & Stevens Law Firm in Asheville, NC, has received the 2012 Citizen Lawyer Award from The North Carolina Bar Association.

With his established legal career in Asheville, Marc is also very involved in serving his community through his work with numerous local, regional and state-wide organizations.

Marc works with the land trust community in many capacities and is very dedicated to protecting land in NC. Marc joined other SAHC volunteers and staff on our Robinson Rough property to remove debris and invasive tree-of-heaven as part of our stewardship of the tract.

Congratulations, Marc!

For more information about this award: <http://www.roberts-stevens.com/news/14jun12.html>



RECORD SUCCESS THIS YEAR ON

Land Trust Day!

We want to give a big “THANK YOU” to all our business supporters and volunteers who celebrated Land Trust Day on Saturday, June 2nd. You helped us raise **over \$12,000** to support land & water conservation!

Land Trust Day was celebrated the first Saturday in June, when local businesses raised awareness of SAHC’s work in their communities by donating a percentage of sales to support our work.

This year, eight dedicated volunteers hosted information tables at retail locations, while two crews took to the Highlands of Roan to perform habitat restoration and trail work on public lands (*those stories follow*).

HUGE thanks to these businesses for donating a percentage of sales to SAHC on Land Trust Day:

Mast General Store

Blue Spiral 1 Gallery

Fine Arts Theatre

New Morning Gallery

Bellagio Art to Wear

Bellagio Everyday

Second Gear

Early Girl Eatery

Kee Mapping & Surveying, Inc.

VOUNTEER TRAIL CLEARING FOR NATIONAL TRAILS DAY:

The **Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail** has an interesting history: the first National Historic Trail designated in the eastern United States, it commemorates the route of mountain men who marched down from the Southern Appalachians to help turn the tide of the Revolutionary War. In 1780, over 1,000 men gathered to march across and out of the Roan Highlands, emerging victorious at the battle of King’s Mountain in South Carolina. That battle became known as the turning point of the Revolutionary War.

In celebration of **National Trails Day** on June 2nd, a group of volunteers performed trail maintenance on the Overmountain trail in Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area and the Cherokee Nation Forest, led by SAHC volunteer Tom Gatti and TN Natural Areas Stewardship Ecologist Lisa Huff.



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 explore opportunities to create a benefits package for you. Contact Cheryl Fowler at 828.253.0095 ext 209 or cheryl@appalachian.org to find out more.



PARTNERSHIP FOR LOVE OF BEER & MOUNTAINS: LITTLE HUMPS

Highland Brewing Company

SAHC and Highland Brewing Company staff and volunteers teamed up to assist habitat restoration on Little Hump Mountain in the stunning Highlands of Roan. It was a great day for work & play!

As part of the “For Love of Beer and Mountains” Partnership, a group of SAHC and HBC volunteers and staff performed clean up work on Little Hump Mountain in the stunning Highlands this summer.



The crew was lucky — the day started out overcast, but breezes swept away the clouds to reveal a panoramic backdrop. Work focused on habitat management in this early-successional wildlife restoration project area. Team partners moved downed woody debris into piles to facilitate future management and provide cover for small mammals and other wildlife.

While the habitat restoration crew worked on the mountain, SAHC staff also led a small exploratory expedition for several young adventurers on Little Hump and Big Yellow Mountain. They inspected the high elevation grasses on balds for insects and other animals, climbed boulders, and greeted hikers along the Appalachian Trail.

SAHC Associate Director Kristy Urquhart leads young explorers to investigate the Appalachian Trail and boulders atop Little Hump Mountain, while the volunteer crew performs habitat restoration on the southern flank.



Following the work day, volunteers enjoyed views from Big Yellow Mountain and then camped together, feasting on a savory potluck meal and sipping Little Hump beer provided by HBC.



The crew camped in the Highlands and was rewarded with brews and views after a hearty day's work.

SAHC, Highland Brewing Company, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service collaborate throughout the year to heighten public awareness of the natural treasures that make this region so attractive. Each HBC seasonal brew is named for a feature of the Southern Appalachian landscape: Little Hump Spring Ale is named for Little Hump Mountain on the AT in the Roan.



SAHC Corporate Partners

Waterrock Knob Partners:

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

Appalachian Realty Associates

Roan Mountain Partners:

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

Highland Brewing Company
Mast General Store
New Morning Ltd, including:
Bellagio Art to Wear
Bellagio Everyday
Blue Spiral 1 Gallery
Fine Arts Theatre
New Morning Gallery
Salesforce

Cold Mountain Partners:

(elevation 6,030 ft.) - \$5,000+
Roberts & Stevens, PA

Big Yellow Partners:

(elevation 5,480 ft.) - \$2,500+
Equinox Environmental
Consultation & Design
First Citizens Bank

Max Patch Partners:

(elevation 4,629 ft.) - \$1,000+

Carolinas Investment Consulting, LLC
Eastman Credit Union
Navitat Canopy Adventures
Network Computer Solutions
Nona Mia Ritrovo
Southwings

June Jamboree!

Persepective — New Trustee Patty Cunningham-Woolf on the Hike to Grassy Ridge

“Around 12 or so of us hiked Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge at the June Jamboree and really experienced a treat! My first time on Grassy Ridge, I found this to be a fantastic introduction, meeting others who hold places like these dear to their hearts and experiencing first-hand the unique nature of the Roan Highlands. With the weather in our favor, we visited with the goats who graze the balds, gazed on breathtaking vistas, and took in the rare beauty of Gray’s lilies blooming.

Biologist and former board member David Smith provided us with detailed and interesting information about the plant and animal life of the balds. Some of the information he shared underscores the urgency of our task as SAHC members: he pointed out the fungus that destroys the Gray’s lily’s ability to seed, which has recently arrived on the bald. The beauty of the day tempered with the reality of our task presented the perfect Jamboree mix to send us away with great memories and a renewed commitment to these fragile ecosystems.”

A STUNNING DAY FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES IN THE

Highlands of Roan

In June, hikers enjoyed truly gorgeous skies for six unique adventures in the Roan, from a long, sunny trek on Grassy Ridge to a splashing good time in the refreshing waters of Roaring Creek.



Kids explored Roaring Creek for aquatic life.

Hikers along the Appalachian Trail from Carvers Gap to Yellow Mountain Gap were rewarded with beautiful specimens of Gray’s lily on the grassy balds and sightings of native brook trout in pools along Hampton Creek. Birders in Hampton Creek Cove spotted Indigo Buntings, Chestnut-sided warblers, American Goldfinches, both Song and

Field Sparrows, and a Scarlet Tanager sitting high up in a locust snag, singing its heart out for all to see. Inspired by the sun’s warmth, gentle breezes, and breathtaking views, participants on the yoga hike enjoyed class in a high mountain meadow. Kids in the creek gently captured and released aquatic inhabitants like salamanders and crawfish. In all, it was an incredibly successful and memorable day.



Yoga on the Mountain was popular again.

Jay Leutze recounts stories of the land for the group on “Big” Hump.

“Stand Up That Mountain” — Hike to “Big” Hump

“Jay is a storyteller, recounting details and conversations with an enthralling eloquence. So as our small troop picked our way through an understory of nettles and briars, we listened intently to the stories of the land, the people and his efforts to save a mountain from mining. We learned that jewel weed soothes the nettle’s sting; we heard stories of a farmer herding his Watusi cattle in the high lush meadows; we marveled at the vast resonating vistas.”

— Jennifer McLucas, SAHC volunteer on the Hump Hike



UPCOMING OUTINGS & HIKES

For all hikes, direct questions and registrations to **Rich Preyer**, SAHC PR & Outreach Americorps Associate, at **828-253-0095 x 205** or **rich@appalachian.org**.

When you RSVP, please include your phone number we can reach you in case the hike must be canceled due to inclement weather or other last-minute changes.

HEMPHILL BALD HIKE

DATE: October 13 **TIME:** 10:00 AM

Where: Cataloochee Ranch in Maggie Valley, NC

Leaders: Rich Preyer & Judy Coker of Cataloochee Ranch

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

Cost: Free for SAHC members/ \$10 for non-members.



One of our most popular hikes! This moderate 5-mile roundtrip hike with an elevation change of 900 feet begins on a road used for hiking and horseback riding in rural Haywood County, NC. Expect to see fall flowers, mountain streams and lovely cove hardwood forest mixed at times with hemlock stands, rhododendron and mountain laurel. At the top of the ridge the woods are replaced by open high altitude pastureland and there is the chance for superb views of four counties and a number of mountain tops including Cold Mountain, Crabtree Bald, Mt. Mitchell and many others. The only difficult part of the hike is the last climb to the top. At the top is a stone table, moved there by Tom Alexander, Jr. and placed in memory of his parents, Tom & Judy Alexander, founders of Cataloochee Ranch.

GREYBEARD AND MONTREAT WILDERNESS HIKE

DATE: October 18 **TIME:** 10:00 AM

Where: Montreat Wilderness, near Black Mountain, NC

Leaders: Rich Preyer & Joe Standaert, Montreat Trail Crew Leader

DIFFICULTY: Moderately difficult to strenuous **Cost:** Free for all participants.

Join us on a hike to Greybeard. We will pass through Walker's Knob, which offers perhaps the best view of Montreat and beyond. Situated at 4780 ft, this rocky outcrop is an ideal location for views of Montreat and Black Mountain. We will ascend via the Greybeard Trail and four switchbacks from the old Mt Mitchell narrow-gauge railroad bed from the 1920s. On the switchbacks we will pass through beautiful forest, Pleistocene boulder fields, and fitted stonework from the old railroad. We will pass Greybeard Falls on the way to Walker's Knob. Return will be directly back on the Greybeard Trail, with a short section on the old Mt Mitchell Motor Road from the 1930s. Bring water, lunch, camera, and sturdy hiking shoes. Hike will ascend a total of 1700 ft, although a lot of the elevation gain is gradual on the rail bed. The hike is moderately difficult with some strenuous sections.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Clawhammer Mountain Hike
Pisgah Forest near Brevard, NC
Saturday, October 6 (10:00 AM)

Hemphill Bald Hike
Cataloochee Ranch
Saturday, October 13 (10:00 AM)

Greybeard & Walker's Knob Hike
Near Montreat, Seven Sisters
Thursday, October 18 (10:00 AM)

Webb Family Property Hike & Picnic
Saturday, October 20 (10:00 AM)

FIND OUT MORE!

For recent updates & additional information about our hikes & events, visit our website! **Appalachian.org**

HIKE & PICNIC

AT WEBB FAMILY PROPERTY

DATE: October 20 **TIME:** 10:00 AM

Where: In Jackson County, NC

Leader: Rich Preyer

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

Cost: Free for SAHC members/
\$10 for non-members.

Hikers will enjoy a moderate three mile loop starting at the Webb's rustic cabin near their family's lake. The hike will have an elevation gain of approximately 1,200 feet through primarily acidic cove forest and some red oak forest at higher elevations. After the hike, participants are invited to enjoy refreshments provided by the Webb family at their cabin. Participants are also welcome to paddle on the lake or relax and play some badminton and horseshoes along the scenic water. Although some refreshments are provided, please bring your own lunch to enjoy by the cabin or lake.



Nona Mia Ritrovo supplied an exquisite dinner.



Carriedelle Wilson, Matt Fusco, Joy Kee and Brian Simpson enjoy the event (left to right).



Warren Wilson students accept the Stan Murray Award for volunteer service.

REASON TO CELEBRATE...

Annual Member Event

In May, 300 SAHC members, volunteers, sponsors, and guests gathered at the Highland Brewing Company's Tasting Room in Asheville, NC to celebrate our 50,000+ acre milestone!



The April Fools Old Time String Band played throughout the evening.

We enjoyed music by the April Fools Old Time String Band, based in Moore County, NC, along with dinner provided by Nona Mia Ritrovo and an exciting raffle spread across the foyer of Highland Brewing Company's Tasting Room.

During the evening program, Executive Director Carl Silverstein presented a brief recap of the 2011 projects which pushed us over the 50,000 acres protected milestone. He also addressed the question "What does it take to protect 50,000 acres?" The answer — Determined volunteers, members, staff, trustees, conservation partners, and supporters!

President of the Board of Trustees, Jeanette Blazier, presented the 2012 Stan Murray Volunteer of the Year Award to four Warren Wilson Forestry Students, for their assistance in restoring Golden-winged warbler habitat on Little Hump Mountain in the Highlands of Roan.

Jeanette then recognized the inspiring achievements of retiring trustee Jay Leutze and presented him with an engraved award for his service. The assembled SAHC members & proxies also voted to elect new and returning trustees to the Board. Patty Cunningham-Woolf and Greg Gregory were elected each to a first 3-year term on the SAHC Board of Trustees, and Leslie Casse and Florence Krupnick will return to each serve a second 3-year term with the Board.

What a wonderful way to celebrate our achievements. Thanks to all our members!

THANK YOU TO SPONSORS & RAFFLE ITEM DONORS FOR THIS EVENT:

Highland Brewing Company
Altamont Environmental, Inc.
Roberts & Stevens, PA
Nona Mia/Ritrovo
Second Gear, Inc.
Grove Arcade
Webb Investment Services
White Oak Financial Management
Green River Woods
Mahoney's Outfitters
Nature's Knots Custom Furniture
Henco Reprographics
Navitat Canopy Adventures

USA Raft
TheFoundling.com
Molly Dingledine Jewelry
Common Ground Distributors, Inc
One Center Yoga
David A. Ramsey, Nature Photography
The Silver Smith
Carolyn Novak
Eberhard & Jean Heide
Batton Clayworks
Thyme in the Garden
Sandy Mush Herb Nursery
Carolina Native Nursery

The Frame & Mirror
Hickory Nut Gap Farm
Shoji Spa & Lodge
Grove Arcade
Biltmore Company
Black Dome Mountain Sports
The Weinhaus
Advantage Printing
Sundance Farms
Outdoor Bird Company
Omnium Body Works
Ken Maness
Reems Creek Nursery
Linville River Pottery

Dinner provided by Nona Mia Ritrovo.





Jay Leutze accepts heartfelt commendation & an engraved award for his service to SAHC.

JAY LEUTZE - RETIRING TRUSTEE

Jay grew up hiking, camping, and exploring the Southern Appalachians. He deeply loves these mountains, and revels in their fragile wonder. He is driven to ensure that their ecology will remain intact for the future.

In 2008, Jay helped pass state legislation authorizing the Yellow Mountain State Natural Area adjacent to the Highlands of Roan. He also stopped the proposed Putnam Mine, which would have devastated views from the Appalachian Trail in the Highlands of Roan. The story of this heroic battle is the topic of his new book "Stand Up That Mountain."

Jay played a crucial role in protecting the 10,000-acre Rocky Fork tract along the Appalachian Trail in East Tennessee. As a constant and heroic advocate for conservation, Jay testified on Capitol Hill in support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. His constant presence and vigilance in Washington, DC has advanced conservation locally as well as nationally.

Thank you for your service, Jay!



The 2012 Membership Event in Asheville, NC, drew quite a crowd, including long-time members and guests new to our organization. Highland Brewing Company graciously donated the venue space for this event. A great time was had by all!

CONGRATULATIONS — NEWLY ELECTED TRUSTEES



Patty Cunningham-Woolf

Patty is a realtor with Carolina Mountain Sales in Asheville. Her summers were spent backpacking and camping in the Smokies and surrounding mountains, where she developed her deep love of the area's natural resources. Patty is a long time member of SAHC, the Blue Ridge Society, and The American Chestnut Foundation. While a Director for the Asheville Board of realtors, Patty helped to create an Eco designation for area brokers, a first of its kind in the U.S. She is a 12-year resident of Asheville with her husband, Ben, son Joseph, and daughter Katie.



Lyman J. ("Greg") Gregory, III

Greg is an attorney with the Asheville firm of Marshall, Roth, and Gregory. He is a native of Asheville and actively volunteers in numerous community activities, focusing in particular on land use planning and environmental law. He has served on the SAHC Land Management and Stewardship Committee for several years, and has advised SAHC on legal questions relating to conservation easements and other matters. Greg, his wife Michele and their son Gabriel enjoy hiking in North Carolina's mountains.

Congratulations also to Leslie Casse and Florence Krupnick, who were each elected to serve a second 3-year term as trustees. Thank you for your continued service.



Lee and Emily Bidgood kick up their heels at the event.

Tributes

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

In honor of Carleton A. Jones

John Jones

In honor of Gil & Julie's Wedding

Mark & Mariam Johnson

In honor of William Hess

Glen & Mary Jo Hess

In honor of Lisa Fancher

Peter Barr

In honor of Michael Andry

Susan Hubbard

In honor of Ed Schell, Bob Harvey,

Jay Leutze, & David Ramsey

Judy Murray & Tom Gatti

In honor of Kay Hultquist and

Bent Knee Conservancy

Michael & Mary Lodico

In honor of Jay Leutze

John Cheesborough & Ellen Flanagan

In honor of David & Cathey

Bailey's 32nd Wedding

Anniversary

Lisa & George Francisco

Memorials

Memorial gifts are gifts of flowers in perpetuity.

In memory of Hank Gamble

Juan Ascoli

In memory of William "Bill"

McCarthy, a dear friend.

Dan & Rosalie Russo

In memory of Jim Crews

Donald Bynum

In memory of Jack King

Cathy King

In memory of Stan Murray

John & Shirley Stafford

In memory of Tim Jones

Tom & Kim Barnhardt

New Members

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

Andrew & Lorene Aarons

Max Alexander

Deyerle Anderson

Peter Barr

Martin Beckman

Matt & Raeyanna Boesch

Nancy Bombace

Jack Bonner & Jessica Bayer

Larissa Bowman & Randy Wetzel

Chris & Alice Brown

Bobby Carter

Bob Clifford

Bruce Cochran

Chris Coxen & Katey McDonald

Elizabeth Cram

Julie Ann Daggerhart

Todd Dunnuck

Jennifer Ritchie Eller

Brian Ericson

Bryan Garcia

Karen Goklany

Bernadette & Joseph Goodman

Roy & Ellen Gortney

David Greiner

Grove Arcade

Kevin & Jessica Hancock

Kristin Harkey & Jeffrey Johansson

Catherine & Justin Haughney

Ellen Hearne

Christine Heuermann

Claire Hobbs

Bill Hodge

Jo Hogan

Trevor Hogan

Katherine & Michael James

Julianne Johnson

Carl Kiefer

Art Kiser

Jamie & Taylor Leutze

Christine Lisiewski & Eamon

Holmes

Myra (Popsie) Lynch

William W. Mackay

Bob Magee

Michele & Brad Makrucki

Mr. and Mrs. Lanty L Smith

Tom Martin

Jacob & Bevin McGahey

Alexandra Meyer

Ron Miller

William E. Mills

Connie Musselwhite

Margaret H. Newell

Kristi & Gaylon Owens

Joy Parisien

Robert & Sandra Powell

Stephanie Presenza

Tip Ray

Chris & Rebecca Reinhardt

Craig Rightmire

Rebekah Robinson

Janet Sandberg

Diane Sanders

William Schoon

Susi Gott Seguret

Lois Semmens

Charlotte Sheppard

Jason Slibeck

Joshua Smith

Chris Stanfield

Joseph Stejskal

Kathleen Swafford

Nancy & David Swann

The Leaksville Garden Club

Dr. & Mrs. Chip Thompson

Kira Thompson

Quin Thompson

Michelle Tuday

Keith Viglietta

John K. Wabich

Charlie & Cathy Walker

Frank and Cecelia Ward

Janet Whitworth

Nick & Stephanie Wilkinson

Brian Williams

Doug & Pat Williams

Patrick Wright

Joe Zinich

**Join now and pay monthly!
Installments are easy.**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please check applicable boxes.

New Member Renewal Gift Membership Business Membership

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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 memberships 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 the form left.

Legacy – of Land and People

LEAVING SOMETHING TO GROW ON

Founding Member Rick Phelps



Rich Phelps, right, and Carol Coffey attend the 2011 Board reunion in Kingsport, TN

"I have a very deep love for SAHC and respect for the people of the organization. I want to see it prosper, and I know that each dollar I leave to SAHC will be multiplied many times over."

"Recently, my mother passed away, and it became clear to me that planning is important — that you need to make

clear provisions for distributing your estate. It is important for people to know that you have to be very clear in the details.

I realized that I wanted to make adjustments to the provisions for SAHC in my will. My attorney contacted Carl for the exact language that would make the transfer work best. Since SAHC has thought through the process and worked it into the Planned Giving Program, he already had that language prepared and was able to give it to us. SAHC's preparations make it easy to work with their Planned Giving Program.

Another good thing that SAHC does is to allow you to make a designated gift or bequest. For instance, the Highlands of Roan

are near and dear to my heart. That's where we started; it was and still is our flagship area. But as the project has matured, so has the amount of money needed to succeed at it.

"The Highlands of Roan are near and dear to my heart."

Potential donors need to understand that we are facing more and more competition for funds. For those people who believe in saving the land, there couldn't be a better organization to support."



What will be Your Legacy?

We invite you to join the Legacy Society of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

Bequests, like the one arranged by Rick Phelps, are just one aspect of our **Planned Giving Program**.

Other ways to meet your personal conservation and financial goals through your estate include: Life Estates, Life Insurance Policies, Real Estate Gifts, IRA's & Pension Plans, Gifts of Stock & Gifts of Cash. You can potentially convert assets into income while supporting the work of SAHC with Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts, or Charitable Lead Trusts.

Gifts of any amount are sincerely appreciated, and we can tailor your legacy to meet your unique financial and conservation goals. A gift of any size made to SAHC in your will or trust will be directed to our region's most pressing land and water conservation needs. For more information, contact **Kristy Urquhart** at **828.253.0095, ext. 201** or email **kristy@appalachian.org**. All inquiries will be held in confidence.

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.



Appalachian.org

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What's Your *Legacy?*

To leave a legacy for future generations, remember SAHC in your estate planning. In addition to doing your part to maintain our mountain heritage for future generations, you can take guided hikes to some of our most cherished lands. Contact us at 828.253.0095 for more info.

GET CONNECTED! with SAHC online @:

Blog:

www.southernappalachian.wordpress.com

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/SAHC

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/southernappalachianhighlandsconservancy>

UPCOMING!

Clawhammer Hike

October 6th, 2012

More details inside,
or visit our website:

Appalachian.org



Use this QR code to view
upcoming events
on our website.

Appalachian.org