



# SAHC's Community Farm: A Rich History – A Promising Future

Appalachian.org



*Aerial panorama of the farm, courtesy kenabbottphoto.com*

## A Bright Tomorrow



*Sharing information about farming.*

SAHC is continuing the conservation and farming legacy of this special place. In 2013, we restored streams on the property to improve the French Broad River watershed. We also began extensive removal of non-native, invasive plants and reforested a section of the farm with shortleaf pine – a native tree.

We created the Discovery Trail to help share these and other exciting projects with you, and to demonstrate how we are preserving the past while looking towards the future. **Enjoy!**



*Local area students helped remove invasive plant species on the farm.*

## In the Beginning...

Archaeologists found evidence of Native Americans on this property. Artifacts such as stone knives and trimming stone fragments were discovered in the area of the farm where the two streams converge. Evidence of a homestead from the 1800s was found in the same location, including ceramic shards, nails, bricks, and even a lightning rod. This area was protected from disturbance during the stream restoration.

## Transformations

Throughout the 1900s, this property served the community as a productive farm – providing crops such as corn, tobacco, hay, and beef cattle to the agricultural economy. Continuing the farming history of this land, the Anderson family purchased the 103-acre farm in the early 1950s and created a successful Angus beef operation. The Andersons were very conservation-minded, and the farm was one of the first agricultural properties in Buncombe County to create a conservation plan, which helps implement environmentally friendly farming practices. The Andersons also planted thousands of trees on the farm with help from the NC Forest Service to combat erosion on the hillside.



*Baled hay on the farm.*

**In 2010, to ensure that this special place remains farmland forever, Marie Anderson generously donated this farm to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. We are grateful for her vision.**

## Forging New Paths

Our 1.5-mile Discovery Trail was created with community support in the form of over 1,000 volunteer and contract hours. Partners from AmeriCorps Project Conserve, French Broad River Academy, and local universities and non-profits have donated their time.



*AmeriCorps Project Conserve volunteers.*

In addition, SAHC was able to employ a crew from Green Opportunities (GO) to tackle a large portion of the trail construction. GO is an Asheville based organization that helps youth and adults living in poverty get and keep jobs that support their families and improve community and environmental health.



*GO crew carving the trail.*

