

BLUE RIDGE CONSERVANCY

SAVING THE PLACES YOU LOVE

2013

Photo courtesy of Rick Short

ELK KNOB STATE PARK



Photo by Laura Yaeger

Executive Director's Message . . .	2
BRC Member Spotlight	3
Land Protection Projects	4-5
Welcome New Trustee	6
AmeriCorps Member	6
2013 BRC Hike Schedule	7
BRC In The Community	8-11
2012 Events	12-13
LTA Accrediation	14
BRC Financial Summary	14
Thank You M-Prints	14
Looking Toward The Future	15
Sponsor Thank You	15
2013 Events	16

JOIN US TODAY AT BRC!

You can support our efforts by joining or renewing online, or by returning the enclosed envelope with your membership or contribution.

OUR MISSION

Working with willing landowners and local communities to permanently protect land and water resources with agricultural, ecological, cultural, recreational and scenic value in northwest North Carolina.



**BLUE RIDGE
CONSERVANCY**
SAVING THE PLACES YOU LOVE



*If, after reading our newsletter, you pass it along to a friend, you have doubled its impact without any additional cost to you or Blue Ridge Conservancy!
Thanks for your help spreading the good word!*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ed Shuford
President

Virginia Tate
Vice-President

John Turner
Secretary

Gary Clawson
Treasurer

Bob Cherry
Member At-Large

Ann Baker

Millie Barbee

Sonny Church

Kelly Coffey

John Cooper

Robert Dixon

Susan Hambright

Allen Moseley

Fred Pfohl

Traci Royster

Michael Salzano

Chuck Smith

STAFF

Walter Clark
Executive Director

Eric Hiegl
Director of Land Protection and Stewardship

Rob McCorkindale
Director of Development and Communications

Maria Whaley
Director of Operations and Administration

Katie Trozzo
AmeriCorps Land Protection Associate

Blue Ridge Conservancy
P.O. Box 568
166 Furman Road, Suite C
Boone, NC 28607
828-264-2511
www.blueridgeconservancy.org

From the Executive Director

BRC Accredited!

Looking back over the last year two words come to mind regarding BRC – achievement and results. Undoubtedly, our most significant achievement was earning accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission. Being an accredited land trust brings the recognition that BRC is professionally serving clients and generally operating at a high level using standards and practices set by the Commission. BRC actually began the accreditation process three years ago but because of our merger (the union of High Country Conservancy and Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust) the Commission asked that the process be delayed until BRC had an established history as a new organization. We are one of a few land trusts nationally that has successfully merged and achieved accreditation.

From a results perspective, BRC finished the year with a solid land protection and stewardship record. In 2012 we protected 470 acres bringing our total acreage protected to almost 17,000. BRC staff also visited our existing 169 protected properties to ensure that the conservation values of these lands remain undisturbed. Of the new protected acres, 408 were in two tracts on Pond Mountain. With the addition of these new properties, BRC has now protected over 2,400 acres on Pond Mountain opening up new access and hiking opportunities. If you have not visited Pond Mountain or would like to return, please consider joining us on our annual hike on August 17th.

In this edition of our newsletter you will read about the many exciting activities that BRC provided for our members and friends in 2012. During the year, we led seven hikes to a variety of beautiful places in our seven-county territory including Pond Mountain, Elk Knob State Park, Bear Paw State Natural Area, Bullhead Mountain, and Beech Creek Bog. The annual Stick Boy Mayview Madness Run was our most successful ever with over 320 participants. And the Forever Protected exhibit featuring artist Gayle Lowry drew large crowds to Appalachian State University's Turchin Center for the Visual Arts to learn about the connection between art, landscape and land protection.

But we won't rest on our laurels. BRC will continue to direct our land protection efforts to key focus areas like Valle Crucis, Pond Mountain, Elk Knob, Stone Mountain, the Blue Ridge Parkway and farmland protection. Also, starting this year, we hope to help lead a new push to establish a greenway connecting Blowing Rock and Boone along Middle Fork New River. BRC and the Middle Fork Greenway Association began this effort nine years ago by accepting the first land donation for the eventual construction of the greenway.

And finally, we hope to get you, our members and friends, out to enjoy the beautiful lands that BRC has protected. We will again be hosting hikes and some exciting events. Hope to see you there!

It's all about achievement and results!



Warmest regards,

Walter Clark

A Tribute in Memory of Mazie Jones Levenson (1914-2013)

I met Mazie over three years ago when she phoned the office to introduce herself as a steadfast supporter of Blue Ridge Conservancy. Little did I know that over the next few years Mazie would become a personal friend, a mentor and one of BRC's biggest cheerleaders.

Although Mazie's life journey took her away from western North Carolina, she always carried with her a deep love for the mountains and mountain people. Mazie filled her many years with intellectual pursuits, public service and civic responsibility. She gathered a tremendous amount of wisdom along the way and was determined to share that wisdom in ways that made a difference in people's lives. When I remember Mazie two lines from Max Ehrmann's 1927 prose poem *Desiderata* come to mind – "Take kindly the council of years ..." and "Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble, it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time." As a mentor and friend, Mazie provided wise council and her enthusiasm for BRC's work continues to inspire us to protect the beautiful mountains of northwest North Carolina.

With Mazie's passing the world lost a star but was so enriched by her wonderful life.

Walter

P.S. A year after her first phone call to Blue Ridge Conservancy, I received the following letter ...



Photo by Rob McCorkindale

Mazie Jones Levenson, a Boone native, was born in 1914 in the historical Jones House Community and Cultural Center. Her parents, Dr. John Walter Jones and Mattie Blackburn Jones, raised her in the famous home for two decades.

After graduating from Appalachian Teachers College, now Appalachian State University, Mazie left the Jones House, the only place she had ever lived, to begin teaching. Mazie inherited the house after her mother's passing in the late 1970s and sold it to the Town of Boone in the early 1980s. It now houses the Mazie Jones Gallery and the Upstairs Gallery One and Two. The house provides weekly outdoor concerts from June through September.

Dear Mr. Clark,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the work of the Blue Ridge Conservancy.

As a native North Carolinian and a woman who was born in Boone, Watauga County, I spent much of my life in the mountains. Now

when I visit my home community, I see many changes in the landscape. Howard's Knob has fewer trees because houses are there, meadows are filled with apartments, and roads split up the forests. These changes mean we are losing the scenic views and the ecological lands that sustain our beautiful mountain plants.

These changes were disturbing to mountain people who love the land and want the beautiful areas to remain in their natural habitat. One solution was to form an organization to protect important scenic lands.

Lands began to be donated from farmers, businesses, organizations, and citizens. Decisions were made to purchase lands in several counties – Watauga, Wilkes, Ashe, Alleghany, Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey. These are North Carolina's high mountain counties with great natural beauty.

Blue Ridge Conservancy works hard to locate and preserve these scenic and ecological lands and it deserves our full support. This is the people's way to protect our heritage.

Mazie Jones Levenson

2/21/11



Photo courtesy of Mazie Jones Levenson

Land Protection & Stewardship Highlights | 2012

Pond Mountain (408 acres)

In 2012, Blue Ridge Conservancy continued its commitment to protect lands for public use in northwest North Carolina. BRC's efforts have resulted in the creation of state natural areas including Beech Creek Bog, Bear Paw, and Bullhead Mountain. We continue to help Elk Knob State Park expand its borders and in 2012 we added 400 acres, in two separate transactions, to the 2,000-acre State Game Land preserve on Pond Mountain in Ashe County.



Photo by BRC Staff

The first acquisition...

Truth Temple, Ashe County (127 acres)

Early last fall, BRC learned of a property to be auctioned in Ashe County near the Pond Mountain Game Land. The property also adjoined another property, the Braun tract, which BRC had worked toward purchasing for several years. By purchasing both tracts, BRC could expand the Pond Mountain Game Land to the west toward the Cherokee National Forest and create the possibility for an additional access point to the Game Land from the southwest at the end of Denny Road. Within a two week period BRC raised the funds necessary to make an offer on the property (called the Truth Temple tract). BRC attended the auction and submitted the winning bid. Four weeks later, on November 5th, BRC purchased the tract of 127 acres with funds donated by Fred and Alice Stanback. In addition to expanding the Pond Mountain Gameland, the Truth Temple tract protects 2,700 feet of Big Laurel Creek. BRC



Photo by Eric Hiegl

will donate the property to the State for inclusion in the Pond Mountain Game Land. In the future, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission hopes to create public access point at this location.

The second acquisition...

Braun - Ashe County (281 acres)

BRC began discussions with the Braun family in the mid-1990s about permanently protecting their property near Pond Mountain. In 2009, as the discussions became more serious, BRC submitted a grant application to the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund to purchase 281 acres. BRC received this grant as well as funding from the Walmart Corporation's Acres for America program and Fred and Alice Stanback. Using these funds, BRC purchased the property in December 2012. The property contains the headwaters of Big Laurel Creek which are classified as Outstanding Resource Waters. The Braun tract also connects the Truth Temple property to Pond Mountain Game Land. Features of the Braun property include elevations up to 4,600 feet, hardwood forests and views that encompass parts of three states. The Braun property was transferred to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission bringing the Pond Mountain Game Land to 2,400 acres.

Keep a look out for the Pond Mountain Game Land Management Plan



Photo courtesy of Lynn Willis

Protecting the Blue Ridge Parkway Viewshed

Wiseman - Avery County (60 acres)

BRC began talking with the Wisemans in 2008 about protecting their land in Avery County. In 2011, BRC received a grant from the NC Scenic Byways program, administered by Conservation Trust for North Carolina, to purchase the portion of the Wiseman property within the view of the Blue Ridge Parkway. BRC also received additional funds from Fred and Alice Stanback. In the end, BRC purchased 59.1 acres of forested land within the viewshed of the Parkway.

16,807
acres protected
in
180
places



Photo by Eric Htegl



Photo by Rob McCorkindale

BRC Staff monitors
170
properties each year

BRC Welcomes a New Trustee

Traci Royster grew up in Burlington, North Carolina as the only child of Effie and David Royster and she has resided in Boone for over 16 years. Traci has a bachelor's degree in



Photo courtesy of Traci Royster

industrial/organizational psychology and a master's degree in human development and psychological counseling from Appalachian State University. She is the Director of Parent & Family Services at Appalachian State University.

Traci currently serves on the Watauga Education Foundation Board of Directors and the Boone Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She is passionate about community service and giving back to those things that touch her heart and can continue to help others for a lifetime. Her interest in land protection developed after meeting Walter Clark and having many discussions about the organization and the very important work it was doing in so many areas.

Some of Traci's previous volunteer roles have been president of Appalachian's Alumni Council, chairing ASU's Diversity Celebration Fundraising Committee, serving as a member of Appalachian's Board of Trustees (Ex-Officio), ASU Board of Visitors, ASU Foundation Board and the Yosef Club Advisory Board, and serving as a Faculty adviser to several student organizations on campus.

Meet AmeriCorps Member Katie Trozzo

Once again, BRC hit the jackpot with our AmeriCorps member, Katie Trozzo. She has proven to be an incredible asset to our organization and just plain fun to have around the office. Katie grew up in Brevard, North Carolina where she frequented the trails and streams of Pisgah National Forest. She



Photos courtesy of Lukas Burgher

attended North Carolina State University where she received her Bachelor's in Environmental Technology and developed a strong appreciation for trees. Through her undergraduate work she realized the importance of conservation and the critical role that humans play in bringing it forth. She then pursued her

Master's at Virginia Tech studying the human dimensions of natural resources focusing on understanding landowner decisions to conserve their property. Katie serves at Blue Ridge Conservancy where she inventories and monitors the natural resources of conserved properties and gets to visit and enjoy the diverse landscapes of the High Country. In her free time she enjoys singing with friends, collecting wild fruits and nuts, jogging, and cooking.



Katie is an AmeriCorps Project Conserve (APC) Member. APC is a national service program in which members from all across the nation dedicate themselves to serving western North Carolina for an 11-month service term. The program focuses on collaboration with non-profit organizations, community groups, and local governments to provide service throughout the region.

Let's Go For a Hike! BRC Hikes in 2013

Blue Ridge Conservancy has a rich history of collaborating with public and private entities to permanently protect lands of significant conservation value in northwest North Carolina. In 2013, we are introducing two weekday Kids In Nature Hikes. The first hike will be held at the Boone United Trail in Boone and the second will be held at the Glen Burney Trail in Blowing Rock. Check out our website at www.blueridgeconservancy.org for more details.



YMCA Camp-Herring Ridge, Wilkes County

BRC Staff will lead this challenging hike along Big Warrior Creek. This hike features beautiful waterfalls as it climbs the well-traveled path along this boldly flowing stream. Strenuous. 3 hours. Saturday, April 13, 9 AM.



Michael and Virginia Tate Farm and Pond

Mountain Hike, Ashe County
Pond Mountain is a historic and naturally significant high ridge at the extreme northwestern corner of N.C. The mountain is protected thanks to BRC's multi-year land acquisition effort. From the top, you will take in world-class views of the southern Blue Ridge.

Following the hike, join us for homemade pizza at nearby Ripshin Farm, also protected by BRC. Moderate. 4 hours. Saturday, August 17, 9 AM.



Bear Paw State Natural Area

Bear Paw is a translation of 'Yonah-wayah', the Cherokee name for this area of high ridges and valleys above Valle Crucis. Hike with us to the crest of Hanging Rock Ridge for amazing views of Grandfather Mountain. 3.5 hours. Strenuous. Saturday, May 18, 9 AM.



Bullhead Mountain Hike & Hawk Watch, Allegheny County

A State Natural Area, Bullhead borders the Blue Ridge Parkway near Mahogany Rock Overlook. The mountain's unique profile is said to resemble the head of a bull. Join us for this partner hike with High Country Audubon and Conservation Trust for North Carolina, and for a unique opportunity to observe the annual hawk migration. Moderate. 4 hours. Saturday, September 28, 9 AM.



Beech Creek Bog Hike

In 2002, BRC led the effort to protect this nationally significant southern Appalachian bog. Join a local naturalist and BRC staff for a carefully guided tour of this special ecosystem. Moderate. 2.5 hours. Saturday, June 22, 9 AM.



Kids In Nature Hikes

Join a local naturalist and BRC Staff for a fun-filled morning of adventure on two Boone/Blowing Rock area hikes. The first hike will take place at the new Boone United Trail in Boone on June 26th and the second will be held at the Glen Burney Trail in Blowing Rock on July 24th. Easy. 1 hour. Wednesdays, June 26 & July 24, 10:30 AM.



Elk Knob Hike, Watauga County

On this moderately strenuous hike, we'll follow one of the most well-crafted hiking trails in the region to the top of Elk Knob. Fall color and spectacular Blue Ridge views will meet you on top, a perfect place to view the more than 500 acres BRC has helped add to the State Park. Following the hike, join us on a visit to a nearby local farm for lunch. Strenuous. 4 hours. Saturday, October 12, 9 AM.



Photos by BRC Staff

BRC In The Community

Boone United Trail - Onward & Upward!

Onward and upward! Work continues on the Boone United Trail, a partnership between Boone United Methodist Church and Blue Ridge Conservancy. The church has opened a 45-acre tract of land on Howard's Knob for a two-mile trail they hope will become a beloved community treasure. "One thing is certain: Boone area families are already excited about this project," said Eric Heistand, Trail Crew Leader for the Boone United Trail. A large



Photos courtesy of Eric Heistand

percentage of the volunteer efforts have come from children who have been constructing the trail alongside their parents. The trail corridor has been laid out by professional trail builders with an eye toward environmental sustainability. There will be no clear-cutting of trees, only light trimming of bushes and undergrowth. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the trail is already completed. Champions of the trail are looking for additional volunteers. No experience is necessary. There is a need for experienced sawyers and individuals with carpentry/construction skills. Trail work will resume once the ground starts to thaw. Please contact rob@blueridgeconservancy.org for volunteer information.



Photos courtesy of Eric Heistand

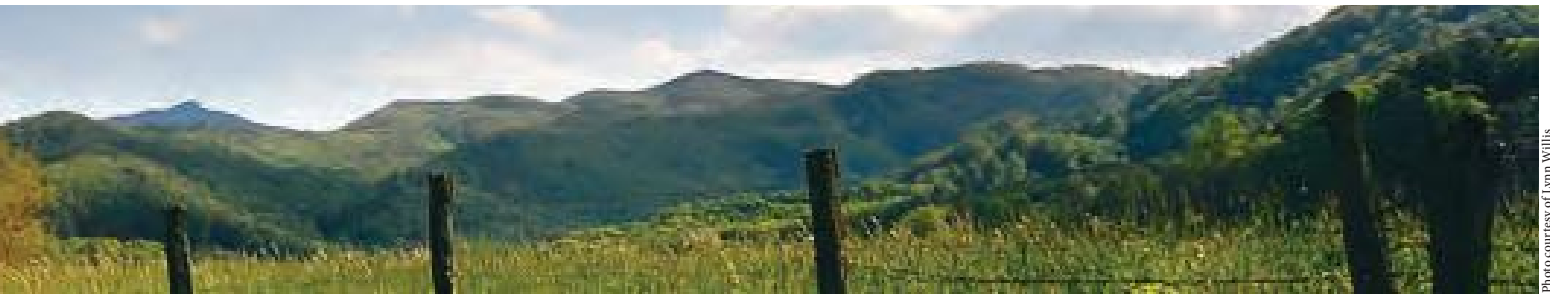


Photo courtesy of Lynn Willis

Blue Ridge Conservancy Donates \$15,000 to Assist with Construction of the Middle Fork Greenway

For years, High Country residents have dreamed of a greenway connecting Boone and Blowing Rock. One step toward fulfilling that dream was the creation of the Middle Fork Greenway Association (MFGA) thirteen years ago. The goal of MFGA was to build the public support necessary to raise the funds needed to acquire land and easements for the project. The Association's name is derived from the fact that the greenway would follow the Middle Fork of the New River which flows from Blowing Rock to Boone. Over the next few years MFGA worked in collaboration with Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust (now Blue Ridge Conservancy) to put together some of the initial parts of an enormous puzzle that will one day become the greenway.



Photos by Rob McConkildale

One significant part of that puzzle was a gift of 3.7 acres of land to Blue Ridge Conservancy (BRC) from the Whitener family in 2004. The purpose of the gift was to create a small park (Sterling Creek Park) and to provide approximately 1,300 feet of greenway space. Six years later in 2010, BRC received \$15,000 from Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative in exchange for the right to place a new power pole on this property. In June of 2012, BRC donated these funds to help with the construction of the Middle Fork Greenway. The funds were provided to High Country Pathways which is now working on the greenway initiative with MFGA. The Association is currently working to secure the engineering studies and permits necessary to build a Highway 321 underpass connecting Tweetsie Railroad, Mystery Hill and Sterling Creek Park.

"The Middle Fork Greenway will be an important asset to the High Country," said Walter Clark, Executive Director of BRC. "Protecting land for recreational purposes is part of the Conservancy's mission and we hope to continue to support the efforts to make the greenway a reality."

BRC Student Club To Adopt the Glen Burney Trail in Blowing Rock

Have you ever hiked the Glen Burney Trail in Blowing Rock? Local residents describe it as a hidden gem near downtown. The 3.2-mile round trip cascade trail along New Year's Creek has been used by locals and tourists since the late 1800s. There are three sets of falls along the trail including the Cascades, Glen Burney Falls, and Glen Marie Falls.

In November 2012, Lance Campbell, Blue Ridge Conservancy member and avid hiker, approached BRC about adopting the Glen Burney Trail. His vision included basic trail maintenance such as raking, trimming, picking up



litter, and repairing or replacing trail signs. Adopting the Glen Burney Trail seemed like a perfect project for the newly formed ASU Blue Ridge Conservancy Student Club (see p. 10). After the club agreed to take on the trail adoption, the Blowing Rock Town Council approved the project in early January 2013. After meeting with Jennifer Brown, Director of the Blowing Rock Parks and Recreation Department, the BRC Student Club and Blue Ridge Conservancy have a clear direction for the trail's future. The Student Club will begin organizing volunteer trail maintenance days this spring.

Appalachian Students Establish BRC Student Club

Appalachian State University and Blue Ridge Conservancy will begin a new partnership this semester as students from over 15 majors within the University have banded together to start the BRC Campus Chapter.

The club not only seeks to raise awareness of BRC as an organization, but also to discuss the importance of land conservation in the High Country.



“We are very excited to have these students as advocates and representatives of Blue Ridge Conservancy on Appalachian’s campus,” said Rob McCorkindale, BRC Director of Development and Communications. “The passion they show for land conservation and their diverse skill sets are a great resource and we are thrilled to partner with them.”

The club has already adopted its first project, the Glen Burney Trail in Blowing Rock, a 3.2-mile trail along New Year’s Creek including three sets of falls—the Cascades, Glen Burney Falls and Glen Marie Falls. The club will also



Photos courtesy of Blue Ridge Conservancy Student Club

be helping F.A.R.M Café with upkeep of one of their local gardens. F.A.R.M. Café is a local nonprofit restaurant providing Food to All Regardless of Means. The half-acre area is protected by BRC under a conservation easement and is located behind the Original Mast General Store. Club officers have also begun to brainstorm additional responsibilities for the chapter including the utilization of student talents such as photography, trail building and trail maintenance, writing, and event planning.



Mary Beth McDowell, the founder and President of BRC Campus Chapter, is a public relations major studying nonprofits and learned about BRC through a class project.

“After completing a class project for Blue Ridge Conservancy last spring, I knew it was an organization I wanted to work with in my time at Appalachian,” said McDowell. “There are so many students at Appalachian who want to get involved in land conservation but simply do not know where to start. Our goal as a club is to give them an outlet to do so.”

F.A.R.M. Café Partners With Original Mast General Store on Organic Garden

In December 2012, Susan Owen of F.A.R.M. (Feed All Regardless of Means) Café and a team of ASU student volunteers started site preparations behind the Original Mast General Store in Valle Crucis to build a garden to supply food to the F.A.R.M. Café. This half-acre area, which is permanently protected by Blue Ridge Conservancy under a conservation easement, will become the site of the F.A.R.M. Café sustainable garden.

When F.A.R.M. Café began looking for a garden site, Mary Wood, manager of the Original Mast General Store, suggested they consider a half-acre site beyond the store's parking lot. "Ideal soil and a perfect flat layout made it a logical site for the garden," said Susan Owen, Garden Manager at F.A.R.M. Café.

John and Faye Cooper of Mast General Store donated 800 packets of heirloom and organic seeds for the garden. "With help from ASU student volunteers, we will start the seeds this spring in the basement of the F.A.R.M. Café," said Susan Owen. "The starter plants will then be



Photo courtesy of Susan Owen

planted after the last frost in May."

Katie Trozzo, Blue Ridge Conservancy AmeriCorps Member, is assisting with the permaculture design of the half-acre garden. The garden is funded by grants from Heifer International and Seeds of Change.

Gayle Stott Lowery: Forever Protected

In 2012, BRC was honored to have North Carolina-based artist Gayle Stott Lowery paint 19 of our protected properties. After a private showing at the home of BRC board member, Susan Hambright and her husband Bob, the paintings were showcased during the fall semester at



the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University. Ms.

Lowery made a generous gift to BRC from the proceeds of the paintings sold, and we are incredibly

grateful for the support of influential artists like her. Gayle said of the project:

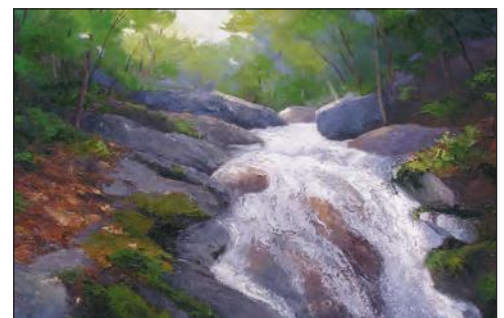
For some time, my deep concerns over changes in the environment have informed my artwork. The theme of living with uncertainty and forces beyond our control, on a personal and collective level, has been the impetus for my recent series of landscape paintings. Though the imagery varies according to my thoughts, imagination or travels, it is usually an exploration of the enormous effect that change and loss have on the environment depicted and those within it.

Safeguarding our land and preserving natural space is critical, especially considering the toll that development and

pollution are taking. Over the last forty-six years of residing and traveling in North Carolina, I have become aware of our state's extensive natural resources and the enormity of the task of preserving them. Thus, when approached by Walter Clark about a joint project with the Blue Ridge Conservancy, I was immediately interested.

During 2011 and 2012, I visited numerous properties held in trust by the Conservancy in order to experience, sketch and photograph the land. Depicting a variety seasons, times of day and atmospheric conditions was a goal. Light played an important role and I tried to capture the spirit and the mystery of each particular place I chose to paint.

Visiting and painting these lands that will be forever protected has been a rewarding experience for me. I hope that my paintings capture the essence and expansive beauty of this valuable part of our state and help raise funds and awareness for the Blue Ridge Conservancy and its mission.





Stickboy Mayview Madness 5K and Fun Run



Photos courtesy of Lynn Willis

The 2012 Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5k & Fun Run was the largest in its 13-year history with more than 320 runners. We hope to double that number in 2013!

More than 130 supporters of land protection gathered at historic Camp Sky Ranch to enjoy great food and wine and to bid on unique and locally-produced merchandise and services.



Gamekeeper Winetasting & Auction





Old Orchard Creek Farm in Ashe County once again hosted Blue Ridge Conservancy's annual Blueberry Festival. The summer sun (and a little rain), ripe blueberries, friends, music, and good food made for a wonderful afternoon of fun on behalf of land protection in northwest North Carolina.

Blueberry Festival

2012 Events

See the back of the newsletter for 2013 event dates. Email rob@blueridgeconservancy.org for sponsorship opportunities.

Christmas Tree Choose & Cut

Photos by BRC Staff



Thanks to everyone who came out to Old Orchard Creek Farm to celebrate the holidays with Blue Ridge Conservancy.

Blue Ridge Conservancy Earns National Recognition

Blue Ridge Conservancy has achieved land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

“Blue Ridge Conservancy’s accredited status demonstrates our commitment to permanent land conservation that benefits the entire community,” said Walter Clark, Executive Director. “Our land trust is a stronger organization today having gone through the rigorous accreditation program.”

Blue Ridge Conservancy was awarded accreditation this February and is one of only 201 land trusts from across the country that has been awarded accreditation since the fall of 2008. Accredited land trusts display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

“This round of accreditation decisions represents another significant milestone for the accreditation program; the 201 accredited land trusts account for half of the 20,645,165 acres currently owned in fee or protected by a conservation easement held by a land trust,” said Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. “Accreditation provides the public with an assurance that, at the time of accreditation, land trusts meet high standards for quality and that the results of their conservation work are permanent.”

Each accredited land trust submitted extensive

documentation and underwent a rigorous review. “Through accreditation land trusts conduct important planning and make their operations more efficient and strategic,” said Van Ryn. “Accredited organizations have engaged and trained citizen conservation leaders and improved systems for ensuring that their conservation work is permanent.”

According to the Land Trust Alliance, conserving land helps ensure clean air and drinking water; safe, healthy food; scenic landscapes and views; recreational places; and habitat for the diversity of life on earth. In addition to health and food benefits, conserving land increases property values near protected areas, saves tax dollars by encouraging more efficient development, and reduces the need for expensive water filtration facilities. Across the country, local citizens and

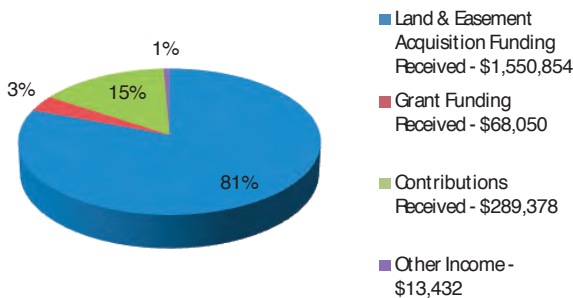
communities have come together to form more than 1,700 land trusts to save the places they love. Community leaders in land trusts throughout the country have worked with willing landowners to save over 47 million acres of farms, forests, parks and places people care about, including land transferred to public agencies and protected via other means.

“Blue Ridge Conservancy is proud to display the accreditation seal. It provides assurance to our current and future clients that the conservancy operates under the highest standards,” said Clark.

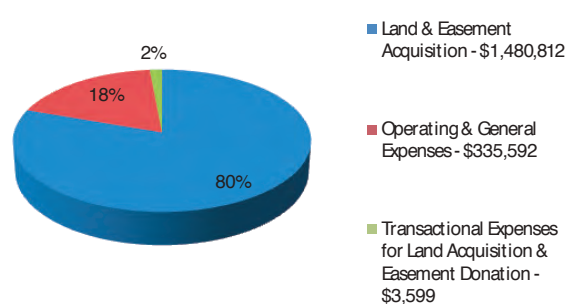


BRC FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2012

INCOME



EXPENSES



BRC SHIRTS AND HATS

One of Blue Ridge Conservancy’s most committed supporters is M-Prints Screenprinting and Embroidery shop in downtown Boone. Stuart Mangum is a community-minded business owner.

M-Prints helped us produce top-quality embroidered hats and screenprinted shirts. Order your hat or shirt—or both!—by calling us at 828-264-2511 or visiting our website at www.blueridgeconservancy.org. There are women’s and men’s sizes and various colors available. The cost for a hat or t-shirt is only \$15.



Looking Toward the Future

At Blue Ridge Conservancy we greatly value the generosity of our donors, members and friends. Your donations and membership dues support BRC's work to permanently protect the agricultural, cultural and natural resources of northwest North Carolina.

Over the last few years the economy has been difficult for individuals, businesses and for non-profits like BRC. We need your help! **Please consider a gift to BRC.** In addition to a direct contribution you may want to consider a planned gift.

A planned or legacy gift provides another way for donors to give to charitable organizations. Some donors choose to name their favorite organizations in their wills. Others name non-profit organizations as beneficiaries of life insurance policies. Others donate land which can be used as a liquid asset—often with perpetual easements attached—to benefit the long term financial needs of the organization. There are a variety of sophisticated financial tools that allow donors to accommodate their personal financial needs—and those of their heirs—while at the same time supporting their favorite charitable organizations.



Thank You Blue Ridge Conservancy Sponsors!

A great year of events has brought another great group of event sponsors. Blue Ridge Conservancy's events are important to sustaining our future. Land Trust Day, Stick Boy Mayview Madness, and The Gamekeeper Wine Tasting and Auction, along with our series of hikes, give our supporters the opportunity to meet us and their fellow BRC supporters while enjoying fun and active events.

A special thanks to our event sponsors. Those sponsors who participate in multiple events **bold green:**

1861 Farmhouse
Appalachian Dental Care
Bald Guy Brew
Black Cat Burrrito
Blue Mountain Metal Works
Blue Ridge Anglers
Bohemia Coffee Shop
Boone Bike and Touring
Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
Brushy Mountain Water & Coffee
Cade's Mountain Farm
Com-Tech
DeWolfson
Dilly's Café & Candle Shop
Footsloggers
Fred's General Mercantile
Gamekeeper
Green Mother Goods
Hawk's Nest Zipline
High Meadows Golf and Country Club
Inn at Little Pond Farm
Inn at Yonahlossee
Katie Langley Photography
Linville River Pottery
Lynn Willis Photography
M-Prints
Magic Cycles
Mast General Store

Melanie's Food Fantasy
Miss Match
Mountain Aire Golf Club
Mountain Outfitters
Old Orchard Creek Farm
Organic Hair Design
Our Daily Bread
Peabody's Wine & Beer Merchants
Pepper's Restaurant
Pilot's Landing- Ocracoke Island
Proper Restaurant
Red Onion
Reid's Catering
River & Earth Adventures
RiverGirl
Road ID
Rock Dimensions Climbing Guides
Steve Duprey & Steve Wylie
Stick Boy Bread Company
Sugar Mountain Café
Sunrise Grill
TApp Room
The Car Wash
The Children's Playhouse
The Saddle Club at Yonahlossee
Venture Properties
Westglow Resort & Spa
ZAP Fitness

Please stop in and thank our sponsors by shopping with them or using their services. **If you are interested in sponsoring a BRC event, please contact Rob at 828.264.2511 or rob@blueridgeconservancy.org.**



**BLUE RIDGE
CONSERVANCY**
SAVING THE PLACES YOU LOVE



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boone, NC
Permit No. 129

P.O. Box 568
Boone, NC 28607

BRC 2013 EVENT SCHEDULE

- Saturday, April 13 BRC Hike: YMCA/Herring Ridge, Wilkes County
- Saturday, May 18 BRC Hike: Bear Paw State Natural Area
- Saturday, June 1 Land Trust Day
- Wednesday, June 5 Gamekeeper Auction and Wine/Beer Tasting
- Saturday, June 22 BRC Hike: Beech Creek Bog
- Wednesday, June 26 BRC Hike: Kids In Nature - Boone United Trail
- Wednesday, July 24 BRC Hike: Kids In Nature - Glen Burney Trail
- Saturday, August 17 BRC Hike: Pond Mountain/Michael & Virginia Tate Farm
- Saturday, September 21 Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5k, Blowing Rock
- Saturday, September 28 BRC Hike: Bullhead Mountain/Hawk Watch
- Saturday, October 12 BRC Hike: Elk Knob State Park

For more details and information, please go to www.blueridgeconservancy.org



Find Blue Ridge Conservancy on Facebook and Twitter! Come by our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter for beautiful photos of conservation areas, info on upcoming BRC hikes and events, and up-to-date news on how we're saving the places you love in northwestern North Carolina. If you support our work, be sure to hit the 'Like' button and recommend our page to your Facebook friends.



PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO WE CAN KEEP YOU UP TO DATE | Email us at info@blueridgeconservancy.org