

BLUE RIDGE CONSERVANCY

SAVING THE PLACES YOU LOVE

2014

KIDS IN NATURE HIKE BOONE UNITED TRAIL



Photo by BRC Staff

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. Due to the tremendous success of the **Kids In Nature** Hikes in 2013, we will once again offer KIN Hikes on the Boone United Trail in Boone and the Glen Burney Trail in Blowing Rock. New for 2014, we will host a farm tour at the ASU Sustainable Development Farm and a Sunset Hike at Elk Knob State Park. Check out our website at www.blueridgeconservancy.org for more details and to RSVP. Visit page 13 to see our full hike schedule.

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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.



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From the Executive Director

Last year was a milestone for Blue Ridge Conservancy! In February the Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded BRC the certificate of accreditation. According to the Commission, accreditation is a mark of distinction in land conservation recognizing organizations for “meeting national standards for excellence, upholding the public trust and ensuring that conservation efforts are permanent. Our board of directors and staff believe that this achievement lays a solid foundation on which BRC will continue to grow in meeting our mission of protecting land and water resources in northwest North Carolina.

And speaking of meeting our mission, BRC added 572 new protected acres in 2013 bringing our total lands protected to 17,425 acres! Many of our newly protected lands expand and enhance existing conservation properties by adding public access, protecting the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, expanding farmland and protecting water quality. Much of our success is through collaboration with conservation partners. In that regard, we are particularly grateful to Fred and Alice Stanback for their dedication to making North Carolina a better place to live and work. We are also grateful to the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, the NC Natural Heritage Program, NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

BRC now stewards 170 properties annually and makes a concerted effort to introduce all of our protected lands to supporters and the general public. In 2013 BRC sponsored eight hikes giving 183 people an opportunity to have a first-hand look at the results of our work. We also led two “Kids in Nature” hikes introducing 35 kids to the great outdoors. Looking ahead to 2014, BRC will sponsor eight hikes, two Kids in Nature hikes and add a new twist with a visit to the ASU Sustainable Development Farm in Ashe County.

But, we are not resting on our laurels. There are several significant conservation projects in the pipeline for 2014 including an exciting new project – the Middle Fork Greenway - which will connect Boone and Blowing Rock with a walking and biking trail. In late 2013, BRC received a private leadership donation to hire an executive director for the greenway effort. We were fortunate to hire Ann Browning who brings years of greenway experience as the former director of the Carolina Thread Trail.

And finally, BRC has four outstanding new board members to help ensure our success for 2014 and beyond. Welcome Ann Browning, Cobb Milner, Zika Rea and Larry Trivette. Of course much of the success that BRC has already achieved comes from past leadership and we are so grateful to our retiring board members many of whom were founding members of the conservancy. Thank you Ed Shuford, Bob Cherry, Millie Barbee, Allen Moseley, Fred Pfohl, Mike Salzano and Chuck Smith.

And a special thanks to you, our supporters. You are the backbone of our work!

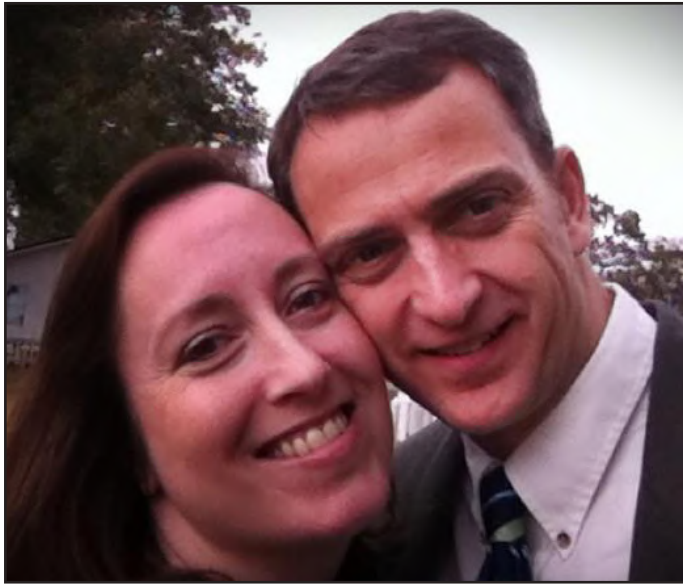


Photo courtesy of Katie Langley

Warmest regards,
Walter Clark

Meet Lynette and Philip Holman

2013 Volunteers of the Year



Congratulations to Lynette and Philip Holman who were named the first recipients of the annual BRC Volunteers of the Year Award. Lynette, an Assistant Professor of Journalism at ASU, charged her Multimedia Storytelling class with creating a series of videos about BRC that can be viewed on BRC's website. Philip, Marketing Director at Charleston Forge, redesigned the Conservancy's membership brochure and recorded aerial footage of some of BRC's protected properties.

"It's always a good feeling to be able to be involved in your community and to feel like you are contributing," said Lynette. "But it means so much more when it is a cause you really believe in. To expose students to

something as important as land conservation at the same time just adds value."

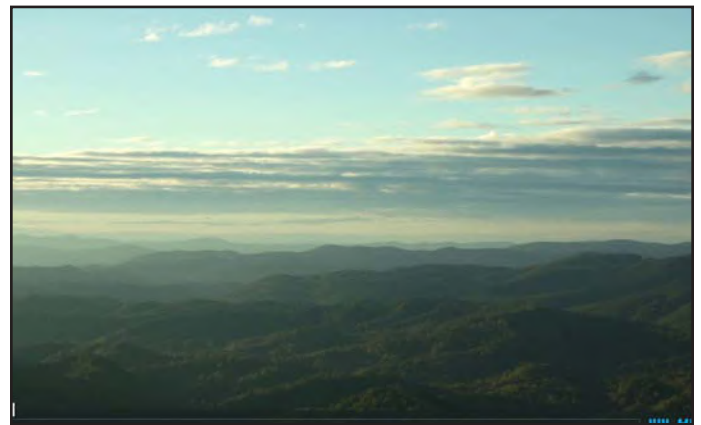
Philip said he was excited when he first learned there was an organization like BRC to help conserve land.

"I still recall meeting Rob McCorkindale and learning about the work that BRC does," said Philip. "I literally felt relief when I learned that there is a group working to conserve the outdoor beauty that makes this area so special."

One of the reasons the Holmans chose to move to the High Country is the outdoor and recreational activities the area offers. Raising their two children, ages 13 and 9, with an appreciation of the natural world was an important part of their decision to move here.

The Holmans said one of the reasons that they bought the house where they currently live is because it backs up to the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Mountains to Sea Trail. As well as exploring the creeks along the MST behind their house, the Holmans enjoy camping, hiking, tubing on the New River, skiing and a lot of cycling.

"It's a challenge for communities such as ours to strike a balance between keeping the land accessible while at the same time protecting it from overdevelopment and overuse," said Philip. "Being able to live in the High Country is great, it's so important to have an organization like BRC helping people and nature for generations to come."



In addition to Philip's ambitious re-design of the BRC membership brochure, he also shot footage of BRC's protected lands for Lynette's videos from a prop plane (screenshot above). Check out the videos at www.blueridgeconservancy.org

Land Protection & Stewardship Highlights | 2013

BRC had a successful year in conserving land in western North Carolina. We completed 12 significant projects, the majority of which expanded upon our existing conservation lands. With the NC Conservation Tax Credit being eliminated at the end of 2013, BRC saw a spike in conservation easement donations from landowners wanting to take advantage of the credit.

Blue Ridge Parkway Partnership

The Blue Ridge Parkway is “America’s Favorite Drive” and BRC is working together with other land trusts to ensure its protection. In 2013, BRC partnered with the Conservation Trust for N.C. on two conservation easement projects that protected one mile of land bordering the Parkway in Alleghany County. John and Deborah Sherrill donated a conservation easement on property adjacent to the old Bluffs Coffee Shop in Doughton Park. The Sherrills graze cattle and use the two ponds on their property for recreation. Two miles north along the Parkway, the Blickenstaff family donated a conservation easement on a forested tract of land that contains headwater springs to Brush Creek and high-quality, northern hardwood forest. Both properties protect wildlife habitat and scenic views. Transaction costs associated with the project were funded by the Conservation Trust for North Carolina’s “Money in the Ground” grant program.

Bear Paw State Natural Area

BRC spearheaded the acquisition of 28 acres of land providing access to the Bear Paw State Natural Area. This property was the missing link in providing the public with parking and access to hiking trails at Bear Paw SNA. The property features two historic cabins, one dating back to the Civil War. With elevations reaching 4,800 feet, Bear Paw SNA totals 383 acres of ecologically significant land containing mature northern hardwood forests and the headwaters of Dutch Creek. The N.C. Natural Heritage

Program ranked Bear Paw as “Outstanding,” the highest rank for a Significant Natural Heritage Area. Future plans for public access are being developed by NC State Parks. We appreciate Fred and Alice Stanback and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for providing funding for the project.



Photo by Rob McCorkindale

Pond Mountain Game Lands

Following up on two successful acquisitions in 2012, BRC purchased an additional 90 acres to be added to Pond Mountain Game Lands. The Croasum property borders the Truth Temple property purchased by BRC in 2012. This shared boundary runs along a ridge that now extends from the bottom to the top of Pond Mountain. The Croasum property protects 2,700 feet of an unnamed tributary of Big Laurel Creek, a hatchery-supported, public mountain trout water. BRC will transfer the property to the Wildlife Resources Commission to be enjoyed by the public for hunting, hiking, bird watching and horseback riding. Funding for the acquisition was generously provided by Fred and Alice Stanback.

E. C. Griffith Conservation Easement

BRC’s largest project in 2013 was the 287-acre Griffith conservation easement in Linville, N.C. Used as a mountain retreat, the property has been in the Griffith family for



Photo courtesy of Lukas Burgher

several generations. After the hurricanes in 2004, the West Fork of the Linville River that flows through the property was restored to enhance the trout habitat. The property features high mountain meadows and mixed oak forest, providing habitat for various wildlife species. Its size and location provides scenic view protection from the surrounding area. Funding for the transaction costs were provided by the landowner and the Conservation Trust for North Carolina’s “Money in the Ground” grant program.

Wilson Property

Arthur and Betty Wilson generously donated 5.75 acres of land in Valle Crucis to BRC. The property features open pastures and a barn dating back to the 1940s. Owner Betty Wilson said, “We have many wonderful memories of the time we have spent in Valle Crucis through the years and we actively support the Blue Ridge Conservancy’s mission of protecting the natural resources and the agricultural heritage of northwestern North Carolina.”

Expanding Existing Conservation Easements

In 2013, BRC expanded three existing conservation easements. Wade and Kathy Reece added land to their conservation easement along the Watauga River - land that otherwise would have become a subdivision. The Reeces have now protected over 40 acres in Valle Crucis. In December, two Alleghany County conservation easements were expanded. Frances Huber added land to her Animal Welfare Approved Brush Creek Farm. As a sidenote, Frances was the runner-up in the 2013 North Carolina Outstanding Conservation Farm Family award. In 2002, Joe Vogel donated a conservation easement on his property along the east side of Waterfall Creek that contains a beautiful cascading waterfall. Since then, Dr. Vogel purchased land and has added a conversation easement along the west side of the creek, permanently protecting both sides of the waterfall.

17,425
acres protected
in
195
places



Photo by Rob McCorkindale

BRC Staff monitors
170
properties each year

What Do The New Trustees Have To Say?

"We have a responsibility to protect our natural resources, beautiful landscapes and recreational lands for generations to come. It's a pleasure and privilege to get to work with the wonderful people affiliated with BRC, all of whom share a passion for land conservation in the High Country."

- Ann Browning



Photo courtesy of Judi Brown

"I have been a resident and a business owner in the North Carolina High Country for 14 years. I was drawn to this area for its endless network of trails and parks as well as the opportunity to live a quality life amidst this natural beauty. I have always had a great deal of admiration for the work the BRC does to preserve the natural beauty which draws so many to our area. I am excited to continue this great work as a member of the BRC Board."

- Zika Rea

New Faces at BRC

Welcome Ben Lucas - Associate Director of Land Protection and Stewardship



Photo by Laura Boggess

Ben, a native of Roanoke, Virginia, has called the High Country home for the last 12 years. Before coming to BRC, Ben spent seven years with the National Committee for the New River where, as a Land Protection Coordinator, he worked to permanently protect critical lands in the New River Watershed of North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. Ben earned his B.S. in geography with a concentration in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from Appalachian State University, a degree that inspired him to pursue a career in conservation. He became passionate about the

outdoors at an early age and grew up paddling, fishing, hunting, skiing, camping and hiking in southern Appalachia. When Ben is not working with BRC, you can find him guiding fishing trips for Rock on Charters, a full-service fishing charter in the High Country and southwest Virginia.

Meet AmeriCorps Member Laura Boggess



Photo courtesy of Laura Boggess

BRC welcomes Laura Boggess as our AmeriCorps Land Protection Associate for 2013-2014. Born and raised on her family's farm in western North Carolina, Laura is a biologist, adventurer and climber whose greatest passion is exploring nature, and then working to

understand and conserve it. Laura was a Peace Corps Volunteer in rural Guatemala, where she helped small communities preserve their forests through ecotourism initiatives. Prior to her time with the Peace Corps, Laura studied biology and environmental science as a Morehead-Cain scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While at UNC, she traveled to Asia, South America, Eastern Europe and the South Pacific to work in conservation and outreach. She spent her time in graduate school at Appalachian State University, exploring cliff ecosystems throughout the Southeast with Dr. Gary Walker and Dr. Mike Madritch, and enjoying fantastic rock-climbing in Boone. She is delighted to be working at Blue Ridge Conservancy, putting her passion for conservation to work in the mountains she loves.

Laura 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 nonprofit organizations, community groups, and local governments to provide service throughout the region.

BRC Welcomes Four New Trustees



Ann Browning is a native North Carolinian, having grown up in High Point. Ann's first career in banking spanned 23 years with Bank of America. When Ann chose to pursue a second career, she wanted to focus her efforts on preserving the natural resources and character of her native North Carolina. She became involved with the Catawba Lands Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land in Charlotte. When the Carolina Thread Trail, a 15-county initiative to connect trails, open space and regional attractions, was being planned, she joined as the first full time staff person. As the Carolina Thread Trail Director, Ann worked on community outreach, branding, public and private fund raising, and the development and oversight of The Thread's community grants program. Ann retired after seven wonderful years with The Thread to spend more time in the mountains and in Davidson, N.C. She sees land conservation as a critical element in ensuring that the High Country remains a healthy and attractive place to visit, work, and play.



Cobb Milner, and his wife Cindy, own and operate Gideon Ridge Inn, Bistro Roca and the New Public House & Hotel in Blowing Rock. A resident of the High Country since 1992, Cobb has an engineering degree from Union College (NY) and an MBA from the University of Chicago. In 1994, Cobb and Cindy took over control of Gideon Ridge where, working with Cobb's parents, they expanded the operation and started the Restaurant at Gideon Ridge. In 2005, they bought and renovated the former Antlers Bar property and started Bistro Roca and in 2013, they bought and renovated the former Sunshine Inn property and started the New Public House & Hotel. Since 2008, Gideon Ridge has hosted the summer meeting and reception of the Conservation Trust for North Carolina. In 2014, Cobb joined the board of directors of the Blue Ridge Conservancy. Cobb is an avid cyclist and he loves hiking, snow skiing, traveling and living in Blowing Rock.



Zika (Janes) Rea is the President and Co-Founder of the ZAP Fitness Foundation and Director of ZAP Fitness. Zika and her late husband, Andy Palmer, moved to Blowing Rock in 2002 and founded the running focused nonprofit. ZAP Fitness is a training center for Elite Runners and includes programs and running camps for recreational runners. While the ZAP facilities were being built in 2002, Zika earned a master's degree in Exercise Science from Appalachian State University. Zika originally hails from the suburbs of St. Louis and she attended Emory University where she earned a B.S. in Biology. Zika lives in Blowing Rock with her husband Pete Rea who is the Elite Athlete Coach and Coordinator at ZAP Fitness. They have two children.



Larry Trivette is a High Country native who grew up in Todd, N.C., just outside of Boone. Larry is an avid outdoorsman with interests that include backpacking, trail running, hunting, and fly-fishing. During his 32-year career in the N.C. State Park system, Larry spent more than 20 years at Stone Mountain and Morrow Mountain State Parks. In 2004, Larry became the first permanent superintendent of Elk Knob State Park where he led a five-year effort to build an all-volunteer constructed trail to the summit of Elk Knob. The 1.9-mile trail is one of the most scenic and well-built trails in the High Country. Larry currently lives in Todd and he travels often to visit his three daughters all of whom work for various park systems throughout the country.

BRC In The Community

BRC Provides Leadership for Middle Fork Greenway Initiative



Photo by BRC Staff

BRC, in partnership with High Country Pathways, is leading an initiative to create a greenway linking Boone and Blowing Rock. The Middle Fork Greenway is a vision that was started and has been fostered by a dedicated group of citizens who see the greenway as a way to enhance recreational opportunities in the High County, while protecting its natural assets.

New BRC board member Ann Hayes Browning has joined the greenway effort as Interim Executive Director. Having recently retired as the Carolina Thread Trail Director, Browning brings experience in planning, funding and implementing greenways.

“Trails and greenways contribute so many positive characteristics to communities, including protecting our water supply and wildlife corridors, facilitating healthy activities, and enhancing economic vitality,” Browning said. “Great progress is being made by a wonderful group of community leaders, and I’m excited about joining in their efforts.”

Part of BRC’s mission is to protect recreational lands, and this project fits perfectly. In addition to staff leadership and office space, BRC will be providing land acquisition expertise and fundraising support.

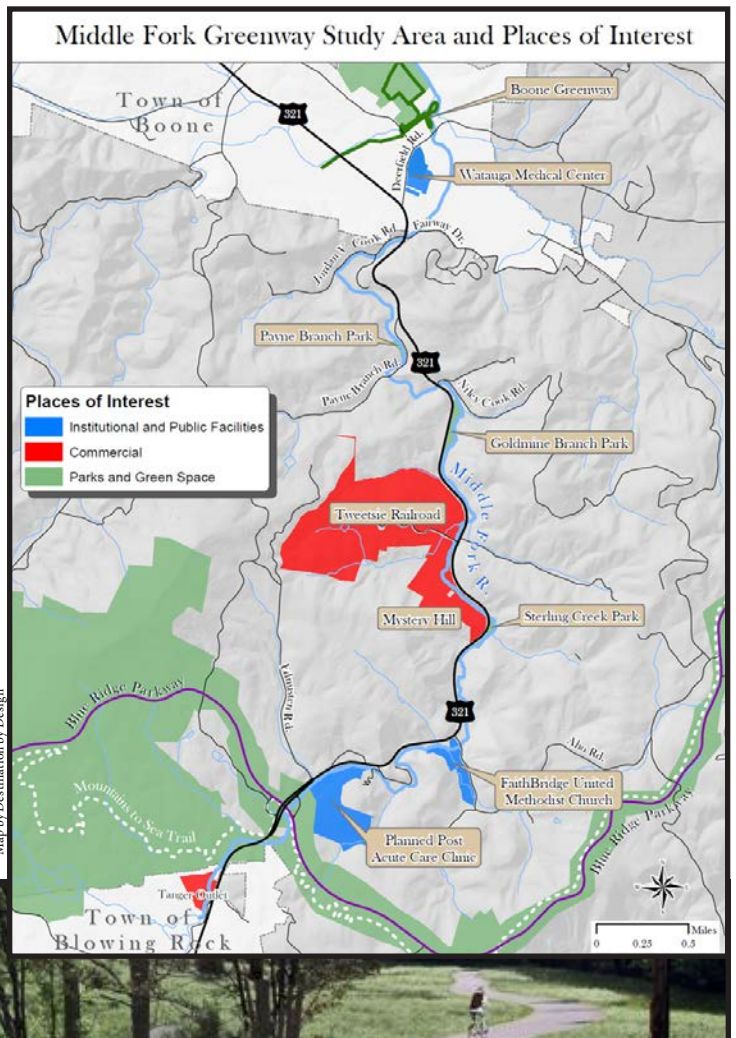


Image by Destination by Design





Photo by Rob McCorkindale - Pond Mountain

Appalachian Studies Graduate Students to Document Oral Histories of BRC Easement Donors



Photos by Rob McCorkindale

The BRC Oral History Project started in early 2013 with our first Appalachian Studies intern, Cary Curlee (pictured above-left with a conservation easement donor). The purpose of the Oral History Project is to document the family and land histories of our conservation easement donors. BRC’s donors include tenant farmer families dating back to the early 19th century as well as recipients of large land grants from the mid-18th century.

BRC is excited to welcome to the BRC Oral History Project, Forrest Yerman, a graduate student in the Appalachian Studies program at Appalachian State University. A native of Avery County, Forrest has a deep interest in the history and culture of our region. He will be conducting and recording video interviews with some of our easement donors.

Last September, BRC’s Rob McCorkindale conducted a workshop about the project at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in New Orleans. The workshop focused on the importance of capturing the stories behind the easements and how to document an oral history. Land trusts around the country hope to conduct their own oral history projects modeled on BRC’s program.

ASU Professor Conducts Local Flora Plant Identification Course on Protected BRC Properties



Photos courtesy of Andrew Jenkins

Appalachian State University biology professor Andrew Jenkins held plant identification field trips to several of BRC’s protected properties in June. Professor Jenkins approached BRC in the fall of 2012 with the idea of taking students to lands that are not typically open to the public.

“We saw this as an

opportunity to open our private lands to local students and allow them to connect with the land,” said Eric Hiegl, BRC Director of Land Protection and Stewardship.

Professor Jenkins said his students encountered

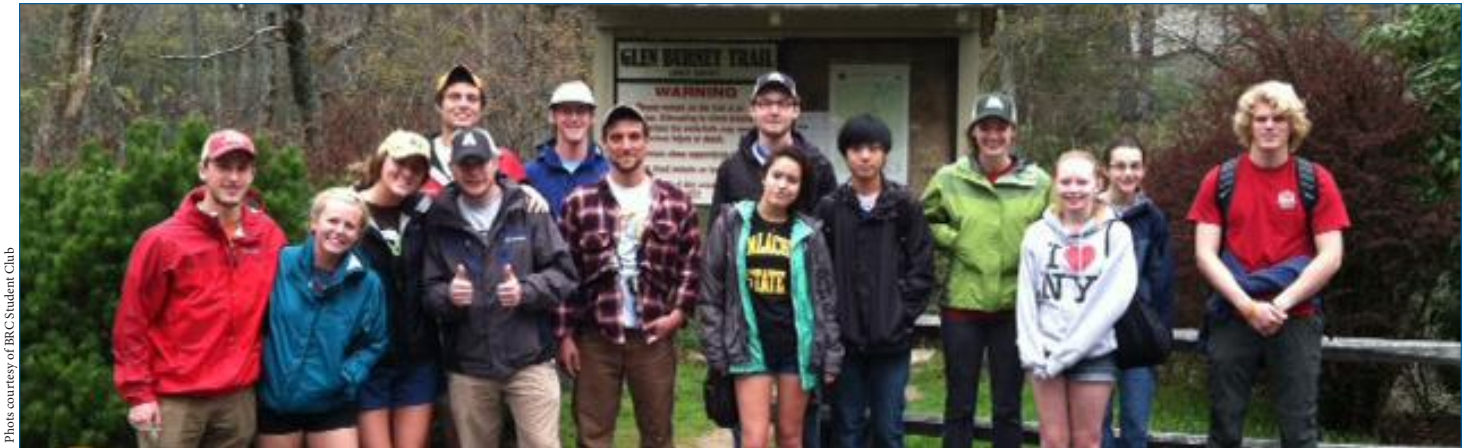


some hard-to-find flora and he hopes to plan more trips in the future.

“The neighbors at Yarnall Knob gave a few of my students’ walking sticks, and spoke very highly of BRC and the property,” said Jenkins. “We saw Pink Lady Slipper Orchids up there.”

During the BRC summer hike series, you’re likely to have Professor Jenkins and/or Dr. Steward Skeate of Lees-McRae College guiding your hike. Sign up today!

ASU BRC Student Club Continues Mission



Photos courtesy of BRC Student Club

Founded in early 2013, the Blue Ridge Conservancy ASU Student Club has set in motion several community projects in the High Country. Representing 15 majors,



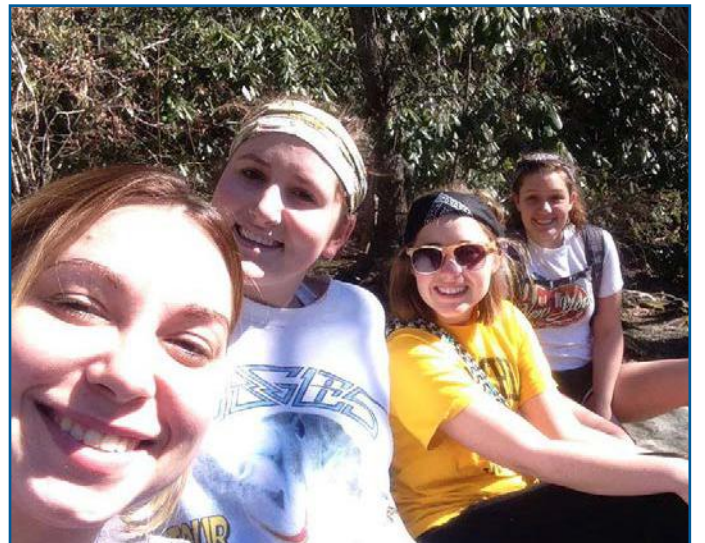
members have a lot to offer Boone and the surrounding communities. One of their signature projects is the adoption of the Glen Burney Trail in Blowing Rock. The club holds several trail clean-ups each year and they are installing seven trail signs along the 1.6-mile trail this spring. The trail signs were generously donated by Cobb

and Cindy Milner of Blowing Rock.

“The existing trail signs were either damaged or gone,” said Madelyn Matthews, BRC Student Club President. “We were excited to hear that the Town of Blowing Rock accepted our request to adopt the trail. It’s the best kept secret in Blowing Rock and we want the community to hear about it.”



The club is also working with BRC on a permaculture garden project in the community of Foscoe near Boone. The 1.7-acre property is owned by Blue Ridge Conservancy. Several club members are collaborating with BRC staff, community members, and the Watauga County Agricultural Extension office to have the garden ready by early summer. In addition to their work off-campus, the club is also participating in clean-ups on the Appalachian State University Nature Preserve.



Seven new Glen Burney Trail signs were generously donated by Cobb and Cindy Milner of Blowing Rock. The student club will install the signs later this spring.



Appalachian State Students Produce Videos for BRC

During the 2013 fall semester, 17 students from Dr. Lynette Holman's Storytelling Media Class at ASU filmed and produced 17 separate 3-to-5 minute videos for BRC. The videos include featurettes on board members, staff, easement donors, and the BRC Student Club. Check out the videos at www.blueridgeconservancy.org.



Photo by Rob McCorkindale

BRC is Preserving Habitat for the Virginia Big-Eared Bat

BRC staff and researchers from Indiana State University, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, NC State Parks, NC Department of Transportation, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife are working to protect Virginia big-eared bat habitat in Watauga County, N.C. The only place in North Carolina where this state and federally endangered species can be found is on Grandfather Mountain and Beech Mountain. Blue Ridge Conservancy has contacted owners of several large tracts of land surrounding the bat maternity roost (where baby bats are born) on Beech Mountain. Eric Hiegl, Blue Ridge Conservancy's Land Protection and Stewardship Director, is optimistic that funding will be available for these large tracts in the near future. Habitat protection is a critical part of BRC's mission.



Photos by Laura Boggess

BRC Begins Site Clearing for Garden in Foscoe, N.C.



Photo by Wendy Patoprsty

Blue Ridge Conservancy staff, a team of ASU student volunteers, and AmeriCorps Project Conserve members began site preparations on a 1.7-acre property located on the Watauga River in the Sleepy Hollow community of Foscoe as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

BRC acquired the property in 2002 when Cliff and Ann Bridges donated it to BRC to ensure the land would remain permanently undeveloped. For several months, BRC's Land Protection Director, Eric Hiegl, has been working on a plan to clear the property and put a permaculture garden on the site. Eric is collaborating with Lauri Wilson, the Executive Director at Blue Ridge Seeds for Change and Sleepy Hollow resident, Wendy Patoprsty, an Extension Agent at the Watauga County NC Cooperative Extension, and "M" Mueller, a local citizen.

“Volunteers from the MLK Challenge picked up 2,880 lbs. of trash from this site that had the potential to leach or flow into the river during rain events.”

helps protect our valuable water resources so this was a good day for the river.”

This site will serve as a community-learning site, teaching people of all ages about land restoration, food cultivation, invasive species prevention, and the

importance of land.

“Conservancy land, especially small acreage in a convenient location like this, provides a setting where the community can be involved in maintaining and restoring the land.” said Blue Ridge Seeds of Change Executive Director Lauri Wilson. “This land has the potential of being a site for education on the importance, use and maintenance of land conserved for future generations.”

BRC plans to continue with major stewardship projects on their protected lands. “Stewardship of our protected lands is part of our mission at Blue Ridge Conservancy,” said Eric Hiegl, BRC's Director of Land Protection and Stewardship. “We feel this garden project will truly enhance the property as well as the surrounding community.”



Photo by Wendy Patoprsty

“It wasn't until we began digging a shallow trench to make a permaculture hugel from the downed trees that we realized how good the soil structure was,” said Mueller. “With careful cultivation and biodynamic or other organic inputs to further build up humus, the dry land should bear well.”

Volunteers cleaned up trash, cut brambles, and assisted with invasive species removal. BRC hopes to have the garden completely cleared and ready by early spring. GDS, Inc. donated dumpsters for the clean-up.



Photo by Laura Roggess

Let's Go For a Hike! BRC Hikes in 2014



Photo by BRC Staff

Saturday, April 26 • Stone Mountain Loop Trail

**Wednesday, June 18 • Kids In Nature Hike
Boone United Trail**

Saturday, June 21 • Bear Paw State Natural Area Hike

Wednesday, July 9 • Elk Knob Sunset Hike

**Wednesday, July 16 • ASU Sustainable Development
Farm Tour**

**Wednesday, July 23 • Kids In Nature Hike
Glen Burney Trail**

**Saturday, August 16 • Pond Mountain Hike
New Route for 2014!**

**Saturday, September 27 • Blue Ridge Parkway
Waterfall Hike & Hawk Watch**

Saturday, October 11 • Snake Mountain Hike



Photo by Judi Brown

Visit blueridgeconservancy.org to reserve your spot on one or more of our free public guided hikes!

Save The Date for BRC's 2014 Events



Photos by Lynn Willis



**BRC Gamekeeper Auction & Wine/Beer
Tasting Camp Sky Ranch
Wednesday, June 4**



**Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5k &
Kids 1-Mile Fun Run
Saturday, September 20**

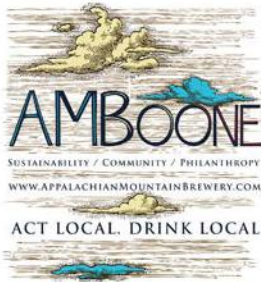
Visit www.blueridgeconservancy.org for more information

Thank You Newsletter Sponsors!



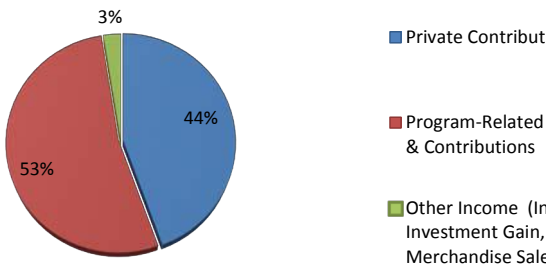
the **new**
public house & hotel

MAST SINCE 1883
GENERAL
STORE

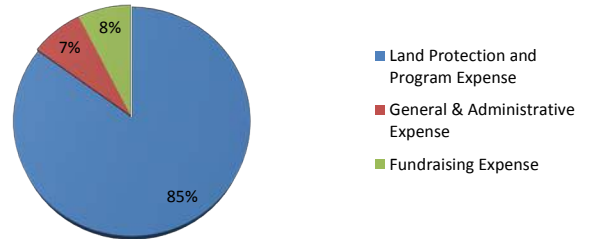


BRC FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2013

INCOME - \$1,383,279



EXPENSES - \$874,250



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.

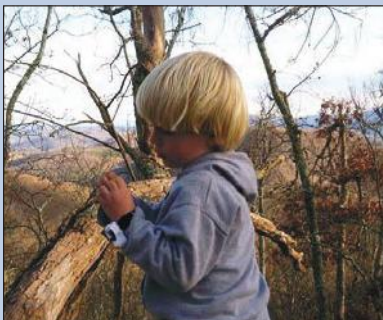


Looking Toward the Future

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 nonprofits 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 nonprofit 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.



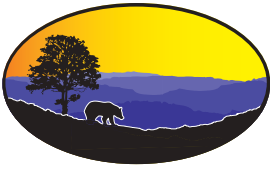
Thank You Blue Ridge Conservancy Sponsors!

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/Beer 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 are in **bold green**:

1861 Farmhouse
Appalachian Dental Care
Appalchian Mountain Brewery
Bald Guy Brew
Bistro Roca
Black Cat Burrito
Blue Mountain Metal Works
Blue Ridge Anglers
Bohemia Coffee Shop
Boondocks Brewing LLC
Boone Bike and Touring
Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
Brushy Mountain Water & Coffee
Cade's Mountain Farm
Camp Sky Ranch
DeWolfson
EarthFare
Events by Elizabeth Ashley
Footsloggers
Fred's General Mercantile
Gamekeeper
Green Mother Goods
Hawk's Nest Zipline
High Meadows Golf and Country Club
Inn at Little Pond Farm
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
The New Public House
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
Sky Valley Zip Tours
Steve Duprey & Steve Wylie
Stick Boy Bread Company
Stick Boy Kitchen
Sunrise Grill
TApp Room
The Children's Playhouse
Todd's Calendar
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.**



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BRC 2014 EVENT SCHEDULE

- Saturday, April 26 BRC Hike: Stone Mountain Loop Trail
- Wednesday, June 4 Gamekeeper Auction and Wine/Beer Tasting
- Saturday, June 7 Land Trust Day
- Wednesday, June 18 BRC Hike: Kids In Nature - Boone United Trail
- Saturday, June 21 BRC Hike: Bear Paw State Natural Area
- Wednesday, July 9 BRC Hike: Elk Knob Sunset Hike
- Wednesday, July 16 ASU Sustainable Development Farm Tour
- Wednesday, July 23 BRC Hike: Kids In Nature - Glen Burney Trail
- Saturday, August 16 BRC Hike: Pond Mountain - New Route for 2014!
- Saturday, September 20 Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5k & Kids 1-Mile Fun Run
- Saturday, September 27 Blue Ridge Parkway Waterfall Hike & Hawk Watch
- Saturday, October 11 BRC Hike: Snake Mountain

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

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.

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!



PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO WE CAN KEEP YOU UP TO DATE | [www.info@blueridgeconservancy.org](mailto:info@blueridgeconservancy.org)

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