

# BLUE RIDGE CONSERVANCY

SAVING THE PLACES YOU LOVE

2015

## BRC PUBLIC HIKE BEAR PAW STATE NATURAL AREA



Photo courtesy of Rick Short

## BLUE RIDGE CONSERVANCY CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SAVING THE PLACES YOU LOVE

Executive Director's Message . . . . 2  
BRC Volunteers of the Year . . . . . 3  
Land Protection Projects . . . . . 4-5  
Farewell Rob, Hello Nikki. . . . . 6

AMB Releases Elderberry Saison . 7  
BRC In The Community . . . . . 8-12  
BRC Hike Schedule . . . . . 13  
BRC Financial Summary . . . . . 14

Thank You M-Prints . . . . . 14  
Looking Toward The Future . . . . 15  
Sponsor Thank You . . . . . 15  
2015 Events. . . . . 16



### 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.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Virginia Tate  
*President*

Ann Baker  
*Vice President*

John Turner  
*Secretary*

Steve Wylie  
*Treasurer*

Christopher Benson  
Ann Browning  
Sonny Church  
Kelly Coffey  
John Cooper  
Susan Hambright  
Cobb Milner  
Meagan Phillips  
Zika Rea  
John Sherrill  
Larry Trivette

## STAFF

Walter Clark  
*Executive Director*

Ann Browning  
*Middle Fork Greenway  
Executive Director*

Eric Hiegl  
*Director of Land Protection  
and Stewardship*

Nicole Bauman  
*Communications and  
Outreach Associate*

Ben Lucas  
*Associate Director of Land  
Protection and Stewardship*

Maria Whaley  
*Director of Operations and  
Administration*

Blue Ridge Conservancy  
P.O. Box 568  
166 Furman Road, Suite C  
Boone, NC 28607  
828-264-2511  
[www.blueridgeconservancy.org](http://www.blueridgeconservancy.org)

## From the Executive Director

There is an expression that reads “a rising tide lifts all boats.” Although most famously attributed to John F Kennedy in a speech he made in 1963 to describe the benefits of an improving economy, the expression has meaning here at Blue Ridge Conservancy. As many of our long term members and supporters know, BRC was created in 2010 from a merger of two former land trusts that had similar missions and served the same geographic area. The driving force behind the merger was that strength can come when organizations work together to achieve similar or complimentary goals. Since our merger five years ago, BRC continues to seek partnerships that enhance our mission of permanently protecting land and water resources with agricultural, ecological, recreational and scenic value in northwest North Carolina. But in order to be successful, partnerships must benefit all participating organizations; in other words, “all boats must rise on the tide of collaboration.”

Perhaps our most visible new partnership is with local non-profit High Country Pathways ([www.highcountrypathways.org](http://www.highcountrypathways.org)). High Country Pathways was created with the mission of planning, developing and ensuring the stewardship of trails, greenways and blueways in the mountains of northwestern North Carolina. HCP’s most notable project, and the one that formed the basis for the partnership with BRC, is building the Middle Fork Greenway. The Middle Fork Greenway is a pedestrian and cycling trail along the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the New River. When complete it will connect Boone and Blowing Rock by 6.5 miles of greenway trail. The partnership joins BRC’s mission of protecting land for recreational purposes with HCP’s trail planning and construction expertise. We are delighted to have this partnership housed in our Boone office.

Blue Ridge Conservancy is also collaborating with three local communities to help protect land and water resources. We are working with the Valle Crucis Community Park ([www.vallecrucispark.com](http://www.vallecrucispark.com)) to acquire land. Three acres are being added to the park and will be used for environmental education, expansion of existing trails and to provide greater access to the Watauga River. We are also assisting the town of Lansing in Ashe County with a grant application to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund to acquire 55 acres along Big Horse Creek. This land will expand Lansing’s Creeper Trail and protect nearly 7,000 feet of stream bank along Big Horse Creek, a tributary of the New River. And lastly, BRC is partnering with Toe River Valley Watch, the NC Division of Water Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to restore a portion of Grassy Creek and construct the first portion of the Spruce Pine Greenway in Mitchell County.

Blue Ridge Conservancy is also continuing to look for ways to partner with other local land trusts to find opportunities to more efficiently and effectively protect and steward land. For example, last year BRC signed an agreement with the New River Conservancy, under which BRC assumed land protection responsibilities along the New River in North Carolina. This partnership allows the New River Conservancy to concentrate on stream restoration and river advocacy, areas in which it has strength and expertise, while eliminating some of the redundancy and duplication in land protection efforts in northwestern North Carolina. Under this arrangement both organizations should thrive and grow – again, “a rising tide lifts all boats.”



Photo courtesy of Katie Langley Photography

Warmest regards,  
*Walter Clark*

# Naturalists Stewart Skeate and Andrew Jenkins

## 2014 Volunteers of the Year



Dr. Stewart Skeate - Photo courtesy of Lynette Holman

Each year BRC presents an award to a volunteer who has provided exceptional service to BRC. This year that award is presented to two people and if you've ever attended one of BRC's nine public hikes offered each spring, summer, and fall, you have probably met one, or both, of BRC's 2014 Volunteer of the Year recipients. Blue Ridge Conservancy and our hike attendees have been very fortunate to have two of the most knowledgeable and entertaining naturalists in our region guide our hikes. Dr. Stewart Skeate of Lees McRae College and Drew Jenkins of Appalachian State University are loyal supporters of Blue Ridge Conservancy and have contributed countless hours toward making our public hikes the best in northwest North Carolina.

**Stewart Skeate** arrived in the High Country in 1985 after

receiving his Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Florida. Stewart is a Biology professor at Lees-McRae College and is the coordinator of the Wildlife Biology program and director of the LMC Elk Valley Preserve and Field Station. Stewart's professional interests revolve around the nature of the Southern Appalachians with a focus on community ecology. Stewart is the author of *A Nature Guide to Northwestern North Carolina* and lives with his family on a farm in the Cools Springs Community in Watauga County.

"My interest in volunteering with the Blue Ridge Conservancy is twofold," said Skeate. "Helping lead hikes is my way of giving support to an organization that is one of the most effective and important conservation groups in western North Carolina. Secondly, BRC hikes give me the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of other BRC supporters in some of my favorite nature locales. It is always a good time on BRC hikes."

**Drew Jenkins** hails from Herndon Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. Drew received his B.S. in Biology from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia in 2008 and later received his M.S. in Biology from Appalachian State University. Drew specializes in identifying plants of the Southern Appalachian area and currently works as a full-time adjunct instructor in the biology department at Appalachian State, where he teaches botany labs and classes on the local flora on BRC lands. In addition, Drew works in plant identification for EMB Environmental Management. "I enjoy reaching out to the public and teaching adults and children about plants. It feels great to be appreciated by those who participate in the BRC walks and are interested in knowing more about the plants and the natural communities," said Jenkins.

Stewart and Drew will be leading several of BRC's hikes in 2015. BRC is appreciative of their hard work and efforts in saving the places you love. Please visit to [www.blueridgeconservancy.org](http://www.blueridgeconservancy.org) to sign up for our hikes.

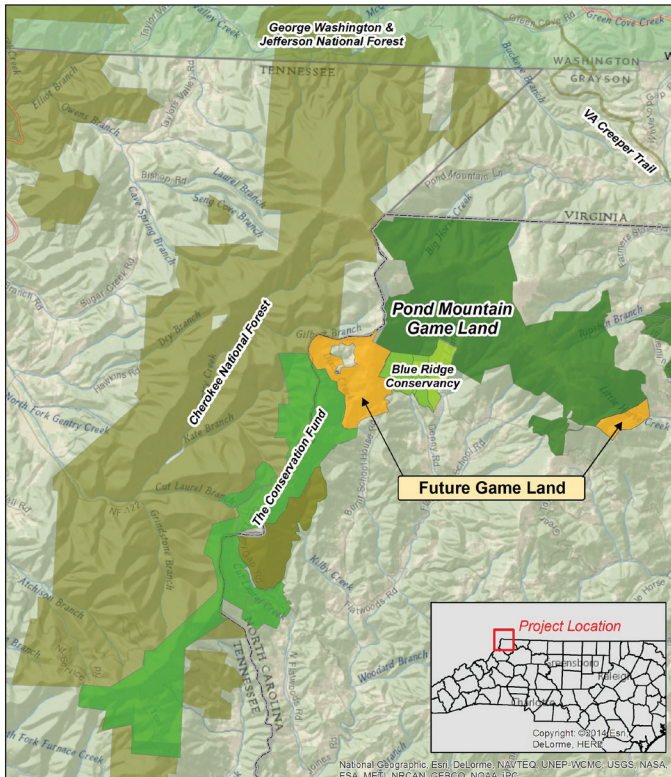


Andrew Jenkins - Photos by of BRC Staff





# Land Protection & Stewardship Highlights | 2014



## Pond Mountain Game Land Links to Cherokee National Forest

Blue Ridge Conservancy recently added more than 410 acres of protected land to the Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County, creating one of the largest public access game land properties in northwest North Carolina. Pond Mountain, which borders both Virginia and Tennessee has elevations up to 5,000 feet and is indeed a state treasure. Through a generous contribution from Fred & Alice Stanback, BRC purchased more than 340 acres adjoining the Cherokee National Forest and, after several years of negotiation with another property owner, added 71 acres to the eastern boundary of the Pond Mountain Game Land.

In 2008 Blue Ridge Conservancy partnered with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to create the Pond Mountain Game Land. Over the past seven years BRC has expanded the game land to encompass more than 2,800 acres. Pond Mountain contains the headwaters of Big Laurel Creek, Big Horse Creek and Little Horse Creek, all of which flow into the North Fork New River and are classified as Outstanding Resource Waters.

The acquisitions of these new properties protect several rare and threatened wildlife species including the native Southern Appalachian Brook Trout and the Golden-winged Warbler. The acquisitions also create a permanently protected corridor from the game land to the 650,000-acre Cherokee National Forest. At the same time, Pond Mountain Game Land expands public access, creating recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking and horseback riding. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission has made significant strides to accommodate public access by improving the gravel road to Pond Mountain's summit, creating new parking areas and establishing a primitive camping area. More upgrades are likely in the coming years including new hiking trails. These new amenities have the potential to breathe economic vitality into the northwest corner of North Carolina.

Funding partners have included the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Natural Heritage Trust Fund, Environmental Enhancement Grant Program,

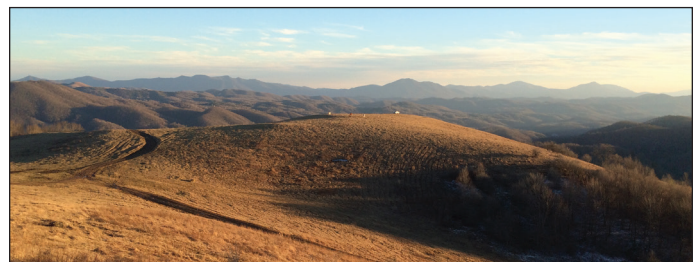


Photo by Eric Hiegl



Photo courtesy of Lukas Burgher

Acres for America, Community Foundation for Western North Carolina, and private donors. In addition to protecting the game land, BRC has protected over 1000 acres through conservation easements in the immediate area. Visit BRC's website at [www.blueridgeconservancy.org](http://www.blueridgeconservancy.org) for more information about Pond Mountain and for links to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission website.

## Valle Crucis

Valle Crucis is North Carolina's first Rural Historic District and in 2004 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since 1998, BRC has actively worked with the community to preserve the rural character and agricultural history of the valley. In 2014, BRC continued that effort with the completion of three important projects.

**Ernest and Margaret Caudill** donated 104 acres of beautiful land to BRC through their estate. The property is part of the Valle Mountain Natural Area and includes a mature hardwood forest with significant ecological value. The Caudill's began conserving their property in 2005 with a conservation easement along Crab Orchard Creek. The easement protects the stream's water quality and habitat.

**Wade & Kathy Reece**, long-time conservationists and BRC supporters, continue their efforts to protect Valle Crucis by adding acreage to their existing conserved property. The Reece's began their conservation effort in 2006 and over the years have protected 50 acres of prime farmland and 3200 feet of shoreline along the Watauga River.

**Betty Church** sold 11 acres of her farm to BRC to help protect the scenic value and agricultural heritage of the Valle Crucis Community. The property is recognizable as the high knoll behind Mast General Store and is within the view shed of the Valle Crucis Historic District and Valle Crucis Park. Funding for the acquisition was provided by Fred and Alice Stanback and bridge financing was provided by The Conservation Fund.

18,000  
acres protected  
in  
202  
places

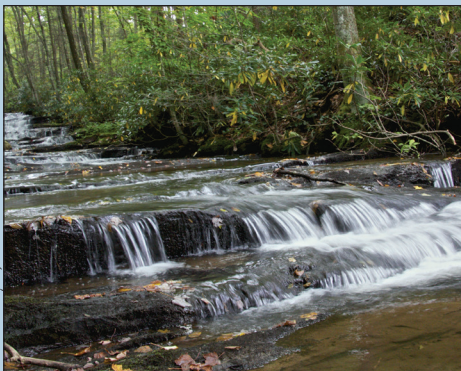


Original Mast General Store and Church Property (upper right)

BRC Staff monitors  
176  
properties each year

## What Do The BRC Trustees Have To Say?

*“BRC preserves so many natural treasures around us – from unspoiled forests to working farms, to mountaintops and the streams and rivers running at their feet. The best part of all of this, for me, is that these lands are protected forever – and that’s a pretty long time.” - Steve Wylie*



*“Blue Ridge Conservancy empowers property owners to permanently protect lands they love. It is a privilege, and a genuine pleasure, to work with Board, staff, committee members, and landowners who are all passionate about protecting the purity of our streams and rivers, the diversity of native plant and animal species, the aesthetic beauty of our ridges, hillsides, and valleys, and the cultural heritage of our farm lands.” - John Turner*

## A Warm Welcome to Nikki!



We are very pleased to welcome Nichole Bauman to the BRC staff as our new Communications and Outreach Associate. Nikki is a native of Concord and has a passion for the state and its natural resources. After earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental and Natural Resource from Clemson University, she worked with RiverLink in Asheville. RiverLink is a regional non-profit spearheading the economic and environmental revitalization of the French Broad River and its tributaries as a place to live, work and play. After

her tenure with RiverLink, Nikki returned to school where she earned her Master’s Degree in Plant Biology from the University of Vermont. Nikki will use her skills as a communicator and ecologist to keep BRC’s membership engaged and up to date on our achievements as well as our challenges. She will be responsible for all social media, web and print communication and will help to organize hikes and other events. Please join us in welcoming Nikki to the community and to the Blue Ridge Conservancy family.

## A Fond Farewell to Rob!



It has been 3-1/2 years since Rob McCorkindale joined the Blue Ridge Conservancy family. It was clear from the beginning that Rob was a perfect fit for BRC and his service has been outstanding. Rob created a new website and drastically improved our social media presence. He worked hard to engage new supporters within the local business community and added tremendous value to BRC events. In early March, Rob left BRC and moved to Seattle to accept a position with Amazon. We will miss Rob, Tina and the entire McCorkindale family and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

# AMB Releases “The Conservancy” Elderberry Saison

**BlueRidgeConservancy.org**

BRC is a private, non-profit, non-governmental organization incorporated in North Carolina. Since our founding, we have protected over 18,000 acres in Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey Counties. In addition to protecting working farmland and land along the Blue Ridge Parkway, BRC's efforts have resulted in the creation of three state natural areas including Beech Creek Bog, Bear Paw and Bullhead Mountain. We continue to help Elk Knob State Park expand its borders and we led the way in establishing a 2,800-acre State Game Land preserve on Pond Mountain in Ashe County.

**Blue Ridge Conservancy**  
Protect the places you love.

**GOVERNMENT WARNING:**  
(1)According to the Surgeon General, women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects. (2)Consumption of alcoholic beverages impairs your ability to drive a car or operate machinery, and may cause health problems.

Style: Saison  
IBU: 31  
ABV: 5.8%

(828) 264-2511  
166 Furman Rd, Boone, NC 28607 9 781565 924796

**APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN BREWERY**  
ESTABLISHED 1992

**THE CONSERVANCY**  
BLUE RIDGE CONSERVANCY

**AMB BRC**  
ELDERBERRY SAISON  
COLLABORATION BREW

22 FL. OZ

**AppalachianMountainBrewery.com**

While you're hiking through the oldest mountains in the world, you'll often stumble upon elderberry patches. The Conservancy is a saison brewed with elderberries foraged within the valleys and ridges of the Appalachian Mountains. Unfiltered, the unique brew has a thick, creamy tan head with a blend of floral Belgian aroma and wild elderberries. A smooth complex mix of saison yeast character in the body that is balanced by a refreshing dry finish. While some try to tame the wild, we embrace it in the name of Conservancy!

**OUR PURPOSE**  
To sustainably brew high quality beer, support and revitalize the communities of the Appalachian Mountains, as well as lead the country by example, towards fulfilling the potential we ALL possess. Our Mission:  
SUSTAINABILITY • COMMUNITY • PHILANTHROPY

www.twitter.com/AMBrewery  
www.facebook.com/appalachianmountainbrewery  
163 Boone Creek Drive Boone, NC 28607 DON'T JUST INGEST, INVEST  
(828)263-1111 AMB IS A PUBLICLY TRADED BREWERY

In January 2014, Appalachian Mountain Brewery of Boone approached BRC with the idea of a limited release beer to benefit Blue Ridge Conservancy. After months of planning and preparation, the Appalachian Mountain Brewery's Conservancy Elderberry Saison was born. "We wanted to use a local berry as the primary ingredient for the beer and chose elderberry because it can be found locally," said Sean Spiegelman, CEO of Appalachian Mountain Brewery. "The elderberries used in the beer were actually harvested on BRC protected land."

BRC staff and board members participated in the beer making process and hand-labeled all of the 900 limited release bottles.



AMB Labeling Party - Photo by BRC Staff



Partnership Announcement at BRC Auction - Photo by Lynn Willis

Rob McCorkindale and Eric Hiegl of BRC met the AMB staff during the summer of 2012. Even though the brewery was still six months from opening, AMB already had a Pints-for-Non-Profits program established. "Eric and I saw it as a perfect opportunity to introduce ourselves and talk about BRC," said Rob McCorkindale. "Little did we know it would lead to a long-standing friendship with the AMB staff."

There are a few bottles of The Conservancy Elderberry Saison still available at AMB. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the beer benefit BRC. If you would like to purchase this local beer, please visit Appalachian Mountain Brewery at 166 Boone Creek Drive in Boone.

# BRC In The Community

## Moving Forward on the Middle Fork Greenway



Photo by BRC Staff

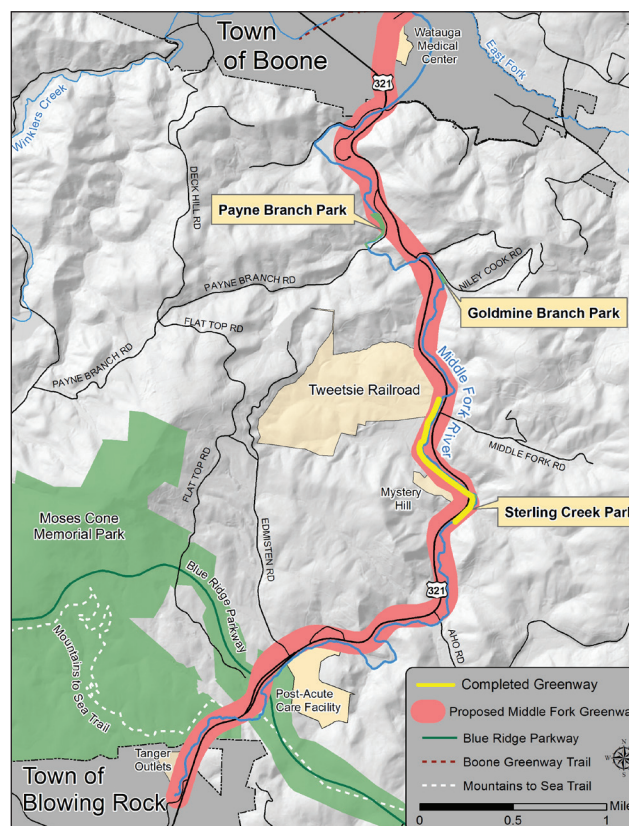
Photos courtesy of Eric Heistand

The Middle Fork Greenway made a tremendous leap forward in late 2014 with the opening of its newest section near Tweetsie Railroad and Mystery Hill. With the addition of this new section, one mile of greenway is on the ground and open for public use. When complete, the greenway will be a 6.5 mile pedestrian and bike path along the Middle Fork of the New River and will connect the existing Boone Greenway to a planned pocket park near the Tanger Shoppes in Blowing Rock. The pocket park will be connected, by sidewalk, to downtown Blowing Rock. The greenway will eventually offer connections to the existing Mountains-to-Sea trail, the Blue Ridge Parkway and two additional pocket parks.

The MFG's recent momentum is in large part due to a partnership formed between Blue Ridge

Conservancy and High Country Pathways. High Country Pathways is a volunteer non-profit organization with the mission to connect the High Country with a network of trails and paddle access points. In the 1990's, a group of passionate and committed people began planning the MFG and reaching out to landowners within the proposed path. That group of citizens later joined with High Country Pathways (HCP) and the effort was underway.

BRC became involved with the MFG many years ago and worked to secure the very first parcel of land needed for the greenway. That parcel, obtained through a land donation to BRC from Barbara & Sterling Whitner, eventually became what is now Sterling Creek Park. In 2014 BRC & HCP recognized the wisdom of joining forces to best take advantage of each organization's unique strength and a formal





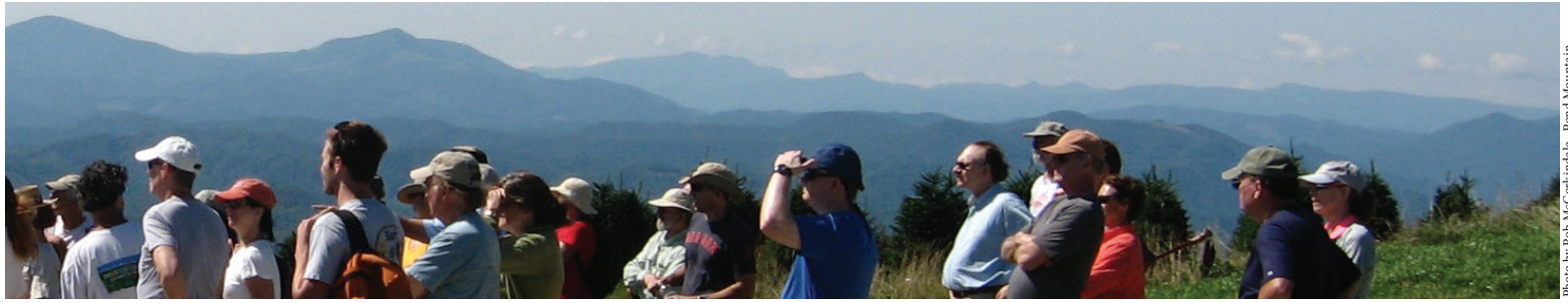


Photo by Rob McCorkindale - Pond Mountain

collaboration was established. HCP brings years of experience building trails and creating river access to the effort while BRC brings land protection expertise and a strong organizational structure.

Adding to the momentum is a multi-year gift from Pete and Zika Rea. This gift pays for all operational costs of the greenway effort, meaning that all additional funds raised are used directly for project implementation. Pete and Zika own and operate Zap Fitness, a non-profit organization specializing in training long-distance runners of all skill levels, including Olympic caliber athletes. Pete and Zika recognize the health and economic benefits the Middle Fork Greenway will bring to the community and their support allowed Blue Ridge Conservancy to hire the staff needed to move the project forward. Ann Browning, former Executive Director of the 27-mile Carolina Thread Trail, was hired in 2013 to lead the greenway effort. Ann has since brought new partners to the greenway project and helped secure grant funding from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, National Park Service and the Tourism & Development Authorities of Watauga County and the Town of Blowing Rock. Ann also procured very generous donations from private citizens and local merchants.



In a remarkable show of support 51 local businesses participated in a holiday weekend benefit for the MFG on April 4th and 5th. This Easter weekend benefit, spearheaded by Appalachian Ski Mountain, demonstrates

the breadth of support of the local business community and sends a clear message to funding partners that the community is invested in making the Middle Fork Greenway a reality. This participation by the community is vital to the grant seeking process and vastly increases the likelihood of grants being awarded.

A master plan for the 6.5 mile greenway is complete and will be implemented in segments. The first segment is the completed mile-long stretch in front of Tweetsie and Mystery Hill. This section includes a pedestrian culvert underneath HWY 321 leading to the beautiful Sterling Creek pocket park on the east

side of the highway. Additional segments are in the works, but much is to be done before these segments are opened, beginning with securing the land along the proposed MFG path. Once land is secured, engineering and permitting can begin. Of course, funds must be obtained in order to secure the necessary services and High County Pathways and Blue Ridge Conservancy are working hard to generate those funds. You can help build the Middle Fork Greenway by making a gift to Blue Ridge Conservancy. Be sure to note on the “memo” line of your check that the donation is for the “Middle Fork Greenway.”

# Mt. Jefferson State Natural Area Expands



Blue Ridge Conservancy assisted NC State Parks with the acquisition of the Vannoy property on Mount Jefferson. This marks the final phase of the 372-acre acquisition. The Vannoy property extends from HWY 88 east of Jefferson to the top of the mountain. Mount Jefferson will now have frontage along a major road expanding future recreation opportunities and public access to the mountain. Mount Jefferson became a state park in 1956 due to its ecological significance and historic importance.

The mountain was named in honor of Thomas Jefferson and his father, Peter. It is part of the Amphibolite Mountains known for its high quality natural communities and rare species. The mountain is home to Northern Hardwood Forest, High Elevation Red Oak Forest and the rare High Elevation Rocky Summit community types. Several rare plant and animal species make their home on Mount Jefferson.

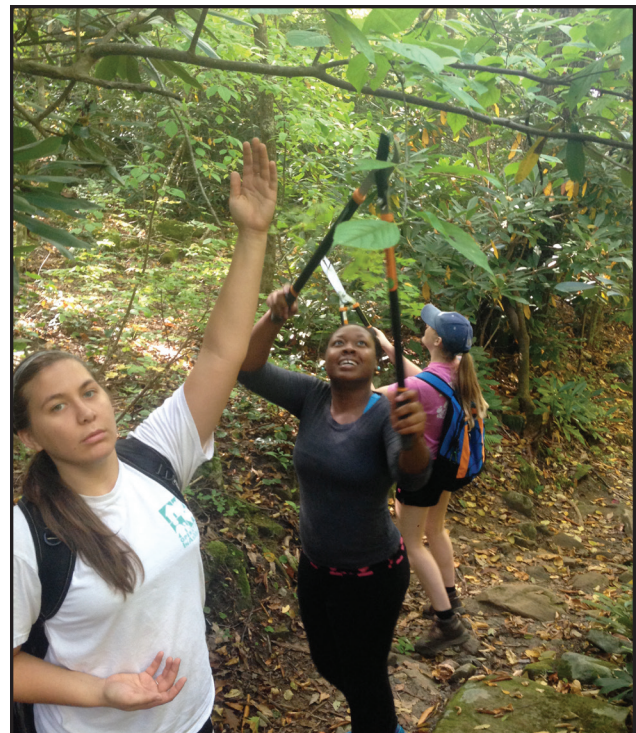
“This addition provides the best opportunity to expand public recreation on Mt. Jefferson” says Park Superintendent Joseph Shimel. “We are in the early stages of planning and will look for public input on how to best take advantage of this new opportunity”. Keep an eye on BRC’s Facebook page and website for updates on the planning process.

## ASU BRC Student Club Continues Mission

In its third year, the Blue Ridge Conservancy Student Club at Appalachian State University continues to expand its reach in northwest North Carolina. The club participates in several local clean-up events throughout the year at Elk Knob State Park and at the Glen Burney Trail in Blowing Rock. They have also volunteered at the Grandfather Mountain Center and the Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5k.

“Our goal is to spread the message of Blue Ridge Conservancy in the campus community,” said Cara Hemby, Co-President, BRC Student Club. “Most ASU students come to Boone to experience the beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities in the area. We want to help students find those opportunities.”

The BRC Student Club members represent a variety of majors from Biology to Sustainable Development. For more information about the club and upcoming events, please contact Nikki Bauman at [nikki@blueridgeconservancy.org](mailto:nikki@blueridgeconservancy.org).



Student Club members work on the Glen Burney Trail

Photos courtesy of Cara Hemby

# Appalachian Community Together (ACT) MLK Day Challenge

Eight ASU student volunteers spent a sunny winter day with BRC staff for their annual Martin Luther King Day Challenge. Through the MLK Challenge, student groups are sent all over the High Country to work on various volunteer projects from homeless shelters to food banks.

This year the ASU students worked to clear invasive multi-flora rose on a BRC-



Photos by BRC Staff



owned property in Valle Crucis.

“The group did an incredible job of removing the thorny invasive,” said Eric Hiegl, BRC Director of Land Protection and Stewardship. “This property was covered with multi-flora and it would have taken our staff a week to remove it all. It only took the ASU group four hours. We appreciate their hard work.”

## Youth Conservation Corps Evaluates High Country Trail Projects



Photos by BRC Staff

BRC is partnering with Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC) and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) to identify potential trail projects in the North Carolina High Country. BRC staff, Jan Pender of CTNC, and Keegan Tierney of VYCC evaluated several trail restoration and new trail projects in our area. During a three day visit, the crew explored the Glen Burney Trail in Blowing Rock, Pond Mountain Game Land in northwest Ashe County, and Humpback Mountain.

The NC Youth Conservation Corps is based out of the Conservation Trust for North Carolina’s office in Raleigh. A typical trail crew works for seven weeks during the summer and consists of crew members aged 16-24. The crews also have two leaders with trail building experience.

# BRC Oral History Project Continues...



In 2012, Blue Ridge Conservancy partnered with the Appalachian Studies department at Appalachian State University to implement an oral history project. The purpose of the project is to document the stories, photos, and letters of our easement donors who have established family histories on their land.



*Mr. Ray Reninger (above-left) shared stories about his childhood in Ashe and Watagua counties. His family photo includes grandparents, and great aunts and uncles.*



When we started the project, we had no idea how wonderful and fulfilling it would become. So far, BRC and ASU have interviewed eight easement donors. The setting is very casual with no time frame or schedule. Each interview includes audio, video, and transcription. The final interviews will be archived at the ASU Appalachian Studies floor of the Belk Library.

If you would like to contribute or participate in this interview project, please email Nikki at [nikki@blueridgeconservancy.org](mailto:nikki@blueridgeconservancy.org).



*Bob and Carol Black (above right and left) spent an afternoon with Walter Clark (above center), Rob McCorkindale (not pictured) and David McRae (left). Mr. Black grew up visiting his grandparents' (left) property in Alleghany county. Mr. Black has restored his grandparents home.*

Photos by BRC Staff

# Let's Go For a Hike! BRC Hikes in 2015



Photo by BRC Staff

Saturday, May 9 • YMCA Camp Harrison

Wednesday, June 17 • Kids In Nature Hike  
Boone United Trail

Saturday, June 20 • Bear Paw State Natural Area Hike

Wednesday, July 8 • Elk Knob Sunset Hike

Wednesday, July 15 • ASU Sustainable Development  
Farm Tour

Saturday, July 18 • Old Orchard Creek Farm

Wednesday, July 22 • Kids In Nature Hike  
Boone United Trail

Saturday, August 15 • Pond Mountain Hike

Saturday, September 26 • Blue Ridge Parkway  
Waterfall Hike & Hawk Watch

Saturday, October 10 • Snake Mountain Hike



Photo by BRC Staff

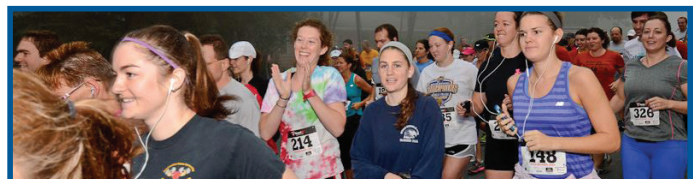
Visit [blueridgeconservancy.org](http://blueridgeconservancy.org) to reserve your spot on one or more of our free to the public guided hikes!

## Save The Date for BRC's 2015 Events



Photos by Lynn Willis

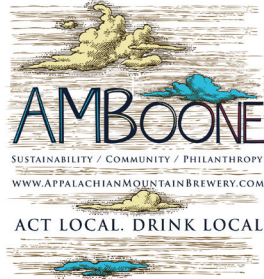
**BRC Gamekeeper Auction & Wine/Beer Tasting  
Camp Sky Ranch  
Wednesday, June 3**



**Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5k &  
Kids 1-Mile Fun Run  
Saturday, September 19**

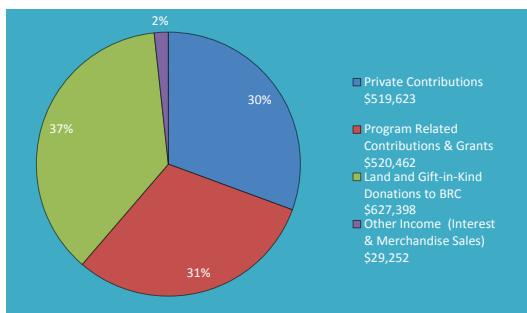
Visit [www.blueridgeconservancy.org](http://www.blueridgeconservancy.org) for more information

# Thank You Newsletter Sponsors!

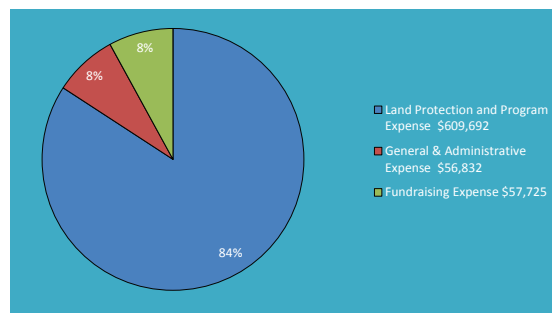


## BRC FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2014

INCOME - \$1,696,73



EXPENSES - \$724,249



### 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 produces top-quality embroidered hats and screenprinted shirts. Order your BRC hat, shirt or baby/toddler shirt or onesie by calling BRC at 828-264-2511 or visiting our website at [www.blueridgeconservancy.org](http://www.blueridgeconservancy.org). There are various sizes and various colors available. The cost for any merchandise item is only \$15.

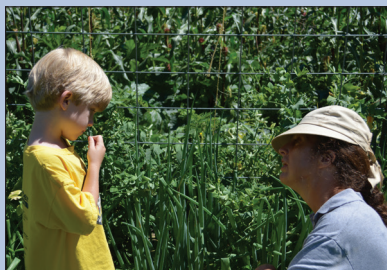


# Looking Toward the Future

At Blue Ridge Conservancy we greatly value the generosity of our donors, members and friends. Your donations and memberships 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. Still 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**:

Andrew Jenkins

Appalachian Dental Care

**Appalachian Mountain Brewery**

Appalachian Roller Girls

**Appalachian Ski Mountain**

Art Walk

Bald Guy Brew

Banner Elk Winery

Beech Mountain Resort

Big Kahuna Timing

**Bistro Roca**

Blind Squirrel

Blue Mountain Metal Works

Blue Ridge Anglers

Bob & Susan Hambright

**Boondocks Brewing LLC**

Boone Healing Arts Center

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm

Brushy Mountain Water & Coffee

Canyons Restaurant

Camp Sky Ranch

Christopher's Wine & Cheese

CoBo

Com-Tech

DeWoolfson

Doe Ridge Pottery

EarthFare

Events by Elizabeth Ashley

Fibre Design

**Footsloggers**

**Fred's General Mercantile**

**Gamekeeper**

Goodness Gracious

**Green Mother Goods**

Haircut 101

**Hemlock Inn**

Hollis Wild

Hotel Tavern

Joy Bisto

**Lynn Willis Photography**

**M-Prints**

Magic Cycles

**Mast General Store**

**Melanie's Food Fantasy**

Miss Match

Mountain Aire Golf Club

Mountain Outfitters

Neaco

**The New Public House**

**Old Orchard Creek Farm**

**Organic Hair Design**

Peabody's Wine & Beer Merchants

**Pepper's Restaurant**

Proper Restaurant

Raffaldini Vineyards & Winery

Ray's Weather

Reid's Catering

Ripshin Farms

River & Earth Adventures

**RiverGirl**

**Rock Dimensions Climbing Guides**

Rock On Charters

Sky Valley Zip Tours

**Steve Duprey & Steve Wylie**

**Stick Boy Bread Company**

**Stick Boy Kitchen**

Todd's Calendar

Traditions Pottery

Wahoos

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 Nikki at 828.264.2511 or [nikki@blueridgeconservancy.org](mailto:nikki@blueridgeconservancy.org).**



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

P.O. Box 568  
Boone, NC 28607

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

## BRC 2015 EVENT SCHEDULE

- Saturday, May 9 . . . . . BRC Hike: YMCA Camp Harrison
- Wednesday, June 3 . . . . . Gamekeeper Auction and Wine/Beer Tasting
- Saturday, June 6 . . . . . Land Trust Day
- Wednesday, June 17 . . . . . BRC Hike: Kids In Nature - Boone United Trail
- Saturday, June 20 . . . . . BRC Hike: Bear Paw State Natural Area
- Wednesday, July 8 . . . . . BRC Hike: Elk Knob Sunset Hike
- Wednesday, July 15 . . . . . ASU Sustainable Development Farm Tour
- Saturday, July 18 . . . . . BRC Hike: Old Orchard Creek Farm
- Wednesday, July 22 . . . . . BRC Hike: Kids In Nature - Glen Burney Trail
- Saturday, August 15 . . . . . BRC Hike: Pond Mountain
- Saturday, September 19 . . . . . Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5k & Kids 1-Mile Fun Run
- Saturday, September 26 . . . . . Blue Ridge Parkway Waterfall Hike & Hawk Watch
- Saturday, October 10 . . . . . BRC Hike: Snake Mountain

For more details and to RSVP, please go to [www.blueridgeconservancy.org](http://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!*



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

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

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.