

BLUE RIDGE CONSERVANCY 2016

**FARM INCUBATOR AND GROWER PROJECT
VALLE CRUCIS CONFERENCE CENTER
WATAUGA COUNTY**



SAVING THE PLACES YOU LOVE

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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

Successful communities are often the result of good folks who step up and commit their time, ideas and resources to the common good. The High Country and Blue Ridge Conservancy are fortunate to have two such people in John and Faye Cooper.

Faye and John became directly involved with Blue Ridge Conservancy in 2004 with the donation of a conservation easement on 21.7 acres of beautiful farmland adjacent to the original Mast General store in Valle Crucis. They placed an additional 8 acres under easement in 2010 resulting in almost 30 protected acres. The property represents some of the best farmland in Watauga County. In late 2015, the Coopers donated the ownership of the originally protected 21.7 acres to Blue Ridge Conservancy. Their wish is for the Conservancy to use the property to enhance environmental stewardship, education and sustainable agriculture.

Faye and John live by the motto “it is better to give than to receive.” The Coopers purchased the original Mast General Store in Valle Crucis in 1979. Today, in addition to the original store and annex, there are eight stores in North Carolina, Tennessee and South Carolina. The Cooper’s generosity to the High Country has grown in lockstep with the success of Mast General.

The Coopers began their involvement with land conservation in 1985. Just five years after purchasing the original Mast General Store they became actively involved with a committed group of citizens to stop a development project that would have permanently changed the rural character of Valle Crucis. In 1990, again with leadership from the Coopers, Valle Crucis became the state’s first rural historic district adding a layer of protection for the community’s rural character and cultural heritage. In 2008, the original Mast Store was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

John and Faye were also leaders in establishing the Valle Crucis Community Park. The park is a popular destination, offering a beautiful setting to walk, jog, picnic, play, fish, swim and socialize along the banks of the Watauga River. The Coopers continue to be active in the park’s support, development and expansion.

Under the Cooper’s guidance, Mast General Store has become a leader in Land Trust Day. Now in its 14th year, Land Trust Day is held in conjunction with National Trails Day, which honors the important role that protected natural environments and the outdoors play in the health and economy of communities across the United States. Mast General Store donates a whopping 20% of its sales on Land Trust Day to Blue Ridge Conservancy and other local land trusts adding tens of thousands of dollars annually to support conservation. This year, Land Trust Day falls on Saturday, June 4th.

John has served on Blue Ridge Conservancy’s Board of Directors for over three years. Additionally, he is leading the effort to save and restore the Appalachian Theatre in Boone.

John and Faye sum up their belief in community engagement by saying, “We believe that those of us who live in the Blue Ridge Mountains are provided many opportunities to serve others, and by doing so, we have changed and improved our communities and ultimately enriched our own lives.”

Blue Ridge Conservancy thanks John and Faye for their leadership and generosity.

Warmest regards,

Walter Clark



Photo courtesy of Katie Langley Photography

VOLUNTEERS *of the year*

Blue Ridge Conservancy was built on the energy and efforts of volunteers. As the roots of BRC, volunteers remain an essential part of the work we do to save the places you love. This year, we are excited to present this award to two very outstanding volunteers.



Edgar Peck

A small group of passionate paddlers took an ambitious dream and made it reality. Their determination, organization, and patience created a unique opportunity for BRC to purchase a 2.3-acre river access area on the Watauga River at Guy Ford Road in Sugar Grove.

Edgar led the charge organizing and rallying the boating community and other river lovers to raise the money towards purchasing the property. His efforts resulted in 140 private donors along with funding from the Watauga County Tourism Development Authority and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

In addition to paddling, this property will provide river access for fishing, swimming, picnicking, and other activities for residents and visitors alike, aligning with BRC's mission to protect places with recreational value.

“If we want to continue to enjoy these experiences, the preservation of beautiful, wild, untamed, natural areas like the Watauga River Basin must be a priority, not just in our thoughts, but in our actions,” said Peck.

Edgar is the Physical Education Activity Director at Appalachian State University. He teaches a variety of physical education classes from kayaking to badminton.



Elizabeth Hempfling

Elizabeth Hempfling, a Boone native and professional event planner, has volunteered her time and talent to organize BRC's annual Gamekeeper Wine/Beer Tasting and Auction hosted at Camp Sky Ranch.

The Wine/Beer Tasting and Auction has become a favorite local event amongst the High Country community and continues to be a successful fundraiser thanks to Elizabeth's expertise. In 2015 the event raised over \$24,000 in donations.

“I guess it just comes naturally that I hold a fondness in my heart for the mountains. For the past 5 years our team has had the pleasure of working along side of Blue Ridge Conservancy and their amazing staff on their annual wine/beer tasting and auction. It is always so rewarding to see the community come together to raise money for such a good cause. Without the efforts of the Conservancy our land and the people on it would not be the same,” said Hempfling.

Elizabeth is the owner and principal planner of Events by Elizabeth Ashely and has been planning perfect weddings for over a decade with a growing team of professional planners and consultants. She is the President of High South Event Professionals and creator of The Wedding Resource Center, a space for brides and vendors alike to relax and enjoy meetings in a central location.

Land Protection & Stewardship Highlights



Camp Lutherock

Located on the southwestern slope of Sugar Mountain in Avery County, Camp Lutherock is now permanently protected after a decade long collaborative effort between BRC, the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, and NovusWay Ministries.

The property is an important part of the view from many nearby mountains including Grandfather, Beech, Roan, Table Rock, and Hawksbill. It is also visible from the distant Black Mountains including Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak in the Eastern U.S. Skiers and snowboarders at Sugar Mountain Resort enjoy views of the Camp Lutherock from the North Ridge ski slope. The protected property also shares a quarter-mile boundary with the Linville Ridge Community.

It is considered a Significant Natural Area by the NC Natural Heritage Program due to its unique ecological character. The camp hosts two endangered ecosystems, three endangered species, and numerous other rare species and high quality forests. It also contains headwater streams for the North Toe River and Sugar Creek, which provide excellent water resources and rich habitats for aquatic life.

Camp Lutherock uses the land for recreation including hiking, an advanced high ropes course, rock climbing, disc golf, and other camp activities, meetings, and conferences. The camp serves people of all ages from throughout the Southeastern United States with primarily outdoor adventure oriented camping.

The project was funded by a grant awarded by Clean Water Management Trust Fund and a generous donation from Fred and Alice Stanback.



Photo by Lynn Willis

Valle Crucis Historic Farmland

BRC received a generous donation of 21.7 acres of farmland located within the Valle Crucis Historic District along NC Highway 194, one of our state's Scenic Byways. Thanks to the generosity of John and Faye Cooper, longtime residents, conservationists and owners of Mast General Store, this beautiful property will forever remain as agricultural and recreational land along Dutch Creek and the Watauga River.

The land is considered "Prime Farmland" by the United States Department of Agriculture. There are two existing barns on the property that will be preserved as contributing to the scenic and cultural heritage. The land borders the Watauga River for 500 feet. This section of the Watauga is designated High Quality Waters by the NC Division of



**BRC HAS PROTECTED 19,150
ACRES IN 207 PLACES:**

**5,700 ACRES IN 66 FEE
SIMPLE LAND ACQUISITIONS**

**13,450 ACRES IN 141
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**

Water Resources and Delayed Harvest trout waters by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. The Watauga River is also designated by the NC Natural Heritage Program (NHP) as regionally significant Aquatic Habitat.

The conserved land, rich in history and scenic beauty, is adjacent to the original Mast General Store and the Valle Crucis Community Park. With the proximity of the property to the center of the Valle Crucis Community, BRC hopes to use the land as a showpiece of sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship. Potential long term objectives include hosting educational workshops, agricultural demonstrations, stream restoration on Dutch Creek and the Watauga River, and expanding the trails in the Valle Crucis Community Park.

The Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC) holds a conservation easement on the property ensuring it will remain in agricultural and recreational use forever.

Watauga River Access at Guy Ford Road

Through strategic partnerships and community support, BRC purchased a 2.3 acre river access area on the Watauga River at Guy Ford Road in Sugar Grove. The property is located between two existing river access sites; one known as Watauga Gorge Park, owned by Watauga County, and the other at Tester Road, owned by American Whitewater, a non-profit organization conserving and restoring America's whitewater resources.

The Guy Ford River Access is part of the 21 mile Watauga River Paddle Trail, which traverses through Valle Crucis, a National Rural Historic District, and continues into Tennessee. Local businesses, tourists and citizens currently use Guy Ford Road as a river access point. The property will be enrolled in the Public Fishing Access Program managed by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

Financial support for the acquisition came from the Watauga County Tourism Development Authority, Tennessee Valley Authority and 140 private donors.

The river access site will serve as a put-in for the Watauga Gorge with class IV-V rapids, as well as a take out for Section III, consisting of class II-III rapids beginning at the Upper Gorge Park. These sections of river draw paddlers from all over the Southeast. In addition, this property will provide river access for fishing, swimming, picnicking, and other activities for residents and visitors alike.

The local community and dedicated organizations will manage the access point for the benefit of tourist based river activities and community members. Future plans for the access point include parking, signage, information kiosks, and support facilities as outlined in the Watauga County Recreation Plan.



Peak Mountain

This ridgetop property consists of 245 acres located on Peak Mountain in Watauga and Avery counties. The property is highly visible from Seven Devils, the NC Hwy 105 corridor, Grandfather Mountain, Hanging Rock and other mountains and ridges in the vicinity. The land lies within the Dun Vean Mountain Natural Area as designated by the NC Natural Heritage Program (NHP). Its conservation value is enhanced by close proximity to Grandfather Mountain and Bear Paw State Natural Area.

Peak Mountain includes a well-defined ridgeline running from SW to NE through the center of the property. Much of the northern portion of the land adjoins Hawksnest Resort.

Valley Creek, a tributary of the Watauga River, flows along the NE portion of the boundary and is designated Trout Waters by the NC Division of Water Resources.

Acquisition of Peak Mountain was possible from a generous donation by Fred and Alice Stanback.



Phillips Property on Pond Mountain

BRC continued to expand the Pond Mountain Game Lands in Ashe County with the addition of the 97 acre Phillips tract. The property contains the headwaters of Big Horse Creek as well as two seep areas along the north facing slope. Funding for the project included resources from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund and a private gift from Fred and Alice Stanback.



With the addition of the Phillips tract, BRC has protected 2,900 acres for the Pond Mountain Game Lands.

Foscoe Bog

Mountain bogs that once dotted the landscape have become a rare sight. That is why BRC jumped at the opportunity to accept a donation of a bog along the Watauga River. Located off of Hwy 105 this 10 acre property is a local hotspot for bird watching by local Audubon members and will provide a location for future research and study. The property was generously donated by a local attorney Eric Eller and the heirs of Ronald Murrelle. Mr. Murrelle always wanted to see the property protected for its ecological value and his son and daughter were happy to work with BRC to make his dream a reality.

WELCOME

New BRC Trustees



Chris Bensen

A native North Carolinian, Dr. Bensen received both his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He completed residency training at the Medical University of South Carolina during which he received the prestigious Charles H. Herndon Award from the national Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation for his research on bone grafts. Following his residency, he returned to UNC for a Sports Medicine and Shoulder Surgery fellowship during which he served as an assistant team physician for the Tar Heels.

Dr. Bensen served as a team orthopaedic surgeon for Appalachian State University and currently for Lees-McRae College and Avery High School. Dr. Bensen joined Boone Orthopaedic Associates in 2006 and currently resides in Blowing Rock. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, rock climbing, and fly fishing.



Deb Covington

Deb Covington joined Appalachian State University's Office of the Chancellor in July 2015. In this role, she focuses on branding, marketing, and engagement initiatives. Prior to joining the staff at ASU, Covington held several senior marketing leadership roles for more than 15 years with Wachovia Corporation.

Upon moving to the mountains, she was immediately impressed by the people and their commitment to this special place. She hopes to be part of the future by helping the BRC and the local area. Deb and her husband James reside in Blowing Rock.

Deb holds an MBA and a bachelor's degree in accounting. In addition, she is a graduate of the Kenan Flagler School of Wachovia Executive Leadership at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Deb has served as a business consultant, career consultant and personal coach. She also attended the French Culinary Institute while living in New York City.



Meagan Phillips

Meagan was born and raised in Raleigh, NC. She moved to Boone, her mother's hometown, in 2004 to attend Appalachian State University. Growing up she spent time visiting the High Country where she learned the history of her family members and their contributions to the part of the state she now calls home.

Her family has been active members of the High Country and ASU for several generations. Her passion for giving back comes honestly, as it is engrained in her roots. As the fourth generation of her family to attend ASU, she adds to the legacy that has spanned decades.

Meagan earned a bachelor's degree in Communication with concentrations in Law and Finance and a minor in International Business. She worked in the Office of Admissions and in the Reich College of Education before leaving ASU to work for her family. Her family's history with private farm and forest land management, as well as, property management has taught her the importance of responsible development. She believes land conservation and stewardship is a vital component to responsible growth and sustainable practices, to help ensure the quality of life for current and future generations.

MOVING FORWARD on the Middle Fork Greenway



Welcome, Wendy!

Blue Ridge Conservancy is pleased to welcome Wendy Patoprsty to the team as the new, full-time Project Director for the Middle Fork Greenway.

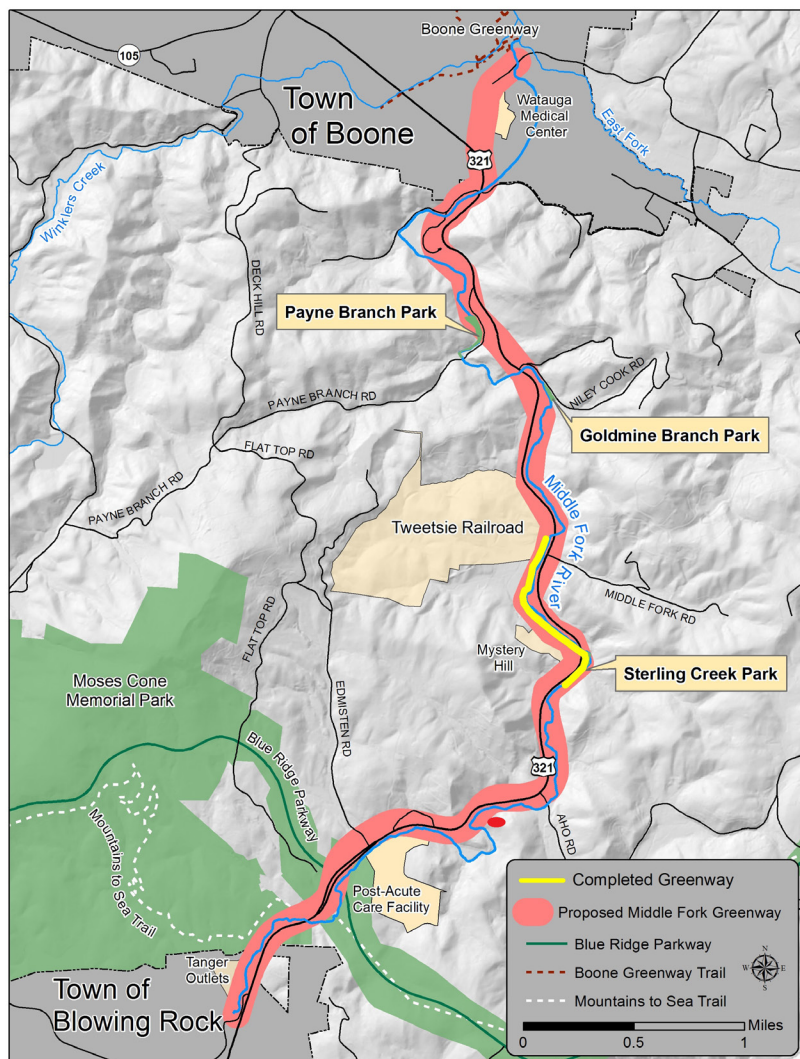
Wendy moved to Watauga County in 2000 after receiving a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from the University of Georgia. She started with Watauga County Cooperative Extension in 2001 as a grant funded Water Quality Technician and was hired as a Natural Resource Extension Agent in 2003. In this position Wendy collaborated in community development projects including stream restoration, urban stormwater projects and community environmental education. In 2014 Wendy received her Master's degree in Geography from Appalachian State University.

“Being a part of Blue Ridge Conservancy is a dream come true for me,” said Patoprsty. “I am grateful for my 15 years of service working as the Natural Resource Extension Agent in Watauga and Avery counties as it gave me a great foundation for community development and environmental stewardship. I am thrilled to work with the Middle Fork Greenway team to establish the greenway trail linking the Boone and Blowing Rock communities. I believe this project is another step towards improving the quality of life for the residents and visitors of the High Country. It is so exciting to visualize riding a bike safely down the US Hwy 321 corridor while getting to experience the beauty of our mountain headwater streams.”

The Middle Fork Greenway (MFG) is a pedestrian and cycling greenway trail along the Middle Fork of the New River and US Hwy 321 corridor connecting Boone and Blowing Rock. Development of the greenway is being led by Blue Ridge Conservancy and High Country Pathways, in partnership with local governments and many community partners.



Illustration by Anne Burgess



New Partnerships

Recent contributions by three organizations are wonderful examples of the private/public partnerships that are making the MFG a reality.

A \$168,750 donation by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) to BRC provided matching funds to leverage a grant for \$196,192 from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF). The combined funds will be used to purchase a 12 acres tract enabling a two-thirds mile extension of the existing greenway. The extension will connect two pocket parks along the Middle Fork of the New River. With its wide buffer hosting rhododendron and other native plants, MFG leaders believe this segment will be particularly beautiful. Once the trail is constructed, almost two miles of the 6.5 mile greenway will be complete. Funding for building this new section is being pursued.

Other current priorities for the MFG include securing funding to complete construction on the Chestnut Ridge and National Park Service properties near Blowing Rock and advancing the Boone section through the new Wellness District to connect the Boone Greenway.

MFG also received \$10,000 from the PeopleForBikes, an organization based in Boulder, Colorado that provides resources to help create safe and convenient biking communities across the country. PeopleForBikes has funded more than 300 projects since 1999, including bike lanes, paths, parks, and advocacy programs.

Sterling Creek Park Dedication

Last September, Sterling Creek, one of three pocket parks along the route of the Middle Fork Greenway, had a dedication party. One of the highlights of the celebration was a Seisin Ceremony, a ritual dating back to the days of freehold estates in which the grantors of the property present the grantees with a clump of dirt and in return, the grantees receive a basket of leaves and twigs. Barbara and Sterling Whitener presented a cup of earth from the park to Eric Hiegl, BRC's Land Protection and Stewardship Director. In exchange, Eric presented the Whiteners with a basket of leaves, sealing the transaction.

In 2005 Sterling and Barbara Whitener and Donald and Elizabeth Whitener donated 3.6 acres along the west side of the Middle Fork to BRC. The gift was made with the



“Our place in the mountains has been good to us. We would like to share its beauty so that others can enjoy it as much as we have.”

-Barbara Whitener

intent that the land be preserved and protected forever for its natural beauty with the exception of the development of a greenway and small park. The result is beautiful Sterling Creek Park.

Informing the Public

Last November, an open forum was held in Blowing Rock to educate the public about the Middle Fork Greenway. The forum, held at the newly renovated American Legion Building, attracted over 70 people despite unfavorable weather conditions.

Several survey questions were posted to attendees including, “Do you think the MFG is a good initiative for our region?” and “How will you use the greenway?” Results of the survey can be obtained from Wendy Patoprsty, Director of the Middle Fork Greenway.



BRC In The Community

VOLUNTEERING WITH BRC

Engaging Millennials

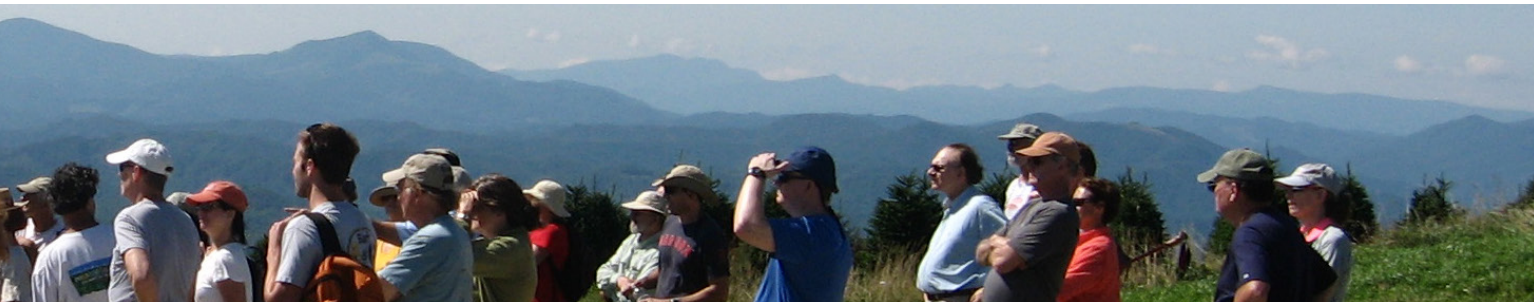


Raising awareness about conservation and its impact on future generations is an issue addressed by land trusts across the country. The goal is to reach and engage a younger and more diverse audience by creating experiences relevant to them and their circles of influence. Over the last year, BRC was fortunate to work with three service oriented groups of young conservationists and community organizers.

“Make a Difference Day” is an annual event that brings AmeriCorps Project Conserve members together to complete a service project in Western North Carolina. Last October, Project Conserve members joined BRC staff to help restore an important pastoral property visible from the Valle Crucis Historic District. The volunteer work included cutting and removing white pine, invasive multiflora rose, and locust saplings from the field. Earlier this year, the BRC Student Club and Appalachian and Community Together (both Appalachian State University organizations), picked up where the AmeriCorps team left off and continued the field restoration process.

BRC is grateful for our volunteers and for the opportunity to engage future conservationists.





The Farm Incubator and Grower Project



The Farm Incubator and Grower (FIG) farm provides land, production and marketing infrastructure to beginning farmers in the hopes of establishing lasting agricultural enterprises in the High Country. The farm is located on property owned by the Valle Crucis Conference Center and the land is protected by a conservation easement.

Protecting land for agricultural purposes is a significant part of BRC's mission. As part of our mission and in our efforts to support sustainable agriculture, BRC is working with Watauga River Partners, the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Bare Essentials Natural Market in Boone, the High Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited and volunteers through ASU to maintain a healthy riparian corridor along Dutch Creek which flows through the FIG farm.

This spring a team of volunteers removed invasive species, including multiflora rose, garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, replacing them with native plants. The new plantings included elderberry, nine bark, silky dogwood, and silky willow.



BECOME A MEMBER OR SUSTAINING PARTNER IN CONSERVATION

We would like to invite you to partner with BRC in saving the places we all love through our membership or sustaining donor program.

Membership levels start at \$45 and are inclusive for the entire household. Our members receive advance notice of all of our scheduled events, and special invitations and mailings, including our annual newsletter.

We also offer a sustaining partner option as a means of membership. For your convenience, any dollar amount can be set up to automatically draw from a debit or credit card on a monthly basis. A donation of \$10, \$25, \$50, or \$100 per month can make such a difference in what can be accomplished. Monthly donations can be changed, paused, or stopped at any time online or by telephone.

These pledges help provide the sustained resources needed to accelerate the pace and scale of work to protect important land and water resources.

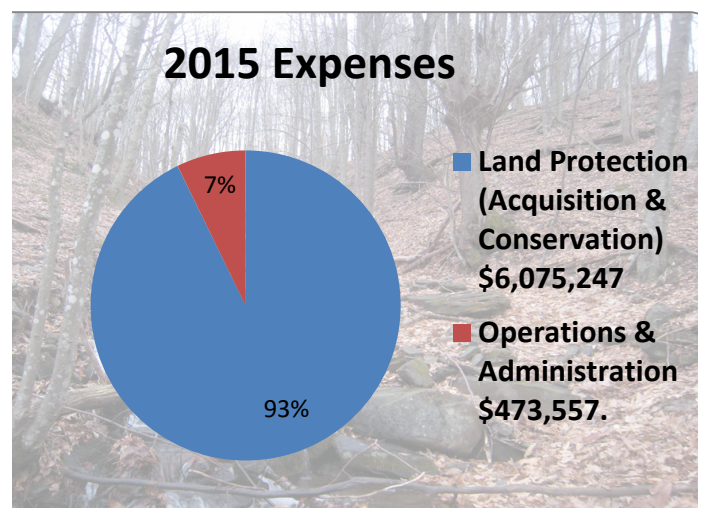
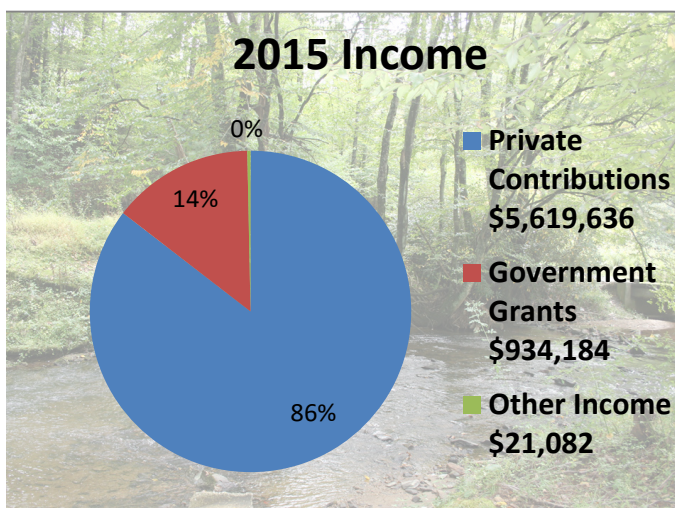
Please consider joining BRC today!



BRC FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2015

Income \$6,574,902

Expenses \$6,546,567



LET'S GO FOR A HIKE!

BRC Hikes in 2016



Friday, April 22 • Earth Day Hike at Camp Lutherock

Saturday, May 14 • Bear Paw State Natural Area Hike

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

Saturday, July 9 • Old Orchard Creek Blueberry Farm Hike

Wednesday, July 13 • ASU Sustainable Farm Tour

Saturday, August 27 • Pond Mountain Hike

Saturday, September 24 • Blue Ridge Parkway Waterfall Hike & Hawk Watch

Saturday, October 8 • Snake Mountain Hike



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

Save The Date for BRC's 2016 Events



BRC Gamekeeper Auction & Wine/Beer Tasting
Camp Sky Ranch
Wednesday, June 8



Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5k & Blue Ridge Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine 1-Mile Kids Fun Run
Saturday, September 3

Visit www.blueridgeconservancy.org for more information

THANK YOU

Newsletter Sponsors!



IN SUPPORT OF



<p><i>Make the most of your Blue Ridge experience with us...</i></p> <p><small>©Summers Mountain Photo</small></p>	<p>Hemlock Inn <i>A Blowing Rock Tradition</i></p>
<p>828-295-7987 HemlockInn.net 134 Morris Street Blowing Rock, NC 28605</p>	

<p>THE HOTEL TAVERN The best kept secret in Ashe County! Voted best restaurant two years running! Come and see why!</p>	
<p>www.TheHotelTavern.com 836.846.2121 <small>In the Historic Old Hotel at the corner of Backstreet & Main St. West Jefferson</small></p>	

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. There are various sizes and various colors available. The cost for any merchandise item is only \$15.



WISH LIST

BRC has limited resources at our disposal and we are often in need of basic supplies to help complete our work.

Please take a look at our wish list and see if there is anything you can help us with.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- GAS POWERED TRIMMER/
WEED EATER
- GAS POWERED BRUSHCUTTER/
CLEARING SAW
- CHAINSAW
- 4 X 4 VEHICLE
- FARM EQUIPMENT

Your donations of gently used goods or supplies are tax deductible. Reusing second hand goods will also reduce our impact on our environment, keeping the planet healthier for everyone.

Contact our office if you are able to make a contribution and we will be more than happy to coordinate with you on pick up or drop off.



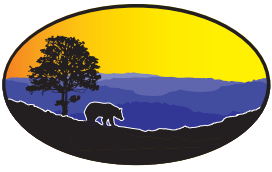
THANK YOU BRC Sponsors!

A great year of events has brought another great group of event sponsors. BRC'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 & EMB Environmental Management | Honey Hole |
| Appalachian Dental Care | Hotel Tavern |
| Appalachian Mountain Brewery | John Turner Law |
| Appalachian Ski Mountain | John Weaver/ The Bear 5 Mile Run |
| Art Walk | Joy Bisto |
| Ashe County Cheese | Leigh Ann Henion |
| Attractions Print | Lost Province Brewing Co. |
| Bald Guy Brew | Lynn Willis Photography |
| Banner Elk Winery | M-Prints Screenprinting & Embroidery |
| Beech Mountain Resort | Mast Farm Inn |
| Big Kahuna Timing | Mast General Store |
| Bistro Roca | Melanie's Food Fantasy |
| Blowing Rock Brewing Company | Mike Hallinan |
| Blowing Rock Furniture Gallery | Miss Match Dinnerware Rentals |
| Blumoonistic Images | Mountain Aire Golf Club |
| Blue Mountain Metal Works | Mountain Outfitters |
| Blue Ridge Anglers | Neaco Hip Home Decor |
| Blue Ridge Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine | New Public House |
| Bob & Susan Hambright | New River Organic Growers |
| Boondocks Brewing LLC | Old Orchard Creek Farm |
| Boone Healing Arts Center | Over Yonder Appalachian Kitchen |
| Boonshine Brewing Company | Peabody's Wine & Beer Merchants |
| Brushy Mountain Bee Farm | Pepper's Restaurant |
| Brushy Mountain Water & Coffee | Proper Restaurant |
| Camp Sky Ranch | Quilt Square Girls |
| CoBo | Ray's Weather |
| Com-Tech | Reid's Catering |
| DeWolfson | Ripshin Farms |
| Doe Ridge Pottery | River & Earth Adventures |
| Events by Elizabeth Ashley | Rivercross Market |
| Florence Thomas Art School | RiverGirl Fishing Co. |
| Footsloggers | Rock Dimensions Climbing Guides |
| Framing by Lori | Rock On Charters |
| Fred's General Mercantile | Shady Grove Garden & Nursery |
| Gamekeeper Restaurant | Sky Valley Zip Tours |
| Garnet Rose Soap Company | Sonny Church |
| Gayle Stott Lowry | Steve Duprey & Steve Wylie |
| Goodness Gracious Pet Sitting | Stick Boy Bread Company |
| Haircut 101 | Stick Boy Kitchen |
| Handlebar Betty | Todd & Jess Nolt |
| Heritage Homestead Goat Dairy | Valle Crucis Conference Center |
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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.**



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

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BRC 2016 EVENT SCHEDULE

- Friday, April 22Earth Day Hike: Camp Lutherock
- Saturday, May 14.Hike: Bear Paw State Natural Area
- Saturday, June 4.Land Trust Day at Mast General Store
- Wednesday, June 8Gamekeeper Wine/Beer Tasting & Auction
- Wednesday, June 22Kids in Nature Hike: Boone United Trail
- Saturday, July 9Hike: Old Orchard Creek Blueberry Farm
- Wednesday, July 13ASU Sustainable Development Farm Tour
- Saturday, August 27.Hike: Pond Mountain
- Saturday, September 3.Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5k & Blue Ridge Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine 1-Mile Kids Fun Run
- Saturday, September 24.Blue Ridge Parkway Waterfall Hike & Hawk Watch
- Saturday, October 8Hike: 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!



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