

BLUE RIDGE CONSERVANCY



SAVING THE PLACES YOU LOVE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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On the cover: Robinson Family Farm, Ashe County, 55 acres

BRC's conservation of this historic family farm protects valuable farmland, streams and a biologically significant wetland seep. Protection of the farm was made possible with help from the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund and the Helen M. Clabough Foundation. The property is currently used for growing hay and grazing cattle.

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OUR MISSION

Blue Ridge Conservancy partners with landowners and local communities to permanently protect natural resources with agricultural, cultural, recreational, ecological and scenic value in northwest North Carolina.



WE ARE ACCREDITED.

The accreditation seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation. It is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.

Each accredited land trust completes a rigorous review process and joins a network of organizations united by strong ethical practices. This trusted network of land trusts has demonstrated fiscal accountability, strong organizational leadership, sound transactions and lasting stewardship of the lands they conserve.

The seal is awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. The volunteers who serve on the Commission represent a diverse group of land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. For more information, please visit landtrustaccreditation.org



December 2018 marked the completion of my first full year at Blue Ridge Conservancy. The most memorable impressions of that first year are those provided by BRC's staff, trustees and supporters. Their dedication and enthusiasm inspired us as we navigated our shared challenges. Because of their unwavering commitment to our mission, much was accomplished in 2018.

We are particularly proud of last year's land protection projects. Some of

these accomplishments include:

Tater Hill Bog Preserve: Eighteen years after acquiring land to create the Tater Hill Bog Preserve, we completed the successful purchase of another 200 acres on Harmon Knob to permanently conserve a total of 1,600 acres at the Preserve.

Three Top Mountain: BRC conserved 477 acres on Three Top Mountain, one of our amphibolite peaks. The mountain contains rare plant species and provides public access through the NC Wildlife Resources Commission Game Lands program.

Alleghany County: Another key purchase was an ecologically sensitive and significant southern Appalachian mountain bog near the Blue Ridge Parkway in Alleghany County. After the tract is conveyed to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, it will, hopefully, become the first land owned by the Mountain Bogs National Wildlife Refuge.

Beech Creek Bog Natural Area: Finally, in this report you will read the incredible story of a conservation project protecting the maternity roost of the rare and endangered Virginia big eared bat. The story of the cave's discovery and subsequent protection is so compelling that we partnered with

Appalachian State University's Documentary Film Services to produce a short film about the collaborative effort of BRC and multiple state and federal agencies. We hope that you enjoy the story and the film.

Another milestone was achieved in 2018: the completion of our three year strategic plan. After a lengthy and thorough process we adopted a plan that will position BRC to remain relevant to those that we serve, ensure sound stewardship of conserved lands, approach conservation initiatives strategically and maintain a strong financial foundation.

Finally, BRC has four outstanding new trustees to help guide our future. We welcome Dale Caveny, Julie Hettiger, Lee Carter and Ann Baker. Ann rejoins the board after taking a mandatory one-year break from service. Of course much of the success of the organization is attributable to the service of our past board members. We are especially thankful for the service of those board members who retired from the board last year. Sonny Church, Larry Trivette, Steve Wylie and John Sherrill contributed greatly to our work and will be missed.

Those that support our work through their volunteer efforts are equally important to BRC. In this report you will learn about three of our volunteers that made incredible contributions to our Middle Fork Greenway project and our conservation initiatives. Celebrate with us the selfless work of Beth Davison, Brad Moretz and Brenda Speckman. We could not continue to be successful without the help of our dedicated volunteers.

We are eternally grateful for your trust and support as we continue to pursue our vision of strengthening our communities by conserving the lands that connect and sustain us.

Sincerely,

Charlie

WELCOME, NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES!



Ann Baker

Ann spent the summers of her childhood nurturing a great respect for her roots in the western NC mountains. Overlooking the Globe Valley to Table Rock, Hawk's Bill and Grandfather Mountain, she was reminded every year of the value of the smell of the moss in the Rhododendron woods, the feel of cool rock enclosures and cold mountain streams.

She managed a Christmas tree farm for 38 years in Avery County, maintained an art studio, taught art at The Crossnore School and managed their Fine Arts Gallery. She taught Art

Appreciation at Mayland Community College and drawing at Penland School of Crafts.

For 20 years she worked with her community to fund smart growth practices in the small town of Crossnore. She sat on the advisory board for Warren Wilson's Environmental Leadership Center, Avery Hospice and the Williams YMCA of Avery County.

Dr. Charlie Baker is Ann's very caring and conscientious other half. On their farm in Crossnore they have raised 3 children, one is now involved in international aid, one a veterinarian in Colorado and the other is a school counselor in Portland, OR.

Ann has always enjoyed being outside, observing nature, hiking, swimming, bee keeping and gardening. Ann served as a BRC board trustee for six years and is excited to return in 2019.



Lee Carter

Lee Carter was born and raised in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is a graduate of Woodberry Forest School in Virginia. He was an English Speaking Union Scholar at Wrekin College in England. He received a BSC degree in Industrial Relations at UNC-CH, and an MBA at Wake Forest University.

Lee began his career at Southern Life Insurance Company in Greensboro and attained the position of Vice President Investments. Lee joined SLIMS Corporation (later named FiTech systems) where he developed PC based investment management

software for US life companies. Lee owned and operated Southern C's Farm in Summerfield, N.C., a 321 acre cattle, hay, timber, and location photography site.

For the past 30 years, Lee has been a volunteer fundraiser and board member for non-profit organizations including service as a Director of Junior Achievement of Guilford County, Greensboro Jaycees, United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, Guilford Community AIDS Partnership, Guilford Green Foundation, Triad Health Project, Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro where he served as Chair of the Development Committee and served on the Investment Committee, University of North Carolina School of the Arts where he served as President of the Foundation, Greensboro College, and Triad Stage. He is a retired Director of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation where he served on the Finance Committee, Audit Committee, and was co-chair of the Major Donor Committee.

In 2012, Lee sold Southern C's Farm and moved to Blowing Rock to enjoy the dessert phase of life, travel, and spend more time with his husband and dogs.



Dale Caveny

Dale Caveny grew up near Kings Mountain, North Carolina. His childhood days were filled with ramblings in the fields and woods near his home. There he developed a love of the natural world and experienced it through hunting, fishing, and camping.

This love and appreciation of the outdoors led him to a career as a wildlife enforcement officer with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). He spent 26 years as a field officer and supervisor in western North Carolina before becoming the chief of the division

in 2010. He served four years in that role and was assigned to NCWRC headquarters in Raleigh. He retired in 2014.

Dale is a fellow with the National Conservation Leadership Institute (NCLI) and has served the past four years as a peer coach and instructor with NCLI. He has been involved with the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chief's (NACLEC) leadership academy since its inception in 2014 as an instructor and peer coach. He is certified as a Case in Point facilitator through the Kansas Leadership Center. Dale also works in economic and community development with an Alleghany County nonprofit organization, serves as a reserve deputy with the local sheriff's office and is an adjunct instructor at the North Carolina Justice Academy. He enjoys writing, hiking, fishing, kayaking and squirrel hunting with his two Feist dogs. He has a special interest in Appalachian culture, storytelling and leadership development.

Dale and his wife Amy live in Alleghany County near the Blue Ridge Parkway. They have a blended family of four children and five grandchildren.



Julie Hettiger

Julie Hettiger is a native of Wilkes County. She attended Salem College and graduated from East Carolina University. Julie worked with Lowe's Hardware in the advertising department before moving to Houston, Texas, to pursue a career in food styling and food photography.

After 39 years of loving her time and career in Houston it was time to move back to the Western North Carolina, where she grew up and where she and her husband were married.

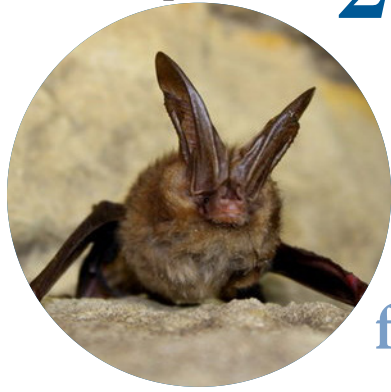
She is a standing member of International Association of Culinary Professionals, attended the Culinary School in Napa Culinary Institute, and is the Past President of Houston Culinary Guild Standing member with Les Dames d'Escoffier International.

Her heart and passion lies in saving our precious land from further development all over America, but most especially the Blue Ridge Mountains. She is particularly interested in saving North Carolina farmlands and the restoration of the Blue Ridge Parkway's Bluffs Café at Doughton Park. One of her current projects is to recover the foods and recipes of the original Bluffs Café and publish a cookbook as a fundraiser.

She is happy to help in these endeavors and honored to be on Blue Ridge Conservancy's Board of Trustees.

LAND PROTECTION & STEWARDSHIP

BRC has protected **21,373** acres in **232** places.



13,603 acres in **143** conservation easements

and **7,770** acres in **89** fee simple land acquisitions.

A Virginia big-eared bat, Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus.

Beech Creek Slopes, 174 acres, Watauga County

In 2010, the North Carolina Department of Transportation proposed widening NC Highway 105 from Boone to Linville. Under the Endangered Species Act, widening that road required evaluating the project for impacts to threatened or endangered species.

“Highway 105 is a narrow corridor bordered by the Watauga River on the downside and mountains on the upside. So how would you go about four-laning that road? You are going to blast, a whole bunch. With dynamite and earth moving, I realized immediately there would be a concern for bats,” said Marella Buncick, a biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Virginia big-eared bats are a federally endangered species found in limited areas of North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky. Scientists knew that there was a population of these bats hibernating on Grandfather Mountain in the winter, but no one knew where the bats were migrating in the summer. If the summer roosting sites were located, that information could be used to plan the highway widening and any other transportation project in the area without disturbing ecologically sensitive habitat.

“Virginia big-eared bats roost in caves year-round, so when they wake up from



Beech Creek flows through the property. It harbors native brook trout habitat and is headwater stream for the Watauga River.

hibernation they migrate to their summer caves, with the females coming together in a maternity roost—the place where pups are born and reared,” explains Sue Cameron of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. “A foundation for conserving bats is protecting their hibernation sites and their maternity roosts.”

To track the bats, Joey Weber, a graduate student from Indiana State University, attached radio transmitters to bats just before they left their Grandfather Mountain hibernation site. After a rigorous search over the rugged Grandfather Mountain terrain, Weber picked up a signal coming from a low crawl cave opening on the back side of Beech Mountain. Inside were 300 Virginia big-eared bats!

Locating the maternity site was a crucial step. But the next challenge came with the realization that the cave and the surrounding habitat were located on property that was for sale to be developed.

Joey Weber, Indiana State University





A Virginia big-eared bat emerges from the maternity roost.

them off that list one day—that is the ultimate goal. Land conservation is a huge part of that.”

In December 2017, ownership of the 174 acres was transferred to NC State Parks to be managed as a State Natural Area, a designation used to protect areas for ecological value rather than recreation. Now both the hibernation and reproduction phases for these bats remain undisturbed, increasing chances of survival and population stabilization.

Bats are incredibly important to the health of our ecosystem, especially as the primary predator to night-flying insects. They are also greatly misunderstood creatures, often feared by humans. This conservation success story not only demonstrates the importance of land conservation for ecologically sensitive species in western North Carolina, it provides the opportunity to educate the public about a species that plays a critical role in our natural systems.

To celebrate this amazing conservation success, Appalachian State University’s Documentary Film Services produced a short film to tell the story. You can view the documentary online at www.blueridgeconservancy.org/wildlife.

“Indiana State University contacted Blue Ridge Conservancy to get us involved in ensuring the protection of the maternity roost,” said Eric Hiegl, Blue Ridge Conservancy’s Land Protection Director. “This required the protection of several properties. We contacted eight individual landowners and everyone was interested in selling their land. That never happens.”

Through a coordinated effort with NC State Parks, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund and an anonymous philanthropist, Blue Ridge Conservancy was able to raise \$1 million to purchase the 174 acres needed to protect the Virginia big-eared habitat permanently.

“An old mystery was solved, and in solving that mystery we now have a great resource protected,” said Sue McBean, Superintendent of Grandfather Mountain State Park.

“These bats are incredibly sensitive and human disturbance has put them on the endangered species list,” added Katherine Etchison of NC Wildlife Resources Commission. “We hope to get

Leave Your Legacy on the Land

Blue Ridge Conservancy works every day to protect undeveloped land in northwest North Carolina, forever. This means that our children, our grandchildren and all future generations will be blessed with the same clean air, fresh drinking water and healthy local foods we enjoy today. It means they will have even greater opportunities to explore the natural world. It means the inherent spirit of this region, the natural and cultural heritage that makes our mountains such a special place to call home, will endure.

What better way to make your own contribution to this legacy than to include a gift to BRC in your estate plan? In doing so, you demonstrate a deep-rooted commitment to conservation and recreation in northwest North Carolina for future generations.

There are many ways to make an estate gift to BRC:

Bequests. A bequest is one of the easiest and most flexible ways to leave a gift to BRC through your estate. Gifts of cash, securities or other property can be included in your will or living trust:

- **Retirement Accounts**
- **Life Insurance**
- **Real Property**

Life Income Gifts. Life income gifts allow you to make a gift to BRC while guaranteeing income for yourself or your family in the future. Gift options include Charitable Gift



The Coman Farm, 41 acres under conservation easement in Alleghany County.



BRC's Kids in Nature hike teaches environmental stewardship to local youth.

Annuities, Charitable Remainder Unitrusts and Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts.

Every family's financial situation is unique and it is important that you work with your attorney or financial advisor to find the most suitable arrangement for you and your family. Blue Ridge Conservancy does not give tax or legal advice.

If you have included Blue Ridge Conservancy in your estate plan, we would appreciate the opportunity to thank you. To notify us of a planned estate gift or to learn more about BRC's planned giving opportunities, contact Caroline Gandy at 828-264-2511 or caroline@blueridgeconservancy.org.



BRC Associate Director of Land Protection and Stewardship Ben Lucas and BRC Vice Chairperson Margaret Newbold at the summit of Three Top Mountain Game Land.

Stewardship

BRC's stewardship responsibility begins when we accept a conservation easement or acquire a piece of land. Our obligation to ensure the permanent protection of each property's conservation values forms the backbone of our stewardship program.

BRC's Stewardship Program consists of the annual monitoring of close to 200 conservation properties as well as implementing and promoting sound land management practices. BRC relies on its partner agencies and organizations to provide conservation easement landowners as well as BRC with technical expertise and other resources related to land management.

An eastern hemlock branch infested with hemlock woolly adelgid.

Invasive species management is an increasing concern with landowners and conservation properties. Whether it be non native insects or rapidly growing vegetation, invasive species can negatively impact vulnerable, native natural communities. Invaders take advantage of their usually hardy and aggressive characteristics to compete for resources, and can quickly take over recently disturbed areas.



One exciting ongoing partnership focuses on the hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive pest that has decimated our native eastern and Carolina hemlocks. BRC and the Hemlock Restoration Initiative (HRI) hosted a public seminar, Hope for the Hemlocks, at the Watauga County Agricultural Conference Center followed by a two hands-on hemlock treatment workshops in Valle Crucis.

Participants learned how to identify hemlocks and trees infected with woolly adelgid, treatment methods to combat the small aphid-like bug and hemlock management in forested versus landscape settings.

We have learned that, through the good work of HRI and many other partners, there is Hope for the Hemlocks! There are numerous treatment options available, many of which are DIY and very effective.

If you have hemlocks on your property that may be infected, whether in the forest or around your home, feel free to contact us to learn more. We are looking forward to our continued partnership with landowners and HRI to help save our hemlocks.

MIDDLE FORK GREENWAY

Connecting Blowing Rock to Boone—naturally!

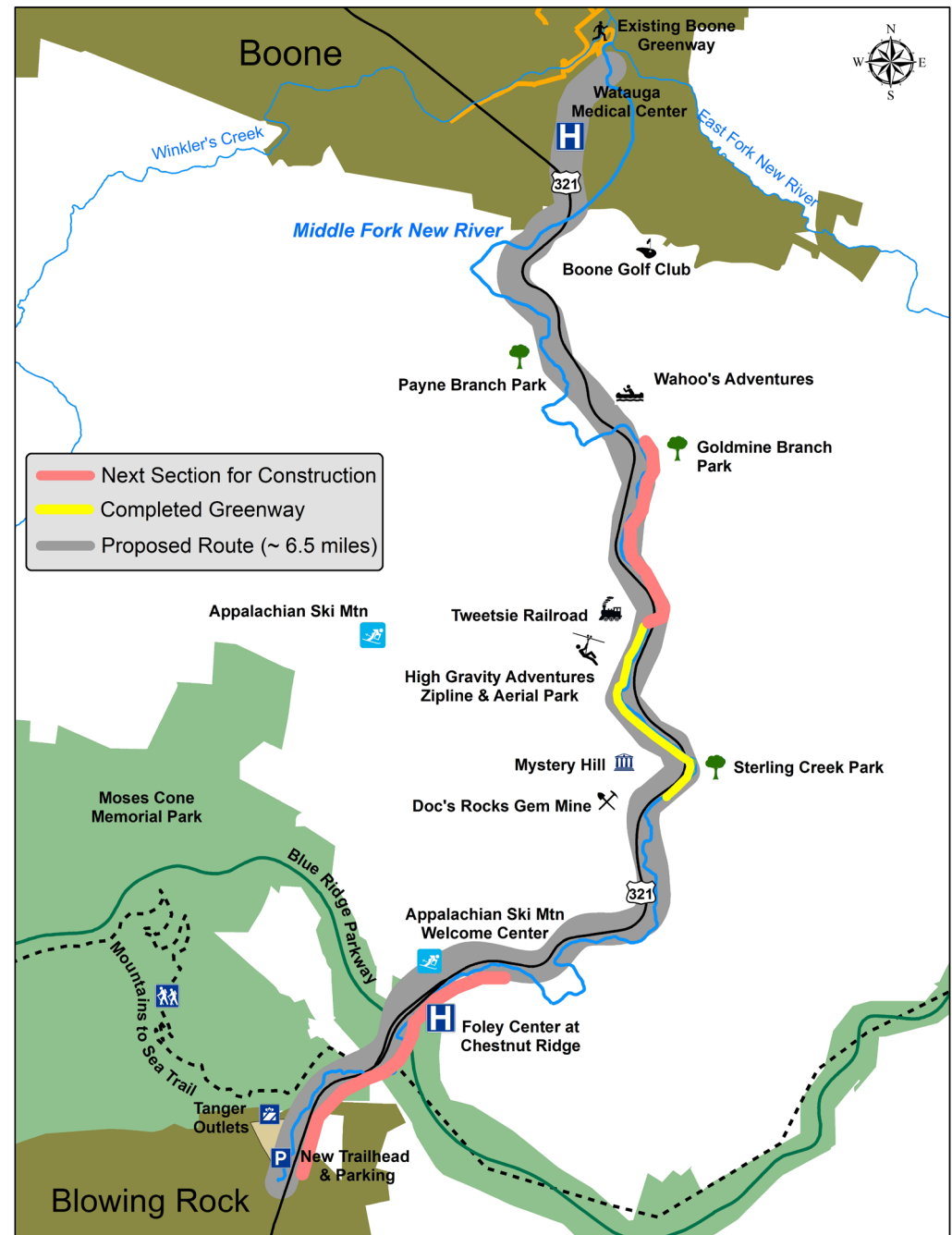
The Middle Fork Greenway has achieved great momentum with fundraising efforts and community support. In 2017 the Eastern Federal Lands Access Program (EFLAP) awarded \$1.8 million to the Town of Blowing Rock for construction of 1.2 miles of Greenway, from the trailhead near Shoppes on the Parkway through the Foley Center at Chestnut Ridge.

Blue Ridge Conservancy secured \$500,000 in required matching funds for the EFLAP grant from Blowing Rock Tourism Development Authority, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), the State of North Carolina, Watauga County Tourism Development Authority, PeopleForBikes, the Dillon Family Foundation, private donors and local businesses that participated in the 2018 Round Up for the Greenway.

Withers Ravenel, an Asheville based engineering firm, was hired to develop the alignment, engineering plans and permits for this section. This work will be finished in the fall of 2019, with construction to complete no later than year-end 2021.

Enthusiasm for this project has broadened beyond the towns' limits. In July of 2018, 111 local Watauga County businesses raised \$113,000 for the project during the month-long Round Up for the Greenway. These funds were used to leverage over \$1,000,000 in grant funding. With these funds in hand, BRC and Watauga County are preparing to construct the next 0.75 miles of greenway, including a pocket park, in 2019. This section will run from Tweetsie Railroad north to Niley Cook Road.

As NCDOT completes the Highway 321 widening project, the Middle Fork Greenway trailhead will be incorporated into the final plans. The trailhead will include a pavilion overlooking the headwaters of the Middle Fork New River, bike racks, an information kiosk, signage and landscaping. The pavilion is complete and opportunities for naming the pavilion are available.





111 local businesses raised \$113,000 during the July 2018 Round Up for the Greenway.



BRC Board of Trustee Bonnie Weyher and dog enjoy the Middle Fork of the New River at Sterling Creek Park.

Local businesses “Round Up”

Last July, businesses including the Mast General Store, Mystery Hill, Ray’s Weather, and the Speckled Trout went above and beyond to support and fundraise for the Middle Fork Greenway. This event was so successful, we’re doing it again!

The Round Up will run throughout the entire month of July of 2019. Some businesses have even chosen to run the promotion for an entire year!

How can your business participate? Watauga County businesses can ask their customers to round up their purchase to the nearest dollar, add \$1 to a bill, add a \$1 processing fee to online sales, give a percentage of sales or donate a one-time gift. Whatever you feel your business can do to help, we appreciate it.

The goal of the 2019 Round Up is to rally 200 businesses to raise \$200,000. This money is critical to leverage state grants that will help us lay more greenway on the ground.

Charleston Forge donates benches for the greenway

Local Watauga County business Charleston Forge created beautiful handcrafted benches for the greenway. Art and Susan Barber of Charleston Forge believe the custom benches will reflect our community’s natural environment and heritage.

The first of 16 benches for the greenway was installed at Sterling Creek Park last summer.

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone on the greenway, sponsoring a bench is a great way to do so. There are also many other naming opportunities including rock boulders, shelters and more. For more information on how you can be a part of this legacy project contact Wendy Patoprsty at (828)264-2511 or visit www.middleforkgreenway.org.



The river overlook shelter is at the trailhead in Blowing Rock.

BRC IN THE COMMUNITY

The Gamekeeper Auction is relocating!

Now in its 19th year, the Gamekeeper Auction continues to grow and evolve. The 2019 Gamekeeper Auction will take place on June 5th at the Barn on the New River in Ashe County.

Its popularity has helped BRC reexamine our priorities and desired outcomes from this event. We welcome you to attend this year to enjoy some of the same traditions as years past, including the silent and live auction, beer and wine tastings and live music. We're excited to offer those fun features while also basking in the beauty of the South Fork of the New River in a large indoor/outdoor rustic but elegant barn. The Gamekeeper will prepare a plated dinner to ensure everyone's appetite is satisfied as we celebrate your loyal support for land conservation!

Please contact Nikki Robinson at nikki@blueridgeconservancy.org if you are interested in donating an auction item or volunteering for this event.

Front Porch Parties

In 2018 BRC hosted 6 Front Porch Parties. A Front Porch Party is a gathering co-hosted by our supporters across our service area to connect with donors and share our story. These events are part of a larger fundraising strategy for BRC, aimed at creating a sustainable source of operating income for our organization.



We believe these events are an integral component of our recruitment strategy, as they have allowed us to meet prospective donors in an intimate setting and share the important work we are doing in the places that matter most to them. Please contact Caroline Gandy at caroline@blueridgeconservancy.org if you are interested in hosting a Front Porch Party.

View from the Green Hill Front Porch Party in Blowing Rock.



The Barn on the New River is located at 3364 Lower Nettle Knob Road West Jefferson, NC, 28694.



George and Linda Gilleland and Marianne and Bill Hall enjoy gorgeous views from Green Hill.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



Beth Davison is the Co-Director of Appalachian State University's Documentary Film Services.

Each year Blue Ridge Conservancy recognizes special supporters who go above and beyond in volunteering their time and talents to support our mission of “Saving the Places You Love.” We are pleased to recognize Beth Davison, Brad Moretz and Brenda Speckmann!

Beth Davison

Dr. Davison is the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies and Co-Director of University Documentary Film Services at Appalachian State University. For the Sociology Department, she teaches research methods classes and senior seminar. She also teaches media classes for Interdisciplinary Studies. She has published 16 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and received grants totaling near \$1 million dollars.

After hearing the story of the Virginia big-eared bat conservation project, she agreed to produce a documentary about the importance and fragility of bats in our ecosystem, and highlight BRC’s work to protect ecologically sensitive habitats. This involved filming wildlife biologists conducting bat surveys at night in the forest until 3:00 am! This new great outreach tool is available for viewing on the BRC website.



Brenda Moretz Speckmann and Brad Moretz, owners of family operated Appalachian Ski Mtn.

Brad Moretz and Brenda Moretz Speckmann

Brad and Brenda are incredible supporters of the Middle Fork Greenway. In 2015, they initiated an Easter weekend promotion led by Appalachian Ski Mtn. generating over \$50,000 for the Greenway.

In July of 2018, they led the charge for the “Round Up for the Greenway” rallying 111 High Country businesses to participate. Their efforts raised \$113,000 and leveraged over \$1 million in grants to construct the next 0.75 miles of trail in 2019.

The Greenway will follow the river underneath the bridge at the Foley Center at Chestnut Ridge in Blowing Rock. The bridge was named in honor of their parents, Grady and Reba Moretz to honor them for their long-standing commitment to health care.

This year, Brad and Brenda forge ahead with the 2019 goal of raising \$200,000 with 200 businesses to keep the momentum going! They are true leaders in community development.

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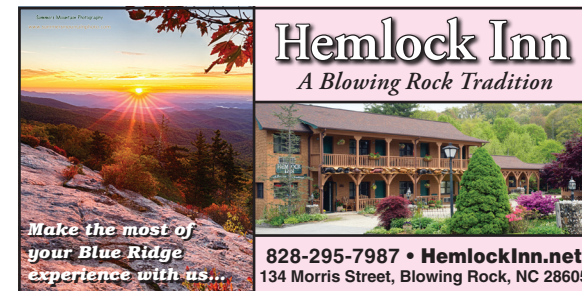
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Order BRC merchandise online at <https://blueridgeconservancy.org/store>
M-Prints produces top-quality embroidered hats and screen printed shirts.

2018 Financial Report

Blue Ridge Conservancy leveraged operating expenses of \$644,000 to generate \$5,576,000 for programs, including Middle Fork Greenway and land conservation projects.



2019 Events:

Monday, April 22 Earth Day Hike: Elk Knob State Park

Saturday, May 4 Hike: Beech Creek Bog State Natural Area

Saturday, June 1 Land Trust Day at Mast General Store

Wednesday, June 5 Gamekeeper Auction

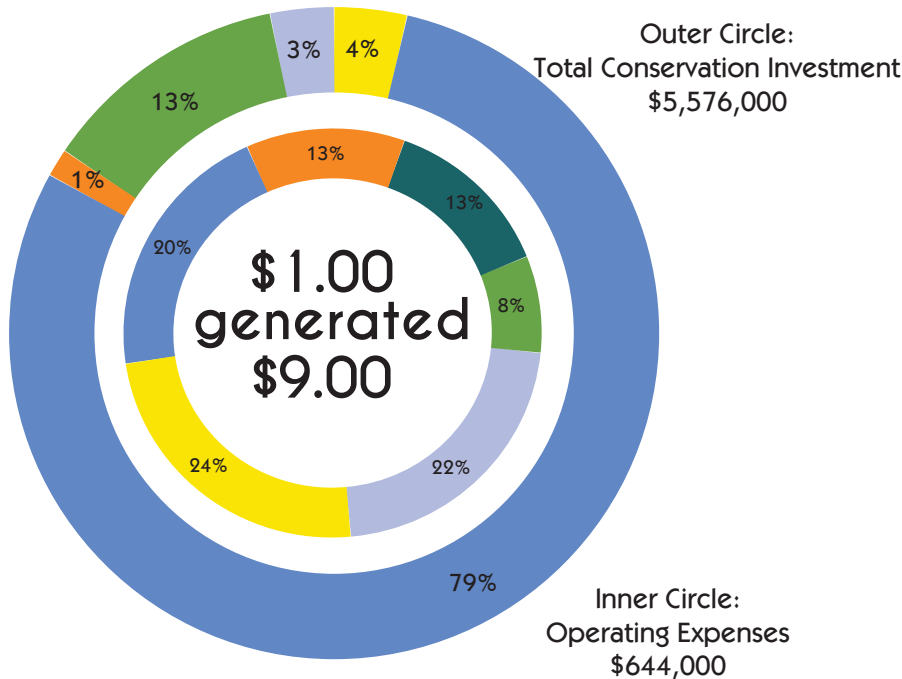
Wednesday, July 17 Kids in Nature on the Middle Fork Greenway

Saturday, August 10 Hike: Three Top Mountain Game Land

Saturday, September 21 Blue Ridge Conservancy 5K & Kids 1 Mile Fun Run

Saturday, October 5 Hike: Pond Mountain Game Land & Picnic Lunch*

**For 2019 BRC Members*



- Land Conservation Projects
- Middle Fork Greenway Projects (included grants awarded towards Greenway construction)
- Middle Fork Greenway Operations
- Fundraising
- Stewardship
- Operations

WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK OUR 2018 DONORS:

We Appreciate our 2018 Donors!
This list represents donations made to Blue Ridge Conservancy and the Middle Fork Greenway during the 2018 calendar year.

2020 Ambassadors

(These donors have committed to gifts of \$2,500 or more per year for at least three years)

Steven and Debbie Airey
Curt Andrews
Charlie and Ann Baker
Bill and Laura Barrier
Dick and Margaret Beckman
Hanes and Lida Boren
Judi Brown
Ric and Ann Browning
Bob and Polly Capps
John and Faye Cooper
Steve Duprey and Steve Wylie
George and Linda Gilleland
Flint and Lisa Gray
Tim Gupton and Brent Moore
Bob and Susan Hambright
Tim and Carolyn Hilton
Dan McLamb and Bonnie Weyher
Mast General Store
Cobb and Cindy Milner
Margaret Newbold and Liz Watson
Meagan Phillips
Pete and Zika Rea
Wade and Kathy Reece
Michael and Virginia Tate
Bill and Judy Watson
Walter and Jean Wilkinson

Leadership Circle

(These donors have committed to gifts of \$1,000 or more per year for at least three years)

Jimmy and Marci Bent
Steve and Laura Blalock
Greg Bradley and Lee Carter
Jeff and Vicki Gray
Andy and Pam Guion
Andy Heckert and Kristan Cockerill
Bo Henderson and Ed Springs
Ken and Donna Lewis

Don and Sandra Mikush
Jim Protzman and Jane Brown
Lyle Schoenfeldt and Wanda Hinshaw
Chris Souhrada and Alyson Browett

Evergreen Circle

(These donors have made gifts to Blue Ridge Conservancy every year since 2010)

Michael and Helen Ruth Almond
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Alex and Anne Bernhardt
Hanes and Lida Boren
Bob Cherry and Jamie Leigh
Kelly Coffey
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Charlie Earp and Evelyn Phipps
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Mike and Jeri Gray
Thomas and Susan Griffis
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Frances Huber
James and Alice Keighton
Bill and Wendy Korb
Hal and Holly Levinson
Larry and Sarah Manning
Mast General Store
Peppers Restaurant
Francis and Sibyl Pressly
Reid's Café and Catering Co.
Terry and Nancy Reigel
Rock Dimensions
John and Deborah Sherrill
Jack and Marie Shirey
Skip Sickler and Lisa Loveday
Paul and Caroline Stahlschmidt
Stick Boy Bread Co.
Cullie and Sylvia Tarleton
Michael and Virginia Tate
B and Martha Townes
John and Debbie Troxler
Bill and Jane Tucker
Joel and June Weaver

Dewey Wells
John and Ashley Wilson
Roger Winsor

BLACK BEAR SOCIETY

Sustainers: \$25,000+

Steven and Debbie Airey
Curt Andrews
Janes Charitable Lead Trust
NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund
NC Division of Water Resources
NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
NC Recreational Trails Program
Fred and Alice Stanback
Watauga Economic Development Commission

Preservers: \$10,000 - \$24,999

Blue Ridge Energy
Ric and Ann Browning
John & Barbra McLendon Family Foundation
Mast General Store
Mystery Hill
Annie Pipes
Watauga County TDA

Protectors: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Charlie and Ann Baker
Bill and Laura Barrier
John and Faye Cooper
Steve Duprey and Steve Wylie
Tim Gupton and Brent Moore
Patrick Hollowell
Michael and Franziska Janes
Gene Ostrow and Tracy Woody
Pfizer Foundation
Pete and Zika Rea
Wade and Kathy Reece
SOFACT Solutions
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