

BLUE RIDGE CONSERVANCY

SAVING THE PLACES YOU LOVE

NEWS

SPRING 2011

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Join or renew online, or by sending the enclosed envelope.

OUR MISSION

Protecting the natural resources of northwestern N.C. by conserving land with significant agricultural, ecological, recreational, or scenic value.



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

Newsletter underwriting by:



Pond Mountain Project Completed!

In late December, a four-year effort to protect Pond Mountain in the northwestern corner of North Carolina was completed. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Blue Ridge Conservancy, a private, non-profit land trust based in Boone, nearly 1,800 acres on this beautiful Ashe County mountain have been purchased and transferred to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). The project permanently protects significant views, open space, water resources and wildlife while creating recreational and economic opportunities.

At 5,000 feet in elevation, Pond Mountain overlooks the mountains of Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. Immediately to the north are the peaks of Virginia's Grayson Highlands State Park and Jefferson National Forest, Mount Rogers and White Top Mountain. To the west lies Tennessee's expansive Cherokee National Forest. Visible to the east and south are the high peaks of North Carolina's Blue Ridge. Pond Mountain is about a 30 minute drive from the mountain community of West Jefferson.

According to Walter Clark, Executive Director of Blue Ridge Conservancy, "protecting Pond Mountain involved multiple private and public partners. In these days of tight economic resources conserving land is challenging – it takes time, creativity and the melding together of a variety of funding resources." The protection of Pond Mountain began with a major gift from a private donor through the Foundation for the Carolinas and was completed with *(continued on page 10)*

The view from Pond Mountain at over 5,000 feet in elevation. BRC is working to protect over 1,000 additional acres of land on and around Pond Mountain.



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From the Executive Director

It has been a great year for Blue Ridge Conservancy! Last May two of northwestern North Carolina's prominent land trusts joined forces to create our new organization. With the merger of Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust and High Country Conservancy, BRC was established with the mission of *protecting the natural resources of northwestern North Carolina by conserving land with significant agricultural, ecological, cultural, recreational or scenic value*. To date, BRC has protected almost 16,000 acres in 171 places. But the merger was just the beginning of a year of amazing accomplishments.

One of the primary goals of merging was to reduce administrative overhead and use those savings to protect more land. Consequently, shortly after we joined forces BRC's Board of Trustees made a strategic decision to close one of our two offices. At the time of the merger, High Country Conservancy was located in Boone and Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust was in West Jefferson. Because Boone is the more central location to BRC's service area, the Trustees opted to close the West Jefferson office. It was not an easy decision but the difficulty was almost immediately mitigated by a generous offer of a rent-free office by one of our supporters. So thanks to donors Steve and Debbie Airey, BRC re-located to 166 Furman Road in Boone. By closing one office, finding a free location for our remaining location and by eliminating a redundant staff position resulting from the merger, BRC was able to reduce its administrative overhead by \$8,000 a month for an annual savings of \$96,000.

In the midst of this incredibly hectic year, BRC was still able to have a near record-breaking year in land protection. In 2010, we completed 11 projects permanently protecting 1,233 acres of land in northwest North Carolina. This included completing our signature project on Pond Mountain in Ashe County and expanding public land holdings for Elk Knob State Park, Grandfather Mountain State Park and Three Top Mountain State Game Lands. Additionally, we worked with six private property owners to successfully complete donations of conservation easements on their land.

Our successes in 2010 have laid the foundation for BRC to meet new challenges in 2011 and beyond. For example, this fall we hope to move forward with land trust accreditation. Accreditation is a process established by the Land Trust Alliance that sets standards for land trusts. These standards are designed to assure our clients and donors that we are operating in a way that builds trust. We have also just started a Strategic Planning process for the new BRC. This process will help assess how we want to grow and direct the organization over the next five years.

As always, we appreciate your comments and support. Without our friends, donors and supporters none of our accomplishments would be possible.

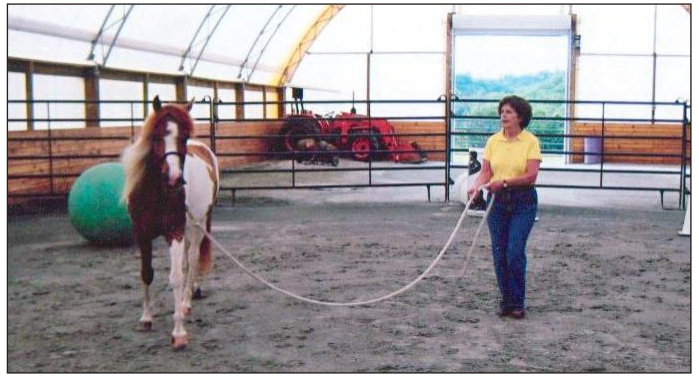


Walter Clark

Brush Creek Farm Spotlight

Frances Huber, owner of Brush Creek Farm, was recognized recently by the Allegheny Soil and Water District as one of many local farmers excelling in conservation efforts. She and her late husband, Andy, participated in conservation programs to improve water quality and decrease erosion. More recently, Frances has participated in a forage renovation project to improve pasture that was damaged due to droughts. Other conservation measures include fencing livestock out of the streams, alternative watering systems, a feed and waste storage facility for beef operation, stock trails and stream crossings.

During a recent field visit, Frances spoke of the condition of the farm when she and Andy first acquired it. She remembered deep ditches from erosion in the fields, an old truck in the stream and eroding stream banks. The Hubers entered into an agreement with the N.C. Wetlands Restoration Program (now known as the Eco-system Enhancement Program or EEP) to have the stream-banks restored and the animals permanently excluded from the stream.



After Andy's death in 2000, Frances decided to remain on the farm because, as she says, "I have Mad Farmers Disease and I would not know what to do with myself back in the city!" For

several years she operated "The Little Farm", a fun teaching and petting farm. Currently she is studying



Parelli Natural Horsemanship and enjoys being with her horses.

Frances is also in the heifer replacement business and hosted the Allegheny Cattleman's Association event in 2006. Her determination to preserve the farm was confirmed with a decision to enroll it in the Allegheny County Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program and also with a permanent conservation easement through Blue Ridge Conservancy. She continues to study soils and grasses with her goal being to grow superior beef cattle, produce high-quality forage while continually caring for the land, and maintain a sustainable balance between farming and conservation.

BRC would like to thank Allegheny Soil & Water Conservation District for permission to reprint this article.



New Publication Celebrates BRC's Conservation Work

If you haven't seen our recent publication, *Saving Land in the Blue Ridge*, give us a call and we'll send you one—or look for it in select businesses and your community chamber of commerce. With photographs and text, *Saving Land* celebrates select Blue Ridge Conservancy land protection projects, from valley farms to untouched mountain ridges. It's a booklet to enjoy and pass on to your fellow conservation-minded friends.



Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Awards \$100,000 Grant to Blue Ridge Conservancy

Following the historic merger of Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust and High Country Conservancy, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation awarded Blue Ridge Conservancy a \$100,000 grant for organizational capacity building, board development, and Land Trust Alliance accreditation. Accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance means that a land trust has met criteria that demonstrate it to be a responsibly and ethically operated organization, accountable to its donors and the public, and protecting the public interest with sound, sustainable land transactions and stewardship.

According to Walter Clark, BRC's Executive Director, "by awarding the grant, ZSR has presented us with an opportunity and challenge...an opportunity to take advantage of the success of our historic merger and lay the groundwork for a more efficient and effective organization, and a challenge in documenting the merger process in such a way as to provide a model for other organizations that wish to

follow the same path." Clark added, "We are very grateful to ZSR and look forward to both the opportunity and the challenge."

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation was established in 1936 as a memorial to the youngest son of the founder of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. In that year the brother and two sisters of Z. Smith Reynolds—R.J. Reynolds, Jr., Mary

Reynolds Babcock, and Nancy Susan Reynolds Bagley—provided that their inheritance from his estate would go to the

establishment of a trust for "charitable works in the State of North Carolina."

In its history, the Foundation, as the beneficiary of the income from the Zachary Smith Reynolds Trust and the W. N. Reynolds Trust, has made grants to organizations in all of North Carolina's 100 counties. The Foundation's grant to Blue Ridge Conservancy falls within its environmental focus area, one of five priority areas for the Foundation.



New Office Space Donated to BRC

Blue Ridge Conservancy was created last year from the merger of two of the area's leading land trusts—Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust and High Country Conservancy. Unknown to BRC, local conservation supporters were following these exciting developments. Soon after the announcement of our successful merger, local dentist Dr. Steven Airey and his wife Debbie Airey reached out to BRC, offering the new land conservation organization free office space.

Thanks to Steve and Debbie Airey's enormous generosity, BRC has a fantastic new home office in Boone, just off of State Farm road near the Greenway and Watauga Medical Center. The new location is the foundation for our conservation work, and the Airey's generous support is indispensable to BRC's success in the coming years.

Dr. Airey graduated from the University of Missouri at Kansas City Dental School in 1980. He practiced in Kansas City and Southern Missouri for 10 years. In 1990 he relocated



to Naples, Florida where he practiced for 15 years. In 2004 he permanently moved to Boone and began his practice, Appalachian Dental Care (<http://stevenaireydd.com>). The office provides optimum oral health for all clients, serving as an integrated health partner with them in their unique dental needs.

Dr. Airey has been married to his lovely wife Debbie for 30 years, and they share four beautiful children: Quinn, Shea, Juan and Brett. All of the Airey children are currently attending college or working in the Carolinas. The family is very proud to have a home in the lovely Vilas area.

An appreciation for conservation and the outdoors runs deep in the Airey family. In fact, one of (*continued next page*)

Strengthening the Foundation: Join BRC's Founder's Society

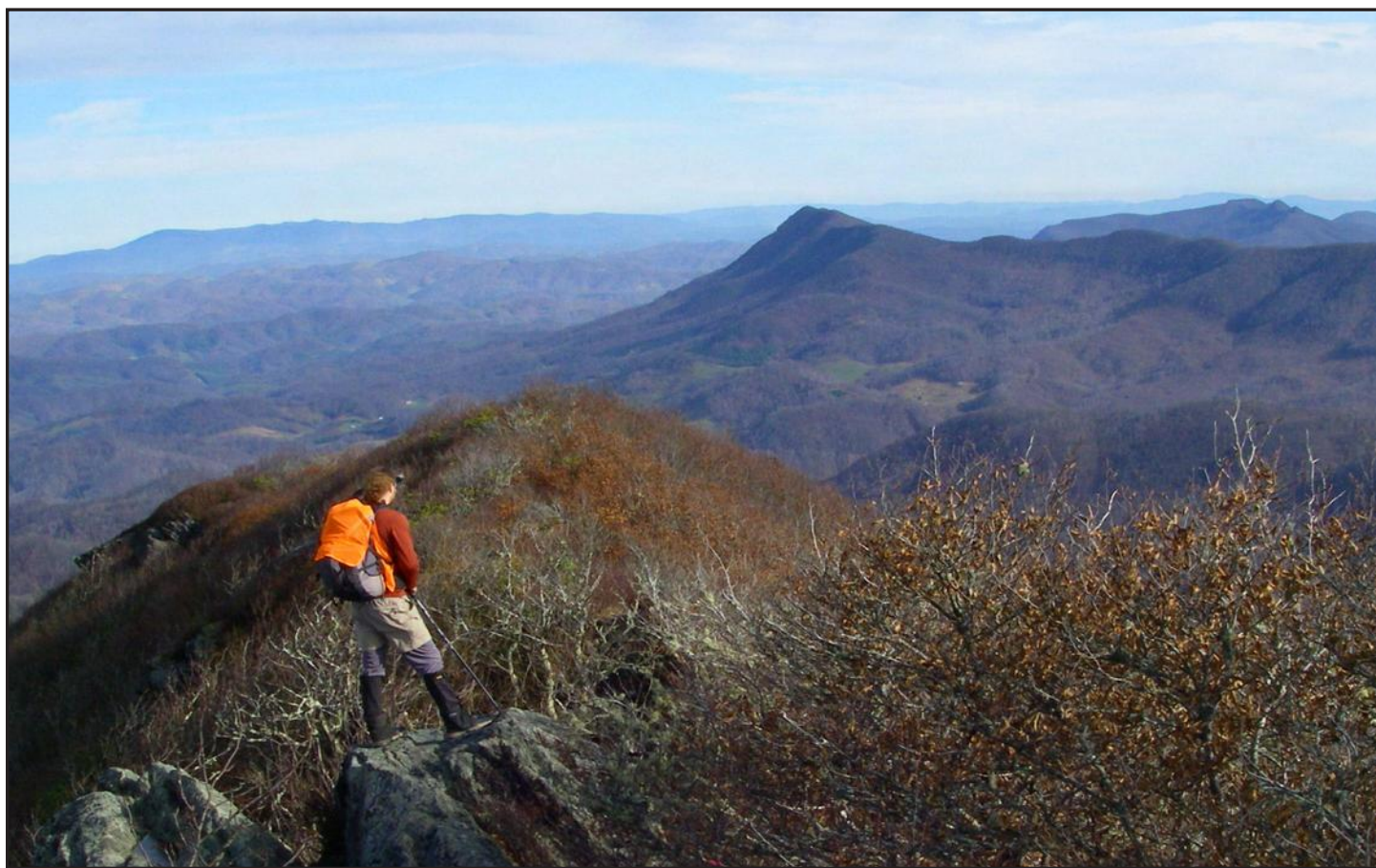
We are happy to report that Blue Ridge Conservancy's Founder's Society continues to grow. Last year society members each contributed \$5,000 or more to our land protection efforts, exemplifying a deep commitment to BRC, and helping to lay the foundation for the organization's continued success.

Our ability to fulfill our mission is built on community support. With that support BRC has protected nearly 16,000 acres, with over 1,200 of those acres added in 2010.

Despite this success, there is a pressing need for land protection in northwestern North Carolina. Taking advantage of land protection opportunities in the upcoming years will be critical. To meet this goal, we need your support. Now is the time to lay a solid foundation for BRC's future.

We invite you to join the Founder's Society, and become a part of our continuing success. To join or learn more about the Society, contact Walter Clark, Executive Director, at 828.264.2511 or walter@blueridgeconservancy.org.

A hiker on Snake Mountain enjoys the view north over Elk Knob State Park, towards the Peak, Three Top Mountain, and Pond Mountain (Rick Short photo).



Dr. Airey's son, Shea Airey, is an attorney specializing in Estate Planning and Land Conservation law. His law school paper, "Conservation Easements in Private Practice," earned an award for best legal writing by a law school student on a real property, trust or estate law topic from the American Bar Association. Based in Seneca, along South Carolina's Blue Ridge, Shea provides complete estate planning counsel, involving basic to sophisticated estate planning techniques for

clients from diverse backgrounds (<http://www.aireylaw.com>).

On behalf of BRC's Board of Trustees, staff and members, we would like to extend our immense gratitude to the Airey Family for their generous and forward-thinking support of BRC's conservation work. Our ability to meet our mission is enhanced with the stability of a home base. The Airey's have provided BRC that essential foundation. Thank you!

Let's Go For a Hike! BRC-led hikes in 2011

Please join Blue Ridge Conservancy for monthly hikes across our northwestern North Carolina region. Come along with us to reconnect with nature, learn more about our ongoing conservation work, and simply have some fun with fellow conservation supporters. Thanks to generous hosts, a select number of hikes will be paired with nearby local farms for an optional post-hike reception. Our hikes are free, but reservations are required due to limited group size. RSVP to BRC at (828) 264-2511.



Saturday, May 14 • Beech Mountain Beech Creek Bog State Natural Area

In 2002, BRC led the effort to protect this nationally significant southern Appalachian bog. Join us for a carefully guided tour of this special ecosystem. A partner outing with Beech Mountain Recreation Center, this is a moderate hike that will last about 2.5 hours.



Saturday, June 11 • Valle Crucis Bear Paw State Natural Area

Bear Paw is a translation of 'Yonah-wayah', the Cherokee name for this area of high ridges and valleys above Valle Crucis. Hike with us to the crest of Hanging Rock Ridge for amazing views of Grandfather Mountain. Lasting about 2.5 hours, we'll take it easy on this strenuous hike.



Saturday, July 9 • Black Mountains Crabtree Falls and Mountain Farm

Famous for its bumper crop of lavender, enjoy a local farm tour near Celo, at BRC-conserved Mountain Farm. Following the farm tour, enjoy a moderate hike to beautiful Crabtree Falls nearby. Total time of 4 hours.



Rick Short Photo



Saturday, August 27 • Pond Mountain Pond Mountain and Ripshin Farm

Pond Mountain is a historic and naturally significant high ridge at the extreme northwestern corner of N.C. The mountain was protected thanks to BRC's multi-year land acquisition effort. From the top, you will take in world-class views of the southern Blue Ridge. It's a moderately difficult hike over about 3.5 hours. Following the hike, join us for homemade pizza at nearby Ripshin Farm, also protected by BRC.



Saturday, September 24 • Bullhead Mountain Hawk Watching with High Country Audubon and Conservation Trust for North Carolina

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



Saturday, October 8 • Elk Knob Elk Knob State Park and Chuck Smith's Farm

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

Stick Boy Mayview Madness a Mad Success

To the runners, thank you for braving a cold November morning to come out and run the Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5k and Fun Run. There was snow and ice on the course, but you persevered. Your enthusiasm, energy and effort is inspiring, and your support of Blue Ridge Conservancy is greatly appreciated. The numbers are in, and your participation in the event helped raise approximately \$6000 for local land conservation projects!

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, Stick Boy Bread Company. You have helped us grow the race and make it a more fun and successful event. It's wonderful to see the entire Stick Boy family come out and run in the event. And boy is it a pleasure to bite into a Stick Boy sticky bun, scone or cookie after running the race!

Thank you too to our Finish Line Sponsor, Bistro Roca Restaurant. Longtime supporter and participant in our annual 5k run, the entire Bistro Roca family also comes out for this event. This year Bistro Roca generously opened their doors, giving finishers a warm place to cool their jets after running their heart out. Finishing at Bistro Roca worked out beautifully, and hot chocolate was a welcome delight!

The following businesses continued to generously support the event: Katie Langley Photography, Sunalei Preserve, Boone Barr from Jay Parr Foods, and Redwood Creek Wines. Thank you for your generous sponsorship!

And of course we couldn't do it without our local media supporters High Country Press and Watauga Democrat, and the new web news outlet, Blowing Rock News.



RUNNERS, SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Stick Boy Mayview Madness will be a bit earlier, on Saturday, October 22nd, 8:00 a.m. Same great course as last year!



Since July of 1971, Footsloggers has served the outdoor community of northwestern North Carolina, and beyond. No stranger to outdoor adventure, Footsloggers' hands-on outdoor experience ensures a stock of high quality goods offering huge value and incredible durability. Whatever the season, wherever the adventure, Footsloggers has the technical clothing and gear that will keep you comfortable and enhance your time outside.

The name "footslogger" can be found in Roget's Thesaurus under the verb "walk," and so naturally footwear—whether for a hike on the Parkway or a backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail—is a particular point of pride for Footsloggers. If you walk the walk, Footsloggers' awesome selection and guaranteed custom-fitted footwear will have you breaking out in stride.

So for your next trip close to home or far afield, stop by Footsloggers where their staff is ready and happy to serve you. BRC wishes Footsloggers a happy 40th birthday, and thanks them for their commitment to our community, and for many years of generous support of our conservation work—thank you for including us in your adventure!



2010 BRC LAND PROTECTION REPORT

Blue Ridge Conservancy's first year in existence was a resounding success. Despite working overtime on our successful merger process, we completed eleven land protection projects permanently preserving 1,233 acres of land in northwest North Carolina. Highlights include expanding public land holdings for Pond Mountain Game Lands, Elk Knob State Park, Grandfather Mountain State Park and Three Top Mountain Game Lands. Additionally, BRC monitored 123 conservation easements, finding no violations.

Here are the conservation projects completed in 2010:

Pond Mountain Phase IV & V, Ashe County (650 acres):

As part of a 4 year process, BRC completed the final phase of this acquisition with Clean Water Management Trust Fund money. The \$5M purchase added 650 acres to Pond Mountain Game Lands, creating the "core" of the preserve. Pond



Mountain Game Lands are located in the northwest corner of the state and border both Virginia and Tennessee, including the Cherokee National Forest. The headwater streams of Big Horse Creek and Big Laurel Creek are now protected as well as early successional habitat for Golden-winged Warblers. Recently, BRC was awarded funding by the N.C. Department of Justice to purchase an additional 47 acres on Pond Mountain.

Mountains2Sea, LLC—Grandfather Mountain State Park, Watauga County (155 acres):

BRC partnered with The Conservation Fund (TCF) to purchase this property from the Pusateri's. The land is located directly behind the Grandfather Campground on Hwy 105 and consists of several streams, rock outcroppings and hardwood forest. TCF purchased the property with the intention of it becoming part of Grandfather Mountain State Park once funding becomes available. BRC secured \$480,000 in private funding from Fred and Alice Stanback and is

working with TCF and State Parks to raise the additional funds to complete the project.

Miller Property—Three Top Mountain Game Lands, Ashe County (50 acres):

Three Top Mountain Game Lands encompass about two thirds of the ridgeline and slopes of the mountain. In 2009 BRC purchased the adjoining Hufnagel property which provides the public direct access to the Game Lands off of



Ben Bolen Road. The property is entirely forested and hosts a diverse array of wildlife. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will own and manage the land as part of its Game Lands system. The property was purchased with funding from the Natural Heritage Trust Fund and a private donation from Fred and Alice Stanback.

Campbell Property—Elk Knob State Park, Watauga County (52 acres):

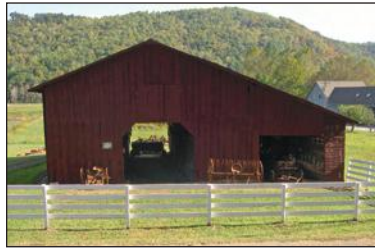
After many years of working with a local family, this property was purchased and added to Elk Knob State Park. Funding was provided by the Natural Heritage Trust Fund. To date, BRC has helped add 527 acres of land on Snake Mountain to Elk Knob State Park.



Cooper II Conservation Easement, Watauga County (7.6 acres):

John and Faye Cooper donated a conservation easement on 7.6 acres directly behind the Original Mast General Store in Valle Crucis. The property adjoins the 22-acre easement they donated in 2004. It also adjoins the Valle Crucis Park and Dutch Creek flows through the property. The easement

protects the scenic views of Valle Crucis and the water quality of Dutch Creek. In addition, the agricultural qualities of the property are significant as the entire property contains prime agricultural soils. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund provided money to cover the transaction costs of the easement.



Old Orchard Creek Farm Conservation Easement, Ashe County (22 acres):

This easement is located adjacent to an existing easement donated by Walter Clark and Johnny Bureson. The 22-acre addition brings a total of 87 acres under protection at Old Orchard Creek Farm. The property is located north of Lansing in the Little Horse Creek drainage. The easement protects a creek with open bottomland and a mixed forest on the slopes. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund provided money to cover the transaction costs of the easement.

Mast—Cove Creek Conservation Easement, Watauga County (14 acres):

The Mast family donated a conservation easement on 14 acres of bottomlands located in the heart of Sugar Grove. The easement protects prime agricultural soils, 1,400 feet of Cove Creek and scenic views from the highways. In addition to the agricultural and water attributes, the easement reserves the ability to create the Cove



Creek Greenway Trail on the property. In consultation and partnership with the Watauga County TDA Recreation Plan, the easement was crafted to meet greenway standards while protecting the conservation values of the property. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund provided money to cover the transaction costs of the easement.

Matt Black Conservation Easement, Alleghany County (54 acres):

Continuing a family tradition of protecting land, Matt Black donated an easement on his property along the South Fork New River. This section of the South Fork is on the

National Scenic section and is rated Outstanding Resource Water by the N.C. Division of Water Quality.

The property is entirely forested and borders Prather's Creek.

The easement protects the water quality and scenic views of the South Fork and expands upon the land protected by the Black family, which now totals almost 700 acres. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund provided money to cover the transaction costs of the easement.



Long Branch LLC Conservation Easement, Ashe County (175 acres):

The Korb's donated an easement on their entire property north of Lansing in Ashe County, totaling 175 acres. There is a restored home and the property is approximately 90% wooded. An unnamed tributary to Long Branch Creek begins in the center of the property. The easement protects the entire drainage area that forms the unnamed tributary while allowing for agriculture, recreation and timbering of the property. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund provided money to cover the transaction costs of the easement.

Lee-Criswell Conservation Easement, Wilkes County (52 acres):

This donated conservation easement lies on the East Prong of the Roaring River in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin. The East Prong is identified as an important water resource by N.C.'s Division of Water Quality. Conservation of the property protects a significant portion of the river, as well as a number of good quality tributaries and mountain springs. Entirely wooded, the property contains significant rock outcroppings, and from its upper reaches the granite dome of Stone Mountain State Park is visible. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund provided funding for the transactions costs of the easement.



substantial assistance from North Carolina’s Natural Heritage and Clean Water Management Trust Funds.

Pond Mountain was given its name in the 1700s by Thomas Jefferson’s father, Peter Jefferson, as he was surveying the line that would become the border of North Carolina and Virginia. Jefferson chose the name because of the many natural ponds that dotted the area’s high ridgeline. The historic ponds point to the mountain’s special significance as an important water resource. Several important streams and creeks originate on Pond Mountain, including Big Laurel, Ripshin and Big Horse Creeks – all of which flow into the New River, a National Heritage River and one of the oldest rivers in the world. “Land conservation and water quality protection go hand in hand,” said Richard Rogers, executive director of the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund. “Both are essential to the sustainability of our natural resources and heritage and to our economy as well.”

In addition to preserving the region’s natural beauty and vital water resources, the protection of Pond Mountain is important for wildlife. Because of the mountain’s close proximity to Cherokee National Forest to the west and

Jefferson National Forest to the north, protecting the area greatly expands wildlife habitat, including habitats highlighted in North Carolina’s State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). Pond Mountain will be held by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and will eventually be open to the public for hunting and other recreational activities such as hiking and horseback riding.

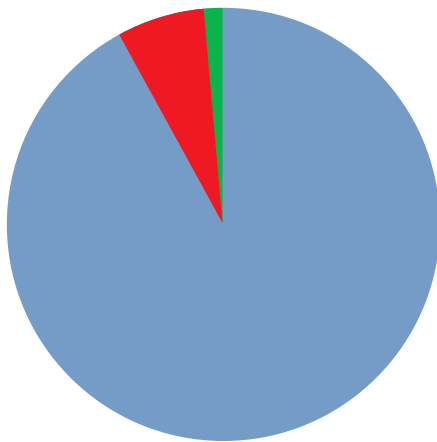
“Conservation of the Pond Mountain tract will protect priority aquatic and terrestrial habitats while providing wide-ranging public recreational opportunities,” said NCWRC Director Gordon Myers. “We are thrilled to be part of this project that will protect wildlife, recreational and economic resources for North Carolina.”

Despite the economic downturn, Blue Ridge Conservancy’s success on Pond Mountain leaves the organization optimistic about the future of land conservation in North Carolina. According to Clark, “Protecting Pond Mountain was a major goal for our organization. We hope it is a first step in protecting surrounding properties, ultimately preserving thousands of acres in the northwestern corner of North Carolina.”

BRC FINANCIAL REPORT – 2010

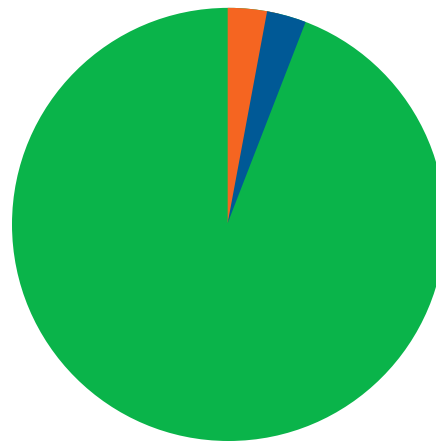
EXPENSES

- LAND ACQUISITION
\$4,907,218.00
- OPERATING EXPENSES
\$305,977.29
- TRANSACTIONAL EXPENSES FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND EASEMENT DONATION
\$65,191.15



INCOME

- GRANT FUNDING RECEIVED
\$160,790.15
- LAND ACQUISITION FUNDING RECEIVED
\$4,907,218.00
- CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED
\$151,190.11



BRC SHIRTS AND HATS

One of Blue Ridge Conservancy’s most committed supporters is M-Prints Screenprinting and Embroidery, located in downtown Boone. Owner Stuart Mangum is a consummate community-minded business owner and long-time BRC member. M-Prints recently donated top-quality BRC embroidered hats and screenprinted shirts.

Order your hat or shirt—or both!—by calling us at 828-264-2511 or on our website at www.blueridgeconservancy.org. There are women’s and men’s sizes and various colors available.

The cost for a hat or t-shirt is only \$10.00. Get yours while supplies last!



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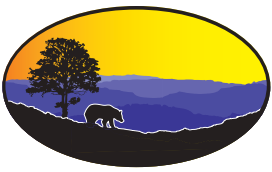
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BRC EVENTS – 2011

- Saturday, May 7** BRC Reception at Echota on the Ridge.
- Saturday, May 14** BRC Hike: Beech Creek Bog in Avery Co.
- Saturday, June 4** Land Trust Day
- Saturday, June 11** BRC Hike: Bear Paw State Natural Area in Watauga Co.
- Saturday, July 9** BRC Hike: Visit to Mountain Farm and hike to nearby
Crabtree Falls
- Saturday, July 23** Blueberry Festival
- Wednesday, August 10** Auction and Wine Tasting at Camp Sky Ranch
- Saturday, August 27** BRC Hike: Pond Mountain in Ashe Co
- Saturday, September 24** BRC Hike: Bullhead Mountain Hawk Migration
- Saturday, October 8** BRC Hike: Elk Knob in Watauga Co. and food reception
back at Chuck Smith's
- Saturday, Oct. 22, 8:00 am** Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5k and 1 Mile Fun Run

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



FIND BLUE RIDGE CONSERVANCY ON FACEBOOK!

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