




landscape

SAVING THE PLACES YOU LOVE SINCE 1994

SPRING/SUMMER 2017
VOLUME 22 ISSUE 1



CARING FOR PEOPLE & PLACE

**The long and winding road to protect our drinking water,
rare species and outdoor recreation opportunities.** Pages 10-11

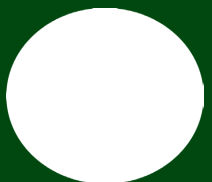
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Our Mission: *Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy is dedicated to protecting and stewarding land and water resources vital to our natural heritage and quality of life and to fostering appreciation and understanding of the natural world.*





COVER PHOTO: Anglers fish the trout-filled waters of the North Mills River which flows through the Big Creek Lodge property. In 2016, we successfully conserved 22 acres and transferred the land to the U.S. Forest Service as an addition to Pisgah National Forest. Conservation helps protect trout habitat and ensures public access to a popular trout fishery, as well as several trails—all of which would have been difficult to access had the property been developed.

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 carolinamountain.org**



Little White Oak Mountain

Coming Together to do More for You

For more than a decade, Little White Oak Mountain faced the threat of becoming the site of a 687-unit residential development. Its high, rugged terrain—home to several federally-endangered species, more than 13 miles of streams and nearly 400 acres of the Little White Oak Mountain/Tryon Peak Natural Heritage Area—was at risk.

“I think everybody was very concerned,” shares Dot Moyer, who has a home in Polk County. “It’s a very steep property that adjoins state game lands so it’s very important for the wildlife. There was a lot of concern that such a big, environmentally-sensitive piece of property would be developed so intensely.”

CMLC joined forces with our neighbors at Pacolet Area Conservancy (PAC) to purchase the tract slated for the stalled Foster Creek Preserve development. This collaborative conservation venture

features dramatic views, rare species, clean water, wildlife habitats, and opportunities for outdoor recreation and affordable housing.

A major lead gift from Fred and Alice Stanback and a one-year loan from the Conservation Trust for North Carolina enabled us to close on the purchase. But, it’s not a done deal. To ensure the property is permanently protected we need your help to raise the \$1.86 million required to pay off the loan.

Meeting Community Needs

In addition to the abundant natural resources on the 1,068-acre property, about 40 acres that were previously managed as a pine plantation are planned for workforce housing, in partnership with a local housing agency. This helps younger families and middle-income workers, such as police officers and teachers, get a start with homeownership.

“A lot of the objections you hear from people about land conservation are that the lands can never be used for anything. This has a real plan that is going to benefit many people in the community directly, through their enjoyment of the Game Lands, housing in a suitable area, recreation... this is going to be a real asset to the community economically as well as from a preservation standpoint. I think that’s what I’m most proud of is the creativity that went into making this conservation project benefit as many constituencies as possible.”

-Dot Moyer, Polk County Resident

The homeowners earn “sweat equity” by helping to build the homes themselves, which keeps the cost of the homes more affordable.

“When I heard that Self-Help Housing could be developing in Polk County, I couldn’t be more excited,” says Destiny Davis, who participated in the program in Henderson County. “It’s such a wonderful program and helps so many people and families. I would have never been able to buy a house without this program. It keeps people from having to move all the time chasing the cheaper rent. Families have a stable place to raise their children. I think I moved at least seven times

trying to find an affordable place to live. I’m thrilled that the program is expanding to other counties. The need for affordable housing is tremendous.”

Getting more families outside is another crucial part of this project. This property provides an exciting opportunity for the Polk County Recreation Complex to expand by 300 acres.

The Recreation Complex currently provides access to recreational sports fields and walking paths, but the expansion would provide a more extensive hiking and mountain biking trail network that would

lead you deeper into the forest. The expanded recreational opportunities not only benefit local residents, but also provide one more draw for visitors to the area, strengthening the local economy.

With the property nestled next to the Green River Game Lands, up to 600 acres may be added to that state-owned property, popular with fishing, hunting and hiking enthusiasts. This addition would provide users of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission-managed land with a point of public access from Houston Road.

“I think the creativity that is going into this makes it such a winner,” says Dot. “A lot of the objections you hear from people about land conservation are that the lands can never be used for anything. This has a real plan that is going to benefit many people in the community directly, through their enjoyment of the Game Lands, housing in a suitable area, recreation... this is going to be a real asset to the community economically as well as from a preservation standpoint. I think that’s what I’m most proud of is the creativity that went into making this conservation project benefit as many constituencies as possible. It’s terrific.”

Conserving More Together

With the success of partnering with PAC on Little White Oak Mountain and the ever-increasing need to conserve our beloved mountain streams, diverse forests and

Photo: Bill Bamberger

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

open pasturelands, our organizations are consolidating to increase our impact and do more for you.

“As the cooperative effort on the Little White Oak Mountain project demonstrates, having our neighboring conservancies join forces will only strengthen local conservation in our region even more,” says CMLC Executive Director Kieran Roe.

We are combining our efforts to further our common mission of conserving and caring for our treasured natural resources and iconic landscapes. A united organization helps build a larger community of advocates to save our irreplaceable lands and waters for our grandchildren and beyond.

You have been by our side, creating real change in this community. With your support,



CMLC and PAC staff and board at the February Board Retreat.

we embark on a new journey as a stronger and larger organization that is able to meet conservation opportunities in our region

head on. Together, we can save more of the places you love.

“When I heard that Self-Help Housing could be developing in Polk County, I couldn’t be more excited. I would have never been able to buy a house without this program. It keeps people from having to move all the time chasing the cheaper rent. Families have a stable place to raise their children.”
-Destiny Davis, Henderson County Affordable Housing Participant

Yellow Lady Slipper Volunteer: **DEB PARMER**



One hundred thirty-nine. That’s how many individual easement properties Deb Parmer turned into easement summary folders. She researched each individual property, tracked down all the pertinent information needed to take into the field, and consolidated paperwork from immense binders. With properties dating back to 1996 there was a lot of information to go through, and the older the property, the more information.

On average how long did each property take? “Only about 30 minutes,” Deb nonchalantly replies. To put it in perspective, Deb started this project in June 2016 and finished in March 2017. She came in to the CMLC office every week for at least an hour and half.

Deb’s can-do attitude is a huge asset to CMLC and we are thankful to have her on board. Deb became a member in 2014 when she and her husband moved from Michigan and discovered the Pardee & CMLC White Squirrel Hiking Challenge. Shortly after, she began regularly volunteering. When she is not helping CMLC, she is volunteering with Blue Ridge Humane

Society, hanging out with her pup, Finn, or gardening while strategically avoiding poison ivy and ground bees.

These easement summaries will be presented to other land managers like the Forest Service. When an easement property is up for sale, the information can assist the realtor by covering basic questions about the terms of the easement. We could go on and on about our gratitude for Deb and this massive project, but Torry Nergart, our Conservation Easement Manager, sums it up best. “It’s a win-win-win.”

CMLC Member Bernard Kitheka
with his son Ty.



YOUR LEGACY MATTERS

**WOULD YOU CONSIDER NAMING CAROLINA MOUNTAIN
LAND CONSERVANCY IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS?**

Leave a lasting impact for future generations—
continue to save the places you love!

SIMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

"I give, devise, and bequeath (insert dollar amount or percent of estate) to Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, a nonprofit corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina, with principal business address of 847 Case Street, Hendersonville, NC 28792, federal tax identification number 56-6449365, to be used for its general purposes."

We honor the members of our **LAND LEGACY LEAGUE** for including CMLC in their last will and testaments or as a beneficiary of a revocable trust, retirement account or life insurance policy. Please let us know if you have also included CMLC in your charitable giving estate plans so that we may thank you during your lifetime.

FOR MORE INFO ON JOINING
CMLC'S LAND LEGACY LEAGUE
CONTACT:

Lynn Killian | Development Director
828.697.5777, ext. 202
lynn@carolinamountain.org

LAND LEGACY LEAGUE MEMBERS

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We sincerely apologize that the names of some members of our Land Legacy League were inadvertently left off of the list printed in our recent Annual Report. It is with deep gratitude that we honor our Land Legacy League members listed herein.

**CMLC's
17th ANNUAL**

CONSERVATION CELEBRATION

**AUGUST 26th
2017**

PRESENTING SPONSOR: SUPPORTING SPONSOR:



YOU'RE INVITED! Celebrate another great year of conservation. Join us at Taylor Ranch—a privately-owned 500-acre working Quarter Horse and Texas Longhorn Cattle Ranch located in Fletcher. Experience scenic mountain views, gently rolling hills, and a tranquil 7-acre lake as you enjoy the company of friends and fellow conservationists. Proceeds support CMLC's work in your community, conserving the farms, forests, parks, mountains, streams, and scenery that make our region special.

FEATURES:

- Guided pre-celebration hike
- Trip Raffle live drawing
- Dancing and live music by Dashboard Blue
- Exquisitely catered by Taylor Ranch
- Live and Silent Auctions

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Individual Sponsorships with complimentary reservations starting at \$300.
- NEW! Additional sponsorships starting at \$500.

DATE AND LOCATION:

Saturday, August 26th, 4-8 pm
Taylor Ranch
1005 Cane Creek Road
Fletcher, NC 28732

THREE WAYS TO RESERVE:

Securely online at:
conservationcelebration.org
Call (828) 697-5777
Mail your check to CMLC with a note requesting attendance to:
847 Case Street
Hendersonville, NC 28792

RESERVATIONS:

\$100 per person

UNIQUE AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!

We are looking for exciting experiences and services such as: timeshares, vacation rentals, cabins, guided trips, in-home dinners or tours, botanical surveys, massages and landscaping.

If you are interested in donating an item or know someone who might be, please contact Jenn Tutor: jenn@carolinamountain.org, (828) 697-5777 ext. 209.

SUPPORT LAND CONSERVATION



GET YOUR TRIP RAFFLE TICKET!

DON'T MISS OUT!
RAFFLE TICKETS ARE JUST \$100 EACH AND
ONLY 200 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD.

Drawing will be held on August 26th at the Conservation Celebration.
You need NOT be present to win.

WINNER CHOOSES FROM:



BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA **7-DAY/6-NIGHT STAY FOR TWO**

From lush mountain jungles to white sandy beaches, enjoy a unique blend of authentic Belizean lifestyle and culture. Explore the 45-acre Belize Botanic Gardens, a serene flower-laden setting ideal for walks, birding, photography, and exploration. Recreational options (some activities may require additional fee) include Mayan Ruin tours, nature tours, canoeing and tubing tours, cave tours, zipline canopy tours, swimming, and more!

Trip Blackout Dates: Dec. 15, 2017-Jan. 5, 2018; overall subject to availability.



THE MANOR ON GOLDEN POND, NEW HAMPSHIRE **6-DAY/5-NIGHT STAY FOR TWO AT AWARD-WINNING MANOR**

Overlooking pristine Squam Lake and the White Mountains, The Manor on Golden Pond is graced by 15 landscaped acres studded with majestic pines. The Manor blends the virtues of a small country inn with the amenities of a grand hotel. Perfectly situated near the best of the local New England landscape: sailing, swimming, canoeing, hiking, birding, fishing, tennis, antique shopping, skiing, and more!

Trip Blackout Dates: Certain blackout dates may apply; overall subject to availability.



TRIP OF YOUR CHOICE

Imagine the possibilities! Skiing in the Swiss Alps, wine tasting in Italy, sailing the Caribbean... the choice is yours! Travel expert Tamsin Allpress of Tamsin & Cooke, LLC will work with you to craft the trip of your dreams with a \$3,000 credit toward your trip.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT:

www.conservationcelebration.org

10 Great Plants for Pollinators

When it comes to our food systems, pollinators such as bees, butterflies, flies, bats and hummingbirds are true heroes. About 35% of our planet's food crops depend on insects and animals and 75% of the world's flowering plants rely on natural pollinators for their survival. That makes pollinators extremely important.

Selecting native, pollinator-friendly plants not only helps increase the diversity of your garden, it adds a splash of color and livelihood by attracting these important pollinators! Check out this list of 10 western North Carolina native plants we recommend.

SPRING BLOOMS



New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus americanus)

New Jersey Tea attracts butterflies with its flowers and birds with its seeds. It is a nitrogen-fixing shrub with small white flower clusters that bloom in March and April. It prefers shade to part shade, and dry to moist sandy or loamy soils. New Jersey Tea has a high drought tolerance and easily adapts to inhospitable conditions.



Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)

Purple coneflower is a great nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds. Coneflowers start blooming in early to mid-summer and repeat bloom through frost. They may take a break after their initial bloom period, but they will quickly set more flower buds. They will tolerate partial shade, but plants may flop or strain to reach the sun. Purple coneflower prefers dry, well-drained sandy or richer soils.



Scarlet Bee Balm (Monarda didyma)

Bee balm attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds with a cluster of red, tubular flowers that can bloom from May to October, depending on elevation. It prefers full sun to part shade and rich, moist, acidic soils. Bee balm is cold tolerant and moderately deer tolerant.



White Wild Indigo (Baptisia alba)

White wild indigo attracts butterflies, native bees, and bumble bees. It is a legume with small pea-like white flowers that bloom in April and May. It can tolerate full sun to partial shade, and dry or moist acidic soil. B. alba can tolerate heat, seasonal flooding, and clay soils.



SUMMER BLOOMS



Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Milkweed is the only plant that monarch butterflies will lay eggs on, because caterpillars will only consume milkweed leaves. It grows 3-5 feet and has fragrant pink to purplish umbels, and can have up to 100 flowers per umbel. Milkweed blooms from June-August. It prefers full sun and moist soil.



Narrow Leaf Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)

Narrow leaf mountain mint attracts butterflies and bees with its flowers, and birds and other animals eat the seeds. It has silvery foliage and small, white flowers that bloom from July to September. Mountain mint prefers full sun to part shade, dry or moist soils, and is tolerant of drought, erosion, clay, and shallow rocky soil.

FALL BLOOMS



Common Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)

Boneset is a nectar source for butterflies and grows 2-4 feet with showy, bright white inflorescences from mid-summer into mid-fall. Boneset prefers partial shade to full sun, though it is tolerant of both. Moist, rich soil will provide the best medium, although Boneset is somewhat drought tolerant during the summer months.



Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima/S. rugosa*)

Goldenrod attracts butterflies with its yellow flowers that bloom from September to November. It prefers full sun and tolerates various soil types as long as they're well-draining. Goldenrod care is minimal once established in the landscape, with plants returning each year. They require little, if any watering, and are drought tolerant. Goldenrod is usually blamed for seasonal allergies, but allergies are actually caused by ragweed, which has a similar bloom time.



Purple Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)

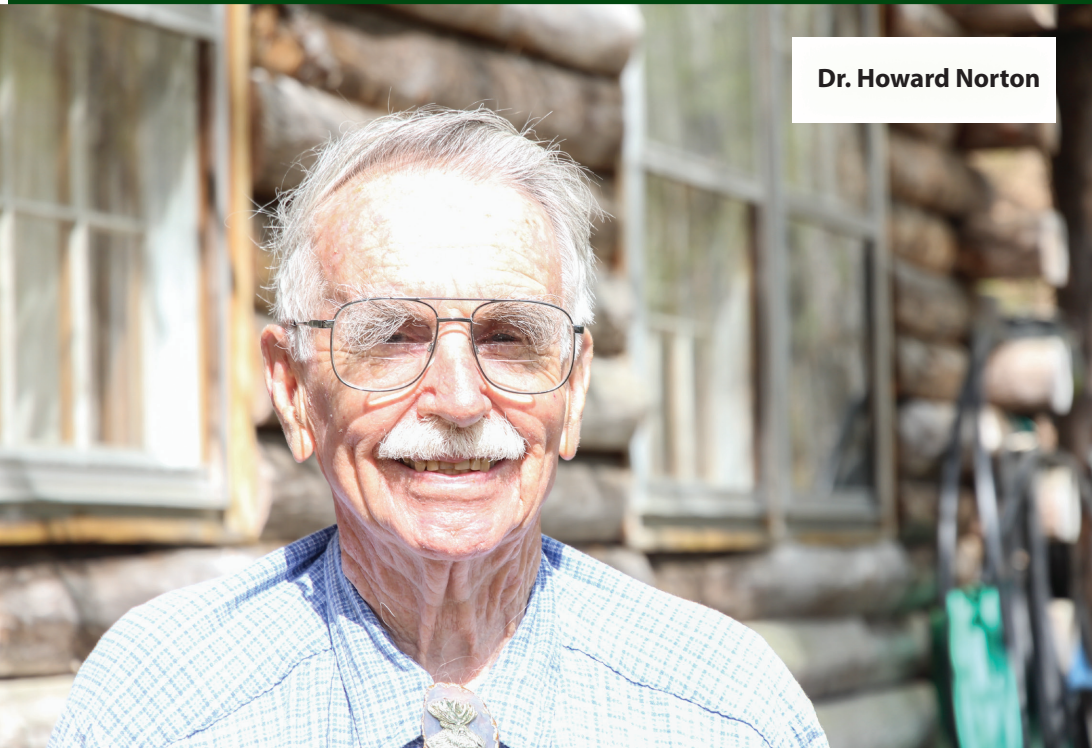
Joe-pye weed is an important source for bees attracting them with fragrant, pink to purple flowers that bloom from July to September. It prefers full sun to partial shade and likes to be kept somewhat moist in average to rich soil. Growing Joe-pye weed will even tolerate wet soil conditions, but not overly dry sites. Due to its large size, it makes a great background plant but also needs plenty of room to grow.



Common Ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*)

Common ironweed attracts butterflies, including monarchs, with its nectar and is the larval host for the American painted lady butterfly. It has perennial purple flowers that bloom from July to September. Ironweed can grow in full sun, part shade, and full shade, in moist to wet areas. Ironweed has excellent vertical presentation in the garden.





Dr. Howard Norton

Caring for People and Place

At 89 years old, Dr. Howard Norton climbs into his pickup truck and drives the rutted and narrow four-wheel drive road from his home near the intersection of Hwy 191 and Hwy 280 in Mills River to his cabin a few miles up the mountain.

His thick glasses get a little jostled on the adrenaline-inducing journey, but Norton knows the road's twists and turns like the back of his hand. He makes this trip three or four times a week.

The three-bedroom, pine log cabin has offered a peaceful refuge for the retired Mills River physician since the early 1970s. It houses an impressive collection of artifacts Norton has acquired over the years from his travels around the world.

"I'm a collector... or hoarder. Something like that," Norton says with a chuckle as he shows off one of his 600 bolo ties, a silver

piece ingrained with the head of a moose that is as eclectic as Norton himself.

Norton's cabin on the hillside lacks the noise of a telephone or television, just the sounds of lively conversation between family and friends mingled with chirping birds and rustling leaves.

"This whole area is important to me," says Norton, who recently worked with CMLC to permanently protect 91 acres of land on Allen Gap adjacent to his cabin. "When I got out of the office in the afternoon and was tired, I could go up on the mountain and relax."

Norton would see anywhere from 30 to 40 patients a day, serving as the area's general practice physician for 37 years until his retirement in 1994. He delivered babies, performed minor surgeries, and alleviated the aches and pains of local residents from

his cozy office a stone's throw away from his home. If someone knocked on his door at 2 a.m., he was available and eager to help.

He continues to run into old patients around town. "They are still really appreciative of me," says Norton. "They don't remember how horrible they felt when they saw me, they just remember me helping them feel better," he adds, with a smile.

Norton's love affair with Mills River sparked at a young age. He was born in Spartanburg, SC in 1927, and in 1934 his parents purchased a place in Lake Junaluska, NC as a summer escape. "Going to Junaluska, we discovered we could avoid the traffic of Asheville and get there a little quicker if we went Highway 191 to Enka and over," says Norton.

"We travelled through Mills River. The corn was higher than a man's head here. The farmhouses were neat. This was a different place. People took care of their homes and grew good crops. At 10 years old, I decided I wanted to settle here in one of the prettiest valleys in the mountains," he adds.

The Road Back to the Mountains

While studying chemistry at Wofford College in Spartanburg, the draft board chairman approached Norton one Sunday after church. "He said, 'I've got to send you your draft notice this week,'" Norton recalls. "I asked if he could wait until Friday and he agreed."

Norton finished his class exams by Wednesday, joined the Navy on Thursday and received his draft notice that Friday as promised. He served in the Hospital Corps during WWII, where he got his first dose working in medicine. He was hooked.

After the war, Norton returned to Wofford

and changed his major to pre-med. He went on to medical school in Charleston and worked in Philadelphia and California for brief stints before saving enough money to return to his beloved mountains in western North Carolina with his teenage sweetheart.

“This area is special to me because I raised my kids here and this was my recreational area,” says Norton. “I did not want to see it developed like you see other developments around here. I like mountains. I like trees.”

A Conservation Corridor

Norton and his family arrived in Mills River in the late 1950s, when land was still cheap. But, after living in the area for more than 60 years, he has witnessed significant changes.

“Back in the 1880s, if they built a railway through a town it became a city, if they bypassed it, it remained a little village,” says Norton. “Same happened here with the five lane highway, an airport and an interstate. It all expanded quickly. Acres are now terribly expensive and they’re getting fewer and fewer.”

Norton and his children decided they did not want to ever see their land subdivided, but wanted CMLC to conserve Hoot Owl, a 177-acre tract that borders the property to the north, first.

“I told the Conservancy if they ever got Hoot Owl I’d talk with them about my land, because Hoot Owl continues the undeveloped land on Middle Ridge, with Seniard Creek on one side of the ridge and Hoot Owl on the other,” Norton says.

CMLC successfully acquired Hoot Owl last year and transferred the land to Pisgah National Forest this past January, connecting what had been a separate island to the main body of the National

Forest, enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities, protecting our drinking water, and providing critical wildlife habitat.

“That means there is a swath from the main Pisgah National Forest, through Middle Ridge, through Hoot Owl and me that will never be developed,” says Norton, proudly. “We are thankful and appreciative to the Conservancy for all they do and all they have done for us.”

Norton’s land is part of a chain of three conserved properties. CMLC worked with the Streadwick family to conserve Grey Heaven, the northernmost property that is home to the pure, clear headwaters of Sitton Creek.

Sitton Creek flows through Hoot Owl and into the Mills River, providing drinking water for more than 100,000 households and safeguarding the federally-endangered Appalachian elktoe (a freshwater mussel) and the rare eastern hellbender salamander. Its tributaries flow through Norton’s property.

“The quality of the water we drink relies on the people who live on the land it flows through,” says CMLC Land Protection Director Tom Fanslow, who worked on these projects.

“There is a paradigm shift happening in Mills

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Sitton Creek

River with these landowners. They are the torchbearers for the generations to come. Dr. Norton and Streadwick, and the other landowners we have worked with in the Mills River area, are setting the standard for conservation for the rest of us to follow.”

With Hoot Owl transferred to Pisgah National Forest, and Norton and Streadwick’s properties to the north and south conserved and remaining in private ownership, these lands together create a larger conservation corridor and will

continue to be in their current natural forested state in perpetuity.

Norton has a sense of peace that his five children, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren will continue to enjoy cookouts at the cabin and walks through the surrounding protected forest for generations to come.

“The area captured my heart when I was seven or eight years old,” says Norton. “And, it has kept it.”



Box Turtle on Hoot Owl Property

2017 LELA MCBRIDE STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Each year at our annual Land Lovers Picnic, we present the Lela McBride Stewardship Award to individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to natural resource conservation and stewardship in our region. Lela McBride was an exemplary community leader and conservationist who catalyzed the formation of CMLC in the early 1990s.

Our 2017 Lela McBride Stewardship Award winners (pictured below at the Sitton Creek media event): U.S. Forest Service for its partnership in protecting significant properties in the Upper Mills River watershed and adding them to permanent public ownership in Pisgah National Forest, Rhonda and Ralph Streadwick for their leadership in conserving their land known as Grey Heaven, and Howard Norton, MD, for his leadership in conserving his land known as Allen Gap.

We thank these dedicated and passionate landowners for the powerful impact they leave on our community.



Landowners and partners that made the recent Mills River projects a success. From left to right: David Casey, Pisgah District Ranger with U.S. Forest Service, Allen Nicholas, Forest Supervisor with U.S. Forest Service, Nancy Guthrie, Acquisition Program Manager with NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Rhonda Streadwick, Conservation Landowner of Grey Heaven property, Dr. Howard Norton, Conservation Landowner of Allen Gap property, Jill Westmoreland Rose, US Attorney for Western North Carolina, Emory Jackson (friend of Dr. Norton), Tom Oreck, Conservation Landowner of Big Creek Lodge property.

JOIN OUR GUARDIANS OF THE GREEN BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

Join our annual business membership program today. Your once-a-year membership contribution not only benefits conservation, it provides YEAR-ROUND recognition for your business at all of our major events, in our print and online outreach materials, and much more.

Benefits multiply at increasing levels:

Extensive use of logo and link:

\$10,000 & UP • \$5,000 • \$3,000 • \$2,000

Recognition:

\$1,000 • \$500

For more details contact:

Lynn Killian | Development Director

lynn@carolinamountain.org

828.697.5777, ext. 202

carolinamountain.org/guardians

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\$1,000

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\$500

Adventure Treks • Arledge Law Firm, PLLC • Chimney Rock Management, LLC • David Gantt Law Office • Henderson Oil Company • Highland Lake Property Management • Magnificent Journeys • Mayfel's Restaurant • Mountain Deli • Raymond's Garden Center • Shadowlight • Strauss & Associates



New AmeriCorps Opportunity Launches this Summer

AmeriCorps Project Conserve's Summer of Service is a youth development initiative to engage 17-19 year olds of backgrounds typically underrepresented in environmental fields of study and work. Participants will have the opportunity to develop leadership, life, and work skills through a summer of service focused on environmental stewardship.

From June 19-August 18, five participants will work to build and maintain trails, and to restore habitat on natural lands in our area.

Members will complete at least 300 hours of service—each incorporating training and skill development activities in addition to direct outdoor service. The program is designed to help build confidence, trust, teamwork, environmental and service-oriented ethics, and to introduce participants to educational and career paths they may not have otherwise considered.

"This summer, the team will connect to and

improve CMLC's beautiful lands and trail network, while getting to know one another through experiential learning projects," shares Tony Beurskens, Summer of Service Program Coordinator. "We will continue to explore the depths of our own potential within the reaches of our team dynamic, building employment skills through experiences in our wild lands of WNC."

One of the program's partners is Hood Huggers, an Asheville-based nonprofit that offers sustainable strategies for building support pillars for historically African American neighborhoods. Strategies incorporate the arts, social enterprise, and the environment, building a culture of stability that is inclusive and economically just.

Summer of Service members will partner with Hood Huggers at the Burton Street Community Peace Gardens.

"In neighborhoods that have a history of

trauma, it's important that we have green spaces that incorporate the outdoors, food and arts all into one," says DeWayne Barton, Founder and CEO. "To be able to maintain these spaces and let them be the "A" in the alphabet, the doorway introducing urban youth to the greater outdoors, that bring people gradually that are not used to going in the woods, that don't know much about nature, it's creating that in our community."

"The Peace Gardens are a healing space designed to launch people up in any direction they want to go and there would be a base of support, a place of social and environmental justice," adds DeWayne.

Summer of Service participants will be educated about the Peace Gardens, why they exist and why they're important in the community. Projects in the gardens will likely include tangible work— building a shelter or piece of infrastructure—that creates a sense of pride, ownership and accomplishment for these young adults.

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-DeWayne Barton, Hood Huggers Founder and CEO

Building Sustainable Trails

There is a lot that goes into the trail under your feet! Peter Barr, our Trails Coordinator, is a leader in developing recreational trails that are physically, socially and ecologically sustainable.

As part of our mission to foster an appreciation and understanding of the natural world, CMLC is striving to forge more intimate opportunities for human connection with our protected lands. Since 2010, our trails program has developed nearly 20 miles of new recreational paths that facilitate public access to conserved landscapes and enable visitors to immerse themselves in nature. Many more new trails, particularly in the Hickory Nut Gorge, are under construction or planned for the near future.

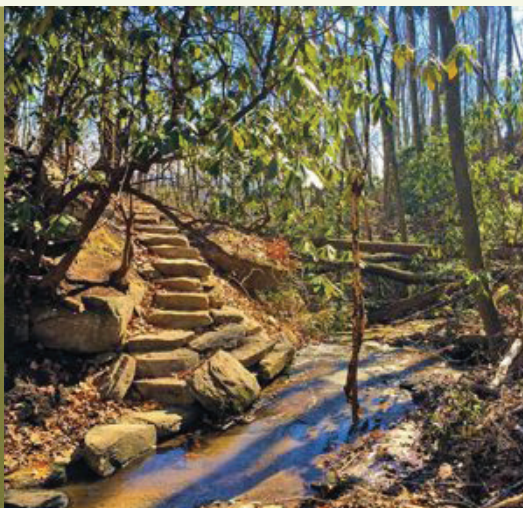
Creating what may seem like simple paths through the woods is more complex than meets the eye. Much like land conservation lasts forever, trails, too, must stand the test of time while minimizing impact to the natural resources through which they traverse.

CMLC is dedicated to sustainable trail development—recreational paths that are designed, constructed, and managed in a way that continue to protect the landscape by abating soil erosion, requiring minimal maintenance, and enhancing the user experience.

When creating new trails, CMLC's Trails Coordinator, Peter Barr, seeks to achieve physical, ecological, social and managerial sustainability. These four components address each care for the land, flora and fauna, trails users, and level of upkeep, respectively.

"Sustainable trails are a science," shares Peter. "A well thought out and skillfully constructed trail won't damage the land long-term while also offering an enjoyable and deeply impactful experience to all those who follow it—now and forever."

Peter Barr was awarded the 2017 Rising Leader of the Year Award by the North Carolina Land Trust Council on May 24th for his contributions to CMLC's sustainable trails, among other impacts to land conservation, during his seven year tenure at CMLC.





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