



PACOLET AREA CONSERVANCY

saving the places you love
since 1989

NEWS

Printed on recycled paper

828-859-5060

info@pacolet.org

www.pacolet.org

Fall 2013

"Autumn is the mellow season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits." ~ Samuel Butler

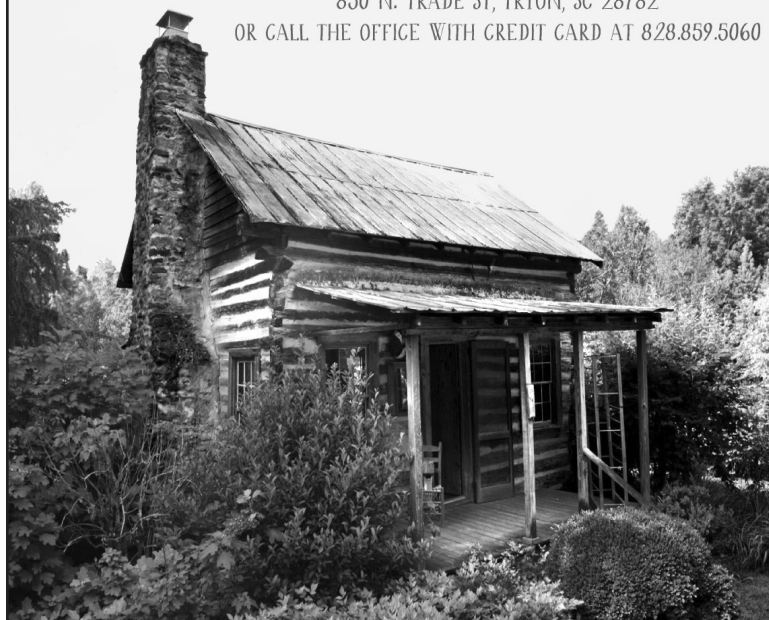
THE PACOLET AREA CONSERVANCY PRESENTS

FOR LAND'S SAKE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 6 TO 8 PM
FENCE, 3381 HUNTING COUNTRY RD, TRYON

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Land Permanently Protected at Block House Site

On July 3, 2013, PAC worked with the Hunting Country Property Owners Association (HC POA) to finalize a conservation easement on a 2-acre parcel of land at the intersection of Hunting Country Road and Blockhouse Road. The conservation easement will ensure that this parcel of land remains in its natural state, adding to the scenic beauty and character of the Hunting Country, in perpetuity. Both PAC and the HC POA are indebted to the late Burt Baer for his drive, perseverance, and dedication to this project. The HC POA expressed a big thank you to Pam Torlina of PAC and to members of the HC POA Board, Madeline Clas, Emily Clark, Cheryl Every, Warren Board, Carole Bartol, Mari Cartwright, and Robert Williams for making this happen.



Dibbit Lamb, Board President, left, and Mary Walter Executive Director, right, watch as Phil Burrus, President of the Hunting Country Property Owners Association, signs papers for the conservation easement.

PAC Adds Important Piece to Protected Watershed Area

PAC is pleased to announce the purchase of an 8-1/2 acre gem near the North Pacolet River on the Saluda Grade. The property is adjacent to over 100 acres of already protected lands and is an important addition to the preservation of the North Pacolet River watershed. Little Falls Creek bisects the property and Little Falls itself begins at the top of the property, cascading through the property and into the North Pacolet River below. It is truly a beautiful and amazing piece of property!

A special thanks to the landowner, PAC Past President Carole Bartol, PAC's Pam Torlina, former Board member Robert Williams, PAC volunteer and attorney Alan Leonard and attorney Phil Feagan for working diligently to preserve this property in perpetuity. The purchase of the property was made possible in part by a donation from the Tom and Muriel Nash Estate and the many donors who have contributed in recent months. Thanks to all of you.



PAC recently purchased this important tract of land on the North Pacolet River, located on the Saluda Grade.

Conservation Easement Donors Honored

On July 9, 2013, PAC held an appreciation dinner for conservation easement donors. The event was hosted by Babs Strickland, PAC Board member, conservation easement donor, and owner of Walnut Creek Preserve (WCP). Dinner was held at the Anne Elizabeth Suratt Nature Center at WCP and was well attended. It was a great opportunity for like-minded landowners to get together, get to know one another, and to see how their good intentions for the land fits together with the good intentions of others. They were able to see, on a map, how their protected property fits with other protected lands in the area, creating a large area of forever protected greenspace in the community.



Babs Strickland, PAC Board Secretary, welcomes conservation easement donors to Walnut Creek Preserve's Anne Elizabeth Suratt Nature Center.

Conservation easement donors also got the opportunity to meet the current Board members, PAC's new Executive Director, Mary Walter, PAC's new President of the Board, Elizabeth "Dibbit" Lamb, and PAC's Director of Stewardship and Land Protection, Pam Torlina (which many already know from her time monitoring their properties each year). Guests enjoyed a revolving slide show of protected properties and PAC success stories, created by Pam Torlina.

Many thanks to Babs Strickland for hosting the event and providing hors d'oeuvres and dinner for everyone.

Thanks also to Cathy Taylor and Sheila Nungesser for food. Mrs. Strickland welcomed everyone and then gave thanks to immediate past president, Carole Bartol, for all of her hard work over the past two years. The group responded by giving her a standing ovation!

Mary Arrington Walter Named New Executive Director

The Pacolet Area Conservancy (PAC) announced Tuesday, May 21 the appointment of Mary Arrington Walter as the organization's new Executive Director.

Walter formerly served as Executive Director of SPACE, the Spartanburg Area Conservancy, a conservation land trust based in Spartanburg, S.C. There she led that organization to national accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance. She brings more than 20 years of experience in the field of conservation to PAC.

Walter, who was born in Greenville, S.C. is a graduate of Presbyterian College. She knows and loves the foothills, and her career has been focused on preserving the natural resources of the area.

She was named an Outstanding Woman in Conservation by Audubon of South Carolina in 2005.

"I am delighted to be joining the team at PAC. I have long admired the great land conservation work that has been done here," Walter said. "The Pacolet watershed and its headwaters are such an incredibly beautiful part of our world that must be preserved. To know that PAC has already permanently protected over 8,400 acres is amazing. I'd like to see that number greatly increased in the coming few years. With the help of willing landowners and a community that supports the efforts of the conservancy, this goal can certainly be attained!"



Staff and Board welcome Mary Arrington Walter to PAC. Left to right: Dabbit Lamb, Board President, Tommy Lytle, Board Treasurer, Mary, Jay Geddings, Board Vice-President, and Pam Torlina, Director of Stewardship and Land Protection.

Pam Torlina Receives Promotion

PAC is proud to announce that Pam Torlina has been promoted to Director of Stewardship and Land Protection. Torlina has been with the land trust for seven years.

Executive Director, Mary Arrington Walter, says, "Since I've been at PAC, I've been very impressed with Pam's work ethic and dedication. She is extremely knowledgeable in all aspects of the natural world, excellent in preparing baseline documentations for our protected properties, and has great rapport with our land owners."

Torlina was born in Trenton, Michigan and received her B.S. degree in Biology from USC Upstate. She has been at PAC since May of 2006. When asked what she is most proud of professionally, she replied, "assisting in the protection of nearly 2,000 acres of land in our area." She is an active mother to Jade, a Landrum High School junior. When not out walking PAC protected lands or working on baseline documentation reports at the PAC office, you can find Pam outdoors in some capacity. She loves hiking, camping, canoeing, and basically anything outdoors. Pam has some unique skills, too. She used to live in Ontario, Canada where she made traditional snowshoes, cutting, carving, and bending White Ash to form the shoe. Another interesting job she had was leading "canopy tours." Always an avid birder, while in Ontario she observed loons, grouse, and songbirds. Another skill Pam honed while in Canada was maple syrup production.

Immediate PAC Board Past President, Carole Bartol, sings Pam's praises by saying "I can't imagine PAC without Pam! She is a dedicated professional, doing what she believes in with joy and enthusiasm. Her new title will better reflect and recognize all that she does for PAC."



Pam Torlina has been with PAC for 7 years. Here, she teaches children about observing nature.



Pam Torlina
Director of Stewardship and Land Protection.

Land Trusts and Summer Camps Make for Good Partnerships

What do summer camps and land trusts have in common? A love of land and the natural world. The Pacolet Area Conservancy partnered with Gwynn Valley Camp, in Brevard, N.C. in 1995 and it's one of the projects PAC is most proud of. The owners of the camp at the time were Howie and Betty Boyd and it was their dream to help enable the camp to continue far into the future and at the same time preserve the natural environment of the camp. The grounds are home to several rare and endangered plants and even a unique spider. Nearly three hundred acres are forever preserved. Anne and Grant Bullard are the new owners of Gwynn Valley Camp and fully support the conservation agreement.

"We are pleased to have our land protected and to know that Gwynn Valley will be home to many future generations of campers," they said.

Located on the north-facing slope of Jim Raines Mountain, Gwynn Valley Camp is beautifully situated to the south of Pisgah National Forest, providing a natural viewshed for visitors to the National Forest. The camp has a nearly 1,000-foot elevation change and provides watershed protection for Carson Creek, a beautiful, cold mountain creek with a waterfall and cascades and is a tributary to the French Broad River. With the varied elevation, north-facing orientation, and high moisture content, this property has a high diversity of native plant and animal species. PAC's Pam Torlina, has the privilege of monitoring this jewel each and every year. "It is truly a treasure for those visiting the camp to have the opportunity to discover some of the things that make this property so special and to know that it will be preserved, for their children, and many generations come," Torlina said.



Campers enjoy gardening at Gwynn Valley Camp. The land there has been permanently protected by a conservation easement with PAC.

Plant Restoration Project at PAC Site

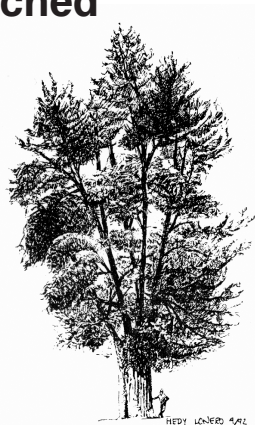


Pam Torlina and Dibbit Lamb plant native plants at one of PAC's properties.

PAC takes its job of being good stewards of the land very seriously. Owning land requires careful and intentional land management. We were recently presented with a problem site where about a quarter of an acre of land had been disturbed. Thanks to the careful attention of our Director of Stewardship and Land Protection, Pam Torlina, over 80 pots of native plants from a nearby site were planted at the site. Torlina, along with Board President, Dibbit Lamb, and Executive Director, Mary Walter, carefully replanted the site one hot May morning and we're happy to say that with all the good rain this summer, the site is in great shape.

Membership Campaign Launched

PAC has initiated a new membership campaign and encourages all area residents to participate!



Membership levels include:

- Watershed Society \$5000
- River Society \$2500
- Lake Society \$1000
- Creek Society \$500
- Stream Society \$250
- Tributary Society \$100
- Brook Society \$50
- Spring Society \$35

Kudos to our Tryon Garden Club Friends!

PAC staff and Board members would like to congratulate our friends at the Tryon Garden Club for installing the first-of-its-kind "green" restroom facilities in western North Carolina at Pearson's Falls.

The Garden Club has an impressive history and recently celebrated their 85th Anniversary. As the local land trust, we are grateful that their dedication to our natural world is one of their primary goals. Owning a 268-acre nature preserve, Pearson's Falls, is exceptional and commendable. People and visitors from all over the southeast come to visit the falls and botanical sanctuary. More and more people want protected places where they can take their family and friends for outdoor experiences. The Falls provide such a place and is rich in native flora and fauna.

Kudos to the garden club for being progressive and active! In today's world there is much emphasis to leave as small a footprint as possible. The garden club's goal of installing compostable toilets and a green roof is wise and responsible and will be an example for others to follow.

Kudzu Eradication Powered by Goats

The Pacolet Area Conservancy, in partnership with the Town of Tryon and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, has received a grant from the Polk County Community Foundation through their Kudzu Eradication Initiative. This grant will be used to fund the use of goats to eradicate Kudzu from the 2-acre Town of Tryon lot near IGA. These goats will be working on the site twice a year, for three consecutive years.

Thanks to TJ's Restaurant for use of an outlet for the fence, to the Sign Shop for quick work on the sign, to John Vining of the N.C. Cooperative Extension for Polk Co., to Ron and Cheryl Searcy of Wells Farms, to the Town of Tryon, to Re/Max for providing a brochure holder, and to the Polk County Community Foundation (who funded this project through the Kudzu Eradication Initiative grant)!

Mark your calendars for an Educational Field Day Oct. 12th from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the site. Representatives from PAC and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension will be onsite to talk about the project.



Goats can be a very effective way to control kudzu.

"Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children."
- Kenyan Proverb

PAC Benefits from Charity Horse Show



Dibbit Lamb, PAC Board President, receives a check from the Tryon Riding and Hunt Club.

The Tryon Riding & Hunt Club hosted its third annual Charity Horse Show June 7th at FENCE. Modeled after the \$1 million FTI Great Charity Challenge in Wellington, FL, area non-profits were invited to submit an application for the opportunity to participate in the event. Out of 29 applicants, eight were drawn out of a hat and PAC was one of the lucky eight.

Chairwomen, Jennifer Smith and Linda Ketcham, were the driving force behind the idea to create this \$5,000 Charity Jumper Challenge.

PAC was randomly paired with local riding teams to represent them in the Jumper Challenge to create an equal chance for winning. All eight of the selected organizations received a portion of the prize money with first place winning \$1,500 to eighth place getting \$250. PAC won fourth place and received \$500.

All of the riders volunteered their time and skills to participate in this event.

PAC Participates in PaddleFest

On July 20th, PAC sponsored and attended the Spartanburg Water's 2nd annual Paddle Fest at Lake Blalock Park in Spartanburg, S.C.

Paddle Fest is an annual family fun event held to connect the community to our reservoirs via paddling and increase the stewardship of our water resources. During the event, Spartanburg Water hosted educational paddle tours, kayak and canoe races, beginner kayak, canoe and paddleboard classes, and kayak demos.

PACWalk and PACRun

PAC held its 9th annual PACWalk and 3rd annual PACRun 5K Trail Run for Preservation at Tryon Estates in Columbus on May 4th. We had unusually cold weather that day, but everyone enjoyed the event.

Special thanks go to Tryon Estates for hosting the event again this year!

Results from PACRun are as follows, Blake Butler came in first place, Ella Dockendorf took second, and Lori Geddings took third. Congratulations!

There was a good turnout for PACWalk despite the unusually cold weather. The Kiwanis were the first group to finish the walk. Carroll Rogers was the oldest participant. He is 101 years young! Thanks to Larry Poe for leading the walk this year. Thanks to the following for donations and help with the event:

Nancy McKinstry, Executive Director, Tryon Estates, Vines and Things, John Gargiulo and Panache.

and to the following sponsors:

Bonnie Brae Veterinary Hospital, Nature's Storehouse, Edward Jones, Stott's Ford, Tryon Estates at Columbus, First Citizens Bank, Owen's Pharmacy and Walnut Creek Preserve.



Larry Poe leads walkers through the woods at PAC's annual PACWalk.



PAC Vice President, Cathy C. Taylor and Board member Renee McDermott, represent PAC at Spartanburg Water's annual Paddle Fest.



Guests enjoy a presentation recently at the Anne Elizabeth Suratt Nature Center at Walnut Creek Preserve.

Educational Programs Continue at Walnut Creek Preserve

Through grants from the Polk County Community Foundation and Delores Lastinger, PAC and Walnut Creek Preserve are able to continue offering great, free educational programs to the public at the Anne Elizabeth Suratt Nature Center at Walnut Creek Preserve.

There are two more programs scheduled for this year. The next PAC/WCF program will take place on October 26th. Kerry Wright, a geology major in his senior year at UNCA, will be presenting, "A Geologic History of the Blue Ridge Mountains" at 10:30 a.m.

Then, on November 9th, Nancy Dagley of the National Park Service, Southeast Exotic Plant Management Team, will be presenting on non-native and invasive plants in the region at 10:30 a.m.

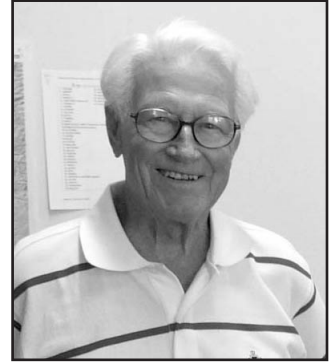
Keep an eye on PAC's website for more information on these programs and many more to come!

Former Board President, Bill Meanix, Dies at the Age of 86

PAC has lost a true and faithful friend, Bill Meanix. Bill passed away in Fairfax Station, VA, on July 11th. He had been involved in PAC with many different capacities, starting as a volunteer with storm water monitoring. He then joined the Board of Directors. He later became President of the Board.

Bill had a distinguished dual career, having served in the Navy and later as a lawyer. He received a BS from the US Naval Academy, earned a Masters of Public Administration in International Relations from Harvard, and then went on to receive his JD from the University of Maine School of Law and a LLM in Taxation from Boston University School of Law. His vast experience served very useful to PAC for many years.

Our sympathies go to his wife, June, daughters, Heather and Kimberly, and son, Billy, and the rest of the Meanix family.



Nature Notes by Pam:

This month marks the beginning of the annual hawk migration through our area! Each fall, hundreds of thousands of hawks, eagles, falcons, and osprey leave their breeding grounds across North America and migrate to their wintering grounds in the south, some as far away as the southern reaches of South America.

As top predators, these raptors play an essential indicator role in our communities; if there is a decline in raptor populations, it can be an indication of a much larger problem within the community in which we live. Therefore, in order to learn more about these beautiful and majestic animals, over the years, several official Hawk Watch Sites have been established throughout the world. These official sites agree to have skilled observers on site to watch the skies during raptor migration, recording the species and numbers seen on a given day. Data accumulated over years of hawk watching reveal that different species of raptors migrate according to different schedules. For example, the movement of Broad-winged Hawks, for example, peaks in September. Red-tailed Hawks, on the other hand, reach their peak migration in November.

Because of their large size, raptors prefer to migrate over land. Therefore, certain geographical locations become concentration spots where hawks gather. The reason that our area is such a great location for the fall migration of raptors has to do with the Blue Ridge Escarpment.

Raptors migrating along the Atlantic Flyway through the Appalachian Mountains ride winds deflected up and over hills and mountains, called updrafts. When they reach the Blue Ridge Escarpment, wind currents on the south-facing slope create columns of warm, rising air, called a thermal. These thermals are created by uneven heating of the Earth's surface from solar radiation which is created at places with different adjacent heat absorption and reflection characteristics. This is prevalent along the Blue Ridge Escarpment.

During migration, raptors utilize these thermals to gain as much altitude as possible. On peak migration days, hundreds of raptors can be seen flying in these thermals as they fly in circles, a kettle (shaped like the rising steam from a tea kettle), gaining altitude with every rotation. Then, when they reach the top of the thermal, they soar off in the direction of their destination, one by one. Soaring from the high altitude gained by riding a thermal allows these large birds to save energy and cover long distances relatively effortlessly.

There are a few official Hawk Watch Sites in our area, the closest being at Caesar's Head State Park in South Carolina, which counts hawks from September 1- November 30, and at Mount Pisgah in North Carolina, which counts hawks from September 1- December 1.



Caesar's Head Hawk Watch Site is virtually the only place in South Carolina with the natural characteristics needed to attract thousands of migrating raptors. Broad-winged Hawks are the most prevalent species identified at the site (in 2001 more than 10,000 were recorded), but other species occur, including Bald Eagle, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Mississippi Kite, Turkey Vulture and Black Vulture. Even Peregrine Falcon is possible. Other fall migrants such as Warblers, Hummingbirds, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Blue Jays can also be seen at the site. To date, the highest single day count at Caesar's Head Hawk Watch Site was over 5,200 birds.

You are *saving the places we love*

While every effort is made to be accurate in our list of donations and memberships, some errors and omissions may, regrettably, occur. We apologize and ask you to bring it to our attention by calling our office, 828-859-5060 or writing info@pacolet.org.

Memberships and Donations January 2013 - September 25, 2013

Watershed Society

\$5,000 and above

anonymous
Thomas and Muriel Nash Family Trust
Bob and Barbara Strickland
Delores Lastinger

River Society

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Pacolet Milliken Enterprises, Inc.

Lake Society

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Jeff and Sherry M. Carter
Bonnie Brae Veterinary Hospital
Nancy Holden
Dr. James F. and Elizabeth K. Matthews
James and Renee McDermott
Wyllys and Cathy Cockman Taylor
Laurence Wassong

Creek Society

\$500 - \$999

ACTS Retirement-Life Communities, Inc.
Earl Bettinger
Chris and Carole Bartol
Isabel Child
First Citizens Bank
Millard & Company
Nature's Storehouse
Polk County Community Foundation, Inc.
Dave and Isabel Rice
Dr. Lawrence Roel and Katie Hicks
Sandra Taylor
Robert M. Tobey and Donna S. Martin
Tryon Riding & Hunt Club, Inc.
Mary Arrington Walter
John Washburn

Stream Society

\$250 - \$499

Tim and Lucy Brannon
Donna Cart
Edward Jones Columbus
Grassy Knob Lands, LLC
Clyde and Doris Kaericher
Rick and Susan Kelley
Owen's Pharmacy
Stott's Ford Inc.

Tributary Society

\$100 - \$249

Anelie Baer
Larry D. and Gretchen Boyd
Congregational Church UCC
Marion Crounse
Michael M. Cass
Janet Connell
Neb and Anna Conner
Eleanor Cox
Ann Denton
Camilla Dick
Mark and Jane Eden
Linda and Barney Eiserloh
June Franks
Patricia Gass
George and Rachael Gould
Judith Gosser
Molly Harrison
Ms. Brevard Henry
J.W. and Frances Hillhouse
Trip Hoffman
Jim and Irene Hostetter
Carol B. Icard
Bill Jackson
Carol Jongenburger
Donald Kaspar
Rebecca P. Kennedy
Lisa Krolak
Bob and Judy Lair
Alan and Susan Leonard
Donald and Jean Lessig
George and Wanda May
Greg and Linda Miner
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight F. Patterson, Jr.
Mary Phillips
Lawrence J. Poe
Robert and Sandra Powell
Dr. and Mrs. Milton Ready
Bea Rolla
Frank and Iva Rymer
Dr. Gordan Schneider
Hank and Sandy Sibley
R. Paul Spanjer
St. Luke's Hospital, Inc.
Pamela L. Torlina
Jim and Ann Troppman
Jerome R. Vandeweghe
Robert and Wanda Veh
Mike and Gretchen Verbonic

Fred and Belynda Vesper
Brad Whitney
Norman Wilder
Robert and Elizabeth Williams
Bonnie Wood



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PAC!

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Brook Society

\$50 - \$99

Wayne Ackerman
Harold and Dorothy Bright
Susan Bennett
Jeri and Warren Board
Robert and Patricia Dockendorf
Joe and Dorcas Epley
Paul and Sidney Gooding
Milege Hahn
Marta Hanson
Curtis and Patricia Hayes
Kathryn Holland
Margery S. LaRoe
J. Louise Markel
J. Mark and Carol McCall
Mary Meyers
Guenter and Marianne Panoscha
Timothy Renn and Shari Harris
Re-Ride Tack Shop
Dr. Carl and Frances Rosenblad
Gunnard and Mary Lou Rubini
Ford and Mara Smith
Ivry Sumrell
Peter F. and Kim Weinheimer
Jean Winslett
Woody Woodham

Emily Clark
Fred and Madeline Clas
James and Patricia Cowan
Al and Fran Creasy
Nell Deaver
Elizabeth Dicey
Richard Delott
David and Robin Edgar
Emily Edwards
Marshall G. and Janet S. Edwards
Ingeborg Ege
Ann Ewing
April Fisher
Arline Flood
Patricia Freier
John F. and Ann Gargiulo
Ray and Susan Gasperson
Harold, Anna and Lisa Gathmann
Gertrud Godlewski
Gerald and Ninalee Haynie
Myrtle Heitman
Melinda J. Holland
Sharon Horner
Klaus, Hoffman, and Edith Karwath
Heather Hucks
Marianne and Hank Hubbard
Nathan Hubley, Jr.
John S. Ingles
Elaine Jenkins and Bruce Fritz
John L. Johann
James Johnston
William B. Jones
Craig Kinney
Joseph and Elizabeth Knowlton
Ed and Sandy Lastein
Edna Lay
Tim Lee
Armin E. Lohr
Thomas and Missy Lytle
Christine Mariotti
Bill and Becky McCall
Mike McCue
Bob and Nancy McKinstry
Tracey Miller

Ann Morgan
Robert W. Morgan
Bradley and Diane Nelson
Frank and Audrey Ortiz
Robert and Shirley Reeves
David H. Rembert, Jr.
John K. Robinson
Margaret (Meg) Rogers
Gunnard and Mary Lou Rubini
Diane Ruby
Doris A. Rumsey
Jo Rytter
Mary Sasser
James E. Sauer
Donald and Carol Schlegel
Ford and Mara Smith
William and Kaye Steele
Pat C. Strother
Robert and Kathryn Thomas
Randy and Suzy Thrasher
Lois Torlina
Charles and Helen Trevathan
G. M. Tennant
Louise Tidman
Jim and Marsha Van Hecke, Jr.
Liselotte Wehrheim
Don and Joanna Wilson
Elizabeth Zeek

Spring Society

\$49 and below

Susan Albee
Marla Bailey
Margaret A. Barry
Kenneth Bartlett
Bill and Susan Beardslee
Joan K Beck
Marian K. Bosien
Phil and Marcia Burrus
Arthur and Caroline Brown
Sue Ellen Carrden-Lee
Claire Carey
Roger and Margaret Casler
Christine Cheseldine
Robert and J.A. Chestnutt
Elon and Virginia Clark



**Thanks for all
the support !**

Officers and Board of Directors

Elizabeth "Dibbit" Lamb, *President* - Cathy Cockman Taylor, *Vice-President*
Jay Geddings, *Vice-President* - Tommy Lytle, *Treasurer* - Carole Bartol, *Immediate Past President*
Babs Strickland, *Secretary* - Sherry Carter - John Garguilo - Renée McDermott
Nancy McKinstry - Sue Mullen - and Gerald Pack

Staff: Mary Walter, *Executive Director* - Pam Torlina, *Director of Stewardship and Land Protection*
Debra Hansborough, *Office Assistant* - Susan Kelley, *Office Volunteer* - Gretchen Verbonic, *Office Volunteer*





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PAC Hosts Five Fall Hikes



PAC is sponsoring a free, open to the public, Friday hiking series this fall. The hikes will meet at various locations (noted for each date) and will leave promptly at 8:45 a.m. Hikers should plan to return to the area around 3:00 p.m. Car-pooling will be organized at meeting locations. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear. Bring a bag lunch and/or snack and plenty of water for yourself. In case of inclement weather, call the PAC office before 8:15 a.m. on the date of the hike. Please also remember to bring any medication that you may need in the event of an emergency. Hike leaders will carry a first aid kit; however, it may not contain specific medication for your individual needs. Before each hike, you will be asked to sign a waiver form. For your safety, do not attempt any hike beyond your ability and experience. This schedule is subject to change. Up-to-date and more information on all hikes can be found on PAC's website, www.pacolet.org, PAC's Facebook page, and by calling the PAC office.

September 20 – Pink Beds, Pisgah National Forest - 5.4-miles, easy/moderate

October 4 – Bald Rock Overlook, Table Rock State Park - 7-miles, moderate/strenuous

October 18 – Looking Glass Rock, Pisgah National Forest - 6.2-miles, moderate/strenuous

November 1 – Bearwallow, Hickory Nut Gorge - a hike in partnership with Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy - 2-miles, moderate/strenuous

November 15 – Catawba Falls, Pisgah National Forest - 3.8-miles, moderate