

Trout Stream Along Blue Ridge Parkway Protected by WVLT

Jack Norton and his family have placed a riparian conservation easement on a mile and a half of Roaring Run, a good trout stream below Smart View on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Franklin County. The easement on 19.5 acres of stream frontage is co-held by the Western Virginia Land Trust and the Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District.



WVLT staff pose along Roaring Run

Hank Norton, his father, bought the wooded hillside tract of 212 acres while he was football coach and athletic director at Ferrum College for 34 years. The older Norton retired to Deltaville in eastern Virginia and the property is now held by Jack Norton, his brother Frank, and two cousins, Carter and Will.

The easement prevents most timbering along the creek bottom, but allows the Nortons to fish, hunt, maintain trails and do all the things they love.

Roaring Run flows down from Walnut Knob and Brushy Knob into Runnet Bag Creek and on into Philpott Lake. Norton, who works with auto dealers to place their car inventories on line for prospective buyers, loves to throw in a line for native trout, mostly rainbow, but he always puts

them back. If he wants to take fish back to his home at Ferrum, he goes after the larger brook trout.

Jack Norton, his wife, Krista, son Jackson and daughter Summer, enjoy fishing and camping on the family woodland. Jackson loves the outdoors and he's learning to catch trout. Summer is a camper. Hopefully, the children will enjoy the protected stream on into the future, Norton said.



WVLT staff and an old moonshine still.

The Western Virginia Land Trust is a non-profit organization whose mission is “promoting the conservation of western Virginia’s natural resources—farms, forests, waterways, and rural landscapes.” Since 1996, the Western Virginia Land Trust has helped to conserve more than 56,000 acres of land. For more information, call 985-0000 or visit www.westernvirginialandtrust.org.

The Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District’s mission is “to promote conservation of our natural resources.” For more information, call (540) 483-5341 ext.3 or visit www.brsxcd.org.

This project received funding from the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), via grant number WQIA-2006-43.