

Land Protection

NEWS



WESTERN VIRGINIA LAND TRUST

SUMMER 2007

Land Trust takes stand on Mill Mountain, Carvins Cove *Will ask City Council for easements on both parks*

The Executive Committee of the Western Virginia Land Trust approved a policy statement at its July meeting requesting that the City of Roanoke place conservation easements on its city parks on Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove.

An easement on the 13,000-acre Carvins Cove Natural Reserve would be the largest conservation easement in the history of Virginia. Situated just northeast of the City and located mainly in Botetourt County, Carvins Cove makes up a vital part of the Roanoke Valley's water supply and is also a prime location for outdoor recreation, including hiking, canoeing, fishing, and mountain biking. Preserving a treasure like Carvins Cove would help to showcase Roanoke as a green city that is attractive to people who want to enjoy the outdoors.

The Land Trust hopes that Roanoke City Council will preserve as much of the city-owned portions of Mill Mountain as possible. The very top of the mountain in the Mill Mountain Management Plan, may not be suitable for a state-owned easement due to the existing development. However, the Land Trust hopes to find alternatives, such as City Council passing an ordinance defining what kinds of new development, if any, would be allowed on the mountain top. The Land Trust's statement also recommends that City Council implement the recommendations described in the Management Plan, which include ensuring that all mountaintop development is below the tree line and "respects the natural character of the mountain."

The top, developed portion of the mountain represents 15 acres out of the 568-acre park and includes the star, a radio tower, the Discovery Center, a parking lot, the wildflower garden, an access road, and the Mill Mountain Zoo. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation indicated that it would not be willing to hold an easement on Zone 1 due to the difficulty of monitoring activity in a developed, intensively used area. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation does not rule out the possibility of placing an easement on the land at the top of the mountain but suggests that such an easement should be held, monitored and enforced by a qualified organization other than themselves, with the resources necessary to do the job right.

Jim Kermes, WVLT Board President, stated "Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove are unique properties that have defined the Ro-



Mill Mountain is an integral part of Roanoke's city skyline.

noke Valley for many years. We need to permanently preserve these unique assets to ensure that they can be used and enjoyed by future generations."

"We think this initiative represents a win-win for the people of Roanoke and a break from the confrontational debate that has been taking place," said WVLT Executive Director Roger Holnback. "If we're successful, we'll preserve nearly all of Mill Mountain and leave the question of development at the very top of the mountain to City Council and the public process, where it belongs."

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CONSERVATION CELEBRATION 2007 see page 3

From the President

James L. Kermes

Carilion Challenge Met

Thanks to the fantastic support of our dedicated membership, we successfully met the challenge by the Carilion Foundation. They informed us last year that if by June 30, 2007, we could raise \$46,000 of membership giving from either (1) new members who have never contributed financially to WVLT, or (2) increased giving from existing members, the Foundation would grant us \$17,000 to be used on initiatives to further expand our membership.

The membership rose to the challenge: 309 givers either increased their giving to the Land Trust or joined for the first time, raising more than \$52,600 in new gifts to the Land Trust.

I am very proud of our Board of Trustees. I asked them to demonstrate leadership by increasing their annual giving. They responded by increasing their giving 88% over the previous year.



DAVID PERRY

Financial support is an essential part of keeping WVLT operating and fulfilling our mission. We operate with a lean staff of two full time and one part time personnel. Other expenses of printing, postage, insurance, travel, etc., result in an annual operating budget that is approaching \$200,000.

Your support is appreciated. It is the annual dues-paying members that keep WVLT operating. I sincerely hope that we can look forward to your continued financial support. Your financial support will enable Roger and Dave to work with local land owners to place conservation easements on their properties and keep our mountains green, our rivers pure and enable future generations to benefit from what we do today.

Thank you for your support.

CARILION Foundation

From the Director

Roger Holnback, Executive Director

Taking on a Cause

For almost six years as executive director of WVLT, I have had the opportunity to educate the general public and hundreds of landowners, including farmers and developers, about the benefits of conservation easements and the big-picture benefits of protecting our quality of life, water, farms and forests. It is a labor of love and one that allows me to influence the course of our community's development in a small way. I am often reminded that I have been labeled a conservationist, but I am also a capitalist (having owned a manufacturing company employing over thirty people here in Roanoke), and I personally have managed to find a balance between capitalism and conservation, between personal success and the "greater good."

I have been able to live all over the world and in a number of states, towns and cities in the U.S. during my lifetime, and I have come to love my home, the Roanoke Valley. The Valley is a wonderful cross between small town and city, between rural and urban, and it has largely retained its character, while many other communities have started to look so alike that none are special anymore.



DAVID PERRY

In this issue you will learn about the Land Trust's effort to actively promote conservation easements on two Roanoke City Parks, Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove Natural Reserve. Actively participating in the very public process of influencing community policy represents quite a change from past practices at WVLT, and one that I admittedly have been hoping for would happen for years. But while I am the executive director, I am not the boss; that job is in the hands of our Board of Trustees and they have been understandably reluctant to join the public/political fray until now. I am hoping that our community's leaders can see the debate about the future of Mill Mountain as the opportunity for a win-win for Roanoke by protecting Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove, while at the same time leveraging that act into some awesome press announcing Roanoke as a truly green city.

WVLT is entering the process with trepidation, and with concern for the good name that we have earned for taking a non-confrontational approach to conservation, but with the knowledge that what can be gained is well worth the risk. The Board of Trustees agrees with me that the opportunity now exists to get permanent protection for two of the Roanoke community's most precious resources. You can help the effort by joining the Land Trust and supporting us as we go forward with this challenge.

– RBH



ROGER HOLNBACK

This year's Conservation Celebration will be held on the beautiful Rader farm in Troutville, protected by a conservation easement.

Conservation Celebration 2007

Purchase your tickets now for this year's party!

All are invited to come celebrate open space, clean air and fresh water at our annual Conservation Celebration on Sept. 23, 2007 from 4-7 pm at the Rader Farm on Rt. 11 in Troutville. This will be a wonderful event that will help recognize and celebrate conservation of our valuable land.

The Raders placed a conservation easement on the 222-acre farm in 2005, and also placed an easement on their nearby family homeplace in 2006.

The festivities will include live bluegrass music from The Craig County Boys, a catered barbecue dinner, the presentation of the second annual A. Victor Thomas Environmental Stewardship Award, a live auction of an original landscape painting by local artist Ann Glover, and a book signing by local outdoors author and conservation easement donor Bruce Ingram.

We are pleased to announce that Conservation Partners, LLC, is underwriting this year's event. Conservation Partners consults with landowners and their professional advisors throughout the complex process of donating conservation easements and preparing and registering high-quality land preservation tax credits. Conservation Partners was formed to help Virginians realize the benefits of land conservation, and provides comprehensive support services to conservation easement donors, conservation professionals, and purchasers of high-quality land preservation tax credits.

Last year's Conservation Celebration in Montgomery County brought more than 125 people together. Former State Senator Madison Marye received the first annual Vic Thomas award in recognition of his and wife Charlotte's conservation easement on their farm on the Elliston Straightaway, and Senator Marye's



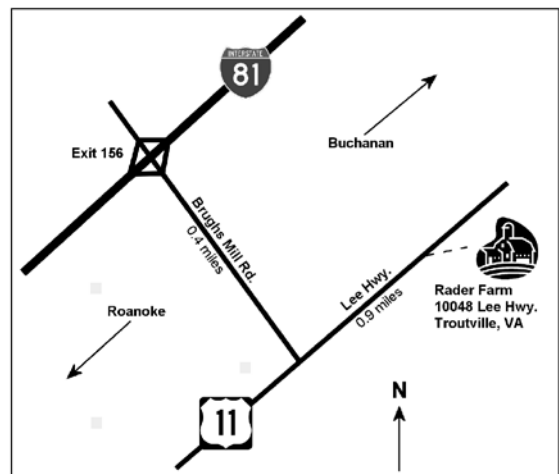
The Craig County Boys

work to uphold private property rights in the General Assembly.

Tickets for this year's Land Trust fundraiser are just \$35 per person if purchased by Sept. 14, 2007, or \$40 at the gate. Children under 12 are free. Current Land Trust members will receive a special invitation in the mail. Non-members can send a check for \$35 per person to Western Virginia Land Trust, 722 First St. SW, Suite L, Roanoke, VA

24016, attn: Celebration. Tickets will be held at the gate for everyone whose payment is received in the Land Trust office by Sept. 14. After that date, tickets will be \$40 and may be purchased at the door only.

This promises to be a wonderfully exciting event and we hope to see everyone there!



Directions to the 2007 Conservation Celebration



Carvins Cove as viewed from the Appalachian Trail in Botetourt County

Land Trust Takes Stand (continued from page 1)

- 1 - Fishburn Deed (outlined)
- 2 - Roanoke Water Works
- 3 - 1967 Acquisition
- 4 - Henderson Acquisition (2003)



Mill Mountain Park. The Fishburn Deed is outlined.

“Roanoke is looking for a way to sustainably grow and attract new business and new residents,” said Holnback. “Preserving these natural features makes a bold statement about Roanoke’s commitment to its quality of life that no other city in Virginia can make.”

Holnback said that Roanoke County, the Western Virginia Water Authority, and other local public entities also have resources that should be protected with easements in the near future.

“We’re starting with the City of Roanoke because of the current debate over the future of Mill Mountain,” said Holnback. “We’re hoping that the City can accomplish something that will serve as a model for the rest of the region.”

Long-time Trustee and current Vice President Janet Scheid is heading up the Land Trust’s committee that is pursuing the initiative. The Land Trust hopes to meet with a variety of environmental groups, civic clubs, business organizations, and other interested parties to educate the public on the initiative prior to presenting the idea to Roanoke City Council in the coming months.

For more information on the Land Trust’s Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove initiative, see the Frequently Asked Questions on page 5 or visit www.westernvirginalandtrust.org/mill-mountain/.

Complete text of the statement:

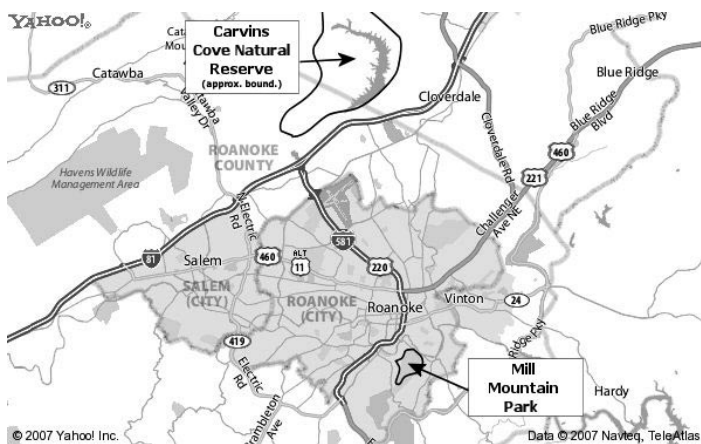
WESTERN VIRGINIA LAND TRUST
POSITION STATEMENT

The Western Virginia Land Trust recommends that the City of Roanoke place conservation easements on portions of Mill Mountain Park and Carvins Cove Natural Reserve.

Mill Mountain Park and Carvins Cove Natural Reserve represent opportunities to preserve two of the Valley’s most precious and unique natural resources. Preservation of these assets, through conservation easements, would clearly demonstrate that the citizens of Roanoke value green space, outdoor recreation, tourism and quality of life and want these lands protected now and for generations to come.

The easements would make permanent the recommendations of the Mill Mountain Park Management Plan that City Council approved in 2006 and the Carvins Cove Land Use Management Plan approved in 2000. The Mill Mountain easement would apply to the slopes and sides of Mill Mountain and not to the approximately 15 acres at the top of the mountain, which may not be appropriate for a state-held conservation easement due to the existing development and intensive land uses of that property. The WVLT recommends that future development on the top of the mountain be conducted according to the recommendations in the Mill Mountain Park Management Plan.

A conservation easement on Carvins Cove Natural Reserve would protect a significant water supply for the Valley and fourteen miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and its viewshed. This easement would provide the most cost-effective way to protect the water quality of Carvins Cove while allowing for appropriate recreational uses.



A map of the Roanoke Valley

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove Conservation Easements

Q: What is the Western Virginia Land Trust proposing?

A: To preserve two of Roanoke's most outstanding natural features, the Western Virginia Land Trust is proposing that the Roanoke City Council place conservation easements on portions of Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove.

Q: Why would this be good for Roanoke?

A: In addition to its wonderful people, the key to the Roanoke Valley's outstanding quality of life is the beautiful natural assets with which we're blessed—the Appalachian Trail, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Roanoke River, Mill Mountain, and Carvins Cove, to name just a few. Roanoke's strongest asset is its natural beauty and the recreational opportunities its beautiful environment offers.

By preserving and showcasing its best natural features, Roanoke could declare itself a top-flight green city on the level of Asheville,

NC, Burlington, VT or Chattanooga, TN. Roanoke could help increase its "attraction factor" to area residents, tourists, young professionals, new businesses and retirees. Additionally, as expressed in Vision 2001, the conservation of Carvins Cove and Mill Mountain will ensure that Roanoke residents, and those who follow us through the ages, will have the same beautiful mountains to enjoy as we do.

Q: Does this conflict with new development on top of Mill Mountain?

A: While our conservation easement proposal applies only to the slopes and sides of Mill Mountain the Land Trust recommends that the City follow the recommendation in its Mill Mountain Park Management Plan that states in part that "any development at the summit should remain below the treeline to preserve the forested ridgeline."

Q: Aren't Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove owned by the City and already protected?

A: While Mill Mountain Park and Carvins Cove Natural Reserve are owned by the City of Roanoke, placing a conservation easement on them would be a powerful statement of the City's commitment to preserving its best assets and attracting young people who enjoy an active, outdoor lifestyle. Also, municipal ownership does not guarantee its preservation in the future.

Q: Isn't Mill Mountain too steep to build on anyway?

A: While the slopes of Mill Mountain are steep, there are many examples of building taking place where no one ever thought possible or realistic. Mill Mountain is too important to the Valley's future to leave its preservation up to chance.

Q: What other local governments have done this?

A: In 1996, Asheville, NC, placed a conservation easement on a 17,000-acre, city-owned property that is the source of the city's drinking water, much like Carvins Cove is for the Roanoke Valley. In 2007, Fredericksburg, VA, placed conservation easements on 4,200 acres of city property along the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers. In Roanoke County, the Land Trust has partnered with the County, Hollins University, the Western Virginia Water Authority, grassroots groups, and private landowners to protect significant portions of two other local icons, Tinker Mountain and Read Mountain. There are numerous other examples as well.

Q: Who would hold and monitor the easements?

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation, which is the Commonwealth of Virginia's land trust, would be asked to hold and monitor the easements. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation holds conservation easements on over 400,000 acres of land in Virginia.

Q: Why isn't the Western Virginia Land Trust proposing to include the top of Mill Mountain in an easement?

After discussions with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, it became clear that they have serious concerns about the complexity, expense

(continued on page 6)

FAQs (continued from page 5)

and time involved with monitoring and enforcing an easement on the top of the mountain where intensive land uses exist. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation does not rule out the possibility of placing an easement on the land at the top of the mountain but suggests that such an easement should be held, monitored and enforced by a qualified organization other than themselves, with the resources necessary to do the job right. An alternative to this approach would be for the City to adopt an ordinance making the protection of the treeline and view of Mill Mountain from the City a matter of City policy.

Q: How do the Fishburn heirs feel about the Land Trust's proposed easement on Mill Mountain?

A: The Fishburn heirs desire that a conservation easement be placed on Mill Mountain that includes not only the slopes and sides but the top of the mountain also.

Q: What will this cost the City?

A: The cost to place a conservation easement on these properties is very small and is limited to expenses such as surveying. We estimate the total expense to be less than \$10,000. This money could be raised by private citizens who wish to see Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove preserved. There is no charge to the City of Roanoke by the Western Virginia Land Trust for its services in facilitating these proposed easements.

Q: How would a conservation easement affect the City's current management plans for both Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove?

A: In 2006, the City adopted the Mill Mountain Park Management Plan which identified long-term protection of the mountain as a critical issue and recommended a conservation easement "be explored." We believe that the time to do this is now, given the current public discourse about the future of Mill Mountain. The policies and practices described in the existing Mill Mountain Park Management Plan are nearly all compatible with a conservation easement. The Carvins Cove Natural Reserve management plan is still in the development process, but the core elements are preservation of the Reserve.

Q: How would a conservation easement affect the public's use of Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove for recreation?

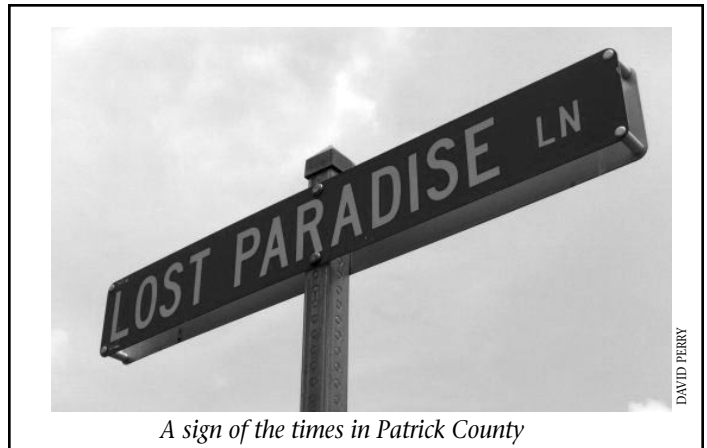
A: It would improve it. Conservation easements on public property are designed to protect and enhance public access for recreational activities such as hiking, biking, bird watching, family picnics, and other activities. Easements are compatible with things like trails, picnic tables, benches, interpretive kiosks, and other park accommodations. What a conservation easement would restrict is where building and development can take place and how many buildings can be built, along with common-sense restrictions on things like clear cutting, dumping trash, billboards, and so on.

Q: What is the danger of not acting?

A: An example of not acting in a timely manner to save valuable views can be found on the nearby Blue Ridge Parkway. For years, the Parkway meandered through peaceful and undeveloped countryside. But population growth, new suburban developments and commercial growth have negatively impacted views along the Roanoke section of the Parkway. Through the efforts of the Land Trust, neighboring communities and partner organizations, progress is being made to reverse this trend. If we don't have the vision and foresight to protect Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove now, we may regret it down the road.

Q: How would these conservation easements impact other parts of the Roanoke Valley?

A: It is the hope of the Land Trust that these easements will serve as conservation models and serve to encourage other mountainside land owners to protect their properties and preserve the beautiful views of the mountains from the Roanoke Valley. The Land Trust hopes to encourage other public entities to follow the lead of Roanoke City by placing conservation easements on their public properties.



A sign of the times in Patrick County

DAVID PERRY



Remember the Land Trust in your will.

Just like the land, our legacies endure long after we're gone. Remembering the Land Trust with a gift in your will is a powerful way to care for the hills, valleys, and streams of Western Virginia forever.

For more information on bequests or other planned giving, contact the Land Trust at (540) 985-0000, or visit our website at www.westernvirginialandtrust.org/bequests.pdf.

Membership Gifts – Thank You!

The following individuals, companies, and foundations joined the Land Trust in fiscal year 2007 – from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. Members whose first-time or increased gifts qualified for the Carilion matching grant challenge are indicated with an asterisk (*). Our deepest thanks to every land trust member whose annual memberships make all of our land conservation work possible.

BENEFACTOR - \$5,000 OR MORE

Anonymous foundation
Conservation Partners, LLC, Foundation*
Kroger Company*
James L. Woltz
in-kind

CONSERVATOR - \$2,500 TO \$4,999

Jim and Pat Kermes*

SUSTAINER - \$1,000 TO \$2,499

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Program Grants

The Western Virginia Land Trust would like to acknowledge the following program grants received or utilized during fiscal year 2006-2007:

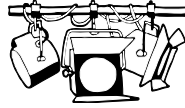
THE CARILION FOUNDATION
 \$77,000 over three years in support of the Saving Our Land and Water educational project in partnership with the Science Museum of Western Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, DIVISION OF URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY
 \$7,500 for a WVLT interactive computer kiosk exhibit at the Science Museum of Western Virginia's Watershed Gallery

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE SOUTHEAST PROGRAM
 \$3,500 in support of the Western Virginia Land Trust's national accreditation efforts

Member Spotlight

Henry Gregory, Roanoke County



Colorado native Henry Gregory, a five-year member of the Western Virginia Land Trust, came to the Roanoke Valley with General Electric in 1956, fell in love with the Blue Ridge Mountains and stayed on in retirement. His wife once told him she wouldn't leave if he was offered a transfer. He rates the Blue Ridge above the high mountains of his native Colorado.

Gregory retired after more than 42 years as an electrical engineer and began supporting the Land Trust because he's "sort of an environmentalist, but not a tree-hugger."



GEORGE NEBLEY

WVLT featured member Henry Gregory

He believes that "we depend on nature a lot and nature deserves our cooperation...It's wise to keep the land in good shape." He's "pleased" with the Land Trust's efforts to conserve land.

Gregory, who lives on a hill near Poages Mill in south Roanoke County, has a striking view from his backyard of the wooded slopes of Mason's Knob. Now 86 and still active, he does a Meals on Wheels route every week.

Calling All State Employees—Give to the Commonwealth Campaign!

If you're a state employee, be on the lookout for the Land Trust this fall during the Commonwealth of Virginia campaign, the state employee charitable giving program. For the first time, you can designate some or all of your charitable giving to go to the Land Trust.

Workplace giving is an easy and painless way to support your favorite causes. Other land trusts around the state have benefited from this program, and we hope it will be one more way for Virginians to support the preservation of open space. For more information, visit <http://www.cvc.vipnet.org>.

Virginia loses 46,000 acres of rural land each year.

Shopping online this holiday season?

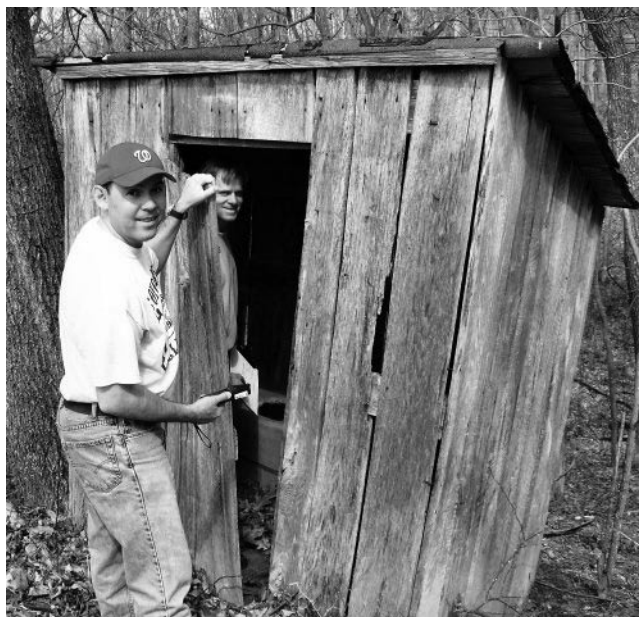
Visit our website to shop and support the Land Trust, too!

If you're planning on doing some of your holiday shopping online later this year, you can support the Land Trust at the same time and not cost yourself a single penny. How? Visit our online shopping portal at www.westernvirginialandtrust.org/shop.htm. You'll find links to online retailers like Amazon.com, Dell.com, and Apple's iTunes, among others. Just click on the links to visit those sites, and up to 10% of each purchase you make will go to the Land Trust!

Remember, you must visit the online retailers through our website in order for your purchase to count--you can't visit the online store directly without coming through our site. For more information, call (540) 985-0000 or e-mail dperry@westernvirginialandtrust.org.

Happy shopping

Roughing It?



ROGER HOLNACK

Project Manager David Perry and Trustee John Robinson inspect the plumbing on the Peaks of Otter.

A LOOK BACK... Carroll County Family Donated Easement in 2000



Mimi and Dixie Leonard on the New River Trail

Dixie Leonard, a marketing man who sells cheese coast to coast for Meadow Creek Dairy near Galax, was one of the Western Virginia Land Trust's first success stories when he donated an easement on his family farm in Carroll County to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the National Committee for the New River in 2000. Leonard, now president of the New River Land Trust board, wanted to save the 148-acre tract for future generations. The Western Virginia Land Trust helped facilitate the easement.

The farm is owned by Dixie, his wife, Mimi, his brother, James, and his father Floyd Leonard. They raise hay and feed beef cattle. The farm's rolling pasture and woodland, circled by the New River Trail, has been owned by seven generations of Leonards, going back more than two centuries to 1799 when Obadiah Leonard Sr. acquired a land grant. Floyd and a brother operated a Holstein dairy there after World War II and James continued milking about 30 cows until 2001.

Now Dixie sells cheese from California to New York, delivered by UPS, produced from a herd of 80 or more Jerseys on a nearby Grayson County farmstead.

Looking back on the easement process after seven years, Dixie says family negotiations on easements can be difficult, but his family agreed on saving the land. "We felt like the farm would always be there." Dixie and Mimi Leonard do not have children but his brother has three and there are four great-grandchildren in the Leonard family who will be able to enjoy the legacy of the Leonard family farm in the future.

Updates to the Board of Trustees 2007-08 Officers and Trustees Elected

At the Annual Meeting of the Board of the Western Virginia Land Trust on June 1, 2007, Jim Kermes was re-elected to a second term as President of the organization. Other officers elected for the coming year are: Janet Scheid, Vice President; Lucy Ellett, Secretary; and Gary Duerk, Treasurer. Re-elected for another three-year term on the Board were: Lynn Davis, George Kegley, Jim Kermes, and Jay Turner.

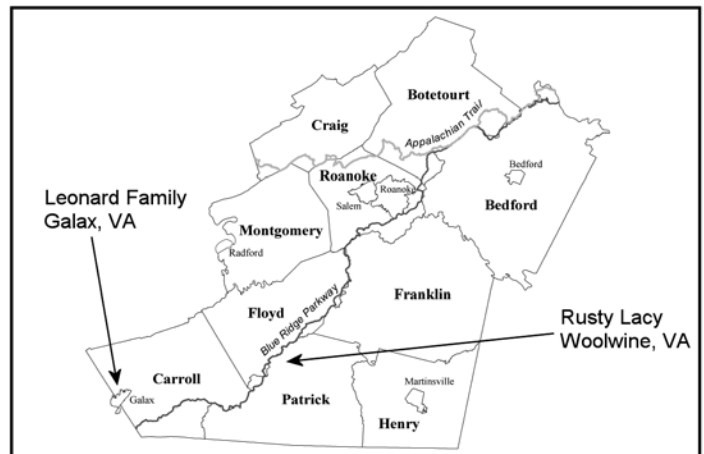
The following three individuals retired from the Board after completing their terms: Joe Miller, John Robinson, and Jim Woltz. President Jim Kermes noted that these retiring Board members have served as officers, chairs of committees and in other capacities and have made many valuable contributions to the work of the WVLT. He thanked them on behalf of the entire Board for their dedicated service to the organization.

-Lucy Ellett, Nominating Committee Chair

Other Changes to the Board

In addition to the year-end changes to the Board of Trustees, several trustees have left the Board to pursue other interests or have moved to the Land Trust's Advisory Council, a group of valued citizens who continue to support the Land Trust both financially and with professional and technical expertise. James Sawyer, Gwen Mason and Linda Webb resigned from the Board, and Broaddus Fitzpatrick stepped down to avoid conflicts of interest with his new position with Conservation Partners, LLC. Jeanne Martin, Howard Packett, and Chip Woodrum all moved to the Advisory Council.

Give till it hurts...and give some more. Join the Land Trust by sending in the remittance envelope in the middle of this newsletter, or join online at www.westervirginalandtrust.org/join.htm



Landowners featured in this issue

Rusty Lacy Enjoys Accommodations at the “Woolwine Hilton”

Frank “Rusty” Lacy loves to drive an hour from his Henry County home into the mountains of western Patrick County to throw a line in the north fork of the Smith River in search of brook or rainbow trout. To prove his love for the trout and the stream, Lacy donated a conservation easement to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation in 2006 to protect the fish, the river and 325 acres of mountain land.

Lacy bought the wooded mountainside along a steep gorge from Moir Hilton, who moved to nearby Woolwine. His friends have jokingly called his rambling farmhouse the “Woolwine Hilton.” The property is steeped in local history. Ancient barrel-trunked maples mark the entrance to the property, and an old carriage road along the creek once led to a church on the mountain that towers some 1,400 feet over Lacy’s land. But Lacy, who with his wife runs a horse center at Axton, is mainly interested in fishing in the Smith River headwaters. He’s one of those serious anglers who catch them and throw them back in the water—“They’re too precious to eat.” He obtained an easement simply because he wants “to protect the stream for future generations.” A Trout Unlimited member, he’s read about studies of acid rain leading to disappearance of brook trout and he wants to ensure the quality of the mountain fork.

His day job is helping his wife with the 20 or more horses at their Sandy River Equestrian Center between Martinsville and Danville. One son is a fly fishing guide at Banner Elk, NC, and another is a student at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.



Frank “Rusty” Lacy stands before the “Woolwine Hilton”

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Frank “Rusty” Lacy at the North Fork of the Smith River

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Grassroots Update

Bedford Citizens for Land Preservation: Grassroots at Work

Bedford Citizens for Land Preservation (BCLP) was created in 2001 in response to the Bedford County decision to review and rewrite its Comprehensive Plan. County residents Nancy Raine and Annis McCabe organized community meetings to see if residents were interested in learning more about the Comprehensive Plan and the planning process, as well as being involved in the process. After an overwhelming response from more than 100 residents, BCLP came to life and gave itself a name and a mission statement.



Nan Carmack presents the Barbara Hatcher Award to Gene and Laura Goley

BCLP's first efforts included information-gathering, fact-finding, and learning about the governmental process, as well as available conservation and preservation tools. Achieving a balance between growth and agricultural/natural needs was, and remains, the focus of BCLP's members. BCLP became active participants in the comprehensive planning process, working on citizen/government committees, encouraging residents to express opinions to their supervisors and participate individually in community meetings. The June 2007 passing of the long-awaited, much-revised Comprehensive Plan demonstrates the success of these efforts in the inclusion of language to accommodate a purchase of development rights program as well as desirable opportunities for encouraging open space and greenways. BCLP looks forward to participating in the revision and development of ordinances to implement the new Comprehensive Plan.



BCLP, now a non-profit membership organization (approximately 1200 strong), is currently governed by a 15-member board. BCLP's work is divided into two sub-committees—Education and Government Relations. The Education Committee focuses on continuing its early mission of educating the community about the economic and social value of open space, as well as relevant issues facing the county. This year, the Education Committee will publish four newsletters; maintain resource carts in all six county libraries as well as a website; host two workshops on Conservation Easements and host a professionals' workshop regarding the legal and tax implications of Conservation Easements. One June 14, BCLP awarded the Barbara Hatcher Land Preservation Award to Laura and Gene Goley, for their visionary preservation of their farm in Forest, VA, with Virginia's Secretary for Natural Resources, Preston Bryant, on hand to celebrate.

The Government Relations committee actively tracks and researches county and state government policy, decisions, and issues that affect land use and development; offers representation on a variety of government/citizen committees; attends planning commission and Board of Supervisors meetings; encourages members to communicate with their elected officials when urgent issues arise; and keeps a vigilant eye on development in the county. These two foci enable BCLP to achieve their mission statement: "Working to conserve open space

and preserve our rural life and landscape."

For more information or to join BCLP (\$5 per person), contact Nan Carmack at 434.610.2792 or visit BCLP's website at www.bedfordpreservation.org.

Read Mountain Alliance: Working together to preserve a landmark.

The Read Mountain Alliance is pleased to announce the beginning of construction of the first public trailhead into the Read Mountain Preserve. It will be located on an extension of Crumpacker Drive that is being developed adjacent to the Samuel's Gate subdivision.



The trailhead will consist of an 800 foot-long drive and a parking area for six cars. The \$20,000 project is being funded with \$10,000 from the Alliance and a \$10,000 matching grant from the Roanoke County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. The project should be completed before Labor Day.

The preserved area of Read Mountain now totals more than 240 acres, including two-thirds of the ridgeline.

If you'd like for your local grassroots conservation organization to be featured in Land Protection News, contact David Perry at (540) 985-0000 or e-mail dperry@westernvirginialandtrust.org. Or, give us a call if you'd like to start one in your community.

Thoughts from the board—Bill Hackworth Mountain lover is optimistic about the future

George Kegley asked me to write about what motivated me to join the Board of the WVLT. I probably can credit my interest in the outdoors and conservation to my Boy Scouting days: hiking, camping, working on conservation merit badges, doing “litter patrols,” backpacking trips at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and completing an Eagle Scout service project.

Mountain Man

I love mountains, and spend what I can of my free time hiking and recreating in them. Although I moved away from Roanoke to flat Tidewater for over ten years, and certainly enjoyed the outdoor opportunities there (bicycling, hiking, running, canoeing, camping), it was an easy decision for me to return to Roanoke eight years ago. A city with the Blue Ridge Parkway on one side, and the Appalachian Trail (AT) on the other, with a river running through it, and the TransAmerica Bike Trail (Route 76) in the nearby Catawba Valley to boot, was an irresistible attraction. I love hiking the wonderful trails that we have in our area, and the beautiful (and challenging) bike rides that we can do (I hope to do the Parkway end-to-end again next year).

Proximity to the AT and the Blue Ridge Parkway is a wonderful thing, but we are loving them to death in some areas (as if acid rain and the hemlock woolly adelgids weren't enough!). A “walk in the woods” is becoming a walk among the subdivisions.

Spoiled Views

Ann and I were hiking recently at Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina (itself a protected area), and were appalled to see some of the ridgetop development and mountainside sprawl that has occurred near Linville (I understand that some of that development prompted laws in that state imposing restrictions on ridgetop development and creating a state fund for land acquisition – something we seriously need to consider in Virginia). The same, of course, is happening in our region.

Viewsheds along the Parkway and AT are becoming views more of creeping development than the scenic vistas originally envisioned (if you can see through the smog). The tree plantings that we are doing along the Parkway (such as the efforts of the Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway) to hide the unwanted views that are cropping up seems to me at best to be a stop gap measure.



Bill and Ann Hackworth pose in Arizona

Every time I hike the AT on the ridgetops above Carvins Cove, I marvel at the foresight of City leaders many years ago, who had the vision to acquire what eventually comprised 12,700 acres of land in Botetourt and Roanoke Counties to protect the City's water resources. (A project of similar scale today would be

difficult, if not impossible.) If we are going to preserve our natural resources, we need to have similar vision and plan ahead, and avoid piecemeal development that will forever make it impossible to preserve what we should be preserving.

Future Generations

I want my posterity to be able to enjoy seeing a frog or a turtle in the woods, to camp among the shady hemlocks, and to enjoy a clear, natural vista from a mountaintop, just as I have. Anyone who has driven through the Smokies, and abruptly exited the national park into the schlock of Gatlinburg, and even worse,

Pigeon Forge, has had an instant lesson in the value of land preservation.

Locally, I was glad to be able to assist in the successful effort last fall to head off the scheduled auction of 234 acres of Tinker Mountain adjacent to the Carvins Cove Natural Reserve, and to have it acquired by a coalition of owners that has protected it with conservation easements – an undertaking made easier by the involvement of several WVLT members in different capacities. I could not envision (especially since Ann is a Hollins graduate) Tinker being logged or developed.

The days of representatives of the Rockefeller family quietly coming into an area and purchasing land (as they thankfully did in many places that I have enjoyed, such as Acadia National Park, the Smokies, and along the Parkway) to prevent it from being logged or developed are probably over. The Federal and State governments devote relatively limited resources to acquiring land for conservation or preservation (our president even wants to dispose of “surplus” public lands).

Public-Private Partnerships

If we are going to save and protect land, it is going to have to be a government-private sector partnership, one parcel at a time. That's why the conservation easement program is so appealing to me – it is a good way of spreading the cost of land preservation among all who will eventually benefit from it.

I have read (and saved) every issue of National Geographic since I was in junior high school, and each month find myself with

one more environmental issue to worry about (global warming, nuclear waste disposal, our beleaguered national parks, the decline of fisheries...). Despite these worries, I am hopeful that we can do something about many of them.

Last winter, I wrote an article for a legal journal entitled "A Convenient Truth: The Greening of Virginia – A Look at What Virginia's Local Governments Are Doing and Can Do to Promote Energy Conservation and Protect the Environment." I was encouraged by what appears to be a growing realization by the public and local governments that conservation isn't something that someone else does for us, but something that each of us can do – recycling, using energy-efficient appliances and lighting, ridesharing, conserving water, etc. (The Roanoke Valley Cool Cities Coalition is helping spread the word locally. I hope that you have installed compact fluorescent light bulbs in your home!).

I enjoy being a part of the WVLT, and working on conservation issues with like-minded people who enjoy the outdoors. I feel good when I bicycle down a country road, and see one of our signs denoting that the scenery that I am enjoying has been protected by the owner in partnership with the WVLT. I hope to see many more of these in the coming years!

Still not Krogering?!

Get your Land Trust card today!

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of 60-plus Land Trust supporters, nearly \$10,000 has been raised through the Kroger Card program since its inception in the summer of 2005. WVLT is receiving an average of almost \$500 in rebates each month from Kroger.

How can you "Buy Food and Save Land?" It's easy – just send \$5 to WVLT along with your name and address. We'll send you a WVLT Kroger Card with \$5 already on it. Before you shop at Kroger, stop by the service desk at the front of the store and add money to the card in any amount up to \$500. Kroger then gives WVLT a rebate equal to 5% of what you added to the card, at no cost to you whatsoever!



Use your Kroger Card just like a debit card at the register. Any money you add to the card stays on it until it's used. And it's good for all of your Kroger purchases – food, medicine, gas...anything! Remember, the money WVLT receives comes from Kroger, not from your pocket. All you have to do is make your usual purchases, and remember to pay with your Kroger Card! Get one for each shopper in your family today!

Legislative Update

WHAT: Two bills in the US House and Senate that would extend federal conservation tax incentives beyond their Dec. 31, 2007 expiration dates. These tax incentives have helped to fuel the current boom in conservation easements.

	FEDERAL DEDUCTION ALLOWED	CARRY FORWARD
Current law	50% (100% for farmers)	Up to 15 years
After Dec. 31, 2007	Just 30%	Only up to 5 years

At press time, the two bills were in committee. H.R. 1576 had 71 cosponsors, including Congressman Bob Goodlatte, and had been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. S. 469 had 15 cosponsors, including Senator John Warner, and had been referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. While the support of so many Senators and Congressmen is encouraging, it is no guarantee of the two bills' ultimate passage in both houses.

ACTION NEEDED: Contact your elected officials to encourage them to support either H.R. 1576 in the case of your Congressman, or S.469 in the case of our two Senators.

Congressman Rick Boucher
2187 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
<http://www.boucher.house.gov/>
(Click on e-mail link in lower right corner)
Fax: (202) 225-0442

Congressman Bob Goodlatte
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
<http://www.house.gov/goodlatte/emailbob.htm>
Fax: (202) 225-9681

Senator Jim Webb
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
<http://webb.senate.gov/contact/>
Fax: (202) 228-6363

Congressman Virgil Goode
1520 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515
<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>
(Select Congressman Goode from drop-down list)
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Senator John Warner
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Sept. 23, 2007, 4-7 pm

Featuring:

- music by "The Craig County Boys"
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- Vic Thomas Award presentation
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- Bruce Ingram book signing

Send check for \$35 per person along with names of attendees by **Sept. 14, 2007 to:**
Western Va. Land Trust
722 First St. SW Suite L
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ATTN: Celebration

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