



the land  
steward

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# From the Director

## Celebrating 20 Years of Place-based Conservation

Twenty years ago the Little Tennessee River Watershed Conference kicked off the modern conservation movement in our region. That two-day convening of citizens and scientists raised the profile of the Little Tennessee as one of America's greatest conservation treasures. It also inspired a vision for private land conservation which today is carried forward by LTLT's work to Conserve and Restore our land and water and to Connect people to these resources.

LTLT's conservation strategy is as diverse as the region we serve. Our direct land protection work is well known—with over 21,300 acres conserved at last count, including 225 miles of river and tributary stream frontage.

Our restoration efforts extend LTLT's conservation impact to many more landowners. In Watauga Creek river fish can now migrate upstream (page 25) and on land adjoining Yellow Creek forest restoration work utilizing prescribed fire has led to regeneration of open oak/pine woodlands (page 24). We are also proud of our efforts to restore important historic sites such as the 1830s William Morrison cabin and the 1930s Vonnie West house and post office in the Cowee-West's Mill Historic District.

To carry conservation forward we must connect people, especially our youth, to their surroundings. Through monitoring of fish, birds, streambank condition, and native plant communities LTLT is building a Citizen Science program which enables people to connect to the land and water while generating real-time scientific data that helps in conserving and restoring the environment. Over 1600 people, mostly school-age, participated in LTLT-led monitoring and educational initiatives in the past year.

Over the last two decades momentum has grown for conserving clean water, forests, farmland, and rural heritage in the valley of the Little Tennessee. We are in the process of launching LTLT's Headwaters Initiative to expand this conservation success across the entire headwater region of the Southern Blue Ridge, including the Tuckasegee, the Hiwassee, and the Cheoah River and surrounding valleys, as we continue to build on one of modern America's great conservation success stories.

Paul J. Carlson

**The annual update on the activities and organizational status of LTLT (Land Trust for the Little Tennessee)**

**November, 2013**

**LTLT**

557 East Main Street  
Franklin, NC 28734  
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www.ltl.org



# Contents

## Mapping the Cultural Landscape

LTLT joins an important project to conserve Cherokee heritage .....4

## Here's to You, Aunt Vonnie

Saving a regional landmark and remembering the woman who built it .....8

## Birth Announcement

The meeting that gave rise to LTLT .....11

## Conservation Crossroads

LTLT purchases an environmentally significant tract.....12

## LTLT's Home: The Headwaters

Our service area and its crucial importance to the region .....15

## Lakey Creek Homecoming

A family buys a piece of history and begins restoring a treasure .....18

## Citizen Science, LTLT Style

How our volunteers are advancing research.....22

## A Tale of Two Creeks

Two creeks, two sets of problems, two creative solutions .....24

## LTLT Loses a True Friend

We mark the passing of Virginia Ramsey Brunner .....26

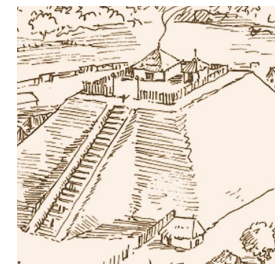
## And More

LTLT Annual Funds Report .....27

Our Members and Donors .....28

Thanks to Our Supporters .....31

Meet the Staff.....31



**Page 4**

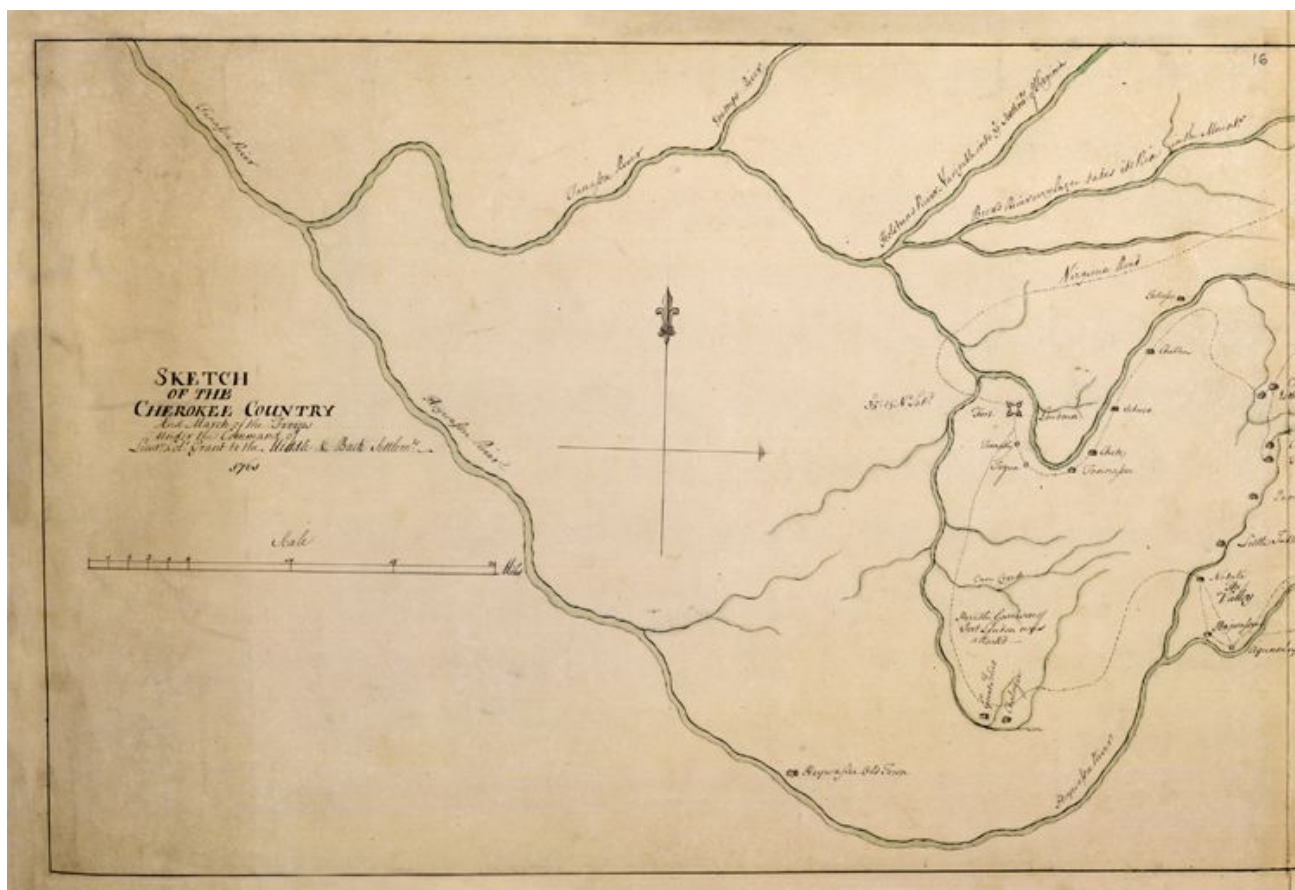


**Page 8**



**Page 18**

**PHOTO/ART CREDITS** Page 4-5 (Historic Cherokee Map): Courtesy of Lamar Marshall | Page 6 (Nikwasi Mound): Elayne Sears | Pages 7, 16-17 (maps): Michael Scisco | Page 8 (Vonnies West): Courtesy of Jann Ramsey | Page 19 (William Morrison): Courtesy of Sue Waldroop | Pages 26, 31 (top): Ralph Preston | Page 31 (bottom): Dphotography | All other photography: John Fletcher



## CONSERVE

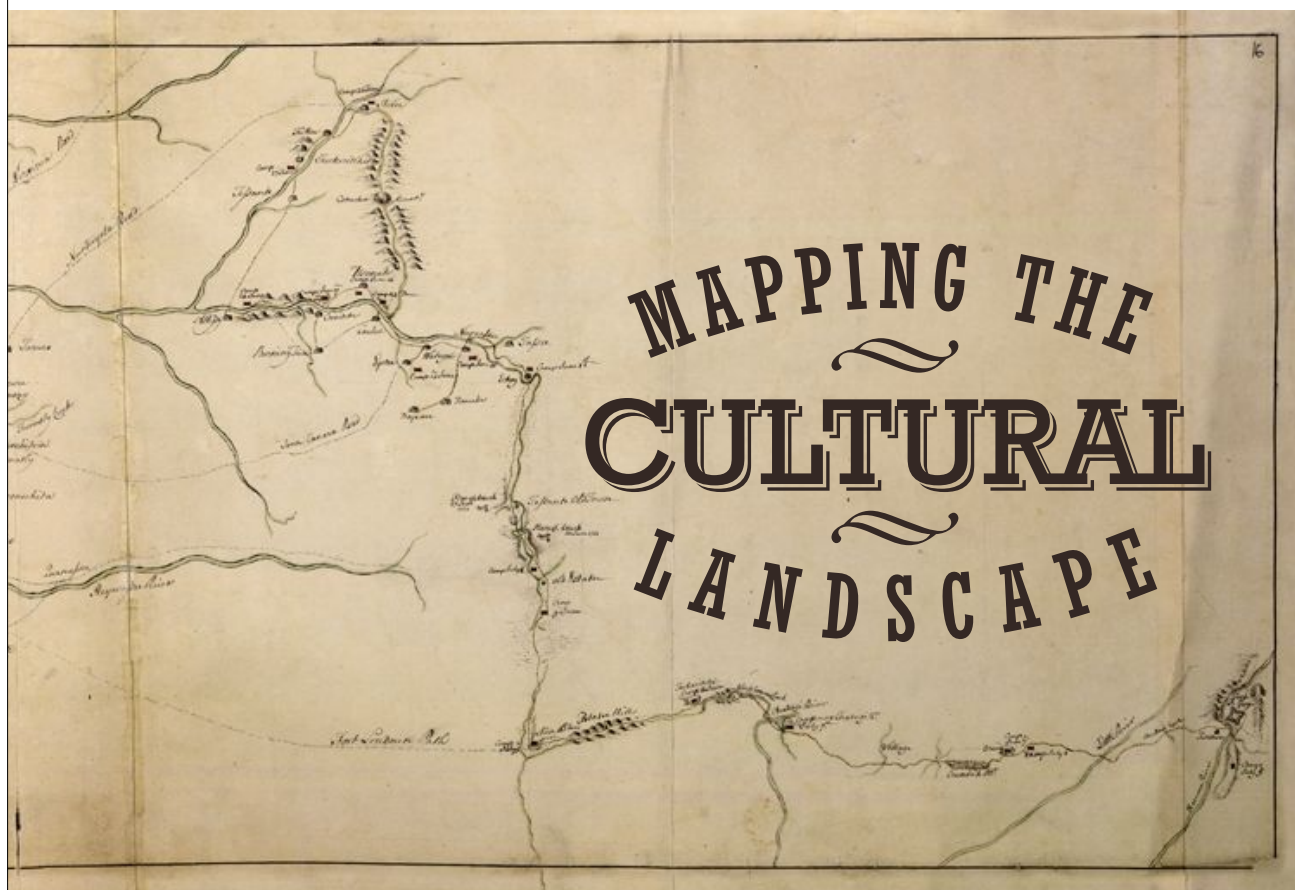
**An important project involving LTLT, the Cherokee and others will provide structure and context to Native cultural history and guide LTLT's future.**

**L**TLT has begun charting a collaborative course for land conservation with the Eastern Band of Cherokee and other partners beyond the Little Tennessee River valley. A grant from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation supports a year-long mapping process in the Tuckasegee River watershed.

The Tuckasegee River feeds the Little Tennessee just west of the Cherokee mother town of Kituwah. The Cherokee are the people of Kituwah, and regaining Kituwah cemented Cherokee sovereignty. Then-Chief Joyce Dugan reflected on the purchase of Kituwah in 1996: "I believe that nothing else I have accomplished in my life is as important as this." If it is impossible to separate the Cherokee people from this place,

it is also unnatural to separate the environment and natural areas from the cultural landscapes of the valley. Kituwah anchors and amplifies the importance of the entire Tuckasegee watershed, just as Chief Dugan's initiative set the stage for a new phase of critical protection.

Tom Hatley, former Sequoyah Distinguished Professor at Western Carolina University (WCU), Wild South's Cultural Program Director



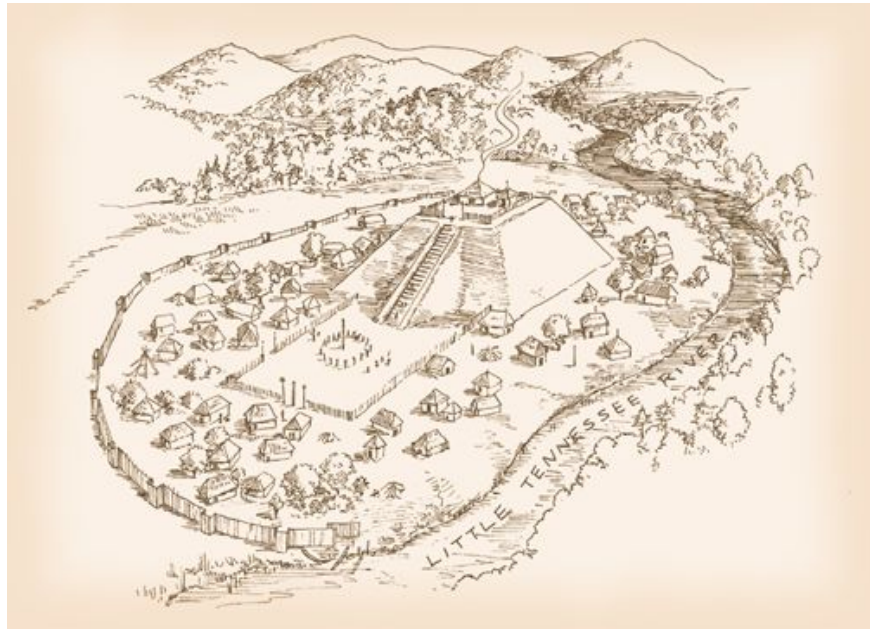
Lamar Marshall, and Hugh Irwin, Landscape Conservation Planner with The Wilderness Society, are working with LTLT to create a new map incorporating a variety of cultural information, from town sites to fish weirs and rivercane stands, that will be meshed with ecological information. This map will draw attention to the Tuck, as it is known, and its watershed and “riverscape,” as Hartwell Francis, Director of the Cherokee Language Program at WCU termed it. On a practical level, the map will guide LTLT’s evaluation of investments in land conservation that protect the full range of heritage values.

LTLT has a track record in the valley—gaining easements on over 2,100 acres including the culturally critical Parker property surrounding



**Johi Griffin, Tribal Historic Preservation Office Historic Sites Keeper, was at the Kituwah Mound during our photo session there. His office is responsible for protecting archaeological and cultural resources, ensuring preservation of significant sites and protecting Cherokee burials from disturbance. As Historic Sites Keeper, Johi oversees the management of the Cowee Mound, conserved in 2007 through LTLT’s partnership with the Eastern Band of Cherokee and the State of North Carolina.**

**RIGHT: A depiction of the Nikwasi mound as it likely appeared at its historical zenith. Most other Cherokee mounds—including the Kituwah mound, below—followed a similar design.**



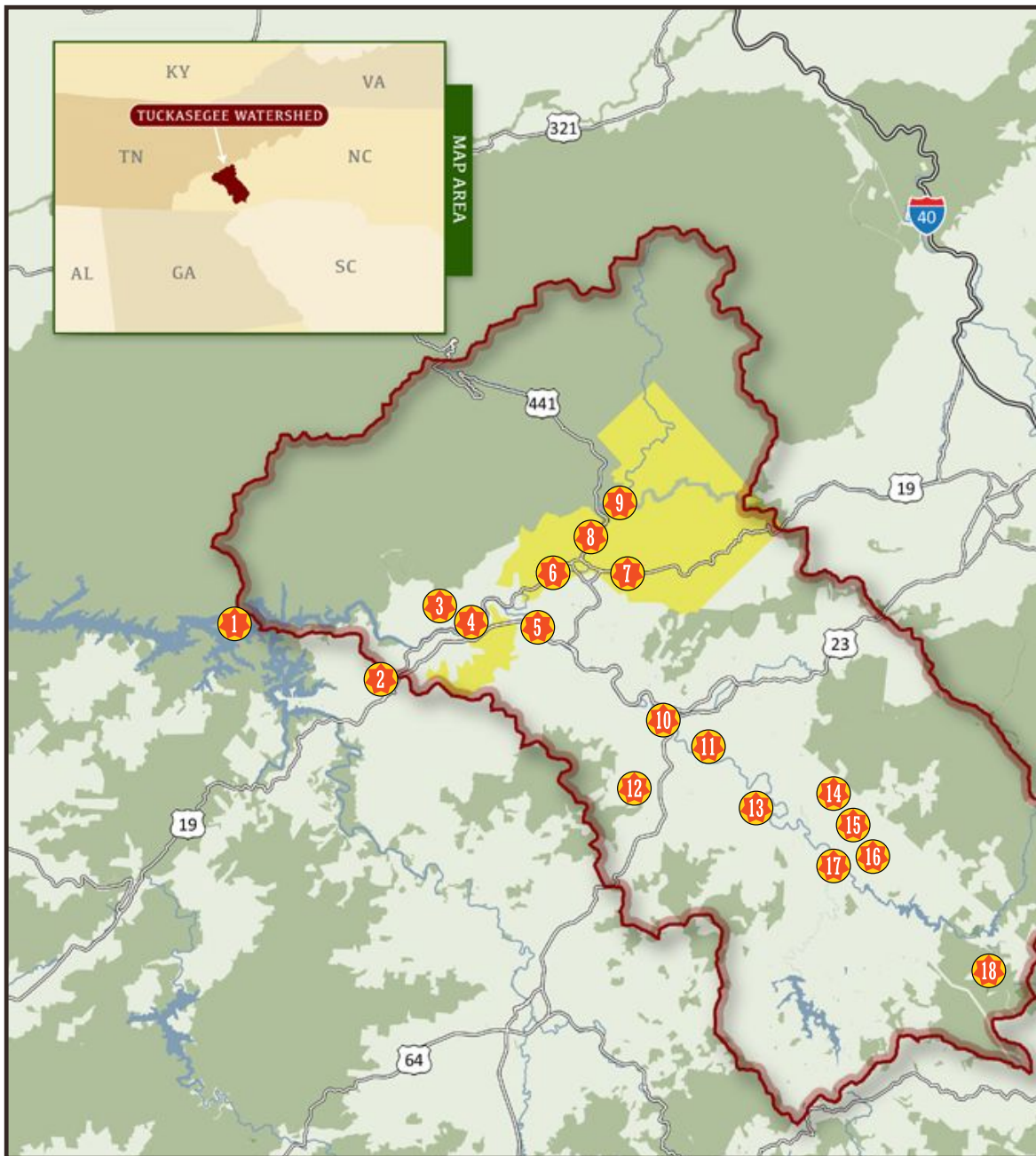
**ABOVE: The Kituwah mound today, protected but scarcely discernable after years of agricultural destruction.**

Judaculla Rock. As a final step, the map will incorporate explanations of the significance of many of the existing Cherokee placenames and, where possible or appropriate, restore Cherokee names for geographical or watershed features currently not on any map. Project

leaders will be gathering information over the next several months, and anyone is welcome to contribute ideas or sites that could be of interest.

Together with its partners, including the Cherokee, LTLT looks forward to doing more good work in the Tuckasegee.

THE LAND STEWARD



### Cherokee Towns of the Tuckasegee River Basin

 Qualla Boundary

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  1 Evanga       |  7 Paint Town    |  13 Cullowhee   |
|  2 Tessentee    |  8 Nunnunyi      |  14 Moses Creek |
|  3 Tuckaleechee |  9 Raven Fork    |  15 Judaculla   |
|  4 Kituwah      |  10 Scotts Creek |  16 Johns Creek |
|  5 Stecoa       |  11 Tuckasegee   |  17 Tanasee     |
|  6 Bird Town    |  12 Greens Creek |  18 Tillinoia   |

HERE'S TO YOU  
AUNT VONNIE



**B**y all accounts Vonnie Leal West believed in a strong community. She was born on April 15, 1886, the oldest of eleven children. Vonnie left her home in the West's Mill Community to become a teacher. She first studied at UNC Chapel Hill, and later she received a Master's Degree in Education from Western Carolina College in Cullowhee.

Aunt Vonnie, as she was known, taught for 35 years in counties across the State—a lifetime spent

strengthening communities. When she came home to West's Mill she also worked to support that community by teaching, by looking for opportunities to help her neighbors, and by assisting her postmistress mother as she ran the West's Mill Post Office. The small post office was built in the 1920s and rolled on logs to its current location when Vonnie built her house in 1936.

Perhaps it was in that same house that Vonnie's best-known contribution to West's Mill took place as she wrote

## RESTORE

**LTLT and Preservation North Carolina help return a community landmark—and the woman at its heart—to prominence.**



# WEST'S MILL COMMUNITY

its weekly news column for *The Franklin Press*. For many years she gathered the good news as well as the bad from West's Mill and shared it so that neighbors would be bound together as a stronger community.

Earlier this year LTLT purchased her house and the old post office in the heart of the Cowee-West's Mill Historic District, downhill from the Rickman General Store and historic Cowee School. Vonnie West died in

1976 at the age of 90, but LTLT hopes to promote her community spirit by saving the "Vonnie West House" through its third partnership with Preservation North Carolina (PNC). In the coming months PNC will market the property to find its next owner—someone who will restore Aunt Vonnie's house to its former prominence, preserve her legacy, and strengthen the historic community of West's Mill.



# Birth Announcement

**T**here is wisdom in the mantra “deeds, not words,” but it shouldn’t be allowed to obscure the value of good conversation. In the ‘80s and ‘90s there were plenty of individuals in the Upper Little Tennessee watershed doing good things on behalf of the river and the watershed—as part of their jobs, as members of conservation organizations or just as individuals. But discussion of watershed issues was fragmented and occurred mostly within small isolated groups.

In 1993, following successful negotiations with the Town of Franklin which led to voluntary upgrading of their wastewater treatment plant, Dr. Bill McLarney and Ann Seaton conceived the idea of building on that government/nonprofit collaboration to put together a two-day Little Tennessee River Watershed Conference. It was advertised as, “A cooperative effort spearheaded by the Town of Franklin and the Western North Carolina Alliance to build better communication and cooperation among all parties dependent upon the health of the watershed.”

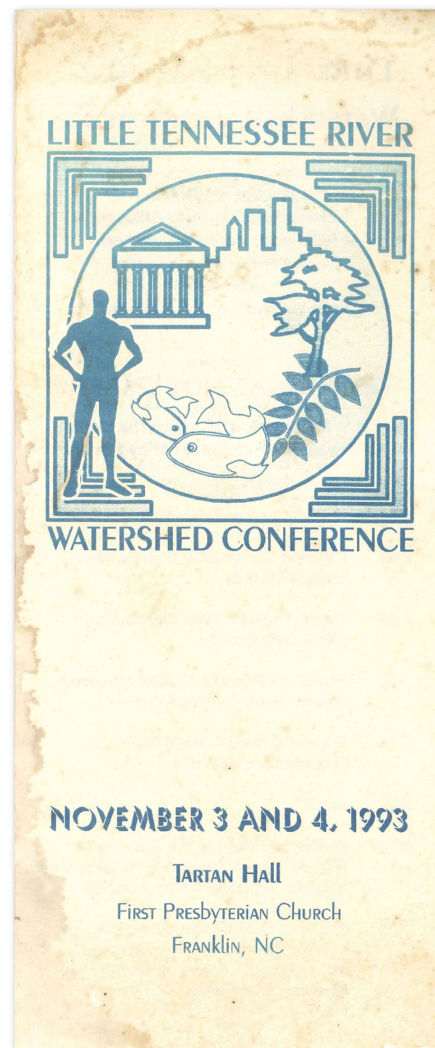
Part of the importance of the event can be deduced from the numbers: 250 attendees, with ninety presenters and panelists, on themes as diverse as *The River Otter Reintroduction Program*, *Environmental Integrity and the Christian Tradition*, and *Why Are There All These Rules and Who Enforces Them?* But more important than any of the individual presentations or activities was the start of a larger conversation which persists to this day. For the first time nonprofit conservation organizations; government agencies; teachers and

academics; representatives of agriculture, business, recreational interests and churches; and just plain citizens simultaneously engaged in sharing their analysis of present problems and visions for the future organized around the concept of the watershed.

The Little Tennessee Watershed Conference was the first occasion on which concepts such as turning the Needmore Tract into a conservation area or conserving a forested corridor from the Cowee to the Nantahala Mountains were articulated. One of the recommendations made was to form a watershed association, and participants noted the lack of an effective land trust presence. Not long after, the Little Tennessee Watershed Association was formed followed by the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee. Today those organizations are merged together as LTLT. Twenty years later, LTLT continues to participate in the conversation begun in 1993 and back up the conversation with activities that conserve and restore our watershed and connect people to our natural resources.

## CONNECT

**The community conference twenty years ago that led to LTLT**





**CONSERVE** | A new purchase by LTLT adds to

# Conservation

**S**IX YEARS AGO LTLT BEGAN WORKING with members of the Duvall family to reforest and restore their streambanks along the Little Tennessee River upstream of Lost Bridge in northern Macon County. Fronting a half mile of river this

LAND STEWARD



**protected riverfront at an important junction**

# Crossroads

39-acre property lies within a mile of three separate portions of the Needmore Tract. As such when the family of the late Wayne W. Duvall told LTLT they wished to sell, LTLT moved quickly to define a conservation solution that fulfilled the

***The newly-acquired Duvall property is especially significant, as it lies at the intersection of an ecologically diverse section of the Little Tennessee River and the corridor connecting the Cowee Mountains to the Nantahala Mountains.***

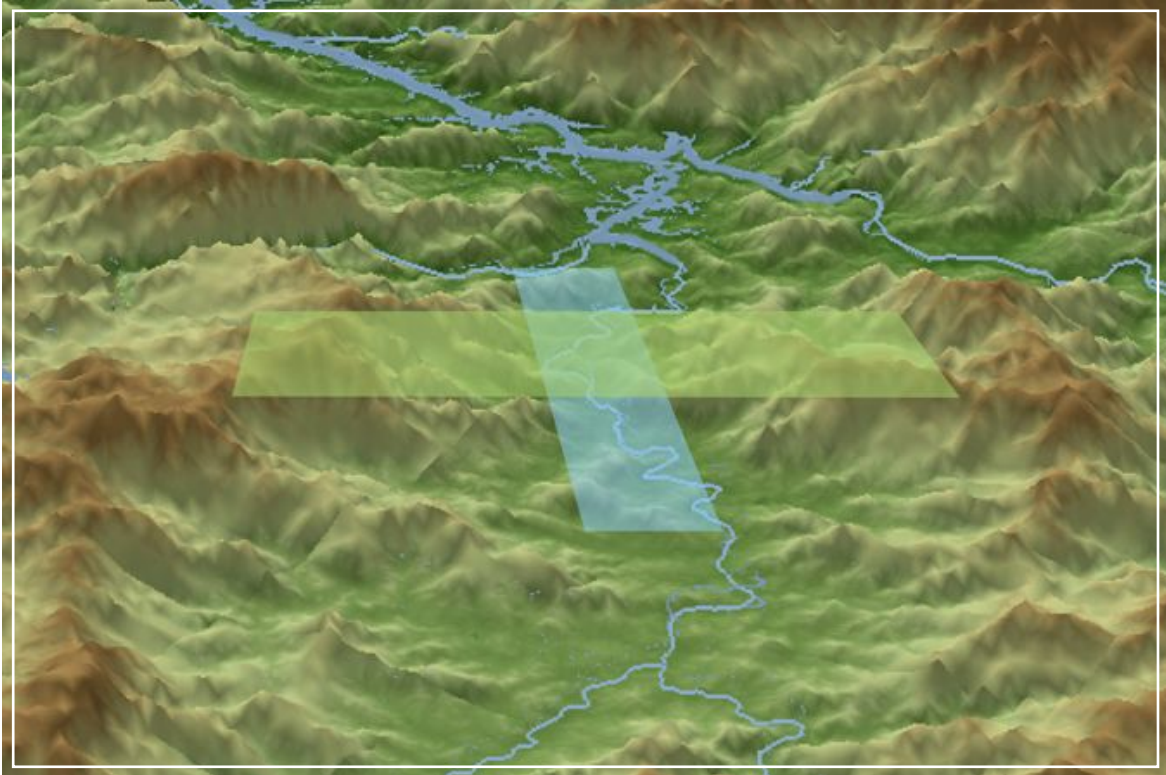
family's dream of seeing the land conserved.

LTLT was able to purchase the property early this year with the hope that the land could be added to the Needmore Game Lands. That hope will become reality later this year. A grant from North Carolina's Clean Water Management Trust Fund will be coupled with United States Fish and Wildlife Service funding that supports efforts to conserve America's rarest species. The property will enter public trust as part of the Game Lands and be managed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

When the Duvall project is completed over two-thirds of the river corridor between the town of Franklin and Fontana Lake will be conserved. This is the result of twelve years of LTLT efforts including conservation of the Needmore Tract and 25 other conservation projects along the river.

This magnificent section of river is a veritable biological "hotspot" of Blue Ridge rivers, due to the presence of so many rare aquatic species. This reach of river has been the top conservation priority for LTLT since it was founded.

The Duvall property is also significant because it lies on a second key LTLT conservation corridor: that connecting the Cowee Mountains to the Nantahala Mountains. This thirteen-mile corridor starts at 5000' above sea level on Cowee Bald, crosses the river at 1750' and then rises back to 4600' on Wesser Bald and the Appalachian Trail in the Nantahalas. LTLT's goal is to conserve a forested corridor that connects these two mountain ranges to ensure uninterrupted habitat for plants and animals in a future with a changing climate. The Duvall property lies at the crossroads of these two corridors.



# LTLT's HEAD WATERS REGION OF THE SOUTHERN BLUE RIDGE

## **The Mountains**

From the Great Smokies to the Blue Ridge, from the Balsams to the Nantahala and Unicoi, LTLT's project area encompasses the most massive mountain ranges in the East. Protecting and restoring conservation corridors that connect these mountain ranges is part of LTLT's vision for maintaining resilience across the mountains in the face of climate change.

## **The Valleys**

The Little Tennessee River (including the Tuckasegee and Cheoah Rivers among other tributaries) together with the Hiwassee River (including the Valley and Nottely Rivers and other tributaries) flow to the north and west from the Blue Ridge divide, creating the most important source of cool, clean water in the Southeast. It is also home to many rare and endangered species as the Tennessee River System is the most diverse on Earth outside of the tropics.



# LTLT's HEADWATERS

REGION OF THE  
SOUTHERN BLUE  
RIDGE





THE LAND STEWARD



# Lakey Creek Homecoming

**S**ince 1832. That's how long the log cabin has been standing in the Little Tennessee River valley. When William Morrison, Sr. (above) moved his family to newly formed Macon County, he purchased hundreds of acres of land and found the perfect home site just a half mile upstream from the confluence of the river and a rushing stream that would later come to be called "Lakey

## RESTORE

**Jackie and Cynthia Gregory purchase the William Morrison farm and begin restoring some Macon County history.**



***The clapboard farmhouse will be stripped away to reveal William Morrison's original 1832 cabin beneath.***

Creek." Morrison felled oak and poplar trees and hand hewed the logs to form the one-and-a-half-story log cabin where he and his wife Cynthia would raise their seven children.

Fast forward 179 years through other families who called the Morrison cabin home—who added rooms and modernized it as the times changed—to 2011, when LTLT had the chance to purchase the 133 acres


of rolling pasture and forested hills surrounding the oldest standing structure in northern Macon County, less than two miles from the historic Cowee Mound. With major donor support LTLT seized the opportunity to conserve the property and partnered with Preservation North Carolina to find the next generation owner and to oversee restoration of the historic structure.



In July 2013 the property was sold to Jackie and Cynthia Gregory. The conservation agreement with the Gregorys conserves the 133 acres while allowing an additional home site, agriculture, and forest management. Due to fire and water damage much of the picturesque farm house was found to be beyond restoration, but the 1832 log cabin, encased in a crumbling façade, still

maintained its beleaguered integrity. LTLT is proud of the conservation outcome. Now a new generation of owners will protect the conservation values of the property; the water quality of Lakey Creek, prime farmland soils, and the productive forest coves. And Morrison's log cabin will be restored and stand to shelter another family in the Little Tennessee River valley.

***A restoration of this scale will involve the whole Gregory family, but when completed, a significant piece of Macon County heritage will be saved.***



# Citizen Science,

**CONNECT |** LTLT's volunteer data-gatherers play a crucial role

**C**itizen Science is generally defined as the collection of scientific data by amateur or non-professional scientists. Yet experience shows that citizen monitoring programs serve key education and advocacy roles when results and implications are made available and understandable, thus providing citizens with the opportunity to contribute to the development of scientific information.

For example, twenty-four years ago Dr. Bill McLarney launched an annual, volunteer-based monitoring program to track the health of the Little Tennessee River watershed by measuring the abundance, diversity,

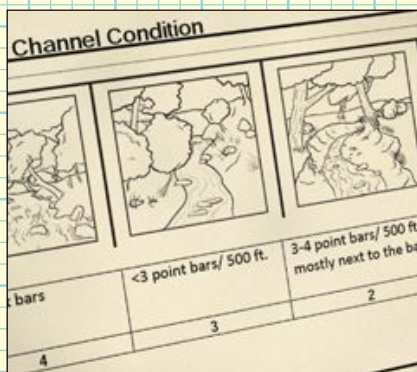
and vigor of its fish communities. This effort has (a) created the largest data set of watershed health in Appalachia, (b) educated two generations of watershed residents about the unique beauty and diversity in the river, (c) made passionate river conservation advocates of many of these volunteer Citizen Scientists, and (d) led to direct conservation outcomes to protect the river, including the upgrading of two sewer plants.

Four years ago, LTLT launched a bird health and population monitoring program in partnership with Southern Appalachian Raptor Research which engages 200 volunteers annually in the field. While this program expands

# LTLT Style

in crafting a meaningful picture of our region's biological health.

national and global knowledge on trends in bird health, it also serves to educate local Citizen Scientists about birds and their habitats, who in turn help LTLT focus on special habitats



in our valley which need to be conserved and restored.

LTLT's hands-on monitoring and education programs have reached over 1600 citizens over the past year, 85% of whom are students. Our goal is to expand these types of programs into the Tuckasegee and Hiwassee watersheds, engaging more Citizen Scientists in contributing to the health and resilience of our region.

***LTLT Citizen Science volunteers in a workshop conducted by staffer Jason Meador learn to evaluate riparian health using academically-prepared stream bank evaluation forms (left).***

## CONSERVE

**Two mountain creeks, two sets of problems...**

# A Tale of

## Restoring Open Woodland on Yellow Creek

**W**hen LTLT acquired 900 acres on Yellow Creek in Graham County five years ago, we recognized the opportunity to launch our first large-scale forest restoration project. With twelve miles of streams and a rare mix of wetland and bog habitats, the property drains into the free-flowing reach of the Cheoah River and shares four and a half miles of boundary with National Forest.

A 2007 forest inventory found that most of the property was in a

controlled burning. We partnered with our neighbor the US Forest Service which is in the business of forest ecosystem restoration. We entered into a joint forest restoration plan, and in April of 2010 the first prescribed fire crossing private and public boundaries in Western North Carolina was conducted on Yellow Creek.

The results were as dramatic as they were positive, with significant opening of the forest understory



***A first-of-its-kind controlled burn on Yellow Creek in Graham county helped restore habitat for species like the Chestnut-sided Warbler.***

degraded condition due to previous "high grading" logging operations, in which most of the vigorous and valuable trees had been harvested. In addition a subsequent pine beetle infestation had killed many of the remaining yellow pines. This inventory found over 80% of the property in need of forest restoration, predominately areas on drier south- and west-facing slopes.

We knew that the native forest conditions on these sites were fire dependent communities dominated by yellow pines and oak species. Restoring these forests to a healthy condition would take a long-term commitment and require the use of



achieved. This restoration will benefit species such as the Chestnut-sided Warbler, whose numbers have decreased in past decades due to lack of early successional forests and Grass-leaved Golden Aster. A second fire is planned for late 2013, even as LTLT has agreed to expand burning over other portions of the forest.

LTLT has also conducted invasive exotic plant control, tree thinning, and streambank restoration on Yellow Creek, and we look forward to partnering with future conservation owners to restore beautiful open woodland to this Yellow Creek tract and on other lands.

THE LAND STEWARD

# 2 Creeks

...two insightful solutions from LTLT and our partner organizations

## Species Restoration on Watauga Creek

**T**he name tells much of the story. The Tuckasegee darter is our own endemic species, found only in the Little Tennessee watershed (including the Tuckasegee River) above Fontana. Recognized as a distinct species only a few years ago, this little fish with a limited range needs every bit of habitat it can get. So we were excited in 2011 when the first Tuckasegee darters appeared in our fish samples above a newly installed bridge over Watauga Creek

important “restoration” challenge facing us is not a physical task. We need to build awareness of our streams as continua—as altitudinal biological corridors connecting the mountaintops to the valley. This is the foundation upon which LTLT’s stream restoration program and our Shade Your Stream initiative rest.

Facilitating up- and downstream passage of migratory fish in a severely impacted stream like Watauga Creek is like building a



on John Brown’s farm that replaced a damaged culvert which was impeding fish passage.

The culvert replacement is part of a restoration package which, when completed, will provide better habitat for Tuckasegee darters, and other species, which take advantage of the opportunity to make the upstream journey. Presumably, this will include the Little T’s iconic endangered species, the spotfin chub, which travels up Watauga Creek in the fall.

Stream restoration has many components—replacing culverts with free spanning bridges, stabilizing banks, replanting riparian vegetation. Perhaps the most

highway connection. For all of us, the most meaningful highway is the one that leads home. It’s the same with stream restoration; the job will not be done until our streams, from top to bottom, have the attributes of home for aquatic animals—stable banks, riparian shade and attractive instream habitat. With Mr. Brown’s cooperation we opened up a section of highway. If enough other landowners take an interest in the stream, that highway will lead to ever more attractive destinations for Tuckasegee darters, spotfin chubs and dozens of other native critters. We can then lay claim to having restored a piece of our natural heritage.

***As simple a solution as replacing a culvert with a bridge over Watauga Creek has provided new habitat for the endemic Tuckasegee darter.***



# LTLT Loses a True Friend

## **Virginia Ramsey Brunner**

1921-2013

***ABOVE: Virginia signing a copy of her book, Tahlequah, at LTLT's 2010 Fall Celebration.***

**O**n February 11, 2013 LTLT lost a longtime friend, Virginia Ramsey Brunner, when she died peacefully in her sleep at age 92. Virginia, who grew up in Tellico Valley, and her husband, Bob, were instrumental in the founding of LTLT through both their vision and extraordinary generosity. Virginia and Bob made the first financial gift

that enabled LTLT to organize in 1997 and continued their generous support over many years. In 2004 LTLT established the "Robert and Virginia Ramsey Brunner Land Conservationist of the Year" award to honor its first members along with others who have made significant contributions to land conservation.

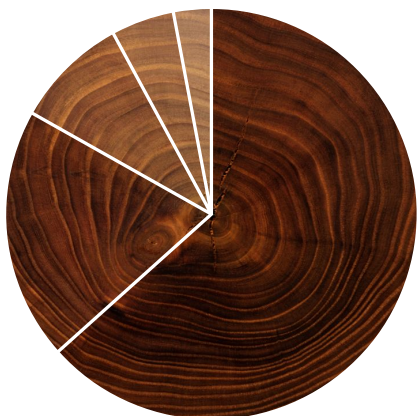
THE LAND STEWARD

# LTLT Annual Report of Funds



## Sources of Funds, 2012

|               |                         |                   |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| ■             | Individuals:            | \$ 426,721        |
| ■             | Foundations:            | \$ 211,500        |
| ■             | Government Grants:      | \$ 80,543         |
| ■             | Rents, Interest, Sales: | \$ 82,199         |
| ■             | Organizations:          | \$ 57,378         |
| ■             | Stewardship Contracts:  | \$ 28,549         |
| <b>Total:</b> |                         | <b>\$ 886,890</b> |



## Use of Funds, 2012

|               |                             |                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| ■             | Conservation Programs:      | \$ 529,708        |
| ■             | Administration:             | \$ 172,621        |
| ■             | Fundraising:                | \$ 72,339         |
| ■             | Purchase Land/Easements:    | \$ 44,359         |
| ■             | Permanent Stewardship Fund: | \$ 14,663         |
| <b>Total:</b> |                             | <b>\$ 833,690</b> |

## Gear Up for LTLT

This year LTLT is fortunate to have two outdoor outfitters who have partnered with us. Both Outdoor 76 in Franklin—a strong partner of LTLT since it opened its doors in 2010—and Blackrock Outdoor Company in Sylva have offered to give a \$20 gift certificate to those who donate \$100 or more to LTLT with the return

envelope in *The Land Steward*. Those who donate can choose which company's gift certificate to receive by marking the appropriate box on the return envelope.

We appreciate these companies' support of our work to conserve, restore and connect the land, water and cultural heritage of our region.



# Members, Donors and Supporters

*From June, 2012 through September, 2013*

## **Welcome to LTLT's New 2013 Members & Donors**

Amplex Corp  
Julie and Jim Balloun  
Samantha Bent  
Sarah Blankenship and  
Jack Smoot  
Nathan Brenner  
Arnold Burnette  
Arthur Chika  
Dr. San Ho Choi  
Julialynn Falco  
Bob Ferreira  
Mary Fong  
Craig Forrest  
RW Mac Grady  
Michael and Sharon  
Haight  
Kim Hainge  
Charles Heath  
Sunny Himes  
Judy Holmes  
Estate of H. Sanford  
Jackson  
James Jackson and Betsy  
Keller  
Freeman James  
Laurel James  
Harry and Desna Jarrett  
George Jensen  
LuAnn Jinks  
Thomas Johnson  
Jeff Kaller  
Robert and Joan Lossen  
Polly Love  
Sarah McClellan Welch  
Susan and Ron  
McCracken  
Dan and Joanne  
McGlamery  
John and Judith Mitchell

Carol Mizelle  
Ben Owens and Hygie  
Starr  
William and Betty Penny  
Becky Powers  
Mack Prichard  
Marilyn Reid  
Barbara Rice  
Warren Riley and Marge  
Abel  
Liz Sargent  
Louis Schweizer  
Dan and Sylvia Shultz  
Viviane Simon-Brown  
Adrienne Simonson  
Tim Spira  
Karen and Vaughn  
Stiwinter  
Junior Taylor  
Stephanie Twomey  
Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship Of Franklin  
Gustav Wilde  
Stephen and Cary Wood  
Gerald Zell

## **10+ Years**

Patricia and John Adams  
Virginia Brunner  
Frances Cargill  
Paul Carlson  
Barry and Patsy Clinton  
Richard and Nancy Coon  
Kay Coriell  
Claudette Dillard  
Bill and Sally Dyar  
Don Fisher  
Kathryn and Ed Gettys  
Eugene and Virginia  
Gonzalez  
Clementine Gregory

Sharon and David Grist  
Stacy and Nori Guffey  
Phil and Connie Haire  
Dick and Gill Heywood  
Duane and Betty High  
Bunny Johns  
Wendell and Linda Ligon  
Jason and Jennifer Love  
Lydia Macauley  
Richard and Sheila  
Matthes  
Helen Meador  
Dan and Phyllis Morse  
Doris Munday  
Carla Norwood and Gabe  
Cumming  
Myra Patton  
Donald and Margaret  
Pelton  
Dan Pittillo  
Carol Ramsey  
Connie Rehling  
Susan Reinheimer and  
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Don Russ  
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*The LTLT staff on the bank of their namesake river.*

**FRONT (left-to-right): Ben Laseter, John Culclasure, Jason Meador**


**BACK (left-to-right): Sharon Taylor, Sharon Burdette, Dennis Desmond, Betty Waldroop, Paul Carlson, Bill McLarney, Sunny Himes, Ramelle Smith**



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