

**LTLT**

2014 Annual Report

## LTLT

557 E. Main Street  
Franklin, NC 28734  
828.524.2711  
lslt.org



# From the Executive Director

## Staff

**Sharon Fouts Taylor**  
*Executive Director*

**Sharon Willard Burdette**  
*Development and  
Administrative Assistant*

**Paul J. Carlson**  
*Senior Advisor*

**John Culclasure**  
*Land Protection Manager*

**Dennis Desmond**  
*Land and Easement  
Stewardship Coordinator*

**Ben Laseter**  
*Associate Director*

**Bill McLarney**  
*Senior Scientist & Aquatic  
Program Specialist*

**Jason Meador**  
*Citizen Science Program  
Manager*

**Kelder Monar**  
*Stewardship Assistant*

**Molly Phillips**  
*Advancement Coordinator*

**Ramelle Smith**  
*Finance Manager*

Dear Friend,

I am pleased to share LTLT's 2014 Annual Report with you. We had an exceptionally successful year in each of our core initiatives—conserve, restore and connect.

In the next few pages, you are going to see many numbers showcasing LTLT's major successes of the past year. They are important facts for you, as a stakeholder, to see. Without your generous support, these accomplishments would not have been possible. Thank you!

As we work each day to conserve land, restore water quality and connect people to the natural resources and cultural significance of this area, remembering WHY we do this work is as important as the numbers.

We do our jobs so hikers on the Appalachian Trail can look across the landscape, see gorgeous views and be inspired to come back again and again to visit. We do our jobs so a child can come home from school with a new perspective about the creek he sees every day. We do our jobs to help people understand that their streams need to be properly shaded for water insects and fish to thrive. And we do our jobs so the next generation will have land available to provide for and sustain it.

LTLT's conservation mission was the vision of its Founding Director, Paul Carlson, who stepped down at the end of 2014 to pursue his passion for forestry. It has been a privilege to work alongside Paul for fourteen years and I consider it a great honor to carry LTLT's conservation vision forward. It is the vision embraced by LTLT's eleven staff members, its seventeen directors, and—most importantly—it is the vision of hundreds of LTLT donors and supporters. It is your vision.

Thank you for going with me into LTLT's bright future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Sharon Fouts Taylor  
Executive Director



# From the Board Chair

*After serving on the LTLT Board of Directors for three years, Chris Brouwer became Chairman in 2014. A financial advisor with Edward Jones living in Franklin, Chris enjoys hiking, especially when the scenery includes a waterfall or two.*



Greetings,

Growing up in a rural environment, with hundreds of acres of grass and forest land behind my home, I loved to splash in the creek and hike the hills—playing all of those outdoor games young boys like to play.

After decades of life in the corporate world, living in large cities around the United States, I was back in my element once I discovered western North Carolina. I feel joy each day I step out onto my deck.

Yet 15 years ago when I moved here, it was apparent there were threats to all of this beauty. Evidence of developments carelessly carved into surrounding mountains, with streams and rivers running red with runoff after it rained, convinced me that I had to get involved somehow. I participated in several conservation groups before discovering LTLT, where I recognized a well-organized team with great leaders.

When I joined LTLT, I was amazed to learn how far we reach beyond typical conservation. It's great that we have conserved acres of land and miles of rivers, but it's equally important that we educate landowners on how they can restore their private properties to make a better environment for us all, and that we connect both children and adults to the natural resources and beauty I took for granted as a child.

I am humbled to currently chair this great organization. The staff of LTLT is one of the best teams you can imagine and the breadth of experience of the board members who volunteer their time to help with this vision is extraordinary.

We face many challenges ahead—public dollars will continue to be scarce and funding is a major ongoing issue. But I am so encouraged to see more private entities—including people like you and me—embrace what LTLT is doing to conserve the land and the heritage associated with it. I am confident that as we spread our story and expertise throughout the seven western counties we now serve, more people will understand what it takes to maintain our incredible corner of the world so future generations can enjoy it as much as we do.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris".

Chris Brouwer

## Board of Directors

**Chris Brouwer**  
*Chair*

**Johnny Strawn**  
*Vice-Chair*

**Richard Clark**  
*Secretary*

**Connie Haire**  
*Treasurer*

**Ken Murphy**  
*At-Large Member,  
Executive Committee*

**Joyce Dugan**  
**Bill Dyar**  
**Bill Gibson**  
**John Gladden**  
**Ed Haight**  
**Dick Heywood**  
**Terrie Kelly**  
**Elizabeth (Bunny) Johns**  
**Lisa Leatherman**  
**Jason Love**  
**Lydia Sargent Macauley**  
**Natalie Smith**

# 2014 by the Numbers

**4 Land Purchases**

260 acres total



**2,192**

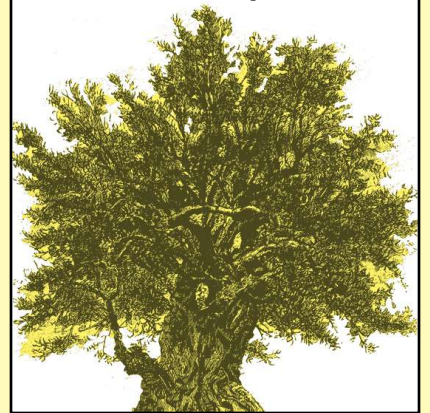
**People Reached**

through LTLT's education programs, 82% of whom are youth



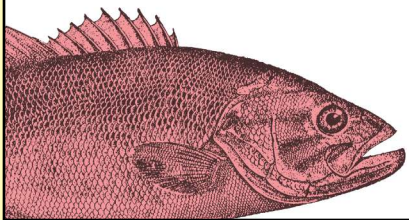
**5 Conservation Easements**

Jackson County 104 acres  
Macon County 234 acres  
41 acres  
34 acres  
Cherokee County 147 acres

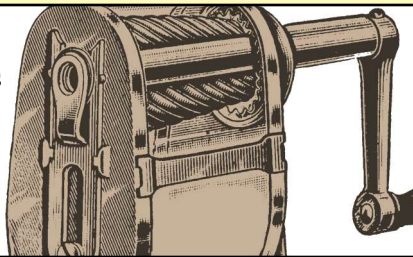


**40 Acres**

conveyed to NC Wildlife Resources Commission

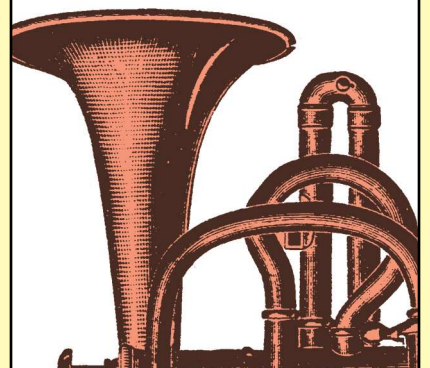


**11** staff members



**100% Participation**

in private contributions from LTLT staff and board members



**7** counties served



# 14,820

feet of U.S. Forest Service boundary

## Conserved



# 138.2

## Miles walked

by LTLT staff  
monitoring  
easements



# 55

## Collaborative Partners

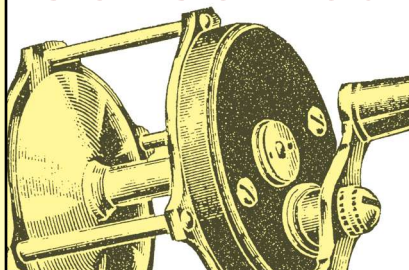
including state and federal  
agencies, local governments,  
educational institutions,  
foundations, non-profits, etc.



# 36,945

feet of  
streams

## Conserved



# 21

acres of prime  
farmland  
soils

## Conserved



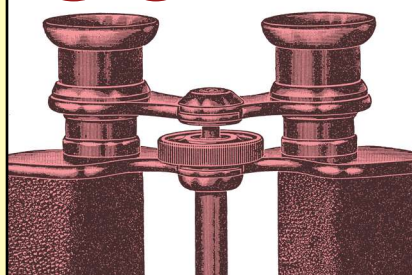
# 954 Tons

of contaminated soil, along  
with 3 underground  
petroleum tanks, removed  
near the Little Tennessee River and Greenway in Franklin



# 60

Private  
easements  
monitored



# 530

## Handwritten

thank-you notes



# 64

## Educational events held



## Staff Musings



**Sharon Burdette**

*"I always love volunteering with biomonitoring each summer and learning more about LTLT volunteers. I especially remember carrying volunteer David Hinson across the creek after he got hurt, only to later find out he had broken his foot. He is such a trooper!"*



**Dennis Desmond**

*"Development will continue in these mountains—there is no doubt. We just have to do it right. The Regional Erosion and Sediment Control Initiative training program is a key element for making that happen. I'm really proud of the role LTLT has played in RESCI since it began. Every time our group meets, I leave energized and inspired."*



**Ramelle Smith**

*"I celebrated my seven year anniversary with LTLT in 2014 with no seven year itch!"*

# Highlights, Insight

## Conserve

Fungi on a fallen tree on a 104-acre tract of forested land, owned by Joan Byrd and George Rector. The Jackson County couple placed the property

under conservation easement in 2014. It borders the Nantahala National Forest and protects views seen from the Blue Ridge Parkway.



## Restore

LTLT staff and volunteers joined together in late February 2014 to plant 830 trees and shrubs on LTLT's Welch Farm property in Cherokee County.

The 57-acre property includes leased farmland, public access to the Valley River, and native species propagated for wildlife and used by Cherokee artisans.

*L-R: Dennis Desmond, David Hinson, Kelder Monar, Sunny Himes, Jean Hunnicut, Josh Hickman, Karl Haiss, Johnny Strawn*

*Volunteer Ron Hart puts the finishing touches on the bare-root seedling of white oak at LTLT's Welch Farm property in Cherokee County.*



# s and Sound Bites



**John Culclasure**  
*"Farmland, working forests, trout waters, important habitats for wildlife—from Cherokee to Jackson County—many landowners made significant contributions to conservation in 2014. It is a real honor getting to know and work with these families who choose to conserve their land for future generations."*

## Connect

For a second year in a row, LTLT and its partner, Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, had full attendance at the Landowner Roads Workshop, a one-day course designed to train landowners on proper ways to plan, construct and maintain private-access roads.

This event is a stepping-stone to a larger comprehensive training program for local grading contractors and developers called Mountain

H2Opro, organized by the Regional Erosion and Sediment Control Initiative (RES CI). RES CI is a partnership between LTLT and five other WNC groups. The Mountain H2Opro program will provide regular and affordable courses on erosion and sediment control to grading contractors and developers, thus reducing sediment, a pollutant that threatens the rich aquatic diversity of the water basins in LTLT's region.



**Molly Phillips**  
*"If you love these mountains, you love and appreciate the work LTLT does. I joined LTLT in 2014, and it quickly became clear that this is a class act non-profit, and I'm proud to be part of it."*



**Jason Meador**  
*"Through many great partnerships, LTLT's youth educational programs spread beyond Macon County in 2014. Folks that I typically wouldn't interact with because of their location are now part of LTLT's circle."*

# 2014 Donors

LTLT gratefully acknowledges the following contributors for their support.

## \$5,000+

Adams, David  
Adams, Katherine and  
Forwood Wiser  
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White  
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Rhoda Ashby

David Carlson

Lois Desmond

Dennis Downs

Diane Ramsey Forsyth

Donald Hemstreet

Albert Ramsey &

Diane Ramsey Forsyth

Albert Ramsey

**In Honor Of**

Norma Ivy

Lydia Macauley

Bill McLarney

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Regional Commission

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USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

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Vroman, Marc

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Greene, Vic & Janet

Perry, Vic & Margaret

Poindexter, Bob & Joann

Ramsey, Clayton

Ramsey, Joe & Theresa

Ramsey, Margaret

Schendel, Dee

Swank, Wayne & Roberta

Thrower, Susan

Mincey, Jim & Frances

O'Bryan, Ruth

**Donor**

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Wade

Burnett, Ralph

Clark, Stacy

Meyer, Steve

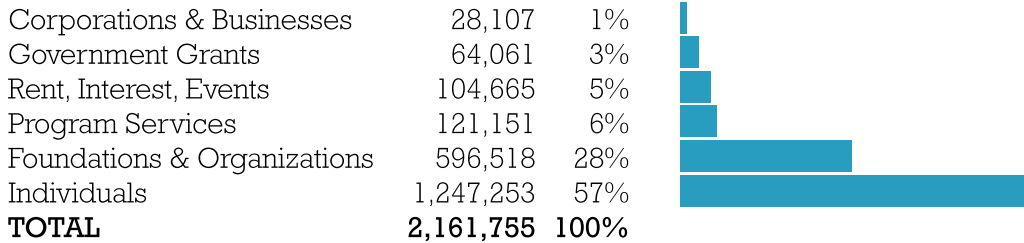
Sargent, Hugh

Suminski, Claire & Joe

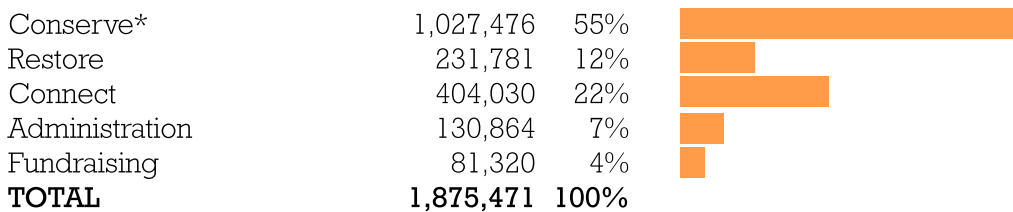


# 2014 LTLT Finances

## 2014 Source of Funds

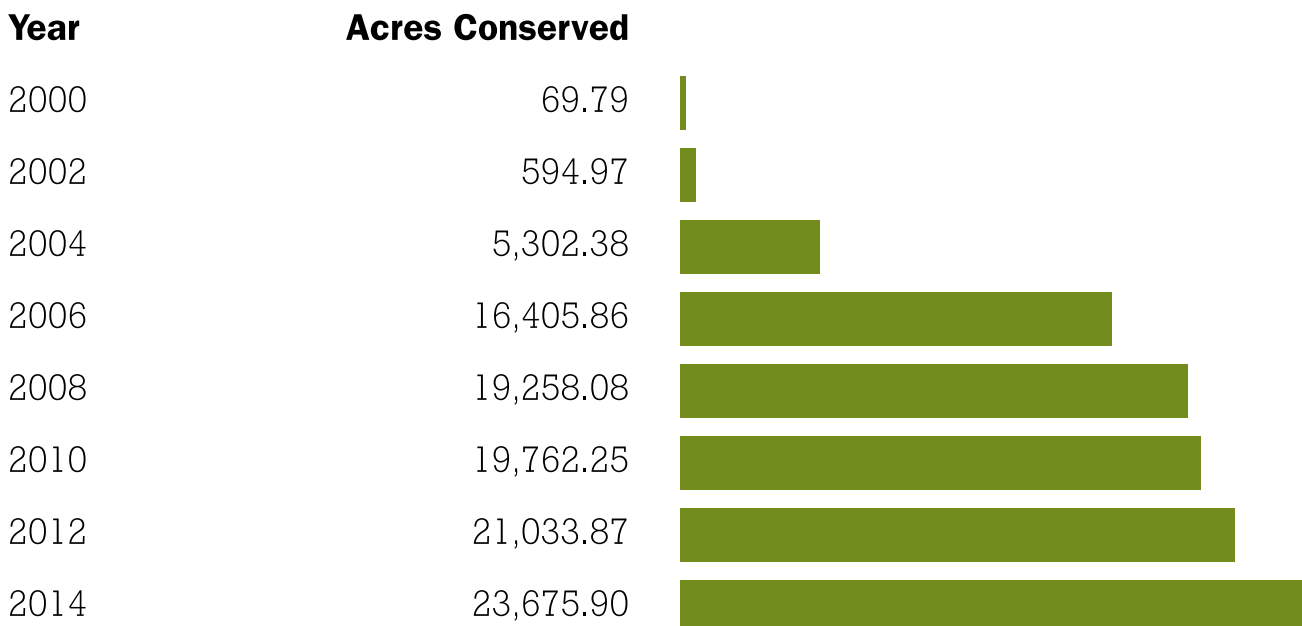


## 2014 Use of Funds



Pre-audit figures. \*Includes Capital Expenditures for Conservation Lands.

# Conserved Acreage





557 E. Main Street  
Franklin, NC 28734

P. O. Box 1148  
Franklin, NC 28744



♻️ Printed on recycled paper



**Saved!** This beautiful room is part of the completed restoration of an 1832 log cabin in northern Macon County. The cabin is on a 133-acre property conserved by LTLT in 2013. Want to see more? Visit [lslt.org](http://lslt.org).

Photo by John MacLean Photography