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2012 MID-YEAR REPORT

“The upper Little Tennessee River valley is widely recognized as one of modern America's great conservation success stories.”

John H. Adams, Co-Founder, Natural Resources Defense Council

Help LTLT
CONSERVE
the land, water
and culture of
the Southern
Blue Ridge.



LTLT SERVES THE LAND OF THE LITTLE TENNESSEE AND HIWASSEE RIVER BASINS THROUGH CONSERVATION EASEMENTS, ACCEPTING GIFTS OF LAND, PURCHASING AT-RISK PROPERTIES, AND BY PROMOTING ACTIVE STEWARDSHIP THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE AND RESTORATION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT.

MID-YEAR REPORT: LAND

Conserve An addition to the Nantahala National Forest by LTLT will conserve 3,100 feet of the Chunky Gap Trail, a popular hiking route which connects the Fires Creek Rim Trail to the Appalachian Trail.

Restore LTLT is restoring open woodland on its Hall Mountain tract through controlled burning. Many rare plant species in the mountains depend upon open woodlands.

Connect Already this year, with more to come, LTLT has led six nature, wildflower and bird walks for people to learn about and enjoy the incredible natural diversity in our area.



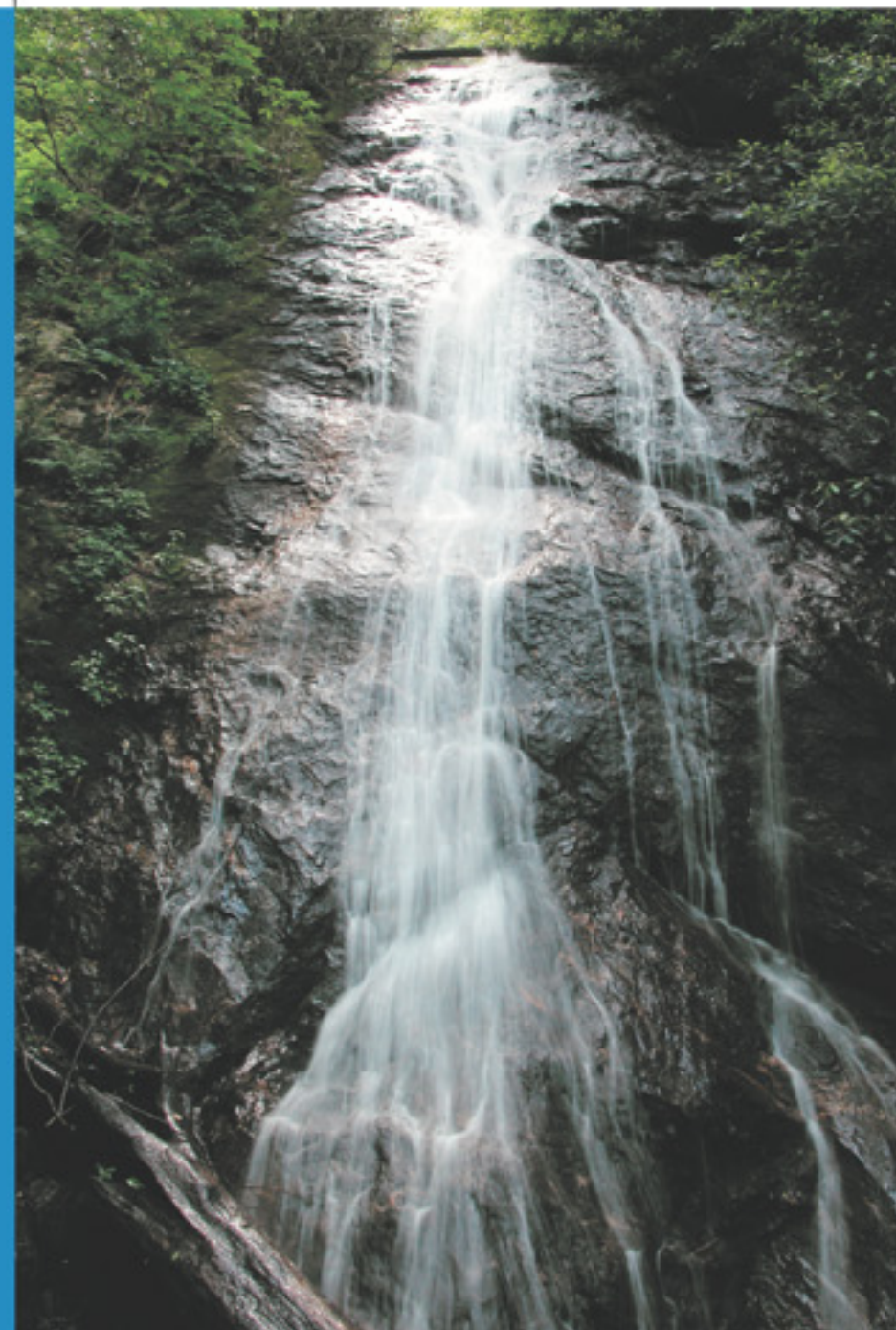
STRENGTHENED BY THE MERGER WITH THE LITTLE TENNESSEE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, LTLT SERVES THE WATER OF OUR REGION THROUGH AQUATIC HEALTH MONITORING, STREAM BANK STABILIZATION AND REFORESTATION, WETLAND RESTORATION, AND ADVOCACY FOR CLEAN WATER.

MID-YEAR REPORT: WATER

Conserve Partnering with the Town of Andrews and the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, LTLT is facilitating a permanent conservation easement that will protect 10 miles of streams and 917 acres in the Snowbird Mountains.

Restore LTLT is improving water quality and creating aquatic habitat vital to wildlife by restoring wetlands within its Gibson Bottoms property along the Little Tennessee River.

Connect Operating within the new LTLT, the Little Tennessee's bio-monitoring program is entering its 23rd year! Designed to assess stream health, the program also provides education opportunities for dozens of volunteers.



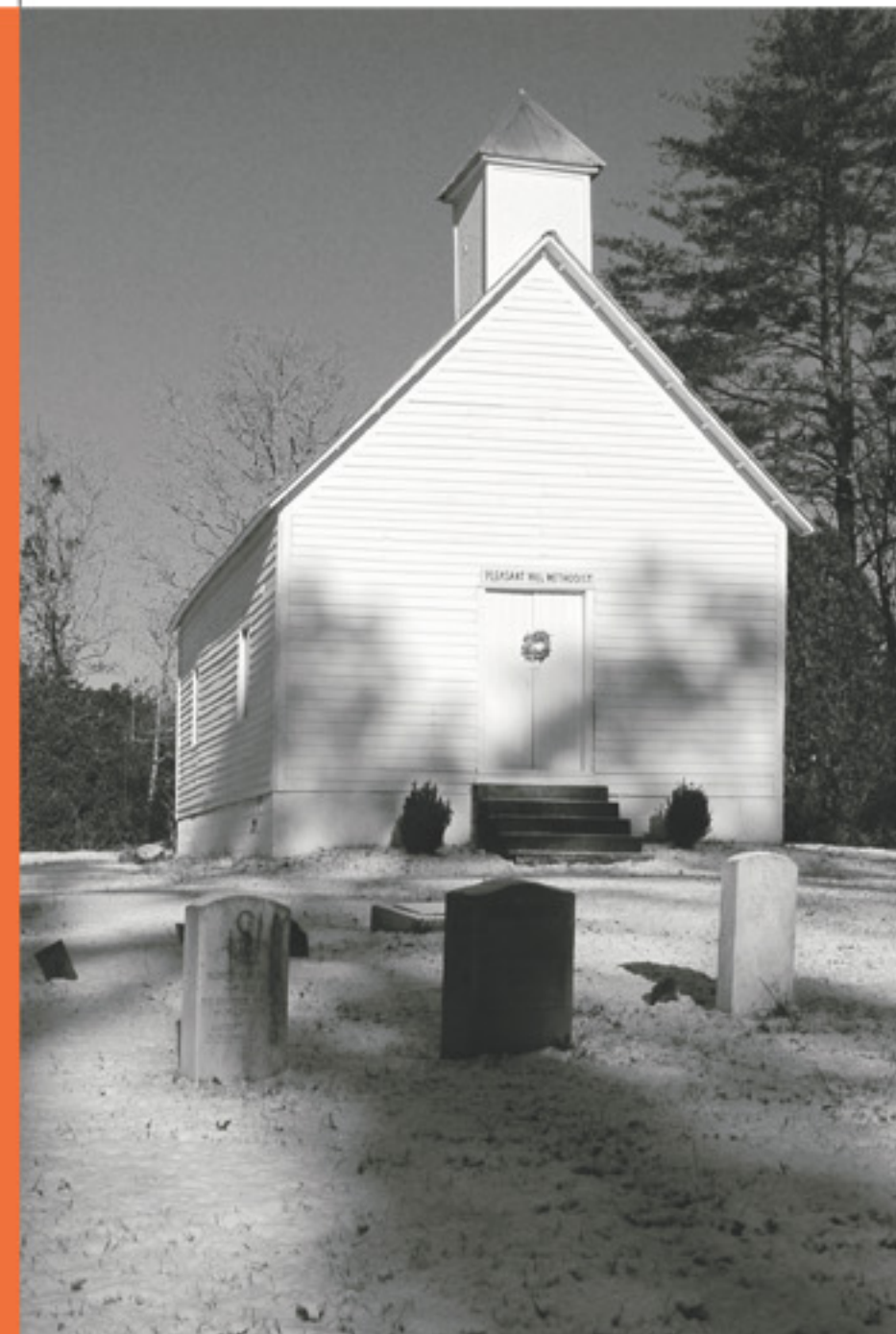
LTLT ALSO SERVES THE CULTURE OF THE SOUTHERN BLUE RIDGE BY PRESERVING FARMLAND AND HISTORIC SITES, DEVELOPING PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAND AND WATER, ADVOCATING THAT NEW DEVELOPMENT FIT TRADITIONAL USES OF THE LAND, AND SUPPORTING REUSE OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

MID-YEAR REPORT: CULTURE

Conserve To conserve the historic Cowee School, LTLT is funding development of a business plan for the Art Deco-inspired, native stone building constructed on a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp site.

Restore With Preservation North Carolina, LTLT is helping to develop restoration of the oldest standing house in northern Macon County, the William Morrison Sr. house (ca. 1832).

Connect LTLT is planning for an interpretive site with a full view of the Cowee Mound from a well-traveled scenic byway. The educational signage will tell the story of the 1400 year-old mound through the eyes of the Cherokee.



A MID-YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend of LTLT,

The conservation movement in the Southern Blue Ridge began in earnest a century ago with the first National Forest acquisitions. A second wave of conservation took hold in the past twenty years with the founding of the Little Tennessee Watershed Association (1995) and the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (1997). With the 2011 merger of these two organizations, I now lead the talented, combined staff of a new LTLT as we create new synergies and efficiencies that will better serve the region.

With the merger we moved to a new office at 557 East Main Street on the Little Tennessee River near the Nikwasi Mound, at the heart

Our work continues with a project list that is as long as it is diverse.

of the ancient village around which the town of Franklin was built. We hope that our move to this unfinished portion of the Little Tennessee Greenway will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of this neighborhood as we continue to meet our mission of conserving the waters, forests, farms and heritage of the region.

You have helped us meet that mission in the past - by supporting LTLT, LTWA, or both. The land trust has led in the conservation of over 20,000 acres across seven counties, developed a forest restoration initiative, and has been successful with historic site protection efforts. The watershed association built an aquatic health

monitoring program with hundreds of volunteers even as it stopped several serious pollution threats to the Little Tennessee River.

Together, the two organizations developed restoration programs that have healed dozens of miles of river and stream frontage and now we're expanding our monitoring and restoration programs to span from the river valleys to the crest of the mountains. You can be proud of what we've accomplished together.

Our work continues with a project list that is as long as it is diverse. At mid-year 2012 we need your support to continue to conserve, restore and connect: conserve another half mile of Little Tennessee River in the upper Needmore area, restore two unique wetlands and reforest five miles of streams, and connect Cherokee artisans to natural materials, through river cane cultivation at the John Welch Farm—just to name a few of our projects that you can help support.

Thank you for being part of our growing conservation success,

Paul J. Carlson

PS. LTLT works on a broad vision of land and water conservation. As a "place-based" organization we depend upon support from people who love these mountains. Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed Support Card.