



the land

steward

MAINSRING 2016

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From the Director

You may feel like many of Mainspring's projects go on forever. To some degree you'd be right—not necessarily forever, but often for many years.

One such project is the Mouse Mountain/Grant Fields project you'll read about on page 12. We have been working on this for more than a decade and it is still in progress. There are a few more stewardship issues to finish and one last transaction (the ninth!) to complete, but then those forests and their headwater streams will be yours and it will have been worth the wait.

Still, we need your help.

In this *Land Steward*, you'll read about projects that are not yet completed. Our Panthertown Valley project on page 4 is one example. We have until the end of the year to make that transaction a reality.

Your gift can make that happen.

Walking out of Mainspring's side door is an entirely different experience now that Phase 2 of our brownfield project is complete. It's taken more than three years, but the change is spectacular (see page 16). However, before offering educational programs so that future generations can learn the importance of natural resources and cultural heritage, there is more work to be done.

Your gift can make that happen.

Many other exciting opportunities developed this year after we added two new staff members and expanded our reach to include an office in Murphy, N.C. But our staff needs resources to follow up on new leads.

Your gift can make that happen.

A donation above your annual contribution can fund these and other projects. Your extra gift can be the difference in whether we are successful or have to turn down opportunities as they present themselves. You are the reason Mainspring can accomplish all of the work showcased in this *Land Steward*.

Thank you for giving generously.

Sharon

Sharon Fouts Taylor
Executive Director

The annual publication
about the activities of
Mainspring
Conservation Trust

November, 2016



MAINSRING
CONSERVATION TRUST

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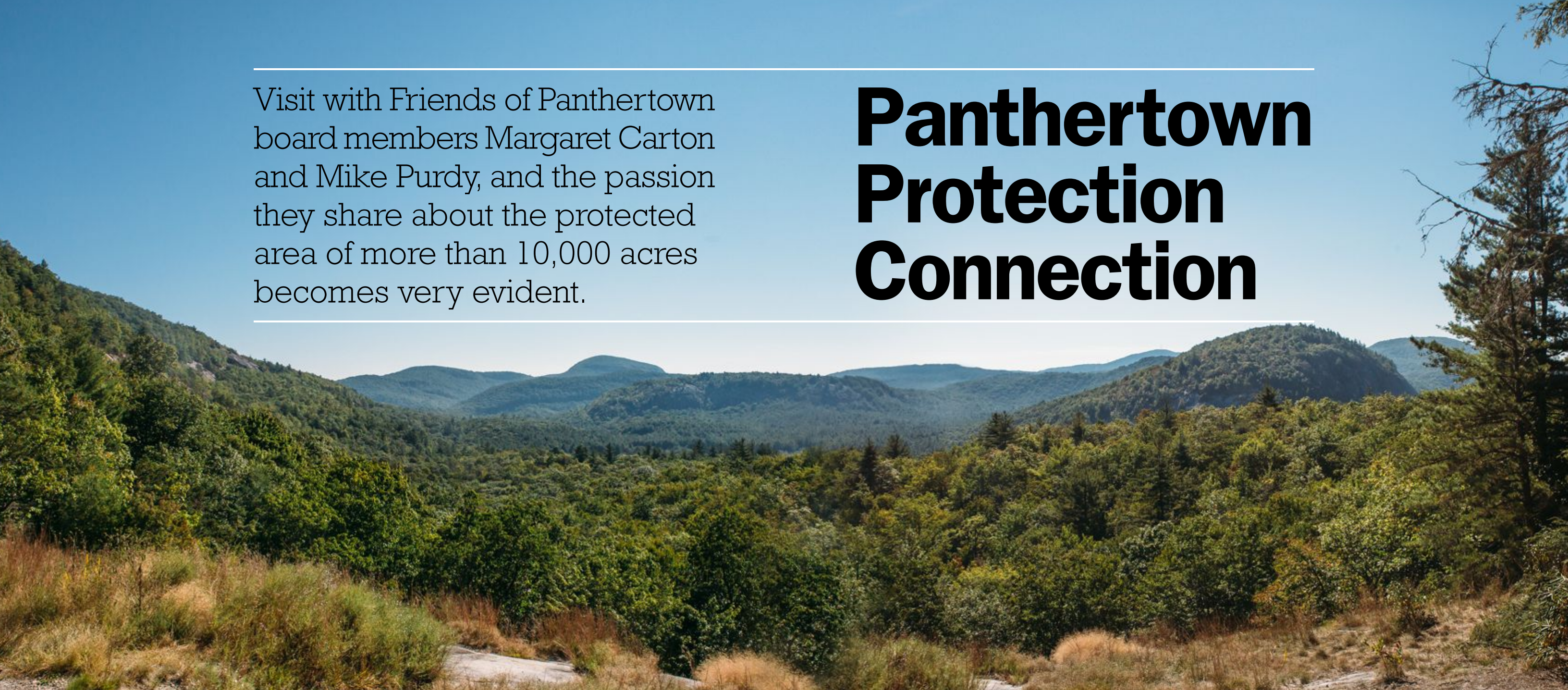
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Visit with Friends of Panthertown board members Margaret Carton and Mike Purdy, and the passion they share about the protected area of more than 10,000 acres becomes very evident.

Panthertown Protection Connection

Mainspring joins forces to save a knoll from development and protect public access to a regional treasure.

“It’s a rich and diverse place,” says Margaret, who is currently serving as board president of the nonprofit. “You’ll find a bog, waterfalls, rock faces, endangered species, bears—the valley offers something for everyone.” Mike agrees, adding that hikers, campers, fishermen, mountain bikers and equestrians all love to visit. While the two do not share the same favorite season for a hike (she says late fall, when the vistas are wider;

he says spring, when new blooms are popping out), they both agree that the “Yosemite of the East” is truly special.

Formed in 2005, Friends of Panthertown was created to work with the U.S. Forest Service to conserve Panthertown Valley and improve the quality and experience of recreational opportunities in the area. Panthertown is part of the Nantahala National Forest and is a designated Blue

Ridge National Heritage Area.

“We are the feet on the ground—we maintain trails, put steps in around waterfalls, and have conservation education programs,” says Margaret. “When this opportunity came up, we realized we didn’t have the skill set, breadth of fundraising, or the donor base to pull it off, and that’s why Mainspring has been such a valuable partner.”

The opportunity Margaret refers

to is a 16-acre property that borders the western entrance to Panthertown Valley and Salt Rock Gap. Currently in private ownership, the land is for sale. Mainspring hopes to raise \$195,000 to purchase the tract before it is sold for development so Friends of Panthertown can improve visitor access to the popular area.

Margaret explains. “Owning that property would enrich the user
(continued on next page)

“If a private house were built on the knoll along the property, it would be seen looking back from Salt Rock, Little Green Mountain and Big Green Mountain.”



Mike Purdy points out to Jordan Smith areas where the view would be affected if the land Mainspring hopes to buy were sold to a private owner.

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experience as soon as they arrive, with enhanced trail access, good camping, and improved parking.”
“To lose that land to private development would really affect the experience at Panthertown,” Mike says. “If a private house were built on the knoll along the property, it would be seen in the view looking back from Salt Rock, Little Green Mountain and Big Green Mountain.”
The effort is part of a special project fundraising plan, and if it is successful Mainspring will purchase the property before the end of the year. Friends of Panthertown sees the partnership between the two nonprofits as a long-term relationship. “There are other properties within

the valley we’d love to look at with Mainspring in the future,” says Margaret. “Anything that can connect people to this wilderness, where they can come and unplug and just be present—no matter the season. That’s the lasting legacy I’d like to see.”

You can be an important part of the effort to make the Panthertown project a success. Participate in the purchase of this critical 16-acre tract of land by visiting www.mainspringconserves.org and clicking the Donate button, or by sending in a gift in the envelope attached to this publication.

1/1000 acre = \$12
1/100 acre = \$120
1/10 acre = \$1,200
1 acre = \$12,000



A portion of the 16-acre property that would be used for parking and other amenities if Mainspring is able to purchase the tract.

New Kid in the Woods

Meet Jordan Smith, our new Land Conservation Manager



“It’s about knowing you are out there making a difference in the world—making a positive impact.”

Jordan Smith, Mainspring’s new land conservation manager, always knew that he wanted to come back home. “The land is just special to me, and I wanted my daughters to grow up in the type of environment I did.”

Home to Jordan is Swain County, just a short distance from Deep Creek in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Jordan, his wife Vanessa, and their two daughters spend most of their free time enjoying hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, gardening and beekeeping.

Jordan joined Mainspring in August and manages the initiatives of Mainspring’s land acquisition program, including landowner outreach, conservation easement negotiations, and land purchases and sales. He is also leading Mainspring’s new conservation planning initiative to identify key conservation areas and potential threats with the goal of focused land protection efforts.

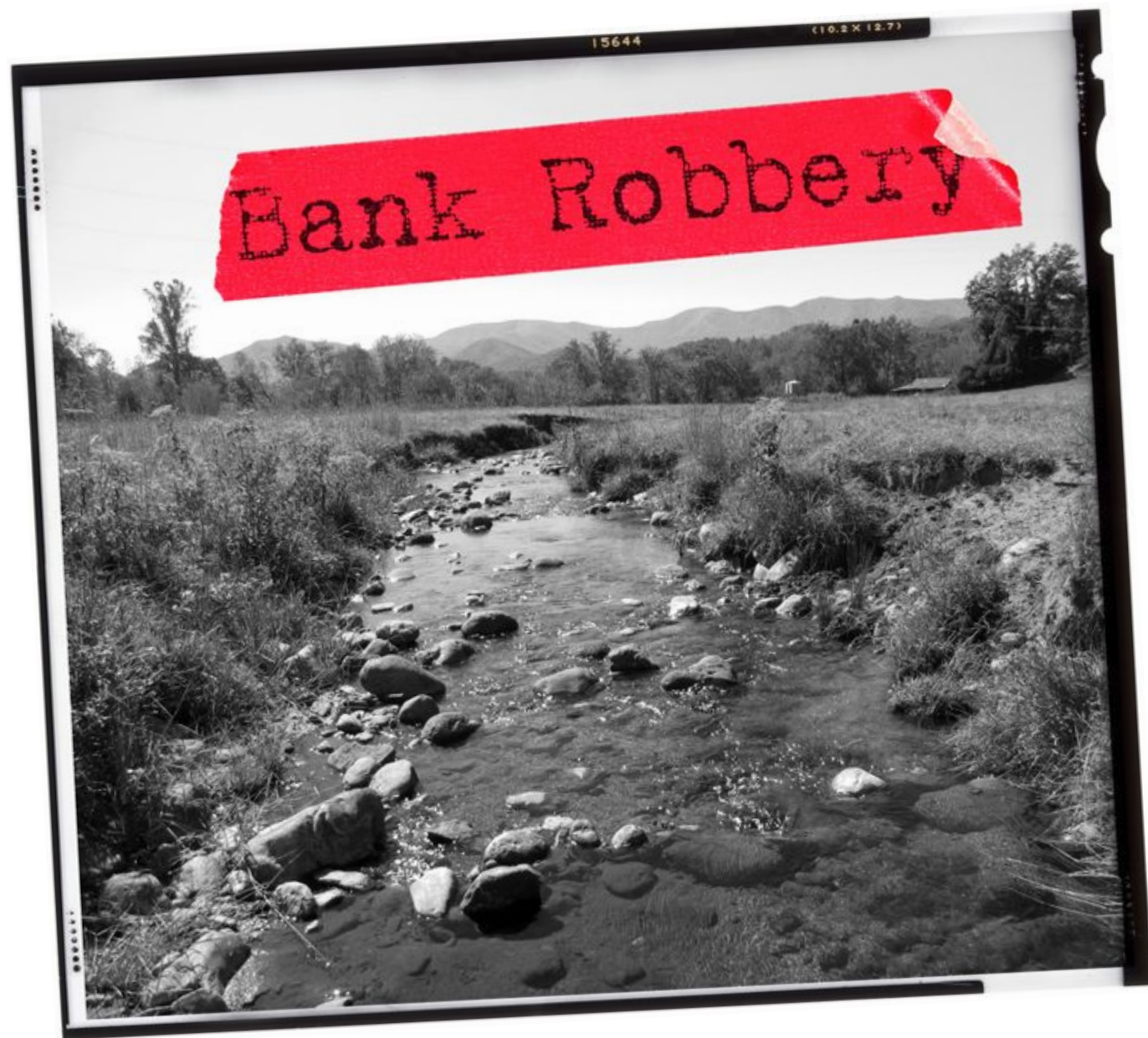
After Jordan graduated from Swain County High School, he continued

his education at Auburn University, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in wildlife sciences. He spent his early career as a consultant for The Westervelt Company and in various positions at Brosnan Forest, a 16,000-acre working forest in Dorchester, South Carolina, owned by Norfolk Southern Corporation.

“I would not trade the experiences I’ve had for anything, but there came a point in my life where short visits home just weren’t enough. When I found out about the position at Mainspring, I knew it would be a great fit for me—conserving the natural and cultural beauty of this unique place I call home.”

He has jumped right in, taking over ongoing projects while meeting landowners and opening doors. “I knew I wanted to be a part of this organization the minute I walked in the door,” Jordan says. “I am truly blessed to be working with such a wonderful group of people. I wake up every single day excited to go to work. I know that I am doing meaningful work and, to me, that is what life is about.”

“I knew I wanted to be a part of this organization the minute I walked in the door.”



DR. BILL MCLARNEY
Senior Scientist and
Aquatic Program Specialist

Think of a flowing stream.

You may envision a large, challenging whitewater river like the Chattooga or the Nantahala. Or you may think of a favorite trout stream, or perhaps of smallmouth bass fishing on the Little Tennessee or the Tuckasegee. Your mind may go immediately to water quality and pollution problems you are hoping will be fixed.

I'll venture to say few readers will immediately form an image of something they can step across. Yet small streams (let's define them as those draining a watershed of less than one square mile) account for about 75 percent of all the stream miles in our area.

And, as a group, they are among the most abused features of our landscape. As you drive along and

see a ditch draining a field does it occur to you that at one time that featureless ditch was a natural stream, with curves, riffles and pools? It probably was. Not only do we straighten (channelize) our smaller streams for our convenience, we often allow livestock unrestricted access, resulting in pollution and erosion. We mow to the water's very edge. In extreme cases we force these streams into tubes and bury them. One example in Mainspring's service area: Stand in the parking lot of the downtown Ingles store in Franklin and you are standing in the middle of Crawford Branch; who thinks of it?

Little streams are important not only for the clean water they supply to our larger streams, but also as repositories of biodiversity. Streams too small to hold fish year-round may be home to dozens of insect species, to say nothing of the plants, including beauties like cardinal flower, jewelweed and blue lobelia that may grace streambanks.

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ABOVE: Streambank beauties cardinal flower, jewelweed and blue lobelia.
LEFT: Small streams like this are easy to restore and important for biodiversity.



Erosion, pollution and habitat destruction are stealing a precious mountain resource. How can we restore our small streams?

Small Stream Success



Ned Haight and Maria Braud recently took the branch on their farm and made it a large-scale example of how a minor stream can become a major contributor to clean water.

With support from the WNC Stream Initiative, they repositioned the 1,524' branch, raised the profile to create a variety of aquatic habitats, and installed boulders as grade control. Although small, the stream was a significant contributor of sediment into Tessentee Creek, a

designated N.C. Trout Stream. Sediment is a major detractor to water quality—it covers fish habitat, clogs reservoirs, and exacerbates erosion. The restoration will be complete once 1,250 plants are placed along the banks in late fall.

To learn more about technical and financial assistance available for stream restoration, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or a local USDA service center.



In 2017, our goal is to counsel at least 20 landowners about upgrading their small streams.

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While small streams are especially vulnerable, their very size also makes them easier to restore, especially where they have not been channelized. Small streams are the perfect place to put Mainspring's "Shade Your Stream" program into practice.

I'm willing to bet many of you—and your neighbors—reading this publication have small streams on your property that have been neglected or overlooked. These are

streams that are not fulfilling their potential in terms of biodiversity or doing their part to support the quality of our larger streams. Little things like planting (native) trees to create a canopy over the water can make a huge difference. In 2017, our goal is to counsel at least 20 landowners about upgrading their small streams to more fully realize the streams' water quality, biodiversity and aesthetic potential. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at the Mainspring office.

Bill Dyar: Reflections on Service

After more than 16 years of service on Mainspring's board of directors, including not one but two stints as board chair, **Bill Dyar** retired from his board service this summer. We are grateful for Bill's years of dedication and the legacy he has created in the Southern Blue Ridge through his commitment to conservation. In his words...

Initially I was approached by (founder) Paul Carlson and Rev. Dr. Wendell Ligon about serving on what was then the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee board. Though I had always had a strong interest in wildlife, nature and the environment, I was totally clueless about land trusts and anything related to them. I doubt that any board member has ever had as steep a learning



mind as what I'm most proud of, it would have to be "quality." The quality of our staff, board members, volunteers, supporters, and certainly

the quality of our work, has been exceptional and consistent, and remains as a lasting legacy. What a great blessing to have my life intertwined with so many quality people doing such exemplary work.

As I transition off of the board, I

am happy to be centering my future on family. My wife, Sally, and I hope to spend much more time with our children and grandchildren. We've both spent much of our lives volunteering and it has been most fulfilling. We plan to continue volunteering, but are redirecting with family in mind.

The year I first became board chair we held an event on the Tessentee Farm property and I was asked to say a few words. I told the group that when originally asked to become a board member I thought, "I really don't need anything else to do. But I now realize that it was one of the best decisions I ever made."

There have been many accomplishments over the years. If there is one thing that sticks out in my

My hope for the future of Mainspring is that everyone associated with it will remain vigilant and entrepreneurial. When savvy and astute people come together and commit themselves to a common purpose and vision, special things happen.

LEFT: Bill Dyar is presented with a gift for his years of board service. Left to Right: Mainspring founder Paul Carlson, Executive Director Sharon Taylor, Bill Dyar, current Board Chair Chris Brouwer

Peak Performance

19 Years, 454 Acres, 9 Transactions, 5 Families,
1 HUGE CONSERVATION WIN

The mosaic of mountain properties has significant conservation values. Most importantly, it lies in a key Mainspring conservation corridor connecting the Cowee Mountains to the Nantahala Mountains.

LAND TRUST EMPLOYEES need patience and tenacity. Often, years of planning, discussions, relationship building, compromises, setbacks and fundraising happen before the celebration of a successful project can begin. Yet the rewards for this work are great.

Since Mainspring's founding 19 years ago, Mouse Mountain and Grant Fields have been conservation priorities. After more than a decade of planning and building relationships, the first transaction closed in 2014. Two and a half years later, Mainspring celebrates, having worked with a total of five families to complete eight transactions and put the 454-acre project together. This included four acquisitions, two divestments, one boundary line agreement, and one conservation easement.

It was worth the effort. The mosaic of mountain properties has significant conservation values. Most importantly, it lies in a key Mainspring conservation corridor connecting the Cowee Mountains to the Nantahala Mountains. This 13-mile corridor starts at 5,000 feet above sea level on Cowee Bald, crosses the Little Tennessee River at 1,750 feet and then rises back to 4,600 feet on Wesser Bald and the Appalachian Trail in the Nantahalas. Mainspring's goal is to conserve a forested corridor that connects these two mountain ranges, ensuring uninterrupted habitat for plants and animals in a future with a changing climate. These 454 acres are an integral part of that corridor.

Protection of the unspoiled mountain landscape is critical too. It can be seen by visitors at the historic Cowee Mound, drivers on Indian

How Mouse Mountain Got Its Name

Mouse Mountain was named for Cherokee reservee Mouse—sometimes called Old Mouse or Mouse Old Indian. The Federal Treaties of 1817 and 1819 allowed for Cherokees in what is today Swain, Macon, and Jackson counties in North Carolina to receive 640 acres (a square mile), with the possibility of citizenship if they chose not to emigrate west. The land deeded to Old Mouse included what is now known as Mouse Mountain. In 1824, the State of North Carolina passed an Act of the General Assembly to take back the reserve lands with monetary compensation. As recounted by William Martin

Jurgelski in "A new plow in old ground: Cherokees, whites, and land in western North Carolina, 1819-1829" (2004), Mouse, like many other Cherokees who had been driven from their homes, reacted stoically to the news. "In a conversation with the trader John Bryson, a reservee named The Old Mouse expressed a sense of resignation about leaving his reservation. Bryson recalled many years later, 'He said they were treating him ill and used him bad and wanted to get him off. I said he had better move away, he [said] he had better do so, for they would only chase [him] off any how.'"



Lakes Scenic Byway (Hwy 28), and boaters floating on the Little Tennessee River.

Equally important is connecting three outlying parcels of Nantahala National Forest land to the greater public land holdings (see map on page 14). To do that, Mainspring has one more transaction to complete. Later this year, because of a generous gift from Fred and Alice Stanback and philanthropic support from our donors, Mainspring will donate 427 acres to your United States Forest Service, making all of those lands accessible for public recreation and enjoyment.

"The Forest Service is thrilled with the addition of these tracts to the National Forest System," says Michael Wilkins, Forest Service District Ranger. "They solidify four tracts into

one, making a continuous corridor to existing National Forest lands." Wilkins says Mainspring has been a great partner with the Forest Service. "Over many years, Mainspring has tirelessly provided vision, expertise and a steadfast persistence to accomplish things that will endure on our landscape. As stewards of a great national trust, we deeply appreciate all that Mainspring does for the National Forest and our community."

Nine transactions. Time consuming? Yes. Worth it? Definitely. It's the kind of project that Mainspring Executive Director Sharon Taylor finds challenging and rewarding. "It really is like putting together pieces of a puzzle. And every piece is critical. This project is complex, but in terms of achieving Mainspring's mission, it could not be more significant."

Mainspring will donate 427 acres to your United States Forest Service, making all of those lands accessible for public recreation and enjoyment.

OKW DPWLODE

[Nikwasi Rising]

A major Mainspring project restores a damaged property and reconnects an ancient community.

Located on Franklin's busy East Main Street, Mainspring's highly visible brownfield project—the first in the organization's 19-year history—has become one of its most talked about. Brownfield projects are not very common in this area, so it is easy to understand why staff and board members field questions from the public about this project on a daily basis. Associate Director Dr. Ben Laseter welcomes the chatter. "It gives us a great opportunity to talk about all the things we've learned and the plans we have for the space once we raise the funds."

Phase 1 for the brownfield cleanup,

including purchasing the property and securing grant funding from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Cherokee Preservation Foundation, began more than three years ago. Following a smaller task of removing three underground tanks in November 2015, the majority of Phase 2 began in the end of June and finished in September of this year. The remediation process included the excavation and removal of more than 3,200 tons of contaminated soil under and around 32 storage tanks, along with the excavation and grading of a riverside path on the west side of the Little Tennessee River.

As it turns out, much of the now-contaminated soil was brought in as fill dirt over the years, telling its own story of historical flooding. Laseter explains what was discovered as excavation began. "What we saw was around a foot of fill dirt, covered by a layer of natural alluvial (floodplain) deposits. In response to a flood event, another layer of fill was added, which was covered by another layer of alluvial soil. Another flood event would occur, so more fill would be added. Over many years of flooding and filling, this eventually created the surface elevation we see now. It's hard to imagine this River Gateway area of Franklin nearly thirteen feet lower than it is today. This part of Franklin looked very different 100 years ago."

While the contaminated soil was being removed, Dr. Ben Steere, assistant professor of anthropology at Western Carolina University and an expert in Cherokee mounds and ancient towns, was brought in to conduct archaeological monitoring

on the property. Since the site is located within the heart of the old Nikwasi Town, the likelihood of finding archaeological deposits was high. Steere says this was a rare opportunity to understand the history of landscape modification in the Nikwasi village area. "Mainspring is to be commended for consulting with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee prior to starting this project, and for making every effort to protect the archaeological resources at the site during the remediation."

Steere says that response to flooding had the unintentional effect of keeping archaeological sites intact. "To see that the fill dirt appears to have been dumped and spread directly on top of the old ground surface was very exciting. This means that there is a very, very good probability that there are still intact cultural features preserved under the fill dirt and the original plow zone."

(continued on next page)

"This part of Franklin looked very different 100 years ago."



The Mainspring Brownfield Cleanup Project Giving Opportunities

Phase 3

(approximate costs)

Public Walkways & Foot Bridges: \$45,000

Riverview Landscaping: \$2,000

Street Side Landscaping: \$10,000

West Side Landscaping: \$11,000

Rain Garden Construction: \$6,000

Basic Mainspring Office Building Facelift: \$6,000

TOTAL \$80,000*

Phase 4

Educational Pavilion and Office Front Entry Relocation (please contact us for details)

*Includes staff oversight and management costs

(continued from previous page)

But Phase 2 had its setbacks. “Unfortunately, the ground was more contaminated than we originally thought and contingency money was used in Phase 2 for our priority, which was clean soil,” says Laseter. “Private support is needed to complete phases 3 and 4. Mainspring staff has seeded to stabilize the site, but there is so much potential for what this area could be.” He elaborates. “Having a direct line of sight from the Little Tennessee River to Nikwasi Mound on this property creates an opportunity for telling its ancient,

cultural story. We’re keeping four large, aboveground tanks in the landscaping plan as a reminder of the land’s most recent use. And we plan to include educational programming on this site for youth and adults to learn about the rich cultural and biological resources in the area and how they can make a difference by taking care of those treasures. Finally, we hope the green space Mainspring is creating gives people a vision for revitalization of not only this River Gateway area of Franklin, but also in other towns. Private support can help us achieve those goals.”



COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A conceptual drawing of the finished green space; the property before the project began; Mainspring staff pitch in on a workday; Mainspring’s own “Wreck-It” Ben Laseter does some demo.

Mainspring Connections



Swain County 8th Grade Kids in the Creek



Highlands Biological Station campers on Mainspring's Pott's Branch Property



2016 Migration Celebration



Greening Up The Mountains Festival in Sylva, NC



Welch Farm volunteer workday



Stewartia Hike with Jack Johnston



Ribbon-cutting for Mainspring's Murphy office



Biomonitoring on Ellijay Creek



Needmore Ale rollout at Lazy Hiker Brewing



Biomonitoring with Haywood Community College Students



Mainspring display at Macon County Fair



Macon County 8th Grade Kids in the Creek



Little Tennessee River cleanup



Tessentee Farm trash pickup



Ranger Middle School (Cherokee County) Kids in the Creek at Welch Farm



Trimont Christian Academy Kids in the Creek at Parker Meadows



Nantahala Learning Center summer program

Hiwassee Homecoming

A conversation with Mainspring’s new Hiwassee Programs Manager

Sara Ruth Posey has been hard at work for the Hiwassee River Valley for nine months. The Murphy native joined Mainspring after the board of directors identified the need for an office and staff person dedicated solely to that area. As Hiwassee programs manager, Sara oversees Mainspring's land conservation and education activities in that watershed. Sara recently shared some insights she's gained since joining Mainspring and the impact she hopes to make.

You’ve been at Mainspring since February. What’s been the best part about your job so far?

As a senior in high school, I had no clue what I should study in college until the day that my school participated in a stream restoration

project. Seeing a nonprofit making a direct difference in the appearance and function of a stream system, all while getting muddy and enjoying the sun—I was sold. For that reason, the most fun I have had this year was being able to return that favor to students at our Kids in the Creek events. Like me, most of the students have no clue what 'scientists' actually do all day long, or the different types of scientists that exist. It's great fun to see kids enjoying themselves while learning. I realize they will not all go into a science field, but just giving them an appreciation for the natural world is wonderful, especially because it really is in their backyard.

What’s been your biggest learning curve with your position?

It has been a whirlwind this past year, learning the history of a 19-year-old organization that has accomplished A LOT, as well as formulating a plan for how to merge that success into a stronger focus in the Hiwassee. It was nerve-racking in the beginning—and still is, at times! I embarrassingly admit that my biggest learning curve was the discovery that people are people and we all just do our best. Most of my anxiety and nerves come from trying to measure up to all those who have come before me.

What do you think people living in the Hiwassee River Valley should know about Mainspring?

I think it's hard for people to understand how much goes into representing this region and how valuable their support is to having a presence here. Success around land conservation is about building relationships. Having an office in Murphy, where landowners can drop by, or run into me at the grocery store because I live here too—all of that is so helpful. Their land is usually their most valuable asset, and has sometimes been in their families for generations. It takes time to build trust.

But there's a cost to maintaining a second office; rent, internet, phone, etc. Add to that basic transaction costs to enable someone to conserve their land when they otherwise couldn't afford to and it becomes clear how important donor support is in order to build Mainspring's presence in this region.

What do you hope to see for the Hiwassee River Valley in the next 10 years? What legacy do you hope to leave to the valley?

The Hiwassee River Valley has the richest farm soil in all of western North Carolina. My hope is to secure the legacy that is older than us all—agriculture and clean water for food security. By assisting current farm owners who value conservation of prime farm soil and water security, I believe we can create available land for generations of farmers to come. In turn, this will allow our mountain communities to thrive with healthy, fresh food and, ideally, with an agribusiness model that makes the farmer successful and the consumers satisfied. In my hopes, agritourism will be explored again and expanded in this area.



“In high school, I had no clue what I should study in college until the day that my school participated in a stream restoration project.”



“The most fun I have had this year was being able to return that favor to students at our Kids in the Creek events.”



“People are people and we all just do our best. Most of my anxiety comes from trying to measure up to all those who have come before me.”



“My hope is to secure the legacy that is older than us all—agriculture and clean water for food security. This will allow our mountain communities to thrive.”

Mainsprinklings

Going Deep

This summer, we asked you to share your thoughts about Mainspring's work and focus for the future. Below is a comment from Cynthia Schumacher, a retired educator who is a 15-year supporter.

"Having developed a balanced, comprehensive collection of ways to protect and use land and water resources, Mainspring Conservation Trust can best meet future challenges and sustain long-term benefits by means of educational activities that provide a constant intergenerational supply of dedicated supporters."

Mainspring hosted a youth snorkeling event in August through a partnership with the North Carolina Community Foundation for Swain County. The snorkels, wetsuits, and other gear were secured through a \$5,500 grant from the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the North Carolina Wildlife Federation.

Citizen Science Program Manager Jason Meador says the snorkeling

events are a great way for families to have fun together. "What I liked most was seeing the parents in the water with their kids, exploring and discovering together. I hope they were making great memories and learning something at the same time."

More snorkeling events will be scheduled for the summer of 2017. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jason at jmeador@mainspringconserves.org.



Taking Vows

On September 17, Waynesville residents Natalie Smith and Tony Gaddis married in an outdoor ceremony. In lieu of gifts, the couple requested that guests give to select

nonprofits, including Mainspring. Thank you to Natalie and Tony for considering a long-lasting gift in honor of your commitment to one another. Best wishes!



In February, the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission announced that Mainspring Conservation Trust achieved reaccreditation, signifying the commission's continued confidence that Mainspring lands will be protected forever.

Mainspring was first accredited in 2010 and was among 37 land trusts across the United States to achieve accreditation or to have accreditation renewed in February.

Mainspring joins the more than 350 other land trusts that demonstrate

their commitment to professional excellence through accreditation, helping to maintain the public's trust in their work.

Each accredited land trust meets extensive documentation requirements and undergoes a comprehensive review as part of its accreditation application. The process is rigorous and strengthens land trusts with systems that help landowners and communities achieve their goals. More information about land trust accreditation can be found at www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

Making the Grade





MAINSRING

CONSERVATION TRUST

Stewards of the Southern Blue Ridge

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♻️ Printed on recycled paper

Photos by Fred Alexander, John Culclasure, Kevin Fit, and Scott Watkins

Enter the Mainspring Photo Contest

Help us celebrate the beauty of the Southern Blue Ridge with your outdoor photos! A panel of judges will award \$150, \$100 and \$50 to the top three photos in each of the following categories:

- Landscape/Waterscape
- Plants
- Wildlife
- People in Nature

The deadline to submit photos is December 31, 2016. Get full contest rules and information at mainspringconserves.org.

