

# 20 Years Stewarding Our Mountains

## 2016 Annual Report







# From the Executive Director

## Mainspring Staff

**Sharon Fouts Taylor**  
*Executive Director*

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

**Rock Curlee**  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

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

**Ben Laseter**  
*Associate Director*

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

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

**Kelder Monar**  
*Stewardship Associate*

**Molly Phillips**  
*Advancement Coordinator*

**Sara Ruth Posey**  
*Hiwassee Programs Manager*

**Jordan M. Smith**  
*Land Conservation Manager*

**Ramelle Smith**  
*Finance Manager*

The end of 2016 marked the completion of Mainspring’s first 20 years of conservation.

When Mainspring was founded in 1997, early efforts were mainly focused on the rich bottomlands along the Upper Little Tennessee River. We were intent on protecting the pristine waters of that river. That focus paid off; protected frontage along the Little Tennessee over the past 20 years has gone from zero feet to just under 38 miles. Thirty-eight miles! Along the way, we expanded our efforts to include the Tuckasegee and Hiwassee river watersheds too. Today, Mainspring is a *regional* conservation nonprofit leader. Growing into this role hasn’t been easy, but thanks to you we made it.

Our accomplishments last year were especially significant. Your support enabled us to open an office in the Hiwassee River watershed, to hold education events in all seven of our service area counties, and to end the year by closing on two significant conservation easements that bookend our project area. One is to the east along Rocky Face Ridge, a spur ridge of the Balsam Mountains, and one is to the west along Fishermare Ridge in the Snowbird Mountains. And, very significantly, you embraced a name like Mainspring Conservation Trust that no longer defines us as a single watershed.

It is challenging being regional. It takes many resources, and now, when there is much concern about our environment’s future, it is even more daunting. But we’re confident in you and your love of these mountains; your love of clean water; your desire to see them taken care of. We know that because of you, Mainspring will be here for another 20 years and beyond, stewarding this special, special place in the Southern Blue Ridge. Thank you for your continued support.

Sharon Fouts Taylor

P.S. I hope you’ll join us this year, as we celebrate two decades of commitment to this region! Check out our 20-for-20 events on our website at [www.mainspringconserves.org](http://www.mainspringconserves.org) — there’s something for everyone!

# Mission Statement

Located in the heart of the Southern Blue Ridge, the mission of Mainspring Conservation Trust is to conserve the waters, forests, farms and heritage of the Upper Little Tennessee and Hiwassee river valleys. We are dedicated to three core initiatives: conserve the land, restore the water, and connect the people to these valuable resources.



## Mainspring Board of Directors

**Chris Brouwer**, Franklin  
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*Vice-Chair*

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*Treasurer*

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**Joyce Dugan**, Cherokee  
**Richard Clark**, Franklin  
**Bill Gibson**, Sylva  
**John Gladden**, Franklin  
**Tom Hahn**, Franklin  
**Ed Haight**, Franklin  
**Dick Heywood**, Otto  
**Terrie Kelly**, Young Harris, GA

**Lisa Leatherman**, Franklin

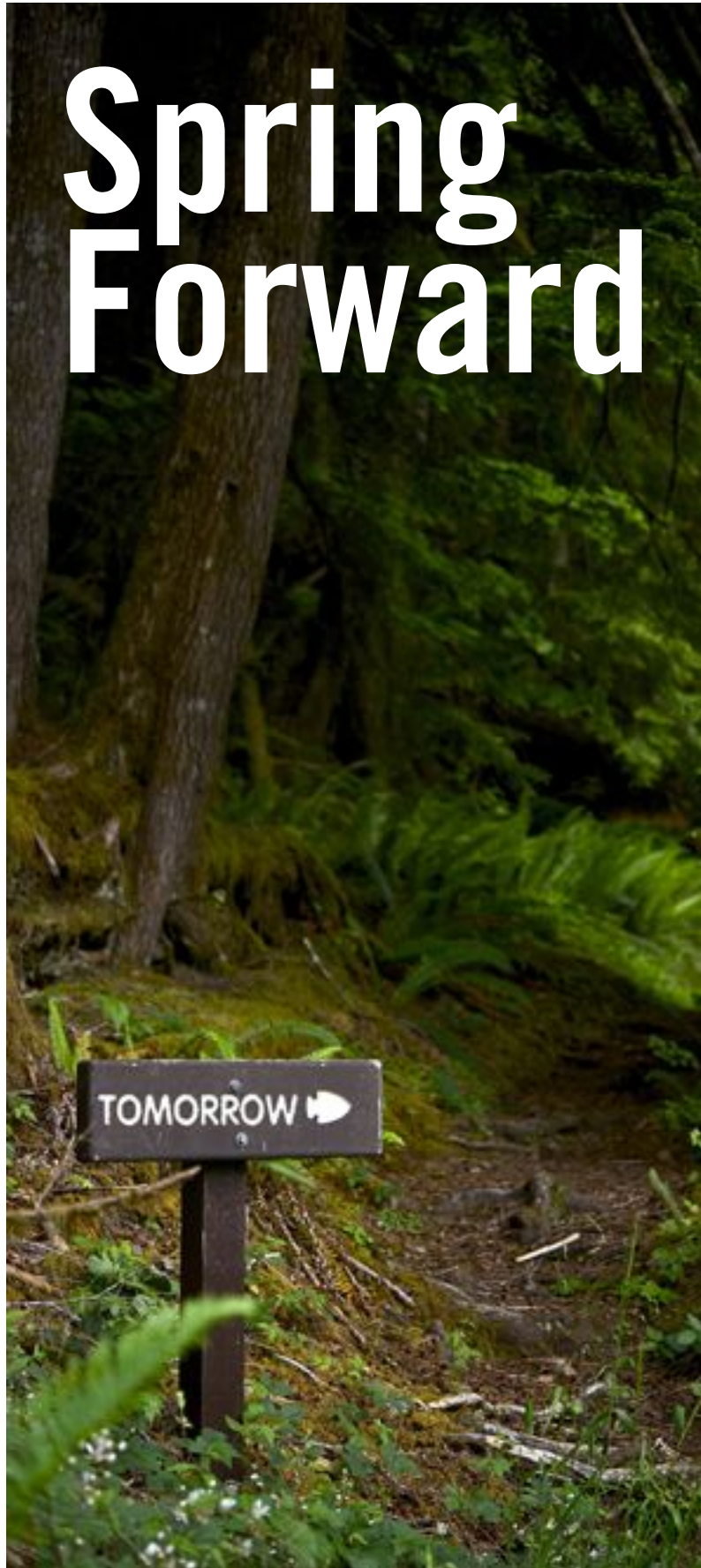
**Lydia Sargent Macauley**, Highlands

**Rita Salain**, Decatur, GA

**Juanita Wilson**, Cherokee

Left: A view of the forest in the 141-acre property in Cherokee County that Mainspring conserved in 2016. Owned by George and Linda Jensen, it is adjacent to more than 28,000 contiguous acres of conserved National Forest System lands in the Snowbird Mountains and is visible from the Nantahala Scenic Byway.





# Spring Forward

## Mainspring's Bold Strategic Plan Marks the Path to Protecting Our Mountains

**H**OW DOES a project that conserves less than a square mile make a difference in a service region of more than 1.8 million acres?

Mainspring's new strategic plan will address the impact of future land protection projects in a comprehensive Conservation Plan for the four watersheds Mainspring serves: the Cheoah, Hiwassee, Little Tennessee, and Tuckasegee.

Twenty years ago, in the organization's infancy, conservation efforts were strategically focused on land around and adjacent to the Little Tennessee River. As the organization grew and its project area expanded, new priorities were targeted and meaningful opportunities seized, but official areas of focus weren't as clearly defined.

In 2016, a committee composed of Mainspring staff, board members, and experts from relevant fields convened and began outlining principles that would help define specific focus areas within Mainspring's service region. They chose the following five criteria (shown in alphabetical order) as priorities for conservation:

- Agricultural Land Use
- Aquatic Diversity
- Cultural Heritage
- Recreational and Scenic Value
- Terrestrial Habitat

Using advanced Geographic Information System (GIS) modeling, Mainspring staff will be able to research and identify key areas important to the ecological landscape, climate resiliency, and Mainspring's conservation mission.



Mainspring's seven-county service region spans 2,920 square miles. That's 1,868,992 acres.

Scoring is weighted, based on the five priorities and the percentage of conservation values each area of land holds. When the modeling is complete, areas within the region where Mainspring can have the most impact for conservation will be selected. Those selections will be included in Mainspring's next strategic plan with goals, objectives, and action items defined for each focus area. The plan will allow staff to be proactive in conserving the most special places in this region.

Jordan Smith, Mainspring's land conservation manager, is leading the effort. "There are so many worthwhile opportunities, it is very

difficult to narrow our focus to one particular area or priority," he says. "This model will simplify that and help us concentrate our efforts in areas that are most critical in terms of conservation."


Smith emphasizes that this doesn't mean Mainspring won't respond to other opportunities. "I think it's important to note that, just because something doesn't show up in the model, doesn't mean it's not worth conserving. We will still evaluate the merit of every project that comes through our doors based on its conservation values and the impact it will have on future generations."

**When the modeling is complete, areas within the region where Mainspring can have the most impact for conservation will be selected.**

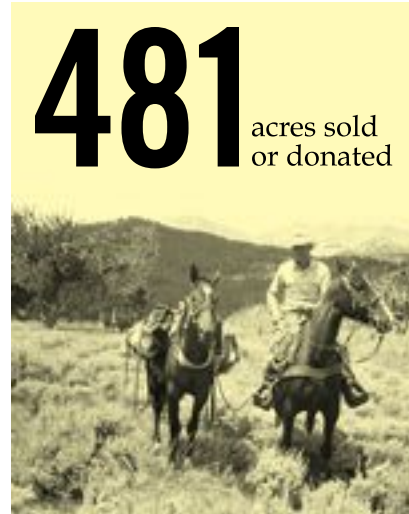


# 2016 BY THE NUMBERS

**21** headwater springs  
**344** acres  
**2.4** miles of streams  
**8,743** feet of US Forest boundary  
**Conserved**



**481** acres sold or donated



**32** trees planted on brownfield site in downtown Franklin



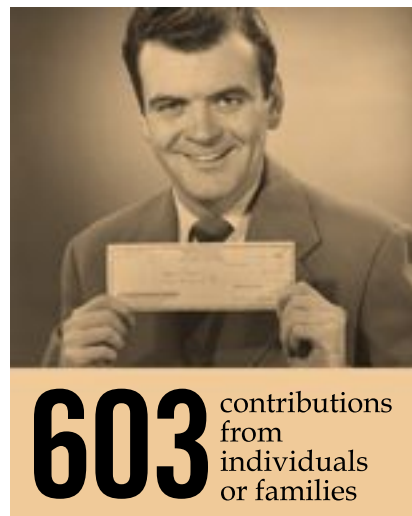
**37** teenagers "fell" into the creek (on purpose)



**10** volunteer workdays on Mainspring properties



**603** contributions from individuals or families



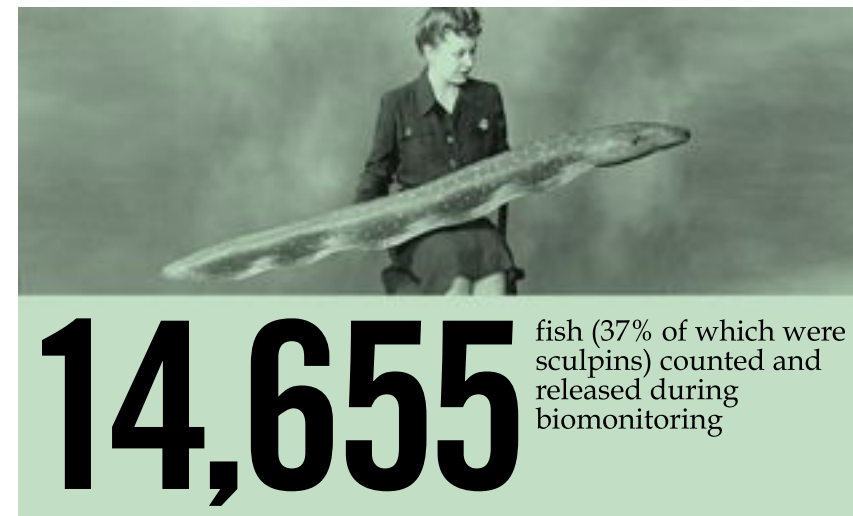
**2,156** youth reached through education programs



**62** people attended Murphy office open house



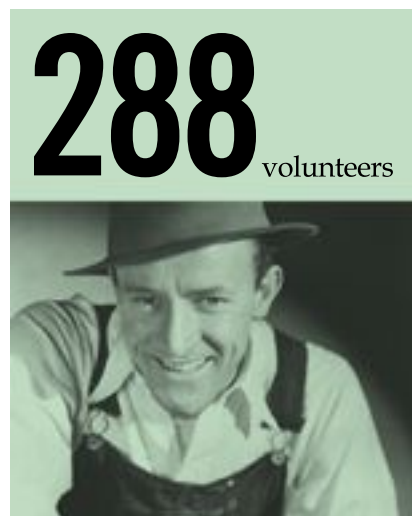
**14,655** fish (37% of which were sculpins) counted and released during biomonitoring



**1** vehicle donated to Mainspring




**288** volunteers



**652** visitors signed in at Mainspring's public access properties



**188** miles walked monitoring easements



**767** acres newly opened for public access



**2** staff hired





# 2016 Donors

Mainspring gratefully acknowledges the following contributors for their generous support.

## \$5,000 +

Adams, David  
**Adams, Kate & Duke Wiser**  
Balloun, Julie & Jim  
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Campbell, Tim & Emily  
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Penland, Kelly & Lewis  
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**Stanback, Brad & Shelli**  
Stanback, Fred & Alice  
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## \$2,500 - \$4,999

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Shuman, Nina  
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**Wiley, Nancy**

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Hahn, Tom & Carrie

**Haight, Ed**  
**Haire, Phil & Connie**  
**Harrison, Robbie**  
Hinson, David & Marsha



**1** **1st Place, Wildlife**  
Jeremy Wilson

Hogue, Lynn & Carol  
**Inman, Suzanne**  
Kershaw, Nancy  
**Leatherman, Lisa**  
Mayer, Bob & Gil  
**Meyer, Steve**  
Outdoor 76  
**Regnery, Russell & Helen**  
**Reinheimer, Susan & Greg Coyle**  
**Rhem, John & Georgia**  
**Russ, Don**  
**Salain, Rita & Bill Deck**  
**Simonson, Adrienne & Paul Carlson**  
Stork, James & Ginger  
**Taylor, George & Sharon**  
Van Teeckelenburgh, Andy & Kathie  
**Vickers, Keith & Melanie**  
Wilde, Gustav  
**Youngblood, Karen**

## \$500 - \$999

**Barnes, Steve & Cathy Ramos**  
**Bates, Pete & Kris**

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**Fouts, Merritt & Lucille**  
Fromknecht, Ken & Laura  
Grove, Judy & Bob  
Haight, Ned & Maria Braud  
Hammett, Kristen  
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Key, Barbara  
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Meier, Joachim  
Olson, Candy  
Otto Garden Club  
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Phillips, Randy & Molly  
Posey, Joan  
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**Reynolds, Alton & Connie**  
Schultz, Carole  
Shatley, Ed & Jane  
**Smith, Ramelle & Mike**  
**Smoky Mountain Land Surveying, PA**  
Wade, Ilene & Scotty  
Wheeler, Curt

## \$1 - \$249

Allison, Dave & Jane  
Anderson, Ronald & Linda  
Andring, Margaret  
Anonymous Gifts  
Anschel, Paul  
Austin, Ann  
Barnes, Lee  
Beale, Ronnie & Sissy  
Beattie, William & Monica  
**Beck, Charles & Lorna**  
Beck, Steve & Cheryl  
Beckman, John & Jane  
Finneran  
Bennett, Mary  
Bent, Samantha  
Berger, Lee

## \$250 - \$499

Austin, Jesse & Debbie  
**Browning, Sally**  
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Dalsemer, Robert  
Denson, Andy & Kelly Larson  
Dunn, Lola  
Equinox Environmental Consultation & Design, Inc  
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Franklin Garden Club  
**Garrison, John & Lynne**  
**Gibson, Bill**  
Gilliam, Kim  
**Greene, Maria & Jim Kautz**  
Gregory, Greg  
Hall, Tom & Margaret  
Hoskins, Rachel  
Johnston, Gilliam & Cathy Morrow  
Key, Barbara  
Landis, Elizabeth & James  
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Meier, Joachim  
Olson, Candy  
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**Reynolds, Alton & Connie**  
Schultz, Carole  
Shatley, Ed & Jane  
**Smith, Ramelle & Mike**  
**Smoky Mountain Land Surveying, PA**  
Wade, Ilene & Scotty  
Wheeler, Curt

**Berger-Brown, Jennifer & Robert Brown**  
**Berry, Roger & Bets**  
Bick, Andrew & Kristin  
Black, Mary  
Blanck, Heidi



**1** **1st Place, Landscape**  
Judy Grove

Blankenship, Sarah & Jack Smoot  
Bledsoe, Carolyn  
Blencoe, David & Maureen  
Bonner, Jim & Patty  
**Booker, Ray & Katherine**  
Borders, Judith & Montie  
Bowen, Jessi  
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Breedlove, Terry & Sandy  
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Broadwell, Jim & Barbara  
Brock, Dean  
Brooks, Mark & Sherlene  
Brown, Ben  
Bucey, David & Anne  
Burdette, Sharon & Glenn  
Burnett, Ralph  
Byrd, Joan & George Rector  
Cabe, Joan  
Canary-King, Ian  
**Cantrell, Bud & Alatha**  
Carlson, Elena  
Carolina Mountain Homes  
Carringer, Don & Belinda  
Casey, Larry  
Chew, Paul  
Childs, Sara & Rush  
**Clark, Joann**  
Clark, Stacey  
Clifton, Kathy  
Cloer, Jeff  
**Coe, Susan**  
Contino, Bobbie

**Coon, Richard & Nancy**  
Cousins, Sharon & Charles  
Croft, Betty  
Crouch, Eugene  
Cuckovich, Peter

Culclasure, John, Jr. & Sarah Riddle  
Davis, Pat & Jim  
De Lawter, Herman & Sally  
**Desmond, Dennis**  
**Dial, Kenneth & Leona**  
Diamond, Carol  
**Dillard, Claudette**  
**Dodson, Bill & Mary**  
D'Onofrio, Ralph & Margaret  
Dugan, Joyce  
Easley, Robert & Katherine  
Fish, Melissa  
Fleming, Janet  
**Floyd, Richard & Lucille**  
Forrister, Jean Ellen  
**Foster, Steve & Pat**  
Freeman, James & Margaret  
**Galloway, Lee & Nancy Thompson**  
Garner, Jim & Brenda  
Gernandt, Allyson & Bob  
**Gettys, Kathryn & Ed**  
Ginn, Richard  
Glasgow, David & Terri  
Glatzer, Maurice & Kay  
Gonos, Dave & Mary  
Gorgoglione, Charles & Paula  
Grant, Linda  
**Greene, Vic & Janet**  
**Grist, Sharon & David**  
Haight, Ann  
**Ham, Emerson**  
Handley, Jud & Kim  
Harrison, Robert & Susan

Harrison-Bregman, Rev. Eleanor & Peter Bregman  
**Hart, Ron**  
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Hawkins, Gene & June  
**Hazazer, Dan & Barbara**  
Henson, Charles & Kathy  
Higgins, David  
Hill, Robert  
**Hill, Paula**  
Hilton, David  
Holland, John & Brooks  
Holloway, Roy & Nancy  
Hubbs, Doug & Patti  
Hughes, Judy  
Hunter, Walter & Teresa  
Huscusson, Harold & Carolyn  
**Hutchins, Brock & Patty**  
**Hyder, Anne**  
Hyder, Brad & Ashley  
Jackson, Cherry  
Jacobsen, Nancy & Paul  
**James, Katherine & Alan Blumenfeld**  
Jarvinen, Phyllis  
Jenkins, Susan  
Jones, Fred & Jennifer  
**Jordan, Lenny & Jean**  
Kaye, George & Connie  
Kearney, William & Marilyn  
Kennedy, Dee & Richard  
**Kesler, Sally**



**1** **1st Place, Plants**  
Bob Appleget

Kessler, Pat & Holly  
Kloeppel, Brian & Dee  
**Knoepp, Paul & Jennifer**  
Krome, Lenor  
**Kuharcik, Karen**  
Lambert, Porter & Helen  
Land, David & Shandon  
Landwehr, Douglas & Barbara  
Leslie, Andrea  
**Lewis, J.C. & Becky**  
Liden, David & Martha Owen  
**Ligon, Linda**  
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**Locascio, Glen & Elly Wells**  
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McDowell, Howard  
McKay, Joshua & Allison  
McLarney, Bill & Susan Ervin  
McMahan, Brian  
McVay, Kipling  
Meador, Jason & Kristen  
Meador, Eddie & Milissa

Donors whose names appear in **bold** have given for ten years or more.  
Photographs are winning entries from Mainspring's 2016 photo contest.



**Melvin, Richard**  
Midgett, Kathleen  
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Miller, Mary Lou  
Mira-Knippel, Johnny & Karmen  
Monar, Kelder & Heather  
**Morris, Ed & Barbara**  
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**Patton, Myra**  
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**Tucker, Robert & Corbin**  
Tyler, Dan & Linda  
Upson, Bev  
Van Horn, William & Sharon  
Vance, Lucy  
VanderWoude, Scott & Satu  
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Wallace, Gloria  
Watkins, Scott  
Watkins, Dan & Margie  
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White, Barbara  
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Willis, Wanda & Bruce Lockaby  
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Willoughby, Lynn  
Wilson, Juanita  
**Winchester, Leonard**  
Winston, Margaret  
**Wright, Clark & Johanna Youmans, Mary**

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Clark & Company  
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Lutz, Kim  
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Purplecat Networks Inc.  
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WRGC 540-AM, Sylva

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Community Foundation of WNC  
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Duke Energy Riparian Enhancement Fund  
Georgia Wetland Trust Fund  
NC Community Foundation, Clay County  
NC Community Foundation, Swain County  
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**Agency Partners**  
Appalachian Regional Commission



**1st Place, People in Nature**  
Thomas Mabry

Cherokee Fisheries & Wildlife Management  
Conservation Trust for North Carolina  
Coweeta Long Term Ecological Research  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
Jackson County, North Carolina

Land of Sky Regional Council  
NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund  
NC Department of Justice Environmental Enhancement Grant  
NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
Southwestern Commission Council of Government  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
US Fish & Wildlife Service

**Other Partners**  
Balsam Mountain Trust  
Blue Ridge Forever  
Brookfield Smoky Mountain Hydro Power, LLC  
Graham Revitalization Economic Action Team (GREAT)  
Haywood Community College  
Southeast Heritage Associates  
NC Wildlife Federation  
Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources  
Western Carolina University

**In Honor Of**

Joan Byrd & George Rector  
Bradley Currey, Jr.  
Nonie Cowie  
Dennis Desmond  
Daan Van Diest  
Sharyn Ladner  
Laurel & Reid Laseter  
Dale Leshaw  
Jason Love  
Lydia Macauley

Mainspring Staff  
Natalie Smith & Tony Gaddis Wedding

David & Marti Patterson  
Eli & Kate Phillips  
Wes & Betsy Pittman  
James Levi Posey  
Thomas Posey  
Rita Salain & Bill Deck

Wally Schmidt  
Jami Beth Suminski  
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Rock Curlee  
Mary Black  
Melissa Fish  
Joe Looney  
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Anonymous  
James & Margaret Freeman  
Robert Hill  
Joan Posey  
Joan Posey  
Walter & Teresa Hunter  
Mary Lou Miller, Head Quarters  
Amy Schmidt  
Claire & Joe Suminski  
From Son

**In Memory of**

Ken & Carol Anderson  
  
Dorothy & Conley Bradley  
  
Susie Clarke  
Bobbie Cuckovich  
Mary Fisher  
Wendell Ligon  
George Masa  
Joanna Hope Mayeur  
Hilda & Birch McVay  
Sara Papp  
Dale Parrott  
Paul Thomas Posey  
Al Ramsey & Diane Forsyth  
Mary Lou Salain & Clint Burrell  
John Schnier  
Scott Sieben  
Harold Strader  
Hoop Tebault  
Wildfires  
Bob Wiley



**3rd Place, Landscape**  
Charlee Tisdale

**Donor**

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Gloria Wallace  
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Kathy Schnier  
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B.J. Tebault  
Lynn Willoughby  
Duffy & Kalen Credle

**2016 Mainspring Finances**

**2016 Source of Funds**

Rent, Interest, Events	\$40,106	2%	
Government Grants	\$469,370	24%	
Foundation Grants	\$347,440	17%	
Organization Grants	\$49,259	2%	
Program Services	\$117,398	6%	
Corporations/Businesses	\$14,182	1%	
Individuals	\$952,800	48%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,990,555</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**2016 Use of Funds**

Conserve*	\$790,693	38%	
Restore**	\$613,554	29%	
Connect	\$480,000	23%	
Administration	\$142,223	7%	
Fundraising	\$66,381	3%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,092,851</b>	<b>100%</b>	

\* Includes Capital Expenditures for Conservation Lands and Land Donations  
\*\* Includes Capital Expenditures for Brownfield Cleanup & Land Improvements, including In-kind





**MAINSRING**  
CONSERVATION TRUST

**Celebrating 20 Years** | as Stewards of the  
Southern Blue Ridge

P. O. Box 1148, Franklin, NC 28744



♻️ Printed on recycled paper

## 20 Years, 20 Events!

Grammy winner Marc Pruett and his wife, Anita, will be playing and singing at our 20th Anniversary party on October 12. Visit [mainspringconserves.org](http://mainspringconserves.org) for more info.



MAINSRING IS HOSTING 20 events to celebrate 20 years of conservation! Enjoy hikes, a family float trip, snorkeling events for kids, an eclipse viewing party, and much more! See the full schedule at [mainspringconserves.org](http://mainspringconserves.org).

We invite you to mark your calendars especially for **Thursday, October 12** from 5:30–7:00 p.m. at our Franklin office greenspace to hear Grammy Award-winning banjo picker (and member of Balsam Range) Marc Pruett with his wife, Anita, on the guitar. Sing along to mountain music and enjoy the impact Mainspring has made over the past 20 years in the Southern Blue Ridge!