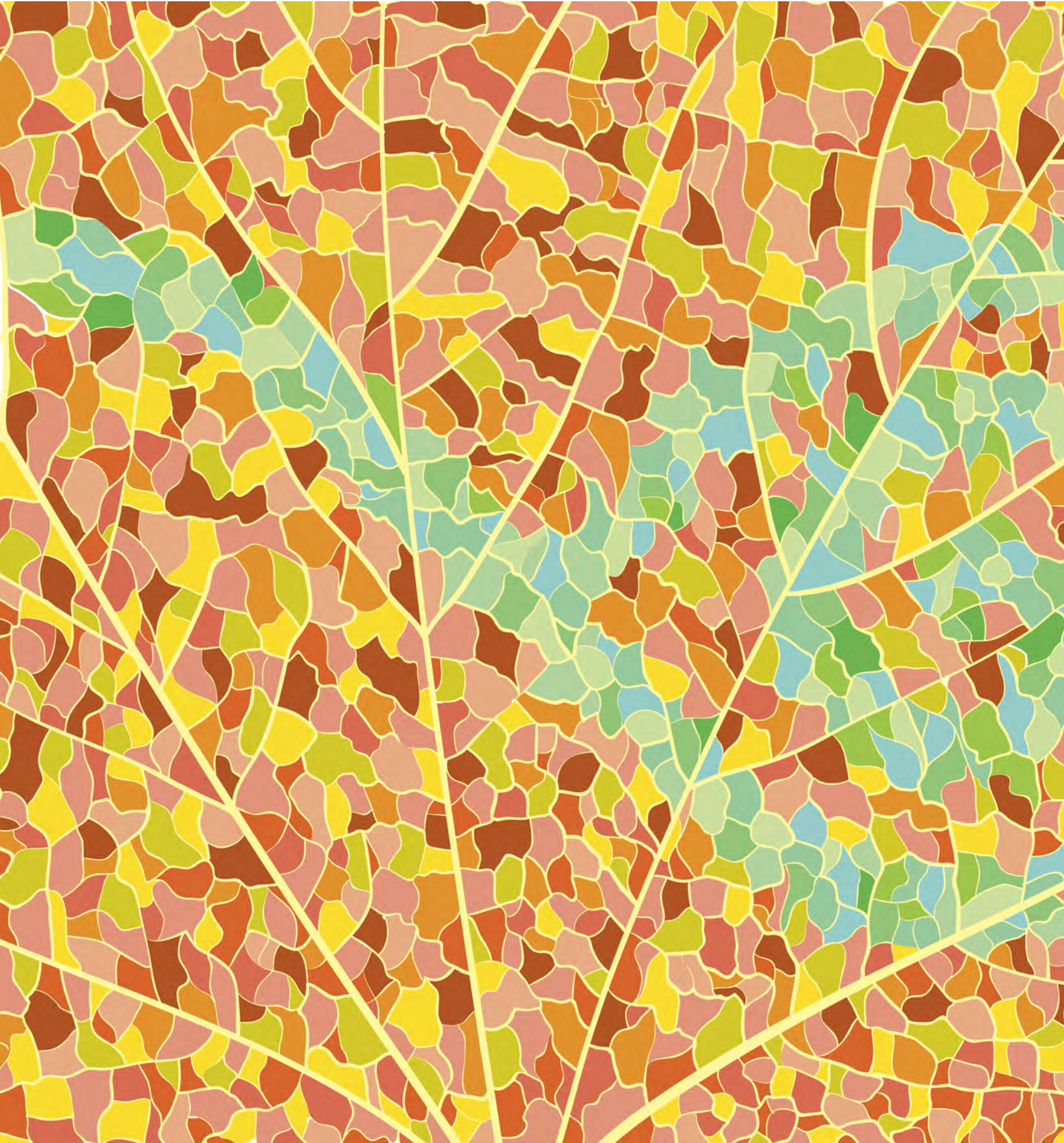


The Certainty of Change

2020 Annual Report



MAINSRING
CONSERVATION TRUST



From the Executive Director



It didn't take long into my tenure as Mainspring's third executive director to realize "ability to adapt to change" should be near the top of the list of requirements for leading a nonprofit, especially during a worldwide pandemic.

Now, after 12 months in this new position, I'm so proud of how Mainspring staff has adapted to save important places in this region and connect people to the outdoors, in spite of all that's happened in the last year. This annual report highlights many of those successes in 2020.

Looking forward, 2021 also promises to be a year of new challenges and, yes, more change. After 19 years with Mainspring, Dennis Desmond is retiring (see page 6). An often-unnoticed component of land trust work, stewardship of land after the completion of a project is arguably the most important aspect of a land trust's mission. Ensuring that conserved land remains protected in perpetuity is no small task, and Dennis has done a remarkable job leading this program. His attention to detail in developing policies and procedures will continue to be the backbone of our stewardship program moving forward. We will miss him but wish him well.

The change of losing three fantastic employees to retirement over a two-year span, after 48 collective years of service, is daunting, but still we adapt, building a team that is, in my opinion, the most talented in their fields. As the interest in this region continues to increase, it's critical that smart, dedicated and passionate people are working to keep some of the most globally significant viewsheds, waters, biodiversity and cultural heritage intact. Thankfully, we have been able to recruit and attract outstanding staff who are huge assets for this entire region.

Yes, change is inevitable, and how we adapt to ensure the special places in this region remain this way is vital to the future of the Southern Blue Ridge. Mainspring is making it happen, and we could not do it without your support. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jordan Smith
Executive Director

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Jordan Smith
Executive Director

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Administrative Assistant

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Land Conservation Director

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Finance Manager

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Deputy Director

Bill McLarney
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Jason Meador
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Minding the Store

“We should hold ourselves to the same standards we expect others to have when we’re protecting a historic building.”

Here, Jordan Smith is explaining why, after 13 years of ownership, Mainspring partnered with Preservation North Carolina (PNC) to place covenant restrictions on the historic T.M. Rickman Store, protecting its historic character.

The building, located in the Cowee Community of Macon County, is named in honor of the 67 years T.M. Rickman spent there, operating a general store and personal residence from 1925 to 1992. Built in 1895, the building had two other owners from the mid-’90s until Mainspring purchased it in 2007, and upgrades were often completed without following historical guidelines.

While Mainspring has always tried to remain true to Rickman’s historically and architecturally significant features, the partnership that began in 2020 will ensure that any future restoration, maintenance and work will preserve the integrity of the site — and it’s “the right thing to do,” Jordan said. “We serve as the experts of land conservation, but PNC is the gold standard of conserving historic structures. It makes sense that we work together on projects that hold both of those values.”

Ted Alexander, Western Regional Director for PNC, said that the Rickman Store is the sixth property that PNC has permanently preserved with Mainspring, but it’s the first that is still under Mainspring’s ownership. “We enjoy a great relationship with Mainspring and believe that the Rickman Store



preservation agreement can serve as a model for similar joint preservation ventures with other land conservation groups across North Carolina,” he said.

Rickman Store sits inside the 369-acre Cowee-West’s Mill Historical District, which has been on the National Historic Register since 2000. Friends of Rickman Store, a group of dedicated volunteers, open the building weekly from spring through fall so visitors can get a glimpse of how the store looked when Rickman owned it. The open houses feature local musicians, and antique and modern items are for sale, in addition to local crafts.

“Preservation North Carolina is excited that we entered into this preservation agreement,” Ted explained. “This partnership ensures that a piece of Cowee history will remain a vital link to the community’s past, while simultaneously ensuring that it will remain a vital hub of community activity in the future.”

To learn more about Rickman Store’s summer plans, follow their page on Facebook by searching for “Friends of the Rickman Store.” Information about Preservation North Carolina can be found online at presnc.org.



Top: Above Rickman Store, an expansive porch extends from the housing quarters.

Middle: A watercolor, signed ‘Dickson,’ depicts Rickman Store as it looked in the mid-1900s.

Bottom: The preservation of Rickman Store’s historical character transports visitors back to another era.

Safe at Home

MAINSRING'S 2020 LAND CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS include projects around the region – from protecting water quality and preserving views to creating recreational areas and conserving farms and forests.

1 Watauga Mound
 23 acres, Macon County
 Conserves a documented archeological site of a historical mound and old Watauga Town, within in the viewshed of Cowee Mountains and Scenic Highway 28.

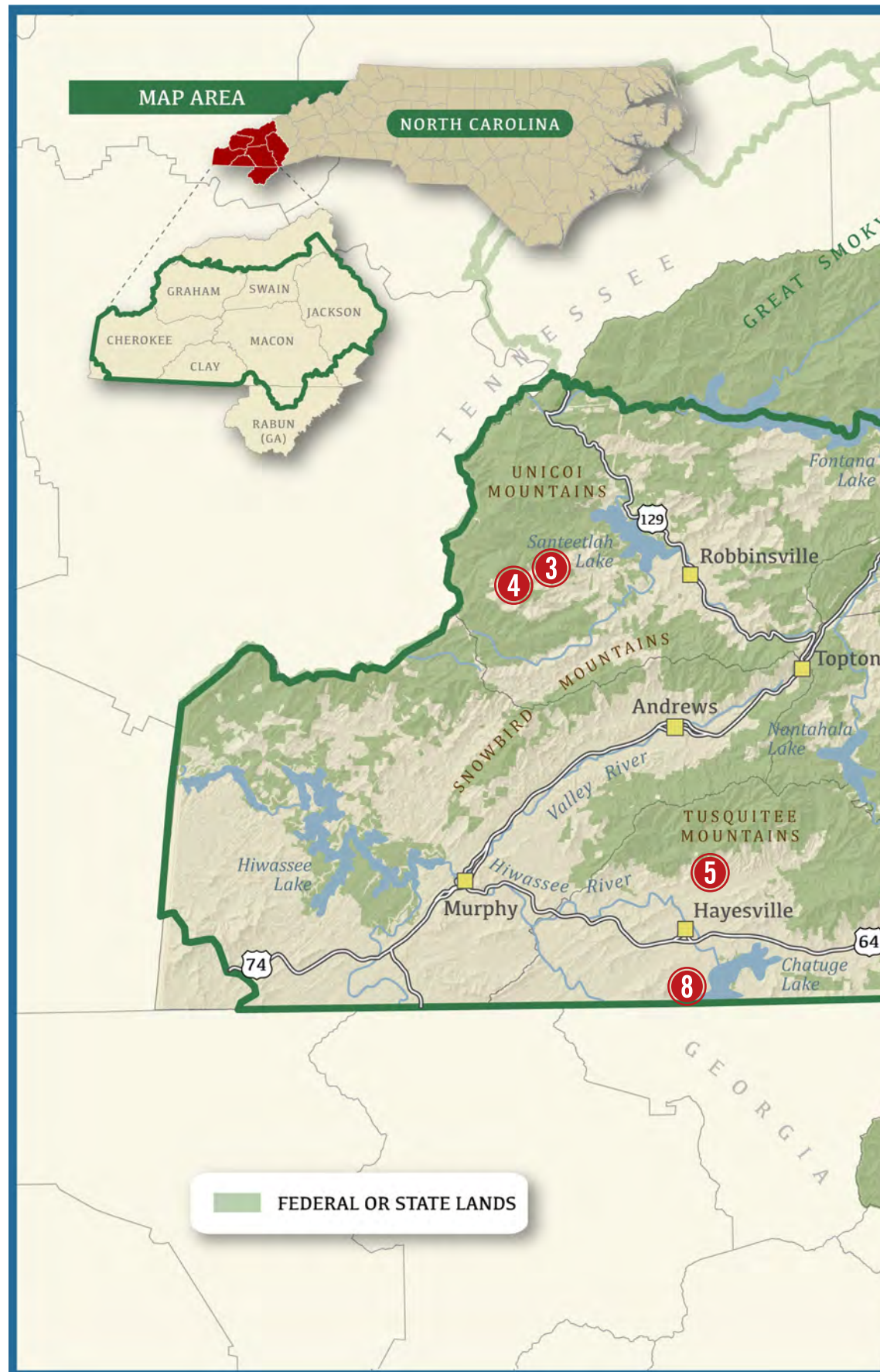
2 Watauga Mound II
 17 acres, Macon County
 The other half of Watauga Mound, including a portion of Rocky Branch and also within the viewshed of the Cowee Mountains and Scenic Highway 28.

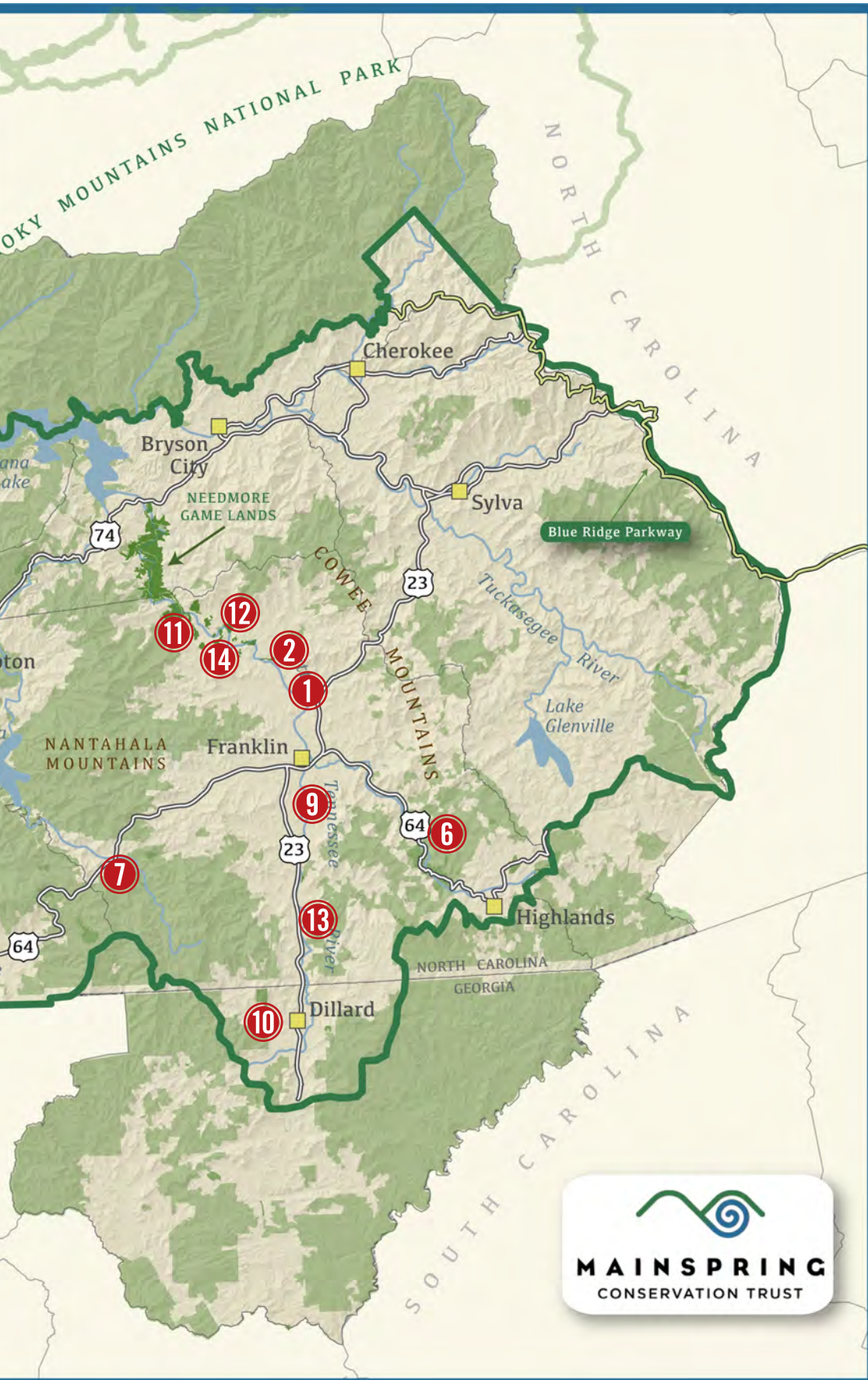
3 Seven Springs Branch
 42 acres, Graham County
 A family donated this property to conserve its water resources and to protect lands adjacent to USFS and the Cherochala Skyway.

4 King Meadows II
 105 acres, Graham County
 A conservation easement was sold to the State of North Carolina through the Clean Water Management Trust Fund for this property, after combining it with the 778 acres adjacent. It's home to 11 of the state's rare wildlife species.

5 Fires Creek
 49 acres, Clay & Cherokee Counties
 Contains the headwaters of Laurel Creek. The property was purchased through private donations in 2017 and transferred to the USFS in 2020. During Mainspring's ownership, the USFS was able to reopen the Fires Creek Rim Trail to its original route.

6 Little Buck Creek Conservation Easement
 48 acres, Macon County
 A gift of land from Kip McVay in 2019. Mainspring sold the property in 2020 after placing a conservation easement on it.





7 Rocky Cove
 16 acres, Macon County
 Adjoining U.S. Forest Service lands, Mainspring purchased this property in 2017 to hold. In April 2020, it was transferred to the United States of America.

8 Chatuge Shores I
 2 acres, Cherokee County
 Mainspring combined two lots that were gifted from a private donation, then sold the property with deed restrictions, limiting tree removal and housing location.

9 Cartoogechaye Creek Greenway Extension
 13 acres, Macon County
 Mainspring purchased this property in 2016 and completed a major restoration of the stream bank in 2020. The state purchased a conservation easement on this tract in 2020.

10 Hopper Historic House
 7 acres, Rabun County
 Gifted to Mainspring, who placed restrictive covenants on the historic log cabin and barn on the property with the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation to market it for sale.

11 McCoy Historic House
 2 acres, Macon County
 Located on Needmore Game Land. Mainspring sold the property in 2020 through Preservation North Carolina with covenant restrictions.

12 Rickman Store Covenants
 Mainspring placed covenant restrictions on Rickman Store through Preservation North Carolina to maintain the historic values of the building.

13 Bartram Trail Reroute
 Macon County
 Mainspring granted the Bartram Trail Society a trail easement to realign 205 feet of trail to the new parking area on Mainspring's publicly accessible property.

14 Hall Branch
 14 acres, Macon County
 Contains 302 feet of Little Tennessee River frontage and 1,600 feet of tributary frontage. Because of its proximity to Cowee Mound, Mainspring sold this potentially archeologically rich area to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in 2020.

Happy Trails, Dennis!

In 2000, Mainspring Founding Director Paul Carlson contracted Dennis Desmond to map the tributaries in and around Needmore for a conservation project that has, to date, resulted in more than 5,000 acres being placed in the public trust. Joining the land trust full-time in 2002, Dennis first worked on forestry initiatives before moving into the role of stewardship coordinator, managing Mainspring-owned public properties and monitoring private conservation easements. While he prefers being outside, Dennis is equally talented at researching and finding grant opportunities, developing organizational policies and procedures, and maintaining legal records. We will especially miss seeing his garage sale treasures, the familiarity of his daily peanut butter and jelly lunches brought in a vintage bangchung he carried home from Bhutan following his Peace Corps service, and his unexpected comments in staff meetings that make us belly-laugh. Dennis has worked with many volunteers and landowners over the course of his time at Mainspring and we hope you've gotten to know him as we do – a kind, diligent and sometimes goofy person who has created a legacy of his own in these mountains.



Photo by Fred Alexander

“I always enjoy getting to know a new piece of these mountains and researching and documenting its conservation values.”

Why retire now? You're still pretty young.

After 19 years with Mainspring, I'm ready for a new phase in life, especially while I'm still in reasonably good health. In fact, I want to focus more on my health, including exercise, and discovering and enjoying these mountains and rivers I call home. Plus, throughout my career, whether it's been overseas or here, I've always found it most rewarding to be involved in the starting and building of programs and institutions, rather than in running them. It's time to pass that mantle on to the new generation of leadership at Mainspring.

What will you miss most?

Lots of things – and they all involve the outdoors. One is exploring the land for baseline documentation reports for conservation easements (the initial land-mapping and photographing prior to an easement being placed on the property). I always enjoy getting to know a new piece of these mountains and researching and documenting its conservation values. The other thing I'll miss is working with our volunteers on stewardship projects, such as cleaning up a newly acquired property, reforesting a stream

riparian area, or constructing a new foot trail. The motivation and camaraderie of our volunteers, especially on a group workday, has always been inspiring for me.

I will also miss interactions with Cherokee artisans. Since 2002, we've worked with multiple partners to increase the resources available to artisans of Qualla Arts and Crafts cooperative. I've always enjoyed our interactions during rivercane harvests. Just recently, we had the first major harvests from some white oak and butternut plantings that we established some 15 years ago at Tessentee Bottomland Preserve. It's been a real privilege to get to know these talented yet humble people and share knowledge and stories.

Well, there are always some things about a job that are tiresome. What will you NOT miss?

That's easy – dealing with conservation easement compliance issues. While most are quite minor and often involve a misunderstanding by the landowner or neighbor, some have been quite serious and stressful. The worst part is that they take away time and resources from completing additional land conservation and stewardship projects. But it's a

commitment we make when we accept a conservation easement — that we will uphold its terms and defend the conservation values of the property.

Over the course of 19 years, you've seen a LOT of conservation projects. Does one in particular stick out in your mind? If so, what is it and why is it your favorite?

In land conservation, it's hard to pick just one. What's been most rewarding, with the biggest impact at a landscape scale, has been when we've focused on important conservation nodes that involve multiple projects, such as along the lower Little Tennessee River, up in the Rainbow Springs area of the Nantahalas (where we hold five contiguous conservation easements), and in the Balsam Mountains, where Mainspring and a number of other conservation groups continue to build out a tremendous land conservation success story.

In land stewardship, while we've done a lot of successful restoration work, I've more recently enjoyed working with our stewardship volunteers to improve recreational access to our properties. The foot trail system at Gibson Bottoms is a prime example of that. It's always a great feeling when I pull up to one of our properties to see cars in the parking lot and people out enjoying nature.

Do you have a fun/memorable story to share that sticks out from your time at Mainspring?

Well, I'm not sure this is fit for print! One year, before Christmas, when we were still in our old office above the Scottish Tartans Museum, I scoured the thrift stores for small toy snowmen. I placed one on each employee's desk, and then left a trail of mini-marshmallows from the front door to each snowman, with a

"speech balloon" coming out of the snowman's mouth saying "Oops, I pooped!" Ramelle Smith's was a candy dispenser, and she left it on her desk for years afterward.

What's on your retirement bucket list?

Lots! Tops is finishing the Appalachian Trail. It's what drew me to eventually live in this region, when I did my first section-hike through here in 1980. I still have the northern third of the A.T. left to hike. Finishing my personal workshop and building a number of furniture and cabinet pieces for the house is also on the list. And once my partner, Mary, retires, we want to travel, both home and abroad.

Anything you'd say to folks who have donated time/dollars to Mainspring over the years?

Your donation counts! While we've grown into a strong organization, including financially, and get involved in some pretty high-dollar land conservation projects, I feel we continue to make wise and well-thought decisions on how we expend our resources and our supporters' donations. That's something that has developed from our staff beginnings as a fledgling nonprofit. Our founding director Paul Carlson and I both served in the U.S. Peace Corps, where we experienced "living poor" while helping subsistence communities. Sharon Taylor, who grew up in Macon County, also experienced a "hardscrabble" life in her younger days. And Bill McLarney continues to spend half the year with subsistence communities in a remote area of Costa Rica. Whenever I spend a dollar of Mainspring's funds, I always think about those smaller donations we receive and what it means to the person that donated them.



Dennis in 2008 on the Needmore Tract.

SPRING FORGE

Volunteers Help Mainspring Make Room



WADERS AND SNORKELS FOR KIDS AND VOLUNTEERS in the creek. An ATV for exploring 900 acres of a potential conservation project. Archived legal records. Pesticides for controlling invasive plant species. Trailers for hauling debris. Hand tools for repairing signs or maintaining hiking trails — the list goes on and on.



“With the savings of not paying for off-site storage, along with the rental income, we are able to cover the costs of the property.”

—Ben Laseter

Essentially, land trusts need a lot of stuff to do the work that we do.

For more than 10 years, Mainspring has stored supplies and equipment used by our land stewardship, aquatic biomonitoring and education programs at a rented storage facility across town. The facility was only a few miles away — but the time, mileage and rental costs added up.

In 2019, Mainspring had an opportunity to purchase the property adjacent to its downtown Franklin office. The property initially piqued our interest because of its

potential to improve greenspace and conserve more than 100 feet of Little Tennessee River frontage, as it’s seated next to the Carlson Forest that we developed on the restored brownfield property. But the property also included two buildings, and we began to float around the idea of using one for storage and renting the other to a small business owner.

With support from our donors to hire local contractors, and help from our hardworking volunteers, both buildings and the surrounding space were cleaned up and updated

over the course of 2020 — new paint, windows, doors and electrical and insulation improvements — as we prepared to move forward with these potential uses.

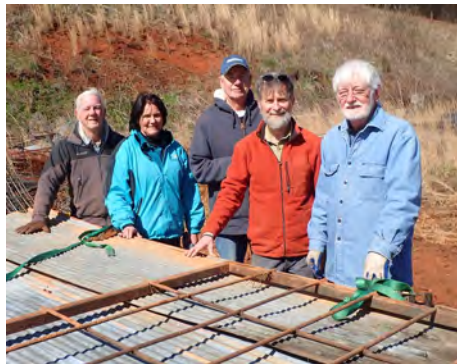
“Having Mainspring’s equipment just steps away is great for convenience and efficiency,” said deputy director Ben Laseter. “And with the savings of not paying for off-site storage, along with the rental income from our new tenant, we are able to cover the mortgage payments and carrying costs of the property.”

While Mainspring hopes the exterior improvements continue to have a positive effect on the aesthetic of the Franklin River District above ground, staff was also diligent about ensuring the soil underneath the surface met public health and environmental standards. “As with many properties in this neighborhood, there was a strong probability of groundwater contamination through past petroleum leaks,” Laseter explained. “We did some testing and discovered that old leaks from adjacent properties had migrated under this property from two different directions, but there was no evidence of direct spills or leaks within this property. What little residual is left from those spills — which have both been remediated — will naturally attenuate over time, so future users of the property and the nearby Little Tennessee River will be protected.

“At just over half of an acre, it’s definitely a small land project, but it is a good demonstration of our commitment to wisely using our financial resources for long-term sustainability,” Laseter continued. “We want to keep our operations as efficient as possible so our time, energy, and funding is spent on what’s really important: conserving the land, water and cultural heritage in the Southern Blue Ridge.”



Top: Elena Marsh cleans up brush from behind the facility.



Middle: Tom Marsh, Carla Plunkett, Dick Bargman, Dennis Desmond and Jim Upton finish loading materials to transfer to the new storage facility.



Bottom: Chris Brouwer helps paint the exterior of the building.



Teaching Green

How do we, as a land trust that hosts educational programs to complement a school’s curriculum, react to a global pandemic that completely upends the academic system?

If you’re Jason Meador, you rethink outreach.

“It’s been challenging for us,” Jason explained. “Even before COVID, studies were showing that kids spent too much time in front of a screen, which was our argument for getting them outdoors and immersing them in the environment. So how do we reach them, when most of their schoolwork was centered around Zoom calls and Google meets?”

Fortunately, Jason had begun the process of earning a North Carolina Environmental Certification, a program through the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality. The self-paced professional development program requires 200 hours of learning and includes six different components, all designed to enhance the ability of educators and organizations to provide quality programs and resources.

“This has really been a great class

for me, and it came at a perfect time – when our normal programs were stalled, and I could devote the energy to really immerse myself in it,” Jason said. “I have learned how to inspire kids in a different way. How to help them develop problem-solving skills on their own by giving them bite-sized problems and not giving them the answers. This leads to so much more involvement – they ask more questions and figure things out on their own. I’m excited to implement these tools in a pandemic-free year.”

Jason put his new skills to practice when he had the opportunity to visit a socially distanced Franklin-area 5th grade ESL class. The teacher had sent him questions the kids had about the Little Tennessee River, and instead of preparing a PowerPoint presentation and lecture, Jason asked the students questions to determine the level of detail they wanted to know. “They ended up having a lot of questions that centered around

erosion, which is actually one of the vocabulary terms that’s in the 6th grade curriculum, not 5th grade. But they wanted to know! So instead of telling them the definition and lecturing around it, I led them through the erosion process based on their own experiences. Questions like, ‘What happens to the creek when it rains a lot? What color does it turn?’ Then they come to understand erosion on their own, which will help them retain the information much better.”

And while some video instruction can’t be helped, Jason is thinking outside of the box there, as well. “I’m producing videos, but my goal is to focus on a single concept, make it entertaining and empower the students to go outside and explore on their own.

“This year has forced us to change, but change makes us better,” Jason continued. “I’m excited to take these teaching techniques outdoors when it’s time.”

“How do we reach them, when most of their schoolwork was centered around Zoom calls and Google meets?”

–Jason Meador



New app lets you record Mainspring volunteer hours with ease



One of the great pleasures for Mainspring staff is working with volunteers who care about the land, water and cultural heritage of this region as much as we do. Not only do volunteers save staff time and offer valuable expertise, being able to quantify volunteer hours and demonstrate in-kind support is crucial in many grant applications when seeking funds for programs and projects.

And modern technology is a huge help. With the use of Volunteer Local, a cloud-based volunteer management system, Mainspring volunteers can now input their own time spent on independent volunteer projects or group workdays, all with the click of a button. Prior to this interface, each program director

managed his or her own volunteer database, which was both time-consuming and redundant. Now, with Volunteer Local, the customized platform aggregates all of our volunteer opportunities — biomonitoring, land stewardship, photography and office work — and easily broadcasts those to volunteers for scheduling workdays and other needs. Mainspring staff can then generate reports to show cumulative volunteer hours for individuals or entire volunteer programs.

Please help us stay efficient by tracking your hours when you graciously volunteer with us. Volunteer Local can be downloaded from the app store on your Apple or Android device, making it easy to log your Mainspring time. We are so grateful for wonderful volunteers like you!

Donation Calculation Innovation



Taking it to the Bank



Top: The restoration included adding an artificial swale to the streambank that helps keep precipitation runoff from eroding the recently graded soil.

Bottom left: Streambanks along Cartoogechaye Creek before restoration. The bare soil and vertical bank are quite noticeable, and, although there were some trees and shrubs in the riparian area, the height and slope of the banks prevented the roots from properly securing the soil beneath, allowing the water to undercut the bank below.

Bottom right: Looking downstream of Cartoogechaye Creek after restoration. Temporary grass is beginning to emerge, adding some protection against erosion until larger shrubs can get established. Mainspring recently planted 80 trees to help further stabilize the streambank and encourage wildlife and habitat along this important waterway.

Through a grant from Duke Energy, Mainspring restored approximately 1,200 feet of streambank along Cartoogechaye Creek in the heart of Franklin near the Little Tennessee River Greenway. Stabilizing the streambank will help restore the 2.7-acre wetland adjacent to the creek, in addition to supporting significant aquatic habitat.



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 Nina Shuman
 Adrienne Simonson & Paul Carlson
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 Nancy Stanback
 Micki Beth Stiller
 Jill & Michael Stillwagon
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Haight, Ann
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 Hawkins, Sylvia
 Hedden, David & Vicky
 Higgins, David
 Highlands-Cashiers Land
 Trust
 Hill, Robert
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Hubbs, Doug & Patti
 Hughes, Judy
 Hunter, Walter & Terri
 Huskey, Hope
Hutchins, Brock & Patty
 Hutchinson, Margaret
Hyder, Anne*
Inman, Suzanne*
 Jaegers, Laurie
**James, Katherine & Alan
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Jarvinen, Phyllis

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Alexandra Blaine
 Mildred Morrison Brock
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 Cherokee Landing
 Susan Clark
 Bill Deck
 Dolores Disner
 Jackson Echols
 Grandchildren
 Linda Grant
 Dick & Gill Heywood
 Jennifer Hawkins Hock
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 Dean Brock
 Lydia Macauley
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 Monica Barbour
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 Anne Hyder
 Rita Salain & Bill Deck
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 Helen Meadors
 George & Sharon Taylor

In Honor of

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 My family
 New in the "oven" Grandchild
 Our children
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 Penland
 Sara Posey Davis
 Rita Salain

 Rita Salain & Bill Deck
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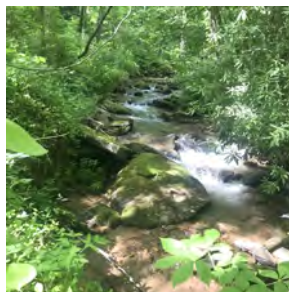
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 Becky Powers
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 June, Whitney & Bill
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 Leister, Kim
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Locascio, Glen & Elly Wells*
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 Luczak, Marsha
 Macauley, Kimberly
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 Maher, Mike
Marbut, Richard & Sara
Martin, Brent & Angela
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 McBane, Wendy
 McKay, Joshua & Allison
 McLean, Will & Caroline
 Meador, Eddie & Milissa
 Meador, Jason & Kristen
 Melarti, Hannu & Marita
 Midgett, Steve
Miles, Vanessa
 Miller, Lulu & David
Moore, Sue
 Morgan, Griff & Cecilia
 Morgan, Jane
Munday, Doris*
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Norton, Anne & Gary Kauffman*
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 Cindy Meier
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 My parents
 Terry Osborne
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 Tinman, Jacque & Andrew
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Tribble, Arthur & Lori
Tyler, Dan & Linda
Tyson, Mark & Denise
 Upton, John
Van Horn, Bill & Sharon

Walker, Brenda
 Wallace, Debby & Mac
Wallace, Gloria
 Wallace, Karen
 Watkins, Dan & Margie
 Watkins, Scott
White, Barbara
 Whitham, Mary
 Wiesmayer, Susan
 Wikstrom, Judith & Pat
Wilde, Kathy
Wilkinson, Gary & Lynne
 Williamson, Bob & Mary
 Willoughby, Lynn
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Winchester, Leonard & Susan
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Wright, Clark & Johanna*
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 Paul Carlson
 Peter Carlson
 Sarah Carothers
 Mike & Betsy Fleenor

Nancy & Bill Grove
 Bob & Judy Grove
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 Terrie & Martin Kelly
 Carol Litchfield
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Carla Norwood & Gabe Cummings
 Donna Orford & Jerry Cheek
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 Cathy Ramos & Steve Barnes
 Susan Reinheimer & Greg Coyle
 David & Ann Setzer
 Ramelle Smith
 Sharon & George Taylor

Sylvia Walbolt
 Larry Warren
 Karen Youngblood

Donors listed are those who have included Mainspring in their will or estate plan that we are aware of as of Feb. 15, 2021. If your name has been inadvertently omitted, we apologize. Please contact us so we can correct our records.

In-Kind Donations

Fred Alexander
 Cherokee County (Sanitary Landfill & Sheriff's office)
 Clark & Company
 Landscape Architect and Construction
 Drake Software
 Gooder Grafix
 Law Offices of Ken Fromknecht, P.A.
 Macon County Public Library

Penrose Environmental
 Purplecat Networks, Inc.
 Romantic Asheville/Kevin Adams
 Sustainamatrix
 The Sequoyah Fund

Foundation Partners

Cherokee Preservation Foundation
 Community Foundation of Cherokee County
 Community Foundation of Clay County

Community Foundation of WNC
 Duke Energy Foundation
 Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

Agency Partners

EBCI Office of Natural Resources
 Jackson County, NC
 Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District
 Macon County Soil & Water Conservation District

NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 NC Land & Water Fund
 NC Wildlife Resources Commission
 Southwestern Commission
 Council of Governments
 Tennessee Valley Authority
 Town of Franklin, NC
 Town of Sylva, NC
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 US Fish & Wildlife Service

Photos (pages 14-18) by Fred Alexander

Other Partners

Andrews Middle School
 Beached Whale Adventures
 Blue Ridge Forever
 Catamount School
 Cherokee Central School
 Coward, Hicks, & Siler
 Cullowhee Valley School
 Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
 Endless River Adventures
 Graham Revitalization Economic Action Team (GREAT)



Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino-Code Green
 Hayesville Middle School
 Heritage Partners of Cherokee County
 Highlands Biological Station
 Jackson County Summer Camp
 Land For Tomorrow
 Land Trust Alliance
 Moore Surveying
 Murphy Business Association
 Murphy High School

Nantahala Learning Center
 Native Fish Conservation Area Partnership
 NC Land Trust Federation
 Nikwasi Initiative
 Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual
 Rabun Gap Nacoochee School
 Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources
 Robbinsville High School

Smoky Mountain Land Surveying
 Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute
 Southern Appalachian Raptor Research
 Southwestern Community College
 Swain High School
 Tallant Law Office
 The Conservation Fund
 Winding Stair Farm Nursery

2020 Mainspring Finances

2020 Source of Funds

Individuals	\$998,226	36%	
Government Grants	\$807,697	29%	
Land Sale Proceeds	\$645,080	23%	
Organization Grants	\$131,788	5%	
SBA Loan PPP	\$120,100	4%	
Rent/Interest/Sales	\$42,393	1%	
Program Services	\$15,528	<1%	
Stewardship Fund	\$14,987	<1%	
TOTAL	\$2,775,799	100%	

2020 Use of Funds

Land	\$1,972,176	77%	
Water	\$174,669	7%	
Cultural Heritage	\$137,959	5%	
Administration	\$200,610	8%	
Fundraising	\$70,511	3%	
TOTAL*	\$2,555,925	100%	

Pre-audit figures

*Amount released from restrictions and included in 2019 expense = \$334,500



MAINSRING

CONSERVATION TRUST

P. O. Box 1148, Franklin, NC 28744

Conserving the waters, forests,
farms and heritage of the
Upper Little Tennessee and
Hiwassee river valleys in
western North Carolina and
northern Georgia.



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Looking Ahead

A GIFT TO MAINSPRING'S ANNUAL FUND supports conservation efforts around our service area. Here are some of the 2021 projects your donation would help protect:

Three significantly large working farms: two in Cherokee County, one in Swain.

Two projects in the Plott Balsams in Jackson County that will expand recreation and protect a major viewshed.

Three cultural heritage projects in Macon County.

Unrestricted donations also broaden our student and adult environmental education programs and help us steward completed conservation projects and maintain our public properties. Thank you for saving important places in the Southern Blue Ridge.