

25 Years of Legacy Building

2021 Annual Report



From the Executive Director



It seems like every day I run into someone — on the street, in the store, at the office and beyond — who has been a supporter of Mainspring for years, and each person brings their own unique story to tell.

Perhaps one has spent time volunteering with our aquatic biomonitoring program, like our 2021 Volunteer of the Year (page 3). Maybe we saved a piece of land, prime for development, next to someone's favorite spot — or maybe they donated an easement on land that had been in their family for generations, much like the Wood brothers did for their farm (page 6).

No matter the reason, each supporter has their own story — their own

Mainspring legacy.

As we enter our 25th year as an organization, I wonder what other legacies are yet to come. We can certainly look back on the marks made by previous staff, who built this organization into what it is today. Or on the supporters who have dedicated personal resources to sustain all the good work we do. I am humbled and grateful for every single dollar donated and every minute of time volunteered.

I also think of those who have chosen to leave a lasting gift to Mainspring that will impact the organization long after they've left the world. Mainspring's Legacy Society is now 25 members strong — a fitting number, given the quarter century we've spent conserving one of the most beautiful and diverse places on earth. I recognize that it's not feasible for many to donate their land or leave large estates to Mainspring, no matter how generous or dedicated they are. Knowing this, however, makes me even more appreciative of the folks that are both able and willing to do so.

As we look toward the future, we must also bear in mind Mainspring's sustainability. And that sustainability depends largely on the generosity of others — on those who give to our annual campaign, on those who choose to include Mainspring in their estate plans, and on those who make lasting impacts on the organization in many other ways. Each person who contributes is helping to build that legacy, and for that, I am grateful. What will your legacy be?

Sincerely,

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

Jordan Smith
Executive Director

Staff

Jordan Smith
Executive Director

Sharon Willard Burdette
Donor Relations Manager

Emmie Cornell
Land Conservation Manager

Sara Posey-Davis
Senior Land Conservation Manager

Teresa Falzone
Finance Director

Alex Jump
Stewardship Associate

Ben Laseter
Deputy Director

Bill McLarney
Senior Scientist

Jason Meador
Aquatic Programs Manager

Kelder Monar
Stewardship Manager

Rachel Newcomb
Conservation Outreach Associate

Molly Phillips
Communications Director

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Dick Heywood
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Ken Murphy

A Willingness to Try

“For me, a good volunteer is one who shows up and works hard. A very good volunteer asks questions. And a great volunteer goes beyond all of that and applies what they learn. David is a great volunteer.”

So says Bill McLarney when describing Mainspring’s 2021 Volunteer of the Year, David Rothmeier.

David and his wife, Rita, have been volunteering with Mainspring for over ten years. Always willing to help, they have traveled more than 60 miles to other locations to assist as needed, and both have spread their energies to land stewardship management as well. So when resurrecting its annual award after an eight-year hiatus, the land trust knew exactly who to recognize. “Most volunteers — especially the kind of people who help Mainspring — definitely don’t do it for the recognition,” says Rachel Newcomb, Mainspring conservation outreach associate. “In fact, it’s hard to get people to accept the award at times!”

“It’s true that David works really hard, and I often see him covered in mud, sweat and poison ivy,” says Kelder Monar, stewardship manager. “But one memory of David that I’ll never forget is that, after one particular work day at Cowee View, he and a friend stayed behind and had a picnic. It reminded me why we have volunteer work days in the first place: to connect people with the land and water we conserve. It was a great reminder of why we do what we do.”

David says volunteering is often more a mental challenge than a physical one. “When asked, you start



“What beautiful experiences, just because I was willing to say ‘yes.’ You can never do too little when it comes to helping others.”

—David Rothmeier

thinking, ‘Do I have the skills? Time? Tools?’” he says. “But all that is needed is a willingness to try and a spirit for adventure. The rest will fall as it might, almost always into a great experience of meeting new friends, learning new things and seeing new places. Regardless, you are always making memories!

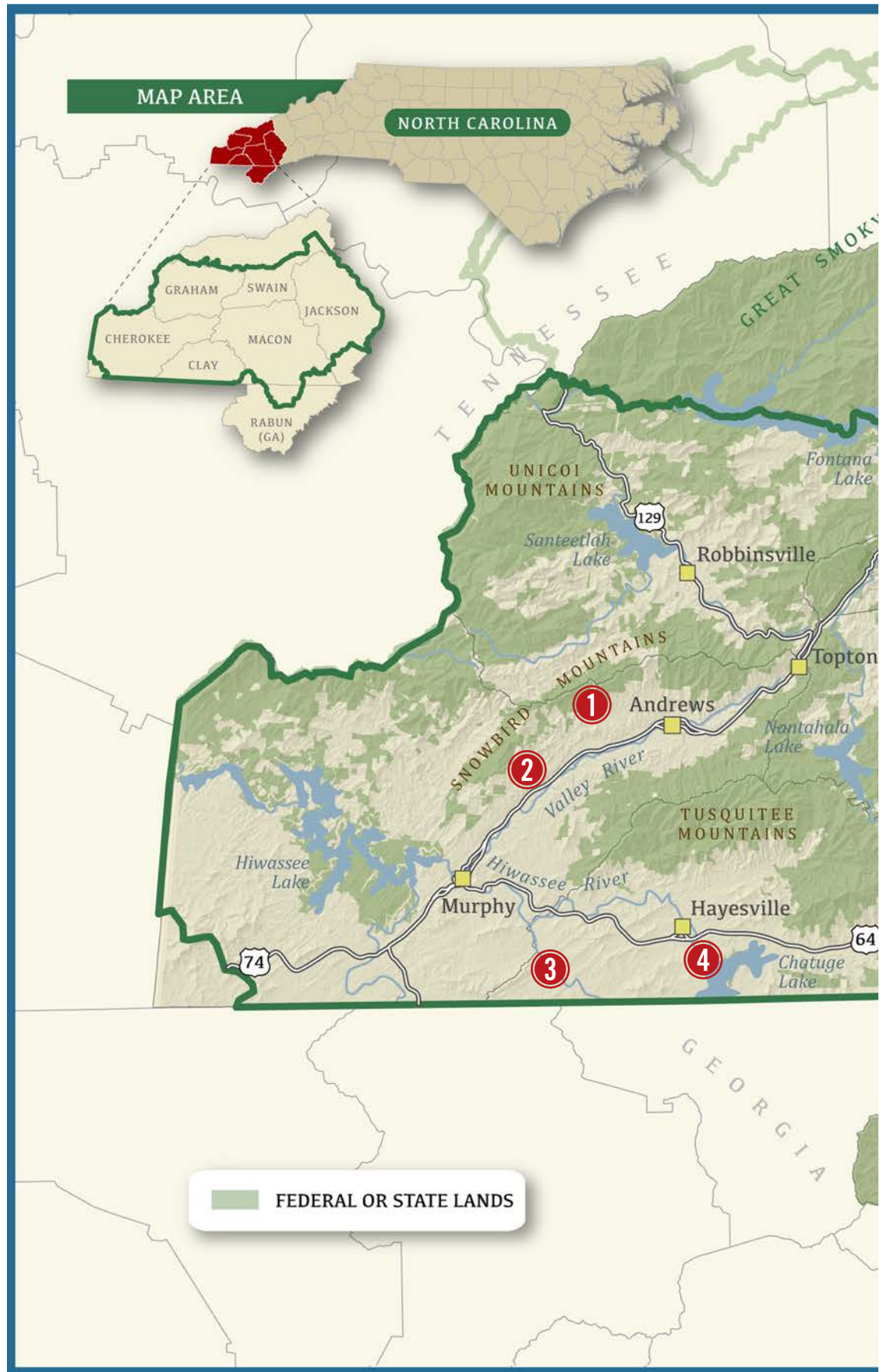
“Since I started volunteering, I’ve wet my bibs from Georgia to Bryson City to Highlands and creeks in between,” he continues. “What beautiful experiences, just because I was willing to say ‘yes.’ You can never do too little when it comes to helping others and to future generations through a great organization like Mainspring.”

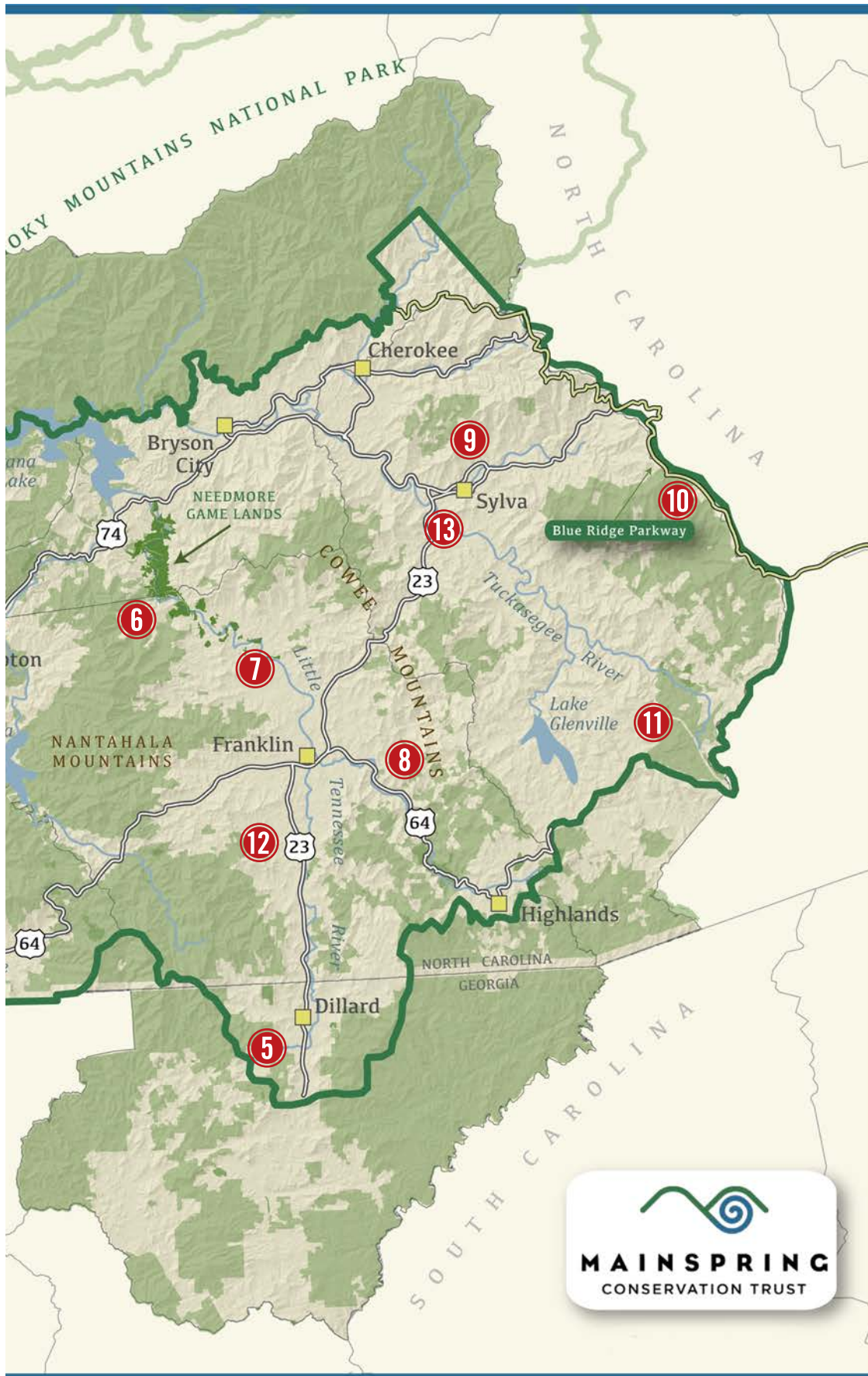
If you’re interested in volunteering with Mainspring, we’d love to have you! Visit our website (mainspringconserves.org) and sign up in the Volunteer section under the “Get Involved” menu.

Homework

MAINSRING'S 2021 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 Wood Farm Conservation Easement**
251 acres
 A working family farm in the Hiwassee River Valley, this project consists of three separate easements, two of which closed in 2021 and one that's expected to close in 2022 (article on page 6).
- 2 Townson Farm Conservation Easement**
107 acres
 With a mile of Valley River frontage, this land includes prime farm soil and a cemetery containing the graves of John and Elizabeth Blythe Welch, a couple known to have given refuge to Cherokee during the Forced Removal of 1838.
- 3 Grove Land Conservation Easement and Life Estate**
51 acres
 This forested land has received numerous recognitions for the extensive steps that its owners, Bob and Judy Grove, have taken to ensure it remains a sanctuary for wildlife and native plants.
- 4 Chatuge Shores divestment**
4.9 acres
 Originally donated to Mainspring as four subdivided lots, this divestment was combined into two lots, then sold. The proceeds will be invested into other conservation priorities.
- 5 Hopper House divestment**
7.46 acres
 This historic cabin, which is currently being restored, sold to a couple in January 2021. A bequest to Mainspring from Maude Bivins, the cabin and surrounding property are protected via conservation easement.
- 6 Kelly Cove**
95 acres
 Part of Mainspring's Nantahala to





Cowee focus area, this natural wildlife corridor will eventually transfer to state ownership to be managed through the Wildlife Resources Commission.

7 Klatt Wetland
47 acres

Adjacent to and providing access to previously inaccessible North Carolina Game Lands, this riparian habitat, which could harbor bog turtles, was the largest unconserved wetland along the Little Tennessee River (article on page 12).

8 Onion Mountain Trail
325 acres

Purchased by anonymous donors and then given to Mainspring, this will become a forever-wild, publicly managed, accessible property, with a trail system that has a peak elevation of 3,480 feet.

9 Pinnacle Park IV
92 acres

This property shares more than 2,000 feet of boundary with U.S. Forest Service lands. It sits in Mainspring's Western Plott Balsams focus area, and is an exceptional-rated Natural Heritage Area.

10 Mull Creek/Judaculla Ridge
30 acres

These inholdings were purchased on the open market in two separate transactions. Surrounded by U.S. Forest Service Land and within the viewshed of the Blue Ridge Parkway, the projects will protect important headwater brook trout streams.

11 Soapstone Ridge
247 acres

This land provides incredible views of the Cowee, Balsam and Great Smoky mountains. The property contains significant natural heritage elements and is home to rare species like the spotted skunk and the golden-winged warbler.

12 Little Tennessee River Greenway Restoration

Mainspring secured a second round of funding to repair this area, which had been stable prior to severe flooding in 2019.

13 Savannah Creek Restoration Project

A continuation of previous restoration efforts addressing new problems that occurred after the 2019 floods, which destroyed some of the bank stabilization measures.

“The land has been a farm as long as I have been around,” says Ed. “Keith and I have made a living from it pretty much all our adult lives, and our father and grandfather before that.”

Working with the soil, he continues, “instills an emotional tie to the land. It makes it hard to change it or part with it.”

According to a report from the American Farmland Trust, an

estimated 175 acres of American farm and ranch lands are lost every hour. As demands on farmers grow and development pressures rise, the need to protect farmlands intensifies. That is especially felt in mountain farms, where the rich soils, an abundant natural water supply, and temperate climate are also what attract people to the region.

In late 2021, the Wood brothers conserved more than 250 acres of

Ed Wood (middle) is surrounded by his children and grandchildren, who will see their family farm forever conserved.



Harvesting a Heritage

their family farm — protecting more than half of the Wood brothers' working farmland that they plan to conserve. This project was made possible through funding from the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, which offers compensation to farmers who choose not to develop their land.

Mainspring Senior Land Conservation Manager Sara Posey-Davis helped the Wood brothers throughout this five-year process. "Typically, these projects only take one to two years to complete," she says. "But Ed and Keith had a complex legal history on their farm with the highway, an unused rail line and the airport all adjacent to their land. We definitely had some ups and downs, but I'm grateful they stuck with us to preserve their farm."

Keith adds that, for his family, the long process was worth the wait. "The farm is highly productive compared to other farms in the state

— or even the country for that matter," he says. "It just makes sense for this farm to remain in food production for future generations. It's hard to eat a building or asphalt."

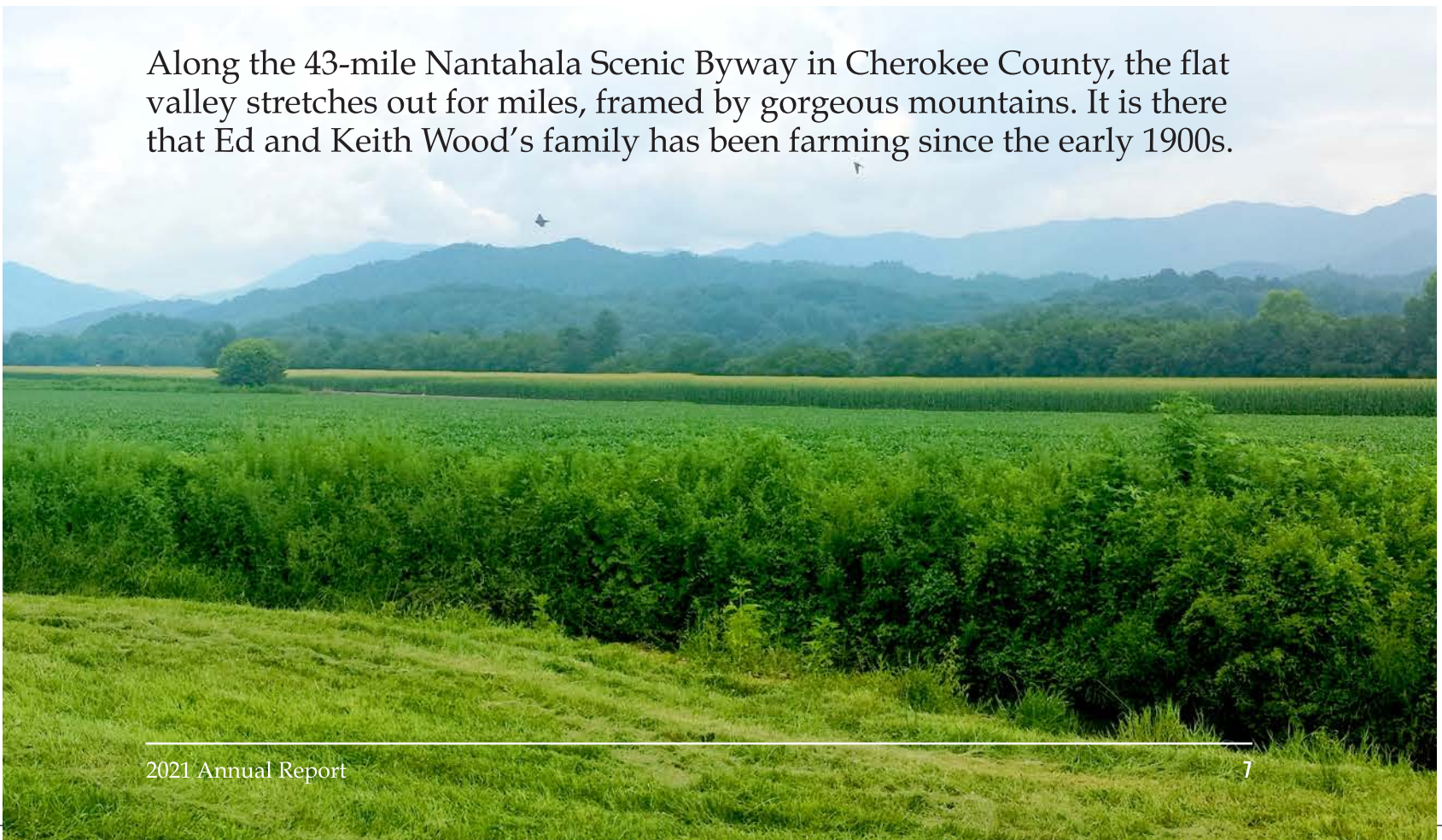
The property, visible from Nantahala National Forest lands in the Snowbird and Valley River mountains, includes more than two miles of named and unnamed streams that are part of the Upper Valley River Watershed. Additionally, more than 81% of the soil is considered Prime Farmland soil.

Ed says other farmers interested in protecting their farmland should consider working with Mainspring. "There are a lot of positives," he says. "The biggest thing is: You get some equity out of the land to maybe help in retirement, while you still retain ownership, and it remains a farm." Keith says every person and farm location is different, but "if it is highly productive and the threat of development is also high, conserving it is a good decision."



Besides the N.C. ADFP Trust Fund grant, funding for staff time related to this project came from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation, Mainspring donor Ron Thurman and other unrestricted donations from supporters. The Conservation Trust for North Carolina partially funded the transaction costs.

Along the 43-mile Nantahala Scenic Byway in Cherokee County, the flat valley stretches out for miles, framed by gorgeous mountains. It is there that Ed and Keith Wood's family has been farming since the early 1900s.



A Pair of Queens

Ever since Duke Energy gifted Queen Branch to Mainspring in 2004, staff have dreamed of building an accessible trail on the property for all visitors, including for those who use wheelchairs or have limited mobility. The 16-acre floodplain parcel, adjacent to Needmore Game Lands, is perfect for enjoying an afternoon in nature, featuring open meadows that extend into views of the Little Tennessee River.

However, ADA-compliant trails are expensive to create, and grants that fully pay for this type of project are very competitive. So, for years, the dream has remained just that: a dream — until Sylvia Walbolt heard about the idea.

“I had been a contributor to Mainspring since it was Land Trust for the Little Tennessee,” Walbolt says. “When my mom passed, I wanted to do something permanent in her memory. Mainspring brought [this project] to my attention, and I thought it was the perfect memorial for her. She always loved the river and would tell stories about rowing across it to get to school.”

Walbolt, an attorney who lives in Tampa, Florida, gifted Mainspring the funds needed to create the 1/3-

mile-long trail in memory of her mother, Sylvia Shaver Hardaway, who passed away in 2020 at age 102. Walbolt’s contribution, along with a grant from the Cannon Foundation, allowed Mainspring to budget the remainder of funds needed to move forward with the \$70,000 project.

“In 2018, the late landscape architect Jack Patton designed what we’re now calling the Hardaway Trail, and he developed it so that the surface, slope, width and viewing platforms would all be ADA compliant,” says Ben Laseter, Mainspring deputy director.

Patton’s plans called for a trail surface made up of sand and gravel, a specific mixture called trail surface aggregate. To ensure accessibility for all, the aggregate is installed at a

The new parking area includes a retaining wall and aggregate surface.





precise thickness — then mechanically compacted into a hard surface.

“Only a small part of the property could be easily accessed before,” explains Kelder Monar, Mainspring stewardship manager. “The relatively level terrain and proximity to the river made the property a natural fit for an accessible trail, and we can also link the trail to Needmore Game Lands so people with disabilities can hunt if they prefer. Connecting people with the natural resources in our area is a core part of Mainspring’s mission, and this trail gives us a chance to connect with new user groups who might otherwise not have a place to explore.”

Walbolt adds: “I love the work

that Mainspring does. Though I no longer own property in North Carolina, I feel strongly that this beautiful land needs to be preserved as much as possible, and that we need to have places where folks can bring their kids and be present in the wild, safely and with pleasure. It makes me so happy to have this trail named for my mother. She was a remarkable lady, so it makes sense that a remarkable trail will be available for all to use and enjoy.”

Special thanks to Mainspring emeritus board member Richard Clark and current board member Ed Haight for their expert advice and time, as well as all of the Mainspring volunteers who assisted in numerous work days.



The Hardaway Trail is named for Sylvia Shaver Hardaway, who passed away in 2020 at age 102. Updated landscaping at the entrance includes a new fence and rustic stairs; the trail extends down to the Little Tennessee River and to the site of a future bridge over Queen Branch.

All Together Now



Jack Johnston leads a birding event at Tessentee; Dennis Helton teaches a chainsaw certification course; participants stretch for Beyond Bending Yoga at Queen Branch; kayaking on the Valley River; Rachel and Kelder enjoy a waterfall at Bear Lake Preserve.

Flipping through these pages, it is clear we were quite busy in 2021 — conserving lands, creating trails, hosting students and protecting this beautiful region for all to enjoy.

In addition to all that amazing work, we've also held more than 75 total events — from virtual events to in-person events to volunteer workdays — each requiring constant reassessments of the pandemic situation to determine what we can safely offer to our community.

While we cherish each and every opportunity to come together face to face, there have been many beneficial lessons in the last year. As Conservation Outreach Associate Rachel Newcomb says, “Virtual events open up new possibilities for folks to get involved, allowing them to join in from wherever they are located.”

Across these two pages, join us in revisiting some of the events Mainspring hosted in 2021.





Vicki Baker greets Rachel Newcomb at Volunteer Appreciation; volunteers at the Little Tennessee River cleanup; NCWRC's Luke Etchison holds a Redhorse at an Earth Day education event; snorkelers on the Cheoah; Virtual Book Club meeting to discuss Janisse Ray's "Wild Spectacle;" Mainspring partners with the Hemlock Restoration Initiative to treat trees for woolly adelgid at Piney Knob Trails in Murphy; volunteers plant trees provided by N.C. Wildlife Federation at a conserved farm in Hayesville — see if you can spot Kelder twice!





The final lands project of 2021 was a big one: conserving the largest remaining intact wetland on the free-flowing section of the Little Tennessee River.

Big Finish



“We knew a developer would be interested. I’m grateful Mainspring was able to jump on it when it came up for sale.”

—Paul Carlson

It is a project that has been a priority of Macon County conservationists since before the land trust even officially began. “The lower portion of the wetland was on Duke Energy land in the 1990s,” says Mainspring Founding Director Paul Carlson. “At the time, we were hoping to get that conserved, which we did, and it is now the state-owned Needmore Game Lands. But we always wanted to protect the entire piece.”

The 22-acre wetland never completely dries out, as it is constantly fed by water flowing from an uphill perennial stream, providing habitat for many amphibians, birds, small mammals and invertebrates. Wetlands act as water purifiers, filtering sediment and absorbing many pollutants, while also serving as a sponge to absorb water during storms,

reducing downstream flood damage.

The project includes 1,830 feet of river frontage, which Carlson says increased the value in conserving it. “Folks are tempted to build houses along the river, and with it being easily accessible from Highway 28, we knew a developer would be interested,” he says. “I’m grateful Mainspring was able to jump on it when it came up for sale.”

The land conserved last year includes more than 24 acres of forested upland across the road, which Executive Director Jordan Smith says is also significant for several reasons. “Conserving upland adjacent to riparian areas provides connectivity for plants and wildlife across the landscape,” he explains. “Both the forest and wetland contribute to the incredible biodiversity that makes these mountains so unique.”



It's no secret that teachers have been some of the hardest working professionals throughout the pandemic, and their readiness to think outside of the box has been a major benefit to Mainspring's educational program.

"We had some new connections in 2021 with teachers who were eager to get their students outside," says Jason Meador, aquatic programs manager. "As they considered different options, Mainspring's hands-on programs have been a great choice for getting their students engaged."

One of the eleven events with school groups in 2021 included a restoration and observation experience at Tessentee Bottomland Preserve with middle school students from Union Academy. The field trip was part of a broader study of local bodies of water around western North Carolina, including Fontana and Nantahala lakes, as well as Lake Emory and the Little Tennessee River.

H₂OMG!

Brian Moffitt, interim principal at Union Academy, said Mainspring's event was distinctive

in that it allowed the students to actually get in the water to observe and quantify aquatic species. "Many of our students had never been in a river or creek prior to this unique learning opportunity," he says.

Meador adds: "It's hard for those of us who love the outdoors and this region to imagine that there are local kids who have never once experienced getting their feet wet in our clean rivers. But on days when I get students really embracing the activity — or ending their fears that bugs or spiders in the water will hurt them — I feel like I'm doing something valuable."

Moffitt says he hopes this will be just one of many field trips with Mainspring. "We hope to continue to build a positive and meaningful relationship with Mainspring for the benefit of future generations of Macon County residents and students."

"It's hard for those of us who love the outdoors and this region to imagine that there are local kids who have never once experienced getting their feet wet in our clean rivers."

—Jason Meador

2021 Donors

Mainspring gratefully acknowledges the following contributors for their generous support.

Donors with names in **bold** have given for ten years or more.
Donors with an * have given for fifteen years or more.

\$5,000+

Adams, David
Adams, Kate & Duke Wiser
Anonymous Gifts
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Bell, Griffin & Glenda*
Brouwer, Chris
Brouwer, JoAn
Crawford, Emory & Martha
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Hurley, Mary
Jones, Fred & Jennifer
Macauley, Lydia*
Marsh, Tom & Elena
Nelson, Kent & Alice
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Rasche, Larry & Kendra
Reilly, Wendell & Mary
Reinheimer, Susan & Greg
Coyle*
Stanback, Brad & Shelli
Lodge-Stanback*
Stanback, Fred & Alice
Stanback, Nancy

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

3,325

Facebook followers



Strawn, Johnny & Pam*
Sweeney, Tim
Thurman, Ronald & Judy
Townson, Scott
Walbolt, Sylvia*
Woltz, Thomas
Youngblood, Karen*

\$2,500 – 4,999

Black, Martha & Dave
Sherman
Echols, Lee
Fisher, Don*
Fleenor, Mike & Betsy
Haight, Ed*
Jensen, George & Linda
Leshaw, Dale & Gail
Lordi, Frank & Darlene
Salain, Rita & Bill Deck*
Schumacher, Cynthia*
Wilde, Gus

\$1,000 – 2,499

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Campbell, Emily
Clark, Susan
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Anderson*
Cornell, Clayton & Kami
Currey, Brad
Franklin, Alice & Dennis
Hawk
Fromknecht, Ken & Laura
Garner, Jim & Brenda
Gibson, Bill*
Green, Mike & Sydney*
Greene, Maria & Jim
Kautz*
Gregory, Clementine*
Grove, Bill & Nancy*
Haire, Phil & Connie*
Haiss, Karl & Carolyn
Porter
Hart, Ron
Hernandez, Cristina & Erik
Heywood, Dick & Gill*
Hinson, David & Marsha
Hogue, Lynn & Carol
Hunnicut, Jean
Johns, Bunny*

Johnston, Gilliam & Cathy
Morrow
Keeley, Leslie & Richard
Kershaw, Nancy
Lanwermyer, Lou & Barbara
Leatherman, Lisa*
Litchfield, Carol
Love, Jason & Jennifer*
McCracken, Susan & Ron
Meyer, Steve*
Murphy, Ken & Amy*
Outdoor 76
Polanski, Stan & Mary*
Posey-Neumann, Joan
Raby, Clark
Ramsey, Carol*
Riggs, Brett
Riley, Warren & Marge Abel
Ryman, Nancy
Schultz, Carole & Ann
Bullock
Sherman, Dave
Stenger, Larry & Terri
Stork, James & Ginger
Taylor, George & Sharon*
Van Teeckelenburgh, Andy
& Kathie
Vaughan, Marty
Vickers, Keith & Melanie*
Wheeler, David
White, John & Mary
Leonard-White

\$500 – 999

Adams, Laura
Adams, Patricia & John*
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Croft, Betty
Garrison, John & Lynne*
Gregory, Greg & Michelle
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Hawkins, Gene & June
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Hess, Ed & April
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of NC
Kastorff, Juliet & Ken
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Knous, Kirk & Kathy
Ladner, Robert & Sharyn
Laseter, Ben & Stephanie*
Meadors, Helen*
Murphy, Pamela*
Murrie, Katherine & Jason
Parker, Jerry & Judy Seago

Parrott, Susan
Regnery, Russ & Helen*
Rothmeier, David & Rita
Satterfield, Dara
Schweizer, Louis
Simonson, Adrienne &
Paul Carlson*
Southerland, Carl & Pam
Sowerby, David & Cynthia
Spies, Michelle & Larry
St. David's Episcopal
Church

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

11 + 60

virtual members
book club
meetings



Sullivan, Shea & Lynn*
Syring, George & Gloria*
Tracy, Tom & Jane
Veal, Michael & Wanda
The Vineyards at Betty's
Creek
Virtue, Janice & Dwight
Deuring
Wallace, Debby & Mac

\$250 – 499

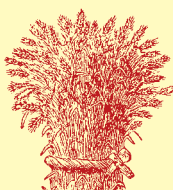
Beckert, Cheryl & Howard
Beckman, John & Jane
Finneran
Bick, Andrew & Kristin
Bottoms, Danny
Browning, Sally*
Burdette, Sharon & Glenn
Contino, Bobbie
Crawford, Marilyn
Crouch, Eugene
Dalsemer, Robert
Denson, Andy & Kelly
Larson
Equinox Environmental
Consultation & Design, Inc.
Giarratano, Jenny
Harris, Russ
Hawkins, Russell &
Whitney
Hilton, David
Holmes, Tom & Florence
Huskey, Hope

Johnson, Jeff
 Kackley, Cassie
Kaye, George & Connie
 Key, Barbara
 Kornegay, Burt & Rebecca
 Langston, Cara-Lee
Mack, Ann
 Maher, Mike
 McBane, Wendy
 Melarti, Hannu & Marita
Melvin, Richard
 Midgett, Russell & Beverly
Moulthrop, Jeanette & Mark*
Perry, Vic & Margaret
 Phillips, Randy & Molly
 Powers, Becky
 Pritchard, Joseph & Paige
 Purdy, Michael & Margo
Reynolds, Al & Connie*
 Ruple, David
Sargent, Hugh*
 Sargent, Liz
Shatley, Ed & Jane
Shuman, Nina
 Skeen, Marianne
Stibbs, Hal & Martha
 Tallant, Mack & April
 Taylor, Karl & Peggy
 Thomas, Wilbur
 Tomlinson, Pauleah & Mike Carruthers
 Weldon, Richard

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

286.4

acres of prime farm soil protected



Weresuk, Sarah & Andrew
 Willis, Wanda & Bruce
 Lockaby
Wilson, Lynn*
 Wilson, Mark
 Wooton, Tim & Shari

\$1 – 249

Alonso, Jim & Sharon
 Anderson, Robert & Olivia
 Annis, Judy & Jere



MAINSRING ENDOWMENT

In Honor of Sharon Fouts Taylor

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 Bonner, Jim & Patty
Booker, Ray & Katherine*
 Breedlove, Terry & Sandy

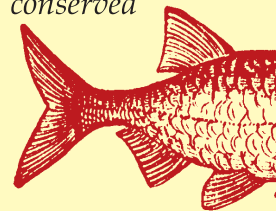
Breithaupt, Charlie & Kathy
 Brenner, Nathan
Brenner, Ron & Debra
Broadwell, Barbara
 Brock, Dean
Brooks, Mark & Shirlene
 Brown, Jane & Tom
 Bryant, Edward & Bo
 Bustos, Stephanie
Byrd, Joan & George Rector
Cantrell, Bud & Alatha*
Carlson, Peter
 Carothers, Sarah & Randy Honcik
 Carpenter, David & Michael Ann Williams
 Carson, Anna Jane
 Casey, Larry & Cathy
 Chew, Paul
 Chika, Arthur
 Choi, San Ho & Gwen

Clark, Joann*
 Clifton, Kathy
 Cloer, Jeff
 Cochran, Robert & Deborah
Coe, Susan*
 Comer, Michael & Lou

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

4,521

feet of river frontage conserved



Cookson, Susan
Coon, Richard & Nancy*
 Cooper, Christopher
Coriell, Kay*
 Cornell, Emmie
 Costa, Leslie & Jim
Cousins, Sharon & Charles
 Cowdrick, Bob & Emily
 Dalhouse, Deborah
 Daugherty, Richard & Kim
 David, Victor & Dorothy
 Davis, Daniel
 Davis, Nancy
 Davis, Pat & Jim
 Deck, Mary Jo
Desmond, Dennis*
Diamond, Carol & Jo Ellen Wade-Diamond
 Dikun, Kerri
Dillard, Claudette*
 Disner, Sue
Dodson, Mary*
 Drury, Bryan
 Dunkle, Marie
 Durand, Daniel
Easley, Robert & Katherine
 Falchook, Frederick
 Falzone, Teresa
 Farmer, Kelly & Holly
 Federico, Chris & Robert
 Fenninger, Chris
 Fewell, Danna & David
 Flemer IV, Bill
Floyd, Richard*
 Followill, Richard & Carolee
 Forrest, Craig
Foster, Steve & Pat*

Fouts, Lucille*
Galloway, Lee & Nancy Thompson*
Gernandt, Allyson & Bob
Gilliam, Kim & Lynda Mosen
Ginn, Richard
Glasgow, David & Terri
Gonzalez, Virginia*
Goodell, Edward
Gooder, Guy & Alicia
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Grant, Richard & Teresa
Greene, Vic & Janet
Greenway, Dawn
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Grist, Sharon & David*
Haight, Ann
Handley, Jud & Kim
Hanson, Dennis

Harrison, Robbie*
Harrison, Robert & Susan
Hawkins, Sylvia
Heald, Fred & Diane
Heavner, Teresa
Hedden, David & Vicky
Hemstreet, Linda
Henson, Charles & Kathy
Hill, Lawrence
Hill, Robert

Himes, Sunny
Hughes, Judy
Hunter, Walter & Terri
Hutchins, Brock & Patty*
Hutchinson, Margaret
Hyder, Anne*
Inman, Suzanne*
Jarvinen, Phyllis
Jenkins, Susan
Jenks, Stu
Johnston, Jack & Jean

In Honor of

Paul Carlson

Dr. Eldred Causey
Susan Clark
Adam Clawson
Emmie Cornell
Crawford Clan of Macon County
Dennis Desmond

Dale Dildine
Jackson Echols
Mildred Everest & Lewis Penland
Teresa Falzone
Jamy Beth & Michael John Ferraro
Steve & Jenny Harshbarger & family
Jennifer Hawkins Hock
Amanda Henderson
Mary Ann & Paul Hendricks
Senna & Ella Hernandez
Ron & Jean Hunnicutt

Norma Ivey
Lisa Leatherman
Jason & Jennifer Love
Brent Martin
Brent & Angela Martin
Gil Mayer
Lydia Macauley

Donor

Lydia Macauley
Clark Raby
Jim & Sharon Alonso
Debby & Mac Wallace
Anonymous
Kelly & Lewis Penland
Marilyn Crawford

Chris & Robert Federico
Bill & Nancy Grove
Philip & Callie Moore
Joan Posey-Neumann
Jill & Michael Stillwagon
George & Sharon Taylor
Sarah Carothers
Lee Echols
Whitney & Bill June

Mary Hurley
Claire & Joe Suminski

Debby & Mac Wallace

Gene & June Hawkins
Debby & Mac Wallace
Debby & Mac Wallace
Cristina & Erik Hernandez
Dale & Gail Leshaw
Jordana Wolf
Carol Diamond
Debi Stewart
Polly Love
Helen Meadors
Don Russ
Eugene Crouch
Kimberly Macauley
Mainspring Staff
Steve Meyer
Chuck Roe
Hugh Sargent
Liz Sargent
George & Sharon Taylor

In Honor of

Dr. William O. McLarney

John Morris
My Children & Grandchildren
My Grandchildren

Rachel Newcomb
Dan Pittillo
Sara Posey-Davis
Rita Salain

St David's Episcopal Church

Jerry & Joyce Starr
Amy & Andrew Street & family
Ronald Schrichten
Johnny Strawn & family
George & Sharon Taylor
Sharon Taylor

Sharon Taylor, Dennis Desmond, & Ramelle Smith
Ms. Phyllis Vance
Soni Vanhook
Adam Wallace & family
Chad Wallace & family
George Wallace
Dick & Denise Weaver
Diane Winkler

Donor

Edward Goodell
Helen Meadors
Katie & Johnny Morris
Joan Posey-Neumann

Anne Hyder
Joan Posey-Neumann
Don Fisher
Wynette Wiles
Joan Posey-Neumann
Lindsey Grant
Lulu & David Miller
Walter & Terri Hunter

Robert Hill
Frank Romanowicz
Terry & Sandy Breedlove
Debby & Mac Wallace

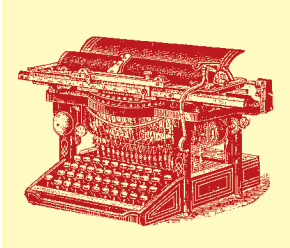
Cassie Kackley
Bill Flemer, IV
Daniel Davis
Patricia & John Adams
Clark Raby
Don Russ
Gus Wilde
Juanita & Robert Wilson
Toni & Rick Wooten
Emory Crawford

Marty Vaughan
Rita Salain
Debby & Mac Wallace
Debby & Mac Wallace
Debby & Mac Wallace
Bryan Drury
Debby & Mac Wallace

Johnston, Tammy & Dave
Jordan, Lenny & Jean*
Joy, Deborah
Juhlin, Frances
June, Whitney & Bill
Kearney, William & Marilyn
Kenney, Gary
Kevill, Cliff

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

2 new staff added



Knoepp, Paul & Jennifer*
Krome, William & Lenor
Kuharcik, Karen
Laborda, Michael & Dayline
Land, David & Shandon
Laseter, Suzanne
Lehman, Gail
Lindstrom, Marcia & Fred

Longstreth, Julie
Love, Polly
Luczak, Marsha
Lyday-Goforth, Sylvia
Lynn, Beverly
Macauley, Kimberly
Martin, Brent & Angela
Martin, Ray & Jane
Matthes, Sheila*
Mazur, Jody
McCown, Walt
McDowell, Howard
McGlamery, Dan & Joanne
McKay, Joshua & Allison
McLean, Will & Caroline
McVay, Kipling
Meador, Eddie & Milissa
Meador, Jason & Kristen
Miles, Vanessa
Miller, Edgar
Miller, Lulu & David
Miltner, Mike
Monar, Kelder & Heather
Moore, Philip & Callie
Moore, Robert & Julie Hotchkiss
Moore, Sue
Morris, Elizabeth
Morris, Katie & Johnny
Morris, Pat

Munday, Doris*
Murphy, Gary & Virginia
Myers, Melissa & Philip
Newcomb, Rachel
Newton, Jordyn
Norwood, Carla & Gabe Cumming*
Ochsenfeld, Michael
Olson, Candy
Owens, Ben & Hygie Starr
Pangle, Luke
Peery, Robert
Perrigo, Sandra
Piazza, Charles
Pittillo, Dan*
Poindexter, Robert
Posey-Davis, Sara & Ryan Davis
Preston, Ralph
Prosser, Julian
Pursel, Kyle
Pyron, Doug & Kathleen
Ramsey, Joe & Theresa*
Ratcliff, Kathy
Redd, Jordan
Reed, Kevin & January
Rehling, Connie*
Reid, Marilyn
Reisdorph, Tom & Sue Ann*
Rhem, Will & Amanda*

Richardson, John & Marjorie
Riggs, Bruce & Jane
Ritchie, Bruce & Sue Ellen Smith
Roe, Chuck & Charlotte Jones-Roe
Rogers, Bob & Betty
Rogers, Philip & Helen
Romanowicz, Frank
Ross, Jackie
Rostock, Matt & Eileen
Russ, Don*
Russell, Janet
Sakowski, Carolyn & Alton Franklin
Schmidt, Maggie & Dick
Scott, Bob & Nancy*
Shelton, Ellen & Jim
Shuler, Keith & Pam
Sill, John & Cathy
Smith, Gibson & Patricia
Smith, Jordan
Smith, Karen
Smith, Louise
Smith, Nancy & Mike
Smith, Ramelle*
Smith, Tom & Olga
Sobek, Chris
Spencer, Gerald & Susan
Sperry, Paul
Spoon, Bill & Heidi

In Memory of

Monica Wall Beattie
Phyllis Boudreaux
JoAn Brouwer
Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Burrell
Tim Campbell
Conrad Clark
Hazel Davis
Lucille Floyd
Gene Gonzalez
Randy Hooper
Phillip Olias Huff

Ron Hunnicutt

Paul & Nancy Jacobsen
Mary Jenks

Donor

William Beattie
Heidi Blanck
Chris Brouwer
Joann Clark
Emily Campbell
Susan Clark
Susan Wiesmayer
Richard Floyd
Virginia Gonzalez
Richard & Debra Bennett
Leslie & Jim Costa
Sylvia Lyday-Goforth
Elizabeth Morris
Keith & Pam Shuler
Dona & Tom West
Jean Hunnicutt
George & Sharon Taylor
Juliet & Ken Kastorff
Stu Jenks

In Memory of

Barbara McCrae

Amy Patton Miltner
Nancy Fisher Patton
Verlon & Annie Poindexter
Tom Posey
Dave Rehling
Rober Shutt
Walt & Dee Smith

Dennis V. Stamey

Dr. Lucille & William Stickel
Harold & Carolyn Strader
Dr. Wayne Swank

Hoop Tebault
Denny Vanhook

Dick Wallace

Donor

Dick & Gill Heywood
Bob & Nancy Scott
Mike Miltner
Edward & Bo Bryant
Robert Poindexter
Michelle & Larry Spies
Connie Rehling
Julian Prosser
Gilliam Johnston & Cathy Morrow
Becky Powers, Soni
Vanhook & Dennis N. Stamey
Richard & Nancy Coon
Lynn Wilson
Lindsay Boring & Kay Kirkman
B J Tebault
Becky Powers
Rita Salain & Bill Deck
Gloria Wallace

Staples, Phil & JoAnn
Steere, Ben
Stewart, Debi
Stiles, Warren
Stiller, Micki Beth
Stillwagon, Jill & Michael
Stork, George
Sullivan, Dave & Ellie*
Sullivan, Dorothy
Suminski, Claire & Joe*
Sunset Restaurant
Sussman, Stuart & Carol
Swift, Lloyd & Mike
Talbot, Virginia & Dean Zuch
Tebault, B J*
Thomas, Deborah
Tilley, Rex

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

1,243.13

total acres conserved



Timan, Andrew and Jacque
Tolbert, Laurie
Traverse, Richard & Patty*

Trevathan, Bob & Sandie
Tribble, Arthur & Lori
Tyler, Dan & Linda
Uhar, Margaret & Bob
Van Horn, Bill & Sharon
Vanderwoude, Chris
Wade, Ilene & Scotty
Wallace, Gloria
Wallace, Karen
Watkins, Dan & Margie
Weatherford, Cris & Charla
West, Dona & Tom
White, Barbara
Wiesmayer, Susan
Wikstrom, Judith & Pat
Wilde, Kathy
Wiles, Wynette
Wilkinson, Gary & Lynne*

Williams, Bob & Mary
Williams, Carl & Marilyn
Williamson, Bob & Mary
Willoughby, Lynn
Willoughby, Windee & John Pittman
Wilson, Juanita & Robert
Winchester, Leonard & Susan*
Winston, Margaret
Wolf, Jordana & John David Klausner
Wood Farm, LLC
Wood, Darry & Barbara
Wooten, Toni & Rick
Wright, Clark & Johanna*
Wright, Whitney
Zick, Pat

Mainspring Legacy Society

David Adams
John Beckman & Jane Finneran
Chris Brouwer
Paul Carlson
Peter Carlson
Sarah Carothers
Mike & Betsy Fleenor

Nancy & Bill Grove
Bob & Judy Grove
Phil & Connie Haire
Jean Hunnicutt
Terrie & Martin Kelly
Carol Litchfield
Kenneth & Diana McKinney

Carla Norwood & Gabe Cummings
Donna Orford & Jerry Cheek
Marilyn Reid
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, 2022. If your name has been inadvertently omitted, we apologize. Please contact us so we can correct our records.

In-Kind Donations

Fred Alexander
CDN Appraisal
Cherokee County (Sanitary Landfill & Sheriff's Office)
Clark & Company
Landscape Architect and Construction
Drake Software
Gooder Grafix
Headwaters Engineering
Johnston, Jack
Law Offices of Ken Fromknecht, P.A.
Lowe's of Murphy
Macon County Public Library
Moore Surveying
N.C. Wildlife Federation
Penrose Environmental
Ralph Preston

Purplecat Networks, Inc.
Smoky Mountain Land Surveying
Sustainamatrix
The Sequoyah Fund
Wildcraft Kitchen
Winding Stair Nursery

Foundation Partners

Cannon Foundation
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, N.C.
Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District
Macon County, N.C.
Macon County Soil & Water Conservation District
N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
N.C. Department of Environmental Quality
N.C. Land & Water Fund
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission
Southwestern Commission
Council of Governments
Tennessee Valley Authority
Town of Franklin, N.C.
Town of Murphy, N.C.

Town of Sylva, N.C.
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service

Nonprofit Partners

Blue Ridge Forever
Conservation Trust for North Carolina
Graham Revitalization Economic Action Team (GREAT)
Hemlock Restoration Initiative
Highlands Biological Station
Land For Tomorrow
Land Trust Alliance
Nantahala Learning Center
Native Fish Conservation Area Partnership

N.C. Land Trust Federation
Nikwasi Initiative
Preservation North Carolina
Qualla Arts and Crafts
Mutual
Revitalization of Traditional
Cherokee Artisan
Resources
Southern Appalachian
Highlands Conservancy
The Conservation Fund
Trout Unlimited

Other Partners
Alliance Land Surveying
Bear Lake
Cherokee Central Schools
Cherokee County Schools
Coward, Hicks & Siler
Eastern Band of Cherokee
Indians
Endless River Adventures
Freshwaters Illustrated
Graham County Schools
Jackson County Schools

Macon County Schools
Nantahala Outdoor Center
N.C. Biotechnology Center
Nichols Appraisals &
Associates
Outdoor 76
Rabun Gap Nacoochee
School
Robbinsville High School
Southeast Unitarian
Universalist Summer
Institute

Southern Appalachian
Raptor Research
Southwestern Community
College
Sunrise Yoga Studio
Swain County Schools
Tallant Law Office
Union Academy
Western Carolina
University

2021 Mainspring Finances

2021 Source of Funds

Individuals	\$3,887,981	51.1%	
Government Grants	\$2,978,609	39.1%	
Land Sale Proceeds	\$396,500	5.2%	
Organization Grants	\$116,845	1.5%	
SBA Loan PPP	\$116,700	1.5%	
Rent/Interest/Sales	\$55,028	0.7%	
Stewardship Fund	\$45,487	0.6%	
Program Services	\$25,316	0.3%	
TOTAL	\$7,622,466	100%	

2021 Use of Funds

Land	\$6,957,746	90.6%	
Water	\$287,659	3.7%	
Administration	\$207,038	2.7%	
Communications	\$81,760	1.1%	
Fundraising	\$74,212	1.0%	
Cultural Heritage	\$72,372	0.9%	
TOTAL*	\$7,680,787	100%	

Pre-audit figures
*Amount released from restrictions and included in 2021 expense = \$117,182.71



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.



♻️ Printed on recycled paper

Mainspring has an online shop!

Visit mainspringconserves.org and click "store" at the top right corner to check out the hats, water bottles and T-shirts we have for sale. All proceeds support conservation in the Southern Blue Ridge.

