

2016 Annual Report

**WHY
YOUR GIFT
MATTERS**



CMLC

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN
LAND CONSERVANCY



Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy is dedicated to protecting and stewarding land and water resources vital to our natural heritage and quality of life and to fostering appreciation and understanding of the natural world.

Thank you for making this work possible.

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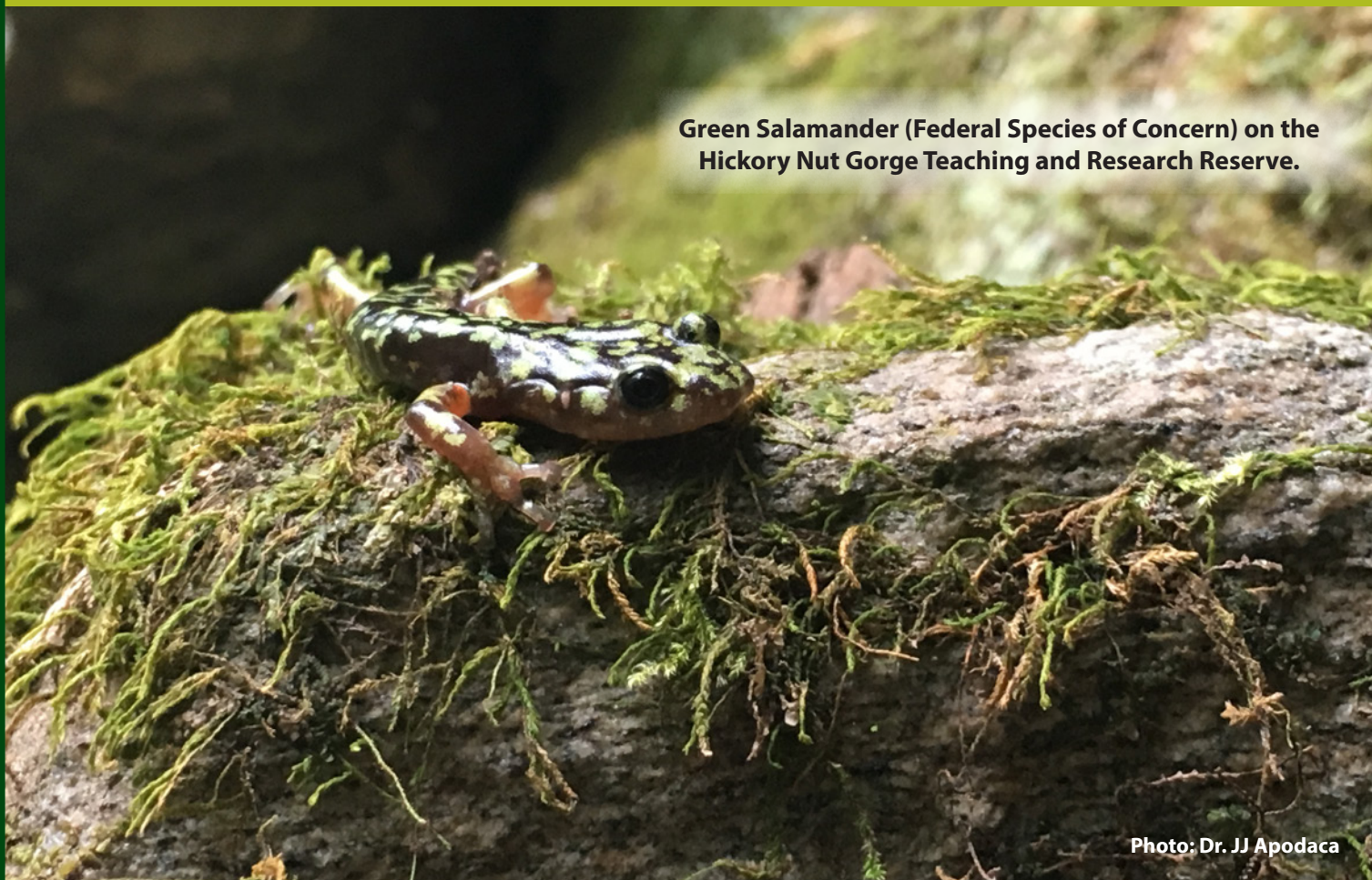
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P 828.697.5777
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carolinamountain.org



Green Salamander (Federal Species of Concern) on the Hickory Nut Gorge Teaching and Research Reserve.

Photo: Dr. JJ Apodaca

Saving the places you love

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK:



3,816.51
acres conserved



14
landowners permanently conserved
their land (retaining ownership)



21
properties
forever conserved



5
properties will provide
public access/recreational use



6
properties home to designated NC
"Species of Greatest Conservation Need"

Little White Oak Mountain



WHY IT MATTERS

"Bud, my late husband, and I have called this our home for almost 45 years. We both enjoyed being outdoors and have been so fortunate to live on Whiskey Creek next to the Carl Sandburg home. Helping to protect this National Historic Site, a beloved local treasure, from encroachment was critically important to us. CMLC worked diligently with us to accomplish our goal of conserving this land. By donating this easement to facilitate trail enhancement, we hope to provide future generations with access to the portion of our property that adjoins the Carl Sandburg Historic Site."

-Randy Hunter, Glassy Mountain conservation landowner



Caring for our lands

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK:



5

pollinator gardens planted



418

hemlock trees treated to protect against the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid



157

properties monitored to meet conservation standards



255

acres of land treated for non-native, invasive plants



46

stewardship workdays hosted



Planting milkweed at the Anne Ulinski Bog.

WHY IT MATTERS

"I have lived here all my life; I feel as though I am part of the land. With the development of the area, I am afraid of losing many precious places. It is my privilege to work with landowners and CMLC to protect these valuable natural resources. I feel free when I am working outside. Whether I'm getting my hands dirty removing invasive plants in the Hickory Nut Gorge or working on a trail at Lewis Creek—I know I am making a contribution to my neighbors in WNC."

-Jerry Warren, avid stewardship workday volunteer



Connecting with nature

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK:



28

Boys & Girls Club lessons taught



7.2

miles of new trail constructed



10

CMLC Adventures hosted



21

hikers completed a Pardee & CMLC
White Squirrel Hiking Challenge



211

kids and adults
adventured outside with us



Chipping away at the White
Squirrel Hiking Challenge on
the Trombatore Trail in the
Upper Hickory Nut Gorge.

WHY IT MATTERS

"I love that the trails have been preserved through the generosity of private citizens, advocates, CMLC, and the many volunteer trail crews. Exploring nature allows us to relax in its simple beauty. The White Squirrel Hiking Challenges provide an opportunity to discover new areas of conservation and a goal to achieve with friends who have similar interests. We're so fortunate to have access to beautiful lands and waters in WNC. We must preserve these special places; there's no getting them back once they're lost."

-Kay Shurtleff, passionate completer of Pardee & CMLC White Squirrel Hiking Challenges 1-4



Why we give...

“This place has touched us both so much, we would hate to see it lost for future generations. A walk in the woods touches your soul.”

- Daryl & David Nelms

Daryl and David Nelms were high school sweethearts. Growing up in St. Petersburg, FL, the two found themselves exploring Western North Carolina quite often. Daryl spent her summers visiting her father’s hometown of Tryon, where David would sometimes join Daryl on her summertime visits. David also took several summer trips to Blowing Rock, where his family had a cabin.

“The summers spent in the Blue Ridge Mountains made a bigger impact on who I am today than the 9 months in the city,” shares Daryl. “All throughout our careers we’ve lived in cities, but my heart has always been drawn to these mountains and the surrounding rural communities.”

In 2006, Daryl and David decided to buy land and make Mill Spring their lasting home after retirement. With their primary residence in Chicago, the couple escape to breathe the fresh mountain air whenever possible.

“Experiencing nature whether it be hiking, biking or kayaking, I feel changes people and brings out the best in them,” says Daryl. “You can’t help but be in awe when you walk in the woods and smell the rhododendrons blooming or fish on the river and listen to the water flowing. Conserving these places for future generations as well as for our use now is very important. It’s not going to be there if we don’t.”

Daryl and David have provided generous financial

support for the development of CMLC’s latest trail project in partnership with the Town of Lake Lure. The Weed Patch Mountain Trail, a 7-mile hiking and biking trail, winds through hemlocks and mountain laurel connecting Buffalo Creek Park to Eagle Rock, a scenic promontory within Chimney Rock State Park.

“It’s so exciting to see the expertise and the hard work CMLC puts into creating trails. I’m very impressed with how difficult it is to do it right, to build them sustainably with functionality and regard to the plants and trees around them. We think to some degree the funding might be the easiest part,” says David with a smile. “We’re really excited to help play a part in enabling people to experience nature the way we do.”

Daryl and David are passionate about learning what’s growing and chirping around them. From discovering enormous mushrooms, to touching American chestnuts, to encountering Timber rattlesnakes, the more they learn the more they appreciate the beauty and interconnectedness of their mountain home.

“We support CMLC because of the hard work they do to protect and preserve the wild lands and waters around us and to provide public access to these beautiful mountains,” shares Daryl. “We see more and more trails with CMLC signs on them. Being surrounded by this beauty is important, but being able to connect with it is truly what’s inspiring. CMLC is not just conserving land, but providing the means for people to experience it.”

Top: Discovering mushrooms along CMLC’s new Weed Patch Mountain Trail.

Middle: Daryl and David Nelms at their home near Mill Spring.

Bottom: Views from the summit of Weed Patch Mountain.





In program year 2015-2016, 32 full-time AmeriCorps Project Conserve members:

Served more than **55,000** hours to support critical community and conservation needs in WNC



Improved **117** miles of rivers and trails



and **87** acres of public lands in the region

Recruited nearly **2,497** volunteers



who served **16,519** hours

valued at **\$389,187**



Educated **19,880** adults and youth in environmental and conservation topics

Completed **23** projects



expanding the capacity of **12** environmental nonprofits and government agencies

Provided disaster preparedness training for **224** individuals



and disaster mitigation services benefiting **94** individuals



WHY IT MATTERS

"I know I'm not fully responsible for the improvements in the lives of the people I directly work with, but I feel I've helped contribute to their success. Helping individuals make small improvements in their lives—whether it be getting seniors outside and active or connecting kids to the wonders of nature—is working together to make a happy and healthy community. We may not be able to change the world, but we can make it a better place, one person at a time."

-Hallie Zeedik, AmeriCorps Project Conserve Trails Coordinator, Host Site: Town of Lake Lure

2016 Projects Year

Hoot Owl

176.714 Acres in Henderson County

This property, once owned by Howard McElrath, is part of a series of three conservation projects that form a wildlife bridge between two separated portions of Pisgah National Forest. Particularly important in the face of continued development in the Mills River area, the property also connects to the original 436 acres conserved by Howard himself during his lifetime.

Big Creek Lodge

21.71 Acres in Henderson County

Completely surrounded by Pisgah National Forest, this property has been saved from an impending development threat. In partnership with Trout Unlimited, we were able to conserve the property and transfer the land to the U.S. Forest Service as an addition to Pisgah National Forest. Conservation helps protect trout habitat and ensures public access to a popular trout fishery on the North Mills River. The property also provides access to several popular hiking trails and horse paths, all of which would have been difficult to access had the property been developed. The lodge, for which the property gets its name, remains under private ownership.

Brittain Nature Preserve

16.694 Acres in Henderson County

This property has been in the Brittain Family for more than 150 years. The Brittains generously donated the land to us with the explicit intent of expanding scientific and academic research opportunities in WNC. The property buffers 460 feet of the North Fork Mills River, which supplies Hendersonville's drinking water. The rare Hellbender salamanders, a federal and state species of concern considered to be vulnerable to extinction, make their home in the river.

Eagle's Nest

142.55 Acres in Transylvania County

Conserving Eagle's Nest, a summer camp and academic semester school founded in 1927, safeguards the outdoor experience for our children and grandchildren. Conservation helps create an island of protected land by joining 150 acres of previously-conserved farmland. The property contains part of a Natural Heritage Area, is home to rare plant species, and borders the Little River Aquatic Habitat, home to federally endangered aquatic species. Permanent protection of the land ensures new generations of campers and students will be inspired by mountain views, immersed in their natural science classes while exploring chilly creeks and lulled to sleep by a symphony of cicadas and screech owls.

Cedar Mountain Bog Phases II & III

21.836 Acres in Transylvania County

Owned by the State of North Carolina and one of the NC Plant Conservation Preserves, we partnered with Friends of Plant Conservation to conserve additional land surrounding Cedar Mountain Bog. The bog features a soft peat floor and is recovering after restoration work to remove encroaching shrubs and trees. The opened canopy is allowing the return of a rich diversity of plant life.

Headwaters State Forest

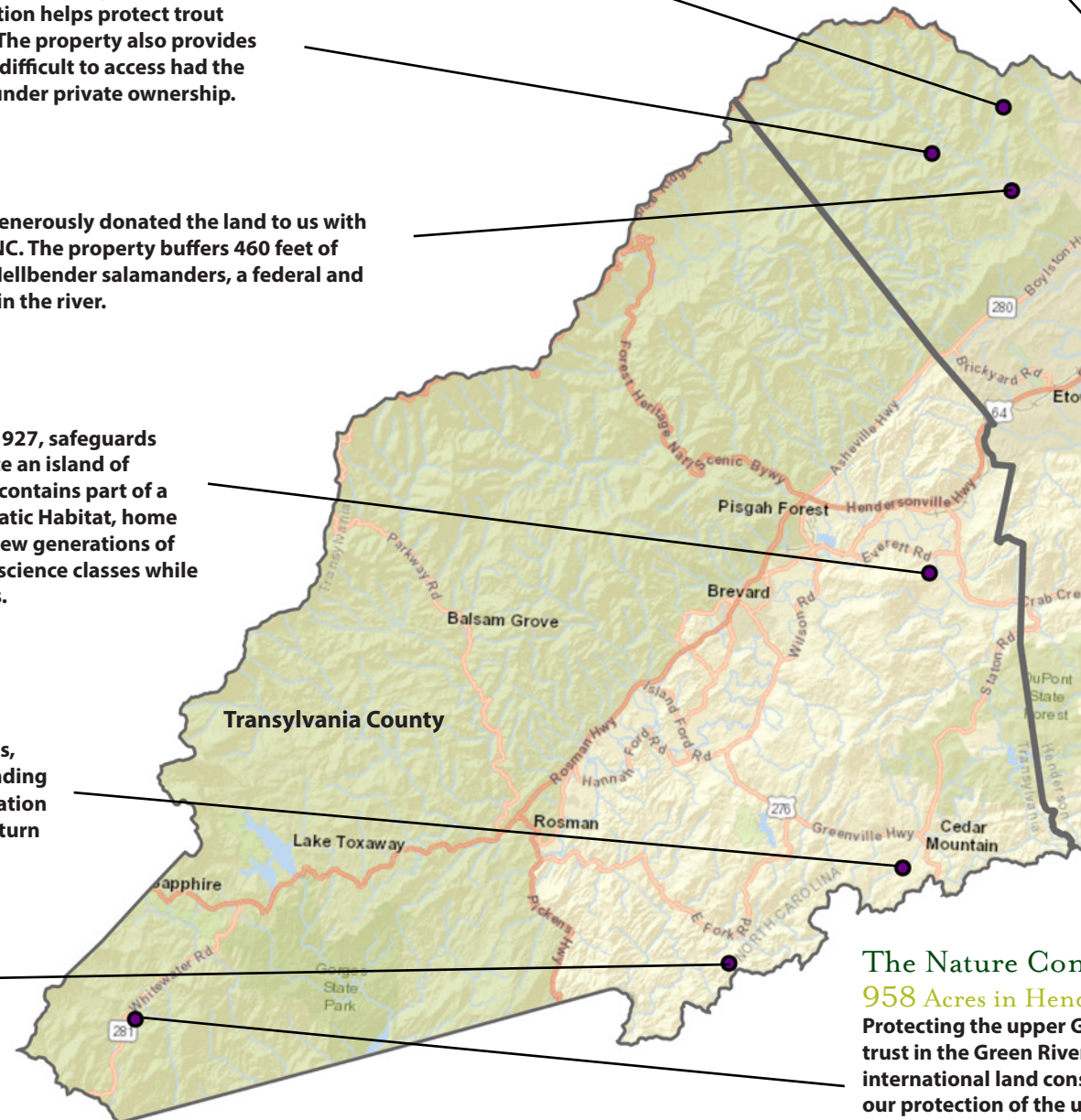
689.67 Acres in Transylvania County

This ongoing project features the pristine headwaters of the East Fork of the French Broad River, several breathtaking waterfalls, and many important threatened and endangered species. Eventually this land will create the Headwaters State Forest with future public access enabling you to experience the wonders of the lands you help protect.

French Broad River Greenway

11.99 Acres in Henderson & Buncombe

The French Broad River is one of the crown jewels of the region. As access to the river grows, we are working with the state to preserve a corridor along the river, that may be one of the most important riparian buffers.

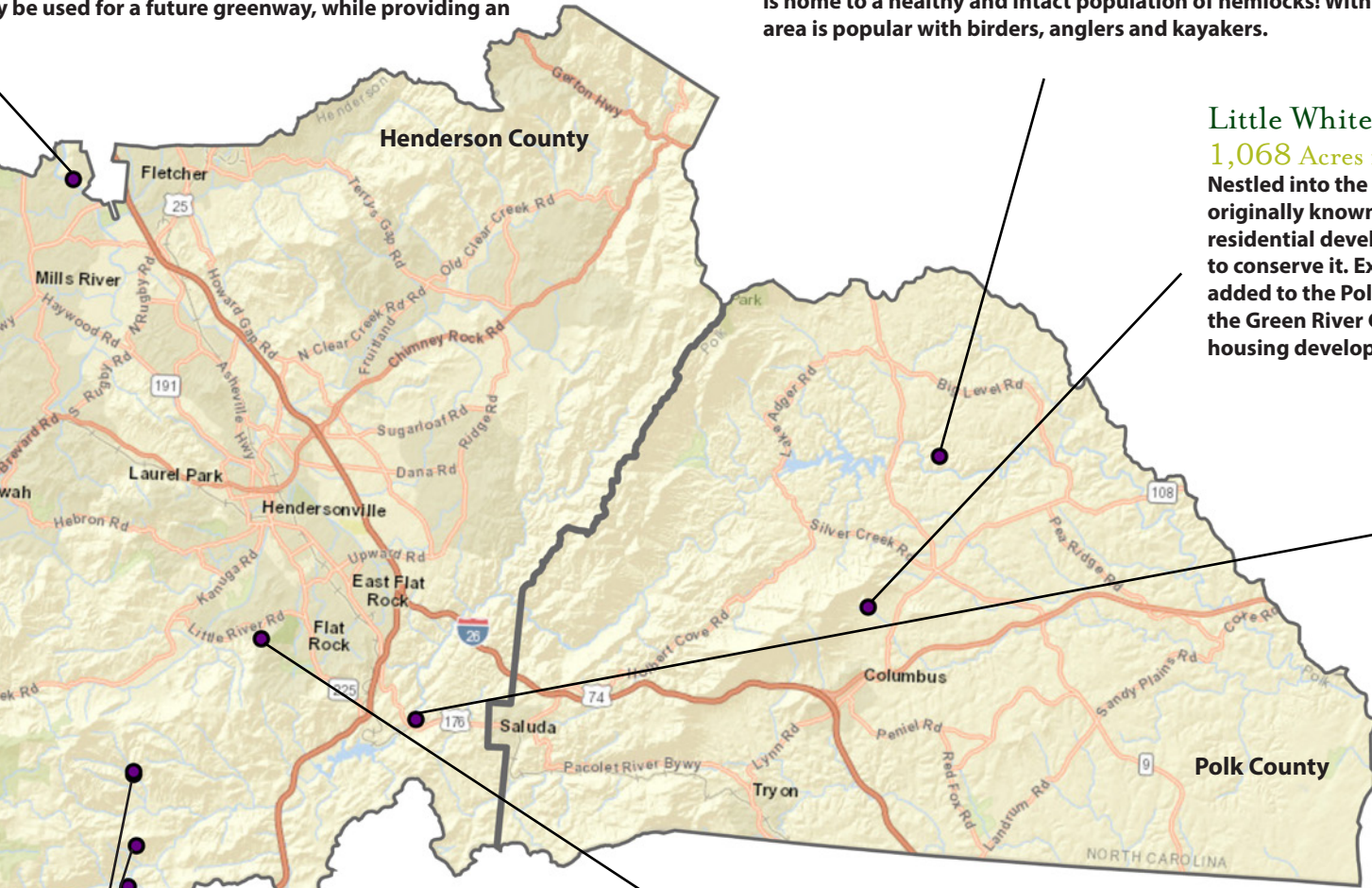


The Nature Conservancy
958 Acres in Henderson County
Protecting the upper Green River
trust in the Green River
international land conservation
our protection of the upper

You Made Possible

Conservation Counties

...g jewels of our natural heritage! As demand for
...h several partners to satisfy that desire. This project
...y be used for a future greenway, while providing an



Green River Bluffs

586 Acres in Polk County

We partnered with Polk County Community Foundation and Conservation Trust for North Carolina to purchase 155 acres upstream and 431 acres downstream of South Wilson Hill Road from a national real estate investment firm, and are exploring beneficial uses that will protect natural resources. This property is home to a healthy and intact population of hemlocks! With three miles of frontage on the Green River, the area is popular with birders, anglers and kayakers.

Little White Oak Mountain

1,068 Acres in Polk County

Nestled into the slopes of Little White Oak Mountain, this property, originally known as Foster Creek Preserve, was once slated to be a 687-unit residential development. We partnered with Pacolet Area Conservancy to conserve it. Exciting things are in the works, with a portion likely to be added to the Polk County Recreational Complex, a portion that may join the Green River Game Lands, and a portion that will become a work force housing development.

Bell Trail Park

68.92 Acres in Henderson County

This property adjoins the Green River Game Lands and features a large population of the French Broad Heartleaf, a species important to this region's natural heritage. Six species on the watch list are also found here. The property will be transferred to Henderson County to be used as a passive public recreational park. The conservation of this land achieves several of our conservation goals: protecting rare species, providing public access, and maintaining scenic views.

Glassy Mountain

49.87 Acres in Henderson County

Located adjacent to the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, this property will further our efforts to conserve parts of the Flat Rock Historic District, as well as the Flat Rock Scenic Byway. The property features an extensive system of rock outcrops, which are considered a rare habitat type.

Conservancy Transfers

Henderson & Transylvania Counties

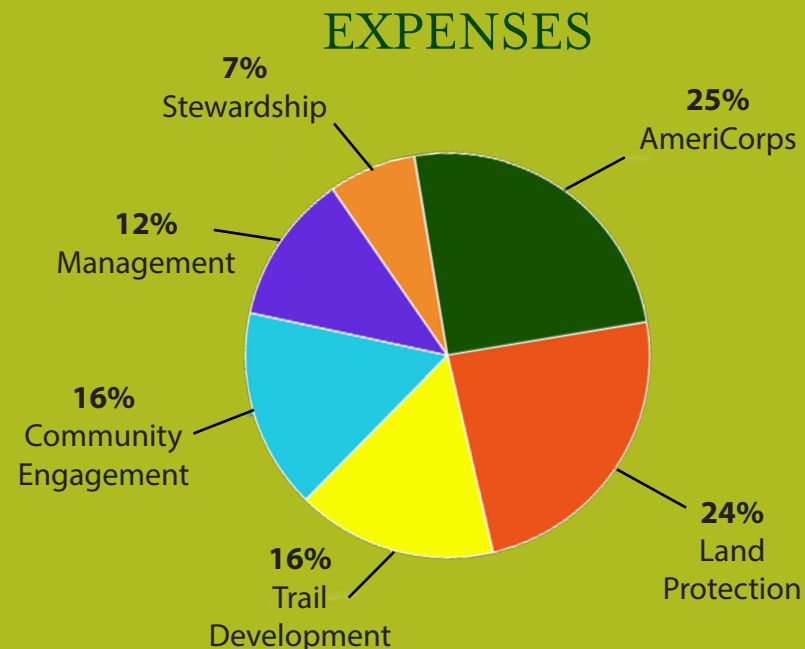
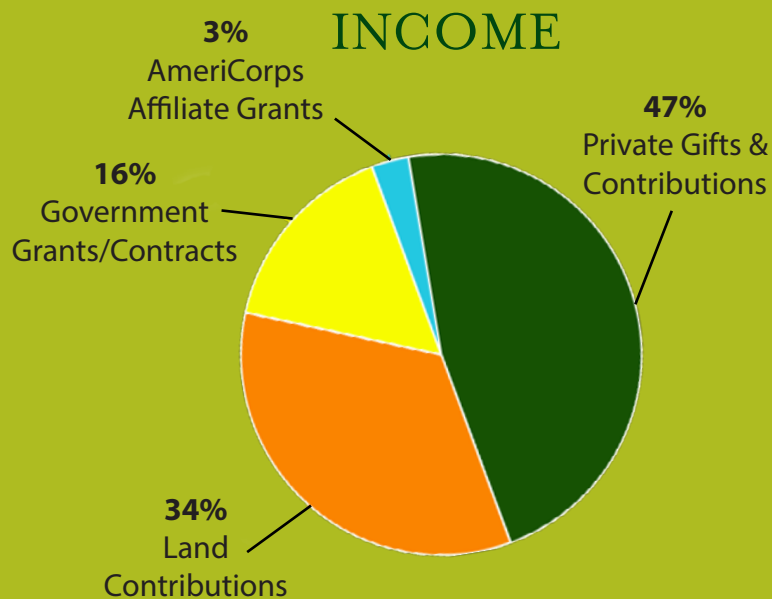
...Green River watershed has long been a priority for us. With CMLC as the local land
...r area, taking on these conservation easements from The Nature Conservancy (an
...servancy) fits our mission perfectly. The conservation easement transfers consolidate
...pper Green River watershed, where you have helped protect more than 3,700 acres.

Financials

July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016



Net Assets at June 30, 2016:
\$14,510,680



*Full audited report available upon request.

GUARDIANS OF THE GREEN BUSINESS MEMBERS

FINANCIAL GIFTS RECEIVED & PLEDGED JANUARY 1, 2016-DECEMBER 31, 2016

\$10,000 & UP



\$3,000-\$4,999



\$2,000-\$2,999



\$1,000

*Chef Michael's Catering • Duke Energy •
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\$500



*Adventure Treks • Chimney Rock Management,
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Thank you to our 2016 donors








FINANCIAL GIFTS RECEIVED
JANUARY 1, 2016-DECEMBER 31, 2016

SUMMITS SOCIETY

CMLC'S SUMMITS SOCIETY GIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION
TO DONORS WHO GIVE AT LEAST \$1,000 ANNUALLY.















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\$10,000 +

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\$5,000 – \$9,999

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SASSAFRAS MOUNTAIN









\$2,500 – \$4,999

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LITTLE PISGAH MOUNTAIN

\$1,500 – \$2,499





















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gratitude to the following
donors for their significant and
enduring contributions in 2016:

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DAVID AND DARYL NELMS

Thank you to our 2016 donors

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ALL OTHER DONORS




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LANDS AND WATERS, THE PLACES YOU CALL HOME.

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