

# View from the Highlands

36 YEARS PROTECTING THE WORLD'S OLDEST MOUNTAINS

## SAHC Earns National Recognition: Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) has been awarded accredited status by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, joining three other conservancies as the only accredited land trusts in North Carolina.

SAHC earned accreditation this March along with 11 other land trusts across the nation. Of the 1,700 land conservation groups in the country, a total of 93 have received this important distinction since the Commission was established in 2006.



“Becoming accredited is a crucial step for SAHC in order to assure our members, the landowners with whom we work, and the public that we follow rigorous ethical and professional standards,” said SAHC Executive Director, Carl Silverstein. “SAHC has always held itself to the highest possible standards, and this is our opportunity to be recognized formally for doing so.”

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★ JUNE ★  
JAMBOREE  
A PARTY  
CELEBRATING  
CONSERVATION

Registration information page 4.

**Land Trust**  
**Day** Saturday  
June 5, 2010

Participating businesses  
on the back.



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Phyllis Stiles	<b>Blue Ridge Forever Coalition</b>
Valerie True	<b>Blue Ridge Forever Coalition</b>
Nora Schubert	<b>Seasonal Ecologist</b>

## Offices

### **Main Office**

34 Wall Street, Suite 502, Asheville, NC 28801-2710  
 828.253.0095 • FAX 828.253.1248  
 sahc@appalachian.org www.appalachian.org

### **Stewardship Field Office**

804 Rock City Road, Kingsport, TN 37664  
 423.323.4993 • roanwoman@aol.com

Cover photo: Witt Langstaff, Jr.



Accreditation is awarded to land trusts that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Land trusts that are given this distinction are able to display the official accreditation seal in association with their name, indicating that they meet standards for excellence in their policies and practices, uphold the public trust and ensure that their conservation efforts are permanent.

“The accreditation seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation,” said the Commission’s Executive Director, Tammara Van Ryn. “The seal lets the public know that the accredited land trust has undergone an extensive, external review of the governance and management of its organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect land.” Land trusts applying for accreditation submit extensive documentation and make a significant commitment of time and money to participate. In a rigorous review process, the Commission examines each application, interviews the land trust and evaluates multiple sources of information, including comments from the public.

Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations. Conserving land helps ensure clean air and drinking water, food security, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat and places for people to enjoy. Across the country, local citizens and communities have come together to form land trusts to save the places they love, and have collectively conserved over 37 million acres of land.

Founded in 1974 to protect the Highlands of Roan, SAHC is one of the country’s oldest land trusts. Its mission is to conserve the unique plant and animal habitat, clean water, local farmland and scenic beauty of the mountains of North Carolina and east Tennessee for the benefit of present and future generations.

This year, with the help of its partners and members, SAHC will reach

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the milestone of protecting 50,000 acres throughout the mountain region, including key sites adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, in the Sandy Mush farming community and along the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The Land Trust Alliance, of which the Southern Appalachian Highlands

Conservancy is a member, is a national conservation group based in Washington, D.C. that works to save the places people love by strengthening conservation throughout America. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission is an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission's web

site, [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org). Learn more about the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and how to become a member at [www.appalachian.org](http://www.appalachian.org).



~ by Kristina Tarasan

## Bonner Scholars Clear Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area Trails

Bonner Scholars to the rescue! The snows of the past winter will be long remembered in some parts of the Appalachian Mountains for their impact to trees and shrubs. Countless roads and hiking trails throughout the region required hours of labor to be cleared for safe passage. The Highlands of Roan was no exception.

This spring the Bonner Scholars Program, a community service initiative that includes over 1,600 students

from 27 schools, sent students from Emory & Henry College and Mars Hill College to offer the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) assistance with a joint trail rehabilitation service project. Twenty four students volunteered to clear trails in the Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area, the trails of which had numerous downed trees, limbs and branches needing removal for the spring hiking season. Teams worked to improve the Birchfield

Trail and the Lenoir Shell Homestead Trail, where they spent much of the day clearing trees, branches and encroaching vegetation, as well as improving the footway.



Bonner Scholars Program students from Emory & Henry and Mars Hill Colleges.

SAHC looks forward to working with Bonner Scholars in future years. Without their combined help, this endeavor would have taken several work days! Many thanks to Emory & Henry advisor Christian Miller and students Brittany Gearing, Joshua Terry, Milos Jugoric, Melinda Adams, Ashley Helbert, Kent Moles, Ben Johnson, Natalie Hudok, and Nikki Lynn and to Mars Hill advisor Travis Proffitt and students Trevor Greer, Evie Tafunai, Rachel Connor, Josh

Braxton, Whitney Ball, Jeffrey Brooks, Samantha Oldham, Tina Rathburn, Paige Beddard, Michael Holcombe, Meagan Green, Holly McCormick, Lea Fuden, and Beth Hoffman. Many thanks also to SAHC team leaders David Hall, Tom Gatti and Nora Schubert. TN Natural Areas Program Stewardship Ecologist, Lisa Huff and SAHC's Highlands of Roan Stewardship Director, Judy Murray provided tools and supervision.

**The next trail maintenance work day at Hampton Creek**

**Cove State Natural Area will be in celebration of National Trails Day on Saturday, June 5. Featured trails will be the Shell Homestead Trail and the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. Volunteers are needed! For more information, refer to our website, [www.appalachian.org](http://www.appalachian.org), or contact Judy Murray at [Roanwoman@aol.com](mailto:Roanwoman@aol.com).**



★ ❄️ JUNE JAMBOREE ❄️ ★

## A Party Celebrating Conservation!

Crossnore, North Carolina is once again the site of the Conservancy's Annual Meeting, June 19 & 20. The Corpening Training Center at the Gill State Forest is our headquarters. Plans are underway to make this year's event a spectacular celebration of our 36 years of conservation work on Roan and the surrounding mountain region. Included in this handout is reservation information and a Saturday hike schedule. **Accommodations at the Corpening Center are available for Saturday night only.** They are dormitory-style with all rooms on the ground level. Most rooms accommodate two persons.

**Need Assistance?** Please check our Web site or call our office if you need answers to questions about the facility, directions, or programs.

**The following hotels and campgrounds are convenient to the site:**

**Pineola Inn** - Phone: 828.733.4979  
Web: [www.pineolainn.com](http://www.pineolainn.com)

**Best Western in Banner Elk** - Phone: 828.898.4571  
Web: [www.bestwesternbannerelk.com](http://www.bestwesternbannerelk.com)

**Down by the River Campground** - Phone: 828-733-5057  
Web: [www.downbytherivercampground.com](http://www.downbytherivercampground.com)

**Bear Den Campground** - Phone: 828-765-2888  
Web: [www.bear-den.com](http://www.bear-den.com)

Make plans now to join us for a full day of high adventure hiking, laughter and friends in conservation!

## ❄️ June Jamboree Events ❄️

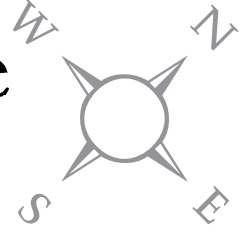
Saturday, June 19

- 9:00 - 4:00 p.m. .... Hikes in the Highlands
- 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. .... Member Social
- 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. .... Carl Silverstein, SAHC Executive Director, Election of new Trustees & past year accomplishments!
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. .... Dinner - Dine in or out
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. .... Native Plant Auction

Sunday, June 20

- 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. .... Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. .... Sunday Stroll - Rhododendron Garden
- 9:00 a.m. .... Board of Trustees Meeting

## To Get There



The Corpening Forestry Training Center is on US Highway 221, just south of Crossnore. If you are traveling south on US 221, look for the facility on the left at the foot of the hill. The Center is set back some distance from the highway, across the Linville River.

**From Boone:** take NC 105 to Linville, then US 221 south to Crossnore.

**From Newland:** take NC 194 south to its intersection with US 221 just north of Crossnore and turn right.

**From I-40:** if heading west, take NC 181 north from Morganton to Pineola, then pick up US 221 and follow it south to the facility.

**If heading east on I-40:** exit at Marion and take US 221 north to the facility.

**From Johnson City:** take US 321 to Elizabethton, then US 19E to Elk Park and NC 194 to Newland.

**From I-81 headed south:** take VA 91 south from Glade Springs to Mountain City, TN, then pick up US 421 to Boone and proceed from there.

❄️ Come Celebrate!



# HIKES IN THE HIGHLANDS

This year we offer a wonderful array of choices for hikes on Roan Mountain—one of the most biologically diverse areas in the world and home to three endangered high elevation ecosystems: grassy balds (the longest stretch in the world), spruce-fir forests and vertical rocky cliffs. Each harbors regionally, nationally & globally threatened & endangered plants and animals. Be sure to bring sturdy hiking shoes, camera, walking stick, water, sunscreen, binoculars and appropriate clothing. The weather may be sunny, rainy, windy or cool.

**Each hike will have its own departure location and time. Please take notice of this information when choosing your hike. You will receive directions to the departure location upon registration.**

## SATURDAY, JUNE 19

**Hike #1 - Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge and Return. Easy/Moderate.** Departure time 9:15 a.m. from Carvers Gap parking lot. 6-miles/Roundtrip -Approximate elevation gain 1,000 feet. This classic hike is an adventure through the highest elevation Roan balds which are considered among the most spectacular scenery along the entire Appalachian Trail. Grassy Ridge, elevation 6,189 feet, is the highest point near the AT with a natural unobstructed 360° view and offers so much more with rhododendron, flame azalea, patches of spruce-fir forest, and rare plants such as Gray's lily and Roan Mountain bluets. **Easy Option.** Those wishing an easier hike can enjoy the flowers and expansive views from Round Bald or Jane Bald.

**Leader: SAHC Trustee, David Smith**



Carvers Gap parking area sign atop Roan Mountain.

**Hike #2 -Hack Line Trail. Easy/Moderate.** Departure time 9:15 a.m. from Carver's Gap parking lot. 3-miles down-hill on old road way. The Hack Line Road,

so-named because of the horse-drawn hacks (or wagons) which transported hotel guests from what was then Roan Mountain Station to the Cloudland Hotel atop the Roan, is one of the best and earliest known mountain roads. The road was built in the mid 1870s by General John T. Wilder, a Civil War veteran. Most of the hike will be under closed canopy northern hardwood forest, require periodic crossing of a small mountain stream and end at the upper end of the Burbank community. Learn about the history of the road and Cloudland Hotel operations and engage in some general botanizing and birding. **Leader:** SAHC Seasonal Ecologist, Nora Schubert.



SAHC hikers in route to Grassy Ridge.

~ Hikes continued on next page

**Hike #3 - Yellow Mountain State Natural Area Partnership Hike.**

**Steep-Moderate/Difficult.**

Departure time 10:00 a.m. from Mollie's Branch Road. Explore three exciting new Roan acquisitions and get an overview of the newly-designated Yellow Mountain State Natural Area from the 5,500' summit of Little Yellow Mountain.

The hike starts out with a steep section then levels off to a steady rise for 2.5 miles before we break out into a grassy opening at the peak. If the day is clear we'll have spectacular views in all directions. This is a special opportunity to be among the first in the organization to climb to the top of Little Yellow. Total hike time 4 hours. **Leaders:**

SAHC Trustee, Jay Leutze and TNC Mountains Project Director, David Ray.

**Hike #4 - Streamside Hike in Roaring Creek Valley.** **Easy to Moderate.**

Departure time 10:00a.m. from the Beck Tract entrance. 3-miles. Total hike time 1 1/2 hours. There is a simple stream crossings and some uneven footing. On this hike visit two newly acquired tracts, both of which feature special water resources. The Burleson tract has a primitive trail along lovely Roaring



SAHC hiking group on a recent outing to the newly protected Beck tract.

Creek. Explore classic mid-successional habitat in hopes of hearing and seeing the threatened Golden-winged Warblers. From here, walk part of the route of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail on the way to the Beck tract to see the spectacular waterfalls on Elk Hollow Creek. **Leader:** SAHC Land Protection Director, Michelle Pugliese.



SAHC Trustee, Jay Leutze, identifying plants on the Elk Hollow Creek tract.

**Hike #5 - Elk Hollow Creek to Appalachian Trail and Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.** **Moderately Difficult.** Departure time 8:00am from the Beck Tract entrance.

5 mile loop hike in the Roaring Creek Community. Hike begins on the newly acquired Beck property at about 3800' elevation. Trail follows Elk Hollow Creek for about 1 mile at which point hikers will strike off cross country on Elk Hollow Knob to join the AT at the Stan Murray Shelter at Low Gap, elevation 5100'.

From there hike north on the AT to Yellow Mountain Gap and then descend to the valley floor along the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail to our cars. Leader: SAHC Volunteer, Tom Gatti.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 20

**Hike #6 - Cloudland Trail, Rhododendron Gardens and Roan High Bluff.**

**Easy.** Departure time 9:15 a.m. from Carver's Gap parking lot. Enjoy the world's most expansive Catawba rhododendron gardens high atop Roan. Starting at the Cloudland Hotel Site, hike along the Cloudland Trail and stroll through the

gardens. The hike will continue along the Cloudland Trail to the high cliff of Roan High Bluff, elevation 6267' with outstanding views. **Leader:** SAHC Seasonal Ecologist, Nora Schubert.



# JUNE JAMBOREE



**SEND TODAY!**

## RESERVATIONS

June 19 & 20, Crossnore, North Carolina

For more information call: (828)253-0095 • Web site: Appalachian.org

Names (as you'd like them to appear on your name tags): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (in case we have a question about your reservation) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve the following:	Per Person	Number	Total
Saturday Lodging	32.00	_____	_____
Sunday Breakfast	10.00	_____	_____

### Saturday Social & Dining

**Please choose from the following:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Prime Rib	30.00	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Salmon	30.00	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Veggie Pasta with Tofu	25.00	_____	_____

(Dinner comes with salad bar, potato bar and ice cream bar)

TOTAL ENCLOSED (make checks payable to SAHC) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/Mastercard Payments: Account#: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on your card: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check in time at the Corpening Center on Saturday, June 19 is 3:00 p.m.**

## HIKES IN THE HIGHLANDS

For planning purposes only, please indicate the hike(s) you and your guests expect to take and sign up for the Roan.

Hike #: \_\_\_\_\_ #Hikers: \_\_\_\_\_

Hike #: \_\_\_\_\_ #Hikers: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that the hikes may involve difficult or dangerous conditions, and unanticipated natural hazards may be encountered. I agree to proceed entirely at my own risk and to assume all associated liabilities. Furthermore, I agree for myself, my successors, heirs and assigns to indemnify The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy against any loss or damage which it may suffer by reason of any claim it may hereafter accrue relating to any accident or incident associated with any of the above hikes.

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

The annual membership meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 19, 2010 at the Corpening Forestry Training Facility, Crossnore, North Carolina. Business to come before the meeting will include election of nominees to the Board of Trustees.

This is a proxy form. Please sign and return the proxy immediately, particularly if you cannot attend the meeting. This is very important — no business may be conducted unless a quorum of the membership is present in person or by proxy.

The Board recommends Richard Coker of Maggie Valley, NC, Nancy Edgerton of Asheville, NC, Ken Maness of Kingsport, TN, and Milton "Buddy" Tignor of Waynesville, NC to be nominated for a first three-year term and Gary Barrigar of Elizabethton, TN, Lindsay Hearn of Asheville, NC, Bill Maxwell of Charlotte, NC, and David Ramsey of Erwin, TN to be nominated for a second three-year term. The eight nominees are active members of the Conservancy who have generously agreed to devote their time and talents in its behalf.

### Proxy:

I hereby appoint Witt Langstaff, Jr. or Carl Silverstein as proxies to vote, on my behalf as indicated below, at the Annual Meeting of The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy to be held on June 19, 2010. I also give my proxy authority to act on other business (if any) that may come before the meeting.

Nominees to the Board of Trustees:

Vote for all nominees listed above, except withhold vote from the following nominees (if any)

Vote Against

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form with your check or fax with your credit card number to:

The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, 34 Wall Street, Suite 502, Asheville, NC 28801-2710. Fax (828) 253-1248.



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# Land Trust Day

**Saturday  
June 5, 2010**



Highlands of Roan - over 18,000-acres protected



Black Mountains - over 10,000-acres protected



The Great Smokies & Balsams - over 10,000-acres protected



Mountains of East TN - over 10,000-acres protected



Farmland - over 6,000-acres protected

**What is Land Trust Day?** A promotional partnership between North Carolina & Tennessee businesses and the state's land trusts. In 1992, the first weekend of every June was named "Land Trust Day," to coincide with National Trails Day.

**How does it work?** Businesses support SAHC by donating a percentage of their sales on June 5, or by becoming a corporate member. Please call if your business would like to participate.

By supporting these businesses on June 5, you are also supporting the conservation work of SAHC!

<b>Mast General Store</b>	<b>GoAsheville.com</b>	<b>Early Girl Eatery</b>	<b>Weinhaus</b>
<b>Second Gear</b>	<b>Ten Thousand Villages</b>	<b>Bellagio Art to Wear</b>	<b>Fine Arts Theatre</b>
<b>Shoji Spa &amp; Lodge</b>	<b>thefoundling.com</b>	<b>Blue Spiral 1 Gallery</b>	<b>New Morning Gallery</b>
		<b>Laughing Seed Café</b>	<b>Carolina Native Nursery</b>

## Protecting the World's Oldest Mountains

The mission of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is to conserve the unique plant and animal habitat, clean water, farmland and scenic beauty of the mountains of western North Carolina and east Tennessee for the benefit of present and future generations. We achieve this by forging and maintaining long-term conservation relationships with private landowners, owning and managing land and encouraging strong, healthy local communities.