

Conserving farmland,  
forests, open spaces,  
and historic places  
in Virginia's New River  
region



New River Land Trust

# News

Spring 2003  
Volume 2  
Issue 1

## New River Land Trust Board

### Officers:

**President Joyce Graham** - a farm owner and developer from Elliston

**Vice President Dixie**

**Leonard** - a Carroll County farmer

**Secretary Lesley Howard** - a former regional planner from Blacksburg

**Treasurer Diane Green** - a CPA who practices in Blacksburg

### Board Members:

**Dick Barnett** - a landowner and soil district member from Elliston

**Britt Boucher** - a professional forestry planner operating from Blacksburg

**Liza Field** - a noted environmentalist and writer from Wytheville

**Tom Greene** - a district conservationist working from Christiansburg

**Andy Kegley** - a Wythe County farmer

**Bob Miller** - a retired school principal and Riner landowner

**Jerry Moles** - an environmentalist who has worked worldwide

**Jane Shaw** - a specialist in sustainable agriculture who lives in Floyd County

**Jeff Waldon** - a wildlife biologist

**Carol Wampler** - a member of the State Water Control Board and resident of Pulaski County

## Staff

**Elizabeth Obenshain** - Executive Director

**Michael Van Ness** - Land Conservation Consultant

**Holly Taylor** - Administrative Assistant

## A record year for land conservation . . . .

When Kitty Brennan looks out over the rolling hills her family has farmed in Montgomery County, she has the satisfaction of knowing that this land will remain forever as farmland.

The Brennan farm in the rapidly developing Riner community was part of almost 1,000 acres of farmland and river frontage that the New River Land Trust helped to save through conservation easements in 2002.

This year, the Land Trust already is working with landowners to conserve historic and scenic farmland in both Montgomery and Pulaski counties, an important stretch of the Little River in Floyd and pristine riverfront farms along the New River in Grayson County. A steady stream of phone calls is coming into the office from throughout the New River watershed. Landowners and the public are increasingly committed to saving the natural heritage of this beautiful part of the state and conserving the rural character of their neighborhoods.

### Easement Donors

Carol Pruner wanted to save a beautiful valley that her ancestors had farmed since the late 1700s in the historic Jacksons Ferry area of Wythe County. She was one of the first calls the New River Land Trust received for help in placing a conservation easement on the land. Today, this valley, which can be seen from the Shot Tower State Park and along the entrance road to the New River Trail State Park, is preserved for the scenic enjoyment of future generations.



Kitty Brennan, son Brien, and NRLT Executive Director Elizabeth Obenshain  
On the Brennan Farm near Riner.

On the border of Bland and Giles counties, a 54-acre wooded tract along scenic Kimberling Creek was saved from timbering by the work of Wytheville conservationist and Land Trust Board Member Liza Field. She found three buyers from Roanoke who protected the land with a conservation easement.

What motivates these landowners — and the New River Land Trust — to conserve our area's farmlands and scenic heritage?

Ask Brennan. "I never wanted to see it developed. I thought my father would have felt the same way." Brennan, revered for her years as a local teacher, didn't grow up on this farm. She actually grew up in the county jail. Not for any youthful crime record, though. Her father, Otho Webb Altizer, was county sheriff but also a farmer on his Riner land. The land he farmed will remain productive farmland — thanks to Brennan's easement.

. . . . . continued on next page

## A record year for land conservation . . . .

from page 1

### Saved Land

Among the 935.9 acres protected in 2002 in the New River watershed were;

- Carol Pruner's 210-acre scenic valley near both the New River Trail State Park and the Shot Tower State Park in Wythe County
- Brennan's 95 acres of prime farmland in Riner
- The 54 acres on Kimberling Creek
- 49 acres on the New River
- 144 acres on the Little River in Floyd County.

The New River Land Trust also worked with the Western Virginia Land Trust to preserve a 289-acre farm and the historic McDonald's Mill in the Catawba Valley owned by Ned and Janet Yost.

These properties and more in the New River Valley helped to make a record year for land conservation in Virginia. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the state agency that holds and enforces these conservation easements, recorded easements on 2,986 acres in Southwest Virginia alone in 2002.

### Land Trust Outreach

The New River Land Trust works with landowners and farmers who want to see their land conserved for traditional uses such as farming, timbering, hunting and recreation. Executive Director Elizabeth Obenshain talks daily with landowners from across the region to realize their wishes to save land that has been farmed for many generations or acreage that protects a scenic corridor.

A conservation easement, a voluntary legal restriction on the land, permanently protects land from development while still allowing the landowner to continue all traditional uses of the land such as farming. The owner can also give the land to children or sell it; in either case the easement guarantees the land will remain as open space.

A recent change in Virginia law allows landowners to turn 50 percent of the value of their donated easement, which can be worth thousands of dollars, into cash. Interested landowners can contact Elizabeth Obenshain, Executive Director of the New River Land Trust, at 951-1704, by e-mail at [betho@i-plus.net](mailto:betho@i-plus.net) or by writing P.O. Box 11057, Blacksburg, Va. 24062-1057.

## Lower your taxes and conserve land

### REDUCE YOUR STATE TAX BILL

If you are a taxpayer in Virginia, either an individual or corporation, you can reduce your 2003 state tax bill by 10 percent or more by buying conservation tax credits.

Although most Virginians can benefit, this incentive is especially valuable for wealthy taxpayers who would save taxes at the highest top marginal rates.

Under federal tax law, landowners are allowed a deduction when they place a perpetual restriction on development of their land, known as a *conservation easement*. Virginia now offers a tax credit for half the appraised value of their donated easement. Each dollar of tax credit removes a dollar from the landowner's tax bill; any excess can be carried forward for five years. For the first time this year, Virginia is allowing landowners to sell these tax credits.

### HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT

You can buy these credits from one of your neighbors or from a landowner anywhere in the state. You can also carry forward any unused portion of a purchased tax credit.

Although several companies have formed to market these credits, you may also be able to make a direct private purchase through an accountant, lawyer, or financial planner. By arranging a purchase locally, you may be able to negotiate a better rate than the 90-cents-on-the-dollar being quoted by some for-profit credit brokers.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP CONSERVE LAND

In recognition of the work being done by local Land Trusts in promoting conservation easements and the preservation of our beautiful Virginia countryside, we encourage you to qualify for yet another charitable deduction by donating part of your tax savings to your local land trust. Then you will both save on taxes and save Virginia's natural landscape.

For more information, contact:

Elizabeth Obenshain, Executive Director  
New River Land Trust: [540] 951-1704  
[betho@i-plus.net](mailto:betho@i-plus.net)  
P.O. Box 111057  
Blacksburg, VA 24062-1057

## The Tax Advantages of Conservation Easements

The New River Land Trust is working hard to get information out to all area landowners that they can benefit in cash and generous tax deductions for putting a conservation easement on their property. For anyone facing estate taxes, a conservation easement can make the difference between having to sell the farm to pay taxes vs. keeping the farm and paying little if any estate taxes. The best part is that the landowner continues to own his farm and enjoy all its traditional uses. Here's a quick summary of some of the tax advantages. Please call us for more information.

### I. State tax credit = Cash

Virginia allows landowners who donate a conservation easement to turn 50 percent of the value of that conservation easement into cash. [The value of a conservation easement is the difference between the land's value with all its development rights and its value after these development rights are removed.]

The landowner can use the tax credit worth 50 percent of the easement's value to reduce his or her state income taxes over six years.

Alternatively, the landowner can sell the credit, often totaling thousands of dollars, for cash. For land-rich and cash-poor farmers, this could make a conservation easement a smart financial move for the family. This cash-for-conservation tax credit can help you keep your farm and yet still harvest the cash you need for retirement or other expenses. Brokers will purchase these credits at approximately 80 cents on the dollar and re-sell them to other Virginia taxpayers. To start the process, talk to your accountant and lawyer or other financial advisers about whether this program would benefit you and your family.

### II. State and federal income tax deductions

Landowners can also qualify for state and federal charitable deductions for the value of their donated easement. The landowner can apply this deduction to up to 30 percent of income over six years.

### III. Estate taxes:

It doesn't take much land these days to bump into the \$1 million inheritance tax ceiling. A conservation easement can dramatically lower the value of a farm and shrink or even eliminate inheritance taxes. The IRS also exempts from inheritance taxes 40 percent of the value of land that is under easement.

*As a landowner, you probably "don't like to be told what to do with your real estate. But listen carefully: if you don't take some action, if you don't begin planning now, the government is going to tell your family what to do with your real estate and your heirs aren't going to like what they hear."* Stephen J. Small, PRESERVING FAMILY LANDS.

To learn more about conservation easements, call Executive Director Beth Obenshain at 951-1704.

## Why an Endowed Fund at the Community Foundation?

In December 2000 two members of the NRLT established an endowed fund for the New River Land Trust at the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. The fund is not yet fully endowed (donations to date total \$6,000 and the fund will be endowed at \$10,000), but when it is, the interest it earns will provide a permanent source of funding for land conservation projects in the New River region. These funds may go to projects as diverse as land purchase, streambank restoration, or to operating funds for land conservation organizations such as the NRLT.

The fund is a donor-advised fund, meaning that the CFNRV will seek input from the fund establishers before any distribution from the fund is made. However, ultimately, the CFNRV is the steward of the fund.

Please contact the CFNRV directly at 540-381-8999, or [fnrv@cfnrv.org](mailto:fnrv@cfnrv.org) if you wish to make a contribution to the NRLT Endowed Fund. The CFNRV welcomes gifts of cash, stock, securities, and/or bequests.

[newriverlandtrust.org](http://newriverlandtrust.org)

Visit our new website!

The New River Land Trust now has its own website hosted by Blacksburg Electronic Village (BEV). Thanks to the generous donated efforts of Lisa Bachelder, you can find important information on conservation easements, tax credits and other Land Trust work by visiting us online.

## Our Unbelievably Wonderful Volunteers

Why do the dollars you give our Land Trust stretch so far? The hours and hours that our volunteers and our board members give us. Just a few of our "heroes" are:

**Tom Kegley**, an advertising executive from Riner who gave us hours of his time to design our brochures and a stunning display board that we can use at community events

**Ann Groves**, who volunteers each week in the Land Trust office

**Lisa Bachelder**, who developed our website

**Linda Wilson**, who designed this newsletter

**John Christman and the staff at Anderson & Associates**, who developed awesome maps of our service region

**David Jones**, who has helped us with development

**Numerous others** who are now serving on our committees, helping us with outreach and countless other efforts.

One of our volunteers has now joined our "staff." We welcome **Holly Taylor** as our administrative assistant.

We thank you all!

## NEW RIVER LAND TRUST DONORS

### 2001 DONORS

#### BENEFACTORS (\$5000 AND ABOVE)

Phil and Charlotte Hanes

#### CONSERVATORS (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Lesley Howard and Glenn Skutt  
Elizabeth Obenshain

#### STEWARDS (\$250 - \$499)

Ken and Harriett Cooper

#### ASSOCIATES (\$100 - \$249)

Shawn and Molly Hash  
Andy and Nan Kegley  
Chimer D. Moore  
Andy and Susan Morikawa  
Afred and Virle Payne  
David and Lindsay West

#### FRIENDS (\$50 - \$99)

Robert and Mary Giles  
Bobby Jo Jennings  
Robert and Janet Rankin  
Jesse Richardson  
F. Mark Stanley  
Michael Van Ness

#### SUPPORTERS (UP TO \$49)

Rosemary Blieszner and Steve Gerus  
Leigh B. Hanes, Jr.  
Barbara Holcomb  
Nadine Newcomb  
Duncan and Sarah Porter  
Dan and Frieda Post  
Katherine Soniat

### 2002 DONORS

#### BENEFACTORS(\$5000 OR MORE)

Phil and Charlotte Hanes

#### Conservators (\$1000 or more)

Paul Angermeier and Elizabeth Stinson  
Crenshaw Lighting Corporation  
Robert and Betty Field  
Joyce Graham  
Lesley Howard and Glenn Skutt  
Alfred and Virle Payne

#### SUSTAINERS (\$500 OR MORE)

Annie Kays Whole Foods  
John and Elizabeth Bush  
Land Trust Alliance  
Jim and Bobbie Littlefield  
Donald and Martha Orth

#### STEWARDS (\$250 OR MORE)

James H. Craig  
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#### ASSOCIATES (\$100 OR MORE)

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David and Lindsay West

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Eric Smith and Leslie Hager-Smith  
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#### SUPPORTERS (UP TO \$49)

Roger and JoAnn Asbury  
Bernadine Banning  
Richard Barnett  
Walter and Frances Barton  
Rosemary Bazuzi and Carl Virgin  
Judith Carole Beale  
Rosemary Blieszner and Stephen Gerus  
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Jill Stewart  
Kevin and Michele Sullivan  
The Made in Virginia Store, Inc.  
Jefferson and Sally Walson  
Carroll and Gloria Wessinger  
Larry and Lucile Wilhite

#### IN MEMORY OF

Dr. and Mrs. Sam Obenshain  
by Phyllis K. Appler

#### IN HONOR OF

Liza Field  
by Robert H. Kulp  
David and Donna Mahley  
by P. Clare McBrien

## NEW RIVER LAND TRUST DONORS

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2002 DONORS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>IN HONOR OF</b>                  Dan and Sandie Greene                  Deigh and Sara Keys                  Albert and Melissa Keatts                  Cliff and Martha Purvis                  by Tom Greene</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2003 FIRST QUARTER GIFTS</b></p> <p><b>BENEFACTORS (\$5,000 OR MORE)</b>                  Phil and Charlotte Hanes                  William E. Larsen Charitable Trust                  Virginia Environmental Endowment</p> <p><b>SUSTAINERS (\$500 - \$999)</b>                  Ken and Harriett Cooper                  Betty and Robert Field                  Gay and Keese, Incorporated</p>	<p><b>STEWARDS (\$250 - \$499)</b>                  Gralla Family Philanthropic Fund                  Joyce Graham                  Thomas Little</p> <p><b>ASSOCIATES (\$100 - \$249)</b>                  Phyllis Albritton                  Charles and Mary Houska                  Lesley Howard and Glenn Skutt                  David and Carole Nickerson                  Frank Rogers, Jr.                  Jane Sigloh                  William Sydor</p> <p><b>FRIENDS (\$50 - \$99)</b>                  Charlot Berry                  Susan Hankins and Russ Meller                  Becky Hepler and Rick Teague                  Franklin and Ginny Jones                  Jesse Richardson, Jr.                  David Scheim and Lucy Goldberg</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTERS (UP TO \$49)</b>                  James Coen, Jr.                  Paul and Maxine Dellinger                  Charles and Lolita Ellis                  Barbara Holcomb                  Nina Koss and Clark Webb                  Robert Munson                  Lisa Poley and Will Stacy                  Daniel and Frieda Post                  Tom and Mary Ryan                  Kusum and Mahendra Singh                  Jill Stewart                  Judith C. Fiebig Vadil                  David and Mary Wiley</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>IN HONOR OF</b>                  Chris and Trish Thompson                  by Gralla Family Philanthropic Fund</p>
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### SPECIAL THANKS

The New River Land Trust would like to offer a special thanks to these generous donors who believe in our work:

**CHARLOTTE AND PHIL HANES:** The Hanes have donated thousands of dollars to underwrite land conservation efforts along a pristine corridor of the New River. Michael Van Ness has been working with farmers in Grayson County to obtain conservation easements.

**THE WILLIAM E. LARSEN CHARITABLE TRUST:** The local trust established by the former Riner Christmas Tree farmer and committed conservationist has donated \$25,000 to aid the Land Trust in its work.

**THE VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL ENDOWMENT** awarded the NRLT a \$10,000 challenge grant for educational efforts and seminars on land conservation. With the generous support of you, our members and donors, we were able to match their grant this year.

### Saving the New

In Grayson County, Michael Van Ness is directing the Land Trust's efforts to conserve family farms along a pristine section of the New River. This work has been generously funded by Phil and Charlotte Hanes of Winston-Salem, N.C.

The New River in Grayson County flows through miles of farmland--a landscape that is now threatened by rapid and dense development. Michael Van Ness is working with landowners, many of whose farms date back to king's grants to make it financially advantageous for them to conserve their land. The Land Trust is working with the regional RC&D board to apply for federal farm funds to help pay for a conservation easement on one critical farm. Generous state tax credits are also an incentive for other area landowners.

Michael also worked with area farmers to win passage of land-use taxation in Grayson County, one of the few counties in the state that doesn't allow a lower rate of taxation for productive farms and forest land. Opposition from the county government, however, led the landowners to withdraw the application rather than see it defeated. Michael's work is critical to protect this stretch of the New River. Funding for this important project, however, is running out in May. The Land Trust welcomes any donations to continue work along the New River.

## How did the NRLT get started, anyway?

Lesley Howard, a Land Trust board member, called a meeting in the fall of 1998 for "citizens interested in developing a land trust in the New River Valley." She decided to advertise such a meeting after hearing from a local planner that a "no-development" option was simply never discussed when considering development proposals.

The project moved in fits and starts, as the all-volunteer group struggled to define an initial project and identify like-minded organizations. NRLT members also conducted one-on-one interviews with leaders across the region to determine what the perception of need for a land trust was. The interviewees learned that New River Valley citizens hold their landscapes near and dear to their hearts, but often felt powerless to change what many of them called development "sprawl."

It was clear that an active land trust could make a significant difference in the landscape of the region. The next question facing the NRLT volunteers was whether or not they should become a chapter of the Western Virginia Land Trust (WVLT) or incorporate as a separate entity.

At a retreat of the NRLT in the fall of 2001, NRLT volunteers balanced the pros and cons of incorporation. One of the heaviest weights on the side of independent incorporation was the information that had emerged from the interviews: the relationship between landowners and a land trust is critical. If farmers and landowners didn't know the people involved in a land trust, it seemed unlikely that would pursue the opportunities to conserve their land that a land trust can make available.

The decision to incorporate was agreed upon unanimously, a board of officers was elected, and by December 2001 the land trust had filed its paperwork with the State Corporation Commission.

Many of those who attended that first meeting in 1998 became founding board members: Tom Greene, Lesley Howard, and Dylan Jenkins (recently departed for a job in Pennsylvania). Beth Obenshain, who attended in her capacity as a Roanoke Times editorial writer, currently occupies NRLT's Executive Director's chair. Kitty Brennan, another first-meeting attendee, has recently put an easement on her property in Riner.

The NRLT looks forward to a strong future based on our grassroots beginnings.

. . . . . *Lesley Howard*

## Increasing profits for farmers and forest owners

Conserving farms and forests is an uphill struggle as long as land's value for development far exceeds its value for farming or forestry. The New River Land Trust is addressing this problem by developing a grant proposal to use new technology and management methods to help landowners make their farms more profitable.

Even with the promise of future profits, many landowners do not have the money to change the way they farm or to care for their forest lands. The Land Trust's proposal would set up a revolving loan fund to help owners pay for certified forest management plans and keep their land in forests and agriculture. Foresters Incorporated of Blacksburg and Next Generation Woods in Montgomery County are partners in this project.

The program is designed to help forest owners sell their timber into a niche market and meet SmartWood certification. Certification requires that professional foresters develop management plans that ensure sustainable yields in perpetuity. This timber yield can produce a steady income stream for landowners. The project will also develop low-impact harvesting that encourages forest regeneration and protects water quality and biodiversity.

The Land Trust's Program Committee proposal also seeks start-up funds to establish an owners cooperative that will allow timber owners to benefit from value-added steps and sell a specialized product, such as wood flooring, rather than raw timber.

The proposal will be completed in early April and forwarded to funding agencies, foundations, and other interested parties.

. . . . . *Jerry Moles*

## Don't forget to visit our new website at [newriverlandtrust.org](http://newriverlandtrust.org)

If you are aware of other websites related to conservation easements, please email their addresses to [betho@i-plus.net](mailto:betho@i-plus.net) and we'll add them to the LINKS section of our website.

# SAVING LAND: A Road Map to Conservation Easements for Professionals & Landowners

Sponsored by the New River Land Trust

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 21, 2003 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Mark your calendars!  
**LOCATION:** Donaldson Brown Conference Center at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg  
**COST:** \$150 for professionals; no charge for landowners. Refreshments, lunch, & materials are included.  
**SPECIAL GUEST:** Secretary of Natural Resources Tayloe Murphy is expected to open the program.  
**TO REGISTER:** Fill out attached form

**Who should attend?** Lawyers, accountants, appraisers, financial planners, landowners.

**Credits:** Five continuing legal education credits (including 1 hour of ethics credit), as well as other professional education credits, are pending & expected to be approved.

The **New River Land Trust** will present a one-day seminar on conservation easements and the state and federal tax advantages available to landowners who donate easements. The seminar will provide professionals with the information they need to help clients use conservation easements to save their land and to reduce their tax burdens. The program will educate landowners on the role that each type of professional -- as well as the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and local land trust can play in making their conservation easement effective.

**Keynote speaker:** Nancy McLaughlin, an authority on estate planning and conservation easements with extensive experience in drafting conservation easements for landowners in Virginia. After practicing law for a number of years in Charlottesville, Ms. McLaughlin is now a professor at the University of Utah, College of Law.

**Ethics presentation:** Jesse Richardson, a legal expert in ethics, as well as an experienced conservation lawyer and professor, will give a one-hour program on ethical considerations regarding conservation easements.

**Panel members:** Tamara Vance, Virginia Outdoors Foundation executive director; Kristen Smith, estate lawyer with extensive experience in tax & conservation easements; Randi Lemon, an experienced appraiser; Leon App, Acting Deputy Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation; Michael Van Ness, conservation lawyer and easement expert; Steve Wagner, estate lawyer and landowner; Joyce Graham, landowner & developer; and representatives of other professional disciplines. Hypothetical case studies will be used extensively in the program.

**The seminar is being presented with financial support from the Virginia Environmental Endowment.**

Registration Fee for Professionals: \$150  
No charge for landowners - no professional credit

Registration deadline: May 7, 2003  
Please send one form for each registrant

Mail registration form & check (if applicable) to:  
New River Land Trust  
P.O.Box 11057  
Blacksburg, VA 24062-1057  
Phone: [540] 951-1704

We look forward to your joining us on:  
Wednesday, May 21, 2003  
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Donaldson Brown Conference Center  
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

## SAVING LAND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone/Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Revolving Land Rescue Fund

Often, lands come suddenly up for sale, too quickly for a conservation buyer to be found. In such cases, collectively with other conservation non-profits in our region, we are creating an emergency land-rescue fund and list of potential short-term no-interest lenders who would be willing to help us purchase the land, place a conservation easement on it, and sell the land to a conservation buyer, thus freeing up the fund for use in the next land rescue! If you would like to contribute or would be willing to lend an amount, if needed, for these temporary rescues, we'd be glad to talk with you about it.

### YES, PUT ME ON THE LIST!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Conservation Buyers Needed

CONSERVATION BUYERS NEEDED NOW to rescue the Jackson Farm that includes a lovely one-mile frontage on the New River in Wythe County. Other special places also need your help. **If you are . . .**

- looking for rural land to own and protect
- willing to place a conservation easement on the property into perpetuity
- interested in conservation tax deductions/benefits
- in love with our region's unique rural character/New River/mountains/creeks/wildlife



*From left to right: Aline Jackson, her grandson Robert Blair, June Jackson Weatherman, and Michael Van Ness on the Jackson Farm in Wythe County. Photo by Liza Field.*

. . . **then we need YOU!** Join our list of conservation buyers and let us contact you when vulnerable scenic lands come up for sale. You will be asked and helped to negotiate a fair purchase price and design a conservation easement for your property. You'll retain most property rights, excluding major subdivisions and development, and be a candidate for several tax benefits.

### YES, PUT ME ON THE LIST!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Honor Your Father or Mother on Their Special Day

LOVE YOUR MOTHER! FOSTER OUR LIFE STREAM! SAVE AN ACRE OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA for Mother Earth, FATHER TIME, their kids, and many offspring to come!

Last year NRLT protected almost 1,000 acres. This year, with a budget of \$100,000, we plan to save more of our New River landscape. Collectively, we are able to protect far more land, more efficiently, than any individual alone. By working together we can save open space for a fraction of its market value -- about \$100 an acre. We believe this is the best land deal in Virginia. With our scenic lands rapidly vanishing from our landscape, now is the ONLY time we can protect these places. Without our help, our children and grandchildren will likely have no chance to salvage Virginia's rural beauties, creek corridors, or mountainsides. Help us do it for them—and Mother Earth--while we can.

Give a Mother's Day or Father's Day gift that will last forever. Simply fill out the form below and we'll send your mother or father a personalized "green deed" to commemorate acreage your donation will help to protect.

**Check the appropriate box:**

I am making this gift toward land conservation in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help protect land in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

My name: \_\_\_\_\_ My address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please  
check:  10 acres: \$1000  
 5 acres \$500  
 1 acre \$100  
 ½ acre \$50  
 ¼ acre \$25



*Rhiannon Dawson and her granddad Rich Kingery by the New River at Foster Falls. Photo by Connie Kingery.*

**PLEASE NOTE**

**Deadline for Mother's Day [May 11th] is May 5th.  
Deadline for Father's Day [June 15th] is June 5th.**