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THE WEST VIRGINIA LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

Spring Update 2006

January – April 2006

The West Virginia Land Trust is at work for the state's special places!

Only a few months into 2006, we are engaged in several important issues directly impacting land protection in our state:

- ⇒ We finalized our greenway recommendations for the southside of greater Charleston, and are participating with the Charleston Land Trust to implement some concepts and to develop others. The capital city is embracing alternative transportation routes and recreational trail planning, and we couldn't be happier!
- ⇒ Our Special Places Award dinner in late January drew nearly 130 people and many more supporters who came out to celebrate Holmes and Antoinette Morrison for their donation of a conservation easement on their 55-acre private property in a development-pressured corner of Kanawha County. The response to this wonderful event has been energetic, and property owners with parcels of all sizes are reaching out to the WVLT for help in protecting their land. We have had requests for help protecting parcels from 9 to 900 acres in size!
- ⇒ We continue our membership in the Coalition of West Virginia Land Trusts, a working group of organizations of all sizes developing a unified voice to advocate for public policies supporting land conservation.
- ⇒ Our land protection committee is working with other conservation organizations to share land evaluation criteria, and to model collaboration for local land trusts. The intent is to both improve everyone's capacity and process, while protecting more land by making appropriate referrals within the land trust community.
- ⇒ We added two new members to our Board of Directors representing Morgantown and Lewisburg – two of the most attractive and rapidly expanding development areas in West Virginia.
- ⇒ We are thrilled to contract this spring with a new land monitor, who is reviewing all property baseline documents and visiting each parcel to ensure the integrity of all our conservation easements. His work should allow us to procure and maintain even more easements.

With your help, we can do even more!

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We're on the Web!
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West Virginia Land Trust Board Members

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