

# ViewShed



THE WEST VIRGINIA LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

October 2005

## WVLT Partners with Morrison Family to Conserve Land in Area Growing in Popularity, Development

The WVLT is eternally grateful to **Holmes and Antoinette Morrison** for their committed partnership in protecting their 55-acre Kanawha County property by granting a conservation easement to the WVLT. Their privately owned land is situated in an area of the county that has become very popular, and its preservation is an important victory in our efforts to preserve green space in our state.

The Morrises worked closely with WVLT board and staff to construct and implement permanent legal protection of their land's resources. The land's wildlife habitat, forests, plants, streams and views will be forever preserved. This action is particularly important in their corner of the county, where development has increased significantly over the last several years. The Morrison property has a long history as one of the most scenic private properties in Kanawha County. Generations have enjoyed watching annual hawk migrations, walks through the woods and beautiful open views from this land.

The WVLT works to conserve our state's landscape through voluntary conservation easements. Landowners who donate a perpetual easement restrict development on their property, while retaining ownership or all uses deemed mutually acceptable under the terms of the easement and earning an appropriate tax break on the property.

If you are interested in learning more about conservation easements, please contact us at [info@wvlandtrust.org](mailto:info@wvlandtrust.org), or by phone at 1-866-WVA-LAND. A staff person will contact you with our standard checklist of questions to see if your situation might qualify as one of our conservation priority projects. Most projects must be on property 50 acres or larger, but there are exceptions, such as if your land adjoins federal, state, or local forest or park, or other land protected by a conservation organization.

## Update on Access: Wallace-Hartman Nature Preserve

The WVLT is pleased to report that the Wallace Hartman Nature Preserve (WHNP) recently received a grant from **The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation** to support trailhead development with the Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission.

While those "in the know" have quietly used this public space for hiking and an outdoor classroom, the next phase of its development will be volunteer work to further clear trails and a collaborative effort with various community groups, including the support group Friends of the WHNP, to establish one of three trailheads to establish a higher profile for this marvelous property. We anticipate our first completed trailhead will be for pedestrian and bicycle access only. If you would like to be a part of this project (money, time, consultation, down-in-the-dirt work!), please call Elizabeth Damewood at 304-342-6972, or by email at [edamewood@te-associates.com](mailto:edamewood@te-associates.com).

### Did you know:

- ⇒ THAT SOME STATISTICS SUGGEST OUR NATURAL AREAS ARE DISAPPEARING AT THE RATE OF 8 SQUARE MILES PER DAY?
- ⇒ THAT LANDOWNERS RETAIN OWNERSHIP OF THEIR LAND WHEN THEY CHOOSE A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?
- ⇒ THAT YOUR GIFT TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?

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ALL SUSTAINABLE  
KANAWHA VALLEY  
INITIATIVE PROJECTS MUST  
DEMONSTRATE  
SUSTAINABILITY LINKAGES

- ⇒ COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION AND  
PARTICIPATION
- ⇒ HUMAN DIGNITY/  
HUMAN SERVICES
- ⇒ OPEN SPACE AND  
LAND USE

## WVLT Awarded Sustainable Communities Grant

The West Virginia Land Trust has been awarded a \$10,000 sustainable communities grant from The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation to develop recommendations that would enable public and private stakeholders to create a network of greenspace and trails.

This network, or Greater Charleston Greenway, will help to ensure that our treasured natural, historical, cultural, and recreational values are conserved for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors.

The Greenway will physically link neighborhoods within Charleston and open the door to linking Charleston with other communities. It will provide outstanding recreational and educational opportunities for families and individuals and help to create a healthier, more sustainable, more cohesive community.

## WVLT 2005 Giving Circles To Date — Thank You!

### Goldenseal \$5,000 & up

Ted & Calvert Armbrecht  
Dow Chemical Company  
The Greater Kanawha Valley  
Foundation  
J. Holmes & Antoinette B.  
Morrison

### Silverbell \$1,000- \$4,999

Ouida Caldwell Davis  
Elizabeth Zimmerman

### Red Spruce \$500-\$999

John & Cynthia Barrett  
Chap & Tracy Donovan  
Piney Land Company  
James & Clara Thomas  
Enid Warner

### Mountain Laurel \$250-\$499

Helen Epps  
Herbert & Gloria Jones  
North Side Properties, LLC  
Nina Ratrie Peyton

### American Holly \$100-\$249

Sally Brenton  
Catherine Hart Brown  
Joe Carney  
Nelle Chilton  
David & Sandy Cowan  
Tom & Betty Damewood  
Mary Alice Elkins  
Terrell Ellis & Associates, Inc.  
Richard Flinn  
Stanely F. Forbes  
Fred Freme  
Shawn & Ginny George  
Rod & Helen Graves  
Jackie Hallinan  
James & Jodie Hartman

J.C. Jefferds  
Howard & Elizabeth Johnson  
Frances P. Jones  
Charles T. Jones  
Marjorie Lewellen  
Thomas & Callen McJunkin  
Ed Maguire

Breck Martin  
Mary Jane Murphy  
Margaret Payne  
Ted Platz  
Susan Poffenbarger  
Judy Rodd  
W.M. & Jane Shepherd  
H. Craig & Carla Slaughter  
S. Willis & Elizabeth Trammell

### Sugar Maple \$50-\$99

Harry & Mary Wallace  
Martha G. Wehrle  
Harry & Elizabeth Casto  
John & Lisa Casto  
Elizabeth Chilton  
Ellsworth R. Clark  
Paul & Ardath Francke  
Mary Locke Gallaher  
Cavendish Galyean  
David & Teresa Hammond  
Sallie Hart  
Frances & Patty Jones  
Joy Kleeman  
Robert & Dee Leggett  
Richard McRoberts  
John & Kathleen Merrill  
Blane & Mary Anne Michael  
Larry E. Morse  
John D. Pope  
Johnathan P. Rice  
Stuart Lewis Smith

Mrs. William MacCorkle Smith

Helen Thalheimer  
Nancy Blue Thomas  
Harry & Catherine Wallace  
Katherine F. Wellford  
Supporters \$1- \$49

Clarence Aleshire  
Paul Atkins  
Betty Bailes  
Mark Benedict & Georgia  
Jeppesen  
Alton & Elizabeth Byers  
Garnet Byrne  
Linda Cooper  
Elizabeth Degges  
Michele Goldsborough  
Robert & Margaret Goldsmith  
Roger Goad  
Laurie A. Helgoe  
Mary Buffington Jenkins  
Emory Kemp  
David Klinger  
Steven Mace  
Kemp McElwee  
William P. & Denise McNeel  
Richard Merrill  
Elizabeth Merritt  
Jeff Nelsen  
Audy Perry  
Ruth Peyton  
Ronald Preston  
Paul & Diane Shannon  
Annette H. Taylor  
John Taylor  
Curtis & Lucy Withrow



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## WVLT Board Sets 20 Year Vision

Members of the WVLT Board of Directors met for a strategic planning retreat in March 2005 in Ripley, West Virginia. The retreat was facilitated by Jennifer Belcher. Ms. Belcher is a West Virginia native, and has a distinguished career in public service and conservation work. Ms. Belcher led the group through a process of thinking about the long-term vision. This resulted in the establishment of two goals. In 2015, the WVLT will have:

1. Become recognized as a state leader in land conservation by protecting significant land of high public conservation value, especially large, contiguous areas—both by our own efforts and by partnering with other land trusts.
2. Led the development of a statewide, coordinated land conservation program.

Success in attaining these leadership goals will be measured by Education/Public Awareness, Funding; and Internal Strategies and Efficiencies, each with their own benchmarks.

## Meet New Board Member Mark Scott

**Mark Scott** has twenty eight years of experience in government and nonprofit organizations, in the areas of economic and community development and environmental management.

Mark has served in leadership positions in several West Virginia state government agencies, including the Office of Economic and Community Development, Department of Mines, Department of Energy, and Division of Environmental Protection. While at DEP he served as Chief of the agency's Office of Water Resources and as Deputy Director.

His nonprofit work includes four years as West Virginia director of The Nature Conservancy, from 1990-1994; and six years as President and CEO of the National Institute for Chemical Studies (NICS) from 1998-2004.

In May of 2004 Mark left NICS to establish a consulting service specializing in conflict and risk management. His goal is to help business and government work more effectively with the public on environmental, health and safety, and community development issues.

Mark holds a Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Pittsburgh. He resides in Charleston, and is President and CEO of Jackson Kelly Solutions LLC.

## Meet New Board Member Craig Slaughter

**Craig Slaughter** is Executive Director of the West Virginia Investment Management Board (WVIMB), the entity responsible for investing the State's moneys, its defined benefit plans, and Workers' Compensation Funds.

Craig has been responsible for the State's investment portfolio since leaving the practice of law in 1989. He has been instrumental in modernizing the state's investment structure. Mr. Slaughter is a Certified Investment Management Consultant and Certified Pension Professional.

Craig has been the WVIMB's representative to the Council of Institutional Investors since the Board joined the Council in 1998. He has a Juris Doctor Degree from West Virginia University College of Law and a Bachelors of Arts Degree in history from Cornell University. He is a member of the National Association of State Investment Officers, the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys, the West Virginia State Bar, and the American Bar Association, as well as Vice President and board member of the WV Cycling Association.

THE FACILITATOR LED THE BOARD THROUGH THE PROCESS OF THINKING LONG TERM BY ASKING THEM TO COMPLETE TWO BASIC SENTENCES....

1. "IN THE YEAR 2015, THE WVLT WILL HAVE...."
2. "WE WILL JUDGE OUR SUCCESS BY....."



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We're on the Web!  
[www.wvlandtrust.org](http://www.wvlandtrust.org)

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## West Virginia Land Trust Board Members

Calvert Ambrecht, President	J. Breckenridge Martin	Jackie Hallinan
Richard Donovan, Treasurer	Mark Scott	Craig Slaughter
Judy Rodd, Secretary	John Barrett	
Linda Cooper	Dave Cowan	
Rod Graves	Lynda Frost	

## Upcoming Events

### Greenbrier County

The WVLT has targeted Lewisburg for a fundraising party this year. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 at this fun and important event! Planning is preliminary; but if you would like to serve as a sponsor or volunteer, please contact Elizabeth Damewood at (304) 342-6792.



### "Special Places" Award

The WVLT Special Places Award Reception will take place in Charleston in January 2006. Watch for your invitation in December, and plan to celebrate with us!

This award is presented to a private landowner whose establishment of a conservation

easement has significantly benefited the West Virginia Land Trust's long-range vision for land protection in our state.

The 2005 Special Places award recipient was Dolly Wallace Hartman, donor of the property and easement establishing the nature preserve in Kanawha County.