

WINTER



WEST VIRGINIA

LAND TRUST

Greetings

Like winter's bare-bones landscape, in its most elemental state, the West Virginia Land Trust's mission is simply about assisting willing landowners to protect valuable parcels of land. But just as the landscape is influenced by myriad variables – seasonal changes, species diversity, the ebb and flow of energy and nutrients – so is our work influenced, and aided, by a rich mix of actions, people, and topics.

In this edition of our quarterly newsletter, you can catch a quick glimpse of the heart of our work – a recently completed conservation easement, donated to the Land Trust by a generous benefactor with a long-range view. You'll also see that we're working to provide professional development opportunities to land appraisers whose work is critical to conservation properties, and we're raising public awareness about land use and its importance for water quality, through community-based art. The conservation landscape is diverse, and land trust work involves many players and methods of outreach.

And finally, you'll see we're celebrating conservation successes at our annual "Special Places" event, to be held in Charleston on May 9. It's our principal fundraiser, and a fun-raiser as well. Hope you can join us!



Until next time,

Brent Bailey Ph.D.

WV Land Trust Executive Director



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Snap Shots
February 2013

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The Lessons of Dunkard Creek



A Place Forever Protected

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Upcoming Events

Art Exhibit - Reflections: Homage to Dunkard Creek

January 4 - March 8, 2013

Reflections: The Lessons of Dunkard Creek

Featuring Joe Lovett

February 28, 2013

5 - 6pm Reception | 6pm Presentation

Both events will be held in Lewisburg, WV at the Carnegie Hall, Museum Gallery.

Special Places Event

The 2013 Special Places Event will be held May 9, 2013 at the Columbia Gas Transmission - Auditorium. The reception and silent auction will begin at 6:00pm.

Be a part of something big...

Special Places EVENT

**Celebrate the land we all love
and honor those who protect it.**

May 9, 2013 Charleston, West Virginia, Columbia Gas Transmission - Auditorium

West Virginia Land Trust's Special Places Event has become the organization's largest annual fundraiser.

Entering the 8th year, the 2013 event is anticipated to be the largest event to date. Expanding the target audience, additional awards, and a celebration of the places that make West Virginia special will allow the event to reach new heights.

Land conservation is personal. Sure there are some tax incentives for conserving land but that is NOT the motivating factor for most people. It is the connection to a beautiful piece of West Virginia's legacy and a strong desire to protect it for future generations. During the 2013 Special Places Dinner, the WV Land Trust will showcase those special places and celebrate the work, passion and commitment of some amazing West Virginians who work tirelessly to protect them forever.

2013 Honorees



**Special Places
Guardian of the Year**

Lavonne Paden

Director of the West Virginia
Farmland Protection Board



**Special Places
Society Award**

National Committee
for the New River

To learn about sponsorship opportunities or purchasing a ticket contact Sarah Vintorini 304-346-7788, sarah@wvlandtrust.org or visit us at wvlandtrust.org

The Lessons of Dunkard Creek *Featuring Joe Lovett*



Carnegie Hall - Museum Gallery | Lewisburg, WV

Thursday, February 28th | 5 - 6pm Reception | 6pm Lecture

Dunkard Creek, a 43-mile Pennsylvania and West Virginia Creek that flows into the Monongahela River, has a powerful story to tell. It's a modern-day cautionary tale for Appalachia's waters. "Reflections: Homage to Dunkard Creek" tells that story in a traveling art exhibit that movingly memorializes 90 of the species that died in a single catastrophic pollution event in 2009. Ninety participating artists lent their skill and imagination to create portraits of these species in a unique collection that is beautiful, sobering, and relevant for streams and rivers throughout the Appalachia region.

Join the West Virginia Land Trust as we host a reception about lessons learned from this tragedy and how citizen efforts, including land conservation, can prevent future devastation to our water quality. The event will focus on trends in Appalachian water quality, and choices that our communities make as they balance demands for both energy and clean water.

The event will feature a presentation by Joe Lovett, Executive Director and founder of Appalachian Mountain Advocates. Mr. Lovett has been a catalyst for focusing local and national attention on the devastation caused by mountaintop removal coal mining. He also has been a prominent defender of the federal Clean Water Act, in precedent-setting cases that seek accountability by state and federal regulators in enforcing environmental laws.

To register to attend this event, please email sarah@wvlandtrust.org or call 304-346-7788



SPRING VALLEY FARMS Ronceverte, WV

A special place forever protected.



Conserving land and preserving a family legacy

For over 230 years, generations of the Dickson family have farmed one of the most scenic and productive farms in southeast West Virginia. The land has meant everything to this family. Its rich history, unique water features, and location along a scenic transportation route make it a highly desirable site for future development. Concerned about this possibility, Page Dickson, owner of Spring Valley Farm, decided to take the ultimate step and preserve her family legacy by conserving her family farm forever. Page Dickson's goal in placing a conservation easement on the property was to simply protect a beautiful, historic piece of property from development and allow future generations the opportunity to see it as it looks now.

Although Mrs. Dickson loves her land she also had to make sure that Spring Valley Farm could financially sustain itself into the foreseeable future. According to Terrell Ellis, Senior Program Manager for the West Virginia Land Trust "The discussion begins with the Land Trust understanding exactly what the land owner's hopes and wishes are for the land." Ellis continued, "After we

gain that understanding, it then becomes our job to identify the important environmental and ecological features of that land and to make sure the land owner's vision aligns with our conservation criteria and values. An easement is then crafted around both. Through discussion with the property owner we were able to balance our collective wishes for land protection with a practical approach toward keeping this a working farm."

Approximately 11 acres of Spring Valley Farm, including the main farmhouse, barns and other structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This cultural gem is well known for its historic character, wide open vistas, rolling hills and significant contribution to the rural way of life in Monroe County. The farm has several important hydrologic features including several thousand linear feet of Second Creek and two large natural springs that have for generations been a fresh water source for not only the farm but the community. The carefully crafted easement ensures that these important water resources and historic qualities will forever be protected while a working farm can continue to produce crops, live stock and provide timber revenue to the family.

"As a land owner I really felt like I could maintain my wishes for the farm and that it will be preserved," said Mrs. Dickson. She continued by saying "My experience with the West Virginia Land Trust was very pleasant. I would definitely do this all over again. Thank you to the West Virginia Land Trust for helping me protect my very special place."

To take the important step to protect your special place, contact the West Virginia Land Trust today for a free consultation, 304-346-7788 or visit wvlandtrust.org

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Appraisal Training | April 24-26, 2013

Location - Charleston, WV (*exact location to be determined*)

Cost to Attend - \$200 per person

The West Virginia Land Trust will be hosting the first ever training in West Virginia for Certified General Appraisers that is specifically geared toward educating the profession on conservation easements and partial interests. The course curriculum will be offered by the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers and is one of two curriculums recognized by the Land Trust Alliance. The course will provide 22 hours of continuing education credits for attendees.

"In order to accelerate the pace of conservation in the Mountain State, we must first build the infrastructure of professionals to support the additional demand for services", said Brent Bailey, Executive Director of the WV Land Trust. "This professional development opportunity is the first step toward achieving that goal."

To learn more or to sign-up for this training opportunity, contact the Land Trust by calling 304-346-7788 or email info@wvlandtrust.org

www.wvlandtrust.org

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