

WINTER 2014



WEST VIRGINIA
LAND TRUST

Greetings

Everybody's busy. We send emails to make phone appointments to schedule meetings, we set phone alarms to remind ourselves about things we really wish we could remember, and we multitask so intensively (often in ill-advised places) that no task gets the singular attention it might deserve. So, our newsletter probably needs to get in line on your agenda. But here's the deal: A short few mood-enhancing minutes of cruising through these pages will bring you quickly, and optimistically, up to speed on how busy we've been to ensure a West Virginia landscape that is secure and protected... a West Virginia that's wild, and wonderful, with clean water. It's the West Virginia we dream of, and one that you can read about and think, "I'm really glad to know that there's an organization promoting a positive future for my state."

Want to feel even better? Share our newsletter, our website, or our Facebook page with someone else who cares... someone who wants to protect family or company land, someone who wants to leave a personal legacy for land protection, someone who is ready to become involved in land conservation in West Virginia that is permanent, which conveys many downstream benefits. Or join us for our annual "Special Places" gala, a swell evening of celebration, friend-raising and fundraising for the Land Trust. Send us a check. Join us for a bird walk. Enter our photo contest. Call us to make a presentation to your organization.

Hope you'll get around to it. Our success is dependent on you!



Warm regards,

Brent Bailey Ph.D.
WV Land Trust Executive Director



Snap Shots

Featured Staff Highlight



Born and raised in Columbus, OH, Joseph James came to West Virginia to attend WVU in 2008. After only a few weeks, he fell in love with the rugged beauty of this great state. Having worked on different environmental fronts within WV throughout his four years at WVU, James has decided to pursue a career in the state, as he now considers this his home. We are happy to announce, James has joined West Virginia Land Trust as an intern in an effort to further his career development in natural resource management with a focus on Geographic Information Systems and Cartography.



Deadline to enter: APRIL 1, 2014

To learn more or to enter visit:
www.wvlandtrust.org/photo

Special Places EVENT

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



Elk Knob, in Summers County, is protected through a conservation easement co-held by the West Virginia Land Trust and our partner, the Summers County Farmland Protection Board.

Save The Date!
Thursday - May 22, 2014

Columbia Gas Auditorium
Charleston, WV | 6:00pm

Live Bluegrass Music By:
The Band Wagon

West Virginia Land Trust's Special Places Event has become the organization's largest annual fundraiser. In addition to raising crucial operating funds for the organization, the event honors the passion and commitment of amazing people who work tirelessly to protect West Virginia's special places forever.

For many in our state, the land provides a personal connection to West Virginia's legacy. The natural beauty of our mountains

and streams, the rich heritage of our working family farms, and the abundance of wildlife motivates many landowners to seek ways of permanently protecting these qualities for generations to come. During this year's event, the West Virginia Land Trust will showcase the passion and commitment of landowners who have permanently protected, through conservation easements, over 1500 acres of West Virginia's special places.

Come experience the food of Bridge Road Bistro, music by The Band Wagon, and a chance to win some fabulous silent auction items!

To learn about sponsorship opportunities or purchase a ticket contact Jessica Spatafore at 304-346-7788, jessica@wvlandtrust.org or visit us at wvlandtrust.org

We are all downstream: the connection between land and water



There are many connections between land and water. If we pay attention, they can teach us a great deal about how to live our lives appropriately, as opposed to recklessly.

Some of these connections are obvious and easily understood, as evidenced by the chemical spill on January 9th adjacent to the Elk River above Charleston. In this case, as we all know, the proximity of the compromised chemical storage tank near the riverbank, and the fact that the chemical (MHCM) entered the river via a broken containment system, points to one of the most easily understood connections between land and water – land use adjacent to rivers and streams can, and often does, have a significant effect on the quality of water downstream.

Unfortunately, for West Virginia the relationship between land and water is more complicated than properly regulating and monitoring riverside chemical storage tanks. Certainly this is a problem that we need to solve, to ensure that the January 9th leak doesn't happen again. We also need to recognize that all of the land 'upstream' is important because it contributes to the quality of the water

downstream – where we all live, work, and play.

Recognizing that safe, clean water is one of West Virginia's most valuable resources, the West Virginia Land Trust is working with land owners and organizations in partnership to conserve and restore land in seven West Virginia watersheds – the Coal, Kanawha, Gauley, Greenbrier, New, Guyandotte, and Elk – so that present and future generations of West Virginians have access to healthy land that provides safe, clean water.

This is not an easy task, as these watersheds encompass a significant percentage of the state and have a long history of industrial use. With that said, it is necessary work, rewarding work, and will pay tremendous dividends not only in the near future but for future generations of West Virginians who live on the land, who appreciate the land, and who understand the land. These West Virginians know that the connections between land and water are intimate. They can teach us a great deal about who we are, and why we cherish wild, wonderful West Virginia.

Dear friends,

Happy New Year! On behalf of the West Virginia Land Trust, I have enclosed "a round tuit," so now you can get around to it. We often find ourselves saying, "Someday I will get a round tuit." Well, today is the day! Now that you have your very own round tuit, the things you have been needing to do will finally get done.

Healthy land is an essential resource and is vital to our health and well-being, to our quality of life, and for a sustainable future. The West Virginia Land Trust helps to protect West Virginia's special places permanently. Thousands of acres of natural landscape, including farms and forests, vanish each year in West Virginia, never to be replaced. Join with us and our partners to assure future generations know the scenic beauty of our beloved mountain state. If you won't help us protect special places in West Virginia, who will?

Ensuring that our natural areas and rural farmlands are preserved and protected is critical to:

- the quality of the air that we breathe
- the water that we drink
- the food that sustains our health
- the activities that we enjoy

Making your 2014 commitment to join us in protecting special places, is vital. We need your help and cannot do this alone. We are all in this together. I urge you to join us in our mission, by returning the enclosed envelope with your gift to our future.

Many thanks,

Jessica Spatafore

Director of Development & Communications



Recent Land Protection

Hevener Family Farm in Pocahontas County, part of the Greenbrier Watershed



In December 2013, the owners of the Hevener Farm joined with the WVLT through a conservation easement that will forever protect 384 acres of this historic property. The tract of land, which is only a portion of the total acreage owned by the Heveners, has been in the family for over 160 years. The Hevener Farm sits in the scenic Deer Creek Valley and adjoins the Monongahela National Forest, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory buffer zone, and other nearby protected farms. With this protection, the scenic landscape that is characteristic of Pocahontas County has been further extended to incorporate this important parcel.

Elk Knob in Summers County, part of the New River Watershed



In early February 2014, the Summers County Farmland Protection Board partnered with the WVLT to protect a beautifully breathtaking 175-acre site in Summers County. This property, with its almost-360-degree views are magnificent, and the owner, Terry Williams, is very enthused about the role we've played in securing permanent protection for his "Special Place."

West Virginia Land Trust and Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust Partner To Protect Nearly 1,000 Acres

When the Open Space Institute (OSI) announced its first round of grant applications for the Resilient Landscapes Initiative, the WVLT stood ready to provide Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust (CLRLT) with much needed matching funds to make their grant application competitive.

OSI launched the \$6 million initiative six months ago to preserve climate change-resilient landscapes in the eastern U.S. It just so happened that one of the conservation priority areas fell within the service area of CLRLT.

A \$210,000 grant from OSI allowed the Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust to acquire a conservation easement on a 750-acre hunt club property, which will remain in its natural state and continue to be used for hunting by generations of club members. The club used the proceeds from its conservation easement sale to buy and protect a neighboring 160-acre tract, on which residential development had once been planned, bringing the total of preserved land to over 900 acres.

The tract adjoins the 6,000-acre Cacapon Resort State Park, allowing animal and plant species to move through the land without running into roads or other barriers, as climatic changes push them from one area to another.

According to Brent Bailey, the WVLT's Executive Director, "The partnership with CLRLT represented an excellent opportunity to leverage resources and accomplish our collective goals of ensuring the healthy biodiversity of our landscape. We are delighted with the outcome and proud to help make this happen."

This project was the first to close through OSI's new initiative. The WVLT provided \$30,000 in matching grant funds to ensure the CLRLT were able to meet the match requirements of OSI's grant. In addition, according to Nancy Ailes, CLRLT's Executive Director, "OSI staff told us that your funds were pivotal in securing their dollars. We are proud to have you as a partner in this precedent-setting deal!"

Upcoming Events

Land Trust Staff



Special Places Event

May 22nd, 2014 | 6:00 pm | Columbia Gas Transmission Auditorium

Don't Miss Out on the Conservation Event of the Year!
Get your tickets today at wvlandtrust.org

Save the Date

The Wallace Hartman
Nature Preserve



For a Bird Watching Walk through the Wallace Hartman Nature Preserve in May. More details to follow.

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Current Management Plans Underway!

We are excited to announce current management plans are underway for both the Wallace Hartman Nature Preserve, in Charleston, and Elizabeth's Woods, near Morgantown. Plans include more walking trails and public access.



www.wvlandtrust.org

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