

OUR VOICE

Foothills Land Conservancy helps preserve our heritage

One of the most beneficially valuable and effective organizations in East Tennessee, the Foothills Land Conservancy, is based in Maryville.

Marking its 27th year, it was founded in 1985 largely through the dedicated efforts of Gail Harris. Her late husband, Jimmy, was a leader in the Blount County Soil Conservation District and she was active in Alternates for Blount County (ABC), an organization which was formed in an effort to avoid unlimited mass development. Gail led some of that group in establishing the Land Conservancy as a means to protect tracts of land from massive development.

She was often assisted by now-retired Blount County Soil Conservation District Director Dewey Simpson in recruiting board members. While land conservancies were not uncommon in the Northeast, few if any local residents had heard of one.

In 1992, Randy Brown was named executive director and served until 2004. He was succeeded in 2005 by the present Executive Director Bill Clabough. A resident of Wildwood, former state representative and senator, for many years he operated Clabough's Store.

For a list of principles followed as set forth in the Internal Revenue Service Code and Regulations, check the landowners page in the Foothills web site at www.foothillsland.org.

Bill was also very instrumental in securing state approval of the widely used Tennessee Great Smoky Mountains National Park automobile license plates.

Not only does a land conservancy easement protect against certain unwanted land use but it can provide some tax benefits for the owner restricting use of his or her land for benefit of the public. The amount of tax benefit varies, depending on the benefit of the easement to the public.

The mission of Foothills Land Conservancy is to protect, preserve and enhance

the lands and associated environment of East Tennessee and to promote the character of the region for the benefit of the general public.

The organization receives no aid from any level of government. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and relies on individual and corporate contributions to sustain its operations.

The conservation easement agreements have been signed on plots from less than 10 acres to several thousand acres. One of the first conservancies in the state, Foothills has expanded its operation to include some Middle Tennessee easements.

Preserving working farms is one of the goals. Between 2000 and 2010 Tennessee lost about 1,000 farms annually with an average reduction of about 90,000 farmable acres each year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation reports agriculture's impact on the state is \$44 billion annually, providing more than 300,000 jobs.

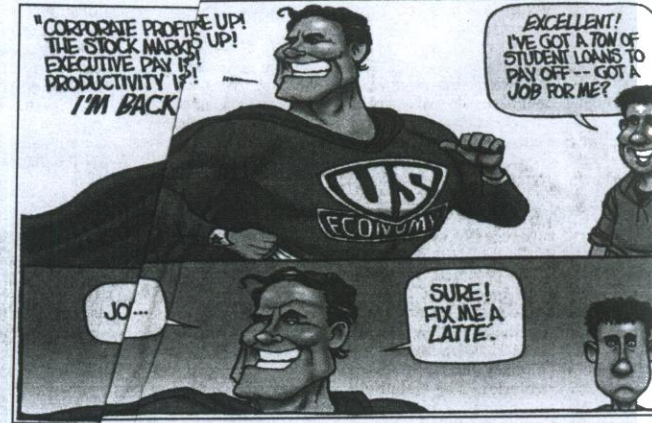
Environmental, scenic, agricultural and historical attributes of the land are the determining factors of eligibility. For a list of principles followed as set forth in the Internal Revenue Service Code and Regulations, check the landowners page in the Foothills web site at www.foothillsland.org.

The property owner needs to get the help of a tax attorney to work out a legal easement which the Internal Revenue Service will accept and meet the owner's desires. Once a legal agreement is approved by the IRS, it becomes the conservancy's legal responsibility to check the property annually to make certain the easement chosen by the property owner is being followed. The Foothills staff provides information and help to the property owner considering an easement.

That is a lot of historic information. Here is the "proof of the pudding":

Foothills land trust has preserved more than 30,000 acres in 18 Tennessee counties. That includes 4,400 acres with 19 land protection partnerships in 12 counties during the past year!

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE



Ever rump of your skin? Our seat plane flew out of its!

As my read, last August our super secret hypersonic aircraft crashed unexpectedly in the Pacific Ocean. While the crash was public, all about the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency's Hypersonic Technology Vehicle (HTV-2) is still top secret.

Developed by the government's best engineers at its far-out research agency, the designers have not been certain what happened. They recently came to the conclusion that the unmanned arrow-head-shaped plane flew out of it skin at Mach 20 — that's 20 times the speed of sound.

After an eight-month investigation, the agency said it had expected the HTV-2 would lose some of its skin in mid-flight but larger than expected portions of the vehicle's skin peeled from the aerostucture. Designers had expected "impulsive shock waves" at such speeds but shocks it experienced last August were "more than 100 times what the vehicle was designed to withstand."

Of course, it would not be practical but if they could put it in service between New York and Los Angeles it would require 12 minutes, not long enough to get a snack or watch a movie!

Remember G. I. Joe's birthday?

Few do and we don't have a specific date but cartoonist Dave Breger (1908-1970) originated the term G. I. (Government Issue) Joe early in World War II when he was cartoonist for Yank magazine.

It caught on quickly and has been widely used ever since. It became synonymous with the everyman soldier leading to a 1945 movie celebrating the common infantryman. Based on the columns of famed war correspondent Ernie Pyle, it was called "The Story of G. I. Joe."

World around us is very active:

- The world's largest off-shore wind farm, with more than 100 turbines producing 367 megawatts of electricity, is operating in time for the London Olympics. However, it will become overshadowed by the mammoth London Array with 175 turbines producing 1,000 megawatts.

- Sierra Club magazine reports "The Senator," a 3,500-year-old, 125-foot bald cypress in Florida's Big Tree Park, has been destroyed by fire. The fire was set by a woman smoking meth inside the hollow trunk. Authorities quote her as saying, "I can't believe I burned down a tree older than Jesus."

- The U.S. has become the first nation to establish catch limits for every variety of fish it manages — 46 in all — in hopes of replenishing depleted stocks.

- Satellite measurements indicate that from 2003 to 2010 the earth lost 1,000 cubic miles of ice, enough to cover the entire United States with 18 inches of water.

- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted licenses to the Southern Company to add two new nuclear reactors to its facility at Wanesboro, Ga. The expansion would make the plant the largest nuclear facility in the country.

- The Environmental Protection Agency now forbids cruise and other large ships from dumping sewage within three miles of the California coast. The Interior Department has banned uranium mining for 20 years on more than a million



BITS OF STONE DEAN STONE

American Legion magazine reporters at Capitol Barber, three made \$22,000 to \$30,000 last year. At the Senate shop, the top and stylists made more than \$70,349; \$73,658 and \$81,641 plus generous 401(k) plan, health care.

Even if one accepts the proclamation of wealth and still strives to support our dependents, one might be less stressful to just let it stand in line. While it is a problem for me, those on the redistribution of wealth are not doing drug tests. Once they are taxes to provide my handout, many have expressed the thought of random drug tests.

'Tippecanoe' gone, Tylers are

The American Legion magazine attention to a unique fact: Two President John Tyler, are still alive after the nation's 10th president his term of office in 1845. Born to Tyler, one of President Tyler's 1 are Lyon Jr., born in 1924, and H born in 1928.

Many will recall when studying in grade school we read about the election of "Tippecanoe" and Tyler no, referred to a well-known by William Henry Harrison had won. The ticket won, electing Harrison ninth president. However, Harrison 30 days and Tyler became the first to replace a president during office. Tyler is described as "strongly annexed the Republic of Texas."

According to legend, Tecumseh er Tenskwatawa, placed a "curse" that every president to be elected with the number zero (which 20 years) would die in office. Ha (elected 1860), Garfield (elected (elected 1900), Harding (elected (elected 1940), and Kennedy (elected in office, falling prey to the seh, sometimes called the "zero-Ronald Reagan, elected in 1980, although some believe that after attempted by John Hinckley Jr., he died in 2000, clearly escaped