

The View

FLC's 2019 Spring Newsletter & 2018Annual Report



www.foothillsland.org

3402 Andy Harris Road • Rockford, TN 37853 865-681-8326 • info@foothillsland.org

Mission - FLC is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and enhancing the lands and environment of the Southern Appalachian region and promoting the character of the land for the general public, now and in the future.

2019 FLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Barnett, Vice President
Sherry Browder
Ed Caudill
Madge Cleveland, President
Jenny Hines, Treasurer
Mark Jendrek
Spencer Hall
David Long
Kelly Love Manning
Billy Minser
Mike Parish
Steve Polte
John Proffitt
Sara Fortune Rose
John Wilbanks

*A special thank you to departing FLC Board Members, Dr. Craig Jarvis and Mark King

David Zandstra

2019 FLC PROPERTIES FOUNDATION

Steve Arnett

Madge Cleveland

Spencer Hall

Mark Jendrek

Mark King

Sara Fortune Rose

Robert Van Hook, President

FLC STAFF

Bill Clabough, Executive Director
Elise Eustace, Communications & Dev. Dir.
Matthew Moore, Biologist
Shelby Lyn Sanders, Biologist
Glenna Strissel, Accountant

A Letter from FLC's Board President

Dear Friends of the Foothills,

2018 was another record year for FLC!

The Conservancy completed a record number 51 land preservation projects within 21 Tennessee counties and the five additional states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia. Here are a few highlights!



- FLC's 51 land projects totaled approximately 18,000 acres, joining over an additional 100,000 cumulative acres FLC has assisted in preserving since the organization's beginnings in 1985.
- Three of FLC's 2018 land preservation projects are noted by the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation's Division of Archeology to have two Trail of Tears routes within the property boundaries. All three of these land partnerships are located in both Sequatchie and Van Buren Counties with one of them also being located in Warren County, TN.
- We are also pleased to announce that FLC has placed a conservation easement on a 1,000 acre Roane County tract, known as the Fourman property, earlier this year. Foothills has also recently donated the tract to the State of Tennessee for inclusion in the Mount Roosevelt State Wildlife Management Area. You can read more about this project on page 4.

On behalf of FLC's Board of Directors and staff, we are enormously appreciative for the 300 acre working farm in the Blount County community of Rockford, TN, that has housed our organization's office headquarters since May of 2017. Thanks to FLC's Founding Board President and conservation landowner, Gail Harris, for the donation of her farm to the Conservancy, ensuring that our organization has a permanent home to carry out our mission and programs.

In addition to our land preservation efforts, the Foothills team continues our focus on building a permanent endowment to support FLC's land acquisition projects, stewardship programs, and other future conservation partnership opportunities. The FLC Properties Foundation, a supporting organization for FLC, is assisting with these efforts.

2019 is also shaping up to become another record year for our land preservation efforts and we look forward to keeping you apprised of our projects and programs throughout the year. We are also looking forward to seeing you at our Annual Summer Celebration on Saturday, August 24, 2019. Our event location will once again be the beautiful and scenic RiverView Family Farm.

Thank you for being a valued Friend of the Foothills!

- Madge Cleveland, FLC Board President

Letter from the Director

Hello Friends,

2018 was yet another record year for FLC's land preservation efforts! We worked with land owners to partner on a record 48 conservation easement projects and 3 land donations totaling close to 18,000 acres! The organization now has over 300 land preservation partnerships and has assisted in over 124,000 regional acres being preserved. This cumulative number includes conservation easement partnerships, fee simple properties, and additional land projects that FLC was involved in since the organization's beginnings in 1985.

Here is a brief overview of where these 51 land preservation projects in 2018 occurred:



FLC Executive Director, Bill Clabough, walks along the edge of the Mississippi River while visiting a property in Lake County, Tennessee.

- TENNESSEE 26 land preservation projects and 1 fee simple donation totaling 11,844 acres within the 21 counties of Blount, Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Humphreys, Lake, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Overton, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Robertson, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Sumner, Van Buren, Warren, and White
- ALABAMA 10 land preservation projects and 1 fee simple donation totaling 3,743 acres in the 8 counties of Cherokee, Coosa, Etowah, Jefferson, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, and Tallapoosa
- GEORGIA 7 land preservation projects and 1 fee simple donation totaling 1,628 acres in the 8 counties of Catoosa, Elbert, Floyd, Jefferson, Lumpkin, Meriwether, Murray, and Taylor
- NORTH CAROLINA 1 land preservation project totaling 112 acres in Chatham County
- SOUTH CAROLINA 2 land preservation projects totaling 210 acres in the counties of Anderson and Richland
- VIRGINIA 2 land preservation projects totaling 471 acres in Chesterfield County

You can learn more about our 2018 land project highlights beginning on the next page. For more information about FLC's other land preservation projects, visit FLC's website, <u>www.foothillsland.org</u>.

Please know that our door is always open to our Friends. We welcome your ideas, feedback and resources to help fulfill our mission of promoting, protecting and enhancing the lands of the Southern Appalachian region. Feel free to contact us to request a presentation for your club, organization or group.

Foothills is poised to have another amazing year and we couldn't have come this far without the ongoing and generous support of our Friends! Thank you for your time, resources and contributions to our organization, helping us expand our reach across the region! We look forward to seeing you at this year's Summer Celebration on Saturday, August 24th!

- Bill Clabough, FLC Executive Director



What does a Land Trust Do? FLC staff recently hosted 6th graders from the nearby Clayton Bradley Academy. The students asked great questions and learned about how a land trust, like FLC, works with the community to preserve natural areas.



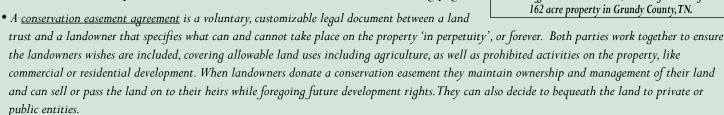
In this issue...

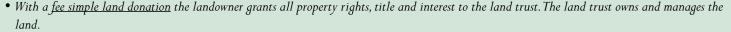
2018 Conservation Projects	Pages 4-11
FLC's Summer Celebration	Page 12
Giving Thanks for our Friends!	Page 13-15
In Memory Of/In Honor Of	Page 15
Become a Friend of FLC!	Page 15
Connect to Foothills	Back Page

FLC's 2018 Land Conservation Projects

In 2018, the Foothills staff completed a record 51 land preservation land partnerships totaling close to 18,000 acres within the states of Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. These next few pages provide a few highlights of these diverse and scenic projects.

There are several options for a landowner to preserve or donate their property. FLC primarily works with two popular land preservation methods - conservation easement agreements and fee simple donations. Both are referred to over the following pages.





For more information about land preservation options, visit www.foothillsland.org and click on the 'Landowners' page or call FLC at 865-681-8326.



FLC staff observe the diverse, natural features of an

Project highlights from properties in Tennessee!

In 2018, FLC staff completed 26 land preservation projects and 1 land donation totaling 11,844 acres and across 21 Tennessee Counties.



EASTTENNESSEE REGION

(Counties: Blount, Cocke, Hamilton, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Rhea, Roane, Scott, and Sevier)

Cocke County, TN - 295 acre fee simple donation

Located at the confluence of the Nolichucky and French Broad rivers, this 295 acre tract includes a rich river bottom, woodlands, and approximately 1.2 miles of river frontage on the two rivers. The tract (pictured right and outlined in blue) almost became a subdivision but is now well established shorebird habitat. The land is located directly across the river from the Rankin Wildlife Management Area (Rankin WMA), an area known as the premier birding location in the region for warm season waterbirds. According to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency there are at least three active Osprey nests within the Rankin WMA and



Image - Confluence of the Nolichucky & French Broad Rivers in Cocke County, TN.

several others nearby. Bald Eagles appear regularly in the area. eBird hotspot data indicates that at least 221 avian species have been seen at Rankin Bottoms. Along the tidal mudflat area of the WMA Neotropical migrants such as the Prothonotary Warbler, Willow Flycatcher, and several species of vireo are known to breed and nest. These same neotropical migrants could certainly be expected to use the adjacent habitat available on the property.



<u>UPDATE</u> - Roane County | 1,000 acre land donation to FLC!

Back in 2017, Foothills Land Conservancy received a 1,000 acre in Roane County, donated by Don Fourman. This beautiful property offers creeks, woodlands, and scenic views along with a unique history. One of the tract's borders adjoins the 11,000 acre Mount Roosevelt State Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

In 2019, FLC placed a conservation easement on the property and conveyed the tract to the State of Tennessee. The Tennessee Wildlife Resouces Agency plans to manage and steward the property as part of the adjacent Mount Roosevelt State WMA. The property is being preserved for its scenic open space forest, escarpment outcrops, waterways, and wildlife habitat. Other natural areas nearby include: White's Creek Gorge, Ozone Falls State Natural Area, Piney Falls SNA, and Stinging Fork Falls Pocket Wilderness. In addition, other nearby private easements held or co-held by FLC include approximately 2,745 acres in Roane County.

EASTTENNESSEE REGION continued...



Blount County, TN | 27 acres - TN Century Farm

This property is being preserved for its scenic open space which offer views to and from Chilhowee Mountain and its prime agricultural soils. The expansive pastures on the tract are important in terms of supporting grassland-obligate bird species such as the Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark and Dickcissel, which were observed on the property. The working farm is designated as a TN Century Farm, an honor that recognizes the dedication and contributions of families who have owned and farmed the land for at least 100 years.



Hamilton County, TN | 61 acres - wooded tract

Located in the northern section of Hamilton County, this property is less than 500 yards from the shoreline of Chickamauga Lake and is mostly wooded. The property is being preserved for its open space forest, natural habitat, and for its public benefit as an aesthetic buffer amid increasing development pressures. This tract also serves as an important ecological role as a buffer to several state-protected lands in the immediate area, including Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge and Chickamauga Wildlife Mgmt. Area.



Loudon County, TN | 2 projects totaling 506 acres

One of two tracts in Loudon County (pictured above) is being preserved for its open-space pastures, natural habitat, and for its public benefit as an aesthetic buffer amid increasing development. It also serves an important ecological role as a buffer to several protected lands in the immediate area, including over 3,000 acres by FLC easements within a 10 mile radius. The second tract is located along the Tennessee River and features over 3,000 feet of river frontage along a steep bluff. According to the National Wetlands Inventory there are portions of eight individually-delineated wetlands on the property.

Monroe County, TN - 1 project | 972 acres

This property is within approximately 1,500 feet of the boundary for the Cherokee National Forest. Close to two-thirds of the slopes and ridges on this property, many of which are forested, can be seen from Cherokee National Forest. The tract is also close to the Tellico Lake Wildlife Management Area, which includes over 8,700 acres, as well as The Nature Conservancy's designated 'Forest Block' of Joyce Kilmer/Unicoi Mountains/Slick Rock. The property offers vast views of the surrounding Cane Creek and Ballplay Creek Valleys, Tellico River, and the Blue Ridge Mountains. There are 16,300 linear feet of perennial and intermittent streams on the tract and all drain ultimately into the Little Tennessee River and its impoundments, which in turn flow into the Tennessee River. The Tennessee River falls into the TN Freshwater Ecoregion, part of The Nature Conservancy's Freshwater Ecoregions of the World, which contains the highest number of endemic aquatic species in North America.



Monroe County, TN | 972 acres - view of Cherokee National Forest



Morgan County, TN | 615 acres - entirely forested

This property is located a few miles northeast of Harriman in southern Morgan County. The tract is entirely forested, predominantly by species associated with the Allegheny-Cumberland Dry Oak Forest. This property serves as an ecological buffer between nearby protected natural areas including Catoosa Wildlife Management Area and Lone Mountain State Forest.



Rhea County, TN | 948 acres - Includes views of Seq. Valley

This property consists of mostly oak forest stretched over 3 miles above and below the Cumberland Escarpment, northeast of Spring City. The richness and importance of the region's biodiversity is also attested to by the large number of preserved natural areas and conservation easements (CE's) within close proximity. The tract lies within 13 miles of over 13,000 acres of state natural areas. FLC CE's in Rhea and surrounding counties cover about 8,000 acres.



Located south of Huntsville, TN, this tract consists of upland forest, steep cove forest with some hemlock and pine forests. Former coal-mined areas are now dominated by shrubs, young trees and small wetlands. Preserving the property will protect scenic ridgelines, which rise nearly 1,300' from the valleys below. The tract is within several priority conservation areas including The Nature Conservancy's designated terrestrial area, the South Fork Cumberland River. (Pictured) A spotted salamander egg mass observed by FLC staff.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE REGION

(Counties): Grundy, Humphreys, Overton, Putnam, Robertson, Sequatchie, Sumner, Van Buren, Warren, & White

Grundy County - 3 projects | 806 acres

A portion of this 333 acre property is adjacent to the 15,590 acre Savage Gulf Class II Natural-Scientific State Natural Area. This tract contains a small but significant forest known as a Cumberland Seepage Forest. This is a rare plant community, acknowledged by TDEC, and ranked rare to very rare in Tennessee. It is also recognized by the Tennessee Forestry Association as a plant community of concern in Tennessee. Plants characteristic of this habitat and observed on the property include, but are not limited to: Southern Swamp Dogwood, Southern Lady Fern, and Great Rhododenron. The Property proved quite diverse in total vascular plants. One hundred and sixty-eight species were found which included 29 tree species, 31 birds, 8 butterflies, 6 dragonflies and 2 mammals. Among the butterflies seen were about a dozen Diana fritillaries, a species ranked rare to uncommon in TN.

Two additional Grundy County projects total 472 acres. These adjacent properties are both located within the Cumberland Plateau. One of the property's smaller tracts descends from the Plateau into the Plateau Escarpment. During a site visit, staff determined the plant life at both tracts to be diverse with each property totaling over 195 plant species recorded. Of particular interest at both properties was a species of special concern, the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*). American chestnut is a species of special concern due to its limited population size and inability to reach reproductive maturity due to the non-native chestnut blight.

Humphreys County - 1 project | 240 acres (not pictured)

This beautiful property includes forested ridges, rock outcrops, diverse wildlife, stream habitats, as well as natural and open space forest. The tract is situated on a scenic creek near the Duck and Tennessee Rivers an hour from Nashville. There is a firmly established pattern of land preservation near the tract including the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge (51,360 acres), Natchez Trace State Park, (10,154 acres), Montgomery Bell State Park (3,781 acres), and Mousetail Landing State Park (1,246 acres). Easements held by FLC or other land trusts within 20 miles of the property total 44,405 acres.

Putnam & Overton Counties - 1 project | 1,067 acres

This property consists of cropland and pasture on its south half, and oak forest and mesic forest on its north half. A 50 acre lake is situated on within the southern portion of the property while a creek and three tributaries flow north and northeast out of the property. The tract's habitats support wintering and resident wildlife species including white-tailed deer, wild boar, ring-necked duck and sandhill crane, whose sign or presence were observed during an inventory of species in December 2018. A bald eagle that was observed hunting waterfowl over the lake. A manager of the farm says it is seen almost daily and occasionally with its mate.

Robertson County - 1 project | 84 acres

This property features 3,000' of frontage along Honey Run Creek, a regionally-significant tributary to the South Fork Red River. Honey Run Creek was assessed as having scenic and natural qualities of regional significance and being a good fishery by the Tennessee Rivers Assessment Project, and was deemed 'Fully Supporting' by the Tennessee Stream Use Attainment.

Sequatchie, Van Buren & Warren Counties - 3 properties | 1,884 acres

Three of FLC's 2018 land preservation projects are noted by the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation's Division of Archeology to have at least one Trail of Tears route within each of the tracts. All three properties are adjacent to each other and located in both Sequatchie and Van Buren Counties with one of them also being located in Warren County. These tracts are all being protected for the relatively natural habitat corridor for wildlife, wetlands, streams, bottomland forests and open space forests. The South Cumberland Recreation Area is less than 5 mile away from these tracts.



Grundy County, TN - 3 projects totaling 805 acres (pictured above and below)







Putnam & Overton Co.TN | 1,067 acres (50 acre lake hosts several bird species.)





Seq. / Van Buren / Warren | 1,883 acres

Sequatchie County - 2 properties | 638 acres

This beautiful 104 acre property consists of upland forest and steep cove forest and is situated on over one half mile of the Cumberland Escarpment. It is located within several recognized priority conservation areas. The tract is being preserved for its scenic open space forest, the scenic views of its Plateau Escarpment from the Sequatchie Valley, the Cumberland Plateau Clifftop Sandstone Barren habitat, its proximity to karst habitat, and the protection of the relatively natural habitat corridor for wildlife. Another 534 acre property consists mostly of oak forest, mesic forest and pine plantation. The tract stretches 2.25 miles above and below the Cumberland Escarpment near Dunlap. This tract is being preserved for its scenic ridgeline, which is presented to the public from the Sequatchie Valley below, as well as for its natural habitat corridor and open space.

Sumner County - 1 project | 572 acres

Roughly 25 miles northeast of Nashville, this property consists of forested ridges, limestone glades and rocky drains. Two intermittent streams drain the property directly to Station Camp Creek. This creek was assessed by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation as having natural and scenic qualities of local significance, regional significance for recreational boating, and is considered an 'Excellent' fishery. A brief species list compiled during a staff site visit included 43 tree species and 82 other shrubs and herbs. A Belted Kingfisher was seen perching over one of the waterways on the property.

Warren County - 1 project | 308 acres

This property includes ponds, waterfalls, and caves. The Collins River, designated as a 'scenic river' by the State of TN, runs along roughly 2,500 feet of the property. A portion of the tract includes pasture land and crop farming with 71 acres in woodlands. Forested bluffs along the river support the most unique plant community found on the property—fire-adapted glade-type species that thrive in thin soil and exposed rock substrates and can tolerate extreme conditions. One such species, believed to be a very recently described species, was found on the steep limestone bluff above the Collins River on the south side of the property. This species is found only on the Cumberland Plateau and closely adjacent sections of the Eastern Highland Rim.

White County - 1 project | 973 acres

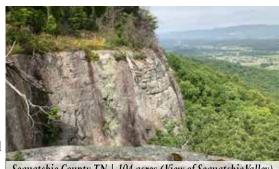
Located south of Cookeville, TN, this property is within the Eastern Highland Rim and northwest of the Plateau Escarpment. The lower elevation fields include a working cattle farm with mature second growth forest in the rockier upper elevations. This land is being protected for the presence of karst habitats, water features, forested ridges and natural rock outcrops. (Right) A loggerhead shrike was observed on the property.







Hardin County,TN | 200 acres



Sequatchie County, TN | 104 acres (View of Sequatchie Valley)



Sumner County, TN | 572 acres (One of two streams on property



Warren County, TN | 308 acres (Waterfall close to Collins River)



WESTTENNESSEE REGION

Lake County - 1 project | 600 acres

This property consists mostly of farmland and is currently planted in soy beans (pictured left). The tract is located one mile from the Mississippi River. About 23 acres are in woodlands with a few intermittent streams and wetlands. Most of the woodlands are Mississippi Alluvial Forest, which is deemed a priority forest by the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan. During a visit staff encountered 42 species of plants, 15 birds, 12 butterflies and 3 dragonflies. The tract is in close proximity to Reelfoot Lake Wildlife Management Area and other state natural areas.

Hardin County - 1 project | 200 acres

A site visit by staff determined the plant life to be very diverse with a total of 127 plant species recorded. The land is being preserved for it's forested ridges, natural rock outcrops, open space forests, and water features. Also observed were six bird species recognized as priority species by the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture, a coordinator of bird conservation plans. These species included the wood thrush, hooded warbler, yellow-breasted chat, scarlet tanager, summer tanager, and northern parula. The tract's ridges are adjacent to the Tennessee River, making it highly desirable for potential development. This land is located within 5 miles of Pickwick Landing State Park.

(Pictured clockwise on left - rocky outcrop, Oak leaf hydrangea, and Netted chain fern)



Project highlights from properties in Alabama!

In 2018, FLC staff completed 10 land preservation projects and 1 land donation totaling 3,743 acres in the 8 counties of Cherokee, Coosa, Etowah, Jefferson, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, and Tallapoosa.

Cherokee County, AL | 2 projects totaling 1,479 acres

Project 1 - This 119 acre working farm, which includes a history of family farming spanning 5 generations, consists of mostly agricultural land. The tract includes ponds, riparian forest, and fallow land. Preservation of the tract also ensures the protection of mineral rights, habitat and forage for birds of prey and bobwhite quail, and open space. According to the

land owner, bald eagles and many hawk species feed on rodents on the property. Birds noted on site during the site visit include red-shouldered hawk, blue jay, American crow, eastern towhee, and northern bobwhite.

Project 2 – FLC recently preserved a property totaling 1,360 acres on Lookout Mountain with a portion of the acreage on the Plateau Escarpment. The property is in close proximity to the Little River Canyon National Preserve. There are there are three headwaters, two streams, one pond, and numerous drains and depressions across the tracts. This fire-maintained landscape consists of natural rock outcrops, Plateau Escarpment, caves, dry forests, mesic forests, mostly open understories, roadside prairies, ponds, wetlands, creeks, depressions, and drains across Prime Agricultural Soils and Soils of Statewide Importance. All of these features contribute to a unique habitat ideal for diverse plant, mammal, insect, and bird species. During a visit, the FLC team determined the plant life to be very diverse with a total of 151 plant species recorded. Of these plants, 60 of those species were grasses or herbaceous plants. 36 tree species were identified, with ten of those species being oaks and two being hickories. Both oak and hickory provide high quality mast for local wildlife. (*Pictured clockwise on right - rocky outcrop, Little brown jug, and Southern cricket frog*)

Coosa County, AL | 1 project and 1 fee simple totaling 150 acres

Both properties are located off of Alabama Highway 259. The fee simple donation is close to 73 acres and consists mainly of wooded acreage. The second property (pictured right) is close to 77 acres and is being has been preserved with an FLC conservation easement. The tract consists of gneiss rock outcrops, natural forests, and open space. Of the 12 bird species observed during the site visit, two are recognized by the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture, a coordinator of bird conservation plans, as priority species: the eastern towhee and the field sparrow. The field sparrow, also noted during the field survey, is considered to be common but in steep decline by the Partners in Flight program. Within 20 miles of the property are other preserved areas including Martin Lake, Weogufka State Forest, Yates Lake Wildlife Management Area, three easements held by other land trusts, and a 71 acre tract with an FLC easement. (Pictured clockwise on right - FLC staff observed this snail, along with other wildlife sightings, that included White-tailed deer, chipmunk, beaver, and crayfish. A creek flows through the southwestern portion of the property. FLC staff observed a Sweet betsy trillium close to bloom.)

Etowah County, AL | 2 projects totaling 1,387 acres

Situated along the Coosa River, these two contiguous and diverse properties consist of bottomland forest, agricultural fields, and wetlands. Between the two tracts wetlands comprise a total of 52 acres. The Middle Coosa River riparian area, in which these properties lie, is also considered a conservation target by the Nature Conservancy and will be benefited through the easements protections of its waterways. Both tracts have the high priority habitats of floodplain forest and mesic hardwood forest, as designated by Alabama's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). During a site visit, FLC staff noted over 155 species of plants on each tract. Staff 8 also observed the Alabama Map Turtle, a Georgia state protected rare species.







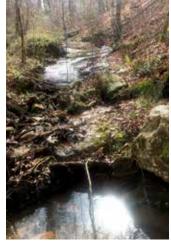
Cherokee County, AL | 1,360 acres





Coosa County, AL | 150 acres



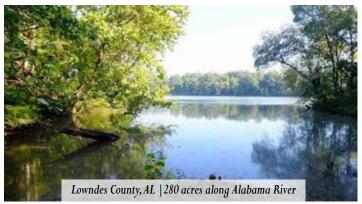




Etowah County, AL | two projects totaling 1,386 acres - Image of Coosa Riv.

ALABAMA cont...









Montgomery County, AL | 147 acres



Tallapoosa County, AL | 124 acres

Jefferson County, AL | 1 project totaling 27 acres

This wooded tract of land includes creek frontage 1.5 miles upstream from the Cahaba River. The Cahaba River watershed is home to 135 species of fish, 35 species of snails, and 50 species of freshwater mussels, of which 69 are rare and imperiled species. The property's creek and the Cahaba River are part of the Mobile River Basin. The Mobile River Basin, and particularly the Mobile Delta, are home to hundreds of species of fish, crayfish, mussels, snails and other aquatic life, many of which are found nowhere else on earth. The property is also located within The Nature Conservancy's Upper Cahaba River Priority Conservation Area. The Cahaba River is also home to the Cahaba Lily, a federal species of

Lowndes County, AL | 1 project totaling 280 acres

This is an agricultural and wooded tract of land with river frontage along the Alabama River (pictured left). The property is adjacent to the State of Alabama's Lowndes Wildlife Management Area. The tract possesses certain ecological, natural, scenic, open space, and wildlife habitat values, such as bottomland forests, mesic forests, wetlands, river frontage, open agricultural fields, and open space. Birds noted on site during the site visit include Carolina chickadee, Carolina wren, downy woodpecker, eastern towhee, field sparrow, great blue heron, great egret, killdeer, belted kingfisher, red-bellied woodpecker, redshouldered hawk, white-eyed vireo, and wood duck. Other wildlife noted were cloudless sulfur butterfly, gray tree frog, monarch butterfly, and white-tailed deer.

Macon County, AL | 1 project totaling 145 acres

A mostly wooded tract of land with creek frontage along Uphapee Creek (pictured left), this property lies a few miles downstream from the Tuskegee National Forest. The tract's water resources drain into Uphapee Creek, and downstream to the Tallapoosa River, resulting in diverse aquatic inputs to these watersheds. Uphapee Creek and the Tallapoosa River are priorities of the Alabama State Wildlife Action Plan and both are part of the Mobile River Basin.

Montgomery County, AL | 1 project totaling 147 acres

The diverse landscape consists of swamp, floodplains, bottomland fields, and rich wetlands across a broad soil spectrum. These natural features provide numerous unique habitats in a suburban setting - ideal for diverse mammal species, breeding birds, and migrating songbirds. 10 bird species were heard or seen during a visit, including swamp sparrow, Carolina chickadees, and the eastern towhee. The eastern towhee is listed as a landbird species of moderate priority by the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture, a coordinator of bird conservation plans.

Tallapoosa County, AL | 1 project totaling 124 acres

This property is being preserved for the protection of natural Gneiss rock outcrops, forest habitat, remnant prairie, and riparian forests, water resources ideal for flora and fauna habitat, and eight bird species of conservation concern observed on the tract. During a site visit, FLC team determined the plant life to be diverse with a total of 156 plant species recorded. These include 80 species of grasses or forbs, 7 species of ferns, and 38 tree species. The property is located within the World Wildlife Fund's delineated Southern Rivers and Streams ecoregion, one of only 35 global ecoregions designated for potential protections.



Project highlights from properties in Georgia!

In 2018, the Foothills staff completed 7 land preservation projects and 1 land donation totaling 1,628 acres in the 8 counties of Catoosa, Elbert, Floyd, Jefferson, Lumpkin, Meriwether, Murray, and Taylor.

NORTH GEORGIA 3 projects & 1 fee simple donation

Floyd County - Streams from this 164 acre property form a creek which then flows into the Coosa River. The tract is also near several park systems like Martin Lake, Coosa Park, Johns Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA),

Little River Canyon National Preserve, and Talladega National Forest. Two easements held by FLC total 1,309 acres are located within 5 miles of the property. There are also 28 conservation easements held by another land conservancy within a 10 mile radius.

Lumpkin County - This forested 458 acre property rises from the Chestatee River (pictured right) high onto steep slopes near Dahlonega. The tract nearly adjoins another 721 acre FLC protected property with both lands connected by the Chestatee River. Protection of the land not only preserves the ecology of the area but also the public's scenic views from the river and surrounding vicinity. This helps in maintaining the natural and rural character of the region that is well-known for tourism and recreation.

Murray County - (not pictured) Close to the Tennessee and Georgia border, this 115 acre former pine plantation is located in close proximity to the Cohutta WMA. Cohutta WMA is situated within the Chattahoochee National Forest, encompasses 96,503 acres of forestland, and is managed for deer, turkey, and small game.

Catoosa County - FLC Fee Simple (not pictured) - This 98 acre property, consists of both open pasture and woodland and is surrounded by large farms and rural residential areas.

EAST GEORGIA - 2 projects

Elbert County - This 114 acre property is the site of a former quarry. It contains a large exposure of the Elberton Granite Deposit, also known as the Lexington-Oglesby Blue Granite Belt. The tract's natural habitats include Oak-Hickory-Pine Forest, Mesic Hardwood Forest, granite outcrops, and streams. The flat tops and ledges of the quarry along with thin soil areas around the quarry can be home to rare granitic species. Common species observed in this unique natural community were orangegrass, large-flower tickseed, and various granitic plants.

Jefferson County - The 123 acre property is composed of upland mixed pine-hardwood forests, mesic hardwood forests, forested wetlands, uncommon bluff forests, creek corridors, small pine plantations, and wildlife food plot fields. The tract adjoins four tracts of existing protected land totaling close to 567 acres and is proximal to a number of other protected lands.

WEST GEORGIA - 2 projects

Taylor County - This diverse 360 acre property includes sandhills habitat, swamp, farmland, and seeps and also contains the state threatened Pickering's morning-glory (pictured lower right). This small white-flowered and unique morning glory holds its small narrow leaves upright. According to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), fewer than 30 populations are known in the state. This tract also contains the state rare Bachman's Sparrow, which was heard on the property because of its unique song. This tract lies within close proximity of preserved private, state and federal lands including over 20 private conservation easements, the Georgia DNR's WMA, and the Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA.

Meriwether County (*Not Pictured***)** -This 194 acre property mainly consists of forests, river frontage, pasture, and an historic cemetery. It is within close proximity of Joe Kurtz WMA and an existing conservation easement on the Flint River. The tract lies along a portion of the Oakfuskee Road, a road used by the Creek Indians as a trading path. It also lies along the Meriwether-Pike Scenic Byway, providing a 10 scenic greenspace for the byway.



Floyd County, GA | 164 acres



Lumpkin County, GA | 458 acres (Image of the Chestatee River.)



Elbert County, GA | 114 acres (Site of a former granite quarry.)



Jefferson County, GA | 123 acres (Tract is mainly forested.)



Project highlights from properties in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia!



Chatham County, NC | 112 acres (Property is close to other protected lands.)



Anderson County, SC | 95 acres (Former pine plantation is now a farm.)



Richland County, SC | 114 acres (View of the Broad River from property.)



Chesterfield County, VA | 2 adjacent projects totaling 471 acres

NORTH CAROLINA - Chatham County 112 acres

This tract is being protected to preserve scenic open space, forest land, prime farmland



soils, and undeveloped lands in the Rocky River Watershed. This land is close to and just upstream from Tick Creek, which is known to have rare aquatic species that are dependent on water quality. The property adjoins a large tract of land protected by another land trust and is close to other protected lands including the Rocky River Subbasin Aquatic Habitat, Ore Hill Natural Area, Wood's Mill Bend Natural Area, and Rocky River Basalt Bluffs Registered Heritage Area.

SOUTH CAROLINA -Anderson County & Richland County 210 Acres (2 projects)

Anderson County (95 acres) - A majority of this property is comprised of farm fields, with small forested areas and a small creek. The farmland is currently being used for raising cattle. The property runs along a



state highway that is part of the Savannah River Scenic Byway. Much of the land used to be pine plantation owned by a paper company. About 12 years ago it was converted to pasture. The tract is within an area, considered by the American Farmland Trust, to be within the critical zone for lands having both high quality farmland and high development pressure.

Richland County (114 acres) - This property is located along the Broad River (pictured left), about ten miles from downtown Columbia, SC. The tract consists of open agricultural fields, currently producing soybeans, as well as forested areas. The property's forests are currently contiguous with those of nearby Harbison State Forest, making it highly likely that the wildlife species using those 2,000+ protected acres would benefit from the protection of the relatively natural habitat on the property as well. A species list compiled during a site visit included 24 tree species observed plus 60 other shrubs and herbs. Bird sightings included the belted kingfisher, green heron, red-tailed hawk, and pine warbler.

VIRGINIA - Chesterfield County 471 Acres (2 projects)

Two adjacent properties totaling 471 acres have recently been preserved in Chesterfield County. They adjoin a 438 acre Virginia Department of Forestry Easement and a 207 acre conservation easement placed with FLC back in



2017. There is a Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Easement in close proximity. Easement restrictions will protect extensive wetlands and creeks on the property that flow into the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Both properties are also being protected to preserve scenic open space, forest land, wetlands, and undeveloped lands. A bald eagle was noted flying over the trees during a staff site visit.



For sponsor/host participation or to purchase tickets contact Elise at eeustace@foothillsland.org or 865-681-8326. Corporate Sponsors & Individual Hosts receive event tickets and listings on: <u>Invitation • Day-of-Event Banner • Annual Report/Spring Newsletter • Website • August eNews</u>

A special thank you to FLC's 2018 Sponsors!

























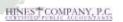




























A special thank you to FLC's 2018 Host Committee!

Honey & Lamar Alexander • Angie & Steve Arnett • Joan & Victor Ashe • Lucretia & Bill Atterson • Dan Barnett • Pauline & Charles Bayne • Marjorie & John Beasley • Janet & Tim Bigelow • Marty & David Black • Pat & Ernie Blankenship • Sharon Boyce & Jack Woodall • Sherry & Bob Browder • Rebecca Bryant • Priscilla & Jim Campbell • Vicki & Jeff Chapman • Terry A. Chervenak • Linda & Pete Claussen • Madge Cleveland • Mary Coffey & James Froula • Dr. Mary Cushman • Claudia Dean & Dan Feller • Nancy & Gary Dunavant • Judi & David Forkner • Rachel & Gerald Gibson • Dr. L. Barry Goss • Emily & Spencer Hall • Gail P. Harris • Christine 'Teenie' Hayworth • Robin Hill • Jenny Hines & Tom Jester • Frances & Jerry Hodge • Susan & J.T. Howell • Julia Huster & Robert Fletcher • Debbie & Dr. Craig Jarvis • Mary & Mark Jendrek • Susan Kincaid & Mike Parish • Ann & Mark King • India King & Addison West • Lucy & Philip Kirkham • Carol & Dr. Steve Krauss • Marion & William Lewis • Susan & David Long • Ronnie McKenzie • Lillian & Allen Meek • Karen & Billy Minser • Bonnie & Bob Morris • Robert D. Proffitt, MD • Sara Fortune Rose • Darlene & Ed St. Clair • Billy Stair • Mary Kay & Bill Sullivan • John Z.C. Thomas • Nancy & Bob Van Hook • Kathy & John Wilbanks • Deb & Paul Willson • David Zandstra

A very special thank you to our Friends of the Foothills for all of your contributions, time, and talents in 2018!

Arranged alphabetically by an individual's last name or the business's first name.

Charles & Donna Alexander Sen. Lamar & Honey Alexander **Amazon Smile Program** Fran Ansley & Jim Sessions Steve & Barbara Apking **Steve & Angie Arnett** Victor & Joan Ashe William & Lucretia Atterson **Richard Baird** Phillip & Cheryl Baker William & Margaret Baldauf **Banff Mountain Film Festival** Jean W. Bangham **Dan Barnett Charles & Pauline Bayne** Marin & Sue Beard John & Marjorie Beasley Rev. Robert & Martha Lee Beasley Bechtel National, Inc. **Michael Beinenson** Janis D. Berg **Tim & Janet Bigelow Arville & Genois Billings** David & Judith Birdwell Joy M. Bishop **Iris Bissett** Marty & David Black Linda Blanc & Marshall Petterson Ernie & Pat Blankenship **Wayne Blasius** Blount Gastroenterology Assoc. Blue Ridge Realty, Inc. Jim & Rhonda Bogard Mike J. Bohannon Bradley J. Bower Sharon Boyce & Jack Woodall **Percy & Pauline Brewington Anne & George Bright Sherry & Bob Browder** Michael S. Brown & Betty Evans Donna S. Brugh Rebecca Bryant **Charles & Marion Burger** Dr. Patrick & Fae Burkhart **Burley Stabilization Corporation** David & Debby Buuck

John Byrd

Jim & Priscilla Campbell Campus Chest Program - UTK **Bonnie Carroll** Richard & Barbara Carter Sally Chaffin Jeff & Vicki Chapman Fred & Joyce Chattin Terry A. Chervenak Citizens Bank Of Blount County Clarence Brown Theatre Benjamin C. Clark Jr. Jay & Stacy Clark Pete & Linda Claussen **Madge Cleveland Robert & Louise Collier** Martha E. Cook Charles & Susan Corn Coulter & Justus Wealth Advisors Charles & Nancy Coutant John & Peggy Cowan Larry & Brenda Cox Dr. Mary F. Cushman Jean Davidson Joe & Ann Deatherage Ned & Claire Delozier **Mary Lynn Dobson Edward Dorr & Marjorie Faeth** John & Carolyn Drake Amy Russell Dudenbostel **Gary & Nancy Dunavant** Paul & Molly Durr Glenda & Darrell Eastridge **Eco Terra** Glenn M. Edwards Rem & Louise Edwards Allan & Donna Jean Ellstrom **Energy Solutions** Carter & Magda Eustace Dr. John & Janet Exton Walter & Lynne Fain Daniel Feller & Claudia Dean Marlene Fessick **Craig & Nancy Fischer** Jim Fitzgerald Tom & Marian Fitzgerald Robert J. Fletcher Ted Flickinger

FMP Real Estate Services, Inc.

David & Barbara Folsom

Anna & Tom Ford Judi & David Forker Marilyn Frank Alan, Mealka & Elsbeth Freeman James Froula & Mary Coffey Shella Ann Fuhrman **Furrow Auction Company** Sam & Ann Furrow **Arthur & Nancy Garrett** James A. Gerding Dr. Gerald & Rachel Gibson **Robert Gibson** Carole Gobert Karl E. Gombert Dr. L. Barry Goss **Doris Gove** John W. Gowan Jr. **Gary & Carol Grametbauer David & Diane Gray** Daniel Green Nina Gregg & Doug Gamble Dana & Nancy Griffin **Billy & Sandra Grimm Douglas & Sally Gross** Jessica Guinn Celia M. Gulbenk William & Ann Hackworth Melvyn & Edith Halbert **Meredith Louise Hale Bill & Kathy Hall** Spencer & Emily Hall **Christine Hamilton** Loretta Harber Nancy E. Hardin Patrick & Julie Hardin **Gary Harmon** Gail P. Harris Christine 'Tennie' Hayworth **Julie Hembree** Richard & Lucy Henighan **Winifred Hepler Hickory Construction David Higgins Robin Hill** Richard & Jeanie Hilten **Hines & Company, PC** Jenny Hines & Tom Jester Norman E. Hinkle

Jerry & Frances Hodge

Angela Hoffman & Seth McConchie **Paul & Bonnie Holmes Audrine Honey** James & Teresa Horn **Karen Houck** John Howanitz J.T. & Susan Howell Dr. Rocio Huet Leigha Humphries Dan Hurst Dr. Robert W. Hutson Information International Assoc. Dr. Craig & Debbie Jarvis Mark & Mary Jendrek Wilma Jordan Joel & Nancy Justin **Dale & Mary Kangas** Ellen C. Keith Matthew Kelleher, Jr. Don & Sandy Kilgore King Brothers Farm Mark & Ann King Charlene 'Chuckie' Kirby Philip & Lucy Kirkham Mark D. Kirkpatrick Charles E. Klabunde Trust Frank & Janet Kornegay **Roy Kramer** Manfred O. Krause Dr. Stephen & Carol Krauss **Kroger Community Rewards George Laggis** Michael & Carlene Lecompte David & Judith Lee Sherri Parker Lee Leidos **Charles & Annette Levin Marion & William Lewis** Magdalene P. Liles **David & Susan Long** Long, Ragsdale & Waters, PC **Richard & Evelyn Lorenz** William J. Lukosavich Stephen Mallett & Susan Savage Maple Hall (Knoxville) **Brent & Nancy Martin Evelyn Martin Mast General Store Lenny & Wilma Mattingly Donald Mauer** Alice & Allen McCallie 14 Gordon & Gay McCammon

William & Pattie McCulley Chris & Gladys McDonnell Steven McGaffin Ronald E. McKenzie Janet McKinley Allen & Lillian Meek **Keith & Janie Mertz** Paul & Emily Miller Doug Mills (Celebration Photographer) Jay & Jennifer Mills **Jack Milne** Billy & Karen Minser Phillip W. Moffitt Keith & Rita Moore **Bob & Bonnie Morris** Terry W. Morton William W. Murphy Kathy L. Newman & Bob Durham Nine Lakes Wine Festival John H. Noel Norris Women's Club Matthew & Amy Nuckols **Frances Oates** Ellen Oblow Harry & Amy Ogden ORAU **Andy Page** Mike Parish & Susan Kincaid Larry & JoAnn Parker **Fred Pasteur Patriot Investment Management** Robert & Sylvia Lynn Peery **Karen Petrey** Kenneth G. Picha Pilot Flying J. Burke & Lezah Pinnell John & Martha Pittenger Dennis E. Poland Claudio & Mary Katherine Polo Steve Polte Randall & Kathleen Pope Drs. Laura Powers & John Burkhart Sarah Prince Larry & Carolyn Proctor John Proffitt Robert D. Proffitt, M.D. Pro2Serve Honorable Bob & Margo Ramsey Dr. John & Nancy Ray Pamela Reddoch Retirement Planning Services, LLC Marjorie Richardson

Jennifer Lynn Richter Joan Riedl **Natalea Riley RiverView Family Farm Bill & Shelly Robinson Ryan Robinson Chuck Roe** Dr. Gary & Karyn Rolfe Sara Fortune Rose Sarah J. Rule Edward & Darlene St. Clair Jeff & Melissa Sanders William H. Savell, Jr. DDS Royce & Ann Sayer Peter Scheffler Paul A. Schmalzer Dr. William & Rebecca Schneider **Bill Scroggins Raymond Sellers** John & Rebecca Sewell Arthur G. Seymour **David & Judy Shiflett** David & Teresa Shupp William & Muriel Sirett **Jack & Joanne Sites** Joseph & Kimberly Skalski Marvin & Wilda Smith **Robert & Betsy Smith Smoky Mountains Hiking Club** Dr. Alan Solomon Cindy Spangler **Roy Spears** Billy C. Stair Strata-G, LLC Morgan Strissel Ben & Bonny Kate Sugg Bill & Mary Kay Sullivan R.B. & Liz Summitt Marjorie Swenson Paul & Barbara Taylor **Sharon Templeton** Gary & Lois Thacker The Trust Company of Tennessee Gordon & Nancy Thomas John Z. C. Thomas **Lois Thomas Nathan Thomas** John & June Thompson **Gerald Thornton** James S. Tipton, Jr. Randy & Louise Trudell Don & Kathy Trundle

Frank & Judy Turner

Peggy Turner

UCOR - URS/CH2M Oak Ridge LLC

UT-Battelle

Mark Van Hook

Robert & Nancy Van Hook

Stuart Van Meter, M.D.

Gary & Linda Walker

Mildred K.Wallace

Rick Watwood

Melissa Wauford

Glen D. Weber

Stephen & Carol Weber

Moira Wedekind

Martha Weeks

Sarah J. Weeks

Donald Weisbaker

George Addison West, Jr.

John & Debby White

Robert & SheilaWhite

Myron Whitley

Terry M. Whitt

Jacqueline Whittemore

John & Kathy Wilbanks

Martha Williams

Craig Williamson & Patricia Scofield

Paul & Deb Willson

George & Susan Wilson

Nathan K. Woods

Ralph & Karen Wynn

Dr. Mary Sue Younger

David Zandstra

'IN MEMORY OF' TRIBUTES

Linda P. Brown

(by Robert & Nancy Van Hook)

Randy Brown

(by Alice & Allen McCallie)

John Wesley Clabough, Jr.

(by FLC Board & Staff)

Carl & Noma Eustace

(by Carter & Magda Eustace)

William G. Harris (1766)

(by George Addison West)

Charles E. Klabunde

(by the Charles E. Klabunde Trust)

Jim E. Long

(by Jeff & Melissa Sanders)

Sandra Dean Long

(by Cindy Spangler)

Maureen Brown Lucas

(Hugh Williamson & Family)

Erma F. Martin

(by Evelyn L. Martin)

Geneva McArthur

(By Bill Hackworth)

(by the Stephen Mallett)

(by William & Pattie McCulley)

Dr. Arvin S. Quist

(by Robert & Nancy Van Hook)

John Logan Rose, III (Jack Rose)

(by Donna Brugh)

(by Loretta Harber)

(by Will Hubbard)

(by Sara Fortune Rose)

(by Sarah J. Weeks)

Garland & Nell St. Clair

(by Robin Hill)

(by Ed & Darlene St. Clair)

Betty Scofield

(by Craig Williamson & Patricia Scofield)

Mildred J. Scott

(by Dana & Nancy Griffin)

Frank Malcolm Stribling

(by Iris Bissett)

(by Coulter & Justus Wealth Advisors)

(by Joe & Ann Deatherage)

(by Norris Women's Club)

(by Frances H. Oates)

(by Ruth, Stephen & Helen Rindsberg)

(by Peter Scheffler)

JoAnn Thompson

(by John & Debby White)

Donald Greer Walker

(by Joy M. Bishop)

Felder S. Weeks

(by Martha Weeks)

Frederica Williamson

(by Craig Williamson & Patricia Scofield)

BEQUEST

Maureen Brown Lucas

(Hugh Williamson & Family)

'IN HONOR OF' TRIBUTES

Steve Arnett

(by Anna & Tom Ford)

Ernie Blankenship

(by Benjamin C. Clark, Jr.)

Robby & Emily DeLozier

(by Martha Williams)

Tom & Marian Fitzgerald

(by Jim Fitzgerald)

Dan Fortune

(by Donna Brugh)

William Douglas Goode, Jr.

(by Mary Katherine Polo)

David Higgins

(by Sarah Prince)

Kim Kasten & Ranaye Dreier

(by Mildred K. Wallace)

Robert J. Lowe

(by Robert E. Gibson)

Sara Fortune Rose

(by Sherri Parker Lee)

Joe Stewardson & Jennifer

(by Raymond Sellers)

Marsey Williams

(by Ned Delozier)

Amos & Etta Wilson

(by Dana & Nancy Griffin)

Become a Friend of the Foothills!

Thanks to the ongoing and generous support of our Friends, FLC continues to expand our land conservation programs throughout the diverse and beautiful Southern Appalachian region.

Foothills gladly accepts any and all donations - no gift is too small!

Foothills is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and does not receive any financial support from federal, state, or local government. FLC relies on individual and corporate contributions to sustain our organization, land acquisition, and stewardship programs.

To become a member or to renew your annual contribution please utilize the envelope in this newsletter or visit the 'Donate Now' link at www.foothillsland.org.





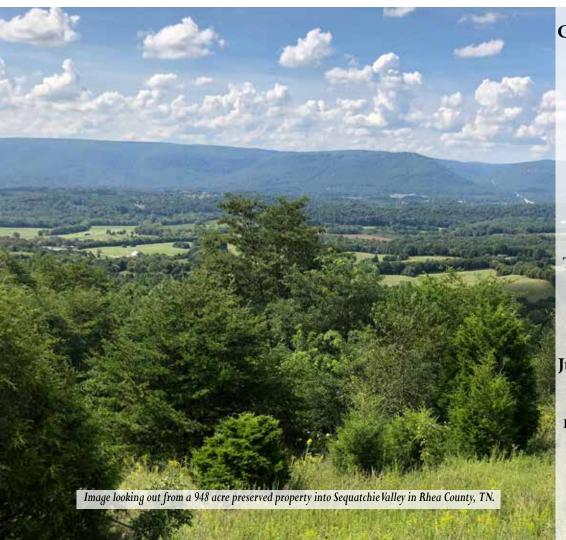
3402 Andy Harris Road Rockford, TN 37853 NON PROFIT

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Maryville, TN

Permit No. 9

Address Service Requested



CONNECT TO FOOTHILLS

www.foothillsland.org

*Sign up for our monthly eNews

*Make an online donation

*View a short video about FLC

Facebook

(Foothills Land Conservancy)

Twitter

(FriendsatFLC)

Call FLC's Office

To request a presentation for your club, organization or group (865-681-8326)

SAVE THE DATES!

June 1, 2019- Land Trust Day

Mast General Store - Knoxville A portion of store proceeds will go to FLC's conservation programs that day!

August 24, 2019 - FLC's

Summer Celebration

Located at: RiverView Family Farm