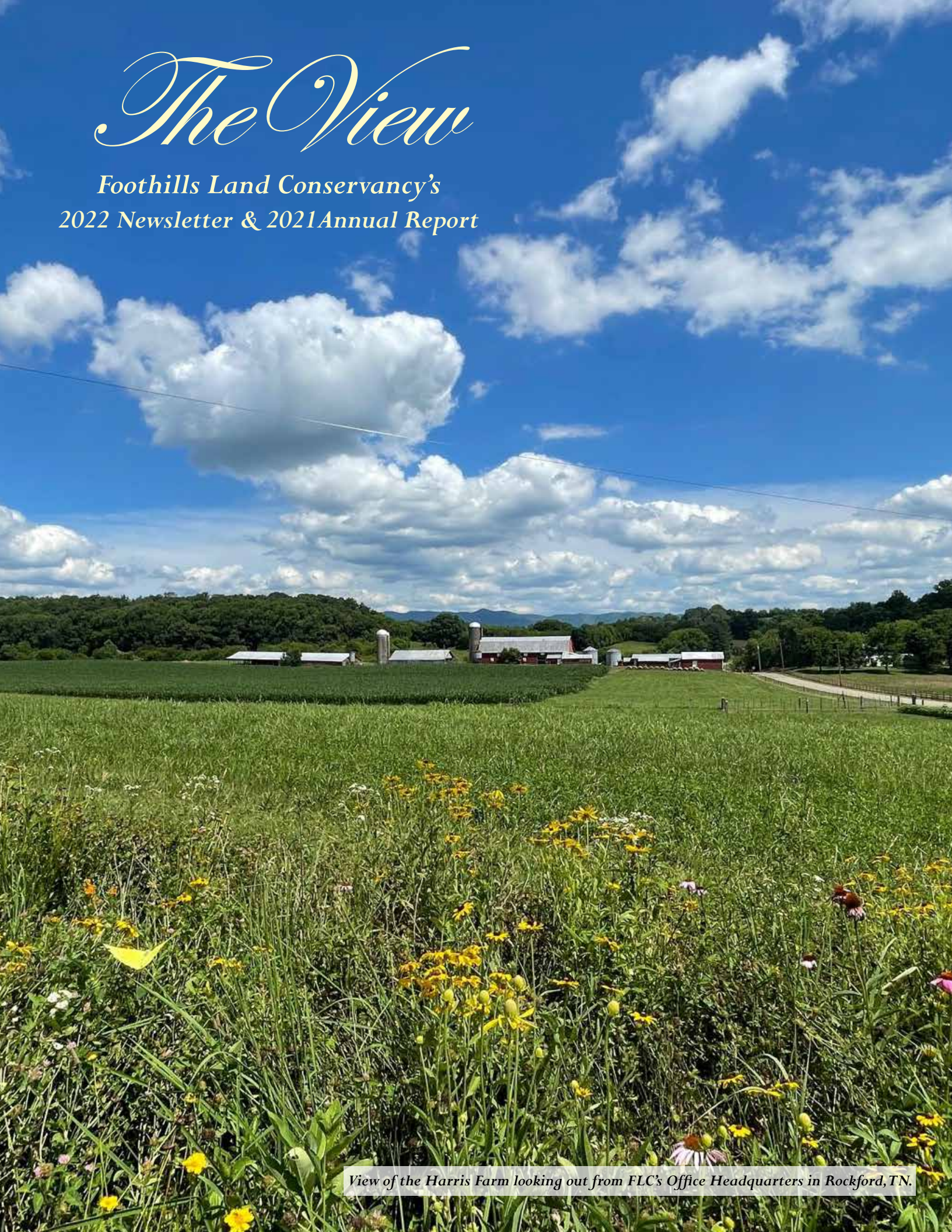


The View

*Foothills Land Conservancy's
2022 Newsletter & 2021 Annual Report*



View of the Harris Farm looking out from FLC's Office Headquarters in Rockford, TN.



The View

FLC's 2022 Newsletter & 2021 Annual Report

Celebrating 37 years as a regional land trust!

A letter from FLC's Incoming Board President



Dear Friends of the Foothills,

I am so glad to be returning to the FLC Board of Directors and excited to begin my new term as Board President! Previously, I chaired the Land Protection Committee and was involved in the planning and expansion of FLC's land conservation efforts. During my tenure, FLC partnered with area organizations to create public recreational opportunities such as the Collier Preserve (Knox County, TN), Jarvis Park (Blount County, TN), and land donations to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). These land transfers to the State include a 1,000 acre tract in Roane County that is now part of the Mt. Roosevelt State Wildlife Management Area, a 648 acre property in Polk County adjacent to the Cherokee National Forest, and two tracts in Hamilton County that are now part of the Booker T. Washington State Park.

Over the past ten years Foothills has experienced record conservation years and expanded its organizational reach outside of Tennessee with land preservation projects in the 6 states of Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. We have now preserved over 140,000 acres! This cumulative number includes conservation easement partnerships, fee simple properties, land conveyance projects, and additional land projects that FLC was involved in since the organization's beginnings in 1985.

FLC's Board and staff also worked to create a permanent foundation for our planned gifts including land acquisition and stewardship programs, the Land Preservation Fund, and other conservation related projects.

I also want to take a moment to welcome back returning Board Members, Dr. Charlie Barnett and David Long, as well as first time Board Member, Lynn Waters. If you would like to learn about FLC's Board Members, including staff, you can visit our website at www.foothillsland.org and select the 'About Us' option from the pull down menu. Also included are the Board of Director bios of our supporting organization, the FLC Properties Foundation.

Please know that our door is always open to our Friends. We welcome your ideas, feedback and resources to help fulfill our mission. Feel free to contact us at info@foothillsland.org or (865) 681-8326 with questions or to request a presentation for your group.

Thank you for being a valued Friend of the Foothills!

- Mike Parish, FLC Board President

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.

2022 FLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Charlie Barnett

Sherry L. Browder, *Member at Large*

Ed Caudill

Dr. S. Craig Jarvis, *Vice-President*

Mark Jendrek, *Secretary*

David Long

Billy Minser

Mike Parish, *President*

Ashley Saunders, *Treasurer*

Mike Suttles

Lynn Waters

John Wilbanks

**A special thank you to departing FLC Board Members:*

Steve Arnett - Treasurer, Dan Barnett - President,

Steve Polte, John Proffitt, and Sara Rose

2022 FLC PROPERTIES FOUNDATION

Spencer Hall

Mark Jendrek

Mark King

John Proffitt

Robert Van Hook, *President*

**A special thank you to departing FLC Properties Foundation*

Board Members: Dan Barnett and Sara Rose

FLC STAFF

Bill Clabough, Executive Director

Elise Eustace, Communications & Dev. Dir.

Matthew Moore, Director of GIS

Shelby Lyn Sanders, Biologist

Letter from the Director

Hello Friends,

On behalf of FLC's Board and staff we hope that all of you and your family, friends and colleagues are doing well.

In 2021, FLC Board and staff worked with landowners on 17 land preservation partnerships across the states of Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky and North Carolina. These projects totaled 3,166 acres of working farms, woodlands, waterways, and scenic views.



FLC Executive Director, Bill Clabough, stands by FLC's new office sign at the Harris Farm in Rockford, TN.

Over half of these conservation easement partnerships include portions of the property being utilized for agriculture with one property having a Tennessee Century Farm designation. Also last year, we received two land donations, totaling 3,800 acres. Highlights from our 2021 projects, including a profile piece on a 3,700+ acre land donation in Campbell County, TN, are included in this newsletter.

The FLC team has started off 2022 with a focus on expanding our outreach programs and areas of conservation. We are poised to have another amazing year for conservation! To date, FLC now has over 375 land preservation partnerships and has assisted in over 140,000 regional acres being preserved. This cumulative number includes conservation easement partnerships, fee simple properties, and other land projects FLC was involved in since our beginnings in 1985.

This year FLC celebrates 37 years as a regional land trust! While we had hoped to gather in person for last year's Summer Celebration to honor both our 36th year of service, as well as our 35th milestone year, we had to postpone due to COVID-19. Not to worry! We are planning to gather once again for our annual event on May 19, 2022. You can learn more about our rescheduled Celebration on page 12.

We very much appreciate the ongoing support of our Friends of the Foothills! The Conservancy would not be where it is today without our individual supporters, corporate sponsors, and regional partners! Please contact us with interest and questions about our land conservation programs or if you would like to have us speak at your next group function.

This past year, several individuals and families have reached out to FLC with their interest in exploring options for their property's stewardship and preservation. Please know that we are available to discuss your wishes regarding the long-term planning for your farm or property and can provide options for consideration. You can also read more about our planned giving program on page 11 of this newsletter.

- Bill Clabough, FLC Executive Director

Volunteer Day with Strata-G Employees at the Harris Farm - September 2021!

Last fall, FLC staff and Strata-G employees prepared 4 pollinator friendly meadow beds at FLC's office headquarters in Rockford, TN. These new pollinator patches are located a short distance away from ones established in 2020 by Foothills staff. These native meadows are a way to increase the natural beauty around us, decrease the time and resources necessary for lawn maintenance, benefit local wildlife, and enhance ecosystem services provided with their deeper and more robust root systems.



(Left) FLC Biologist, Shelby Lyn Sanders, provides a tour of the first pollinator beds. (Center) Volunteers work on raking the soil to level it out, removing clumps, sowing the seeds, and stomping the ground to tamp down the seeds. (Right) The entire group works together on the last step of placing straw down. This is done to protect the seed from being displaced.

Tennessee Valley Divide Property

Campbell County, TN

Take a ride north on I-75 into Campbell County, TN and you will be rewarded with the unmarred scenic vista that is the forested ridgeline of the Tennessee Valley Divide property, a 3,700+ acre tract adjacent to the Royal Blue Unit of TWRA's North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

This property features remarkable biodiversity including beautiful spring wildflowers like Pink Ladies' Slippers, reintroduced elk, and threatened migratory bird species like Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers.

Formerly slated for extensive mining activity, the property was instead protected by an FLC conservation easement in 2013 and was recently donated to the FLC Properties Foundation. It serves as a valuable ecological buffer not only to the WMA but also the nearby Cove Lake State Park, from which the property is visible.

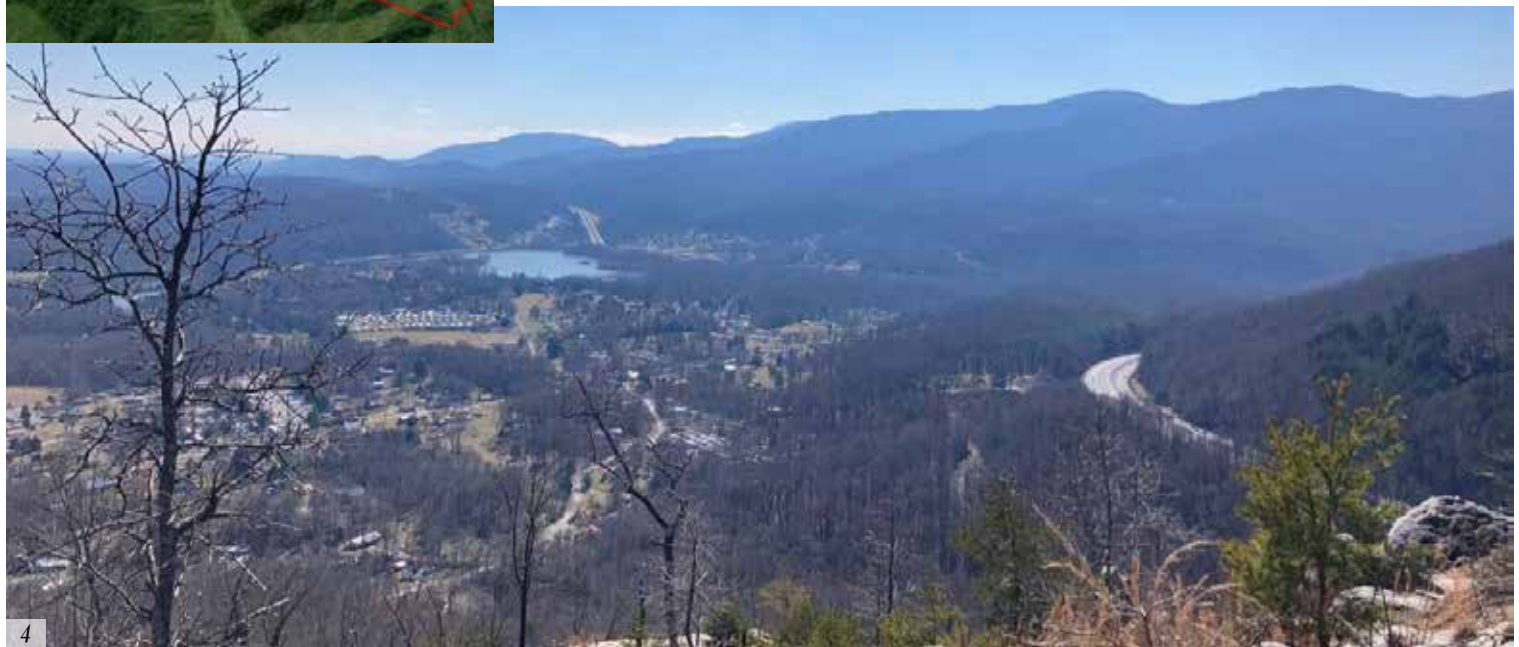


Preservation of the Tennessee Valley Divide property provides an important scenic backdrop for Cove Lake State Park, the Town of Caryville, Interstate 75, Veterans Memorial Hwy, US Hwy 25W, and many others.

The location, proximity to the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (WMA), variety of habitats, presence of mature trees, large land expanse, and other factors have created diversity in its plant and animal life.

The tract's topography is varied and includes mountaintops, slopes, coves, and ridge shoulders. Two creeks, as well as a number of tributaries and springs, were noted throughout the property.

Above) One of many spectacular views looking out from the property towards Caryville & surrounding areas. Left) Aerial image of the property, outlined in red, with Cove Lake State Park in the upper right hand corner. Below) Image looking out from the Devil's Race-track hiking trail at Cove Lake State Park towards Cove Lake and the mountain ridgelines of the Tennessee Valley Divide property.



Tennessee Valley Divide Property (cont.)



Images at top) A view looking out from one of the property's mountain summits. FLC's Executive Director, Bill Clabough, provides a property tour for then FLC Board President, Madge Cleveland. **Right)** A 'high wall' remaining from past coal mining. Mud puddles along this rustic 4WD road provide habitat for amphibians. **Below)** The tract's forested ridges and slopes provide roosting sites and winter habitat for the 'threatened' Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*). One-third of the Cerulean Warbler's breeding population migrates to areas in and around the adjacent North Cumberland WMA during portions of the year. **Bottom images left to right)** Yellow wakerobin (*Trillium luteum*); Pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule* Ait.); Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)



Photo Courtesy: Pam Linge - Macaulay Library



FLC's 2021 Land Conservation Partnerships

In 2021, FLC Board and staff partnered with landowners across the states of Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky and North Carolina to preserve 3,166 acres of working farms, woodlands, and scenic views through 17 conservation easement agreements. Check out a few highlights from these special places!

19 acres | Anderson County, TN

This small but diverse property is located just downstream of Norris Dam on the Clinch River and is close to an Audubon recognized Important Global Birding Area.

A total of 13 bird species were heard or seen during the survey of the Property, including song sparrow, winter wren, Carolina wren, and eastern towhee. The Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture, a coordinator of bird conservation plans, lists the eastern towhee as a landbird species of Moderate Priority and Regional Concern.

The plant life observed during the site visit included a total of 104 species. 52 of those species were grasses or forbs. 8 shrubs and 31 tree species were identified.



Above) Sweeping view of the property, which is situated along the Clinch River; Top right) Lesser smoothcap moss (*Atrichum angustatum*); (Bottom right) Carolina snailseed (*Nephroia carolina*)

92 acres | Blount County, TN

This Blount County farm is now permanently protected! The property, which has been in use as a farm since the end of World War II, includes a mix of agricultural land, forest, and scenic open space. Within five miles of the farm there are over 1,700 acres currently in conservation easements held by the Foothills Land Conservancy.

Top left) The farm has a mix of soybean fields (pictured) and pasture land; Right) The property also has a TN Century Farm designation, part of a state-wide effort to recognize farms owned by the same family for at least 100 years; Bottom left) During a staff site visit 35 species of trees were noted in the forested portions of the property, including American beech (*Fagus grandifolius*), six species of oak and at least two hickory species along with fruit-producing species like black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), and American holly (*Ilex opaca*)



18.31 acres | Knox County, TN



Situated among the urban areas of Oak Ridge, Farragut, and Knoxville this 18+ acre tract in Hardin Valley is now preserved with an FLC conservation easement!

The property is being preserved for the protection of its valuable natural resources which include scenic open space forest, prime agricultural soils, and natural aquatic and terrestrial habitat for wildlife. Within ten miles of the property there are nearly 900 acres currently in conservation easements held by Foothills.

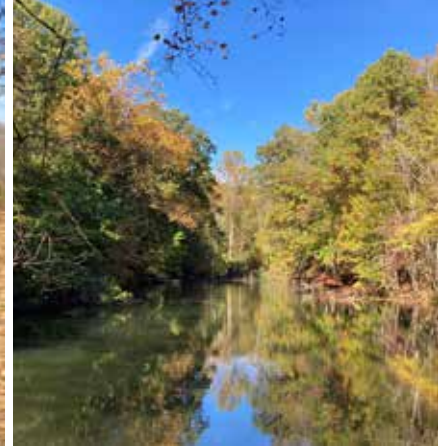
Top left) Close to six acres of the property is managed as open pasture and the remaining acreage is forested; Right) Reconstructed cabin

131 acres | Jefferson County, TN

Glenn and Kati Savage are two of FLC's newest friends and partners in land conservation! They recently placed a conservation easement on their 131 acre property, affectionately named Dancing Winds Wildlife Sanctuary and Arboretum, which is "dedicated to the preservation and protection of God's glorious creations—plants and animals." Glenn has cultivated over 400 different types of trees which are planted across the property and lovingly tends to his home garden, which has a variety of beautiful and unique flowers.

The Savages have several fields planted in corn/grain sorghum as well as a variety of oaks and other mast-producing trees to supplement the diet of the countless white-tailed deer and turkeys that call their property home. Glenn & Kati are also avid birdwatchers and provide many types of feeders for their winged backyard visitors. The Savages say that protecting their beloved property and knowing that it will forever remain a safe haven for wildlife has given them peace of mind, and Glenn hopes in the future to convince some of his neighbors to partner with FLC to protect their land, too.

Clockwise - Top left) Open field surrounded by woodlands; Top right) Landowners Glenn & Kati Savage with FLC Biologist, Shelby Lyn Sanders; Bottom right) Spring-fed pond on the property; Bottom left) FLC GIS Director, Matt Moore, works with landowner Glenn Savage to place FLC conservation easement boundary signs along the property.



128.70 acres | Roane County, TN

One landowner's vision to permanently protect her property's 128 acres in Roane County was finally completed in 2021! After several years of careful consideration regarding the long-term stewardship of their land they decided that it was time to reach back out to FLC and begin the conservation process.

This diverse tract features mature oak-hickory forest, intermittent woodland streams, and open pastureland. These natural areas provide terrestrial and aquatic habitat for interesting plants, migratory birds, and lots of white-tailed deer. FLC biologists identified 127 species of plants during a cursory survey of the property's natural features, all but 17 of which were native!

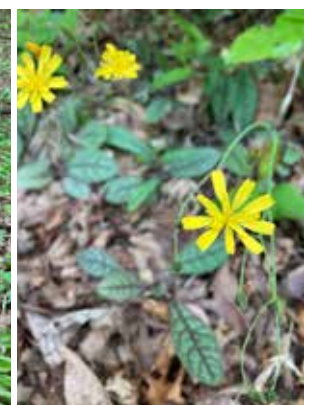
*Above) One of the property's forested areas. Roughly 90% of the property is in woodland and 10% in hay fields. Top right) Maryland Senna (*Senna marilandica*) Bottom right) Fairy fingers (*Clavaria fragilis*)*

196.87 acres | Roane County, TN

Close to 200 forested acres in the Great Valley of East Tennessee are now preserved.

This tranquil property, located a few miles from the town of Kingston and close to the Watts Bar Lake section of the Tennessee River, consists of mature oak-hickory forests, pasture land, two streams, and scenic open space.

Species noted on the property included white-tailed deer, raccoon, black bear, eastern gray squirrel, bobcat, and at least 27 species of birds, 12 of which are Neotropical migrants. Four of these (Bald Eagle, Wood Thrush, Prairie Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat) are listed in the TN State Wildlife Action Plan as Species of Greatest Conservation Need.



*Left) View into intermittent drainage area of the property's woodlands with Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) at foreground; Middle) Fly poison (*Amanthum muscitoxicum*), which is considered relatively uncommon; Right) Rattlesnake hawkweed (*Hieracium venosum*)*

48.70 acres | Sevier County, TN

Landowner interest in the conservation of this majestic property goes back almost 37 years! After reading a news article in the Sevier County's 'Mountain Press' about FLC's mission and programs, the couple became interested in how they could support the organization.

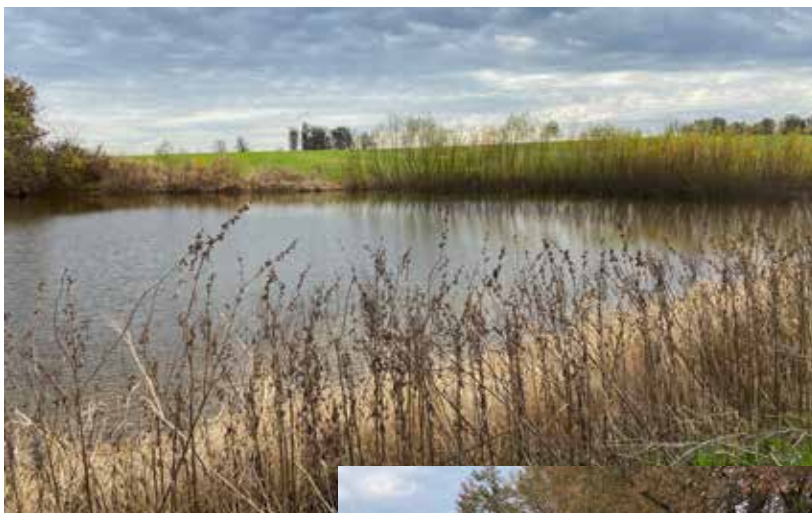
Over the years, and as East Tennessee's regional population has grown, their desire to place a conservation easement agreement on their property with Foothills became increasingly important to them, providing a way to preserve their 'little cades cove'.

Almost 90% of the property remains in woodland while 10% is in open fields. The property's forests, pastures, and the edges created where these cover types meet, provide ample and diverse habitat for wildlife.

Species noted on the property included eastern chipmunk, spring peeper, eastern gray squirrel, and 13 species of birds, one of which is a Neotropical migrant. Because the property exists as part of a much larger contiguous forest, several other Neotropical migrants are highly likely to be found here, as this is considered a preferred habitat for these species during the breeding season.

Within 10 miles, there are six tracts (totaling about 853 acres) protected by conservation easements held by the Conservancy.

Clockwise at top) Creek flowing through the eastern boundary of the property; Right) Walking trail winds along one of the two creeks that flow through the property; Left) Shining clubmoss (Huperzia lucidula)



645.90 acres | Hickman County, KY

This working farm in Hickman County, KY, consists mainly of cultivated cropland along with a pond, small creeks, and small wooded areas. The property is located within 20 miles of the Mississippi River. The property's primary use as agricultural land yields scenic, pastoral views of the rural, open countryside and gently rolling hills indicative of western Kentucky and the Loess Plains Ecoregion. Observed birds included the American crow, mallard, red-tailed hawk, and wild turkey.

Back in 2018, FLC worked with the same landowner to preserve another 600 acre working farm in Lake County, TN. That property is also located close to the Mississippi River and is also in close proximity to Reelfoot Lake Wildlife Management Area.

Top) The property's pond provides a water source for local and migrating wildlife;

Center) The farm can be seen by travelers on three different county roads and has close to two miles of public roadway frontage. This section is part of a larger scenic, rural landscape that encompasses the western Kentucky region.

Right) Center pivot irrigation runs along one of the property's corn fields.



Alabama & Georgia - 2021 Project Highlights

FLC's conservation efforts continue to expand across the Southeast! We wanted to share a few images and conservation numbers highlighting these recently completed and diverse projects.

Land and Habitat Preservation Successes:

Farmland

FLC partnered with landowners to protect 402 acres of Prime Farmland, 238 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, and one Century Farm.

Scenic Views

FLC protected the visibility along 0.3 miles of the Tallapoosa River, a part of the Alabama Scenic River Trail, as well as the visibility along 3.2 miles of public roadways.

Contributed to the objectives of the Envision Montgomery 2040 Comprehensive Plan by permanently protecting two properties in areas intended to remain Open Space.

Contributed to maintaining the rural character of Heard County, one of the goals of The Heard County & the Town of Centralhatchee, the City of Franklin, and the City of Ephesus Joint Comprehensive Plan 2017-2037.

Woodlands

Protected a degraded example of the Imperiled Montane Mixed Longleaf Pine Woodland present within Property pine forests and a degraded Piedmont White Oak – Black Oak Woodland considered Critically Imperiled

Aquatic Habitat

Protected property, within the Coosa River Basin, that is included in the Alabama's Strategic Habitat Unit. These units are focal points for conservation activities to support the management, protection, restoration, and recovery of rare aquatic organism survival.

Vulnerable & Imperiled Species

FLC conservation efforts will assist in the protection of the Alabama State Vulnerable Odonate - the Smoky Shadow-dragon (*Neurocordulia molesta*) and the Alabama State Protected Fish – The Crystal Darter (*Crystallaria asprella*).

Conserved habitat proximal to and suitable for the Globally Imperiled (G2) and Alabama State Imperiled (S2) Harper's dodder (*Cuscuta harperi*), a parasitic plant endemic to open sandstone or granite outcrops, with only 33 known occurrences in Alabama and three known occurrences in Georgia.

Protected 26 Bird species of conservation concern:

4 Included on the Georgia State Wildlife Action Plan - Brown-Headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*), Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus sавannarum*), and Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*).

7 Included on the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan - Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*), Grasshopper Sparrow, Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*), Northern Bobwhite, Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), and Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*).

Images continued on the next page...



Wooded Creek - Heard County, GA



Remnant Longleaf Pine in Understory - Elmore County, AL

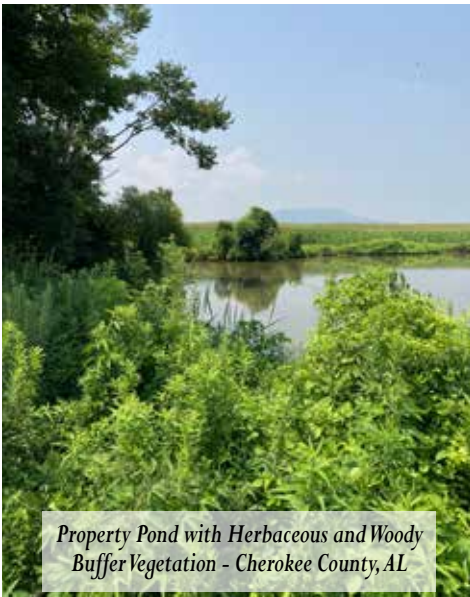


Post Cotton Harvest Fields and Forest Island - Cherokee County, AL

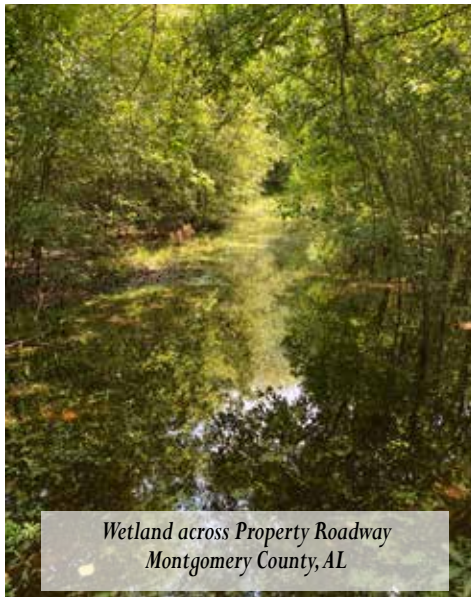


Broad Wooded Wetland - Montgomery County, AL

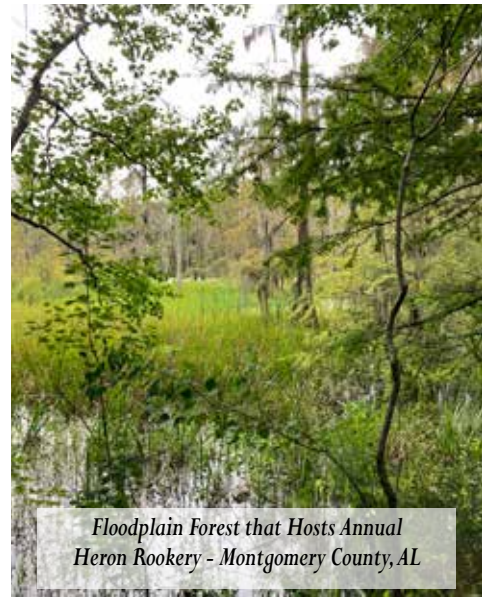
Alabama & Georgia - 2021 Project Highlights continued...



Property Pond with Herbaceous and Woody Buffer Vegetation - Cherokee County, AL



Wetland across Property Roadway Montgomery County, AL



Floodplain Forest that Hosts Annual Heron Rookery - Montgomery County, AL



Old Stone Structure in Cleared Area - Lamar County, GA



Prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* sp.) on Gneiss Outcrop - Chambers County, AL



Area with Extractable Sand and Gravel Conserved - Montgomery County, AL



First County Record of Little Ladies'Tresses (*Spiranthes tuberosa*) - Chambers County, AL



Smoky Shadowdragon (*Neurocordulia molesta*) a Vulnerable Species in Alabama - Montgomery County, AL

Planned Giving & Creating a Legacy

Across the Southeast, our rural character is rich in history, biological diversity, and majestic beauty. Scenic views, working farms, natural areas, and wildlife habitat just scratch the surface of why our region is worth preserving.

Planned gifts provide Foothills Land Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, with a permanent foundation for conservation related projects including land acquisition, land stewardship, and a landowner financial assistance fund.

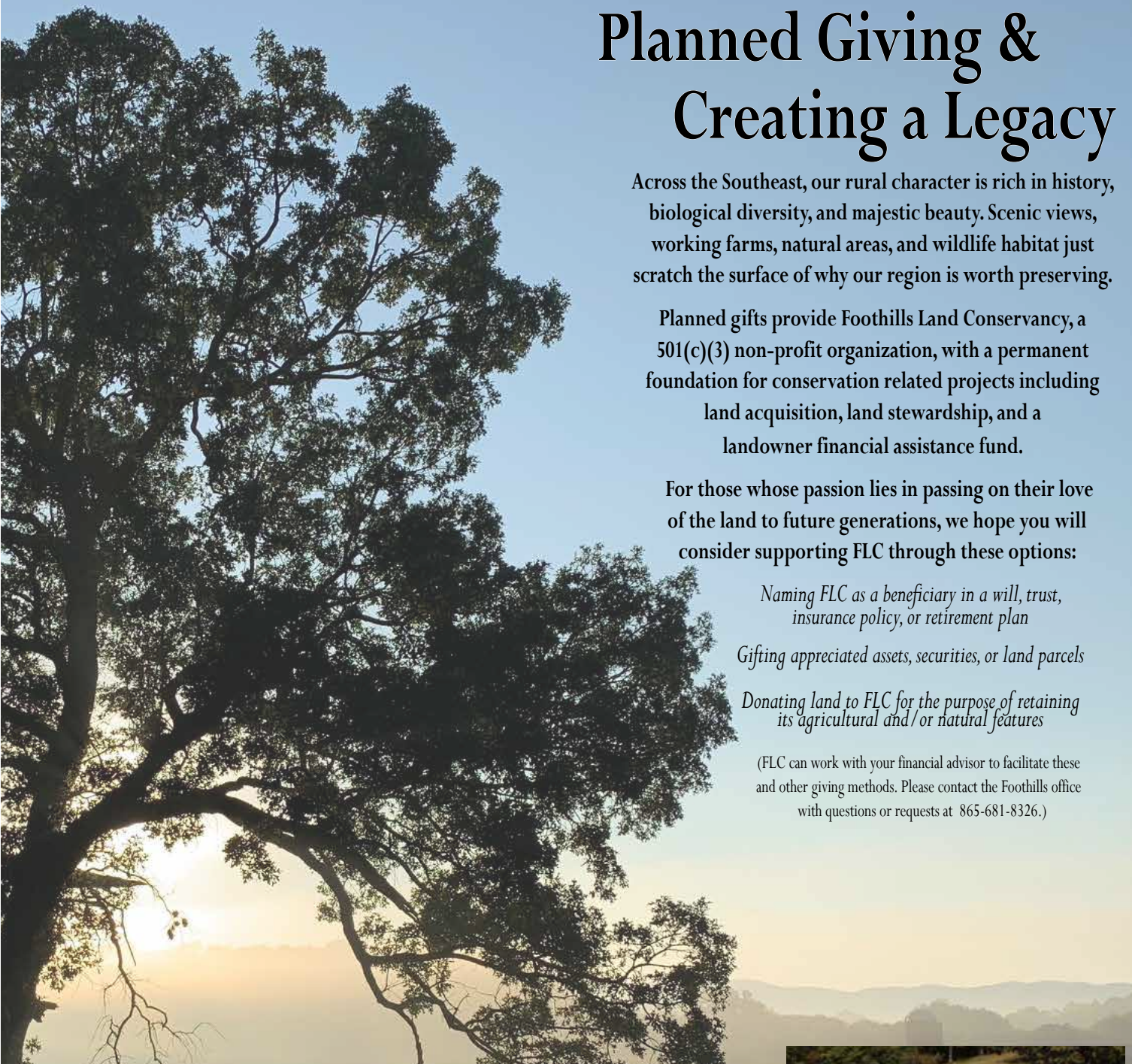
For those whose passion lies in passing on their love of the land to future generations, we hope you will consider supporting FLC through these options:

Naming FLC as a beneficiary in a will, trust, insurance policy, or retirement plan

Gifting appreciated assets, securities, or land parcels

Donating land to FLC for the purpose of retaining its agricultural and/or natural features

(FLC can work with your financial advisor to facilitate these and other giving methods. Please contact the Foothills office with questions or requests at 865-681-8326.)



I did not think Foothills would be interested in the bequest of my house, that they were only interested in large parcels. It was good to know that FLC appreciates any and all land/monetary donations. If you have something you would like to will to an organization, whose mission you identify with, then I would encourage you to do it. I was interested in doing my part to save land - preserving it is so important. You gotta have land! - Nancy Ann Schimmick



The natural world has always inspired us and in recent years we've seen our area in Sevier County grow tremendously. We knew for a long time we wanted to work with FLC in order to permanently preserve the natural features of our property. I would tell other landowners that with a conservation easement you still maintain control of your land and do not give up your rights. This decision has given us both peace of mind. - Bob & Kathy (with FLC Exec. Dir. Bill Clabough, pictured left)

Join Us for FLC's SUMMER CELEBRATION!

May 19, 2022

2022 Corporate Sponsors & Hosts:

Receive event tickets and listings on:

Invitation • Event Banner

Annual Report/Spring Newsletter • Website • eNews



Event Location: RiverView Family Farm

A special thank you to FLC's Celebration Sponsors!

GOLD



UCOR
an Amentum-led partnership with Jacobs

SILVER



BRONZE



Mark Jendrek, P.C.



A special thank you to FLC's Celebration Hosts!

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 Nancy & Gordon Thomas • Nancy & Bob Van Hook • Kathy & John Wilbanks • Susan & George Wilson • Rebekah & David Young

A very special thank you to our Friends of the Foothills for all of your contributions, time, and talents in 2021!

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

Chuck & Donna Alexander
Honey & Sen. Lamar Alexander
Amazon Smile Program
Lisa Anderson
Steve & Angie Arnett
Ambassador & Mrs. Victor Ashe
Matthew Askey
Bill & Lucretia Atterson
Mike Baker
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Baldauf, Jr.
Jean W. Bangham
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To request a presentation for your club, organization or group
(865-681-8326)

Upcoming Events

FLC's Summer Celebration

RiverView Family Farm
(May 19, 2022)

Land Trust Day at Mast General Store!

(June 4, 2022)

Outstanding views, with cosmos in the foreground, at a recently preserved 131 acre property in Jefferson County, TN.