An article written for the outdoor retailer REI published in January 2016 pointed out that the five best places to hike in America included trails on Rainbow Mountain in Madison and Blevins Gap in Huntsville. Others in the top five listing were the Grand Canyon and Boulder Colorado. Pretty impressive company. A great endorsement for our community and the Land Trust of North Alabama’s benefit to our visitors as well as residents.

During 2016, we continued to enhance our reputation as a leading national destination for active, health-minded outdoors enthusiasts. In fact, with your invaluable support over the course of another successful year, we added some of the most incredible natural features in our region to the list of permanently protected lands.

The 122 acre tract now known as the Green Mountain Nature Preserve is located on the south end of Green Mountain and was donated by longtime Land Trust supporters Bob and Sue Kuehlthau. Their donation began the year in a big way for the Land Trust. Thanks to the Madison County Commission, Lockheed Martin, Lanier Ford, and a small army of volunteers, a trailhead parking lot and key trails were all quickly added. With this addition to our previously acquired lands, we are closing in on completion of a route that will allow development of a trail system extending from Ditto Landing to the top of Green Mountain and eventually on through Blevins Gap and Huntsville Mountain, ultimately tying to Monte Sano Nature Preserve! Sounds impossible doesn’t it, but built on the foresight and planning of almost 30 years of Land Trust leaders, we are within sight of that significant accomplishment.

A major shift in the role of the Land Trust culminated mid-year when we signed an agreement to partner with the City of Huntsville to lead the planning and development of future greenways within the City. The “BIG Picture” planning process conducted by the City of Huntsville revealed that trails and greenways are an extremely popular and very desirable resource for its citizens. The Greenway program for the City was subsequently recognized by Mayor Tommy Battle as one of the top priorities with regard to quality of life. Other government officials, including Madison County Chairman Dale Strong and Commissioners, have echoed the same sentiment and have provided solid support for Land Trust efforts.

We ended the year with a donation of a historic and beautiful portion of Bailey Cove. Nestled along the western slope of Huntsville Mountain and connecting to our Blevins Gap Nature Preserve, this 24 acre tract was a rich addition to our preservation efforts. Many thanks to the Jones Family for their donation of this unique property.

I would be remiss if I failed to express my gratitude for the incredible staff, volunteers, and board members who stepped up to make 2016 a success. As we begin the celebration of 30 years of Land Trust existence, I salute the foresight and accomplishments of Land Trust founders, leaders, and members. I want to thank each of you for your commitment, support, and participation in the ongoing efforts to execute the mission of this wonderful idea called “Land Trust”. It has been an honor to serve with such a group of passionate and talented individuals.

Jerry McCarley, 2016 Board Chair
Bob and Sue Keuhlthau donated this treasure to the Land Trust in early 2016. Their love of the land is now preserved and shared with us all.

A wonderful blend of natural and cultural history, Alum Hollow is one of the most pristine and naturally protected mountain coves in Madison County.

The property features two primary streams and waterfalls that ultimately contribute to the Tennessee River.

It holds a prehistoric Native American camp as well as Alum Cave, a rock shelter that was used during the Middle Woodland period (1AD – 500AD).
THE Bailey Cove: A Portion of Jones Farm Donated to the Land Trust

Thanks to the Jones family, a beautiful cove is now preserved forever. The Land Trust received this wonderful gift just before Christmas and it expanded Blevins Gap Nature Preserve. The area boasts an upland forest habitat and it protects Bailey Cove Branch, a significant ephemeral stream that empties into Aldridge Creek. The Branch adds to the overall beauty of the property and benefits area plants and wildlife.
The Land Trust has successfully leveraged our resources to continue preserving land and to enlarge Monte Sano State Park. The 130 acre Monte Sano/Dug Hill West tract is located on the east side of Monte Sano below O'Shaunnessy Point. It contains portions of popular Flat Rock and Warpath Ridge Trails. The Land Trust successfully nominated the property to Alabama's Forever Wild Land Trust in order for it to become the latest addition to our local state park.

“One of the Land Trust’s most significant partners is Monte Sano State Park,” affirmed Marie Bostick. “Both organizations protect natural lands and both offer recreation opportunities just minutes from downtown Huntsville. We have worked together for many years in managing and maintaining trail connectivity and trail usage. The funds received from Forever Wild will allow us to preserve additional land for the community to enjoy.”

Growing Our Greenways

The city of Huntsville and the Land Trust have partnered together to create a new greenway master plan and expedite its implementation.

The city’s “BIG Picture” planning process revealed that citizens and businesses across the city want safe, convenient ways to travel by foot or bike. Citizens let it be known “loud and clear” that greenways are a priority, according to Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle. “We decided to update our plan to better reflect the public’s desires and to determine how we are going to pay for these pedestrian networks.”

A steering committee of City and Land Trust representatives will lead the planning process. “The Land Trust is the right organization to support and lead us in this effort,” said Mayor Battle. The Mayor noted that greater progress would be made by working together.

City of Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, with Land Trust Executive Director Marie Bostick (l) and Huntsville Long-range Planner Dennis Madsen (r) at press conference announcing the greenways partnership
Stewarding the Land

Land Trust volunteers embody conservationist Aldo Leopold’s concept of a land ethic: They care about people, about land, and work to strengthen the relationship between them. The many volunteers who generously lend a hand, give some time, or provide funding for equipment help the Land Trust continue to lead in the responsible use and protection of our natural environment. Our sustainable practices and dedication to land conservation are strengthened by their efforts.

Below are highlights of a few of the projects from this past year. We thank every person, group, and company who cared enough to come into the wild with us.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama celebrated National Public Lands Day with the Land Trust again this year by creating the new Fleming trailhead and beginning two trails at Wade Mountain Nature Preserve. Volunteers from Hexagon Federal US also worked on the new multi-use trails.

Six new Eagle Scouts made significant contributions to enhance our preserved properties in 2016. These young leaders coordinated efforts and volunteers:
- Josh Little extended the Turner Pond boardwalk at Harvest Square Nature Preserve.
- Collin Carter installed a bridge at Matthews Nature Preserve.
- Tyler Tolbert installed emergency 911 trail mile markers on Monte Sano Nature Preserve.
- Jacob Little removed graffiti and installed sign posts at Rainbow Mountain intersections.
- Aaron Newchurch rerouted trails and installed benches on Rainbow Mountain.
- Noah Amed installed a kiosk gravel pad, dock benches and railing, and added intersection posts at Harvest Square Nature Preserve.

Lockheed Martin sponsored this year’s National Trails Day in a big way! Assisted by additional volunteers from Lanier Ford, they installed a split rail fence, built a bridge and cleared two sections of trail as well as new interpretive and entrance signage at Green Mountain Nature Preserve.

The Environmental Education Committee designed and led the eighth year of “Tuesdays on the Trail” education programs in June and July. From fish to bats to nature art, from birds of prey to water quality, 406 participants (youth and adult) had hands-on experiences to treasure. Summer fun – that’s “Tuesdays on the Trail”!

The Land Trust Trail Care Partner program grew by 12 partnerships – bringing the total to 18 and covering 24 miles of trails.

The YMCA Youth Leadership Council built a new half mile trail (Patterson Trail) at Bloucher Ford Nature Preserve.

A prescribed burn to improve forest health was completed at Chapman Mountain by the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Initiated by Land Trust members Frances and Scott Akridge, the Land Trust received permission from the City of Huntsville to create a trailhead at the popular Oak Park off Oakwood Avenue. Volunteers from the Northeast Huntsville Civic Association worked alongside Land Trust staff to create two new trails and trailhead. The addition to the Monte Sano Nature Preserve trail system became a successful neighborhood project.

The fall and spring Guided Hike Series introduces our properties and encourages people to get out onto the trails. 1,430+ individuals participated in 43 outdoor events focusing on enjoying the scenic wonder of nature preserve trails.

Our first accessible trails were built at Harvest Square Nature Preserve with a grant from the Jane K. Lowe Foundation.

A new 6’ x 30’ bridge, kiosk, and 27 trail diamond posts were installed at the Nature Conservancy in Alabama’s Roy B. Whitaker Preserve. Also, the Conservancy’s Keel Mountain Preserve parking lot was expanded.

“To those devoid of imagination a blank place on the map is a useless waste; to others, the most valuable part.”
- Aldo Leopold
Celebrating, Honoring, and Remembering

The following friends of the Land Trust of North Alabama made gifts honoring individuals and celebrating special events. As always, we are grateful that our work of protecting the land forever is chosen as a symbol of appreciation and continuity.

Dick and Allie Allen
In Memory of Michael Richard Allen

Elizabeth Davis Apoian
In Memory of Zach Easterling

J.R. Brooks
In Memory of Joe Hinesley

Beth Buckelew
In Memory of Reuben C. Freeman

Diane Cline
In Memory of Bill Cline

Frances and Edgar Dalrymple
In Memory of Sue and Wayne Humphrey

Green Mountain Civic League
In Honor of Bob & Sue Kuehthau

Garry Favor
In Memory of Stephen Wayne Penny

John Heacock
In Memory of Joe Hinesley

Donna and John Hopple
In Memory of Jack McLemore

Sheila Huddleston
In Memory of Cecil Horne

Neal Johnston
In Honor of Keith Johnston

Frederick Lanier
In Memory of David Milly

Dimitrios Lianos
In Memory of Cecil Horne

Sandra Lyons
In Memory of Ernest R. Olson

Sandra Lyons
In Memory of Laura Jarmon Tidmore and Barbara Cooper Williams

Donny Maleknia
In Memory of Cecil Horne

Sara Stoddard
In Memory of Bette Stoddard

Robert Trueblood
In Memory of Dallas Fanning

Jean Watts
In Memory of Dallas Fanning

Dimitrios Lianos
In Memory of Cecil Horne

Donny Maleknia
In Memory of Cecil Horne

Judy Ryals
In Memory of Cecil Horne

Tanya Peters
In Memory of Baxter Peters

Cathie M. Mayne
In honor of Emmie and Jessie Mayne

David and DeAnn Milly
In thanks for the good wishes from family and friends on the occasion of their wedding

David Patterson
In Memory of Cecil Horne

Over 1,400 individuals, families, corporations, civic groups, and municipalities partnered together for land preservation in 2016. When that many folks band together, great things can happen, and they did!

- Corporate support for the Land Trust grew by $24,000.
- Individual members took their passion for land preservation to work where they implemented new Land Trust membership programs. (Thank you, Martinson & Beason!)
- You made it possible to open the brand new Green Mountain Nature Preserve.
- You helped build three new trailheads (Alum Hollow, Fleming, and Oak Park) and new information kiosks.
- You gave our community over six miles of new trails to explore.
- You helped protect the habitat of endangered species such as the Green Salamander, Alabama Cave Shrimp, and the Eastern Hellbender.

Now, in 2017 -- our 30th Anniversary year -- let's continue what you have begun!

How? Think Thirty!

- Renew your membership again this year and consider increasing the amount of your gift (maybe $30 or more).
- Set up a recurring gift this year with funds going to membership, land acquisition, or land stewardship ($30 a month?).
- Consider naming the Land Trust of North Alabama as a beneficiary of your estate.
- Preserve your land and its legacies by donating it to the Land Trust.
- Suggest ways to share the Land Trust story and enroll Members.

Please call or email Hallie Porter if you have questions or suggestions. We hope to hear from you and look forward to partnering with you this year.

Office: 256.534.LAND     Hallie@LandTrustNAL.org

Thanks for spreading the word!
The Land Trust’s strength depends on the extraordinary generosity of those who are committed to the urgent work of permanently protecting the scenic, agricultural, and open lands that define our communities. Our Members share the vision of planning, preserving, and providing stewardship for greenspace in North Alabama. Please join us in thanking them for their support.

### 2016 Individual Members

#### Forester $1,000 to $4,999
- Charles Herndon
- Cindy and Richard Jackson
- Jeff Stewart
- Fred Kilmeier
- Sandy and Melissa Kirkindall
- Evelyn Kurtz
- David Lehner
- Edward and Susanna Litkenhous
- Jim and Kelly Looney
- Jerry McCary
- David and DeAnn Milly
- Nancy Mosley
- Jennifer Nelson
- Tony Osiari
- Vanessa and Raoul Peeden
- Vicki and Monty Redburn
- Emily and Stephene Robertson
- Helen Robinson
- Ricardo and Tessa Rodriguez
- Patricia Ryan
- Jeremy and Jane Schmutz
- William Sommers
- Raymond Spielman
- Jeff Stewart
- Bruce Tiller
- Maria Torres
- Sally and Ben Walker
- Soos Weber and Steve Caudill
- Laura Weir
- Larry and Debbie West
- Robert Williams
- Chet and Ruth Wright
- Greg Wright
- Karen and Michael Yates

#### Explorer To $499
- Chad and Ashley Ayres
- Lauren Battle
- Derek Berry
- Tonia and Kevin Betts
- Lee and Duffy Boles
- Ann Bowles
- Kelly and Heath Brooks
- Mike Butler
- Joe Campbell
- Charlie Chesser
- Kevin and Janet Crawford
- Jerry and Edna Deener
- John and Linda Dimmock
- John and Carol Dunkel
- Eric Eberly
- Marilyn and Don Evans
- Garry and Becky Favor
- John and Carol Fee
- Kerry and Joe Fehrenbach
- Ben Firlill
- Tom and Kathy Flenwarth
- Kelly and Bradford Flowers
- Vickie and Mike Geselschap
- Tom Glennon
- Brian and Suzanne Godsy
- Robert and Julie Halstead
- Stan Hill

#### Conservationist $500 to $999
- Owen and Allyson Hofer
- Adele and Michael Hoffman
- William and Natalie Holland
- Marita Durham
- Greg and Debra Jackson
- Christopher Jaskolka
- Richard and Joan Jones
- Mary and Patrick Keyes
- Michael and Robbie Klemp
- Julie and Robert Lockwood
- Miriam McClendon
- Kenneth McDonald
- Matthew McDougal
- Brian Mulac
- Michael Nobbley
- Michael O’Connor
- Nancy and Albert Ordway
- Brandon Davis
- Tim and Teresa Packard
- Trace and Richard Parish
- Ben Payment
- Harry and Wendelyn Pennington
- Mary Romer
- Jenna and Keta Rosano
- Jennifer Rusak
- Saddletree Homeowners Association
- Tim and Alice Salter
- Calame and Dianne Sammons
- Nancy and Raymond Sheppard
- William and Janet Sholes
- George and Lee Anne Smith
- Stephen and Susan Smith
- Bob and Liz Stagg
- John Stanton
- Steven and April Stegman
- John Stoddard
- Amanda Stokes
- George Story
- Paul Tatum
- Scott and Jennifer Turner
- Tracy and Greg Tyree
- Ken and Rufina Ward
- Kim Ward
- Sally Warden
- Clyde and Ann Ware
- Jean Watts
- Kathy and Jon Wetherholt
- Charles Whithorn
- Richard Williams
- David and Patricia Wilson
- Vicki Wood
- Rachel Young
- Kyle Zeringue

#### 2016 Corporate Members

**Guardian $5,000+**
- Avion Solutions, Inc.

**Protector $2,500 to $4,999**
- Covanta Energy
- First Bank
- Garver LLC
- Huntsville Hospital
- Siniard, Timberlake, and League, P.C.
- Vulcan Materials Company

**Sustainer $1,000 to $2,400**
- 4Site, Incorporated
- Lankford & Battle Insurance Agency
- BASF Corporations
- Graham & Company, LLC
- Croy Engineering, LLC
- Progress Bank
- Whole Foods Market IP, LP

**Conservationist $500 to $999**
- Geo Solutions, LLC
- Martinson & Beason, P.C.

**Explorer To $499**
- Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company

### 2016 Event Sponsors

- Redstone Federal Credit Union
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- Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama
- Simple Helix
- Servis1st Bank
- Intergraph / Hexagon
- Yulista
- Lockheed Martin
- 4Site Incorporated
- Homewood Suites by Hilton Downtown
- Lankford & Battle Insurance Agency
- Landers-McLarty Subaru, A Frank Williams Company
- The Valley’s CW
- CB&S Bank
- Artisan at Twickenham Square
- Agrecon
- Downtown Huntsville, Inc.
Want to use our free Trail Map App?
Join the Land Trust today!
2016 Annual Impact Report
Preserve trails will be bursting with wildflowers and there is something always new to see around the next bend.
It's easy to join our mailing list. Just send your email address by text message:

Text LANDTRUSTNAL to 22828 to get started.
Thank you for your support. By enjoying this Southern English Brown Ale, you help the Land Trust preserve land, habitat, and fresh water resources.

**Old Black Bear Brewing Company Creates Trail Ale for Land Trust**

Craft beer brewers in North Alabama are setting high industry standards for product and philanthropy. Madison’s Old Black Bear Brewing Company has shown their commitment to the environment by creating a series of beers that will benefit the International Whooping Crane Foundation and the Land Trust of North Alabama.

The can graphic illustrates native hickory trees found on Land Trust nature preserves. The ale was initially introduced at one of our Concerts at Three Caves in summer, 2016 and a second brewing will be available in 2017.

**Natural Bridge and Ghost Creek Falls: A North Alabama treasure**

A unique and exquisite 32 acre property, Natural Bridge contains all that makes North Alabama’s landscapes exceptional: plentiful wildlife, native plants, a 25 foot limestone bridge, caves and waterfalls, as well as manicured lawns and gardens.

It has become an iconic Marshall County landmark (named one of the Seven Wonders of Marshall County in 2007 by local residents), but it is the accessible natural features that drive it to the forefront of conservation need. Many properties with attributes similar to Natural Bridge are accessible only for those who have the ability to hike in and explore. The ease of accessibility to this property for all -- regardless of age or ability -- is one aspect that sets it apart.

The owners of the home have long allowed the public to enjoy its beauty. Now they would like for it be preserved and forever available for everyone to enjoy. The Land Trust is thrilled to be working with the owners to make this dream a reality!

*For more information, please call Hallie Porter at 256.534.5263.*
The Land Trust of North Alabama is Alabama’s first land trust and is a nonprofit supported by members, friends, and donors. We currently hold and protect 6,200+ acres and provide 65+ miles of public trails on six Nature Preserves.

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Every effort has been made to recognize all members and donors. Please notify us with any corrections and update your email and USPS address to questions@LandTrustNAL.org.

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Cover image: Spring residents of Wildflower Trail, Monte Sano Nature Preserve, by Hallie Porter.
Thank you for choosing to support land preservation and conservation.

Our children deserve nothing less than knowing nature at its finest.

-L. Morenilla