



the Foothills conservationist

25 Years of Land
Conservation
and Preservation

Something on the Horizon

A NEW BEGINNING

25 in 25 Initiative

CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS



Foothills Land Conservancy

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- Bettye Carver
- Ed Caudill
- Cheryl Coleman
- David Fielder
- Judi Forkner
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- Jim Stovall
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- Michael K. Suttles
- Bob Van Hook
- Donna Young

Production & Design

Bluegill Creative
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Contributing Writers

Name Here
Name Here

Staff

Name Here
Name Here



Foothills Land Conservancy is a agency



From the President:



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“Celebrating twenty-five years of land conservation and preservation.”



PENROSE FARM, KNOXVILLE

peaceful Penrose

In addition to its splendid mountainous views, sprawling meadows and stately oaks and maples, Penrose Farm is a 130-acre contractors dream. It is one of the most coveted pieces of property in all of Knox County.

But never will there be a two-story home, condo, cul-de-sac, or community pool where now there are horses, pastures and rail fences. Penrose Farm will forever be a natural respite in a sea of subdivisions. The farm's owner, Christine Hayworth, working with Foothill Land Conservancy, has placed the working horse farm into a conservation easement.

That action means the Nubbins Ridge Road property can never be developed. Period.

"I've always been passionate about leaving some open space for people in the future," Mrs. Hayworth said. "I've been blessed to have this land and I've tried to be a good steward. You do what you can to make the world a better place."

Hayworth was only 23 when she obtained the farm in the early 1960s. Her love of horses saw Penrose Farm quickly become an equestrian center for the Knoxville area. Penrose came from a family name, she says.

The fate of the property was never in question, Mrs. Hayworth says. She says stewardship and conservation is a family trait.

"You lead by example. My children own land in other states, and I wouldn't be surprised to see easements on their property," she said.

Bill Clabough, Foothills executive director, says there are no finer examples of visionary leadership that Christine Hayworth and Laverne Farmer.

"By their actions, Laverne and Christine have guaranteed that in 150 years children who live or visit East Tennessee will be able to see mountain vistas and peaceful mountain valleys. There can be no greater legacy."



THE NEXT BOARD
MEETING WILL BE HELD
DATE, TIME, LOCATION

VALE OF TUCKALEECHEE COVE

Peace in the peaceful side of the Smokies

Laverne Farmer's property has been in her family since 1824, acquired by a land grant

when the State of Tennessee was 28 years old. Because of that family tradition, it is sacred ground to her. Mrs. Farmer has assured that visitors to Townsend will always find solitude on "the peaceful side of the Smokies" by her action of placing the property into a protection easement.

Bill Clabough, executive director of Foothills Land Conservancy, assisted Farmer in establishing the conservation easement.

"Mrs. Farmer has set the standard. Because of what she has done, I believe we will see others in this area exclude their land from development," Clabough said. "To have over 200 acres of undeveloped property that adjoins the (Great Smoky

Mountains) national park and that sits in the heart of Townsend is a remarkable gift to future generations."

For Mrs. Farmer the decision was easy.

"I love nature and I want to see that some of it is left," she said. "I just didn't want everything covered with asphalt and houses."

The property, called the Vale of Tuckaleechee Cove for years, is located next to Bethel Baptist Church where Highway 321 turns to Wears Valley Road. The family donated the land for the church and cemetery, and down through the years has always been active in the church.

At least five generations of Mrs. Farmer's ancestors have lived on and worked the land. They came from Greene County, down the Nolichucky and French Broad rivers to Sevier County, eventually crossing the mountains into what is now Townsend.

She recalls with great fondness helping her father and grandfather work the land and deliver fresh vegetables and milk to Civilian Conservation Camps in Blount County. "People would come from as far away as Knoxville to buy grandmother's fresh butter," she said.

The amphitheater where the Townsend Passion Play has been staged off-and-on since the 1970s is on the Farmer property. The non-profit organization that has produced the play will continue to have a lease on the theater grounds.



annual report

[a report to our community]

25 in 25

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“Celebrating twenty-five years of land conservation and preservation.”

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