



the Foothills. conservationist

www.foothillsland.org

25 in 25

25 in 25 Initiative Continues

THE CAMPAIGN FOR PRESERVATION

From watersheds to
farmland – a diversity
of easements

Foothills Land
Conservancy Applies for
National Accreditation



[a report to our community]
annual report

*Foothills Land
Conservancy*

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Foothills Land Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) agency



March 15, 2009

Dear Friends of the Foothills

I wanted to take a moment and convey my excitement about the many opportunities lying before Foothills Land Conservancy and my new role this year as FLC's President. Through this challenging economic climate Foothills continues to move forward with diversified land protection projects, a strong fiscal program, and solid relationships both with East Tennessee land owners and the community at large.

Right now your support is more important than ever! With lower real estate values, conservation dollars can make quite an impact in protecting East Tennessee acreage. 2009 is also the last year for certain federal tax deductions on conservation easements. With that in mind, time is of the essence to creatively increase donor support while maintaining efficient use of financial resources. FLC is ready to meet that challenge!

In 2009, FLC's top priorities include:

- *Maintaining the stewardship of our conservation easements*
- *Protecting more East Tennessee acreage for future generations*
- *Expanding community and donor relations efforts across our region*
- *Exploring foundation and grant opportunities for FLC and land owners*
- *Continuing to remain financially solid with the generous support of our donors and careful oversight of our financial resources.*

FLC's experienced staff, diverse Board of Directors, and numerous supporters will ensure not only that these programs continue to function efficiently but that they also contribute to our most successful year yet!

Thank you for being a true Friend of the Foothills and we look forward to your continued support.

Regards,

*Bob Van Hook, President
Foothills Land Conservancy*



Peace of Mind

Gene Hartman Property –
Kingston, TN

Restoring Wildlife Habitat

One of Foothill's largest land conservation easement agreements in 2008 is located off of TN Hwy. 58 along the crest of Ten Mile Ridge and adjacent valley near Kingston. The property's forested hills and adjacent fields teem with wildlife. A planting program is underway offering native warm season grasses including indian grass, switch grass and bluestem. More than a dozen ponds are stocked with bluegill, catfish, and bass while the deer, turkey and quail are free to roam the land. Thanks to Gene Hartman's efforts, this is by far FLC's most unique wildlife habitat restoration to date.

Spanning 920 pastoral and agricultural acres in Roane and Meigs counties, Hartman knew his property was special and that time was of the essence. "Putting an easement on my land has given me peace of mind that my efforts and wishes will be carried out, in short, protected." An avid hunter

and fisherman, Hartman purchased the tract in 1993 from wildlife expert Jack Hanna. Over the past few years, he has worked closely with Dick Conley, a biologist retired from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, to develop his property with conservation principles in mind.

Ecologically, Mr. Hartman has continued to increase the biodiversity of the property by carefully selecting plant species that add value to a variety of wildlife species and to the environment as a whole. These efforts include protecting the existing hardwood forest that runs along Ten Mile Ridge. From the crest of Ten Mile Ridge it is possible to see the Smokies, the Cumberlands and the many ridges and valleys in between.

Another important conservation value Mr. Hartman hopes to pass on is sharing the 'view' with others. He regularly offers opportunities for disadvantaged and disabled youth to experience various recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, and camping on the property. 🌿



It's All in the Trees

What makes the Cline property special?

It's all in the trees, Ed Clebsch, retired University of Tennessee Professor of Botany and FLC Special Projects Coordinator, says. "Their tract of land has more old growth timber than any of our other easements." Indeed more than 120 acres of the 278-acre property are woodlands, consisting primarily of 100 to 150-year-old oak and hickory trees.

The property's unique location is also important, Clebsch says. Both practicing physicians, the Cline's wanted to protect their land from the development emerging in the area. Bill Clabough, FLC's Executive Director, believes the Foothills-Cline partnership was the result of great timing, "Portions of Loudon County that include Tellico Village and Lenoir City area are becoming quite popular. The Cline's property sits on an area that is subject to development due to its proximity to Highway 321 and Fort Loudon Lake."

Drs. Richard & Kim Cline Property –
Lenoir City, TN

Old growth timber preserved

The mix of land uses, including both deciduous and evergreen forest, pasture, and crop land, offers habitats that suit many resident and migratory species of animals. The land lies among three Tennessee Valley Authority reservoirs: Fort Loudon Lake and Watts Bar Reservoir on the Tennessee River, and the Tellico Reservoir on the Little Tennessee River.

"We want our land to remain both environmentally valuable and scenic – not only for us but to our adjacent neighbors and the community at large." Dr. Richard Cline also added, "With that in mind, it seemed a natural fit to move forward with a conservation easement." 🌿

“We want our land to remain both environmentally valuable and scenic...”





From the Director:

Greetings from Bill & Staff! What an exciting year for Foothills Land Conservancy! A tremendous thank you goes out to easement donors, supporters, business sponsors and FLC's Board of Directors for making 2008 one of our best yet. We also acknowledge the leadership and continuity Doug Berry provided as FLC President over the past two years. His time, experience and resources allowed Foothills to experience a smooth transition among staff and board member changes.

FLC took on many new ventures in 2008. Our board also accepted 15 conservation easements from land owners in 7 different East Tennessee counties. We worked with the Town of Pittman Center to carry out a dream of Emily Brunner to create a nature park for the community. The 31 acres transferred to Pittman Center and 19 more acres to be added from the estate of Millie Blaha will become the nucleus of a 50-acre nature park. This year the Town of Pittman Center and Mayor Glen Cardwell, along with their respective staffs, are excited for this special addition to their city.

Our continued partnership with the Legacy Parks Foundation has brought new parks to Knox County. Legacy Parks works in collaboration with the City of Knoxville and Knox County to secure funding for land acquisition, park improvements, and recreation programs. Recently, they purchased 11 acres in the Halls community and FLC supplied the conservation easement. Along with the assistance of the Gibbs Ruritan Club, this property is now in use as a public park.

Both the FLC Board of Directors and Foothills staff are looking forward to 2009 and it, too, is shaping up to be a very busy year.

We are excited that Dr. Robert Van Hook is FLC's new President. An ecologist by training, Van Hook has also served on the board of the Tennessee Nature Conservancy. Two years ago, Robert and his wife, Nancy, worked with FLC to place a conservation easement on their own property. Dr. Van Hook continues in the rich tradition of past FLC presidents – hard working, dedicated and focused on FLC's mission.

“That mission is to protect, preserve, and embrace the natural landscape of East Tennessee.”

That mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance the natural landscape of East Tennessee. We are first and foremost a resource to individual land owners and the community at large. FLC remains committed to land preservation and we encourage your continued support in all that we do. Please don't hesitate to stop by our offices, drop us a note, or give us a call – we'd love to hear from you!

Your staff - *Ed Clebsch, Karen Reagan, Elise Eustace, Meredith Clebsch and Bill Clabough*



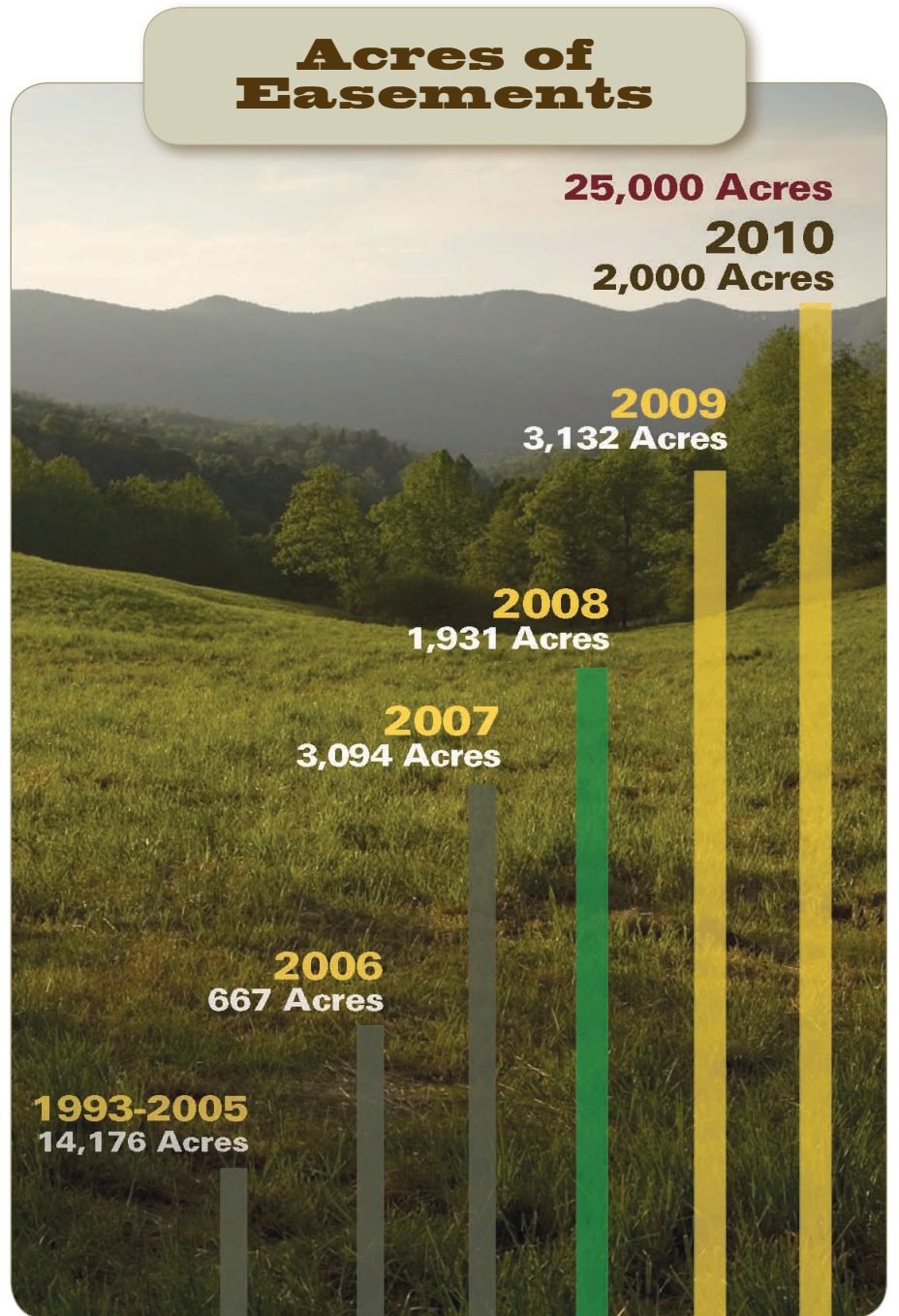
25 in 25

Campaign for Conservation

Foothills Land Conservancy turns 25 next year and we plan to celebrate by having 25,000 acres of land preserved from residential and commercial development. The 25 in 25 campaign was launched in 2007 – our best year ever – and one that saw more than 3,500 acres protected. Property owners who enter conservation easements do not give up title to their property, but do receive tax considerations for signing this agreement.

No land parcel or cash gift is too small.

With your help, we will reach our goal of 25 in 25. When we do, we'll celebrate our victory, set a new goal and get back to work.

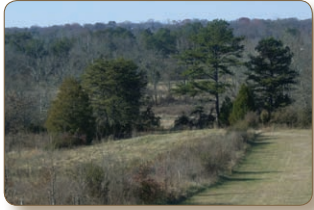


[2008 FLC Conservation Easements]

“No tract is too small. An urban nature park can have a huge impact as well as rolling farmlands and rugged mountaintops.”

– Bill Clabough, FLC Executive Director

More than 60 families, organizations and individuals have donated property to or entered into conservation easements with FLC. From watersheds to farmland, historical parks to neighborhood tracts – easements can be placed on all types of land and can be customized to fit the needs of both the landowner and community. Here are just a few examples of recent partnerships:



Bagley Easement - McMinn County

Nestled between Middle Creek and Chestue Creek, this pastureland is close to the towns of

Englewood, Athens and Etowah. The variety of open space, habitats, and woodlands provides for many of the needs of resident and migratory wildlife species to prosper year-round. There are nice views of Starr Mountain and The Knobs from the Bagley's property.

Burkey Farm Easement - Greene County

The Burkey property is in southeastern Greene County at the base of the Bald Mountains, near the Cherokee National Forest. Half of the property is forested, a fourth is in open pasture, and one fourth is pasture with scattered, large eastern red cedar trees. The combination of woodland, open space, isolation, and a water source makes the property attractive to a variety of wildlife, including migratory and resident birds.

Cattle Creek/Halls Park Easement - Knox County

Thanks to Cattle Creek developers, residents of Halls will have an 11-acre park to enjoy. The property is bound on three sides by commercial and residential development but offers gently sloping open fields edged in part by Beaver Creek and buffered by large, mature hardwoods. This island of habitat provides seasonal food, nesting, and cover for most urban wildlife and for migratory and resident birds. As an undeveloped public open space, this property has considerable conservation value that should increase with time.



Chaffin Easement - Knox County The Chaffin property, located on both sides of Bull Run Creek in north Knox County, is considered valuable for



most native and migratory wildlife species of the region. Covered with open fields and pastures, the southeastern side offers a steep, wooded bluff with quite diverse plant species, especially wildflowers. Rare plant

life includes the Tennessee 'threatened' species of yellow water buttercup, butternut tree and Appalachian bugbane. The north side of the property, above Bull Run Valley Road, offers mature oak-hickory-maple woods. The one-time state record 100-foot sassafras tree was found on this section. It has since died but the fallen log remains.

Cline Easement - Loudon County (Please refer to page 3 for the profile of this easement.)

Gamble/Gregg Easement - Blount County

This 100-year-old family owned farm is located in the Wildwood Community outside of Maryville. The property's woodlands are largely mature oak-hickory hardwoods and have a diverse native shrub/herb layer. These trees provide generous cover, nesting, and food for many types of wildlife. Views of Chilhowee Mountain and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are visible from the property. Continuing to manage the farm in a manner that protects its natural resources ensures these important conservation values remain on the property.



Gibbs Ruritan Club - Knox County The Halls community raised upwards of \$600,000 dollars for a community park. Thanks to community organizers and private and public donations, the Gibbs Ruritan Club reached an agreement with Foothills Land Conservancy and Legacy Parks Foundation to permanently preserve the land for public use. Once part of the old Hodge property, these 20 acres provide a mix of pines, northern red oak, white oak, hemlock, and sourwood. The southeast side of the property offers broad views of House and Clinch Mountains.

Hartman Easement - Roane County/Meigs County (Please refer to page 3 for the profile of this easement.)

Jordan Easement - Knox County The Jordan property, bordering the valley of Bull Run Creek, consists of two adjoining parcels in the northern, rural part of Knox County. The region is under very heavy development pressure. The proximity of metropolitan Knoxville means the development pressure will increase. The quality woodland habitats, provided in part by the 360-degree slope on the mountain, create many opportunities for a great variety of resident and transitory wildlife species. Tree species include the shumard red oak, chinkapin oak, sugar maple, and basswood. The plant community is rare and imperiled in East Tennessee.



Polos Easement - Blount County

Located in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains on the southeastern side of Maryville, this property's open space is in an area of intense real estate development. The conservation values include extraordinarily large individual trees, especially the tulip tree. Serving as a forest corridor, it also is a habitat for resident and migrating birds and various wildlife species.

Robinson/Clark Easement - Knox County

Lying east of Knoxville and just north of the French Broad River, the majority of the Robinson/Clark property consists of open hay fields, with mature hardwoods bordering them. From the front to the rear boundary, the property rises moderately, allowing for broad views to the East, South and West that include the Great Smoky Mountains, their foothills, and the French Broad River. Since the property can be readily viewed for many miles in three directions, the conservation easement focuses on maintaining its integrity as an open space.

Sutton Easement - Cocke County

Dr. David Sutton's gently sloping acreage is located among the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains and near the Cherokee National Forest. Approximately 80% of the property is wooded, with the remainder containing a large pond, mowed fields, and small wildlife plots

throughout the property. Dr. Sutton has managed the property with the needs of wildlife in mind and many of the trees he has planted, such as walnut and chestnut, offer abundant food for many native wildlife species.

The natural woodland and the various plantations provide nearly continuous cover and varied habitat for a diversity of wildlife year-round.




Turner Easement - Roane County

Grace Turner's active farm works with the landscape. Half of the property is mature hardwoods, and the other half open pasture best suited for grazing. The property lies along the northwest edge of Ten Mile Valley, just southeast of Watts Bar Lake. Views from Tennessee Highway 58 onto the property allow the public to see the property's pastures, barns, and woodlands.

White Easement - Blount County Minimizing development and preserving the property's open space were definite factors in the owner's decision to place a conservation easement on this property. Located in the foothills of the Smokies, the land serves as a buffer that allows wildlife access in an increasingly developed region. The property includes mature trees, such as beech and sourwoods, and it includes a 2-acre, spring-fed pond in the center.

Whittle Easement - Knox County With development increasingly intense, especially along scenic ridges in Knox County, each piece of the viewshed that can be protected is a treasure. The Whittle property lies on the southeast slope of a ridge and is largely covered in mature oak and other hardwoods. A third of the property is hay fields that cover the lower slope along Thorn Grove Pike.

Having the amount of forested land to absorb runoff from the steep slopes of the property is of great value in minimizing erosion and helping to protect area streams and the French Broad Watershed from undue siltation and flooding. Property views of the Great Smoky Mountains, French Broad River and its watershed are quite remarkable. 



2009 Regional Events

— MARK YOUR CALENDAR —

April 18th, 2009

EarthFest
Pellissippi State Technical Community College

April 21st, 2009

Earth Day Festival - Mynatt Park
(Sponsored by Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce)

April 25th, 2009

Earth Round Up
Maryville College
(Sponsored by Keep Blount Beautiful)

May 2nd, 2009

Etowah Fishing & Hunting Expo

May 29th, 2009

FLC Fundraiser at Southland Books
Maryville, TN

June 6th, 2009

Join FLC & Mast General Store
for a Land Trust Day Fundraiser
(20% of store proceeds will be donated to FLC)

Save the date...November 12th, 2009

FLC's Annual Conservation Celebration
Dancing Bear Lodge – Townsend, TN

In Brief.... 2009 Charitable Donations

The Wall Street Journal reports that money can still be donated from an IRA to charity without paying income taxes first. In October, lawmakers resurrected a tax break available to those who make donations directly from their IRA's to charity in 2008 and 2009. Under the law, individuals age 70 ½ or older can donate as much as \$100,000 from an IRA to a public charity. No taxes are due on the withdrawal, and the donation counts toward a person's required annual withdrawal. Those who wish to make a direct donation from an IRA can still do so – income tax free. For more details, see IRS 'Publication 590' (www.irs.gov).



Current Media

FOOTHILLS LAND CONSERVANCY IN THE NEWS – 2008

In 2008 media coverage of land preservation decisions assisted in persuading others to consider conservation easements. FLC Executive Director Bill Clabough says that "every time a story runs in the newspaper and on TV or radio, we get calls from people who are considering protecting their land from further development." He adds that, "we received a lot of great coverage in 2008, and appreciate the media's interest in what East Tennesseans are doing to preserve the culture and beauty of this region."

Clippings from area newspapers featuring Foothills Land Conservancy news.



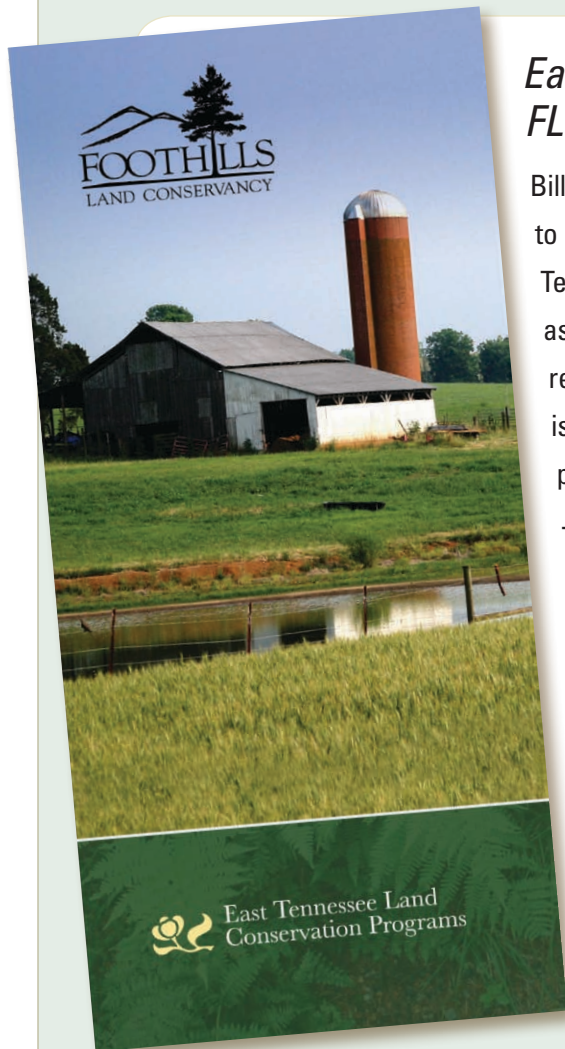
[what's new in 2009]

East TN Land Conservation Guide – FLC's latest brochure!

Bill Clabough was on a mission in January of 2009 to create a brochure that explained how East Tennesseans can protect their land, utilize Foothills as a resource, and learn about their roles and responsibilities within the process. "This brochure is designed to educate and highlight what land protection is all about."

The end result? An 8-page leaflet that not only covers these important topics but also touches on easement diversity and common questions associated with our 'one of a kind' region.

To request a hard copy of this brochure, please contact FLC's office at (865) 681-8326 or info@foothillsland.org. You can also download the brochure from FLC's home page at www.foothillsland.org.




Foothills Land Conservancy Applies for National Accreditation

In November, FLC formally submitted an accreditation application to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. The purpose of this certification is to help "build and recognize strong land trusts, foster public confidence in land conservation, and help ensure permanent land protection." In 2006 the Land Trust Alliance established an accreditation program and commission to carry it out. The first two groups of pilot organizations applied a year later, documenting their compliance with a dozen standards and practices that included organizational management and land transactions. Through this program, over 39 land trusts are now successfully accredited.

In the winter of 2008, Foothills began the initial steps of reading through the requirements and compiling necessary information. Ed Clebsch said this proved helpful in several ways, "Everyone at Foothills, including the Board of Directors, decided this was also an opportune time to give ourselves an internal review – making sure our methods of land conservation were both streamlined and in line with other national organizations." Since November, the commission has only required a few minor changes from Foothills. A site visit may be requested. Approval of FLC's accreditation is anticipated in October 2009.

"We have come away from this experience excited about accreditation and it's potential to quickly communicate that an organization's operations are all self-regulating, legal, and ethical," says Executive Director Bill Clabough. Indeed, accreditation provides enhanced credibility and respect with land conservation donors, partners, members, and others. Clabough adds, "Once the accreditation process goes through, we look forward to proudly displaying the seal, promoting it on our website, through the media, and in other marketing efforts."

Created in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance is the only organization dedicated to the effectiveness and sustainability of the nation's land trusts and their use of conservation easements. The result of its work has been the creation of a vibrant, national movement of 1,700 organizations that have conserved more than 37 million acres. 

FLC's Email Drive is Underway

Email notices are the fastest way to receive FLC's latest news and invitations and they conserve resources. It's easy to sign up - just visit www.foothillsland.org or fill out the donation envelope attached to this newsletter.

One lucky subscriber will receive an overnight stay (for two) with complimentary dinner and breakfast at Dancing Bear Lodge in Townsend, TN! The winner will be announced during FLC's Conservation Celebration Dinner on November 12, 2009, at Dancing Bear Lodge. The winner does not need to be present to win.

Please note that only one entry per person will be considered and contestants have the option to participate in the giveaway without having their email placed on FLC's electronic mailing list. Any additional rules and details can be found on our web site.

Latest Addition to the FLC staff

In January, FLC added a new Communications & Development Director to the team, **Elise Eustace**. Ms. Eustace brings with her a background in marketing, a love of hiking and the East Tennessee region, as well as a bit of an organizational streak. "I'm very excited to be part of this special team and to know that the work we do impacts our quality of life as a community." Ms. Eustace will hit the ground running with a variety of projects that include: donor, business, and media relations along with event planning, printed campaigns and web development.

Partnering with Regional Communities & Organizations

Over the years, passionate FLC stewards, concerned East Tennesseans, the media, and neighboring civic groups have all come together for the common goal of land protection. FLC is here for you, your neighborhoods and civic organizations!

Please contact us for more information or to request a presentation about:

- Land Protection Agreements
- Estate Planning
- Fundraising Support
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Charitable Donations



Please
JOIN US

Friends of the Foothills

Join Foothills Land Conservancy and concerned citizens to protect and preserve the landscape of our region.

FLC always welcomes volunteers and donor support. 'Friends', formerly referred to as 'Members', receive our newsletters and invitations to all our activities throughout the year as well as the satisfaction of knowing they are helping to protect part of the beautiful landscape of East Tennessee. Please join us in our efforts to preserve 25,000 acres by 2010!

Levels of Friendship:

\$ 25 \$ 50 \$ 100 \$ 250 \$ 500 \$ 1000
\$ ___ Other

Foothills Land Conservancy accepts tax-deductible contributions through:

FLC's Website
www.foothillsland.org
Phone: 865.681.8326

Donation Envelope
(included inside the Annual Report)

**Foothills Land Conservancy gratefully acknowledges
the support of our 2008 sponsors:**



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S&K Family Partnership



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