

MISSION

The Nature Foundation at Wintergreen, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, encourages understanding, appreciation, and conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

PURPOSE

To accomplish our mission, the Foundation serves as a center for research and education related to Wintergreen's natural and cultural resources. To that end, we are engaged in an array of activities:

- Offering educational programs through guided hikes, scientific conferences, programs for local schools, and on-site youth and adult programs.
- Maintaining more than 30 miles of trails.
- Conducting ecosystem research studying plants and animals, including DNA studies, and native plant propagation.
- Participating in wildlife management studies and offering research into control of deer and bear populations.
- Monitoring water quality of mountain streams.
- Offering surveys of building projects to define and protect rare ecosystems and Native American sites.
- Advising Wintergreen property owners on relevant conservation issues within Wintergreen and county officials on Nelson County issues.
- Serving as the primary environmental steward and managing approximately 6,000 acres of wilderness areas within the Wintergreen community.
- Hosting researchers working on regional and national conservation efforts.

One of the things that attracted me to Wintergreen many years ago was a unique development concept that included a science-based appreciation into both its design and its long-range plans. As this concept led to the birth of The Nature Foundation at Wintergreen, I have remained connected. Wintergreen would not have kept its current history had it not been for the vision of its founders and the continued efforts of the Foundation to keep that vision alive.

Dr. Dennis Whigham, Senior Scientist,
The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center



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ENDOWMENT FUND CASE STATEMENT

The Nature Foundation
at Wintergreen

For
Love
of the
Land

THE NATURE FOUNDATION'S IMPACT IS MEASURABLE AND SUBSTANTIAL:

- The Foundation's educational programs serve more than 3,000 area students from Nelson County and surrounding school systems each year, connecting research at the Foundation with education and fostering a direct appreciation for our natural environment.
- More than 10,000 adults and children have participated in Nature Foundation programs during the past two years.
- The Property Owner's Association, the Nelson County Board of Supervisors, and individuals within the Wintergreen Community engaged The Nature Foundation to identify, assess, and help protect the natural assets of both the Wintergreen Community and the surrounding areas.
- The Nature Foundation hosts the annual Wildflower Symposium at Wintergreen, a program that has shared the latest state, regional, and national conservation and publication efforts of scientists and naturalists for over 30 years.
- With help from committed volunteers, The Nature Foundation unlocks the germination secrets of the region's native shrubs and wildflowers, propagating hundreds of native shrubs and wildflowers for landscape restoration and design.
- The Foundation has sponsored decades of research leading to new and significant archaeological discoveries within the Wintergreen open space and received numerous accolades for its collaboration with research organizations. Cultural displays at the Foundation capture the history of earliest humans to inhabit the area.



It has been, is, and forever will be, The Nature Foundation's mission to keep the original vision of Wintergreen alive. Existing and future endowment funding for forest preservation through research and education is essential.

Doug Coleman, Executive Director

THE ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

The Nature Foundation's strategic plan reaffirms our mission—to ensure that the natural environment remains Wintergreen's greatest asset. The roots of the Foundation were established over 40 years ago and for the last 20 years the generous support of friends and members like you have empowered our programs to grow and expand. This support enabled the purchase of Trillium House, a 10,000-square foot research and education facility that houses exhibits and staff, which has become home



The Nature Foundation truly is unique in having the exclusive purpose of encouraging the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia—no other governmental, commercial, or nonprofit organization has that singular mission and focus. An increased endowment will enable the Foundation to maintain and expand its conservation and education efforts. And most of those programs and activities only exist because of The Nature Foundation's efforts.

Funding the endowment will enable The Nature Foundation to continue providing its current activities and programs while also expanding its efforts in a way that only the Foundation can. The Nature Foundation is uniquely positioned to serve as an exemplar to similar communities throughout the United States and abroad as future generations seek to understand, appreciate, and participate in this vision for sustaining our environment.

Priority services and programs to be funded by the endowment include:

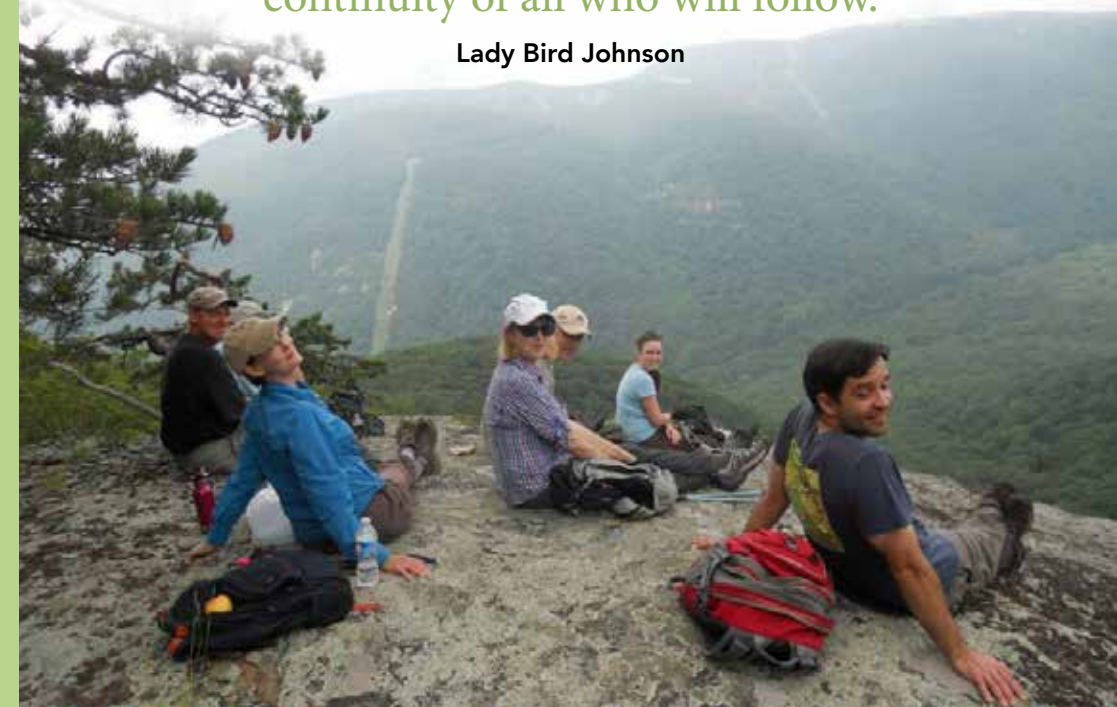
- Expanding research by staff and visiting scientists that increases ecosystem knowledge and generates sound environmental management decisions.
- Increasing Foundation support of our local school systems by providing expanded science and environmental educational programs.
- Providing hands-on environmental experiences to area students that support and extend their school's curricula.
- Expanding summer internship programs for college and university students that foster environmental research and stewardship.
- Expanding Foundation staff support to better monitor, protect, and manage Wintergreen's forests, streams, and prehistoric sites.
- Restoring two much-needed staff positions and providing competitive staff benefits to ensure the Foundation is an attractive work place.
- Enhancing the Trillium House Preservation fund to allow for capital repairs and improvements to our facility.

for the Foundation's wide array of programs.

Over the years, friends and members have provided financial support to create endowments that have been vital to funding specific programs. The Foundation now seeks to grow its endowment into a sustainable funding source for maintaining and expanding research, preservation, and education activities that are essential to Wintergreen and the surrounding communities.

Wintergreen is a heavenly place to observe where man and nature have met in a gracious and accommodating way. You have enhanced the life of those who live there and assured the continuity of all who will follow.

Lady Bird Johnson



YOUR SUPPORT

Your support can be a permanent presence in The Nature Foundation's future as we invest the gifts given in your name. You and your family will have the opportunity to watch those gifts grow with a portion of the endowment fund's interest supporting the long-term protection of what makes Wintergreen and Nelson County special. These legacy gifts will be accompanied by naming opportunities of facilities and specific funds supporting the program of your choice.



You may support The Nature Foundation in the following ways:

- Legacy gifts
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Pledges to a specific or named fund of your choice
- Gifts of real estate

Specific naming opportunities include:

- A named fund that supports the program or research of your choice
- Specific rooms within Trillium House
- Bricks or medallions at Founders Vision Overlook
- A named staff position that supports the role at The Nature Foundation of your choice