



30 YEARS OF PROTECTING WHAT YOU LOVE  
 CACAPON & LOST RIVERS LAND TRUST  
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Your Support Protects Land

Consider a tax-deductible contribution to protect what you love about the Cacapon & Lost Rivers watershed.

Visit [www.cacapon.org/donate](http://www.cacapon.org/donate) or mail your gift to PO Box 58, Wardensville, WV 26851.

Thank you!

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Holiday Shopping in the Cacapon Watershed!

Add some local flair to your holidays with gifts and foods from the Cacapon & Lost Rivers Watershed!

Here are a few of our favorite local shops:

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY:**

- The River House
- The Farmer's Daughter
- Bent River Woodworks
- Bent River Trading Post
- Liberty View Quilt Shop
- The Rio Mall
- Pete Hobby Woodworks

**HARDY COUNTY:**

- Lost River Trading Post
- The Garden Market
- Wordplay Book Store

**MORGAN COUNTY:**

- Stoney Creek Country Store
- Stoney Creek Milling & Planing
- Mountain Life Kitchen
- Spring Gap Mountain Creamery
- CMGrow Greenhouses

**CACAPON & LOST RIVERS LAND TRUST:**

Pick up a hat, river trail map, book, or mug from [cacapon.org/store/](http://cacapon.org/store/) or donate in a loved one's honor!

The Cacapon River at Largent



Species of Concern

These five beautiful birds migrate through our watershed each autumn. They're also all West Virginia species of concern because of threats to their survival.



Common Merganser



American Black Duck



American Kestrel



Golden-winged Warbler



Osprey



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News from the Watershed

Fall 2021

Protecting the forests, farms, rural heritage, and water quality of the Cacapon and Lost Rivers Watershed

SEE INSIDE:

2 Hunt Clubs



3 Meet Sarah Chayes



4 Shop Local



Protect What You Love

Conservation easements are flexible tools that meet landowners' needs and protect land forever.

The Trust works hand-in-hand with landowners to ensure their goals are met and the land's conservation values are protected.

Conservation easements offer peace of mind and, in many cases, financial benefits.

For more information, contact Emily at [emily@cacapon.org](mailto:emily@cacapon.org).

Despite two years of pandemic life, we of the Cacapon and Lost Rivers Watershed have much to be thankful for. In this issue we celebrate the people, lands, and critters that make our watershed so special. We give thanks for recent leadership and a generous gift (page 1), acknowledge hunt clubs' role in protecting wildlife habitat and rural traditions (page 2), thank a special landowner (page 3), and show off some great local shops to start your holiday shopping (page 4). Along the way, we appreciate migrating birds and take a look at the Trust's finances.

As the Trust's new director, I am thankful for the chance to pour my professional energy into this place. The Cacapon Watershed helped form who I am, and it's an honor to work with all of you to help keep it whole.

Thank you,  
*Emily Warner*  
 Emily Warner  
 Executive Director



We're Thankful!

This autumn, we're especially thankful for our recently retired Executive Director Jennifer Jones and her husband Gary McMichael.

During Jennifer's three years with the Trust, she protected hundreds more acres of land, led the effort to develop our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, secured a significant grant to expand our land protection program and partnerships, and brought our communication efforts to a new level. She also lined up 1,000+ acres for future protection, setting the stage for our new director Emily to carry our mission farther.

Gary passed away in 2020, and to support the causes he believed in, Jennifer set up the Gary Lynn McMichael Charitable Fund. She recently made a \$5,000 donation to the Trust and noted, "Gary was a big fan of the Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust. When I was considering the position, Gary said, 'I just want you to do what you love,' and so I did! Land protection and healthy rivers have always been important to us."

At Jennifer's request, the gift went to our Cacapon Legacy Fund to help a local landowner protect high conservation value land. Thank you, Jennifer & Gary!

To learn more about the Legacy Fund and its founders, visit [www.cacapon.org/cacapon-legacy/](http://www.cacapon.org/cacapon-legacy/).



# Hunt Clubs: Protecting Wildlife & Keeping Tradition Alive



Hunt clubs, groups who co-own land for hunting purposes, control 17,000 acres in the Cacapon and Lost Rivers Watershed. Some are official legal entities, while others are loose collections of family and friends. Hunt clubs offer members the chance to witness wildlife and wildlife habitat up close, hunt and fish, camp in the woods or in rustic cabins, swap stories, and engage in the multi-generational cultural experience of hunting and eating from the land.

As a hunter from Fallen Springs Hunt Club said a few years back, what brings hunters back each year is “not always shooting a deer. **It’s the fun time with the guys, it’s the food, but mainly it’s the stories.**”

In addition to their valuable role keeping the traditions of rural life alive, **hunt clubs protect wildlife.** That might seem an odd statement for groups focused on hunting, but it’s true.

Hunt club lands often span valleys to ridges, linking lowlands and highlands and keep long stretches of stream protected by forest cover. Protection and management of land for game animals like deer and turkey is vitally important to many other plants, animals, insects, and fungi. Hunt clubs are especially valuable to wildlife (as well as water quality) when they control large acreages or long lengths of waterways.

The Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust is pleased to have helped six hunt clubs permanently protect 3,700 acres to date, and we’re delighted to be working with a 7th club now. At least 20 more hunt clubs are active in the watershed, and **we’d love to help you preserve your club’s legacy, too: to protect wildlife & keep the tradition alive.**

# The Cacapon: A Gem of a Place

There is still a place where rare and threatened species are thriving, dark skies command the night, and miles of fertile farmland nudge the base of forested mountains. There is a place where water runs clean, the air keeps us breathing in deep, and rural community is cherished.

This is the Cacapon and Lost Rivers watershed, home to a dazzling number of plants and animals and a vital corridor for migratory wildlife. It’s also a recreation destination, offering hiking, hunting, boating, fishing, and more.

Protecting land is our first line of defense for everything else that we love about the watershed. The Trust works hand in hand with landowners to permanently protect land from damaging uses while retaining private ownership, use, and enjoyment.

To learn more, contact Emily at 304-856-1188 or [emily@cacapon.org](mailto:emily@cacapon.org).

Don't have land, but still want to help? Support our efforts by donating at [www.cacapon.org/donate](http://www.cacapon.org/donate).

# A Land of Gifts

Landowner Sarah Chayes is currently working with the Trust to protect 90 steep, forested acres on the banks of the Cacapon River near Largent, WV. “This land is constantly giving me gifts,” she told us. “I thought about planting spiceberries, then found them everywhere. I thought about mushrooms, and there was a bright orange chanterelle out back. Last Christmas, the river deposited a great elm trunk on the flood-plain – the year’s firewood!”

Author, former correspondent for National Public Radio in Paris and Afghanistan (she lived there for a decade), and expert on political corruption, Sarah served as special adviser to then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen.

After such a challenging stretch of her career, Sarah found herself pivoting toward what she now sees as the most important question of our time: humans’ relationship with the natural world. In 2017, Sarah first saw her place. It changed her life. “This land reaches out and grabs you,” Sarah marvels. “It yanks you into its destiny.” For Sarah, that destiny meant stewardship.

“There’s no such thing as ‘owning’ land,” she remarks. “Just taking care of it for a while- or not.” So she reached out to the Trust. We’re now working with her to permanently protect her beloved half mile of river and its shaggy banks, three ephemeral streams (one of which gives her its water to drink), and a patch of dark night sky. Sarah writes, “This land is so generous, and this is obviously what it wants. The idea of being able to do this for it is really exciting.”

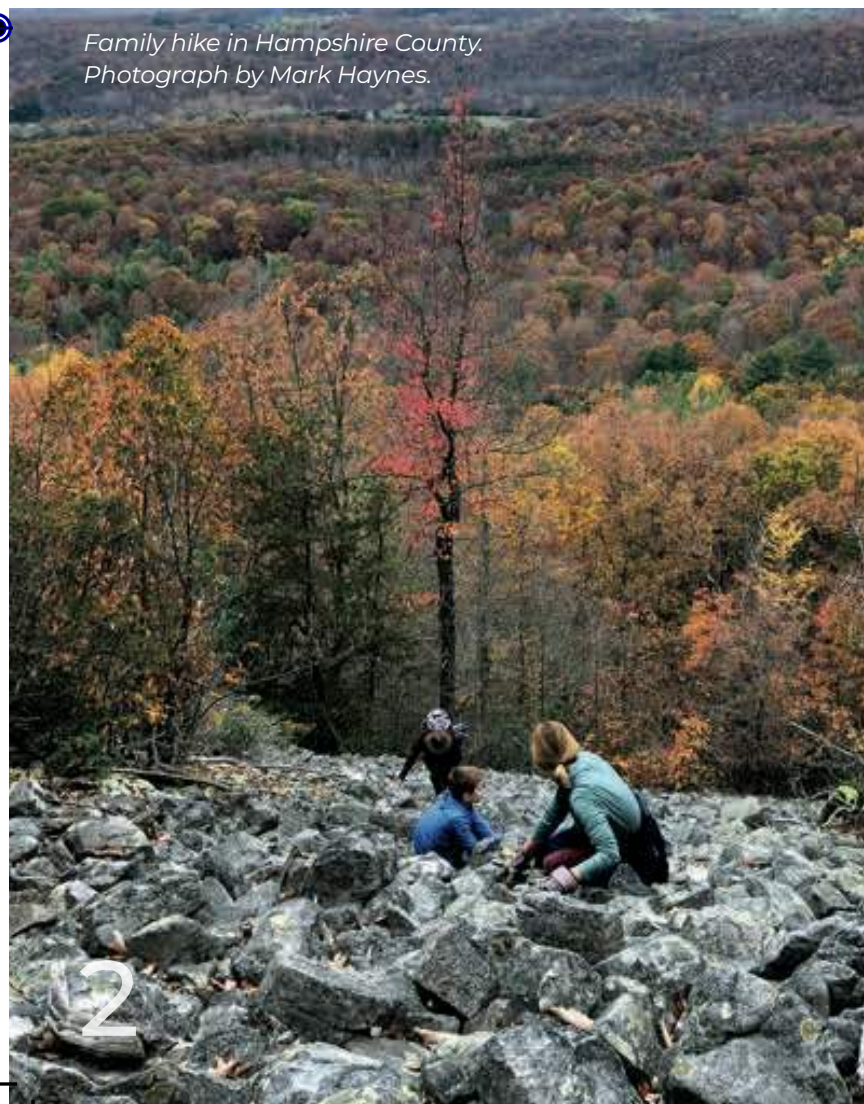
We’re excited to work with Sarah, too, and we’re thankful to her and to all of our landowner partners who protect their land and waterways to benefit us all.

## DONATIONS IN HONOR OF BILL CHESNUTT

Thank you to friends and family who donated to the Legacy Fund in honor of Bill Chesnutt. Bill loved the Cacapon, and his memory will live on through our land protection efforts.

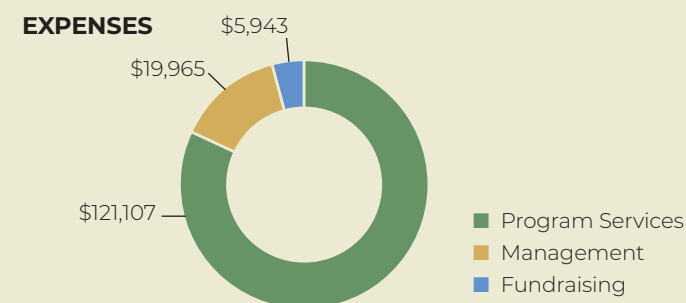
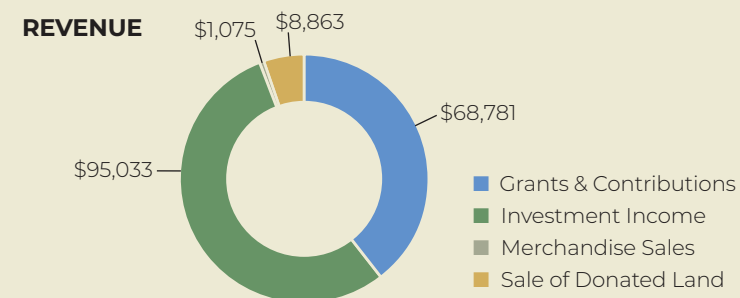


Family hike in Hampshire County. Photograph by Mark Haynes.



## 2020 FINANCIALS

The Trust’s revenue exceeded expenses by nearly \$27,000 in 2020. We spent 82% of our expenses on land protection, 14% on management, and 4% on fundraising.



## Legacy Fund

The Cacapon Legacy Fund provides an opportunity to support CLRLT’s land protection efforts for generations. A Legacy contribution can honor a family member or friend or be **the gift of a lifetime.**

The Cacapon Legacy Fund was established by our first Executive Director Nancy Ailes to be a long-lasting fund from which the Trust can act quickly to purchase and protect properties under immediate threat or help landowners with financial need to protect their land.

Donations to the Legacy Fund can be direct contributions or gifts through wills, trusts, and beneficiary designations.

For more information on the Cacapon Legacy Fund, please visit: [www.cacapon.org/cacapon-legacy](http://www.cacapon.org/cacapon-legacy).

Support land protection and help protect water, wildlife, and the rural experience. [www.cacapon.org/donate](http://www.cacapon.org/donate).