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Did you know your old car could help protect the Cacapon watershed? We now accept donated vehicles at careasy.org/nonprofit/cacapon or call 855-500-7433.



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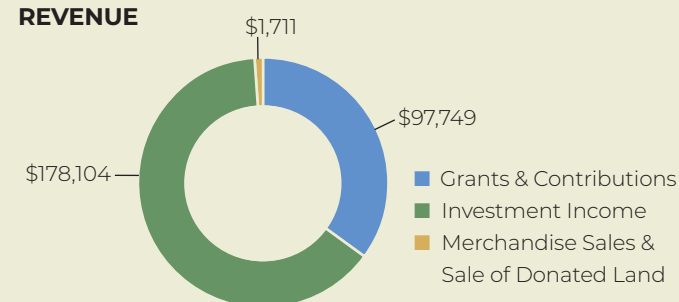


2021 FINANCIALS

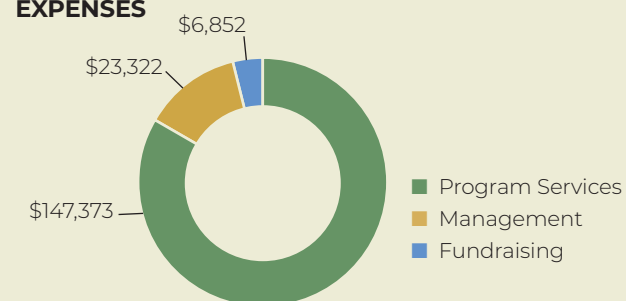
The Trust's revenue exceeded expenses by \$99,921 in 2021. That is an almost three-fold increase over 2020! More than 35% of 2021 revenue came from grants and contributions; investment income comprised 64%, while land and merchandise sales contributed 0.6%.

We spent 83% of our income on program services, 13% on management, and less than 4% on fundraising.

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Species of Concern

There are scores of species that need our land stewardship to survive. Here are a few:



Northern Metalmark
Calephelis borealis



Timber Rattlesnake
Crotalus horridus



Allegheny Woodrat
Neotoma magister



Eastern Meadowlark
Sturnella magna



Wood Turtle
Glyptemys insculpta

GUIDESTAR

CLRLT has earned GuideStar's Gold Seal of Transparency! You can donate to us directly from www.guidestar.org/profile/55-0700086



CACAPON & LOST RIVERS
LAND TRUST

Protecting the forests, farms, rural heritage, and waters of the Cacapon and Lost Rivers watershed

SEE INSIDE:

2 Morning on the Mountain



2 New NFWF Grant



3 The Story of Karst



The Power of Partnerships

Partnerships between landowners like Carlton Mills and the CLRLT are vital to protecting communities and wildlife here in the Cacapon Watershed, even as they help ensure clean water and air for West Virginians and folks all along the Potomac River and into the Chesapeake Bay. You can support this work at www.cacapon.org/donate.

News from the Watershed

Fall 2022

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Autumn has been especially beautiful in the Cacapon watershed this year with red maples glowing crimson, poplars glittering gold, and oaks displaying stately maroons. As the trees prepare for a period of rest, Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust reflects on the past year and gets ready for the next.

In this issue, we review our 2021 financials, celebrate our 2022 Conservation Champion Carlton Mills, and ride horseback to consider a mountain's ancient point of view. We slip underground to explore how the Lost River is "lost" and look forward to an exciting new grant that pays local landowners' costs to help protect their lands.

Best wishes, dear readers, as you plan your Thanksgiving menus, gather friends for hunting season, and navigate your own reflections and preparations. As always, thank you for supporting the Trust and helping us to protect our exceptional Cacapon & Lost Rivers watershed.

Emily

Emily Warner, Executive Director



Carlton Mills named 2022 Cacapon Conservation Champion

The Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust (CLRLT) Board of Directors has selected Carlton Mills as the 2022 Cacapon Conservation Champion, in recognition of his extraordinary dedication to protecting land in the Cacapon Watershed.

Skillfully utilizing conservation easements, Mills has protected nearly 1,000 acres of his own land in Hampshire County and encouraged neighbors to protect adjoining lands to form a conservation hub of more than 5,000 acres. He strengthened dialogue between CLRLT and local community members, and imparted valuable lessons that inform CLRLT's work to this day.

"Carlton had a vision for the area," says Nancy Ailes, CLRLT's first executive director. "He communicated to others the value of protecting large 'hubs and corridors' of land, recognizing that his hunt club and his neighbors' lands would not be as diverse or their hunting experiences as positive if surrounding lands were subdivided or developed."

Mills credits his parents with teaching him to love the land and to work hard to keep it. He believes land plays a powerful role in developing lifelong friendships through memories created in place.

With conservation easements, Mills and friends protected over 5,000 acres.



Morning on the Mountain



Early one summer morning, I saddled my horse Gabe to ride the ridge of the mountain just above our farm near Paw Paw. I took the usual route on old logging roads, through rock falls, and along trails with native blackberries. The climb was steep in places and Gabe had to navigate around fallen trees and bulky boulders.

In a clearing at the top, Gabe and I stood gazing over the rippling, corrugated landscape of the Appalachians. Clouds cast ephemeral shadows that fled across distant hills, the sun's light glinted on the

meandering river far below, and the mass of the mountains reminded me that they've endured for longer than most humans can comprehend. As always, I was awestruck.

My horse, on the other hand, was unimpressed. He watched a hawk circling slowly below us, shifted his weight, and dropped his head to forage for grass.

I ride to this spot partly to pay my respects to the mountain and partly as an act of survival.

For me, the matter is urgent. Every year, the climb seems to steepen. My vision dims more quickly as day turns to evening. Solace seems harder to find. I worry that someday I'll stand here and see only roads and buildings.

With some effort, I set aside that worry and turn my attention to the near-at-hand in the natural world. I stop to chew on the leaves of red teaberries, their burst of spearmint tasting like excitement itself. I leave my arms bare to feel the sun's warmth or the wind's chill. My nose seeks the wet cedar. My mind, of course, mostly gets in the way, like a fifth wheel on a wagon.

As I rode off the mountain that morning, I imagined it spoke to me: "You seem like a decent chap who isn't

going to take off my head or dig me out. I'm glad you find me inspiring but skip the flowery stuff. Your world is full of poets, and I've had to listen to a lot of 'em over the last thousand years. Don't think you're so great just because you're on a horse."

"Crotchety old mountain," I said to Gabe, who just nodded his head as he trotted home.

“The mass of the mountains reminded me that they’ve endured for longer than most humans can comprehend. As always, I was awestruck.”



Help Us Renew Our Accreditation!

Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust is currently applying for renewed accreditation with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. As a part of its evaluation process, the Commission invites public comments about applicant organizations. You are invited to submit a comment about CLRLT's adherence to national land trust standards by email at info@landtrustaccreditation.org or online at www.landtrustaccreditation.org.



What Lies Beneath: The Story of Karst

Ever wondered why the Lost River is, well, "lost"? A large part of the answer boils down to a single word: "karst."

Karst is essentially what is left when soluble bedrock dissolves. It is particularly prevalent in landscapes of limestone and dolomite, creating two types of systems: diffuse or conduit flow. This can cause sinkholes, caves, and underground drainage systems where acidic rain has carved away the bedrock. In some places, such as the Cacapon & Lost Rivers Watershed, karst performs the geological wonder of disappearing a stream and creating a "lost river." Stand at "the Sinks" northeast of McCauley along Route 259 to witness this trick. You must then travel all the way to Wardensville to see the Lost River reappear as the Cacapon River.

But karst does a lot more than perform vanishing acts with rivers. Its ample groundwater input helps keep streams cool in summer and warm in winter, which help insulate watersheds such as ours from temperature spikes that can harm fish and cause algae blooms. "Karst systems tend to be thermally regulated," explains Karmann Kessler, Science Technician with the United States Geological Survey (USGS). "In winter they're actually a little warmer than other streams, so juvenile fish are able to persist better."

Karst furnishes additional ecosystem services such as providing ample well-water for human consumption, reducing stream flashiness (rapid short-term changes in stream flow after storm events), and regulating the Ph (acidity) of streams.

Clean water is essential for a healthy karst system, says Kessler, while "contaminants in the water can spread over large areas because of these underground pathways. That's a real concern."

To ensure the health of our Lost River and the extensive karst systems throughout West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, Kessler encourages people to get involved in hands-on conservation, working with organizations like the Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust and Friends of the Cacapon River. The USGS needs volunteers to help with stream temperature monitoring. "Having folks involved on the ground is golden," says Kessler.

In other words, it takes more than magic to protect the places we love, even in a part of the world where rivers (briefly) disappear!

For volunteer information, contact: kkessler@contractor.usgs.gov

NEW NFWF GRANT WILL SUPPORT LANDOWNERS

CLRLT is one of the first recipients of the new Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) grant program! Co-administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the new program supports fish and wildlife, climate resiliency, and equitable access to the outdoors.

CLRLT's "Cacapon Clubs and Hubs" project supports Chesapeake Bay watershed water quality and wildlife habitat protection goals by helping landowners to protect at least 1,000 acres of forested riparian buffers, upland forest, and critical wildlife habitats in the Cacapon and Lost Rivers Watershed over the next two years. The project aims to assist property owners in safeguarding land that is particularly important

The grant is great news for landowners who want to protect their land.

for eastern brook trout, freshwater mussels, three federally endangered species, and 60 other West Virginia species of greatest conservation need (SGCN).

The grant is also great news for landowners who are considering protecting their land with a conservation easement. The grant award includes up to \$8,000 per conservation easement to cover landowners' expenses, as well as bonus payments for landowners who wish to include stronger stream protections in their easement documents. Interested in taking advantage of this opportunity? **Call Emily at 304-856-1188!**



2 **Protect the Cacapon Watershed! Your contribution helps us protect the forests, farms, rural heritage, and waters of the Cacapon watershed. Give at cacapon.org/donate.**

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