

**CITIZEN-TIMES.com**  
ASHVILLE'S HOME PAGE

SPONSORED BY:  
**THE REAL ESTATE CENTER**

HOME NEWS OBITUARIES OPINION NATION/WORLD SPORTS OUTDOORS LIVING ENTERTAINMENT VISITORS LIVING WELL CLASSIFIEDS CUSTOMER SERVICE

Obituaries Obituaries Help

## Girls Gone Outdoors

### Post details: Hugh Morton Family honored for conservation efforts

09/17/09

#### Hugh Morton Family honored for conservation efforts

10:33:43 am, Categories: [posts](#)

A national organization dedicated to supporting the goals and operations of state parks systems across the nation has recognized the outstanding efforts of the Hugh Morton Family for its longtime natural resource stewardship efforts and critical role in the creation of North Carolina's newest state park at Grandfather Mountain.

The National Association of State Park Directors, which advises state park systems on effective administration and management, presented its President's Award to Julia, Catherine, Jim and Crae Morton at its annual meeting Sept. 10.

The Morton Family was recognized for working with state officials in North Carolina to preserve Grandfather Mountain, a family-owned property affording rich natural resources and recreational opportunities for visitors and residents. Valued at \$25 million, the property was sold to the state for \$12 million, due to the conservation ethic of the family.

In 2008, the Morton Family approached the North Carolina state parks system about the long-term preservation and conservation of the property and creation of a state park to provide a source of perpetual management and public access of the property.

"Generations of our family have loved this mountain," said Jim Morton, "so we are heartened to know that many other families will be able to enjoy this beautiful land for generations to come."

In September 2008, the state announced plans to acquire 2,456 acres on the landmark mountain for \$12 million from the Morton family and Grandfather Mountain Inc. The acquisition also includes a conservation easement on 749 acres that will be retained by the heirs of Hugh Morton, the family patriarch who inherited the mountain in 1952 and is credited with developing the park as a tourist destination and endowing it with a strong conservation ethic. Morton died in 2006.

The 2009 North Carolina General Assembly unanimously passed and Gov. Bev Perdue signed into law legislation authorizing the new park.

"The Morton Family has built upon the natural resource stewardship and the conservation ethic exemplified by Hugh Morton," Lewis Leford, N.C. State Parks System director said at the awards ceremony. "The family is an inspiration to citizens of every state and to those of us charged with the stewardship of natural resources."

The award to the Morton Family marks the third time in the last four years that North Carolina land conservationists have received NASPD recognition. In 2007, Dick Ludington and Mike Leonard of The Conservation Fund and Lt. Gov. (then state senator) Walter Dalton received the President's Award for their work in the preservation of Chimney Rock. Susie Hamrick Jones and the Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina received the award in 2006 for her organization's efforts to secure 4,300 acres for the expansion of Lake James State Park in Burke and McDowell counties.

## Girls Gone Outdoors

Karen Chavez and her dog Shelby will take you on their outdoor adventures in one of the greatest outdoor towns in America. They also want to hear about your adventures and answer your outdoor questions.

Looking for the older content? This blog recently upgraded and all old archives can be found [here](#).

## Archives

- [Help those in need by running this weekend](#)
- [Learn the principles of ChiRunning](#)
- [Take a hike, bike or run for the United Way](#)
- [Hugh Morton Family honored for conservation efforts](#)
- [Plaque honoring local kayaker stolen](#)
- [Free running workshop tonight](#)
- [Some thanks and apologies](#)
- [The Maggots win again!](#)
- [Sign up now for 16th annual Bethel Half Marathon and 5K](#)
- [Half Marathon results now posted](#)
- [Last tip](#)
- [Way to go girls](#)
- [More...](#)

- [Recently](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Last comments](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

DURKE and McDOWELL COUNTIES.

Others receiving NASPD awards this year included the Blackstone Valley Maple Sugaring Association of Massachusetts and the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation. Ron Blome of Blome Productions in Arkansas won the organization's award for historical work.

The National Association of State Parks Directors is composed of park directors from all 50 states. NASPD meets annually in September to share ideas about operations, budgets, and other issues. This year's meeting focused on balancing budget challenges with meeting operational needs and visitor expectations.

[Permalink](#) • [Leave a comment](#) • [Trackback \(0\)](#)

### Trackback address for this post:

[http://blogs.citizen-times.com/blogs/htsrv/trackback.php?tb\\_id=8013](http://blogs.citizen-times.com/blogs/htsrv/trackback.php?tb_id=8013)

### Comments, Trackbacks, Pingbacks:

No Comments/Trackbacks/Pingbacks for this post yet...

### Leave a comment:

**Name:**

**Email:**   
Your email address will **not** be displayed on this site.

**Site/Url:**   
Your URL will be displayed.

**Comment text:**

Allowed XHTML tags: <p, ul, ol, li, dl, dt, dd, address, blockquote, ins, del, span, bdo, br, em, strong, dfn, code, samp, kdb, var, cite, abbr, acronym, q, sub, sup, tt, i, b, big, small>

**Options:**  **Auto-BR** (Line breaks become <br />)  **Remember me** (Set cookies for name, email and url)  **Allow message form** (Allow users to contact you through a message form (your email will NOT be displayed.))

September 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
<< <						

### Search

- All Words
- Some Word
- Entire phrase

### Categories

- [All](#)
- [posts](#) (548)

### Misc

### XML Feeds

- RSS 0.92: [Posts](#), [Comments](#)
- RSS 1.0: [Posts](#), [Comments](#)
- RSS 2.0: [Posts](#), [Comments](#)
- Atom: [Posts](#), [Comments](#)

[What is this?](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



Partners: [Jobs: CareerBuilder.com](#) [Cars: Cars.com](#) [Apartments: Apartments.com](#) [Shopping: ShopLocal.com](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Nation/World](#) | [Sports](#) | [Outdoors](#) | [Living](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Visit Asheville](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Copyright © 2008 CITIZEN-TIMES.com

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy/Your California Privacy Rights](#), updated March 2007.