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Blogwire

Blogwire is a compilation of local news and information gathered by area citizens and Xpress staff. The Blogwire news aggregator includes press releases, stories from other news outlets, opinion pieces and updates from area blogs

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AAA Carolinas Foundation: Texting while driving, is the new drunk driving

- Jake Frankel, posted in News
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Asheville Currency Project seeking unwanted items to sell at fundraiser

- David Forbes, posted in News
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The ribs & the crowd both sizzled at Tryon's BBQ fest

- Jeff Fobes, posted in Entertainment
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Asheville Tea Party to hold weekly social at Pack's Tavern

- Michael Muller, posted in Politics
 Comments: 3 Views: 282

Local authority needed to clamp down on puppy mills

- Michael Muller, posted in Opinion
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Conservation Trust for NC earns accreditation

Posted by [Margaret Williams](#) in [Environment](#) | 2 months, 4 weeks ago

The Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC), which protects land and water along the Blue Ridge Parkway and provides services to North Carolina's local land trusts, has been awarded accredited status by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

The Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, announced accreditation for CTNC and 10 other land trusts including Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC), based in Asheville. Two other North Carolina land trusts, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy (Hendersonville) and Catawba Lands Conservancy (Charlotte), have already earned accredited status.

"Accredited land trusts meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever," said Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. "The accreditation seal lets the public know that the accredited land trust has undergone an extensive, external review of the governance and management of its organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect land."

CTNC works to increase the amount of protected natural areas in our state in two ways. It represents, promotes and assists North Carolina's local land trusts so that they can preserve more land in the communities they serve. North Carolina's 24 land trusts have protected almost 326,850 acres of wildlife habitat, drinking water sources, working farms, parks and trails, spectacular scenery, and unique natural areas in 1,884 places across the state.

CTNC also facilitates and actively pursues land protection projects with willing landowners along the 252 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina, and has protected more than 30,000 acres along the Parkway out of a total of 33,800 acres it has helped to protect statewide.

The LTAC's announcement Wednesday (March 17) came on the same day that CTNC Executive Director Reid Wilson appeared for a second time before a congressional subcommittee to urge support for the Blue Ridge Parkway Protection Act. The Act (HR4524 and S2951) would authorize \$75 million over five years to protect land along the Parkway in North Carolina and Virginia.

CTNC, SAHC and the other land trusts whose accreditation was announced Wednesday bring to 93 the number of land trusts across the country that have been awarded accreditation since fall 2008. Accredited land trusts are able to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are

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permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance established in 2006, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. The Alliance, of which CTNC is a member, is a national conservation group based in Washington, D.C. that works to save the places people love by strengthening conservation throughout America. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission's website, <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org>. More information on the Alliance is available at <http://www.landtrustalliance.org>.

[View the original link](http://www.landtrustalliance.org) (<http://www.landtrustalliance.org>)

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Mountain Xpress

2 Wall Street
 Asheville, NC 28801
 Work: (828) 251-1333
 Fax: (828) 251-1311
 Email:
 webmaster@mountainx.com

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