

ADOPT / SPONSOR A BAA-TANY GOAT PROJECT

Help Save the Grassy Balds & Give a Goat a:

Retirement Plan – Trudy, a goat owner in northern Virginia, donated 19 goats because she wanted to give them a retirement plan rather than send them to the meat market. These goats will be dedicated for ecological restoration work and we will have to provide for them for the rest of their natural lives.

Working Vacation – goats will work for food and they love blackberries.

PROJECT SUMMARY: The purpose of the **volunteer-based Baa-tany Goat Project** is to **restore Grassy Bald corridors** on Roan's western balds using goats as an experimental management tool. **Browsing rotation and vegetation sampling protocols** will be developed that can hopefully be applied elsewhere.

Roan's Grassy Balds are important habitats for many rare and endemic species such as Gray's Lily as well as species at or near the southern ends of their ranges. The western balds are thought to be natural (predating European settlement). These ecosystems have declined in quality and quantity and immediate actions are needed to halt and reverse this trend.

The **project area** (about 79 acres) is within the Pisgah and Cherokee National Forests along about 1 mile of the Appalachian Trail corridor from Jane Bald to Grassy Ridge.

OBJECTIVES & METHODS: Goats will selectively browse the invading woody plants rather than herbs. Canada Blackberry is the main target.

About 40 **Angora goats** (a fiber rather than a meat goat) will be used. They are more tolerant of these high elevation conditions (5700-6100ft).

They will be sheared, treated for parasites, confined, and fed a seed-free food to flush their guts of unwanted and potentially invasive plant seeds prior to being moved to the project area.

0.5 - 1 acre moveable paddocks will be set up using solar-powered fencing. Browse levels will be monitored and the goats moved into the next paddock once they have achieved the desired results. Water will be carried by hand to the paddocks thus protecting sensitive wetland habitat. Volunteers will be onsite most of the time which will provide better browse level monitoring as well as additional protection for the goats.

At the end of the summer the goats will be going back to their home pasture in Shady Valley, TN, with the hopes that they will be back on Roan's Grassy Balds in 2009.

A **VEGETATION STUDY** will be part of the project. This will allow us to:

- A. Assess the effectiveness of using goats for Grassy Bald restoration,
- B. Analyze data and distribute reports as well as make comparisons in vegetation changes over 20+ and 70+ year time spans,
- C. Determine effects on the rare Gray's Lily.

FUNDING: This is a volunteer-based project during this first (2008) summer season. We received a grant from the **North Carolina Appalachian Trail License Plate Fund** that will pay for travel expenses and some equipment and supply needs. An anonymous donor has also made a significant contribution to the project. However, additional funds are needed for a proper and thorough multi-year implementation and evaluation of this project.

PARTICIPANTS: This is a collaborative project involving several agencies and organizations that have made "in kind" contributions to the project. However, most of their contributions are in planning rather than funding for field implementation. **Participants include:**

Appalachian Trail Conservancy
USDA Forest Service
US Fish & Wildlife Service
North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage
Friends of Roan Mountain
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Tennessee [Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club](#)
Appalachian State University
East Tennessee State University

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Please consider adopting a goat. This money will be dedicated for losses (possibly vandalism & / or "Acts of God"), excess expenses, and data management (reports, data entry, data analysis) during this first year. Follow-up vegetation sampling will be needed in 2009 whether or not the goats are back on the mountain (but of course we hope they will be back on the mountain but that will depend on funding).

If you decide to adopt your goat for the 2009 summer then that money will be carried over and used as seed money for the 2009 summer season.

Consider giving an Adopted Baa-tany Goat to the Nature Lover in your life.

WHAT YOU GET IF YOU ADOPT A GOAT:

1. At least **one card, picture, and lock of hair** from your goat letting you know how much it likes the blackberries and spending time in the Grassy Balds,
2. The chance to **name your adopted goat** (the goats only have numbered ear tags right now),
3. Regular **email newsletter** project updates,
4. The satisfaction of knowing you are helping save a unique ecosystem by helping us further develop and refine a model protocol for using goats in Grassy Bald restoration.

COST: For 2008, we are planning on a 3 month field season (mid-late June through September). You may adopt a goat for 1 month, the entire 3 month 2008 summer season, and / or for the 3 month 2009 summer season (or longer).

- \$20 per month;
- \$50 for the 3 months in 2008;
- \$50 for the 3 months in 2009.

If you cannot Adopt a Goat (or perhaps in addition to Adopting a Goat), then please consider volunteering your time and energy with onsite work such as:

1. Helping carry equipment to the project area and setting up paddocks (>1 mile from Carvers Gap),
2. Being a goat herder / watcher for a weekend or two (we encourage low impact camping for 24 hour onsite protection of the goats),
3. Helping carry water from the nearby springs to the goat paddock, etc.

We will provide information / training / “rules of thumb” for all volunteers participating in the onsite implementation of the project.

Thank you for considering being part of this project.

Jamey Donaldson, Baa-tany Project Leader
Todd Eastin, Chief Coordinator of Caprine Conservationists

Adopt / Sponsor a Goat Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Name for your goat:

Adoption Term:

- \$20 = 1 Month
- \$50 = 2008 Summer
- \$100 = 2008 & 2009 Summers

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

This is a **tax deductible contribution**, please make checks payable to the **Friends of Roan Mountain** and note on the check that it is for the Roan Goat Project.

Friends of Roan Mountain
Anne Whittemore
208 Mark Drive
Johnson City, TN 37615

For more information about this project and about the Appalachian Trail, please contact:

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828-254-3708
www.appalachiantrail.org

ADOPT A GOAT AND...



...HELP SAVE THE GRASSY BALD CORRIDORS:

Roan has the world’s premier examples of the globally rare Southern Appalachian Grassy Bald ecosystems (Global Rank 1 = “Extremely rare and critically imperiled”, NatureServe.org).

The balds are dying due to a variety of factors, including changes in soils, climate change, and lack of large herbivores (plant eaters). This makes the balds more hospitable for woody plant invasion, especially from Canada Blackberry. In particular, the corridors linking the remaining Roan balds are closing in.

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