



Members of Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy working at 6,000-foot elevation to protect the Roan Mountain grassy balds from encroachment of woody vegetation.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA FROM PAGE 1

The origin of high-elevation mountaintop balds continues to be debated among regional ecologists; the one point of agreement is that, left undisturbed, the balds of North Carolina will perish. A diversity of management techniques including tractor mowing, grazing by cattle and goats and labor-intensive hand pruning are being evaluated.

For years, I have wanted to participate in one of the SAHC bald-clearing projects. I was happy to be a part of this year's effort, where, with brush cutters and pruning loppers, we

humans – in the old pioneer barn-raising, working-together spirit – cut and grubbed blackberry brambles, alder thickets and even those revered purple rhododendron to recover acres of formerly open grassy bald. Supervised by SAHC, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, we were simulating the work of mountaintop herbivores of past times.

Along the Appalachian Trail route to Grassy Ridge, we observed a fenced grazing area supervised by a goat herder keeping watch over 40 Angora goats. Some Carrboro resi-

dents may want to "Adopt a Goat" to help with the Roan Goat Grazing Project supported by Friends of Roan Mountain (friendsofroanmtn.org).

I am so in love with the Roan and its Gray's lilies that I can't give enough thanks for the stewardship efforts of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Becoming a member of SAHC, (appalachian.org) provides numerous opportunities during the year for walks and hikes over other SAHC western Carolina highland natural areas, as well as other Roan "mow-offs" scheduled this summer and fall. Go visit the Roan, and you'll fall in love too!



Sam and Nancy Boone, 2001

When we moved back to Chapel Hill in 2001, I was delighted to hear from two retired university librarians, Sam and Nancy Boone. The contact came in the form of a batch of 4x5-inch photographic negatives from 1951, along with a note from Sam, the longtime staff photographer for the Wilson Library, where my granddad, Charles Rush, was head librarian from 1941-55. In the note, Sam doubted I could do much with those old oversized negatives — not knowing that I have a darkroom that is state-of-the-art 1975. I made the prints, which led to a series of meetings at Sam and Nancy's charming home at 57 Oakwood Drive, just beyond Glen Lennox. It didn't take long for Sam to realize that I coveted his old 1947 Crown Graphic, which he not only bequeathed to me but also taught me how to use. What a learning curve! The hefty two-fisted 4x5 Graphic is about as far as you can get technically from the almost idiot-proof digital cameras of today. I had much to learn about the discipline of the single shot. But I lost Sam before the lessons were complete, when he died in May 2008 at the age of 89. Nancy followed in January 2009. I always felt I never got to properly thank them for their generosity and hospitality, so I honor them here now, as I do every time I pick up Sam's wonderful old camera. Maybe next week, we'll look at one of the photographs made from Sam's 58-year-old negatives.



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

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