



## baker's acres on cave road

### 15 acre donation with retained life estate

*By Andrea Jaeger, Arc Staff*

When I asked Mark Baker how long he has owned his property on Cave Road, he said, "Longer than I can remember. Mmmm, over 35 years now, I think!" Transplants from Cincinnati, Ohio, he and his late wife, Coral, built a charming cottage on their 15 acre forested tract that provided a peaceful retreat from life in the big city. Over time, they constructed a tasteful three-story home as their full-time residence. Mark retired from social work and now volunteers each week with the local Hospice. He also enjoys traveling and has masterfully decorated his home with artwork from around the world. He lives with a gentle giant of a dog named Franklin that could easily pass for a mild-mannered black bear. And as of June 20, 2018 Mark and Franklin

became land stewards of their 15 acre tract in the Highlands Nature Sanctuary known as Baker's Acres.

Cave Road is one of the main arteries providing access to the lower ten miles of the Rocky Fork Gorge. Over the past 20 years, the Highlands Nature Sanctuary has woven together a tapestry of lands to surround and protect the Gorge; parcel by parcel, tract by tract. Most have been purchased, but an occasional few have joined the Sanctuary through generous gifts from their owners. Mark Baker joined the ranks of such benevolent gift-givers last June by donating his land to the Arc of Appalachia. He will continue to enjoy the property through a life estate agreement, and we will continue to enjoy him as a wonderful neighbor and friend!