

ADOPT A GOAT and

Help Save Roan Mountain's Grassy and Alder Balds by giving a goat a:

- **Retirement Plan.** Angora goats lose their market value as they age. In 2008, Trudy of northern Virginia donated 19 goats to give them retirement instead of sending them to market. Todd Eastin of Shady Valley donated 15 goats. We are obliged to provide for them for the rest of their natural lives.
- **Working Vacation.** Goats work for food, love blackberries, and get to summer on Roan.

PROJECT SUMMARY: The purpose of the volunteer-based Baatany Goat Project is to restore Grassy Bald and Alder Bald on Roan's western balds using goats as an experimental management tool. The **browsing rotation and vegetation sampling protocols** developed can be used elsewhere.

Roan's 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 (= ice age relics predating European settlement).** They are disappearing and immediate actions are needed to halt and reverse this trend.

The **project area** (about 79 acres) lies 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 like to eat the invading woody plants rather than herbs. Canada Blackberry is the main target.

Angora goats are good at these high elevation conditions (5700-6100ft). They get sheared, treated for parasites, quarantined, and fed a seed-free food to keep them from bringing weed seeds to the project area. **Great Pyrenees** livestock guardian dogs are their protectors.

Their moveable paddocks use solar-powered fencing. Browse levels are monitored and the

goats moved once they have achieved the desired results. Water is carried by hand to the paddocks to protect sensitive wetland habitat. We need volunteers to keep track of browse results and to be additional protection for the goats.

By fall the goats go back to their home pasture in Shady Valley, TN, in hope that they will be back on Roan's balds in future years.

VEGETATION STUDIES will:

- Assess the effectiveness of using goats for Grassy and Alder Bald restoration
- Analyze data and distribute reports as well as make comparisons in vegetation changes over 20+ and 70+ year time spans
- Determine effects on the rare Gray's Lily
- Test the "**Post-Pleistocene Megaherbivore Theory**", the idea that large plant-eating animals historically maintained the balds before European settlement.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Please join our GRASSY AND ALDER BALDS RESTORATION MEMBERS' COOPERATIVE by adopting a goat and / or dog. We hope the goats will always be back on the mountain but that depends on funding. This money will be used for contingency expenses and data management. Follow-up vegetation sampling will be needed.

Consider giving a Baatany Goat or Dog Adoption to the Nature Lover in your life.

WHEN YOU GET OUR GOAT, YOU ALSO GET:

- **Bragging Rights** that you have contributed to baldness, complete with joke opportunities
- An **adoption certificate** with a **picture of your goat, a lock of mohair, and scientific results** from their fine dining on Roan's Grassy and Alder Balds
- The chance to **name your adopted goat**
- The satisfaction of knowing you are helping save unique ecosystems by helping refine methods for keeping the balds bald

Adopt / Sponsor a Goat Form (a tax deductible contribution).

You: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Goats, each: \$20 = 1 Month
 \$50 = 1 Summer
 \$100 = 1 Year

Goat \$ _____ for how long? _____

Dogs, each: \$20 = 1 Week
 \$50 = 1 Month
 \$100 = All Summer

Dogs \$ _____ for how long? _____

Goat Name(s): _____

Please check whether adoption is:

___ New, ___ Renewal

___ Gift. Anonymous? Circle 1: Y N

Gift from? _____

For: _____

To address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please write on your check (sent to and payable to the Friends of Roan Mountain) that it is **for the Baatany Goat Project.**

Nancy Barrigar, Treasurer
Friends of Roan Mountain
708 Allen Avenue
Elizabethton, TN 37643

FUNDING: This is a volunteer-based project. Since 2008, we have received grants from the **Appalachian Trail Conservancy** that paid for some travel expenses and equipment and supply needs. Anonymous donors also made significant contributions. However, additional funds are needed for a proper and thorough multi-year implementation and evaluation of this project.

PARTICIPANTS: This is a collaborative effort 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
Friends of Roan Mountain
US Fish & Wildlife Service
North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
Tennessee Division of Natural Areas
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club
The Nature Conservancy
Appalachian State University
East Tennessee State University
Wake Forest University

2 NEW PRODUCTS now available
(funding supports our project):

Our **Roan Grown Mohair**, a specialty yarn made from the mohair the Angoras grew on the balds.

Baa-iley Goat, a true story, by Rosalie Russo. This children’s book tells of Baa-iley the Goat’s misadventures while doing her part in saving the balds.

COST: You may adopt a goat for 1 month, a whole summer, or as long as you like:
\$20 / month, \$50 / summer, \$100 / year
You may also sponsor the guard dogs:
\$20 / week, \$50 / month, \$100 / summer

Whether or not you adopt, you can volunteer your time and energy for mountaintop work:

- Help carry equipment to and from the project area and set up paddocks (>1 mile from Carvers Gap)
- Be a goat sitter for a weekend or two; we encourage low impact **Leave No Trace camping (www.LNT.org; NO CAMPFIRES, NO DOGS)** for 24 hour onsite protection of the goats
- Help carry water from nearby springs
- And more, just ask!

We will inform and train all volunteers.

Thank you for caring,

Jamey Donaldson,
Project Leader & Goatherd
Todd Eastin,
Chief Coordinator of Caprine
Conservationists

For more about this project, Friends of Roan Mountain, and the Appalachian Trail, see:

www.baatany.org

www.FriendsofRoanMtn.org

www.appalachiantrail.org

BAATANY GOAT PROJECT
Helping Keep Roan’s
Natural Balds Bald Naturally
Since 2008



They summer on **Roan Mountain’s Balds**, the world’s finest examples of the globally rare Southern Appalachian Grassy Bald and only location for the Alder Bald. Both have Global Rank 1 = “Extremely rare and critically imperiled” (NatureServe.org).

These ancient Grassy and Alder Balds are disappearing for multiple reasons, making them prone to overgrowth, especially from Canada Blackberry. In particular, the corridors linking the remaining Roan balds are closing in. The volunteer-based Baatany Goat Project hopes to reverse these trends.

