

Brushy Face Preserve

A Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust conserved property

A walk through an old growth forest with some of the largest white pines in the region. Cross two streams, explore a lush fern glade and enjoy the forest understory largely populated with flame azaleas.

Natural History

Nestled amongst some of the world's oldest mountains, located on the Atlantic Ocean side of the eastern continental divide, Brushy Face Preserve is home to diverse flora and fauna.

Old Growth: The forest along the stream, seemingly spared from loggers, contains white pines estimated to be over 200 years old! Also look for old growth hemlocks, sweet birch, tulip poplars, Frasers magnolia and red maples.

Fern Glade: New York and cinnamon ferns carpet this serene section of the preserve and are showiest in spring.

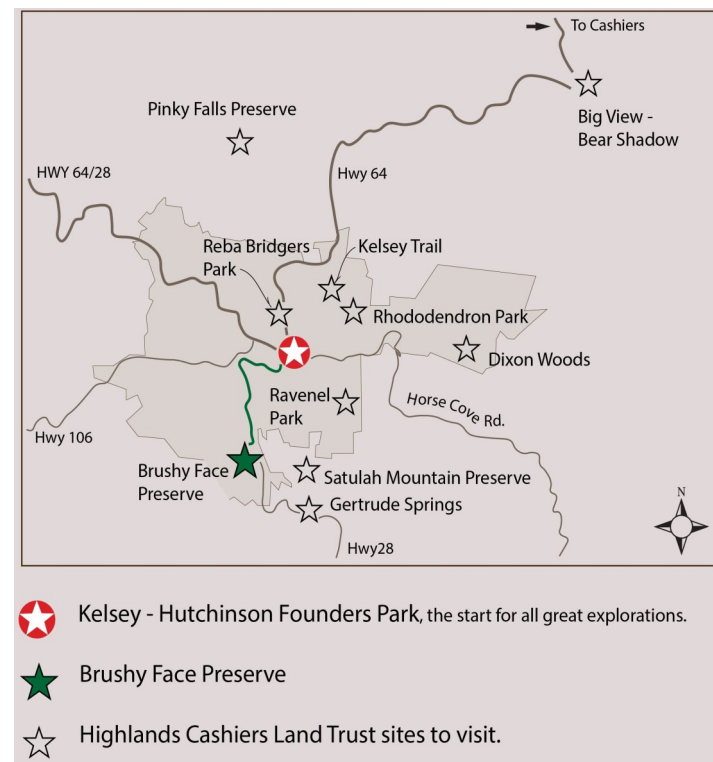


Botanicals and Wildlife: The Preserve is home to a number of plant and wildlife species, some rare and endangered. Flame azaleas welcome you at the trailhead in spring and painted trillium can be seen along the trail as well as Catesby's trillium and galax. The Chauga crayfish and several species of salamander prefer this habitat and you may spot small mammals, **white-tailed deer** or black bear. The Preserve pro-

vides important habitat for migratory birds including the beautiful hooded and black-throated blue warblers.

Stream Crossings and Old Roadbeds: The northern stream crossing rock hop was made from salvaged stones from the Hill House in Horse Cove. This historic private home was the residence of Highlands' first mayor and the property is now conserved with HCLT. The stream is one of the main forks that become Clear Creek, which drains into Blue Valley and eventually the Chattooga River. A segment of the Brushy Face trail is constructed on an old road bed. The origin is not certain, but speculated to be remnants from the original Webb residence here.

Old and New: From the trailhead, look for views of Satulah Mountain Preserve, our first property conserved in 1909.



The Trail

Directions from Founders Park downtown Highlands (~10 min): Leaving Pine St., turn left onto Highway 28 south (4th St.), follow for 1.6 mi. to Brushy Face Rd., turn right onto Brushy Face Rd., make first left on to Old Pine Rd., then next left onto Pineland Rd., park at cul-de-sac or where marked.

Difficulty: Moderate with gentle grade, some creek crossings via rock hopping.

Distance: 1.2 miles round trip, allow one hour for leisurely walk

Prepare: Always tell someone where and when you are hiking. Bring water, rain gear and comfortable hiking shoes.

Hours: Dawn until dusk.

Rules: Stay on designated trails. No littering. No collecting or harming plants or wildlife. No hunting. No motorized vehicles or bicycles on trails. Be courteous to other hikers. Keep dogs on leash/under your direct control.

The People of Brushy Face

For the past century and a half, many of Highlands' most colorful, engaged and prominent citizens have been drawn to this mountain's rugged topography, scenic vistas and old growth flora. There is a fascinating history of long human involvement with this property, including those that called it home and fought to protect its natural attributes.

Civil War veteran Billy Webb was the first to settle here in 1875, the year Highlands was founded. He was able to eke out a subsistence living on the property, raise a large family and continue to play a role in Highlands' history for generations.

A wealthy Atlanta woman, Eléonore Raoul, found rustic comfort and relaxation here from her urban pursuits of breaking the proverbial "glass ceiling" as a leading suffragist and pioneering law student; Raoul protected the land for almost half a century. Then a group of dedicated Floridians collectively preserved the land for another three decades.

The dawn of the twenty-first century, however, brought serious environmental threat when new owners broke ground on a residential development. Their attempt fell victim to economic downturn, but it was only a matter of time until the property was slated for another development.

Local homeowners once again came to the rescue. The Brushy Face Mountain Consortium was formed in 2011 and 75 acres were given to Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust in 2015 to be conserved in perpetuity!

Since taking ownership, HCLT's AmeriCorps-led volunteers have built the entire trail by hand. To learn how you can volunteer, donate your land and support our efforts contact us at: info.hitrust@earthlink.net

John Akridge and many other trail volunteers worked tirelessly to create this beautiful trail experience.



Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (HCLT)

We are a nationally accredited, 501c3 non-profit land conservation organization that for 100 years has been strategically conserving our most ecologically vital lands for the benefit of all who live here.

Our work helps maintain clean water, healthy habitat for rare and endangered species as well as views and trails for health and recreation. Some of our conserved lands are open to the public such as this one. We rely on the support of people like you to continue our work of conserving some of the world's oldest mountains. Please donate today. To join us, visit www.hicashlt.org.



P.O. Box 1703, Highlands, NC 28741, [ww.hicashlt.org](http://www.hicashlt.org)
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Illustrations by Ken Czarnomski

This map made possible thanks to the generosity of Glenda Bell and Nancy Nichols

BRUSHY FACE PRESERVE

HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) needles are evergreen 2.5 to 5 inches long, 5 in a bundle. The largest of conifers in the northeast located in its most southern region.

Arriving from Highlands

Private Road

Brushy Face Road

Seeps

No parking

Private Property

Dryer High Ground
Notice the pines vary!

Pineland
Private Road
to Brushy Face

In the spring, this fertile stalk turns cinnamon color.

Minor Crossings

Clear Creek

Rock Hop on foundation stones from the Hill House

Street Parking

Continue your exploration

Street Parking

Minor Crossing

Highway 28
(or 4th Street)

Buddy Up!

Glenda Bell, stops to admire an old friend. Take a look up at this old growth White Pine. Notice the particularly large branching.

A seep is a location where ground water slowly percolates to the surface.

Old growth White Pine, stop & enjoy.

Old South Walhalla Road

Fern Glade is predominant with New York & Cinnamon Ferns

Clear Creek Watershed to Chattooga River, overflow of the Blue Valley Wilderness Study Area

2' to 5' High

Cinnamon Fern, *Osmunda cinnamomeum*, spotted in the Fern Glade, is a member of the Royal Fern Family.

Flame Azaleas, *Rhododendron calendulaceum*, grows 2 to 15 feet high & blooms various colors in the spring.

TRAILS

Big Pine Trail 4,940 ft. or .94 mile
West Fork Trail 6,056 ft. or 1.15 miles

