

**PROFILES OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT DONORS  
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**ALL PROFILES WRITTEN BY FRANK MCINTOSH**

## **BOB HARBIN**

The donor of conservation easements totaling more than 1,500 acres, Dr. Bob Harbin's first easement, put in place in 2001, is in the Big Texas Valley in Floyd County, Ga.

The easement is part of protected lands near Berry College mentioned in the Tom Berry profile. Beyond the valley lands, this easement also protects nearly a mile of the ridge top of Lavender Mountain.

The second of Harbin's Floyd County easements (one of two he recorded in 2007) protects nearly a mile of Coosa River bank shortly after it is formed at the confluence of the Etowah and Oostanaula and begins its 420-mile journey to Mobile Bay.



*Bob Harbin; field with wildflowers on easement property*

Part of the old Shipley Farm tract, this 630-acre parcel is leased to a farmer who has worked this land for thirty years and owns nearby lands, including acreage given him by Harbin's father. The property has 240 acres in cultivation, of which 75 are dedicated to the Quail Conservation Reserve Program, with management practices such as planting warm weather grasses, controlled fire and disking.

Outside the 240 acres in cultivation, the rest of the property is managed for game. Bob says, "My hobby is habitat management—for quail, turkey, deer, and all wildlife. Everything you do for quail is good for everything else. We have a wildlife biologist, Brad Mueller from Monticello, Fla., who advises us on how to manage the habitat, a never ending job."

Harbin's second 2007 easement is in Cherokee County, Ala. and has a mile of frontage on the east fork of the Little River on top of Lookout Mountain. "It's an absolutely beautiful place, with unbelievable slopes to get down to river. It took eons for that river to cut its way down through that mountain," Harbin noted.

Harbin's devotion to the land comes in part from his father. "My father had to raise five kids. He was an ophthalmologist, like me, and he also loved land. When he bought Shipley Farm in mid-60s, a banker friend said, 'Well, if you're determined to buy land you should get a Federal Farm Loan.' He did that and

got a long-term 3 percent loan. The farm lease on the property paid the note. Of course, that program doesn't exist any more, but I still love land and like to own it."