

# League Fund Honors Founder



Fall 2012 The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League Board of Directors has recently approved the establishment of a fund to honor the work of Janet Marsh Zeller, who founded the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League and served as its executive director for over two decades.

In her early adult life, Janet was a successful teacher and a rising star in the educational establishment of North Carolina. Blinded by a congenital disorder, Janet's career was cut short. Nevertheless, in 1984 she organized Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League to fight a national nuclear waste dump, at first near her mountain home, then in other communities throughout the South and across the nation.

Under Janet's leadership, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League expanded in size and scope, with new issues, new communities, and new methods. A woman who shouldered much responsibility without fanfare, Janet poured herself into the organization she founded.

A fund to honor Janet's achievements was conceived by Laura Drey, a long-time friend and a volunteer for the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League. The honorary fund is a current fund (as opposed to an endowment fund) which will support the ongoing mission of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League. It will be a continuing fund, with individual gifts accepted throughout the year. All donations to BREDL are tax-deductible.

Contributions to the fund will benefit the organization while honoring the woman who gave so much to make our world better, one community at a time; the woman who still says: "One person speaking alone may not be heard, but many people speaking with one voice cannot be ignored."