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PROVIDED BY JENNIFER JONES

John Gavitt (above), of Frederick County, is seen with his dogs Willow and Brigete. He has received the Cacapon Conservation Champion Award from the Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust (CLRLT) — a conservation group managing 50 easements on more than 14,000 acres in Hampshire, Morgan and Hardy counties in West Virginia. It is the largest local land conservation group in West Virginia.

‘Champion’ of land preservation honored

By ONOFRIO CASTIGLIA
The Winchester Star

GAINESBORO — The Cacapon River watershed, just west of Frederick County in the Potomac Highlands region, is considered by some to be the cleanest river system in West Virginia, if not the entire eastern United States.

If that’s true, it’s in part because of people like John Gavitt, who was recently recognized as a “champion” of local land and water conservation.

“It’s truly made me joyful,” Gavitt said about preserving land in Frederick County and West Virginia during his retirement. “I’ve had 12 wonderful years.”

Gavitt, 70, owns the 437-acre North River Retreat in Hampshire County, W.Va., where guests hunt, fish and camp along the North River — a tributary of the Cacapon River and part of the greater Potomac River watershed.

“I call it a for-profit nonprofit,”

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