



FIELD NOTES

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina

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Field Notes is a midseason newsletter used by The LandTrust to update its contributors on the progress of projects, upcoming events, and news in the office.



Children experience nature at Spencer Woods Biodiversity Walk.

Beloved Spencer Woods Property Saved!

Mature Hardwood Trees Protected!

Efforts to secure funds needed to pay for the Spencer Woods Property received a major boost in October when the Town of Spencer was notified it received a \$200,000 grant from the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) for acquisition of the property. The Town of Spencer has agreed to take ownership of the property and maintain it as a passive recreation park.

The LandTrust acquired the property in February subject to a deed-of-trust financed by the previous owner, saving the 42-acre tract of rolling hills and mature hardwoods from a clear cut. "Several members of the community have already pledged significant amounts," reports Executive Director Jason Walser. "Those pledges, along with the PARTF grant, put the end of the acquisition phase of the project in sight," adds Walser, who notes the LandTrust is now looking for money for Phase II of the project, park development and maintenance.

Continued on page 3...

Seven Miles To Be Added to Uwharrie Trail!

Little Long Mountain Secured!

The LandTrust is very pleased to announce that the last gap in the Uwharrie Trail in Montgomery County is one step closer to being filled. The LandTrust had to act quickly to purchase Little Long Mountain, a one-of-a-kind property that was a "must-have" in order to complete the formerly 40-mile-long Uwharrie Trail. Although this property has been temporarily secured, the purchase was made with seller financing and we

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Phemeranthus teretifolius
(Appalachian Rock-pink),
native glade plant on site.

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Milestone Projects Made Possible Thanks to Your Support!

Letter from The President, David Simmons

On August 20th, The Land Trust's annual RiverDance fundraising event was held. This year's event proved to be our most successful RiverDance ever. We had approximately 375 guests in attendance who enjoyed great food, great music, and sharing time with friends. On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to thank the staff, RiverDance committee, and others who volunteered their time to make this event a success. And finally, I want to thank you, our supporters, whose generosity enables us to continue our mission of "saving the places you love."

Given the economic climate that we are facing, your financial support speaks volumes of how you feel about the role that The Land Trust plays in protecting our lands. Some ongoing projects which warrant mentioning are the Springer Property, Spencer Woods, Capel, and Little Long Mountain.

The Springer property, 405 acres, is located between the Yadkin River and the South Yadkin River and will be an addition to adjacent properties that make up the "Two Rivers Project." With the addition of Springer, the project will consist of approximately 1400 acres. The city of Salisbury has agreed to contribute funding to this project as the intake for the city's water supply is located on the property. Funding has mostly been provided by a major benefactor with the balance of funding coming from Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

Spencer Woods consists of 42 acres and is located between Salisbury and Spencer. This project is being named in honor of Fred and Alice Stanback, and has been funded largely by private donations from friends and others who appreciate Fred's commitment to pro-

tecting our trees and lands. We were excited to learn in October that we also received funding from the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for this project. We still need to raise funds to complete the development and implementation phase of the project, however.

The Capel property, in Montgomery County, overlooks Lake Tillery and is across the river from Morrow Mountain State Park. Our vision for this property originally was to incorporate it with Morrow Mountain, but with the current financial challenges impacting the

budgets of state agencies, that probably will not happen. We currently own 244 acres and have an option to purchase the remaining 64 acres. This option needs to be exercised in 2012. We are pursuing other potential partnerships with state and federal agencies.

The final acquisition property I will mention is Little Long Mountain, also in Montgomery County, and is approximately 250 acres. This property had to be purchased by The Land

Trust with owner financing. Once this property is paid for and transferred to a public agency, it will add about seven miles to the Uwharrie Trail and will complete the trail in Montgomery County.

In addition to the acquisition projects above, there are many conservation easements that are on a waiting list and being reviewed by staff and the board of directors. While these are admittedly hard times to raise funds for conservation, we feel obligated to take advantage of these once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to finish off large scale projects like the Uwharrie Trail, Two Rivers Preserve, and others that we have been working on for years. We are grateful for your support.



Kids playing on rocks atop Little Long Mountain at last year's hike.

Spencer Woods Property Continued...

The LandTrust plans to honor long-time conservationists and philanthropists Fred and Alice Stanback with the project. "Fred and Alice have done so much for conservation in our region and across the Southeast. We felt a nature preserve of mature hardwoods in Fred's home community was an appropriate way to honor him," Walser says.

On September 17th The LandTrust hosted a nature walk on the property. Programming was provided by Lisa Wear and Anne Ellis of the Rowan County Schools Horizons Unlimited center. The program highlighted the property's biodiversity, studying its wildlife, aquatic species and hardwood forest. Approximately 60 people, most of them young children, attended the event. "There are so many special plant and animal communities here," says Lisa Wear. "This is a perfect location for this type of environmental programming."

We intend to host a feedback session soon where members of the community will be able to describe their vision for the property. In January, the NC Society of Landscape Architects will conduct a three-day planning charrette for the property using feedback gathered at the forum and input from other members of the community. "This park will be for the people of

Spencer and Salisbury to experience nature in a way that is unique for an urban setting," says Walser. "In this age of Nature Deficit Disorder, where kids suffer from mental disorders increasingly associated with lack of connection to nature, we feel the Spencer Woods property can be a true oasis for our whole community. We truly believe that these woods will be an asset for all in Spencer and Salisbury, old and young, rich and poor."

Anyone interested in contributing to the Spencer Woods property is invited to contact The LandTrust at 704-647-0302 or landtrust@landtrustcnc.org.



Beautiful fall colors of now protected Spencer Woods.

Another Portion of Knox Family Farm Protected!

This summer The LandTrust completed conservation of the 194-acre Lois Knox property in western Rowan County. The farm is in an important conservation area for The LandTrust; several other landowners in the area have given conservation easements to The LandTrust, including almost 400 acres conserved by other members of the Knox family.

Transaction funding for this project was provided by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. Sadly, Lois Knox died as we were completing work on this easement, but her heirs, Ben Knox and wife Angela Knox, Robert Knox II, and wife Karen Knox, and Clark Knox, completed the easement donation according to their aunt's wishes. We wish to thank everyone involved in this project, including the Knox family who graciously saw through what their Aunt

Lois had begun - permanent protection of the Historic Knox Farm in Rowan County.



Historic farmhouse located on the newly protected property.

Uwharrie Trail Project Continued...

are seeking funds to pay off the outstanding deed of trust so that we can get this property into formal public ownership.

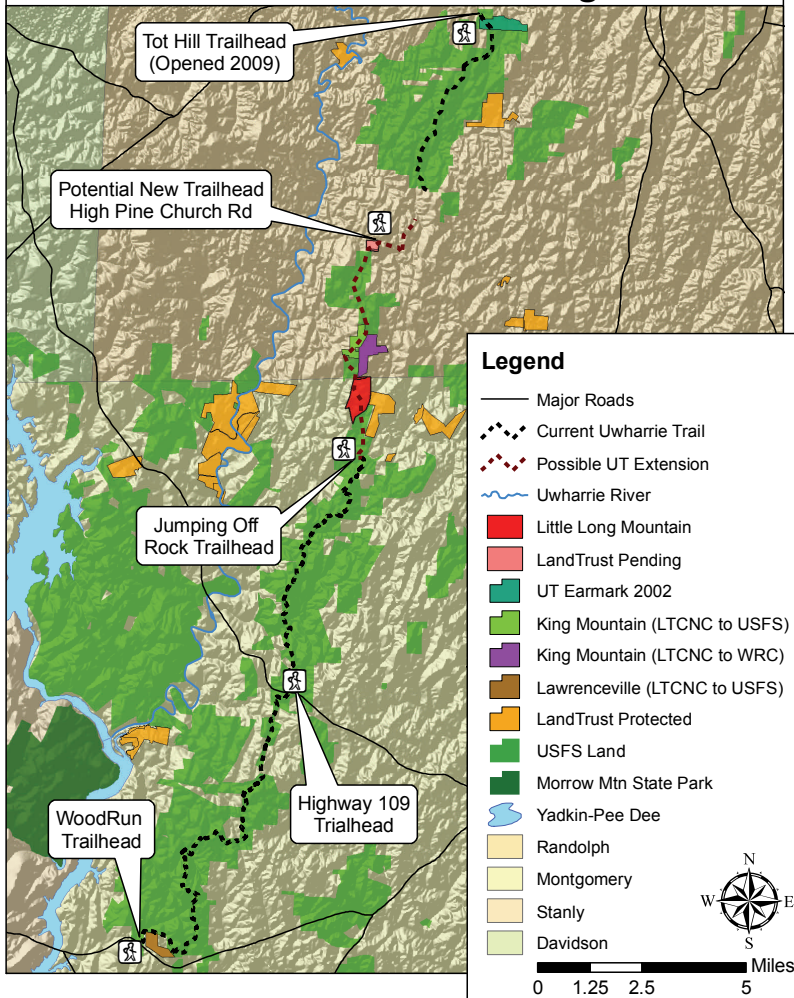
This 250-acre property houses the peak of Little Long Mountain, boasts unique panoramic views of the Uwharrie Mountains, possesses a rare glade community, buffers the “outstanding resource waters” of Poison Fork, and is home to timber rattlesnake, box turtles, and many other neat plants and animals.

Now that The LandTrust has control of this property, we are one step closer to reconnecting the trail. With one other willing seller of a small parcel in Randolph County we could develop a new trailhead on High Pine Church Road and add another seven miles to the existing trail.



View of Uwharrie River valley from Little Long Mountain

Uwharrie Trail Corridor - Little Long Mountain



By securing Little Long Mountain alone, however, we can begin to rebuild the trail and immediately add nearly six miles of new trail through the use of existing dirt roads.

The LandTrust is forming a committee to get the trail on the ground and welcome volunteer help, both in fundraising to finish the property purchase and to develop the trail. If you want to get involved, please contact us at 704-647-0302 or by email at land-trust@landtrustcnc.org. More information on this important project coming soon!

“With this recent purchase of Little Long Mountain we have taken on debt to secure the opportunity to reconnect the largest portion of the Uwharrie Trail previously in private ownership, and with it provide a one-of-a-kind amenity for the Piedmont” says LandTrust Director Jason Walser. “But with state and federal conservation funds at their lowest, community support will be key in making this vision happen.”

Hoffner Family Dairy Preserved in Rowan County!

In September The LandTrust completed the permanent conservation of a 261-acre organic dairy farm in western Rowan County. George Hoffner and his wife, Evelyn, along with their son Alan and his wife, Connie, placed conservation easements on the property. Alan and his son, Chris Hoffner, work the farm and transitioned the dairy to certified organic (currently operating under an agreement with Organic Valley) in 2006 and 2007. The property has been run as a dairy by the Hoffner family since the 1950s.

The transaction was assisted with funding from the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, administered by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Farm & Ranch Protection Program, administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "This is a great example of the Federal and state governments working together with a local land trust to help a family insure the future of their farm," says Andrew Waters, operations director at The LandTrust who wrote the original grant applications and helped guide the project to completion. Funding from the two grants will be used to help Alan Hoffner secure his father's interest in the property. Many farms are



Buddy, George and Chris Hoffner on the farm.

put in jeopardy because of insufficient transition planning and as result are sold. "I really want to congratulate the Hoffner family for recognizing this situation and working with us to prevent it," Water said.

Waters adds that LandTrust consultant Steve Blount and local NRCS district conservationist Larry Hendrix, along with local attorney Andy Abramson, were instrumental in the conservation effort. Waters comments, "As land conservation projects go, this one was very complex. Everyone involved worked very hard and put their faith in the importance of this effort."

Upcoming Outings and Events

Padding Adventure at Tuckertown Lake, November 12th

Our fall canoe trip this year will be on gorgeous Tuckertown Lake. The leaves should be at their peak in the Piedmont. RSVP quickly for this event as spots fill up fast, at 704-647-0302 or landtrust@landtrustcnc.org.

Cauble Creek Artist Invitational Benefitting The LandTrust, November 18-20th

Cauble Creek Vineyards is hosting its inaugural "Artist Invitational" event this November, with sale proceeds from November 18-20 benefitting The LandTrust. For more information visit www.caublecreekvineyard.com.

Annual Ornament Making at Green Goat Gallery, December 3rd

Here is your chance to give something back this year and have fun doing it, as you bring your little ones to the Green Goat to make ornaments of birdseed and popcorn to share with the wildlife around your home.

Open House at LandTrust Office in Salisbury Depot, January 19th

We invite you to drop by our office for light hors d'oeuvres to catch up with staff on the many projects you make possible! For more info on this and any of our upcoming events, visit our website at www.landtrustcnc.org.

Uwharrie Trail Hike, January 29th

Join The LandTrust on a hike on the soon-to-be added section of trail north of Jumpin' Off Rock. Final details will be provided closer to the date.



Recent Outings and Events

Little River Canoe Trip

Over 50 folks came out for our spring canoe trip on the beautiful and pristine Little River in Montgomery County. We began at the Wildlife Resources Commission put-in on Pekin Road, and from there attendees enjoyed a leisurely paddle upstream and back on the Little River, surrounded by blooming mountain laurel and trilling kingfishers. We had a mid-paddle stop for refreshments and music from local band, Acoustic Gravy. The LandTrust is working to acquire an additional put-in north of here and needs your support! Contact us to learn how you can help!

"What a great day! Thank you so much for arranging the wonderful events. The canoeing was perfect, and the big spread and music on the river made for a memorable day. Thank you and your friends for this good planning and hard work. Being in the beautiful setting was a lift for everyone's spirit."

LandTrust supporter, Bud Mickle



A great time was had by all on The LandTrust's canoe trip on the Little River.

Annual Meeting at Webb Farm

LandTrust easement donor Bill Webb hosted our Annual Meeting this year at his family's quail farm in Richmond County! We had a great turnout in this far eastern portion of our region, as more than 40 supporters traveled to the land of the longleaf pine. Bill gave a presentation about the farm and his vision developing this wonderful wildlife habitat and business, and attendees were given a tour by Jeep of the property which is managed with prescribed fire. A delicious meal was also prepared by Bill's wife, Debbie, and the farm's staff. Many thanks to the Webb's for the day and for preserving and managing such a special place! *Editors note: We have had two separate easement donations from two different "Bill Webb's" (one from Rowan County in 2009 and one from Richmond County in 2008).*

"The LandTrust was excited to afford its members the opportunity to see our first conservation easement project in Richmond County. We now have many other great ongoing projects in this region as a result of Bill Webb's leadership."

Crystal Cockman, Uwharrie Conservation Specialist



Attendees enjoyed a tour by Jeep of longleaf pines and wildlife on the Webb Farm, the first easement donation to The LandTrust in Richmond County.

Thanks to All Who Made RiverDance 2011 A Huge Success!

Approximately 375 guests enjoyed dining, dancing and camaraderie at the 11th annual *RiverDance* at the Historic Salisbury Station. *RiverDance* is the major annual fundraiser for The LandTrust with all proceeds supporting land conservation efforts throughout the region. A delicious buffet of southern favorites was prepared by *Best Impressions*, and musical entertainment was provided by *The Risse band*.

"During this period of economic turmoil, we are grateful for the support of so many friends," said Jason Walser, Executive Director of The LandTrust. We would especially like to thank *RiverDance* committee chairs **Andrea Anders** and **Michael Bitzer** and committee members **LaCreasa** and **Richard Allen**, **Gwin** and **Matt Barr**, **Heather** and **Brad Brady**, **Ann** and **Bucky Cline**, **Kelly** and **Billy Fisher**, **Brenda** and **Franco Goodman**, **Amy** and **Will Goodnight**, **Emily** and **Wes Graham**, **Nancy** and **Wilson Graham**, **Laura** and **Matt Hannah**, **Emily Hunter**, **Deborah** and **Dyke Messinger**, **Pam** and **Joe Morris**, **Trisha** and **Tim Proper**, **Addie Laurie** and **Richard Reamer**, **Starr Shive**, **Luanne** and **Chip Short**, **Carole** and **David Simmons**, **Tracy** and **Kenan Smith**, **Nichole** and **Erron Towns**, and **Traci** and **Brad Williams**. A special thanks goes to tablescapes designers **Brenda Goodman**, **Pam Morris** and LandTrust events coordinator **Meredith Sullivan** for creating a magical setting for the evening.



Addie Laurie Reamer and Elizabeth Anderson enjoying the fun, food and music at RiverDance 2011!

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Your Gifts Support our Conservation Work

Your donations will allow us to continue "Saving the Places You Love" in the Piedmont Region. The following are **new** or renewing members from **January 1, 2011** through **September 25, 2011**. Every effort has been made to ensure that these names are correct. Should there be an error, or if you have questions or comments, please contact us at 704.647.0302. Thank you for supporting The LandTrust!

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Endowments

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 Dr. and Mrs. Charles F. Floyd

Grants

Salisbury Community Foundation
 La Sportiva N.A., Inc.
 Smith and Davis Foundation
 Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

Honorariums

In honor of Lex Allen
 Dr. and Mrs. Wilbert W. Blackman

In honor of Wayne Cook and Paige Helms
 Reverend Cathy A. Cook and
 Mr. Kenneth E. Criffield

In honor of Cooleemee Plantation
 Ms. Lydia Williams

In honor of Peter W. Hairston
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Mooney

In honor of Bruce Kolkebeck
 Mr. Kenneth Kolkebeck

In honor of Ellen Reamer
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Webster

In honor of Sue Carter Walser
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Stamey

Memorials

In memory of Lawrence Hayden Beck
 Cooleemee Post American Legion

In memory of Rolf H. Bessin, M.D.
 Dr. and Mrs. Robert H. Gaither

In memory of Ed Buehler
 Mr. Kenneth Kolkebeck

In memory of Henry Culp, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. James R. Mauney

*In memory of Nell Turbyfill Freely, Ed
 Fincher, Bronnie Hall, Marion Lang, and
 Meow Floyd*
 Dr. and Mrs. Charles F. Floyd

In memory of Nonnie Kolkebeck
 Mr. Kenneth Kolkebeck

In memory of Logan Monk
 Dr. and Mrs. Whitman E. Smith Jr.

In memory of Larry Shaw
 Mrs. Lawrence M. Shaw

In memory of Jack Sherrill
 Mr. and Mrs. C. Layton Getsinger

In memory of Vic Shive
 Mr. Bruce Rufty

*In memory of Russ Tatum, Juanita
 Swicegood, Peggy Mackey, Bob Paquette
 and Bill Gray*
 Mr. Jim Tucker

In memory of Louise R. Walser
 Mr. and Mrs. Addison Davis, Mr. and
 Mrs. C. Layton Getsinger, Ms. Diane
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 Thomas, Ms. Sue Carter Walser, Mr. and
 Mrs. Dan R. Williams

*Many thanks to our
 summer Stanback
 interns from Duke:
 (from left to right)
 Lisa Vershel,
 Scott Kelly, and
 Dana Powell! Check
 out our website to
 learn about what
 they did this
 summer at The
 LandTrust!*



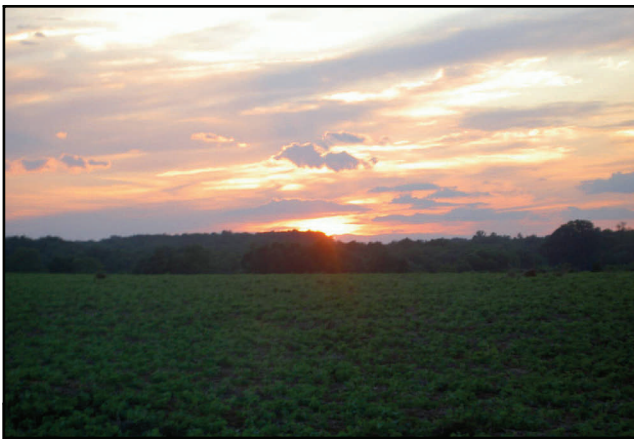
An Evening with John Hart

The Piedmont's own bestselling thriller author John Hart continued his long-standing support of conservation this summer by hosting a pre-publication release party for his latest book, *Iron House*, at the O. Henry Hotel in Greensboro on July 9th. The event benefitted both The LandTrust for Central N.C., where John serves as a board member, and the Piedmont Land Conservancy (PLC) in Greensboro, where John lived for several years. Thanks to all who came out for this great night with one of NC's great authors, which raised over \$7,000 for land conservation. And thanks John for all you do for The LandTrust! We were excited to partner on this event with PLC, whose executive director is our former associate director Kevin Redding, and hope this is the first of many collaborative efforts between the two conservation groups serving the Yadkin River watershed.



John Hart with Executive Directors Jason and Kevin.

Unique Conservation Properties for Sale



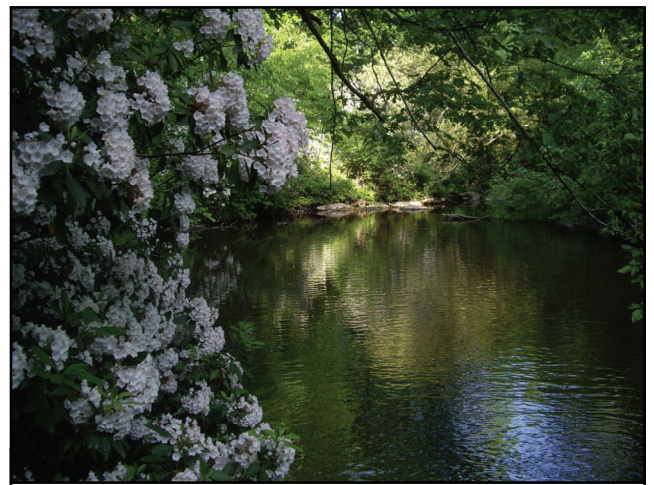
Productive agricultural lands on Kannapolis Property.

Kannapolis Property, Rowan County

Due to the economic downturn, The LandTrust is making available for purchase approximately 220 acres of prime agricultural and forested land in Western Rowan County that was previously intended to be made game lands. This property is subject to conservation easements that allow two homesites. Great hunting and farming, with significant frontage on Sills Creek. A short 10 miles from Concord, Mooresville and Salisbury. This conservation property offered at \$550,000. If interested, please contact The LandTrust at 704-647-0302 or by email at landtrust@landtrustcnc.org.

Little River Preserve, Randolph County

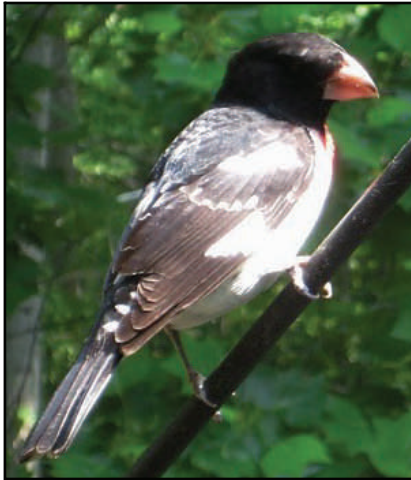
Described as "the best of the best" by The Land Trust in 2005 this unique property is offered for sale. The 59+ acres of mixed hardwoods forest are home to deer, turkey and beavers. The west fork of the Little River winds through the property with several small waterfalls along the way. A custom 4300sq two and a half story brick home with a matching workshop and a rustic cabin that overlooks the river are all part of this wonderful section of land. There is a conservation easement on a portion the property. Offered at \$669,000. If interested you can call Pat Cooper with Coldwell Banker at 336-625-1100 or contact the owners directly, Nora and Barry Walbourn, at 336-381-4708.



Blooming mountain laurel on the West Fork.



Children enjoy exploring permanently protected Spencer Woods.



Rose-breasted grosbeak posed for a picture on LandTrust outing.



Carol Palmer & Robyn James enjoy the Little River canoe trip.

THE LANDTRUST FOR CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA

The LandTrust is a private, nonprofit organization working with private and public landowners to protect the special natural areas, family farms and rural landscapes of Anson, Cabarrus, Davidson, Davie, Iredell, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, Rowan and Stanly Counties. With 501 (c) (3) status, all donations to The LandTrust qualify for maximum tax deductions.

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