

Field Notes

Fall 2017



*Conservation at the
Forefront*

A LandTrust for Central North
Carolina publication

Photo by Carole King



Conserving the best natural areas, rural landscapes, family farms, and historic places in North Carolina's heartland.

We Must All *Do Our Part*

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina is very proud of its land protection work. Over its 20 plus years of existence the focus has been on protecting the land, forests, rivers, wildlife habitat, parks and special places in our region using a variety of tools, conservation easements partnering with state, federal and local agencies and through outright purchase of land. We can truly say that we have "preserved" over 25,122 acres in our ten county region through our efforts. Of those we continue to own 3,043 acres.

But to be sustainable and continue our good work we need your support and we need to expand our membership and base of support. Rowan County has done the lion's share of supporting The LandTrust. It is time that the other counties in our region step up to the plate. Our land protection work is not confined to Rowan County, it covers all of our ten counties.



In 2016 we had 458 donors, 201 of those came from Rowan County. Two of our counties had as few as 1 or 5 donors. Seven of our ten counties had less than twenty donors. Our staff has been trying to correct this imbalance and create county and regional chapters to increase our membership and support base. So far we have active chapters in Richmond County and a Uwharrie Chapter to support our tremendous work in the Uwharrie mountain region. We are also forming chapters in Cabarrus County and working on other chapters.

If you want to help with a county chapter, please call our office! We currently have 142 Leopold Society members in several area schools. So far we have 70 sportsman members and they have applied for hunts last spring and this fall. We hope to grow this program as word of mouth spreads.

As of August of this year we have 730 members. We hope that by developing county chapters and offering benefits of membership and reaching out to young people in our region that we will grow our membership to twice or three times that level. It takes us all to make this land trust work. If you are not already a member, I encourage you to become a member and get involved. Thank you!

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Conservation: *More Alike Than Different*

I have a question for you, how much do you enjoy watching or reading the news these days? Pick your flavor of news, MSNBC, CNN, FOX, USA Today or the Charlotte Observer; whatever style of news that fits your taste. When the newscast ends or you put the newspaper down, do you ever ask yourself how divided can one nation seemingly be? Whether it's crime, race relations, international relations, budgets, deficits, healthcare, political hearings, wall street, elections, protests, or terrorism. The 24-hour news cycle can leave you bewildered and beleaguered.

Well to borrow a phrase from a Planet Fitness we'd like to welcome you to the "judgement free zone". That's right, here all sides and conservation viewpoints are welcomed. Whether you are liberal or conservative, agnostic or evangelical, protestant or catholic, white collar or blue collar. Whether you are a hunter and angler or a PETA member, whether you are a creationist or evolutionist, whether you eat only organic or enjoy a helping of GMO. Whether you are overweight or underweight, black or white, tall or short, there is a place for you in conservation and a place for you in the ranks of members of The LandTrust for Central North Carolina.

I am reminded that no "one side" has the market on good ideas. In conservation, it is important to realize that no matter how different we think we are, we all generally want the same thing. Where else could a Prius driving, liberal, hipster, vegan PETA member and strong climate change believer be in the same company as a meat eating, pickup truck driving, evangelical conservative, NRA member, business owner that hunts and fishes? One wants to conserve land and open space so that the polar ice caps don't melt and the other wants to conserve land primarily to hunt and fish for generations to come. **The key is that they both agree conservation is important.** Statistics show that a majority of voters in North Carolina support conservation and conservation funding. That's not just Republican voters or just Democratic voters that is **ALL voters**. According to polling done by Land for Tomorrow:

•73% of registered voters support restoring public funding to \$100 million for the state's three

conservation trust funds to conserve forests, working farms, parks and historic sites, as well as preventing polluted runoff from contaminating rivers, lakes, creeks and groundwater.

•95% of registered voters say protecting sources of drinking water is important

•79% of registered voters say preserving working farms is important

•78% of registered voters say protecting fish and wild-life is important

•77% of registered voters say protecting forests is important

•73% of registered voters say conserving beaches and coastal areas are important.

•71% of registered voters say providing more opportunities for children to explore and learn about nature is important.

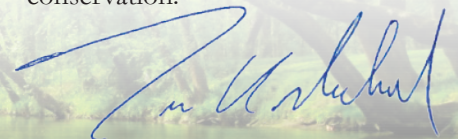
•70% of registered voters say protecting wetlands that help weaken hurricanes before they reach land is important.

•68% of registered voters say conserving natural areas next to military bases is important.

*A Bipartisan polling team of Public Opinion Strategies (Republican) and FM3 (Democrat) conducted the phone poll March 3 – 5. The poll has a margin of error of 4%

I hope that you will ponder this illustration and consider applying it to other parts of life here in the United States of America. We are all more alike than we are different, no matter what we

see on tv. In fact, if I may make one more suggestion, turn off the television and put down the paper a little more often and head out into the fall and winter woods here in the Central Piedmont of North Carolina. I promise you'll feel better. As always, thank you for your support of the LandTrust and local conservation.



Travis Morehead

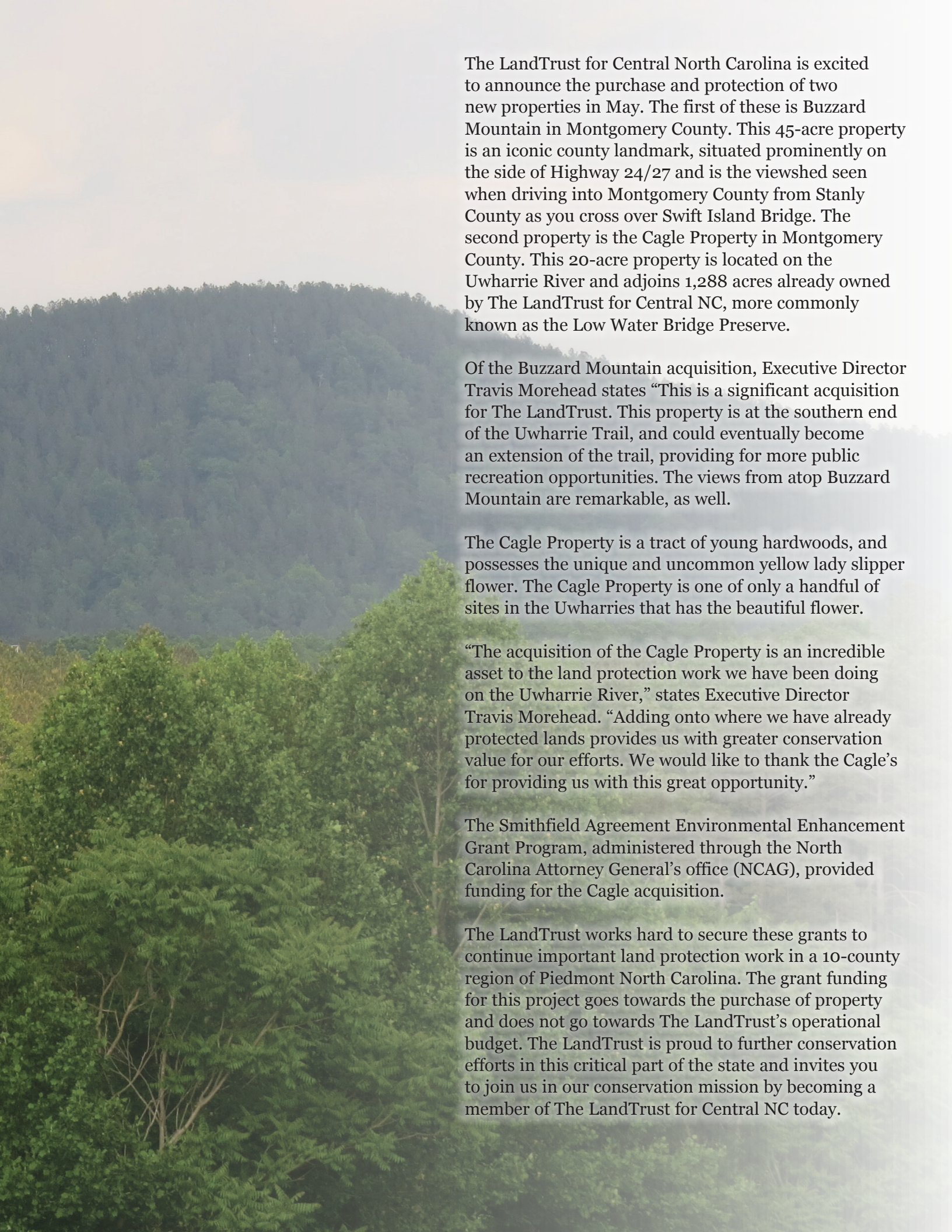


I am reminded that no "one side" has the market on good ideas. In conservation, it is important to realize that no matter how different we think we are, we all generally want the same thing.

A scenic view of a forested mountain range under a hazy sky. The foreground is filled with dense green trees, while the background shows a long, low mountain ridge covered in a thick forest, stretching across the horizon. The sky is a pale, overcast blue with soft, wispy clouds.

LandTrust Acquires Two New Properties: Buzzard Mountain and the Cagle Property

The LandTrust purchased two new properties in May of 2017 - the iconic Buzzard Mountain on Highway 24-27 and the Cagle Property with over half a mile of riverfrontage on the Uwharrie River



The LandTrust for Central North Carolina is excited to announce the purchase and protection of two new properties in May. The first of these is Buzzard Mountain in Montgomery County. This 45-acre property is an iconic county landmark, situated prominently on the side of Highway 24/27 and is the viewshed seen when driving into Montgomery County from Stanly County as you cross over Swift Island Bridge. The second property is the Cagle Property in Montgomery County. This 20-acre property is located on the Uwharrie River and adjoins 1,288 acres already owned by The LandTrust for Central NC, more commonly known as the Low Water Bridge Preserve.

Of the Buzzard Mountain acquisition, Executive Director Travis Morehead states “This is a significant acquisition for The LandTrust. This property is at the southern end of the Uwharrie Trail, and could eventually become an extension of the trail, providing for more public recreation opportunities. The views from atop Buzzard Mountain are remarkable, as well.

The Cagle Property is a tract of young hardwoods, and possesses the unique and uncommon yellow lady slipper flower. The Cagle Property is one of only a handful of sites in the Uwharries that has the beautiful flower.

“The acquisition of the Cagle Property is an incredible asset to the land protection work we have been doing on the Uwharrie River,” states Executive Director Travis Morehead. “Adding onto where we have already protected lands provides us with greater conservation value for our efforts. We would like to thank the Cagle’s for providing us with this great opportunity.”

The Smithfield Agreement Environmental Enhancement Grant Program, administered through the North Carolina Attorney General’s office (NCAG), provided funding for the Cagle acquisition.

The LandTrust works hard to secure these grants to continue important land protection work in a 10-county region of Piedmont North Carolina. The grant funding for this project goes towards the purchase of property and does not go towards The LandTrust’s operational budget. The LandTrust is proud to further conservation efforts in this critical part of the state and invites you to join us in our conservation mission by becoming a member of The LandTrust for Central NC today.

The Criddlebaugh Farm in Davidson County is home to mature hardwoods and agricultural fields. Mary and her brother Michael donated an easement in May of 2017.



Criddlebaugh Farm Conserved in Davidson County

Early in the morning, you'll find Mary Criddlebaugh diligently tending her colorful flowers in the garden behind her house. You might find her brother Michael nearby setting sweet potato slips near beautiful broccoli and kohlrabi, cauliflower and cabbages. Mary takes the produce and handcut flowers to the Thomasville Farmers Market on Saturdays. This deep seeded love of the land inspired their dream of conserving their Davidson County Farm.

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina has had the great pleasure of working with Mary and Michael to ensure the conservation of their 164-acre farm in Davidson County became a reality. This beautiful pastoral property is a combination of rolling agricultural fields and mature hardwood forest and is located along Rich Fork and Payne Creeks.

The designated Natural Heritage natural area of Two Creeks Basic Forest is found on the property. Two Creeks Basic Forest holds examples of two rare natural plant communities – Basic Mesic Forest and Basic Oak-Hickory Forest. Large canopy and older growth trees, complemented by a diverse understory strata, help

underscore the overall age and lack of disturbance within this scenic forest. The site's low elevation mesic forest supports two rare plant species – Leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*) and Biltmore Carrion-flower (*Smilax biltmoreana*). This is the only recorded occurrence of Leatherwood in Davidson County.

The Criddlebaugh property, located near the town of Thomasville, falls into an area facing increased growth and development pressures from the southwestern Guilford County city of High Point. The Criddlebaugh's placed a conservation easement on the property to ensure it would remain as a natural and agricultural feature on the landscape in perpetuity.

“We are excited that the Criddlebaugh family worked with us to conserve this significant property,” states Executive Director, Travis Morehead. “Protecting a property of this size that is also this close to urban centers is important for providing scenic open space and natural areas for future generations.”

To learn more about this project or how you can support The LandTrust for Central North Carolina, contact Crystal Cockman at 704-647-0302 or crystal@landtrustcnc.org.

Smith Branch Longleaf Preserve

Acquired in Montgomery County

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina is excited to announce the acquisition of the Smith Branch Longleaf Preserve. This 105-acre property adjoins the Uwharrie National Forest in Montgomery County. Previously protected with a conservation easement in February, the current landowner offered The LandTrust the opportunity to purchase the property. This purchase ensures future continual management of the unique longleaf pine ecosystem found on the property.



Yellow-fringed orchid.

and bog spicebush (*Lindera subcoriacea*) are found on the property. Other unique wildflowers found on the preserve include yellow-fringed orchids, green-fringed orchids, Piedmont indigo bush, Carolina lily, grass pink orchid, and Virginia bunchflower. Fox squirrels and timber rattlesnake

The current landowner managed Smith Branch Longleaf Preserve impeccably for longleaf pine enhancement and restoration for the past 25 years. Management practices included replacing loblolly stands with longleaf pine plantings, and a rigorous prescribed burn regime. Existing old growth longleaf can also be found on the property. Prescribed burns are conducted every two years on the 105-acre property. This habitat management practice prevents hardwood trees from overtaking the longleaf stands.

Prescribed burning also opens the forest floor to sunlight, allowing a variety of unique wildflowers to grow. The rare blue flag iris (*Iris prismatica*),



Blue Flag Iris.

also occur on the property.

“The LandTrust is both excited and humbled to take over ownership of this unique site,” states Executive Director Travis Morehead. “It will be our honor to continue the great management started here so many years ago to the benefit of the plants and wildlife found on the property.”

The purchase of the conservation easement was made possible by grants from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund and the Open Space Institute’s Southeast Resilience Landscapes Fund. Generous private donations to The LandTrust for Central North Carolina ensured the purchase of this important property. To support The LandTrust and great conservation projects like this one, become a member today at www.landtrustcnc.org.



Uneven-aged longleaf pine stand.

Barnes Creek Headwaters Property Conserved in Montgomery County

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina would like to announce the formal protection of the Barnes Creek Headwaters Property, 182 acres located in Montgomery County. This property possesses the headwaters of the pristine Barnes Creek, an outstanding resource water, which is the highest water quality designation given in North Carolina.



Eastern box turtle and chanterelle mushrooms.

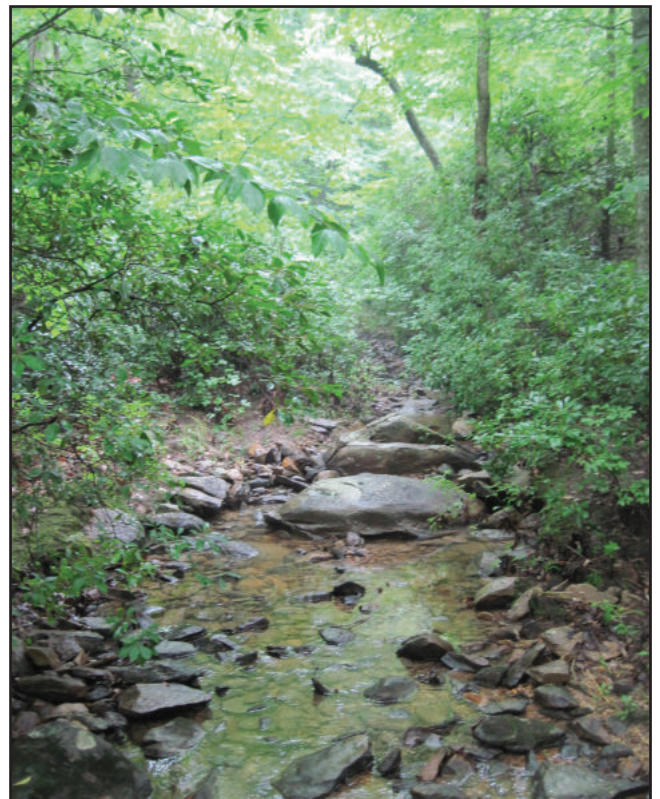
Several species of rare mussel are found downstream of the property. The site is also home to mixed hardwood forest, which provides wildlife habitat for species such as eastern box turtle and timber rattlesnake.

“The LandTrust is pleased to have worked with the landowner to protect this special property,” states Executive Director Travis Morehead. “This site will now remain as a forested property for the benefit of wildlife species and water quality. Located in the heart of the Uwharrie National Forest, this property builds off a base of already conserved lands, which provides more conservation value for the effort.”

The North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) is one of the grant agencies that contributed to the protection of the Barnes Creek Headwaters project.

CWMTF was established in 1996 to help finance projects that address water quality issues. Through its Southeast Resilient Landscapes Fund, the Open Space Institute (OSI) has provided grant funding for the Barnes Creek Headwaters project, as well. The Resilient Landscapes Initiative is designed to help land trusts and public agencies strategically protect places that are most likely to endure over the long term in the face of a changing climate.

“The resiliency of the Barnes Creek Headwaters Property will make it an invaluable haven for wildlife and human communities as the climate changes,” said Peter Howell, OSI’s executive vice president in charge of the Conservation Capital Program. “This project demonstrates the important role that land conservation can play in protecting places not just important for today, but also far into the future. OSI commends The Land Trust for Central North Carolina on this outstanding achievement.”



One of the high quality streams found here.

How Landowners & New Small Farmers Can Connect

by Ron Bryant

After moving to our new farm, 3 Eagles Sanctuary, south of Norwood, NC, in Stanly County on the Pee Dee River, Nancy and I made the decision to switch from conventional farming to more sustainable agriculture.

The first idea was to establish an incubator farm for new small farmers on a portion of our fields, so we worked with people from Anson, Stanly and Montgomery Counties to do that. Instead of an incubator farm, we established the Upper Pee Dee Farm and Food Council that worked to help the counties develop small farms that were sustainable and economically-viable, to provide food for local communities.

Then we realized that we might find someone, probably an eager young farmer looking for land, who might come here to establish his or her own small, sustainable farm. We really didn't put out lots of feelers, but slowly shared the vision with various people, including our friends at LandTrust for CNC

One day in July, 2016, we got an email from Travis Morehead about an inquiry from a young farmer looking to lease land for his proposed organic farm. We contacted the farmer, Holt Akers-Campbell, and thus began the big adventure of draft horse-powered small farming at 3 Eagles Sanctuary

Holt came to visit in August, along with his college friend, Hailey Sowden (who herself said she wanted to establish her own farm in the next couple of years.) They walked and talked and examined and maybe even tasted the land while we four discussed the possibilities. After more exchanges by phone and email, Holt decided that he would like to make 3 Eagles his home, and we agreed. He finished up his apprenticeship at a farm in Vermont and moved to 3 Eagles on November

The written agreement between the two parties, came after much deliberation and exchange of ideas. We agreed to lease 8-10 acres to Holt for a three-year period, after which, if we all still wanted to continue, he would lease for 99 years. The first and second years Holt would pay us \$1 for the lease; the third year, 2% of gross income. The following years' payments would be 4% of gross income. That would allow for flexibility for Holt in years when the weather or other factors do not allow for as much income as anticipated. We, as landowners, understand the vagaries of such things, so 4% was agreeable to us.

Holt named his farm Lazy Heron Farm, which one can view at his website, www.lazyheronfarm.com. There were no buildings or infrastructure on the acres he leased, so part of the agreement was that we would have the well and barn and food shed and electricity installed before he arrived on November 1. We were to pay one-half of the costs for the infrastructure, and if he should decide to leave before the three year period is up, we would begin paying him the other half on a depreciated schedule. Holt bought draft horses in Vermont, a pair he had had the opportunity to work with before he bought them, and they arrived the first week in November along with all of Holt's belongings and other equipment which he had purchased along the way, including the trailer that he lives in.

Holt started at the Albemarle market and Hailey took the Charlotte market, and from the looks of the photos, both had lovely, lush displays of produce and flowers for their customers. In June, they invited CSA folks and friends to a potluck at Lazy Heron, and, of course, we, the Bryants, were delighted to be included on a lovely evening

So far, the agreement and our relationship have seemed to flow smoothly, and it is, perhaps so, because we are as enthusiastic as Holt and Hailey that Lazy Heron Farm be a success.

We would be delighted to share our experience with any landowner willing to consider leasing a portion of land to such a farmer looking to invest his or her work and life in creating a vibrant, economically-viable farm to sell local food to the local markets.

The LandTrust Connects Sportsmen to Local Conservation

Today, finding truly intact wild places proves a difficult task. Yet, the task of finding intact wild places that allow hunting access is even more of a challenge.

As sportsmen and women, we cherish access to these wild places and strive to protect this access so that our children may one day walk in our footsteps. Currently, sportsmen face limited choices to chase their passion unless they pursue game on family farms or are lucky enough to have good neighbors with available lands. Alternatively, they can travel to government-owned public land that allows hunting access, though at times these areas become crowded or may limited harvest opportunities. Others may seek to join an organized club where they share access with other members. But what if there was another option?

Consider your license dollars and taxes on gear you use in the field. Ultimately, by making those purchases you have in some way, contributed to land conservation. But is it benefiting you locally? Conservation organizations

comprised of sportsmen and women have long been the driving force in terms of land conservation, and in many instances, are the sole reason that the underdeveloped wild places are available to modern-day sportsmen. Our nation's conservation legacy began with sportsmen and those with that same passion remain today's most important conservation leaders. These men and women had the foresight to realize that without action; land, habitat, wildlife, the wild places, would be lost.

Sportsmen possess a familiarity and fondness of natural habitats and the creatures contained within them that stems from early mornings and crisp fall afternoons spent afield. This intimate knowledge of the natural world allows a sportsman to recognize the important value their quarry provides to both their families and the intricate ecosystem that they inhabit. Collectively, sportsmen provide for wild habitats and creatures within them more than any other demographic combined. Sportsmen need wild places; wild places need sportsmen. The LandTrust for Central North Carolina is a locally based conservation organization with the ultimate goal of protecting these local wild places so that they remain intact for future generations to enjoy. To

ensure that the long legacy of conservation among sportsmen in North Carolina is not lost, The LandTrust recently debuted its Sportsman Access Program (SAP). This program fosters that relationship between sportsmen and conservation on a local level, while providing a direct local benefit for themselves and their communities.

The premise for SAP is simple, by joining The LandTrust as a "Sportsman Member" you have an opportunity to access over 3,000 acres of property that has been permanently conserved and managed predominantly for wildlife and natural resources. This program, similar to many state agencies permit draw system, provides an equal opportunity to access LandTrust owned properties. Once enrolled, members have option to select various hunting blocks, approximately 200 acres each, for hunting related recreation. Various levels of memberships offer different



LandTrust owned property enrolled in the Sportsman Access Program, Davie County

levels of opportunity. Entry-level membership offers four lottery entries to access the property on the member's chosen dates. Members receive six full days of access to their chosen location each time they are drawn. This translates to nearly 200 acres that members can invest time in, without fear of overcrowding or interrupted hunts. Currently SAP locations include LandTrust owned property in Davie, Rowan, and Montgomery counties.

Other benefits of becoming a sportsman member include opportunities to participate in conservation activities and events at no cost. Conservation activities range from hands-on wildlife planting instructional days, property boundary location and marking exercises, managing access to conserved property, and instruction on wildlife management strategies. To further North Carolina's strong hunting heritage, members are encouraged to mentor youth on their permit hunts and in LandTrust sponsored activities. Consistently, sportsmen and women support conservation in a big way, providing nearly 1.6 billion annually to conservation. Through SAP, The LandTrust allows members to support conservation at a local level and see the benefits of those efforts first hand. Sportsman membership funding is utilized solely for conservation within the 10-county region in central North Carolina to benefit wildlife and natural resources. Additionally, The LandTrust utilizes funds associated with the sportsman program to purchase property then transfer those acres to other organizations such as The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (game lands program) and the United States Forest Service, Uwharrie National Forest. These transfers guarantee access to sportsmen in perpetuity.

To date, the SAP program is already seeing results. After a successful 2017 spring turkey season, sportsman members reported seeing birds nearly every time they stepped afield. Member, Lloyd Rigdon harvested a mature gobbler on the SAP's Davie County property. "I was able to click the safety off each time I hunted", Lloyd reported. "Turkey hunting was as awesome as anywhere I've been blessed to chase them." More importantly, members are using their draws to get our youth into the outdoors. Sportsman members Mike and Zac Morton were able to introduce new hunters to the field this spring. "One of the nicest benefits of being drawn for a hunting opportunity on LandTrust property is that you are allowed take a kid hunting along with you. This spring, my son Zac and I were privileged to take several kids out on LandTrust property, turkey hunting." Mike commented. "These young hunters were fortunate to have access to these large tracts of property through the Sportsman's Access



Lloyd Rigdon, Sportsman Member, harvests a spring gobbler on LandTrust owned property.

Program. We are grateful to the LandTrust for Central North Carolina for sharing their resources with the next generation of sportsmen". It is opportunities like these that translate into continuing our hunting heritage, but they also pave the way for the next generation of conservationists.

This summer as you search for the perfect stand of hardwoods to chase whitetails or scout for a tucked away wetland to call in waterfowl on the wing, consider the other option, The LandTrust for Central North Carolina. Much like the sportsmen and women before us who had the foresight to take action and protect their passion, as a sportsman member of the LandTrust, you can put your stamp on conservation at a local level, and enjoy accessing the wild natural areas we all call home.

Why we created the Leopold Society

When European settlers first began to migrate to America it was said that a squirrel could travel from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River without ever touching the ground. That must've been an overwhelming feeling to travel to the other end of the world into an undeveloped wilderness. And coming from civilization to wilderness, the immediate reaction was to subdue and settle the wild. Booming civilization and urban centers quickly developed along the east coast and began to move westward into the frontier.

However, an appreciation and respect for the expansive beauty of this new nation began to bloom in American writing and philosophy. The ability to cope with and live within wilderness became a staple of the American identity and lore. By the mid-1800s, as progress and development skyrocketed with aid from the railroad the idea that American landscape was directly tied to our nation's identity also began to pick up steam.

For example, The United States census of 1850 was the seventh census in our nation's history. Conducted on June 1st, 1850, it determined that the resident population of the United States was 23,191,876 people – 300 million residents less than the US population today. Nonetheless, in 1857, S.H. Hammond in his book 'Wild Northern Scenes – Sporting Adventure with the Rifle and the Rod' said,

"Hurrah! hurrah! We are in the country ó the glorious country! Outside of the thronged streets; away from piled up bricks and mortar; outside of the clank of machinery; the rumbling of carriages; the roar of the escape pipe; the scream of the steam whistle; the tramp, tramp of moving thousands on the stone sidewalks; away from the heated atmosphere of the city, loaded with the smoke and dust, and gasses of furnaces, and the ten thousand manufacturers of villainous smells."

This concept of revering wild places continued to gain favor through the development of our nation's first National Park, Yellowstone, in 1872, and the teachings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Muir, and Teddy Roosevelt.

All of these events and conservationists laid the groundwork for a man named Aldo Leopold, from Wisconsin, to implore that American's develop a responsible relationship between themselves and the land they inhabit. This new idea was called Land Ethics.

In Leopold's signature book, A Sand County Almanac – a novel recognized with Silent Spring by Rachel Carson as the two most important environmental writings of the 20th century – Aldo presents landmark ideas about conservation and land ethics that are still eerily relevant today.

"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild and free."

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

This is the foundation on which the Leopold Society was created. Our mission is to build the next generation of conservationist. In an urban and technology-based world, our ever-dwindling wild places need advocates now more than ever.



Salisbury Academy Leopold Society members.

RiverDance 2017

This year, we celebrated RiverDance 2017 at the F&M Trolley Barn with over 300 hundred of our close friends! This year's theme "Get Outside" brought the outdoors in for our party goers. Camping gear raffles and auction items guaranteed guests a chance to explore the beautiful Central Piedmont and beyond. Guests were treated to a delectable dining experience by Divine Appetit that included seared flank steak and sweet tea brined chicken, followed up by campfire style fruit cobblers. The Entertainers, one of NC's premier bands, got the party started and the dance floor packed. With a focus on local foods and local spirits, all of our guests kept full plates and full glasses. It was another great year of "Saving the Places You Love"! Thank you to all of our sponsors and supporters for making this year's RiverDance the best one yet. Mark you calendar's now for August 18, 2018 and join us next year to support conservation in the Central Piedmont!



Photos by Sean Meyers

2017

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Photography Contest

The LandTrust for Central NC hosted its first ever photo competition with each photo comprising one month of a calendar to be printed and available for purchase later this year. The photo contest focused on Seasons of the Central Piedmont and encouraged photographers amateur or professional to submit photos for each of the four seasons of the year. Here is some more information about some of the photographers and the pictures.

Eric Abernethy was the grand prize winner with best overall picture of a grey fox kit amongst daisies, featured as the month of March. Eric also placed a second photo winner in our competition with a picture of a pine warbler on a snowy day perched on an ice-covered branch for the month of December. Eric is a freelance photographer and lives in the Uwharries in Randolph County.



Grand Prize-winning photograph by Eric Abernethy.

Our other winners include, Austin Kiker (who took the wood duck photo on the back cover), Carol King (who took the fall colors front cover pic), Zelia Frick, Charles Hawes, Jessica Maynor, Lizzy Roy, Monte "Sparky" Brooks, Nancy Bryant, Rebecca Schoonover, and Reda Icenhour. Thanks to all who entered our contest. To see the pictures and read about the other months of the year, you will be able to purchase the calendar on The LandTrust website later this month at www.landtrustcnc.org or contact us at 704-647-0302.

Thanks to our Interns!

A special thanks to our summer interns, Taylor Minich and Maddie Labovitz! They did a phenomenal job for us this summer and we are grateful for their efforts for conservation in the Central Piedmont!

Taylor is pursuing his Masters of Environmental Management and Masters of Forestry degrees at Duke University and was our summer Stanback

Intern. Taylor worked on conservation prioritizations for us, which included a lot of GIS work, as well as assisting with field work, such as bird surveys, and joined us for kayaking adventures. Taylor will start his masters program this fall at the Nicholas School of the Environment.



Taylor Minich

Maddie is a rising senior at Wofford University in South Carolina; however, she is a Salisbury native. Maddie was our Outreach and Membership Intern for the summer, and worked with Mikey and Sam on various outreach activities, including the Leopold Society. Maddie hopes to attend law school

next year. Maddie's internship was made possible by a generous grant from the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA).



Maddie Labovitz

Thanks again to both Maddie and Taylor for their great work this summer, and we wish them all the best.

Planting for the Future

As the main conservation organization within our ten-county region, we have the responsibility to do anything we can to protect, conserve, and enhance our natural resources for the future. The LandTrust is an organization with many facets and avenues in which to contribute to conservation.

We hold easements that benefit the resources, we purchase and transfer properties to other conservation organizations (usually government agencies), and we sometimes purchase properties to utilize for showpieces of conservation easements, working lands management, and for our members. These fee owned properties are actively managed with the resources and education in mind.

Recently The LandTrust for Central North Carolina (LTCNC) has taken initiative to enhance habitat on two separate properties. The first project is located in Montgomery County NC. This project has long been a vision of the donor as well as a vision from the staff of LTCNC. Recently LTCNC began the process of converting a mixed hardwood/pine site back to its native state of Piedmont Longleaf pine. The site holds historic turpentine longleaf stumps that were utilized until the turn of the century before being harvested for timber. Introduction of transportation by rail at this juncture in history made harvest of the large timber an easier task. After the native longleaf were harvested, the site was allowed to succeed to a pasture then back to a mixed hardwood and pine site. Many longleaf regenerated on the property, but due to slow growth and competition, longleaf did not become the dominant species again. Introduction of loblolly pine to the area increased competition with the native longleaf, it also furthered suppression by introducing invasive damaging beetles.

Fast forward 100 years. Today The LandTrust has selectively removed the undesirable species from the property. Currently the stand is a savannah of Longleaf Pine and white oak species. White oak were left to benefit wildlife and provide a natural diversity. The longleaf that are already on the property are expected to release and regenerate naturally with the additional sunlight and nutrients now available. The LandTrust will be speeding the natural process by implementing a prescribed fire regimen beginning in November. Further, The LandTrust purchased piedmont seed source longleaf seedlings and will host a volunteer workshop to educate those interested and to assist nature in regenerating the rare piedmont longleaf pine ecosystem.

The second project is located in Davie County along the confluence of the Yadkin and South Yadkin rivers. This project is located within the Clean Water Management Trust Fund easement boundary. The LandTrust will be planting a piedmont native bottomland hardwood mix in these areas this winter. The area will begin as two separate sites totaling 9 acres, then over the next several years, the site will be expanded to promote diversity as well as a natural looking stand of mixed age bottomland hardwoods. The LandTrust will be hosting a volunteer workshop to involve anyone interested in bottomland hardwood restoration and to offer hands-on instruction in the process of planting and maintaining hardwood seedlings without chemical treatment.

As the main conservation organization in the central piedmont our responsibilities are many. The LandTrust recognizes that land conserved is an investment in the future, and that a longleaf savannah restored today, will be enjoyed by our great grandchildren possibly watching now-endangered Red-cockaded woodpeckers forage in it. A bottomland hardwood site planted today, will be enjoyed by our grandchildren as they paddle the clean streams adjacent to it. If you are interested in assisting or knowing more about either of these exciting projects for the future please feel free to contact Stewardship Director Cody Fulk at 704-647-0302.



Cat-facing on longleaf pine snag.

LandTrust Fundraising Effort to Buy Alcoa Lands Receives \$1.2 Million Boost

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina would like to announce the recent awarding of a \$1.2 million grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund supporting efforts to purchase 4,700-acres and 76 miles of shoreline owned by the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA). These lands are made available as part of the Relicensing Settlement Agreement signed by Alcoa in 2007.



The Alcoa Lands are important for water quality.

The LandTrust is working to conserve the 2,310 acres that are located along the Yadkin River, the South Yadkin River, and High Rock Lake, and the grant funding that was awarded will go towards this effort. Our conservation partner, The NC Wildlife Resources Commission is working to acquire the remaining 2,400 acres of land on the eastern shore of the Tuckertown Reservoir.

“The LandTrust is grateful and excited to have been awarded a grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund,” states Executive Director Travis Morehead. “The conservation of the Alcoa Lands is our top priority as an organization. This acquisition is also our largest and most expensive conservation project to date.”

Protection of these lands provides habitat for several unique species of salamanders, the eastern gray treefrog, timber rattlesnake, yellow lampmussel, and spadefoot toad.

One particularly unique aspect of this project is the protection of the Southern James Bay Goose Zone migratory flyway. These geese are afforded special protection by the State of North Carolina, as they are the only remaining truly migratory geese in the Piedmont of North Carolina. This forested corridor is also significant for neotropical migratory birds and other migratory waterfowl.

The lands represented by this project are privately held (owned by ALCOA) but have been open and accessible as “Gamelands” to the public for over 30 years. Generations of North Carolinians have enjoyed access to these lands for a variety of recreational activities including; camping, hiking, rock climbing, paddling, hunting, and fishing. Without this purchase by The LandTrust and the Wildlife Resources Commission, these lands could be sold on the open market and the public recreation currently enjoyed could be lost.

The acquisition of the Alcoa Lands conserves critical habitat, connects conserved areas and wild places, provides access for the public and helps to sustain the local outdoor recreation/tourism economies. To contribute to this important conservation project, please contact The LandTrust today at 704-647-0302 or donate online at <http://landtrustcnc.org/alcoa-lands-conservation/>.



Alcoa lands north of Highway 49.

LandTrust Awarded \$438,000 to Conserve Farmland in Cabarrus and Randolph Counties

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina would like to announce the recent awarding of a \$438,000 grant from the USDA's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program to conserve two farms, one in Cabarrus County that is 220 acres and one in Randolph County that is 80 acres. The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits.

Under the Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) component, NRCS helps Native American tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. NRCS provides financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing Agricultural Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land. In the case of working farms, the program helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. The program also protects grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving grassland, including rangeland, pastureland and shrub land. Under the Agricultural Land component, NRCS may contribute up to 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.



The North Carolina Agricultural and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund had already dedicated \$219,000 towards these two projects, providing the necessary 25% cash match. The landowners are donating the final 25% component of the value of the conservation easement.

The farmland in Randolph County is a working beef cattle farm where they raise cows for breeding stock. This farm is located on the Uwharrie River, and provides an important riparian buffer to protect water quality. The farm in Cabarrus County is located on the Rocky River and produces small grain crops. The family of the Cabarrus County farm had already donated a conservation easement to The LandTrust on another property nearby in the recent past.

“Farmland preservation has always been a focus of The LandTrust since our organization’s inception,” states Executive Director, Travis Morehead. “We are excited to work with both of these farm families to conserve their unique properties. Both farms are abundant with prime farmland soils and have excellent productivity. With locations on the Uwharrie River and the Rocky River, these farms will provide a scenic viewshed for kayakers and canoeists, as well.”

Julie Elmore, a Natural Resource Specialist with USDA-NRCS, will be working with The LandTrust to conserve these two farms. She states, “Agriculture is a key economic driver to North Carolina’s gross domestic product (GDP). In order for Agriculture to thrive, it is important to protect the best soils from development pressures for the health and viability of the economy and future generations. The farms selected for protection by NRCS and The LandTrust for Central NC are also an exceptionally scenic part of the Piedmont landscape.” Thanks to both of these farmers for working with The LandTrust to protect their special properties.



Thank You. Your donations allow us to continue “Saving the Places You Love” in the central Piedmont. This list recognizes members that are current as of **September 30, 2017**. Every effort has been made to ensure 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!

Three Rivers Society

Yadkin-Pee Dee River \$10,000 and up

Mr. James M. Dillon
 Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stanback
 Mr. Brad Stanback and Ms. Shelli
 Lodge-Stanback
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Stanback

Three Rivers Society

Uwharrie River \$5000 - \$9999

Mr. Louis Eubanks
 Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mabry
 Mr. Mark and Ms. Jane Ritchie
 Ms. Shelley C. Williamson

Three Rivers Society

Rocky River \$1000 - \$4999

Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Lisa Aaron
 Mr. and Mrs. Gregory M. Alcorn
 Mr. and Mrs. Lee Allen
 Ms. Amy Pitser Barnhardt
 Mr. and Mrs. Matthew C. Barr
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stephen Bauk
 Mr. and Mrs. Steven Blalock
 Mr. Charles W. Broadwell
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald O. Bryant
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Childress
 Mr. Larry T. Cloninger
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Cook Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Keith Corriher
 Mr. and Mrs. David B. Craft
 Ms. Traci Williams
 Ms. Mary C. Cridlebaugh
 Mr. Steven Fisher
 Mr. Spurgeon Foster
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Fuller
 Mr. Douglas Gardner
 Mr. and Mrs. RW Gardner
 Mr. Steven Gardner
 Mr. Greg Alcorn
 Mr. Peter Wilson Hairston
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Hazen
 Dr. and Mrs. Walter B. Holland
 Mr. and Mrs. West Hunter
 Mrs. Geraldine T Hurley
 The Glenn E. and Addie G. Ketner Family
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 Mrs. Gail Lowder
 Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Ferrand Messinger
 Mrs. and Mr. Robert Mason
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 Mr. and Mrs. Owen Barbour Norvell
 Mr. Pence and Dr. Carla Pence
 Mr. Rednecheck
 Mr. and Mrs. Harold Knox Roberts Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. James F. Rollans

Mr. Bruce Rufty
 Mrs. Eulene F. Shepherd
 Rev. George R. Slaton
 R. Bruce and Eleanor F. Smith Foundation
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 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Steven Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom E. Smith
 Ms. Anne Stanback
 Dr. Mark T. Stanback and Ms. Nancy J. Popkin
 Mr. William Penn Wood
 Mr. John Thomason
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Victor Wallace
 Mr. and Mrs. John Michael Walter
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Jane Lee Watson
 Mr. and Mrs. James Whitton

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 Mr. and Mrs. Johnny S. Beck
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 Mr. John H. Holton
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 Mrs. Vivian R. Penry
 Mr. James S. Plant and Ms. Nanci Petrucci
 Mr. Terry Sharpe
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Shaver
 Denise A. Hallett
 Mr. and Mrs. Dan R. Williams
 Ms. Mary L. F. Williams
 Mr. Dustin Wright

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 Mr. Karl Bolstad
 Mr. and Mrs. G. Boon Chesson
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Guardian (\$300)

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Mr. Zac Morton
Mr. Robert Hancock
Mr. Patrick Murphy
Mr. Richard Ball
Mr. Josh Honbarrier

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 Mr. Nick Taylor
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Memorials

In memory of Jesse A. Baldwin
 by Mr. and Mrs. John V. Highfill

In memory of Dennis Isaacson
 by Mr. R. Darrell Hancock

In memory of Lucius Perry Bell III
 by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Knox Roberts
 Jr.

In memory of Judge Peter Hairston
 by Arlene Edwards Thompson

In memory of Virginia Holt Spake
 by Dr. Angelo P. Capparella

Honorariums

In honor of Jeffery Walter Airheart
 by Mr. and Mrs. John Michael Walter

In honor of Mr. Barna Allen
 by Dr. and Mrs. Tony Clark

In honor of Debbie Bernhardt
 by Mr. Claude Bernhardt

In honor of Jim and Anita Blair
 by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Farmer

In honor of Mary and Boon Chesson
 by Ms. Sarah Fitch

In honor of Boon Chesson
 by Miss Lesley A. Chesson

In honor of Crystal Cockman
 by Mr. and Mrs. David B. Craft

In honor of Crystal Cockman
 by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Waters

In honor of Mrs. Phyl Coltrane
 by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dover

In honor of Guy Cornman
 by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rush Mitchell

In honor of My Daughters
 by Ms. Elizabeth Ann Shaver

In honor of Charles and Becky Floyd
 by Mr. and Mrs. Mack Lampert

In honor of Zachary Griff Smith
 by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Griffith Smith

In honor of Joel Hubbard
 by Mrs. Jennifer L. Hubbard and Mr.
 Steven S. Cobb

In honor of The Killoran and Payton
 Families
 by Mr. Scott Killoran

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 by Dr. Richard V. Liles Jr.

In honor of Dr. Jim Mathews
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In honor of Mary Messenger
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In honor of Jane Ritchie
 by Mr. and Mrs. Steven C. Jarrett

In honor of Rev. Banks D. Shepherd
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In honor of Dan Smith
 by Mr. Kent and Mrs. Sam Beck

In honor of Fred and Alice Stanback
 by Dr. and Mrs. Frank E. Eason

In honor of Fred and Alice Stanback
 by Mrs. Geraldine T Hurley

In honor of Fred Stanback's Birthday
 by Mr. and Mrs. Brien Lewis

In honor of Eston Smith Stokes, Sr. and
 Eston Smith Stokes, Jr.
 by Mr. and Mrs. Randy Everhart

In honor of Thomas Watson Thomason Jr.
 by Mr. John Thomason

In honor of Ellen Trexler
 by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence B. Beaver III

In honor of Wayne Turner
 by Mrs. Mari Jo Turner

In honor of Jason Walser
 by Mrs. Sue Carter Walser

In honor of Sue Walser, Agnes Schneider,
 and Kathy and Terry Bromstead
 by Mr. and Mrs. C. Layton Getsinger

In honor of John Wear
 by Mr. and Mrs. David W. Swaim

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Yellow Lady Slipper found
on the Cagle Property.

Montgomery County Property Donated to The LandTrust

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina is excited to announce the recent donation of a 10-acre property in Montgomery County that buffers the Uwharrie River. The Blair Family generously donated this property to The LandTrust in order to see the site conserved for future generations.

The newly protected property adjoins the Badin Recreational Area in the Uwharrie National Forest. This area is home to a variety of recreational uses, including hiking and horse trails. There is potential to expand these trails onto the newly acquired property.

“The LandTrust is grateful to the Blair Family for making this important land donation,” states Executive Director, Travis Morehead. “This site is significant for water quality protection as well as providing wildlife habitat for a variety of species. Bald eagles are frequently spotted on this stretch of river, as are river otter and ospreys.”

This is not the first time the Blair Family has donated a property to The LandTrust. Back in 2004, the Blair Family donated a 17-acre parcel near the Jumpin’ Off Rock to The LandTrust. That piece of property is slated to become part of the Uwharrie National Forest later this year.



The donated property boasts mature hardwood forest.

LandTrust Hosts Second Annual Youth Deer Hunt

You could cut the anticipation and excitement with a knife on Friday afternoon, September 22, as guides, parents, and youth hunters gathered at the safety briefing for the 2nd Annual LandTrust for Central NC youth deer hunt.



Participants of second annual youth deer hunt.

Guides pointed out blind locations on maps while youth participants looked on with eager eyes. Everyone paired with guides and made a final check of equipment and licenses before heading home to rest for the arrival of the morning hunt. The morning of September 23rd came early as folks returned to the meeting spot before 5:00 am. Young hunters donned orange caps and camouflage while guides prepared equipment and snacks. Seventeen youth participants were escorted to blind locations that had been prepared a week in advance. As the cool night air gave way to early light, a heavy fog settled in on the river bottom. As the sunlight began to burn away the morning fog, the first shot rang out. An hour passes, then a second shot from a different location. Finally, the morning hunt came to a close as the clock struck 9:30 and guides decided to vacate the blinds. The young hunters and adult participants gathered at the barn to share stories of the morning and the success of two hunter's first deer. Smiling faces were abundant as they talked of how close a deer had walked to the blind, or how a wild hog had startled them so badly while they were partaking in a snack break, or how a giant 8-point buck had walked by too quickly for a shot. Another guide shared the emotional story of his participant and the young hunter's father after they recovered the young man's first deer. Photos were taken and a demonstration of game cleaning was given to instruct those in attendance on proper care of harvested animals.

As the dinner bell rang, attendees were treated to Better Burger (Troy, NC) hamburgers and hotdogs. During lunch, a talk about the importance of conservation on a local level was given. Following lunch, the participants had opportunities to practice their archery skills on the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) archery range, or try their hand at a crossbow from another non-profit partner, Hand of a Sportsman. Other activities included bb gun and airsoft ranges as well as cornhole games. Parents and guides relaxed in the shade of the barn, recounting the morning's adventures.

Around 4:00 pm, guides began gathering their groups for the evening hunt. Blind locations were selected and folks set out for the afternoon. Only fifteen minutes after being dropped off at the blind location, the first shot rang out. The young hunter in a ground blind had successfully harvested his first deer, a 4 pointer in full velvet. As the evening light began to dwindle, shots echoed around the property. Deer were moving and the young hunters were seeing game. Once everyone gathered back at the meeting spot, another doe and buck had been harvested by first time hunters, as well as one bonus feral hog! The young hunters were thrilled to have had such a fine outing. Most all the participants had opportunities, some shots were missed and some were just not taken, but memories of good times were made by all. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and experience of being outside and the opportunity to assist in mentoring the next generation of conservationists.

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina is proud to be a leader among conservation organizations in providing opportunities for young conservationists to experience the outdoors through hiking, paddling, and hunting.



Youth participants enjoy lunch donated by our sponsors.



To protect and conserve the best natural areas, rural landscapes, family farms and historic places within North Carolina's heartland.

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Austin Kiser

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Learn more at
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The LandTrust for Central North Carolina is a 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. **By becoming a member of The LandTrust, you'll join us in our vital mission to protect clean water, fresh air, and the exquisite natural areas that make the central Piedmont such a wonderful place to live and work.**

With 501(c)(3) status, all donations to The LandTrust qualify for maximum tax deductions.

Join at our Three Rivers Society level and receive an invitation to our Three Rivers Society Donor Appreciation Dinner!

