



THE LANDMARK

SPRING 2012

Springer Property at Forks of Yadkin-South Yadkin Preserved!



Confluence of Yadkin and South Yadkin Rivers—Newly protected property, the Point.



*Project made possible
by efforts of these
conservation partners*

New property preserves scenic canoe stretch, clean water for Salisbury residents.

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

How fitting that this annual newsletter from The LandTrust is called “The LandMark” as we celebrate the protection of many “landmark” properties in 2011. Because of YOUR SUPPORT we were able to save the oldest known longleaf pine forest in Piedmont North Carolina, close the largest remaining gap in the soon-to-be 30 mile Uwharrie Trail, purchase the iconic Spencer Forest for the public to enjoy as a park, complete the 1400 acre “Two Rivers Wildlife Preserve” vision with the purchase of the landmark “Springer Property” at the Forks of the Yadkin, help save one of the few organic dairies in our entire region, conserve the Historic Knox farm where the grandfather of former President James Knox Polk was born, ensure the protection of scenic views along Mountain Creek adjacent to hiking trails in Morrow Mountain State Park, and help families save family farms and forests that have helped define their communities for generations.

However, the true impact of this work can’t be adequately expressed by describing these properties or showing maps. The true measures of the success YOU have made possible is found in the stories behind the stories.

There is not adequate space to share all the stories associated with these wonderful projects or this organization in 2011, but a few tidbits are worth mentioning. Such as having Cindy Bernhart attend one of the Spencer Woods public meetings and tearfully describe how the forest had served as a refuge for her growing up, and how moved she was when she heard that we had saved this “spiritual” place. Or having Robert, Ben, and Clark Knox, as well as their attorney John Hudson, work so diligently, tirelessly, and selflessly during the busy farming months of May and June to ensure that their Aunt Lois’ dying wish of preserving her farm were fulfilled. Or hearing from the Nichols family how their aunt Margaret had literally, and angrily, run off a logger who had cut down one of her beloved 200 year-old longleaf pine trees that she had dedicated herself to protecting. (It is also worth mentioning that she requested for her ashes to be scattered around this forest so that she might continue to dwell among her beloved trees perpetually.) Or how a member of one of our farm families tearfully hugged LandTrust staff at the completion of a conservation easement noting that it was one of the most meaningful things she had ever done in her life.

From the Boy Scout Troop 442 sharing their wonderful pictures of orienteering and camping at one of our Uwharrie Preserves, to Billy Rayle searching tirelessly to find out who was responsible for improving paddling access to the Uwharrie River so that he could thank us personally, to receiving a sizeable donation from a former college intern who made a donation to us from his first payday after he found a permanent job, our work has touched many lives.

While we do indeed protect special places for the sake of nature (ecology, wildlife, ecosystem services, etc.) in truth, the work of land conservation is entirely based on people. We save land FOR – not “from” – people. This includes not just those of us here today but also those who will follow us. Sometimes the true impact of our efforts may not be fully appreciated for centuries, which is a time frame most of us have a hard time relating to. But in 2011, we truly made a difference for many people living today in these local communities where we have completed major projects. And they are sharing expressions of gratitude for our efforts to staff and board, and, in turn, you – our supporter.

Our tagline is “Saving the Places You Love” in the lower Yadkin and Pee Dee River Basin, and this has never been more true than in 2011 when we were fortunate enough to save some of the most iconic and important landmarks throughout our region. We hope that you are as proud of your investments in this organization as we are of the projects that we have completed in 2011. Thank you for making all of these great stories possible. –Jason A. Walser

Land Protection Year in Review— Projects Up But Support in Decline

In the midst of 2011's phenomenal success—Spencer Woods protected, completion of a new leg of the Uwharrie Trail, acquisition of the landmark 403-acre Springer Property in the heart of our 2,500-acre Two Rivers Project Area, protection of the Piedmont's oldest remaining stand of longleaf pine—The LandTrust did experience one disappointment: our 2011 revenues were down significantly, over ten percent from 2010. Sadly, we finished the year with a budget deficit of approximately \$50,000.

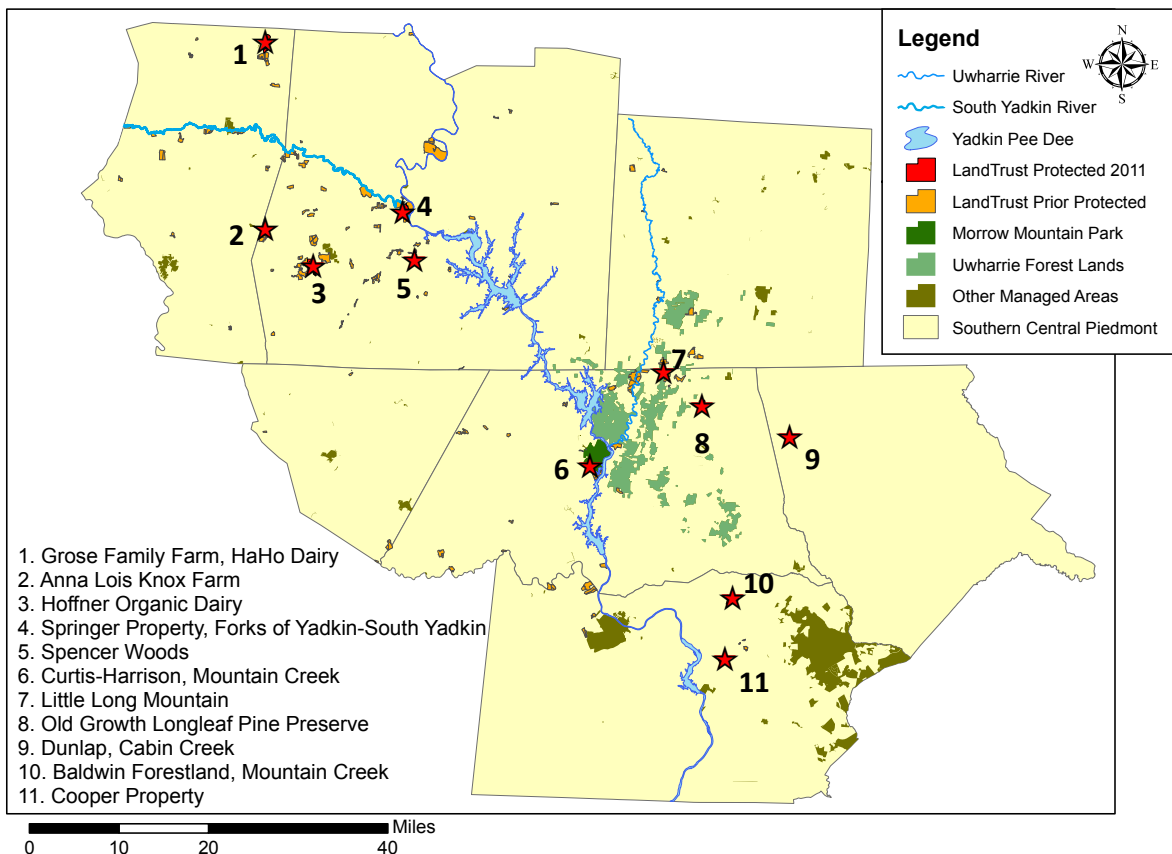
There are many reasons for this deficit. State and Federal government funds for conservation have been slashed over the last two years. Support from private foundations is more and more competitive. The difficult economy has made it harder for many of our supporters to give at previous levels.

Now, more than ever, the LandTrust needs your support. Our programs and outings are filled to capacity. The phone continues to ring with new conservation opportunities, despite lack of dedicated land protection staff. With over 21,000 acres protected, including over 4,200 fee-owned acres awaiting transfer to federal or state agencies, our land stewardship responsibilities consume more and more resources, although unlike most other land trusts in the state, we don't have a full-time stewardship director.

Please remember to renew your memberships in The LandTrust in 2012 and, if possible, increase your support. 2011 was one of our most successful years ever, seeing more than 2,500 acres conserved this year. With your donations and support, 2012 can be even better.

We Need Your Support!

LandTrust Conservation Projects Across the Region in 2011



Springer Property Protected at Forks of Yadkin-South Yadkin

A project that has been many years in the making has finally been protected—400 acres at the confluence of the Yadkin-South Yadkin Rivers, more commonly known as “The Point.” This property is the keystone piece in the Two Rivers Focal Area, a region where The LandTrust has focused its efforts since the inception of the organization. With the purchase of this property, we now own nearly 1,400 acres here—protecting important habitat for wildlife, waterfowl, in addition to a scenic stretch for canoeing, and the water intake for the City of Salisbury.



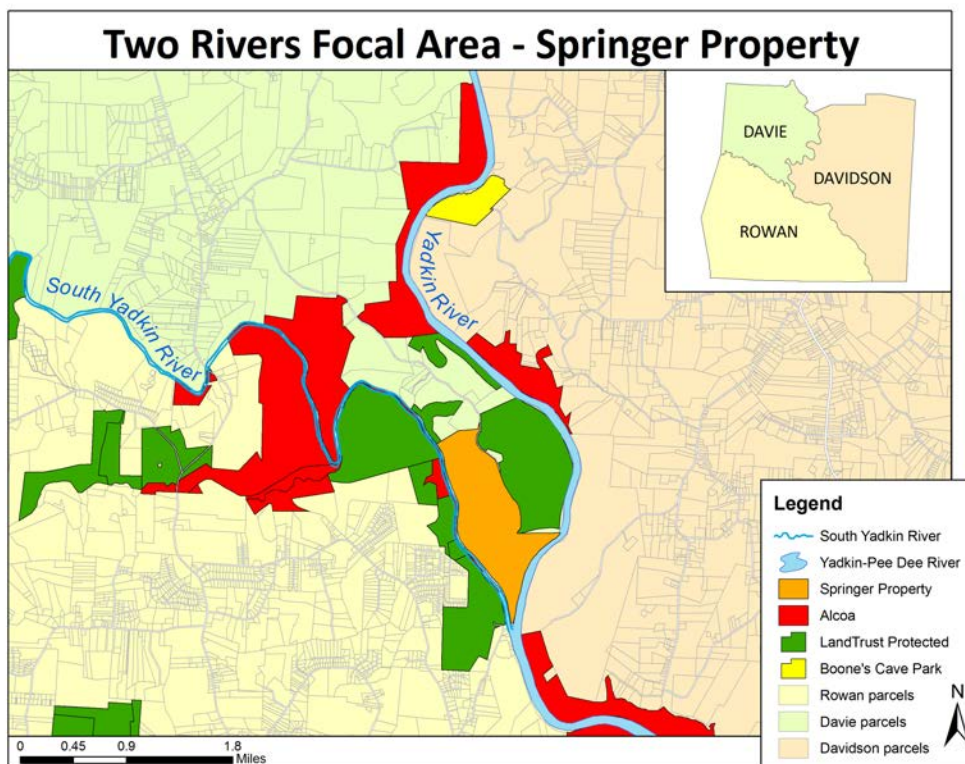
Jason Walser with J.D. Bricken and Oliver van den Ende of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at “the Point.”



Gorgeous views of the river valley from a knoll on the newly acquired Springer Property.

This site is not only significant because of natural features, which includes mature bottomland hardwoods and native grasslands which provide habitat for a variety of wildlife including songbirds, but has Native American archeological significance as well.

The purchase of this property was made possibly by a combination of a donation from Fred and Alice Stanback, a loan from The Conservation Fund, and funding from The City of Salisbury and the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund.



Old-Growth Piedmont Longleaf Pine Forest Purchased

The LandTrust and the N.C. Zoo have officially purchased the largest remaining known stand of old-growth Piedmont longleaf pine in North Carolina, located in northern Montgomery County. Longleaf pine forests historically covered more than 90 million acres all along the southeastern United States, but have been reduced to only 3% of that acreage currently. This newly preserved tract is a truly one-of-a-kind forest, with some trees near 200 years old. Many of the trees here have been “boxed” and bear the old scars from the turpentine industry of the past when tar and resin from the trees was used on naval ships. Longleaf forests are a unique ecosystem home to a whole suite of endemic species.

On December 30th, the NC Zoo acquired half of the 116-acre property and The LandTrust purchased the other half. The Zoo obtained grant funds through the NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund, which preserves natural areas and rare species across our state. The LandTrust obtained interest-free loan funding through the Norcross Wildlife Foundation to purchase the remaining acreage, and will continue to work with the Zoo to find grant funding



Nell Allen with the NC Zoo and Crystal Cockman reach around a huge longleaf pine on the new preserve.

to pay off the loan for eventual Zoo ownership of the entire tract. Funds were also provided by Fred and Alice Stanback to purchase a 2-year option in summer of 2010 with the family members who inherited the property, previously owned by the late Margaret Nichols. Ms. Nichols lived here until her death, and she loved the longleaf pines and would not let them be cut down. She was a naturalist herself, and knew the importance of longleaf forests for wildlife. A relative recounted that when she was young, a very old man told her he remembered a time when he could leave that property and ride all the way to Fayetteville and never be out from under the shade of a longleaf pine.

The Zoo will develop hiking trails and partner with local schools to develop an outdoor environmental education program here. Some neat critters who call this special place home are spotted salamanders, timber rattlesnake, and Kentucky warbler. For more info you can visit our website at www.landtrustcnc.org or call us at 704-647-0302. Please contact us if you want to learn more about the project or to donate towards its completion.



Nichols Family and LandTrust and Zoo Staff gather together for a picture to celebrate closing.

HaHo Dairy in Northern Iredell County Conserved

Beecher Grose has farmed the HaHo Dairy in the Harmony area since 1950 with his wife, Mary Lee. The farm has been in his family for over a hundred years. Today Beecher's son Neal runs the farm, although Beecher and Mary Lee still own the majority of the land and stay involved with the farming operation.

Beecher Grose is a hero of conservation, one of the first farmer's in the state to adopt and promote no-till farming. Today Neal is carrying on in Beecher's fine tradition. In Beecher's own words: "When I consider the years of work that we have put into this farm, the potential that I see here in agriculture, the beauty that I see at any time of day, the wildlife that enjoy this farm, and the tranquility, it not only makes me be thankful for what I see, but it makes me want to share this experience with others. I hope this experience is available for future generations. By conserving my family's Centennial Farm with a conservation



Soybeans flourishing on some of the earliest no-till farmed agricultural fields in all of North Carolina on the farm.

easement, I can rest assured that someone in the future will enjoy the same experience."

Funding for this project was provided by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Fund and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Farm and Ranch Protection Program. Iredell County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Soil Conservationist Jim Summers and other members of the Iredell SWCD board also played instrumental roles in completing this project, as did Statesville attorney

William Pope and Salisbury attorney Andy Abramson.

Most of all we want to thank Beecher and Neal for entrusting us with a conservation easement on their 490-acre farm. Working with dedicated and caring conservationists such as the Grose family is a big part of what makes our jobs so worthwhile.



Dairy cattle at HaHo Dairy. In the past 20 years, NC has gone from 2,400 to only 460 farms with milk cows, a loss of almost 80%.

Dunlap Property on Beautiful Cabin Creek Protected

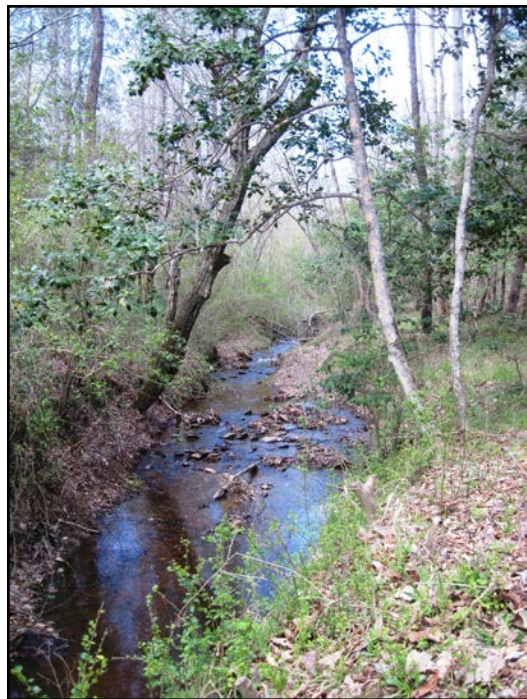
In September of this year, The LandTrust worked with Dr. Katherine Dunlap to protect 171 acres of mixed hardwood and pine forest, beautiful tributaries with cascading waterfalls, and over 4,000 feet of frontage on significant Cabin Creek, also a popular kayaking spot. The property also boasts a few longleaf pine interspersed with the hardwoods, and a plethora of native wildflowers, including liatris, agalinis, and the bright red cardinal flower shown at right.

Dr. Dunlap approached The LandTrust to conserve her special property after hearing about other ongoing land conservation projects of The LandTrust in this area. Although this property itself is just outside of our typical region and located in the Cape Fear watershed, because of the significance of the property for wildlife, water quality and recreation, and the fact that the property is very near Montgomery County where a lot of LandTrust projects are located, our board and staff were excited to be able to work with Katie to protect this special place. This region is a transition area from Piedmont to Sandhills ecosystems, as indicated by the presence of longleaf and prairie associated species here. Transition areas typically have higher biodiversity,



Native cardinal flower (lobelia cardinalis) blooms creekside.

and species on the edge of their ranges are more likely to go extinct, so preserving these transition areas is very important—especially as changes in



A beautiful tributary found on the property.



A kayaker enjoys a float on Cabin Creek.

environment can cause species to migrate. Now thanks to Katie this property will remain undeveloped both for a diversity of native wildlife and for future generations to enjoy as they canoe on Cabin Creek.

Baldwin Forestland on Mountain Creek Preserved

The heirs of the Baldwin Forestland, siblings Barbara Baldwin Highfill and Al Baldwin, Jr. and their spouses, John Highfill and Erin Baldwin, permanently protected the historic 605-acre property in Richmond County in December of 2011. This impressive conservation property preserves a large stretch of stream frontage along Mountain Creek, a significant natural heritage area of regional significance due to the high quality water and rare aquatic species found there.

The project was actually two-part, as 90 acres of riparian area were protected through a purchased easement by the North Carolina Clean Water Management



Scenic forest path through hardwoods also provides important wildlife habitat.

Trust Fund, and the Highfills and Baldwins also donated a conservation easement on 515 acres on the uplands. In addition, the family plans to use the funds for the riparian area to purchase and preserve another piece of historical family land in Montgomery County.

This project is only our second conservation easement in Richmond County, and one of the largest conservation easement projects in the history of The LandTrust. "This project is an incredibly important one, partnering the protection of both working forest and water quality," staff member Crystal Cockman says. "Mountain Creek is one of only a few streams in our area with this level of significance, both in terms of the



This crayfish and scarlet snake call the protected property home.

water quality and species found here. In addition, this property is known to be home to other priority wildlife species including ovenbird, box turtles, and only the second-known occurrence of scarlet snake in our region."

The project preserves mature hardwood forest riparian buffer along the stream, and also conserves pine plantations on the uplands that are being actively managed both for forestry and for wildlife with regular prescribed burns. A Wildlife Resources Commission put-in is located south on Mountain Creek in the beautiful Grassy Island area of Richmond County. Thanks to the Highfills and Baldwins for protecting such a special place.



Mature hardwood forest buffers pristine Mountain Creek on newly protected lands.

Cooper Forestland in Richmond County Preserved

This past year saw not only the 2nd but also the 3rd ever Richmond County project in the history of The LandTrust, as the 159-acre Cooper Property was also protected. Elijah Cooper and his wife, Sherry, permanently conserved by donated easement a stretch of working forestland along scenic Bethany Road.

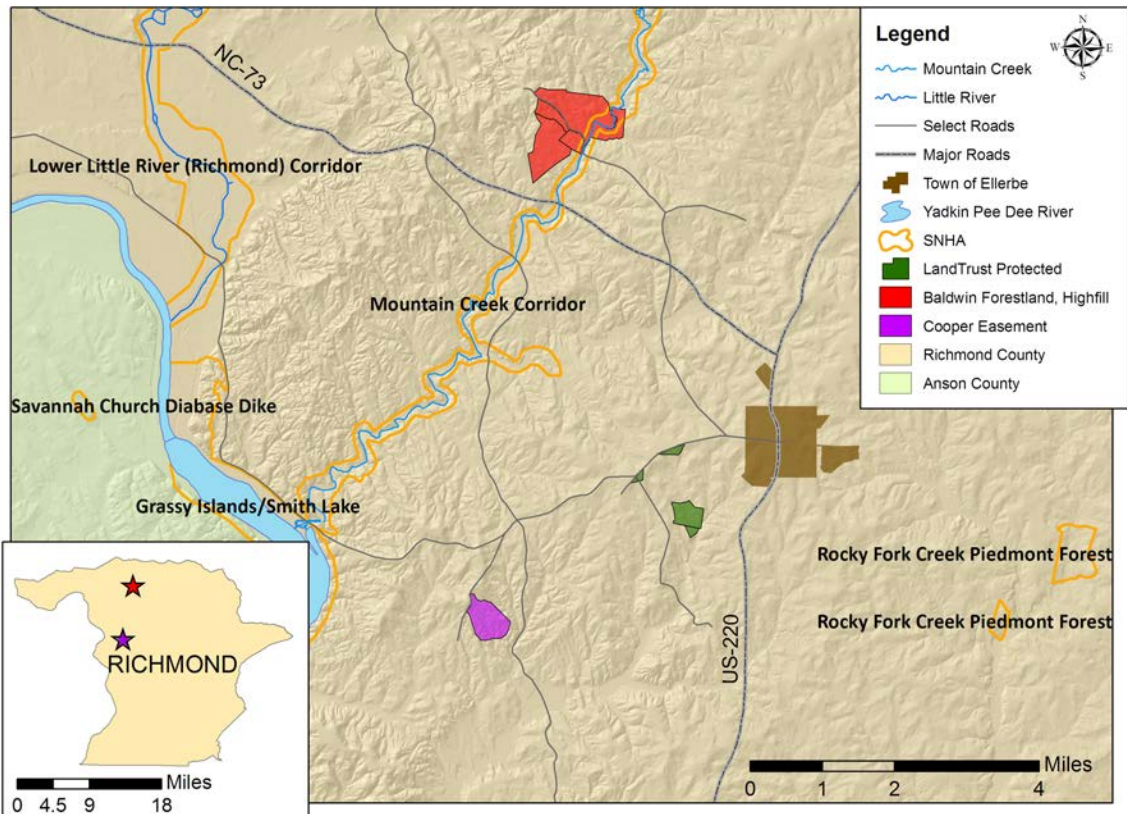
Mr. Cooper is a full-time farmer in Richmond County, and sees the protection of this property as just the first step, hoping to protect more farm and forestland in the area in the future. His interest in conserving his property is a result of seeing his friend, Bill Webb, protect his property in 2008.



LandTrust supporters gathered at our annual meeting held for the first time this year in Richmond County at the Webb Farm.

This area is the most southeastern part of our ten-county region, and differs greatly from the rest as the land of longleaf, wiregrass, and fox squirrels. We hope that these projects are just the beginning of more work in this unique area.

2011 Richmond County Projects - Baldwin Forestland and Cooper



Prescribed Burn Performed at South Yadkin Wildlife Refuge

The LandTrust is very excited to announce the completion of our second-ever prescribed burn! On January 2, 2012, in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service through their Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, The LandTrust was able to contract with the N.C. Division of Forest Resources to carry out a burn on 40 acres of thinned loblolly pine plantation in Rowan County.

These pine plantations were inherited by The LandTrust when we purchased the South Yadkin Refuge property, and they were thinned last year to open the understory to sunlight and promote a more diverse herb layer. The prescribed burn also improves wildlife habitat by removing the duff layer of pine needles, providing more sunlight for grasses and forbs to emerge, a needed food source for species such as deer, turkey, quail, and songbirds. This also reduces the chance of wildfire, and enhances the overall quality of the forest, which makes it more resistant to disease.



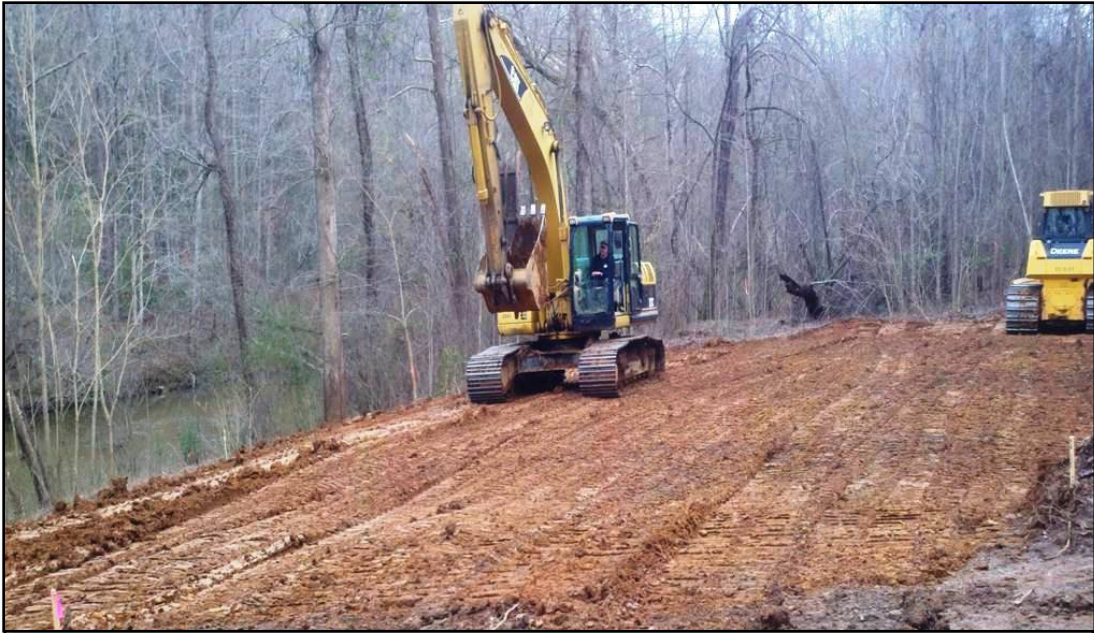
Rowan County Ranger David Poole keeps an eye on things during prescribed burn.

Huge thanks go out to Rowan County NRCS and DFR for making this possible!



The LandTrust's second prescribed burn on 40 acres of thinned pine plantation, with the purpose of enhancing the understory vegetation for biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

Low Water Bridge Parking and Boating Access Improved



This improved parking area on the Uwharrie River will provide a few more parking spots and a much safer place to park while accessing the river for fishing and kayaking.

The LandTrust is excited to be partnering with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission on an important recreational amenity for our region. The LandTrust is owner of a 1288-acre preserve in Montgomery County, the very center point of which is Low Water Bridge, which is a very popular canoe-put in on the Uwharrie River. The stretch from here to Highway 109 is one of the most-used portions of the river, and is a scenic stretch to paddle for recreation, birding, or fishing. Expect to see kingfishers, long-nosed gar, and pileated woodpeckers, and you are also likely to see species such as bald eagle and river otter. The stretch north either from High Pine Church Road or Burney Mill Road to Low Water Bridge is also a popular portion of river for paddling. There are also 6 species of bass that fishermen come from across the state to try their hand at catching here.

Because this is such an important recreational area, The LandTrust has partnered with the Wildlife Resources Commission to improve parking and install angling accesses here.

This new parking area will relieve some safety concerns, because prior to this construction in order to put in canoes or kayaks here the only pull-off was a small area on the side of the road with low visibility, and room for only about 3 cars. The new parking area will accommodate about 10 cars. As the name suggests, Low Water Bridge is prone to flooding, as well, so this will also provide a place for folks to turn their cars and trucks around if the bridge is flooded. As a high quality river with rare species, this helps prevent erosion and preserves water quality.



John Gowan, Deborah Walker, Tricia Webb, and Crystal Cockman scout Uwharrie Blueway.

Riles Creek Paddle Trip



Picnic area located at Riles Creek Access

On Saturday, November 12th, The LandTrust for Central NC hosted our annual fall canoe trip, this year on Riles Creek at Tuckertown Reservoir. This recreational access is conveniently located right on Stokes Ferry Road, just a mile or so north of its intersection with Highway 49, northeast of the city of Richfield. Tuckertown Reservoir is on the Yadkin-Pee Dee River, and as a lake with very little development, is a fantastic place to paddle on open water. This is a

wonderful little recreation spot and access, and the lake here is really interesting and picturesque. Riles Creek at this point is backwater from Tuckertown Lake, and you can paddle upstream to where it narrows and transitions to a more natural creek. There are some really neat cove-like areas, and some gorgeous rock outcrops with mountain laurel. Special thanks to the boys and adult leaders of Boy Scout Troop 442 for providing canoes and support!



Beautiful blue waters of Tuckertown Reservoir

Annual Ornament Making

On December 3rd, The LandTrust hosted our annual ornament-making event at the Green Goat Gallery in downtown Spencer. Children and adults alike put their creative talents to work by creating some yummy treats for wildlife. Pinecones, peanut butter, birdseed and more fun ingredients were all available to use to craft some festive ornaments to take home and hang outside. This event is

always a popular holiday tradition, and a fun time was had by all!



Pinecones & peanut butter & berries, oh my!



All smiles at our ornament decorating party.

Uwharrie Trail New Section Hike

On Sunday, January 29th, The LandTrust held a hike on a newly reconnected section of the Uwharrie Trail going north from the current northern terminus. The hike started at the Jumpin' Off Rock trailhead and we walked down to a US Forest Service gate



Asa Hollingsworth finds a spotted salamander egg mass.

and along the gorgeous Poison Fork stream on USFS land for a couple miles before ascending Little Long Mountain, a property that The LandTrust purchased



Hikers pause for a rest stop and enjoy the breathtaking views from Little Long Mountain.

last summer subject to seller financing. This unique site offers the only place along the trail with panoramic 360-degree views of the Uwharrie mountainside. The open and grassy area on top is reminiscent of balds found in the Appalachians. The purchase of this site immediately added 4 miles to the current 20.5 mile trail. The LandTrust had to act quickly to purchase this property and is currently fundraising for the tract.

Spencer Woods Clean-up Day

The Spencer Woods property continues to enjoy outstanding support from the community.

Approximately 35 people participated in a property clean-up on Saturday, March 24th, pulling an assortment of furniture, junk, trash, and old tires from the forest.

Much of the debris was removed from the stream and the stream bank. "It was great to see so many people come out on a rainy morning," says Andrew Waters,

operations director at The LandTrust. The Spencer Community, in particular, as well as many from Salisbury and other parts of our service region have really embraced this project. It's great to see people working together to help make this park a



Many thanks to all who came out to help with the Spencer Woods clean-up day!

reality." The LandTrust would like to offer a special thank you to the Town of Spencer Sanitation Department for picking up all the collected trash and Mike Lambert, Big Sweep coordinator for Rowan County, for providing supplies and logistical support.

Piedmont Longleaf Pine Hike

On Saturday, March 10th, more than 40 people came out to visit the newly protected Old Growth Piedmont Longleaf Pine forest, a partnership project with the NC Zoological Park. Attendees were able to see the historic cat-faces from the turpentine industry on these huge old longleaf, some nearly 200 years old. "We were very excited to host our first hike on this truly one-of-a-kind site," says The LandTrust's Uwharrie Conservation

Specialist, Crystal Cockman. "Nowhere else in North Carolina can you see longleaf pine of this size and age in this type of Piedmont habitat. Protecting this forest is really a once in a lifetime opportunity and this is certainly only the first of many hikes out here on this very special place."



Attendees pose in front of nature center on newly protected longleaf pine preserve.



A few young longleaf pines find some sunlight in a woods road.



The Committee:

Pam and Joe Morris
Chairmen

Tina and Reid Acree
Lacreaa and Richard Allen
Andrea Anders and Michael Bitzer
Elizabeth and Forrest Anderson
Lindsey and Steve Antosek
Liz and Tripp Edwards
Kelly and Billy Fisher
Brenda and Franco Goodman
Amy and Will Goodnight
Emily and Wes Graham

Laura and Matt Hannah
Emily Hunter
Jolene Philpott
Trisha and Tim Proper
Susan and Hayes Smith
Tracy and Kenan Smith
Taylor and Ryan Starrett
Nichole and Erron Towns
Traci and Brad Williams

Save the Date!

RiverDance 2012

Saturday, August 18

A Modern Day Ark— by Stanback Intern, Dana Powell

Preserving land—keeping nature natural—is one of the most enduring ways people can contribute to the future. Though ecological conservation can progress on rooftop gardens, converted railroad trails, and in other little pockets of our developed realm, the bulk of conserved wild lands are places that support thriving ecological communities intact.

My primary project as a Stanback Intern for The LandTrust this summer was surveying bumblebee species in the Uwharries. Bumblebees are one of our key pollinators, keeping farms and natural food chains productive while helping native plants thrive. From my bee observations I found that species diversity is low, meaning that bumblebees (like other native pollinators) need our help to keep their populations healthy. Reducing pesticide use and preserving the fields, farms, and woodlands where bees nest and forage are the best defenses we have. Thanks to ongoing efforts of The LandTrust and engaged landowners, many conservation efforts are underway. On these lands the bees will continue to have what they need. Careful management of The LandTrust’s Capel property with a successful prescribed burn this spring resulted in the most abundant bumblebee population of the study. We may not have a full understanding of what threatens pollinators, but we can protect their habitat to give them a better chance. The blooms and fruits bursting forth this harvest season are a testament to the bees’ stamina. My favorite experience this summer was the



Dana with Uwharrie pitcher plants

day I sat on the banks of the Uwharrie River and noticed the shrub next to me was full of bumblebees “sonicating” flowers. This special type of pollination is also called “buzz pollination” and involves the bee dangling by its mouth from the flower and vibrating its flight muscles to release a shower of pollen, which catches in its dense fur. By sonicating bumblebees are about 400 times more effective pollinators than honeybees for crops like tomatoes and wildflowers in the same family. These are the moments I wait for, when I can envision a future that sounds like a bee’s happy hum.

Author Scott Russell Sanders writes about arks in his book *A Conservationist Manifesto*, like the ark I have always pictured Noah shooing a bumblebee queen and her mate aboard. Arks are made of the wild places left unpaved and unsprayed, and the builders are people who care enough to keep these lands intact and to live more sustainably. Sanders says of these shipwrights, “their ways and works are vessels designed to preserve from extinction not merely our fellow creatures... but also the wisdom necessary for dwelling in a place generation after generation without diminishing the place or the planet.” Like the bumblebee queen carrying her future brood through the winter to start a new colony come spring, our wild places harbor the seeds of a bright and buzzing future.



A bumblebee pollinating a coreopsis.

Many Thanks To Our Supporters!

Your donations allow us to continue "Saving the Places You Love" in the Piedmont Region. The following are **new** or renewing members from **September 23, 2011** through **February 1, 2012**. 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. Thanks for supporting The LandTrust!

Heartland 100 (Golden Oak) \$5,000 and up

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. James Franklin Hurley III
Dorothy Dial Nicholson Estate
Mr. and Mrs. Mark C. Ritchie
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stanback
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Victor Wallace

Heartland 100 (Dogwood) \$1,000 - \$4,999

Land Trust Alliance
Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Keith Corriher
Ms. Ruth Ann Grissom and Dr. Marcus Plescia
Mr. Peter Wilson Hairston
Mr. R. Darrell Hancock
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Pannill Hurley
Mr. Billy Joe Kepley
Mr. David Bruce Post
Mr. Bruce Ruffy
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Shaver
Mr. and Mrs. Tom E. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Albert Walser
Mr. James G. F. Whitton
Mr. William Penn Wood

\$500-\$999 (Benefactor)

Ms. Amy Pitser Barnhardt
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stephen Bauk
Mr. and Mrs. Addison Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar W. Gettys
Dr. and Mrs. Wayne C. Koontz
Mr. Harry Lancaster and Ms. Jane G. Henderson
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Mauney
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Morris
Mrs. Vivian R. Penry
Randolph Rifle Club
Mr. Bobby C. Sheets
Dr. Mark T. Stanback and Ms. Nancy J. Popkin
Dr. and Mrs. Erron J. Towns

\$250 - \$499 (Patron)

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew James Abramson
Dr. Hilda Hart Bailey
Mr. Charles W. Broadwell
Mr. and Mrs. William Summersett Carter

Mr. Nereus C. English III
Mr. Martin Boger Foil Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Jason C. Holt
Dr. and Mrs. David M. Jones
Dr. W. Gaston Penry Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Pitt
Mr. Bruce A. Sanborn
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Shadroui
Ms. Sue S. Stevens
Colonel and Mrs. Ray-Kent Troutman

\$100 - \$249 (Sustaining)

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Reid Acree
Ms. Edith H. Alcorn
Mr. Thomas A. Allison
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Brooks Barnhardt
Mr. and Mrs. John Bates
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence B. Beaver Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Norman Hurst Bertels
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Brady
Mr. and Mrs. G. Boon Chesson
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Clemens Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Coxe
Mr. Louis Eubanks
Mr. Jeff Fisher
Ms. Evelyn B. Fowler
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar W. Gettys
Mr. George E. Greer and Dr. Becky H. Greer
Mr. and Mrs. B. Alex Grenoble
Ms. Catherine C. Hall
Mr. and Mrs. M. Thomas Hatley Jr.
Ms. Miriam Howard
Mr. and Mrs. Larry O. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy C. Klaus
Miss Hilda W. Lee
Mr. and Mrs. Eric S. Lentz
Edgar and Kivi Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Miller
Mrs. John Harris Morrison
Dr. and Mrs. Gary H. Parks
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Peacock
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Braswell Perry
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Pitner
Mr. and Mrs. Edward K. Prewitt
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Raker
Mr. H. Deal Safrit and Dr. Sheila E. Brownlow
Mr. and Mrs. David E. Setzer
Rev. George R. Slaton
Mr. and Mrs. George E. Smith
Dr. and Mrs. David N. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Tippet II

Mr. Chris Henry Verner and Ms. Gail Poulton
Ms. Virginia Wall
Mr. K. Reid Walters, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Charles Waters
Dr. John Edmund Wear Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Weisler
Dr. Martha Kirkland West
Mr. and Mrs. Bradley S. Williams
Ms. Shelley C. Williamson
Dr. and Mrs. Edwin G. Wilson

\$50 - \$99 (Family)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Amos
Ms. Lana Armstrong
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence B. Beaver III
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Beck
Mr. and Mrs. Rex R. Boner
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Clay
Mr. and Mrs. Bucky Cline
Dr. and Mrs. Steven J. Colwell
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald D. Dorsett
Mr. and Mrs. James Allen Dunn, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Frank E. Eason
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Foltz
Dr. and Mrs. Gary R. Freeze
Mrs. Ezra C. Gilliam
Mr. and Mrs. Rhett E. Greene
Mr. David A. Hannah and Ms. Laurie K. McDade
Mrs. Catherine Green Holladay
Mr. and Mrs. Nash Isenhower
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip J. Juneau
Mr. Tom Kirkman
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In memory of Hayden Beck
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*In memory of James Preston
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In memory of Don Neff
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Bank Draft—A Painless Way to Give!

The LandTrust currently has a bank draft option available to donors. Donors electing to utilize the bank draft payment method will have their bank account debited once a month. Persons wishing to start their drafts can do so by stopping by The LandTrust office to sign an authorization form. There is no minimum amount – you may contribute as little as \$5.00 monthly!

The LandTrust for Central NC Chosen for Prestigious Land Trust Alliance Excellence Advancement Program!

We are pleased to announce that The LandTrust for Central NC has been chosen as one of only ten land trusts in the southeastern U.S. to participate in the national Land Trust Alliance's new Excellence Advancement Program. We are the first land trust from North Carolina that was chosen for this program and are honored to be a part of it.

The Land Trust Alliance, as part of its national and regional strategies, is making intensive, multi-year investments in a few land trusts that have been identified as having high potential to significantly increase their conservation impact and program excellence. This collaborative project is intended to advance the effectiveness, proficiency, and sustainability of the selected land trusts.

According to the Alliance's statement of recognition, The LandTrust for Central NC has demonstrated that it is prepared to become a stronger and more accomplished land conservation program, and based on this high potential for growth, the Land Trust Alliance has selected us for the Excellence Advancement Program. The agreement further cites that selection of our land trust for this program is based on our high potential for growth through commitment to excellence and our land protection record.

The Excellence Advancement project establishes a formal partnership between the Alliance and our land trust over a three-year period, which includes commitment of the Land Trust Alliance's direct grants, guidance from regional program personnel, and direct advisory services and assistance in accomplishing specific action steps.

The Excellence Advancement Program is intended to help our land trust:

- Strengthen its performance excellence, skills and proficiency in program operations and leadership.
- Achieve and maintain accreditation in demonstration of our conformance with



the national code of land trust operational standards and practices.

- Assure long-term sustainability by securing necessary financing and public support.
- Increase the pace and accomplishment of our efforts to protect, restore and defend important land, ecological and water resources.
- Gain greater community support and respect sufficient to maintain and sustain our conservation programs.
- Integrate and interconnect efforts to improve environmental quality with enhanced community health and welfare – by connecting conservation with community.

Developing a new Strategic Plan is one of the steps in which we will be involved, for purpose of clarifying a bold vision for the future and lay the foundation for achieving our goals.

The Land Trust Alliance is the national service center and leader for land conservation organizations across our nation. The Alliance was established 30 years ago by America's land trust for purposes of exchange, coordination, training, national conservation policy and funding advocacy, and advancement of land conservation. Our land trust has been a long-term member of the Land Trust Alliance. The Alliance welcomes and encourages individuals also to join as members (for information about the Alliance, its services, and membership benefits see: www.landtrustalliance.org).

We will keep our members and supporters apprised of our progress, and, as always, we will count on your continued investment in our work, mission, and future growth. Thank you for all you do to help advance our mission of land conservation and community enhancement.

Legacy Gifts Benefit Donor

There are many ways to make legacy gifts to The LandTrust. Many offer immediate tax benefits to the donor, while some deferred gifts can reduce capital gains and estate taxes for heirs. Your attorney or financial advisor can help you determine the most suitable gift arrangement for you and your family. If you decide to make a deferred gift, you can easily add The LandTrust to your will through an amendment called a codicil.

STEWARDSHIP ENDOWMENT GIFTS

In addition to your annual membership gifts, which fund the operating budget, you can contribute to the future sustainability of The LandTrust for Central North Carolina by a gift to the Stewardship Endowment Fund in the following ways:

Cash: Gifts of cash are fully deductible up to 50% of your adjusted gross income; any excess may be carried over and deducted for as many as 5 subsequent years. You can make a special, restricted gift to The LandTrust's Stewardship Endowment or for a particular project.

Gifts of Stock: A gift of stock owned one year or longer generally offers two benefits: You receive an income tax deduction for the fair market value of the stock, and you avoid paying capital gains tax if the stock has appreciated in value.

Gifts of Real Estate: You may own a residence, vacation home, acreage or vacant lot that has no particular conservation value, but having appreciated over the years it would incur a sizeable capital gains tax if sold. By donating such land (with the intention it will subsequently be sold by The LandTrust) you may avoid capital gains tax and may also receive a charitable deduction for the fair market value of the property.

DEFERRED GIFTS

Often referred to as "a painless way of giving", deferred gifts provide many donors an opportunity to make an even greater contribution to The LandTrust than they are able to do in their lifetimes. Types of deferred gifts include:

Bequests: An outright gift of cash could be specified in your will, either as a designated dollar amount or as a percentage of your estate. Gifts of securities, bonds, real estate or other assets may be specified. You could name The LandTrust as a remainder beneficiary to receive funds only after specific sums are paid to individuals.

Life Insurance: A tax-deductible gift of whole or universal life insurance can be made by naming The LandTrust as owner and beneficiary. You could purchase a new policy or donate a policy that you currently own but no longer need.

IRA, 401(k) or Pension Plan: You can avoid both income and estate tax on the remainder left in your retirement plan if you make The LandTrust the beneficiary.

Charitable Remainder Trusts: You can fund a charitable remainder trust with cash or property and receive income from the assets for your lifetime, while qualifying for a charitable deduction, and reducing potential capital gains and estate taxes. Upon your death and/or that of a loved one, the trust assets will be distributed outright to The LandTrust.

What will be
your legacy?
What will be
your legacy?





Over 30 folks joined us on our inaugural hike on a newly reconnected section of the Uwharrie Trail!



Kids enjoy making nature-friendly ornaments at our annual ornament-making event at the Green Goat Gallery.



A leaf-cutter bee takes advantage of a native passionflower on the newly protected Baldwin Forestland.

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

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