



Landmark

Spring 2017

*Conservation at the
Forefront*

A publication of The LandTrust for
Central North Carolina



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

Why Wait?

General George Patton once said, "A good plan executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week." His advice in a nutshell was to get busy and do something now and not wait for the perfect conditions. We, at The LandTrust, are taking his advice to heart. We are working harder than ever to be more relevant to the communities that we serve, to help train our next generation of conservation leaders, to provide meaningful opportunities to connect our members with nature, and most importantly to conserve our regions vital natural resources.

In the pages that follow, you will see just a glimpse of what your support helps us do on a daily basis. From connecting our children to nature, to conserving farms and historic forts, to honoring the very best among us, to tackling the biggest land conservation project in the State of North Carolina. All of this is what your support allows us, your land trust, to do.



Former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall once said, "Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife, are in fact plans to protect man." I couldn't agree more. We will continue to work on your behalf for our region, nothing gives us greater pleasure.

However, now more than ever, we need not only your support, but that of your extended family, your neighbors, and your friends. Conservation opportunities that protect 76 miles of shoreline and 4,700 acres on the Yadkin-Pee Dee River only come by once in a generation. If we wait for the perfect plan this incredible opportunity may slip through our fingers.

Please consider recommitting to local conservation, help do something now so that this opportunity is not lost. Generations of North Carolinians that follow will certainly take note of our commitment as they enjoy the incredible benefits conservation has to offer.

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The Need for a *Youth Initiative*

As I began to write this article I stopped to read a story in the Wall Street Journal and was left depressed and disheartened. In a nutshell, the story reported on the increasing number of smart phone apps which are replacing personal interactions between members of the current generation of youth, Generation “Z”. The comments to the story were telling. This one could have been written by me:

me too...born in 53...we used to get up on Saturday morning grab a quick bite...jump on our bikes and head out for the day. Mom would always scream out...be home for dinner! The local drainage overflow was "pollywog paradise" and the mountains near home offered endless adventure. We got dirty, skipped lunch sometimes and simply burned the hours of the day interacting with our physical environment. Caught lizards, chased snakes and sometimes scraped a knee or a forehead only to rub a little dirt on it and got back to searching for fossils, carving up dirt clods or starting a rock fight. Fond memories...I hope my children and grand children can experience these types of things without a screen...

As you read this current issue of the LandMark, I hope that you will understand the need and the relevance of our Youth Initiative at the LandTrust. Sad tales of disconnected youth tied to virtual lives on smart phones proliferate the media but despite the obvious benefits of face to face communication – picking up on non-verbal clues, body language, eye to eye contact, ambient context – the addictive allure of on-demand communication and perceived relationships seem to trump the absolute need for youth and young adults to interact with the environment.

As relationships increasingly become “virtual” in response to technology, the world shrinks into an artificial reality where interaction with nature

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and the environment are reduced to cold, hard textbook topics. Imagine eliminating cadaver dissection as part of the medical curriculum; learning to sail on-line ; or, closer to home the replacement of hiking, fishing, exploring, boating, hunting, and the experience of interaction with nature with video travelogues. The virtual world being created and embraced around us purports to be three dimensional, yet at its best, is a limited flat screen dimension which attempts to create the illusion of depth and field of perception. This counterfeit virtual reality can never come close to revealing a fraction of the spontaneity of nature – smells, breezes, subtle discoveries, and the overall depth and complexity of the fabric and tapestry of the natural world which we seek to conserve for future generations to experience. If perception is reality, Western Society is diminished as Generation “Z” and the coming Generations “On Beyond Zebra” are deceived into acceptance of an ersatz natural world.



As you read about our early successes and look at the great photos of kids discovering the real world up close and personal through some of our Youth Initiative activities, it is our hope that you will be inspired and proud of the impact that your support of the LandTrust for Central North Carolina.

As always, we esteem your friendship, support and encouragement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrell Hancock". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Darrell Hancock



LandTrust Raising Funds to Conserve Alcoa Lands

The LandTrust has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to conserve 4,700 acres and 76 miles of shoreline on the Yadkin River at High Rock Lake and Tuckertown Lake.

In September Alcoa obtained their new license for operating four dams on the Yadkin River, and one component of this new license is the opportunity for a significant amount of land to be conserved. The LandTrust for Central North Carolina was an integral part of the original negotiations for the Alcoa relicensing settlement agreement, and was able to successfully advocate for the opportunity to conserve 4,700 acres of land comprising 76 miles of shoreline.

The LandTrust and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission are partnering to raise the funds necessary to purchase these lands. The LandTrust is seeking to acquire the lands along the South Yadkin River and High Rock Lake, and the Wildlife Resources Commission is working on acquiring the lands along the Tuckertown Reservoir. The total cost for acquisition of these lands is anticipated to be approximately \$12 million.

“The conservation of the Alcoa lands represents a significant undertaking in the history of The LandTrust,” states Executive Director Travis Morehead. “We have permanently conserved 25,000 acres of land in our 21 year history, and working with the Wildlife Resources Commission we could help protect nearly 1/5 of that amount with just one project. The significance of conserving these lands cannot be overstated, it is the culmination of what The LandTrust has sought to achieve since its inception – protection at a landscape scale along the Yadkin River.”

The LandTrust will be seeking funding from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Acres for America program, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, other smaller grant sources, and private donations. We invite you to contribute to the acquisition of these lands at whatever level you are able, so you too can be a part of this momentous conservation achievement.

<http://landtrustcnc.org/alcoa-lands-conservation/>

**Scan here
to donate now!**



Photo courtesy of Stanly Convention and Visitor's Bureau

© *Matthew H Irvin*

The Flowe Property in Cabarrus County is home to row crops and beef cattle. Jim Flowe donated an easement in December of 2016.



Flowe Property Conserved in Cabarrus County

“Despite his artistic pretensions, his sophistication, and many accomplishments, man owes his existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains.” - Anonymous

In North Carolina, agriculture and agribusiness account for one-sixth of the state’s economy and employees, and more than 17 percent, or \$84 billion, of the \$482 billion gross state product. It is no wonder then, that we view farmland preservation as important to the future of our state. Recognizing that importance, The LandTrust for Central North Carolina ensures farmland preservation continues in the central Piedmont by working with local farmers to protect these special properties. In December, one such farm was added to that list.

Often, we inseparably hitch our lives to a special place that becomes more like family than a spot on a map. Memories attach to that place, etching that sense of belonging in our hearts. For Jim Flowe, his special place is a 52-acre family farm in Cabarrus County. Many years before him, his grandparents, Justin and Audie Flowe, ran a successful dairy farm on this property. They also raised a family there. Jim’s daddy, aunt, and uncle were all born in the stately 1920s-built home still located on the farm. It is that very same house that became Jim’s childhood home.

Today, Jim’s son farms his great-grandfather’s land that he, himself worked nearly a century ago. Four generations of Flowe’s have called the same beloved land their home and, on December 21, 2016, Jim took steps to continue their legacy and placed the 52 acres under easement, protecting it forever.

Jim states that his granddaddy always wanted his farm to remain a farm and that he would be proud that his family fulfilled that wish by placing the property under easement. For Jim, he says protecting his farm was a “win-win situation” for him and his family. The land remains undeveloped, but it is those memories forged in the fields and pine stands that conjure strong sentimental value. “It makes [me] feel proud to know that for generations to come there will be no housing developments and no supermarkets. There won’t be anything but beef cattle, row crops, and pine trees.”

Inevitably, the world shifts and changes at a pace that often is hard to comprehend. We often lose those special places that hold not only our memories, but are crucial to our way of life. We at The LandTrust would like to thank Jim Flowe and his family for protecting their special place and for conserving a little piece of the Piedmont for generations to come.

Fort York Property Preserved and in Public Ownership

The LandTrust is excited to announce the permanent protection of 13.6 acres of property along the banks of the Yadkin River and Interstate 85 in Davidson County that houses approximately half of the historic civil war fort used to protect the Yadkin River Rail Bridge, known more commonly as Fort York.

The property has now been permanently protected by a North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund conservation easement, and has just been transferred to Davidson County, who will open the property to the public for educational purposes, and will promote this site and region as a historic and recreational tourist destination. Davidson County planning director, Guy Cornman, states "Davidson County is excited to assume ownership of the Fort York property to use as a historical park for all citizens to learn about their heritage. The property is a significant contributing element of the Yadkin River Crossings Historic District and will be a part of Davidson County's ongoing efforts, along with the preservation of the historic Wil-Cox Bridge, to build a successful recreation and tourism asset."

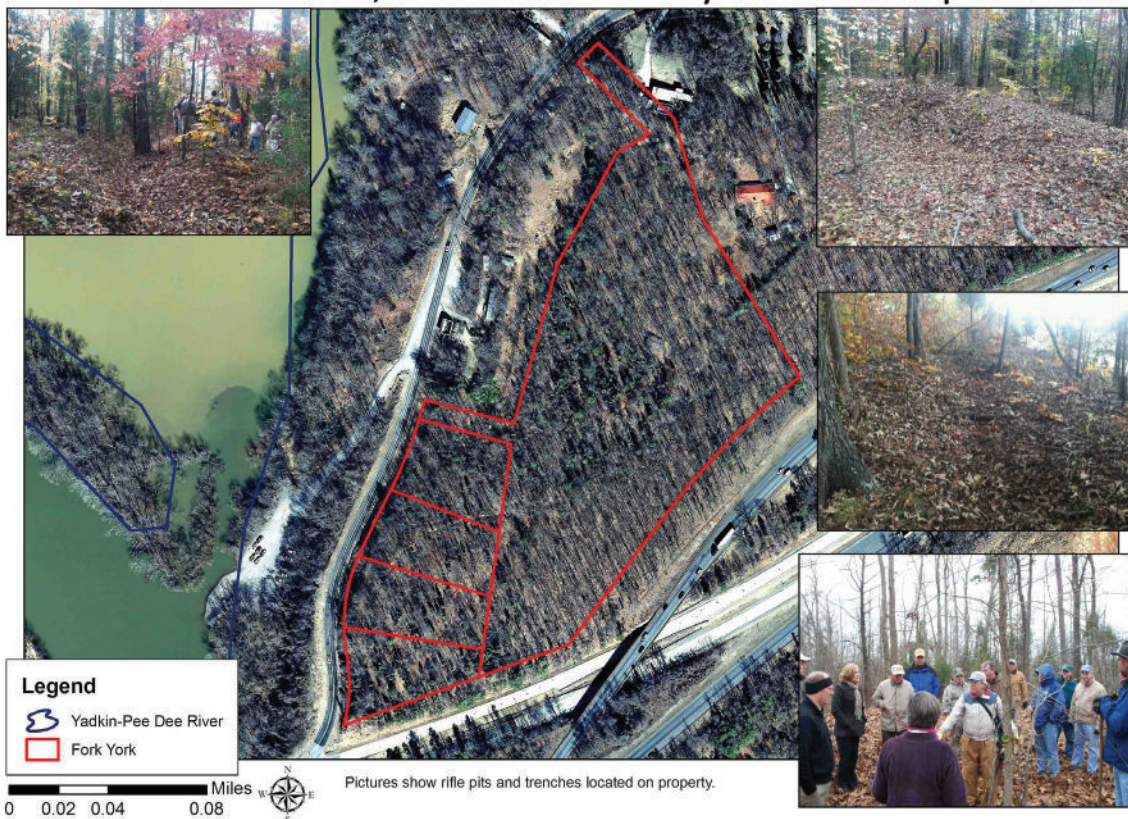
Fort York was the site of one of the last confederate victories of the Civil War, although the war had technically ended three days prior and the confederate troops guarding the rail bridge over the Yadkin River had not received word of the surrender. General Stoneman, in his well-documented raid across western North Carolina at the end of the "War Between the States," came to Salisbury to free captured Union soldiers held in the Confederate prison. After torching many buildings in Salisbury for more than a day, he marched eastward to take the rail bridge over the Yadkin River. Confederate soldiers under the leadership of Zebulan York, fought valiantly on the afternoon of April 12, 1865 to

prevent the destruction of this bridge – an economic lifeline to the western and southern part of the state, and all points to the Southeast.

The fort consisted of a system of small artillery batteries connected by rifle-trenches for infantry. What remains today is probably half of the original Fort, the remainder having been destroyed by three generations of road-building on three sides of the property.

Thanks to this partnership with Davidson County, Fort York will remain in its current condition for future generations to see and learn about the history of the site. Thanks also to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and private donors for contributing to this great conservation success.

Fort York, Davidson County - Aerial Map



Sam Parrott hired as Outreach and Membership Associate and Cody Fulk hired as Stewardship Director

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina has named Sam Parrott as its new Membership and Outreach Associate and Cody Fulk as the new Stewardship Director. “We are incredibly excited and fortunate to have both new staff members on The LandTrust team,” said Travis Morehead, LandTrust Executive Director.

“Sam is an outstanding young man who is passionate about working in the conservation field. He has already made significant contributions in our youth and sportsmen outreach efforts. Cody comes to the LandTrust with an incredible resume and real world conservation experience. His knowledge of our region and land management experience will be invaluable as we move forward in our conservation efforts”.

Parrott grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina and attended his hometown university, Wofford College, where he earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Studies and Business in the spring of 2015. Prior to joining The LandTrust in January of this year, Parrott worked with conservation organizations in the High Sonoran Desert of Arizona, the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, and the Piedmont Region of South Carolina. He is passionate about conserving the Carolina’s natural resources, including its land, wildlife, and heritage. “As a millennial born into a highly urbanized and technology based culture, I was fortunate to have mentors who introduced me to the outdoors at a young age. I quickly fell in love with the Piedmont’s wild places and



Sam Parrott

as my passion for the natural world grew so did my desire to conserve it.” Parrott states. “As the Membership and Outreach Associate, I hope to introduce the next generation to the outdoors and to instill the importance of conservation and appreciation of wild and natural areas we call home.”

Fulk was born and raised in Yadkinville, North Carolina. A graduate of Haywood Community College, he earned his degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management in 2010. Over the course of his career, Fulk led teams on whitetail deer and alligator research projects in both Tennessee and Louisiana. Additionally, Fulk worked with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks access programs and led a sage grouse research team for the Bureau of Land Management. Most recently, Fulk was the Team Leader for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources

Commission Troy Depot, where he oversaw the management of all Game Lands along the Yadkin – Pee Dee watershed. “It has been my career-long objective to further conservation throughout the U.S. and locally here in N.C.” Fulk said. “My goal as Stewardship Director will be to implement sound wildlife and habitat management practices to conserve these natural areas, while providing assistance as well as technical guidance to stakeholders in the Piedmont of North Carolina.”



Cody Fulk

We are seeking volunteers to assist us with outreach and stewardship! We could use your help to expand our reach by volunteering to join a county chapter of The LandTrust. Contact Sam at sam@landtrustcnc.org. To get out on some beautiful land, consider helping us with annual monitoring of our properties. Contact Cody at cody@landtrustcnc.org for more information. Thank you as always for your support of The LandTrust!



Students and Sam Parrott, Outreach and Membership Associate, at the inaugural Leopold Society event at the Kerr II American Chestnut planting. Photo courtesy of Salisbury Academy.

Inaugural Leopold Society Event

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina entered into the New Year by announcing the commencement of the Leopold Society, their new youth initiative. This passport program sponsors outdoor activities and conservation education so that the participants, grades 6-12, can explore the natural world around them.

Participants will receive a passport stamp once each activity is complete. In addition, each year Leopold Society members are required to give back to their community by completing a conservation-based service project. The LandTrust's Membership and Outreach Director, Ms. Michael Nye, sees The

Leopold Society as a way to encourage kids to get outside with their schools and families. "Our mission is to build the next generation of conservationists. As our world becomes more technology based, we must continue to get kids outdoors and back into nature. The Leopold Society will achieve this goal by providing schools, recreation departments, and families with opportunities to get outside and play an active role in conservation."

On January 17th, The LandTrust sponsored their first Leopold Society event, introducing twenty-two seventh graders from Salisbury Academy to the Kerr 2 Property – a 19.2 acre tract of land in Rowan County. In 2015 this LandTrust property was converted into an American chestnut restoration site in partnership with The American Chestnut Foundation. This project was possible with guidance and funding from the LandTrust's current

‘Conservationist of the Year’, Mr. Fred Stanback.

Historically, the American chestnut tree was a common sight across the eastern United States and the chestnuts themselves were a primary food source for nearly all wildlife species – from birds to bears. However, in 1904, the Chestnut Blight came to the United States via imported Chinese chestnut trees. The Chinese chestnut had developed immunity to the fungal pathogen; however, the American chestnut was exceedingly susceptible. The Chestnut Blight devastated the American chestnut population, killing approximately 4 billion chestnut trees across the southeastern United

States and nearly wiping out the species altogether. Today, the American Chestnut Foundation is dedicated to reintegrating the American chestnut into the eastern United States landscape. Through genetic modification, they have generated a blight-resistant American chestnut and saplings of this modified species are growing at the Kerr 2 Property.

After learning about the American chestnut in the classroom, the seventh graders from Salisbury Academy, taught by Mrs. Alexandra Shadroui, chose to adopt and maintain the

Kerr 2 Property as their Leopold Society service project. “This project is a beautiful partnership that will ensure our students develop a love for nature and a true understanding of the impacts of conservation efforts, so that they can continue on as adults saving and protecting the spaces they love,” explained Mrs. Shadroui.

Their visit to the Kerr 2 Property on January, 17th marked the beginning of a mutually beneficial relationship between the students and the American chestnuts – the saplings receiving much needed attention and the students gaining hands-on experience in field while building a passion for conservation and the outdoors. In a journal reflection after their visit, Hayes Hartpence wrote, “The project is important to me because we can now have the chestnuts back and the pride that we helped bring them back. We help make history.” His classmate John Paul agreed writing, “It was a lot of work, but in 30 years when NC has American chestnut forests, we will be thankful for this.”

For more information or to enroll your school or participant into The LandTrust’s Leopold Society, please contact Sam Parrott at sam@landtrustcnc.org or 704-647-0302.

Photo courtesy of Salisbury Academy.



THE LAND TRUST FOR CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA



SPORTING CLAYS CONSERVATION CLASSIC

Benefiting Land Conservation in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin

We would like to thank our generous sponsors for making
The Land Trust's first Conservation Classic a success!



Properties at Lake Tillery -
Steve and Jane Lee Watson

Davidson Surveying and
Mapping, PC





RIVER DANCE 2017

Save the Date

August 19, 2017 | 6:00pm

F&M Trolley Barn | Salisbury, NC

The Entertainers



Three Rivers Society Members enjoy a lively talk by Ernie Averett on the future of land conservation in North Carolina.

to ensure conservation and public access in the Central Piedmont. We were also able to honor the late Deborah Walker, who unexpectedly passed away earlier in the year. Deborah, the Uwharrie District Ranger, was instrumental in many projects and furthering our conservation efforts in the Uwharries. As a close friend of The LandTrust, we will miss her support and enthusiasm. Finally, our award for Conservationist of the year went to Mr. Fred Stanback. Mr. Stanback has generously supported The LandTrust since the beginning. It is with his support that The LandTrust has protected 73 miles of shoreline and conserved over 25,000 acres.

Three Rivers

Society Appreciation Dinner

On November 5, 2016, The LandTrust for Central North Carolina hosted the inaugural Three Rivers Society Appreciation Dinner. The Three Rivers Society namesake reflects the major rivers of the central Piedmont that serve as the lifeblood of our region: the Yadkin-Pee Dee, the Uwharrie, and the Rocky. Similarly, our members provide essential organizational funding to continue conservation work critical to our quality of life.

Held at Morgan Ridge Vineyards in Gold Hill, attendees dined on seasonal entrees that included coffee rubbed flank steak, spiced pecan breaded chicken, and candied acorn squash.

This year, The LandTrust honored two individuals and one conservation partner that went above and beyond to support The LandTrust. The LandTrust recognized the 2016 Volunteer of the Year, Boon Chesson, for his support and commitment to conservation. Throughout his many years of volunteer service, Boon has served on our Land Protection and Stewardship Committees and helped with property boundary posting and annual monitoring. The LandTrust also awarded The Conservation Partner of the Year to the US Forest Service. Over the last 21 years, The US Forest Service served as a partner to many land acquisitions and land transfers

Our guest speaker, Ernie Averett, is the current Board President for the Tar River Conservancy and long-term supporter of land conservation throughout the Upper Tar Basin. In 2010, Ernie received Land Conservationist of the Year at the 48th Annual Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards. At the culmination of a fantastic evening, Ernie took the floor and spoke of early land protection successes and the pivotal moments in natural resource history. Yet, he reminded each of us that this is our time to write our story within the pages of conservation. After an engaging question and answer session, our attendees left inspired and eager to do more.

We would like to thank our sponsors, Brandi Honeycutt with Premier Sotheby's International Realty and Uwharrie Bank, who graciously supported our night out for conservation. We look forward to seeing our Society members again this upcoming fall! For more information on how you can become a Three Rivers Society member, contact Mikey, 404-647-0302, today!



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County Chapter Conversations

Cabarrus County

On February 16, Cabarrus County LandTrust members met at Cedar Grove Retreat Center in Kannapolis. Lenny Stallings, owner of Capstone Climbing and Adventure graciously hosted our meeting. After a LandTrust project update from Travis Morehead, members began a question and answer session. Three of the focus items covered new member recruitment, securing funding for conservation projects, and the newly implemented Sportsman Initiative. Longtime LandTrust supporters, Michelle and Gary Steeley have agreed to spearhead the local Cabarrus Chapter. We are looking to grow our membership base in Cabarrus County! If you are interested in learning more or becoming involved at a local level, please contact Gary and Michelle at steeley@carolina.rr.com, or Mikey at michael@landtrustcnc.org.



Gary and Michelle Steeley long-term LandTrust supporters are leading the charge with our new Cabarrus County chapter!



To join our Richmond County Chapter, contact Janet Weyant or Sarah Ferguson, and join us for a paddle trip on Earth Day, April 22!

Richmond County

Mikey met with Richmond County Chair Janet Weyant and Sarah Ferguson on February 21 at The Hive Recreation Center in Rockingham. The LandTrust is planning a family friendly membership drive and paddle trip down Hitchcock Creek on Earth Day, April 22. Event details will develop more in the coming weeks and we will make an official announcement in March. If you are interested in learning more or becoming involved at a local level, please contact Janet janetjeg@yahoo.com or Mikey at michael@landtrustcnc.org.



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 February 28, 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. 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. and Mrs. Brent Barnes
- Mr. Louis Eubanks
- Dr. and Mrs. Scott W. Firczak
- Dr. and Mrs. Charles F. Floyd
- Mr. Spurgeon Foster
- Mr. Mike Mabry
- Mr. Mark and Ms. Jane Ritchie

Three Rivers Society

Rocky River \$1000 - \$4999

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Guardian \$250 - \$499

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- Mr. and Mrs. James D. Smith
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Uwharrie Naturalist Weekend
Saturday, May 13th
Bird Hike with John Gerwin - 9:00am
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<https://tinyurl.com/unweekend>
Sign up today!

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Uwharrie Trail Thru Hike

October 12-15

4 DAYS, 40 MILES

SATURDAY HIKES AVAILABLE (5 & 9 MILE OPTIONS)

TRAIL CELEBRATION & COOKOUT

Learn more at <http://landtrustcnc.org/2017/uwharrie-trail-thru-hike-2017>





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