



THE LANDMARK

WINTER 2010



*LandTrust Purchases the Landmark Capel Property
Located at the Mouth of the Uwharrie River*

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As The LandTrust for Central North Carolina opens a new decade in this region, I thought it would be beneficial to review where we have been as an organization since our founding in 1995. Our mission is to work thoughtfully and selectively with property owners to preserve our lands, our vistas and the essential nature of our region. In other words, we want to identify important properties in our ten county region that should be protected and preserved, and proactively engage land owners to do the same. As a result, we have protected almost 20,000 acres in this region in 14 years. This represents over 130 different projects in our ten county region.

Much of our effort has been in the Uwharries where our goal is to fulfill the vision of creating North Carolina's Central Park. In the Uwharries we have purchased land that will someday expand the Uwharrie National Forest. Adjacent to the Uwharries, landowners have placed conservation easements on over 500 acres of land to protect the land from unnecessary development.

Outside of the Uwharries, we have placed conservation easements on approximately 12,000 acres, representing about 80 projects. Most of this is for farm land preservation and to prevent urban sprawl in our region. In general, we do not purchase land outside the Uwharries unless it is for a specific purchase, such as a future park.

How many acres can we protect in the coming decade? Our Board is just beginning a strategic planning process that is going to identify our goals for the next few years, but most importantly, our aspirations for the future. In order for our planning process to be successful, we need to hear from you, our land



Dyke Messinger

owners, donors and friends. What do you think we should set as our goals for this decade? Are there areas in this region that we should put more emphasis? How many acres should we look to protect this decade? Do most land owners know about us? What can we do to spread the word about the values of conservation in this region?

In the next newsletter, I will give you a report on the results of our strategic plan and the direction the Board has set for the future. Thank you for being a part of something special in this region of North Carolina. More than most organizations I know, we have the opportunity to influence the quality of life for generations to come. Please continue to support our mission.



Critical Uwharrie Tract Acquired for Future Public Recreation



A critical Uwharrie conservation tract in Montgomery County has been protected by The LandTrust. The LandTrust recently purchased 245 acres of a larger 308 acre tract which has long been considered one of the most important unprotected large parcels in the Uwharrie National Forest and Morrow Mountain State Park area. With the closing, we also received a three year option to purchase the remaining 63 acres, which fronts on Lake Tillery directly across from Morrow Mountain State Park. The LandTrust is

working with the national conservation group "Trust for Public Land" (TPL) to get the property into public ownership and management.

The tract, formerly owned by the Capel Rug Company in Troy, is located at the convergence of the Uwharrie River and Dutchman's Creek, adjacent to the confluence of the Uwharrie River and Lake Tillery. It is at this point where the "Yadkin River" becomes the "Pee Dee River." The recently purchased parcel is located directly across from the boat launch in Morrow Mountain State Park, and is prominently visible from many hiking trails within the park. The land to be protected features unique natural rock formations, a rare and scenic piedmont waterfall, scenic vistas of the Uwharrie Mountains and Morrow Mountain State Park, and access to both Lake Tillery and the Uwharrie River. There are also significant archaeological resources on this property which will be studied and protected.



Arron Capel presents Jason Walser with Native American projectile points from property.

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Uwharrie Tract Continued...

“We are extremely proud and excited to announce the conservation of this tract, long considered one of the most important land conservation opportunities in the region,” says Jason Walser, executive director. “Our long-term goal is to see this property opened to the public as an expansion of Morrow Mountain State Park or perhaps an expansion of the Uwharrie National Forest. For many years, we have been working to make the Uwharrie National Forest and the Uwharrie River more accessible to the public, and this parcel is critical in terms of enhancing paddling and fishing opportunities on the Uwharrie River. It also represents the only opportunity to tie the 25 mile Uwharrie Trail into Lake Tillery, as well as Falls and Badin Reservoirs. Furthermore, this property is the key to connecting the National Forest to the State Park, which is critical

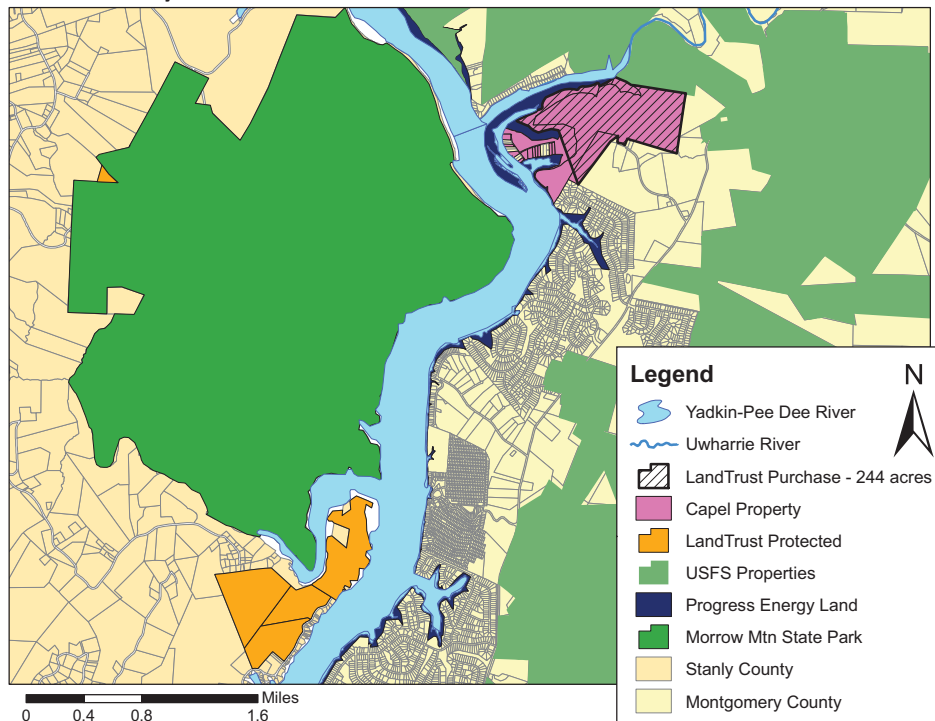


Capel Property, where Uwharrie River meets the Yadkin-Pee Dee.

to the long term goal of promoting this region as North Carolina’s Central Park. The public recreational opportunities for this parcel truly cannot be overstated.”

Walser says the tract was acquired with major assistance from Fred and Alice Stanback. Fundraising for the second phase of the property is just beginning, and donations from the public are encouraged.

Newly Protected Uwharrie Conservation Tract



Gwen & Bill Webb Property Protected in Rowan County

The LandTrust is proud to announce the protection of the Webb Farm in western Rowan County. This 131 acre property sits alongside Third Creek, and houses significant wildlife habitat and historic buildings. The owners of the property, Dr. William and Gwen Webb of Salisbury, donated an easement on the farm preventing all additional residential development.

The Webb family worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NC Wildlife Resources Commission to create a model



Bottomland hardwood swamp forest.



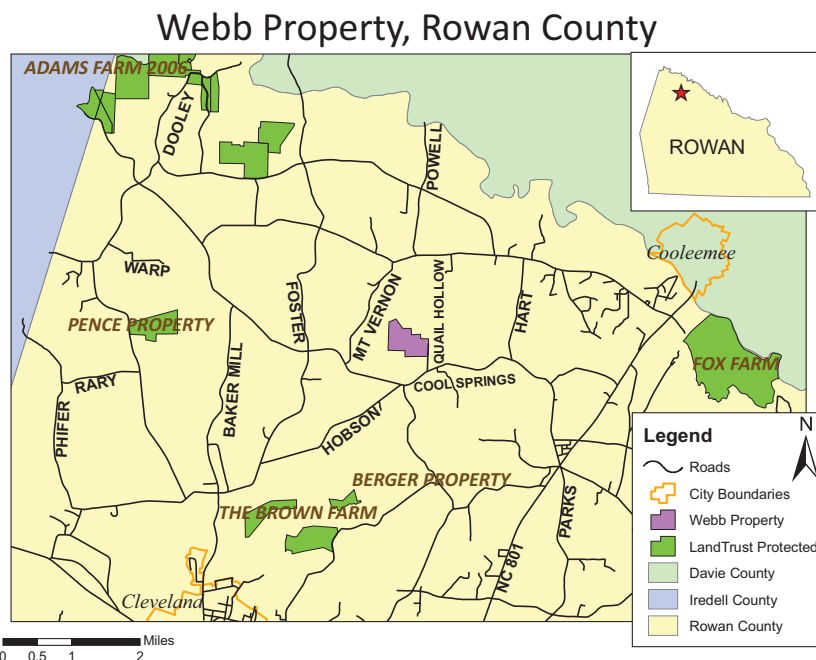
One of several historic restored buildings.

continues to be respected and enjoyed for future generations to come.”

Executive Director Jason Walsler observed that every aspect of the farm has been lovingly restored or improved. From the old cabin the Webb’s restored, to the barns and outbuildings, to the floodplain impoundment, they have worked diligently to make the farm a showplace. They also share the farm with children from Rowan County hosting wildlife hikes and school outings to introduce them to the wonderment of nature and farming. The citizens and wildlife of Rowan County will indeed benefit from the conservation of this meticulously cared for farm for a long time to come.

wildlife habitat property. With a mix of cropland, wetlands, creek frontage, hardwood forests, and a large pond, the site is a destination for a diversity of wildlife. Dr. Webb notes

“We have put a lot of time and effort creating something we are very proud of. It is a place where our whole family loves to spend time together in the country. We wanted to make sure that the farm



Greer Property Preserved in Randolph County

Becky Greer not only has an interest in conserving wildlife habitat and water quality, but has also been an active pioneer for historical preservation in North Carolina. Once an avid member of the Historic Salisbury Foundation, she is now making plans to move back to her hometown of Farmer in Randolph County, where she has founded the Farmer Historic Preservation Society. This 27-acre conservation easement borders a 2-acre parcel she donated to the Society, on which she plans to move and restore a historic pre-Civil War house. She and her



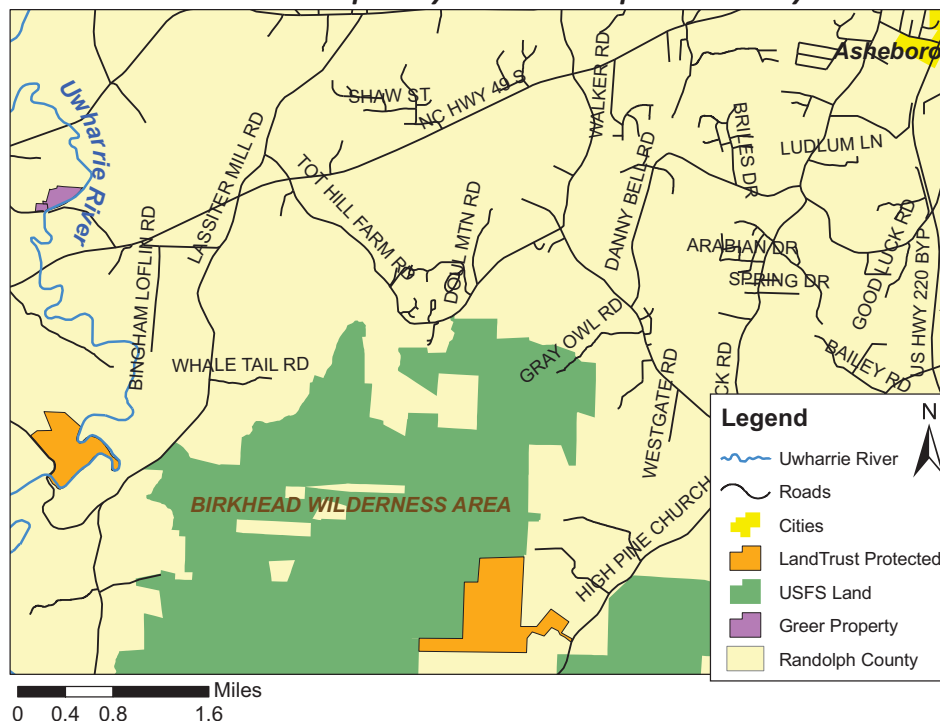
Eastern Box Turtle (Terrapene carolina) has made a home on the protected property.

husband then plan to keep the house open to educate visitors about historic preservation. Additionally, this easement is near other LandTrust preserved properties and the Birkhead Wilderness Area, a part of the Uwharrie National Forest. The tract also has natural heritage significance, as this stretch of the Uwharrie River is Nationally Significant Aquatic Habitat and at least three rare aquatic species are also found in it. Thanks to Becky and her husband for their heart for natural and historical preservation!



Uwharrie River as seen from Greer Property.

Greer Property - Randolph County



Lake Fisher Property Conserved

Lake Fisher Property - Cabarrus County



Sometimes good things come from bad. When Doug Ehmann saw the residential real estate market collapsing just as he got final permitting for his new subdivision along Lake Fisher in Cabarrus County, he was more than a little worried. After all, the land that he had acquired was a slam dunk project in better times – more than 60 acres of lake front property just off the interstate in Cabarrus County with a short commute to Charlotte.

Lake Fisher, the drinking water supply for the City of Concord, is a pristine undeveloped lake. Homesites with lake views would have surely sold for a premium, and zoning was approved for more than 100 units.

But Doug put together a good team of advisors, who came up with a novel approach. Working with the Cities of Concord and Kannapolis, and The Land Trust, his company arranged for a land swap resulting in conservation of wildlife habi-



tat and water quality in Lake Fisher, less land being impacted by development, and a more promising economic model for his company. The Land Trust now has a conservation easement along Lake Fisher.

There will be commercial development on approximately 15 acres adjacent to Lane Street and the interstate far from Lake Fisher.

Wooded buffers in the concentrated development provide aesthetic buffers, water quality protection, and important wildlife habitat.

The conserved property fronts Interstate 85 and Brantley Road, and is prominently visible from Lane Street in Kannapolis. More than 80,000 travelers a day will enjoy better views thanks to more than 50 acres of land slated for residential development which will now stay in hardwood forest. Many thanks to the City of Concord, Kannapolis, and DPE Developments who worked tirelessly to pull off this unique project for the benefit of all water users in Concord.

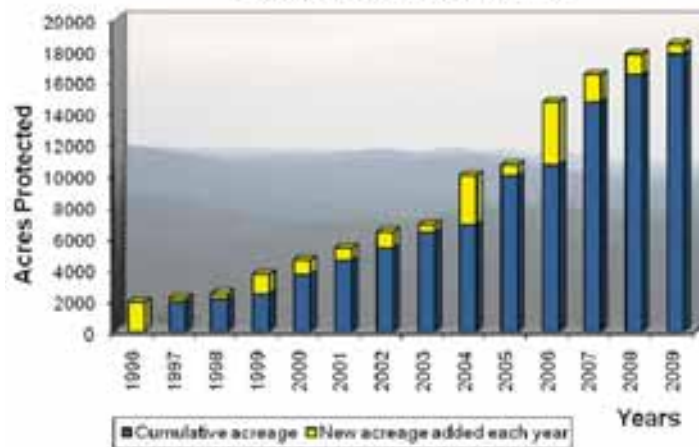
Land Protection Year in Review

In 2009, The LandTrust added 624 acres to its permanently protected properties total. That brings the overall acres protected in the 15 year history of The LandTrust up to 18,380 acres. Although this year brought economic declines not seen in generations, many benefactors and landowners still found a way to step up to the plate and keep our positive momentum moving forward at a brisk pace. Of course, since our time frame for measuring success is longer than most organizations, economic cycles are just part of the boarder "landscape" of challenges in which we operate.

We continue to work diligently on several strategic initiatives, to take advantage of the

"once-in-a-lifetime" conservation opportunities for thoughtful conservation as they arise. More than ever, we are counting on you to help us conserve the best natural and cultural treasures for those who follow us, and to take advantage of making more of these conservation opportunities realities in 2010 and the new decade that is to come.

Land Protection Totals



King Mountain Federal Earmark!

The LandTrust has fantastic news to announce! For the first time in over 6 years, Federal "Land and Water Conservation Fund" dollars are coming to the Uwharries! Thanks to an earmark sponsored by Congressman Howard Coble, The Uwharrie National Forest will be getting a new addition to the Uwharrie Trail, the King Mountain Property. Although this funding is only for half of the property, about 180 acres, it will provide the linkage to fill one of only three critical gaps left, as well as connect three fragmented US Forest Service parcels.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund derives its proceeds from offshore oil drilling leases in federal waters, but the Southeastern United States has not received significant funding from this pool of federal conservation dollars over the past decade. We are hopeful that our success with the Uwharrie Trail in 2010



Boy Scout Marker just north of property on Historic Uwharrie Trail, found by LandTrust staff.

bodes well for future help in "filling the gaps" of the Uwharrie Trail.

A big thanks to all who assisted with this project, particularly our partners in the Greater Uwharrie Conservation Partnership, the Eastern Forest Partnership, Congressman Coble, Congressman Price, and other NC Legislators who worked in a bipartisan manner to help do something good for all of our state's citizens.

“Pain-free giving that lasts forever”

I hear regularly from supporters who say “I just wish we could do more for The LandTrust.” Well, don’t think for a minute that we are not grateful for every penny and volunteer hour already given to this organization over the past 15 years by literally thousands of you.

However, there is a very easy way that everyone can make a pain-free gift to this organization that most people do not even think about. I am referring to the opportunity for YOU to make a planned gift to this organization that can live on forever in your honor.

Before you tune out thinking that planned gifts are just for the super-rich who have estate tax problems, please consider the following points.

- If every person who gets this newsletter put in their Last Will and Testament that they would like to give **\$1000** to The Land Trust for Central North Carolina out of their estate, The Land Trust could establish a **\$1 million** revolving land protection fund, a **\$1 million** stewardship and education fund, **AND** a **\$1 million** farmland protection fund. With \$5000 planned gifts from each of you, we could create a literal war-chest of land acquisition funds to buy strategic parcels as they came available.
- Gifts can be given through your estate to support only activities you want to be involved with, such as outreach and education, farmland protection, creating public parks, preserving historically significant sites, etc. We already have some dedicated funds like these set up that can only be used for specific types of projects and never for operations.
- We will accept gifts of conservation land, stocks, or even houses and cars provided that we can use such assets to save other important conservation land.
- If you own land that you plan to leave to your church or college, please remember that they do not and CAN NOT promise to protect the land as farm or forest land perpetually. The trustees of such organizations have a fiduciary obligation to fulfill the missions of their organizations, meaning that maximizing proceeds from such land in a public sale is usually the outcome of such gifts.
- Gifts of \$1000, \$10,000, or even \$100,000 made by just a handful of people could exponentially increase the impact and sustainability of this organization in a relatively short period.

We are just getting started with a sustained, long-term planned giving campaign. But we hope that you, as someone who cares about the lands of this beautiful region, will consider a planned gift to The Land Trust for Central NC. Because we make the bold promise of FOREVER in our protection work, we are uniquely situated to invest your gifts in a way that honors you and your family perpetually. For more information on how you can participate, please call Jason Walser at The Land Trust for Central NC today.



Recent Outings and Events

Falls Lake Canoe Trip

On Sunday, September 13th, approximately 45 people joined The LandTrust for Central North Carolina for a canoe trip on Falls Lake. One of the smallest lakes in the Yadkin River chain, Falls Lake is a paddlers' paradise with undeveloped lake frontage and little boat traffic. Canoes



and support were provided by Boy Scout Troop 442, sponsored by First United Methodist Church in Salisbury. Paddlers observed a wide variety of wildlife including osprey, blue heron, kingfisher, cranes and a brown snake, captured by Mark Lewis of the NC Zoo, for the assembled crowd to view up close. Paddlers got to see a part of the approximately 1,000 acres on the Stanly County side of the lake that the LandTrust is hoping to see added to Morrow Mountain State Park as part of the Alcoa Relicensing Process.

Nature Walk at Eagle Point Park

The LandTrust hosted approximately 60 children and their families on a nature walk at Eagle Point Park and Preserve in Rowan County on Sunday, Oct. 18th. Staff from Rowan Wildlife Adventures at Dan Nicholas Park provided programming for the event, including a live opossum and screech owl as well as an assortment of live turtles and snakes. Eagle Point Park and Preserve is a part of the Rowan County Parks & Recreation park system. This 100-acre tract runs adjacent to High Rock Lake for over one mile. The LandTrust for Central NC was instrumental in creating this park, purchasing it from a private landowner with privately raised funds then donating the land to Rowan County in 2000 for permanent use as a passive recreational park. The tract is 100% forested, has informational signs, over five miles of marked trails, and a canoe put-in point. A special thanks to our good friend Bob Pendergrass of Rowan

Wildlife Adventures at Dan Nicholas Park for providing support and programming for this event.



Tree Trimming at Centennial Park & Ornament Workshop at The Green Goat Gallery

The LandTrust held an ornament workshop on December 6 at the Green Goat Gallery in Spencer. Children made environmentally-friendly ornaments for squirrels and birds using bagels, popcorn, raisins, oatmeal, cranberries, birdseed, and Indian corn. Gallery owner Anne Waters baked gingerbread men for the children as a special treat. Children decorated their cookies with candies and icings.



The LandTrust's seventh annual Tree Trimming Ceremony was held at Centennial Park in the Fulton Heights Neighborhood on December 7. Families gathered to hang homemade, edible ornaments for wildlife. There was even an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus! The Ornament Workshop and Tree Trimming continue to be popular events for LandTrust supporters as they celebrate the holiday season.

Homeschoolers Canoe Trip on Lake Tillery

On September 30th approximately 20 high school students from the Rowan County Home School Association and 10 parents joined LandTrust staff for a canoe trip on Lake Tillery. The trip was co-hosted by staff from Morrow Mountain State Park, which donated canoes and equipment for the outing. Participants received a lesson in basic canoe skills from Morrow Mt. Ranger Ron Anundson,

heard a presentation on the benefits of land conservation from LandTrust operations director Andrew Waters, got to view the newly acquired Capel Property from the Uwharrie River, and enjoyed an absolutely spectacular day on the water. We would like to say a special thanks to the Woodson, Proctor and Wood Foundations for sponsoring educational outreach events such as this outing.



Land Management Tour on Bittering Property

Over 40 people came out on a sunny, crisp November day for a Land Management Tour on The LandTrust's Bittering Property. John Isenhour, Technical Assistance Biologist for the Wildlife Resources Commission, led a guided tour of the property, stopping along the way to point out various management practices implemented for wildlife benefit, some of which were funded by Farm Bill cost-



share programs. Attendees saw native grasses and shrubs growing in crop borders, and learned about the importance of these transition areas for species such as turkey and quail. John also pointed out that the bottom along the river is being cultivated for three years, after which time it will be restored to native warm season grasses, as well. The farming practices are a cost-effective way to get rid of the invasive species, such as privet and tree-of-heaven, that have been a problem on the field edges for years. For more information about how you can get assistance with land management costs, you can contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office.

New Year's Day Hike in the Birkheads

Nearly 60 people came out for a fantastic, brisk hike on New Year's Day! A joint event with Piedmont Land Conservancy, this hike featured The LandTrust for Central NC's protected 290 acre property immediately adjacent to the Birkhead Wilderness Area. This property was slated for development when The LandTrust was offered a last minute chance to buy it, and did so with the help of private donors and funding from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF). The roadway that was once to be a residential road, now has native grasses and the beginnings of tree seedlings peeking



out. It was a great turnout, and a great way to start off a New Year! The LandTrust hopes to make this a tradition, and we hope to see you there next year!

RiverDance 2009 Recap!

Approximately 350 people danced the night away at the Historic Salisbury Station on August 15th during RiverDance 2009, the annual fundraiser supporting The LandTrust for Central North Carolina. Attendees enjoyed a rousing set of dance music by The Risse Band, returning for a command performance from last year's event, and food catered by Chef Mary Berrier's Buttercup Café in Denton.

With the inclusion of a match from a LandTrust supporter, the event raised nearly \$40,000 for land conservation in the organization's ten county region, including over 6,000 acres conserved in Rowan County. "In this era of diminished expectations and tight pocketbooks, we are delighted to report attendance at RiverDance 2009, our ninth annual, was one of our best ever," reports Jason Walser, executive director. "We were particularly excited about the high number of people aged thirty and younger who attended. Their support of conservation is a positive sign for our area's future."



Nichole Towns, Corinne Eknoyan, Jolene Philpott, & Jennifer Hudson enjoy the evening!

Development Director Barbara Lawther credits the success of the event to the hard work of the outstanding committee, chaired by Jessica and Nick Goodman. "Jessica and Nick energized the committee, which made the event special," says Lawther. The party reflected their enthusiasm, resourcefulness and dedication. Lawther also noted the work of Meredith Reamer Sullivan, longtime LandTrust volunteer event coordinator.



Robin and Steve Fisher, F&M Sponsors

The LandTrust would like to thank the following sponsors for their support:

Table Sponsors – Elizabeth and Michael Bauk, Community One Bank, Sara & Bob Cook, F&M Bank, The Fisher Companies, Global Contact Services, Nicholas Goodman/F.E. Goodman Construction, KMD Construction, Deborah & Dyke Messinger, Bruce Rufty, Susan & Hayes Smith, Wallace Realty Company, Walser Technology Group, and Woodson Sayers Lawther Short Parrott & Abramson, Attorneys.

General Sponsors – Ramsay Burgin Smith, Architects, Robinson Associates, Statewide Title, and Sullivan Builders.

In-Kind Donations – Cheerwine Bottling Company, Godley's Garden Supply, and Silver Eagle Distributors



Thanks To Our Supporters!

Your donations will allow us to continue "Saving the Places You Love" in the Piedmont Region. The following are **new** or renewing members from **January 1, 2009** through **January 1, 2010**. 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**

Dr. and Mrs. Charles F. Floyd
Ms. Amy Grissom
The Estate of Lucille Proctor
Norvell
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stanback
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stanback

Heartland 100 (Maple) **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

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Heartland 100 (Dogwood) **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

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Upcoming Hikes and Events

Uwharrie Trail Scenic Vista Hike, Sunday, March 21st, 1:00pm

Join us for this rare opportunity to hike an unconnected portion of the historic Uwharrie Trail. This hike is of moderate to difficult intensity, as we climb to the pinnacle of a scenic Uwharrie mountaintop, which offers spectacular breathtaking 360 degree views. Please RSVP by calling The LandTrust at 704-647-0302.

Canoe and Hike on our Newest Acquisition! Sunday, April 25th, 1:00pm

Join us at Morrow Mountain State Park at 1:00pm, where park staff have graciously agreed to host us as we canoe across Lake Tillery up the Uwharrie River to our newly acquired Capel Property, then hike to see the unique waterfall on Dutchman's Creek and spectacular views of the Uwharrie Mountains. We expect this event to fill up fast, so RSVP soon (crystal@landtrustcnc.org or 336-633-0143), to reserve your spot! If you have your own canoe or kayak, no need to RSVP.

Kids Fun Day at the RiverPark at Cooleemee! Saturday May 15, 10:00am

Time to start thinking about warmer weather—and a fun day at the Bullhole! LandTrust staff will lead a creepy crawly walk here, looking for salamanders, turtles and snakes—oh my! This event promises to be fun for kids of all ages!

Annual Meeting at Dunn's Mountain Park, Thursday June 3rd, 6:00pm

Mark your calendars and save the date for our annual meeting at Dunn's Mountain Park. Join us for dinner and a sunset hike. Annual meeting is a fun time to get together and learn more about the conservation projects you have made possible.

LandTrust Property for Sale: Great Opportunity for Right Person

As part of our long term contract to purchase nearly 3000 acres from the City of Kannapolis which we took on in 2005, we acquired more than 450 acres in Western Rowan County along Sills Creek. With frontage on Upright and Graham Roads, this property was expected to become part of the new Second Creek Game Lands created with earlier purchases from Kannapolis. However, due to the turn in the economy, the money that we had hoped to pay off the debt associated with this property is not forthcoming. Thus, we are now forced to market the property for sale to a conservation minded purchaser.

The site will still be restricted with a conservation easement, limiting uses to hunting, farming, and limited forestry. However, two existing homesites can be maintained, restored, or replaced.

We are asking less than \$2600 per acre for this property located 9 miles from Mooresville, 14 miles from Statesville, and 9 miles from Salisbury. Property can be divided once to make two separate farms.

Please contact Jason Walser at The Land Trust for Central NC for additional information, by phone at (704)-647-0302.



Beautiful rolling preserved agricultural lands.

Longleaf Restoration Project

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and Environmental Defense have partnered to create a truly one of a kind opportunity. In this joint project—working to restore some locally collected and raised Uwharrie Ecotype longleaf pines. This unique and diverse ecosystem houses a number of endemic and rare species, and requires regular prescribed burns to maintain and encourage forest health.

Although longleaf pine are typically thought of as a coastal plain species, longleaf were once widespread in the Uwharries, as well. These trees live in a different environment, and are therefore a slightly different ecotype. Through this joint project, landowners who live in this focal area can apply for consideration to receive funding for longleaf restoration and management.

If you are a landowner interested in exploring whether longleaf pine might be



Laura Fogo and Boon Chesson with young Uwharrie Ecotype longleaf saplings.

a good option for your land, or you want to learn more about land management options and opportunities in general, please contact Laura Fogo with the US Fish and Wildlife Service at 910-695-3323, and learn more about all the many great programs that provide financial and technical assistance to help landowners improve wildlife habitat.

Work day on Bittering Property

The LandTrust Stewardship Committee rose to the challenge yet again, and helped with efforts to control invasive species on the Bittering Property. Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), also known as Chinese sumac, is an invasive fast-growing tree that can quickly take over and is difficult to control. Simply cutting them results in rapid sprouting of more trees, so they must be treated by a method of hack-and-squirt, which basi-



Preparing to hack-and-squirt invasive species.



Big thanks to our Stewardship Committee!

ally means making a small cut through the barks surface and spraying an herbicide at the place of the cut.

Committee members and staff also sprayed other noxious weeds and invasives, including Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), a small evergreen shrub that is perhaps the most prolific invasive problem in North Carolina. Although it is challenging to manage these invasive, the rewards are a healthier ecosystem for all to enjoy.



Kids enjoyed a fun event at Eagle Point Park!



Scenic views from newly protected property.



Thanks to John Isenhour for leading our tour!

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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