

# LandMark 2013



Eastern mud turtle

A publication of The LandTrust for Central NC

## Staff Update

Joe Morris named  
new Development  
Director!



The LandTrust is thrilled to announce that Joe Morris has joined us as our new Development Director! Joe is a native of Rockingham and long-time resident of Salisbury, where he served as the city's planning director. After 35 years in local government, his new career with the LandTrust will focus on building a sustainable development model to help insure the continued success of the organization. Joe and his wife, Pam, are the parents of two adult children, Sarah and Seth. A UNC Charlotte graduate, Joe enjoys gardening, kayaking and partaking in locally produced cuisine and artisan beverages. Welcome aboard Joe!

## Land Protection

# The Uwharrie River: A Resource Worth Protecting

Whether you're a kayaker, a fisherman, a gold panner, or just enjoy hiking alongside it, you know that the Uwharrie River is a wonderful

resource and a beloved recreation spot in our region. It's so special in fact, that two separate landowners this year purchased properties on the river with

the very intent of preserving them. And that's just what they did. Now, thanks to them, more of this picturesque river will remain in its natural state, ensuring scenic views for anglers and paddlers, as well as providing habitat for the river otters, bald eagles, and belted kingfishers that call this place home.

Brothers Dale and Kent Newport protected their picturesque 40-acre property, where beautiful Cedar Creek joins the Uwharrie River, in



Fred and Alice Stanback, Mark and Virginia Robertson, and Jason Walser, on the Fall Canoe Trip on the Uwharrie.

December of 2012. The large oaks and hickories of this forest are home to black-throated green warblers – a unique migratory bird species only just discovered to be nesting in the Uwharries, and they were spotted foraging on this property last April. These birds fly all the way from South and Central America to our very own high elevation forests of the Uwharries to breed and raise their young. Until a few

*Continued on page 3...*





# Letter from Director

One of the greatest strengths of local land trusts is that we ardently strive to be non-partisan, and as apolitical as possible. Within the Board of Directors of this organization, you will find passionate people representing very different political views. However, they understand that this organization and its mission are much bigger than present day political battles, and in all of our gatherings, political allegiances are checked at the door. I am proud that our board understands that what unites us all is the land – this land. The citizens of our region may view politics differently, have different histories and skin colors, and speak different languages. But this is our home, and we are creating our mutual destinies in this place together. The leaders and supporters of this organization recognize this.

However, the reality is that we all operate within the realities of economies and ever-changing political winds. The Land Trust for Central North Carolina is no different. While I would rather use this limited space to share stories of boy scouts hiking in the snow on the Capel Property, or children learning how to find and hold salamanders at Spencer Woods, the reality is that the external forces of change are so great around land conservation issues currently that I feel compelled to share some insights as to how the changing economic and political landscapes might impact our work to "Save the Places YOU Love" in this special region.

If you read carefully the stories shared in this and all previous LandTrust newsletters, you will consistently find stories of partnerships with government agencies. We have to date been largely responsible for bringing more than 1500 new acres of public game lands into state management; we have purchased land at the request of our colleagues in the State Parks and National Forest agencies; we have created city and county parks; we have protected drinking water intakes for Kannapolis, Concord, and Salisbury; we have preserved cultural heritage; we have helped install new river access points and parking areas; we have been a part of protecting views from hiking trails in Morrow Mountain State Park, as well as landscapes along scenic byways; we have quite literally been the most influential factor in keeping small farmers on their farms in several particular instances; and we have protected some of the most significant natural areas in the Southern Piedmont.

But we have not done any of this great work on behalf of the public alone. Often, we have used state programs like the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (which was established to clean up waterways across the state after dramatic fish kills caused by *Pfisteria*) to partner in the purchase of or assist with donations of land and conservation easements along important waterways. We have also relied on the Natural Heritage Trust Fund and Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to help secure parcels of land that will eventually be owned

by local governments or the State of NC. And the Agriculture Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund has assisted in the purchase of conservation easements on important farmlands.

Beyond the state agency participation, we have also relied on tax incentives from the state and federal government for conservation donations, including a tax credit at the state level, and a deduction at the federal level. Furthermore, we have relied on funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (which is a federal program funded entirely from oil drilling royalties paid by private companies drilling in federal lands or waters) to expand the Uwharrie Trail in the Uwharries. Lastly, we rely on important federal "Farm Bill" programs to help offset just some of the costs associated with trying to manage our lands in the most environmentally sensitive ways (ie, controlling invasive species, providing habitat for rare species of wildlife, restoring native ecology, etc).

The reality is that all of these programs – each and every one – are now threatened by changes in the economic and political landscapes. The challenges we face are a result of many factors, including onerous new levels of national debt, efforts to trim state government spending, and a lethargic economy. The threats to the programs we rely on are bi-partisan, with very serious proposals pending that include cutting funding to the conservation trust funds (described above), eliminating the state income tax, or capping federal charitable deductions. These decisions, if they come to fruition, could extremely hamper our ability to continue to do conservation projects, and the capping of charitable deductions could even seriously impact our operating budget.

So the obvious question is what you – what we – can do to help minimize any negative external forces from impacting our meaningful work. To be honest, in these challenging times of high unemployment and a sagging economy, none of us expect dramatic increases in funding for land conservation. But the demise of any of these programs could prove devastating to our long term efforts to try to save just a few of our last best places.

The staff and board of The LandTrust are doing our best to educate our state and federal leaders to make sure that they understand the consequences of altering the programs we rely on to help save and improve land in our region. But we encourage you too to share your thoughts about these issues with your legislators if you feel strongly. If you would like more information about any of these programs, feel free to call the staff of The LandTrust at 704-647-0302, or visit [www.land4tomorrow.org](http://www.land4tomorrow.org). Thank you ALL for your continued support of the cause.

–Jason Walser



## Uwharrie River Protection Projects continued: Newport and Motsinger-Thorpe Properties Preserved



*The Uwharrie River is an undiscovered natural treasure in our region.*

*Cont. from Pg. 1*

years ago, they weren't thought to nest in the Piedmont at all. Most black-throated greens in North Carolina are found in the Appalachians during breeding season, but there is also a small subspecies found at the coast. Dr. Joe Poston at Catawba College has collected feather samples and is doing genetic work now to determine if our Uwharrie birds are part of this small subspecies.

Protection of this special property, which has been on our "radar screen" for years, is a remarkable gift from the Newports to us all. Transactional funds for this project were provided for this project were provided from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF).



*Uwharrie River views of newly protected Motsinger-Thorpe Property.*

LandTrust easement donors Ron and Nancy Bryant preserved their 170-acre property, 3 Eagles Sanctuary, in 2007, and since then have inspired many others to do the same. When they called The LandTrust looking for a conservation property for their friends, Velvet Motsinger and Debbie Thorpe, one site we suggested caught their eye. In no time at all, they had purchased this special property – another great site for sale on the Uwharrie River in need of a conservation-minded buyer.

They donated a conservation easement on 64 acres that preserve the beautiful river and creek frontage. In addition to boasting a gorgeous natural hardwood forest, this place has the distinction of our being the site of our first confirmed black



*Dwarf larkspur on the preserve, a newly documented plant for Montgomery County.*

bear sighting. Velvet's dad was out on the property working on a chicken coop when he spotted a large black bear standing up against a pine tree. Black bears migrate through the Piedmont, but they are usually young males looking for new territory just passing through. Sightings on the Uwharrie River of this adult bear and a trail cam picture on a property nearby of a mom and cub may confirm we have more than just transient bears passing through. Black bears historically were found statewide, and if enough habitat exists, they may become established here once again. Thanks to great landowners like Velvet and Debbie, this is one place where wildlife like bear will always be able to find a home.

Transactional costs for this project were also made possible by a grant from The Conservation Trust for North Carolina.



# Adams Farm Expands Protection on South Yadkin River

For several decades, Dr. Richard Adams – a prominent orthopedic surgeon who practiced in Iredell County – has been buying land around his farm. And almost as quickly as he buys it, he tries to ensure its permanent protection.

Dr. Adams has been featured in previous newsletters, as he has protected more than 900 acres so far through conservation easements. In 2012, he protected an additional 349 acres of farmland adjacent and near to the South Yadkin River where Rowan and Iredell Counties converge. A good portion of this newly protected farmland was purchased within weeks of him putting conservation easements on them to ensure their long term protection. Although there are a couple of existing farm houses on these properties, no new homes will be allowed, and riparian buffers will be implemented to ensure long term protection of the water quality in the South Yadkin River.

Dr. Adams reminisces, “When I was growing up on a farm in Forsyth County, I could go out and walk or ride my bike for hours on end, exploring the countryside. My parents never worried about me, and



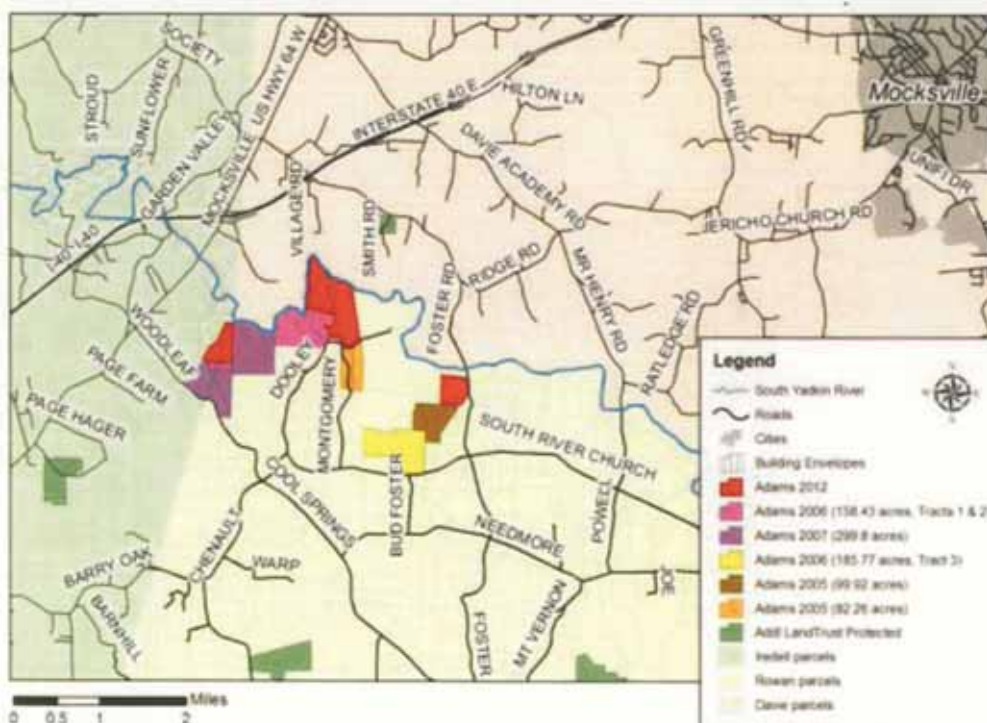
*The beautiful South Yadkin River on newly protected Adams Farm tract.*

I learned much in those formative years that would stay with me for the rest of my life. Today, that farm that I explored every nook and cranny of is filled with roads and houses and fences, and I wonder what the children growing up there learn about this earth. I want to do my part to make sure that the lands I own will serve to educate future generations about how nature works.”

Dr. Adams’ partner and land manager, Renee, has worked diligently to care for the land herself. She has advocated for and oversees the permanent protection of this land.

She stated at the most recent closing, “If we don’t ensure the protection of this land, who will? This land is really, really special. It takes a lot of work to keep it productive and accessible, but it is worth it. I hope that in 500 years, people will still be coming to this farm and be as inspired by it as I am every day.”

## Adams Farm - Location Map





## A Vision for the Rocky River: Bishop Farm Protected



"Bob-white...bob-whiiite...bob-whiiitee!" Once a commonly encountered sound in North Carolina, the call of the bobwhite quail is so close to its namesake it's not easily mistaken. These once plentiful birds have been in serious decline and have largely disappeared from most areas. Spooking up a covey of quail will challenge the austerity of any man. Flushing all at once, these birds take off en masse with loud flapping and flailing – an experience in the field that you won't soon forget – and one that staff member Crystal Cockman had just minutes after setting foot on John Bishop's farm.

John has already protected nearly 800 acres with The LandTrust, and this year added another 159 acres that adjoins the rest of the property to the north. This gorgeous rolling Anson County farmland is located at the confluence of the Rocky and the Pee Dee Rivers. This project was made ~~possibly~~ *possibly* by conservation funding from the Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program and the North

Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. Additionally, transactional costs were provided by The Conservation Trust for North Carolina from their Farmland Forever Fund grant program.



*Landowner John Bishop on the newly protected portion of farm.*



*View of the Forks of the Pee Dee and Rocky Rivers from the farm.*

John's farm is not only beautiful and expansive; he also manages it impeccably for wildlife. Frequent prescribed burns and large thinning of pine plantation provide open sunlight and provide the conditions necessary to create a diverse understory for species like quail, rabbit, turkey, and deer. His excellent management was recognized when he was awarded the 2009 Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. If more landowners manage their own farms in a manner similar to John, bobwhite quail may one day be common again along the Rocky River.



## Little River Lewis-Lawrence Preserve: Protecting A Patchwork of Habitats for Biodiversity

With more than 7 billion people in the world, it is questionable how long our resources will sustain increasing demands. With global environmental challenges like climate change, we may question our ability to individually really make an impact. Mark Lewis and Jane Lawrence are conservationists who are certainly doing their part not just by preserving their land, but holistically living a lifestyle that seeks to preserve biodiversity and cut back on their ecological footprint as much as possible.

Mark's house is completely off the electric grid, powered only by solar power. Jane and her husband Craig live in an energy-efficient round house. Mark is a herpetologist at the NC Zoo, with a passion for preserving creepy crawlies like timber rattlesnakes and marbled salamanders. Jane is an avid birder who can identify any bird that might be found here just by the sound of its call.

Mark and Jane protected 138 acres in 2005, and in 2012 preserved an additional 62 acres adjoining it that they later purchased. Their property possesses a wide variety of habitats – their mature hardwood forest buffering the West Fork of the Little River transitions into a piedmont prairie and a open understory pine savanna. Two wildlife ponds, one for fish and one for amphibians, are also found here. The West Fork of Little River houses rare mussels just downstream of the site. Prescribed burns here assist in keeping the native prairie and savanna open, much as they would have been in pre-settlement times.

For Mark and Jane, creating a better place for wildlife is their ultimate goal. Mark once said that a relative of his who knew a lot about timber value asked him why he didn't cut all his trees and use the money to buy whatever he wanted. Mark said that was a great idea, but if he had the money what he would buy is a forest.

Rather than material possessions, Mark values standing on his front porch and spotting deer, turkey, and rabbit foraging together naturally; or quietly standing behind a tree on the Little River as a wood duck approaches without spotting him, or watching river otter play in the stream alongside him.

Jane and Mark and Craig are inspiring people that all of us can learn from. They are truly walking the walk and future generations will reap the benefits of the remarkable stewardship that they practice.

Transactional costs for this project were made possible by a grant from The Conservation Trust for North Carolina.



*Mark Lewis on West Fork of Little River (top), Timber Rattlesnake on property (middle), Jane Lawrence pauses while birding (bottom)*



## Barber Heritage Forest and Wildlife Preserve Dedicated



The LandTrust is pleased to announce its participation in the establishment of the "Joyce Ann Barber Heritage Forest and Wildlife Preserve" on the Historic Barber Farm in Western Rowan County. This 70 acre mature hardwood forest has been protected with a very restrictive conservation easement that will ensure that the forest remains in a natural state in perpetuity. The easement also prohibits recreational hunting on the site.

Rebecca Barber Floyd and Joyce Ann Barber grew up on the historic Barber Farm in the Barber community, and they had previously donated a conservation easement ensuring that their property would not be developed or subdivided in any way. However, the easement did permit commercial forestry operations. Joyce Ann and Rebecca decided they did not want the dense forest to ever be harvested.

When Joyce Ann Barber fell ill in late 2012, Rebecca Barber Floyd decided to move forward with protecting the forest in honor of her sister. Rebecca recounts, "Joyce Ann loved this farm so much, and she loved animals. She wanted to ensure that not only the farm, but also the forest, would continue to exist for future generations to get the same pleasure out of it that she had experienced."

Charles Floyd, husband of Rebecca and brother-in-law of Joyce Ann, noted "While the forest is really beautiful today, in 100 years, it will really be something unique in the state. I am really proud of Becky for her vision in making this commitment."

## Nesbit Property Mature Hardwood Forest Protected

Dr. Robert Nesbit and Mary Gail Nesbit have been seeking ways to conserve Mary Gail's family land in Davidson County for several years. Which is why their donation of a very restrictive conservation easement in 2012 is a major accomplishment in their goals of ensuring that the family property will look nearly the same as it does today a century from now.

The parcel is located within a mile of "downtown Welcome, NC." It is home to a mature hardwood forest that provides an oasis, of sorts, to the urbanization surrounding it.



The property is traversed on two sides by primary roads. Several apartments are located adjacent. And commercial development is located within a few hundred yards. Yet, when standing in the middle of the Nesbit Preserve, one can nary tell that civilization exists within an hours' drive. Truly, it is a very special property located in the midst of increasing development. Rolling hills, 100-year-old hardwood trees, wet-weather streams, and a small cabin make this property seem like a relic from times gone by.

Owner Mary Gail Nesbit noted, "We have done everything we can to ensure that my family's property remain a contributing property to the ecological and cultural landscape of this special community. With the donation of this conservation easement, we feel like we have done everything we can to try to protect all that is special about our family's land for future generations to enjoy."



# Uwharrie Trail Update - McArthur Property Secured! Another Gap Filled!

What started as one man's vision 40 years ago, is now closer to completion than it has been since, and volunteers from near and far are joining together to see it achieved. Joe Moffitt tells how the idea for the Uwharrie Trail came about when his Boy Scout troop was driving up to the southern Appalachians for their 50 mile hike and getting lost in those unfamiliar woods. The son of a trapper himself, he knew the woods and streams of the Uwharries like the back of his hand, and his community connection meant he could procure the necessary handshake agreements to start a 50 mile trail right here – and the Uwharrie Trail was born.

In the past 20 years many sections of the original trail on private land have closed as property was sold or left to heirs who no longer live here. Thanks to the joint efforts of The LandTrust, the NC Zoo, the US Forest Service, and many others, several of the gaps in the trail have now been filled, making the permanent public ownership of the trail in those sections a reality. The LandTrust purchased Little Long Mountain with loans

last year, and has begun building the new trail through that property. Trail workdays have already

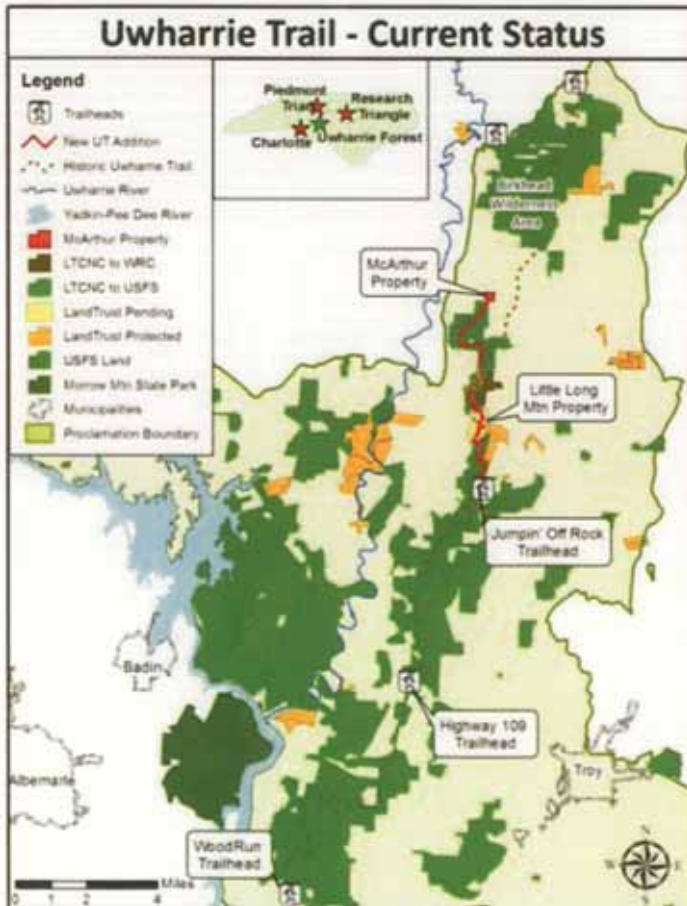


*Nell Allen, Moni Bates, Duke Interns, and Pele, enjoy the views during a site visit on the McArthur Property.*

begin and will <sup>take</sup> place on the second Saturdays of February, March, April, May, and June (visit [www.landtrustcnc.org](http://www.landtrustcnc.org) to learn how you can help).

Thanks to the partnership of the NC Zoo and the NC Zoo Society, another new Uwharrie Trail tract has been secured: the McArthur Property, a 45-acre tract with frontage on High Pine Church Road. This critical property was for sale and the Zoo <sup>(dash)</sup> through its nonprofit arm the NC Zoo Society was able to use funds from a bequest to secure it. This unique property has frontage on High Pine Church Road that will allow for development of a new trailhead and small parking area, while also providing landscape-scale views. This property adds another 4 miles north from Thayer Road over King Mountain and the Walkers Creek area of the national forest, bringing the length of the contiguous trail to nearly 30 miles. The goal for this project is to transfer this property to the US Forest Service (USFS) as a land exchange, with the Zoo acquiring from USFS a portion of a property outside of their proclamation boundary but in the immediate viewshed of the <sup>entrance</sup> to the Zoo. Thanks so much to the Zoo for making this project possible and enabling this next section of the Uwharrie Trail to be realized!

A special thank you to David Craft for providing funds to secure an option on the McArthur Property, and thanks to David Craft and David Gardener for hosting and organizing trail workdays. Funds for trail layout and establishment were provided through the NC Adopt-A-Trail Grant Program.





## Protection of Springer Property Complete

This fall The LandTrust completed the permanent conservation of the 400-acre Springer Property at the confluence of the Yadkin and S. Yadkin River with assistance of a grant from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF). The LandTrust acquired the property from the Springer estate in December 2011 but took a significant loan to complete the acquisition. The CWMTF grant enabled us to pay off the loan and put permanent conservation restrictions on the property.

"Without assistance from the North Carolina Clean Water Trust Fund, this project, one of the most significant in our organization's history, could not have been completed," notes LandTrust Executive Director Jason Walser.

The state of North Carolina is a leader in land conservation thanks to programs like CWMTF, but unfortunately funding for this agency has been reduced by 90% in recent years, severely hampering our ability to complete significant projects like the Springer Property.

The Springer Property sits at the heart of The LandTrust's 3,000-acre "Two Rivers Preserve Conservation Corridor," and is the site of the water intake for Salisbury-Rowan utilities.



*Bruce Sorrie with the NC Natural Heritage Program and Greg Walker with the US Fish and Wildlife Service examine plant life on the newly protected Springer Property.*

## Old Growth Longleaf Forest Fully Protected



LandTrust supporters may remember from previous newsletters that we purchased a unique property boasting a rare old-growth longleaf pine forest in 2011. When we first learned about the special property, we did not honestly believe that we would be able to save it. After all, the economy was in shambles, state funding for conservation programs was being cut, and there initially were no obvious partners to help us with the purchase. However, thanks to a donation from Fred and Alice Stanback to help us buy an "option to purchase" on the property, the NC Zoo for their commitment to protecting natural flora and fauna, and the NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF) who saw how special this place really was and awarded some of its very limited funding to make its preservation possible, this forest will not just remain for future generations - it will also only get better.

In July of 2012, The LandTrust transferred the remainder of the Arnett Branch Longleaf Pine Forest, to the NC Zoo. This 116-acre property is the last known old-growth Piedmont Longleaf Pine forest of its size remaining in North Carolina.

The Zoo will manage the site as an educational forest and restore the understory by slowly introducing prescribed fire. The Zoo hosted two workdays to rake around the largest trees so as to prevent accumulated leaf litter from damaging them when burning takes place. The LandTrust is grateful for the NC Zoo's partnership and the opportunity to work together to preserve these trees for future generations, and to enhance this forest to see how phenomenal it can truly become.



## Spencer Woods Update

With help from dedicated volunteers and The Town of Spencer, progress on developing the Spencer Woods property into a public nature preserve continues. Last spring, 50+ volunteers joined us in a clean-up day and volunteer Cindy Bernhardt led a nature walk as part of Spencer's Earth Day Celebration. This summer the Spencer Woods Trail Committee worked with trail design firm Jeremy Early Trailworks to design a primitive trail system and has held work days to begin trail work. In January Spencer submitted a grant to the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to construct amenities such as parking lots, an outdoor education center, and a handicapped-access trail and boardwalk. The

LandTrust will continue to work with Spencer in 2013 and beyond. Once complete, the preserve will be dedicated in honor of local conservationist Fred Stanback.



*Cindy Bernhardt teaches kids about the hardwood trees at Spencer Woods.*

## Annual Meeting at Springer Farm



*Thanks to Laura Fogo and Kacy Cook for leading a bird walk!*

On Sunday, June 3rd, more than 50 members attended The LandTrust's annual meeting at the Springer Farm. Participants elected two new members to the Board of Directors, Ruth Ann Grissom and Richmond County attorney Bill Webb, and heard about the organization's recent accomplishments from Executive Director Jason Walser. The meeting was a chance to show off the recently acquired 400-acre Springer property, purchased from the Springer estate in December 2011. Attendees got to take a nature walk through the hardwood forest and a hayride tour of the property's farming operations. Special thanks to Addison Davis, John Isenhour, and 2012 Duke interns for all of their clean-up work helping us get ready for the event.

## Stand Up That Mountain Booksigning

On August 23rd, The LandTrust and the Catawba College Center for the Environment were proud to present a special evening with Jay Leutze, author of *Stand Up That Mountain: The Battle to Save One Small Community Along the Appalachian Trail*. More than 100 people came to hear Jay tell the story of his small community's efforts to save the viewshed of the Appalachian Trail from a proposed surface mine on a mountain near Roan Mountain. If you missed this event check out his website for other readings, or pick up the book and read this inspiring true story.



*More than 150 people came to hear Jay tell his inspiring conservation story.*



## Fall Colors Canoe Trip



*More than 30 people joined us on our fall Uwharrie River float trip.*

## Bird Talk at NC Zoo

The LandTrust was fortunate to have John Gerwin, ornithologist at the NC Museum of Sciences in Raleigh, speak on October 10th at the NC Zoological Park about his research on neotropical migratory birds of the Uwharries. We learned why some birds fly thousands of miles just to nest and raise young in our own Uwharrie Mountains. Many of these species are decreasing in number, some having lost half or more of their total population, and the efforts of The LandTrust to preserve habitat types they need such as mature hardwood forests are important in preventing further population declines.

More than 30 folks came out on October 21st, a beautiful fall day, for a canoe trip on the Uwharrie River. We gathered at our gorgeous Capel Property preserve, and canoed downstream to the mouth of the Uwharrie River where it enters the Yadkin-Pee Dee River. We explored the coves of Hidden Lake, spotting turtles and great blue herons along the way. The LandTrust purchased the 244-acre Capel Property in 2010 and was awarded Clean Water Management Trust Fund monies to purchase an additional 64 acres on Hidden Lake, with bluffs and rocky outcrops. Special thanks to Boy Scout Troop 442 and leaders David Wilson and Bruce Kolkebek for providing canoes and assistance.



*Attendees were allowed to examine museum specimens, preserved for science after found on roads.*

## Ornament making



*Children made holiday birdseed ornaments to feed wildlife in winter.*

Each year at Christmas time The LandTrust hosts an event for children to make wildlife-friendly ornaments. This year our neighbor here at the Salisbury office, Jess Buckwalter of The Salisbury Art Station, hosted our event. The Salisbury Art Station is a wonderful business that provides individual and group art lessons for children, young and old. Thanks to Jess, this year's event was one of our best ever! Each year The LandTrust hosts several children-friendly events emphasizing the importance of land and water conservation for protecting wildlife habitat. Please help us continue to provide these free opportunities for our children—Support The LandTrust!



## RiverDance 2012

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina's annual, end-of-summer soiree netted nearly \$26,000 to help save the places we love! Over 300 dedicated conservationists, members and volunteers danced the night away on August 18th at the Historic Salisbury Train Station. The smooth sounds of The Risse Band provided the back beat while guests enjoyed the Caribbean- inspired cuisine prepared by Rowan County's own Chef Henry. Party goers celebrated under festoon lights and bottle tree chandeliers, interspersed with native trees, fresh flowers and a riparian-themed table décor. Committee chair, Pam and Joe Morris worked with a dedicated group of volunteers making RiverDance 2012 the most successful ever!

chairs - no company



Special thanks to the RiverDance 2012 Committee!

Tina and Reid Acree	Laura and Matt Hannah
Lacresa and Richard Allen	Emily Hunter
Andrea Anders and Michel Bitzer	Jolene Philpott
Elizabeth and Forrest Anderson	Trisha and Tim Proper
Lindsey and Steve Antosek	Susan and Hayes Smith
Liz and Tripp Edwards	Tracey and Kenan Smith
Kelly and Billy Fisher	Taylor and Ryan Starrett
Brenda and Franco Goodman	Nichole and Erron Towns
Amy and Will Goodnight	Traci and Brad Williams
Emily and Wes Graham	



## Dairy Dash 5K Trail-Run

On Saturday, September 15th, The LandTrust for Central North Carolina, in partnership with Hoffner Organic Farms, sponsored the first annual Dairy Dash 5K Trail Run, the only trail-run 5K in our region. Proceeds from the event are going towards helping The LandTrust support farmland preservation through the Central Piedmont. In 2011 The LandTrust conserved the 261-acre Hoffner



*Children and adults alike share in the fun on race day!*



*And they're off! More than 300 runners came out for our Dairy Dash!*

Dairy in Rowan County, one of the only organic dairies in the state. Overall, The LandTrust has worked with farmers to protect over 3,700 acres of working farmland in Rowan County, over 2,800 acres in Iredell County, and over 2,700 acres in Davie County. Throughout our service region we have protected over 10,000 acres of working farmland. More than 300 runners came out in support of farmland preservation!

3,800



## Naturalist Weekend in the Uwharries, Focus on Birding



*Opportunity for kids to explore nature.*

John Gerwin, ornithologist at the NC Museum of Sciences in Raleigh, and staff member Crystal Cockman will be hosting our first Uwharrie Naturalist Weekend on May 4th and 5th. We will have hikes at 9am and 1pm on various trails on our Low Water Bridge Preserve, pointing out unique bird species by sight and sound along the way. John will also be mist-netting some birds for folks to see and hold. Crystal will be leading a canoe trip with very limited spots available on Saturday afternoon, but open to anyone who brings their own canoe or kayak. There will be an option to camp on Saturday night, and we will do a late evening hike, listening for owls and nightjars.

Feel free to come to one or both hikes as we will hike different trails and are sure to see different wildlife every trip. The event is free but you must sign up, and to RSVP please call or email Crystal at 336-633-0143 or [crystal@landtrustcnc.org](mailto:crystal@landtrustcnc.org).

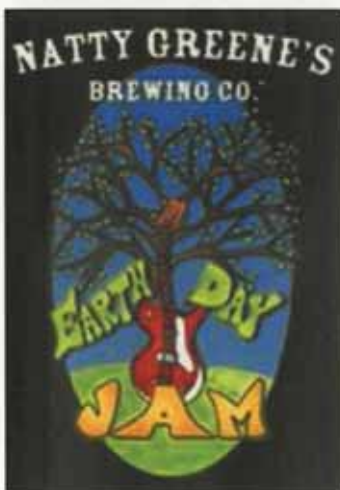
## Annual Meeting 2013

Our annual meeting this year will take place on Sunday, June 2nd at Morgan Ridge Vineyards at 3:30pm (486 John Morgan Rd, Gold Hill, NC 28071). LandTrust staff will share briefly about the conservation success stories you have made possible this year, followed by wine and hors d'oeuvres. For those interested, we will tour an adjacent property possessing a unique natural community called a Goldhill Flatwoods ecosystem before the meeting. The landowners here are restoring 50 acres to a savanna/woodland, and more than 160 native plants are found here in this rapidly declining habitat type.



*Biologists inventory this Gold Hill Flatwoods restoration site.*

## Natty Greene's Brewing Co. Earth Day Jam to benefit the LandTrust for Central North Carolina



Now in its second year, Earth Day Jam is an all-day music and arts festival to raise funds and awareness for The LandTrust. The event will be April 20th, 2013, at Saving Grace Farms near Salisbury. Behind the creative energies of Ashley Honbarrier and Stacy Carter, a new generation of conservation-conscious

music enthusiasts have come together to create a family-friendly event that promises to be even more successful than last year's inaugural run. With presenting sponsor Natty Greene's Brewing Company, the 2013 Earth Day Jam will feature 16 musical acts performing throughout the day and promises to draw up to 500 attendees to the festival which will also feature art, environmental education, local foods, Yadkin valley wines and much more! The headlining act, Larry Keel and Natural Bridge, has been described by reviewers as the most powerful, innovative, and all out exhilarating flat-pickin' guitarist performing today. Stayed tuned for more information at [www.landtrustcnc.org/2013/earthdayjam/](http://www.landtrustcnc.org/2013/earthdayjam/)



# Thanks to our Donors!

Your donations allow us to continue "Saving the Places You Love" in the Piedmont. The following are new or renewing members from January 1, 2012, through January 1, 2013. 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. Thanks for supporting The LandTrust!

## Heartland 100 Golden Oak \$5,000 and up

Mr. John Bishop  
Conservation Trust For North Carolina  
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## Barry Davis Surveying Donates Magnetic Locator

Barry Davis Surveying of Charlotte and Albemarle has kindly donated a Schonstedt magnetic locator to the Land Trust. Surveyors, utilities and other industries use this highly specialized equipment to locate iron and steel markers, pipes and structural members. Magnetic locators are very effective when the markers are buried or overgrown. The Land Trust will use this new tool in its Land Stewardship program to identify boundary markers (usually iron pipes).

The Schonstedt locator is one of the top models and is very rugged, reliable and lightweight. Barry has provided his surveying services to the Land Trust for properties in Anson County.



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RiverDance 2013  
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Save the Date!





## Stewardship Report

Last February, The LandTrust contracted with the N.C. Forest Service to conduct a prescribed burn on a portion of the Low Water Bridge Preserve. Approximately 250 acres were burned, with the main purpose of promoting an important species along the river: giant river cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*). The southeastern United States has experienced a loss of cane habitat similar to that of longleaf pine – it's been estimated that more than 98 percent of all large canebrakes (areas of dense cane growth) here have been lost since the time of settlement. Cane is an important ecosystem that aids in preserving water quality and provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Canebrake ecosystems are ecologically significant as habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Several species that are now extinct were once dependent upon these canebrakes, including Carolina Parakeets and Passenger Pigeons. The burn here was made possible by funds available through the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), providing funding for prescribed burns on properties within three miles of National Forest lands.

In February of 2013, The LandTrust contracted with the NC Forest Service to perform a second prescribed burn on our Capel Property, made possible with funding from the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, a program of the USDA Farm Bill. The purpose of this burn was to promote and enhance the native warm season grassland habitat found here, which is home to a variety of wildlife species, including migratory grassland songbirds.



*County Ranger, Scott Maynor, oversees Capel Property burn.*

### Interns

## Thanks to our interns



The LandTrust would like to say a special thanks to our Summer 2012 Duke University Stanback Interns.

Alicia Vasto is a student at the Nicholas School of the Environment in their Master of Environmental Management (MEM) program. Alicia is working on a comprehensive management plan for The

LandTrust's Low Water Bridge Preserve, which includes looking at prescribed burns, invasive species management, educational trails, management of unique habitat types like the river cane and native white pines found here.

Nora Morse is a joint MEM and Master of Public Policy student. Nora's project focused on looking at corporate models of land conservation. She examined various business models and how they could be structured to provide more flexible options for protecting and managing land for conservation.

Paul Gerlach is also in the MEM Program, and his work focused on field surveys of breeding birds in the Uwharries. He compiled other historical data in the Uwharries that is now being used by Curtis Smalling, the Important Bird Area (IBA) director in North Carolina with Audubon, to examine obtaining an IBA designation for the Uwharrie Region.

A special thank you also to the Uwharrie National Forest district ranger Deborah Walker for providing housing for our interns on the forest campground.



## 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.



*Kids join in and help clean up Spencer Woods.*



*Buddy Hoffner on Dairy Dash Race Day!*



*Sunrise on the Kannapolis Lands, owned by farmer Johnny Moore and protected by The LandTrust.*

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