



FIELD NOTES

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina

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Field Notes is a midseason newsletter used by the LandTrust to update its contributors on the progress of projects, upcoming events, and news in the office.



Photo Credit: Bob Bailey

Falls Reservoir

LandTrust Signs Alcoa Relicensing Settlement Agreement

Nearly 6,000 acres are proposed to be protected, which includes a 1,085 acre addition to Morrow Mountain State Park, 4,062 acres added to Wildlife Resources Commission Gamelands Program, and 750 more acres to become county public recreation areas. See page 8 for a detailed map of properties anticipated to be protected.

Davidson County Property Protected

Teague-Smith Easement a True Family Affair

All conservation easement donations are family decisions, but when Mary Teague and her brother, Willard Smith, decided to donate an easement on their 82-acre family farm in Davidson County, the donation became a true family affair. That's because Mary and husband, James, had already deeded their share of ownership to their two daughters for estate planning purposes, retaining a life estate on the property where they will settle after refurbishing a historic home. Including spouses, eight people signed the easement, a new LandTrust record. But the effort was worth it, creating a new foothold for conservation in this still-rural section of eastern Davidson County.

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Letter From The Executive Director

Saving Working Landscapes, Saving Jobs

By Jason A. Walsler

Chris Hoffner is giving it his best shot.

A fourth generation dairy farmer in western Rowan County, Chris is doing everything he can to keep the farm operation, as well as his livelihood, going. His story was recently told in the *Salisbury Post* as part of a series on the declining dairy business in our region. With the costs of gas and feed increasing while market prices for milk remain relatively flat, Chris knew he couldn't continue to compete with those who are milking thousands of head of cattle three times per day with campuses of migrant labor on cheaper land in the Midwest and elsewhere in the South.

So Chris decided to go organic, where demand is increasing and the final product sells for a premium. But the road is not going to be an easy one. First of all, his family's 300 acres of crop fields must be converted to organic (no pesticides, artificial fertilizers, etc.) for several growing cycles before he can get "organic" certification and sell his milk for a premium. It will also take time for him to replace his herd to one completely free of the antibiotics and hormones traditionally used to create artificially long and productive lactation cycles among the cattle. During this time of increasing costs and lower output, he will still only be able to sell the milk he produces at the lower non-organic rates.

But while you and I are still sleeping each day, Chris is in the milking barn doing all he can to keep his dream of farming alive.

And his hard work is paying off. Already, he has attained certification for some of his cattle and is seeing the potential of higher returns when his entire herd becomes certified.

So what does this have to do with The LandTrust for Central North Carolina? As noted in the *Salisbury Post* story, Chris could not have had the chance to go organic if we had not contracted with the City of Kannapolis to buy their land next to the Hoffner farm and keep it in farming. Aside from preventing incompatible uses going in next to the dairy, this project also provides Chris and his family the assurance that they will continue to be able to lease a couple hundred acres for production of natu-

ral hay to feed the cattle.

Chris is working hard to keep the farm together, and his story is unfortunately not unique. We know of dozens of such similar success stories here at The LandTrust, and wish we could share each and every one of them with you, our donors and friends. Our hard work is indeed making a difference; one farm, one community, one watershed at a time. And we could not do these projects without the support of YOU, The LandTrust donor. On behalf of Chris and countless other farmers, hikers, hunters, paddlers, birdwatchers, historians, and future generations, I thank you for making these projects possible.



Jason Walsler speaks to Chris Hoffner, David Lentz, and Allen Hoffner, farmers currently leasing Kannapolis Lands.

Teague-Smith Property Continued....



The property features rolling pasture, mature hardwood forests, about five acres of wetlands, scenic viewshed on Old Highway 64 and Conrad Hill Mine Road, and approximately 4,600 linear feet of tributaries to the nearby Fourmile Branch, which feeds into High Rock Lake. There's even a family connection to the creek. "This land originally belonged to our ancestor Captain Peter Hedrick, an officer in the Revolutionary War," says Willard. "The story is that he was

such an outstanding officer that, in return for his service during the war, he was granted land four miles down the creek and four miles across." Thus, the name "Fourmile Branch."

Today, the property's historic significance is defined primarily by the Victorian house that Mary and Willard's grandfather, Grover "Pops" Hedrick, built beginning in 1908. Mary and James are restoring the grand two-story structure, visible from Old Highway 64, where Mary and Willard spent so many happy hours. "As children we were always at that house, either gardening or playing in the attic. Now I'm going home," says Mary of her restoration efforts. "I like to call the house 'My Tara,'" she adds with a laugh.

The property is also home to an abundance of wildlife—a recent visit revealed numerous deer tracks, while a chorus of frogs sang happily from

the wetlands. There's even a ghost! "Some folks used to say you could see either a headless horse, or a horse with a headless rider, walking through the fields," recalls Willard.

Mary and Willard are proud of their efforts to conserve the family property and are advocates for conservation, reaching out to neighbors and relatives with adjoining properties to educate them about conservation options. "My family has always said, 'Save the land. Keep the land, they don't make it anymore. Be good stewards of the land,'" says Mary, explaining their decision to donate the easement. "This was the best way to do it. My mother always wanted us to protect the land, and Pops (her grandfather) would be proud we did. So we just decided to go for it." A family affair, indeed.

Thanks and Best Wishes to Kevin Redding!

In the middle of March, Kevin announced to The LandTrust he would be leaving us to assume the role of Executive Director at our sister organization to the north, The Piedmont Lands Conservancy (PLC). We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Kevin for six years of dedication and accomplishments while working here. He has made great strides for conservation in this area, and will continue to with PLC, one of the most respected and effective land trusts in the state. This move allows him to be closer home and spend more time with wife, Lori, and son, Boone. The staff will greatly miss his positive and outgoing personality, sense of humor, and ability to make big things happen, but we

certainly wish him the best as he moves to this next stage of his life.

Kevin began with The LandTrust in 2001 as Grant's Creek Coordinator, then became the Uwharrie Land Specialist, and lastly the Associate Director. His knowledgeable experience in land conservation, along with his natural ability to work with people and strong administrative skills have helped The LandTrust make great strides for conservation.

One of his most notable achievements is spearheading the Bingham Lands acquisition, 1160 acres of mature hardwood forests with miles of Uwharrie River frontage. He has also worked to protect properties along important waterways, was an integral part of the historical Pisgah Covered Bridge preservation, and arranged for



the last-minute protection of 290 acres of would-be subdivision next to the Birkhead Wilderness Area. From protecting vast expanses of Stanly County farmland, to important ecological corridors, to reconnecting portions of the Uwharrie Trail, Kevin has provided leadership for many conservation achievements. We hope you will join us in wishing him the very best in all his future endeavors.

LandTrust Benefits from Uwharrie Trail Run

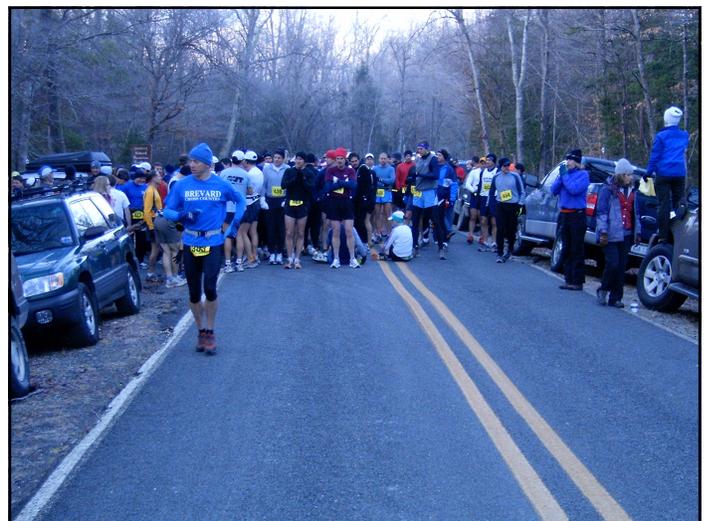
On a crisp Saturday morning in February, over 600 amazing athletes converged on the Uwharrie National Recreational Trail to challenge their bodies and minds. Their goal: complete either an 8, 20 or 40 mile run across the rugged Uwharrie Mountain landscape. This year marked the 16th Annual Uwharrie Trail Run and the first time that the proceeds of the race were donated to The LandTrust to support our work on reconnecting the historic Uwharrie Trail.

In addition to receiving the net proceeds from the race, participants were also given the option of donating an additional \$3 to help make the event carbon neutral. These funds were used to purchase actual carbon credits on the open market and will help The LandTrust plant trees on our protected properties.

The LandTrust would like to thank all the sponsors and dedicated volunteers who make the Uwharrie Trail Run such a great event. Your support allows us to continue Saving the Places You Love, like the historic Uwharrie Trail.



LandTrust Staff volunteer at the 20 mile finish line.



As the sun comes up, participants eagerly await the start.

Correction on Historic Cowan Farm Article

In our last newsletter, we announced the protection of the historic Cowan Farm. In the article we referred to the home as the historic Cowan-Wagoner House, built in 1810. The home is actually the historic Wood Grove House built by Thomas Cowan sometime around 1800. We apologize for these inadvertent inaccuracies.



Historic Wood Grove House

Photo Credit: Bob Bailey

Save the Date!

The Committee:

*Kelly and Ben Goodman
Co-Chairmen*

*Rosemary and Bryce Beard
Suzanne and John Casey
Anne Scott and Donny Clement
Nan and Danny Fisher
Shari and Bill Graham
Joe Lancione and Tom Wolpert
Mary Lou Lipscomb
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Sue and John Spear
Diana and Andy Storey
Meredith and Paul Sullivan
Annie and C.D. Taylor
Paula and Bill Troxler
Dana and Brad Walser
Brittany and Johnny Wear
Scotti and Billy Webb
Jan and Dan Williams*



RiverDance 2007!

Saturday, July 28

*Entertainment by
The Troupers Dance Band*

*Cocktail Buffet catered by
The Right Touch*

Recent Outings & Events

Birkhead Wilderness Hike

An energetic group of hikers from near and far, many with canine companions in tow, gathered at the Thornburg Trailhead on March 3rd for The LandTrust's Birkhead Wilderness Hike. The nine-mile hike offered breathtaking views of the rolling Uwharrie Mountains, and from the top of the highest peak staff proudly pointed out the newly acquired Birkhead Property. Although the trail was damp from the previous weeks' rain, the attendees trekked on through the gorgeous landscape, enjoying everything from the beautiful creeks to the huge shortleaf pine trees. This warm weather hike refreshed and reminded all that spring is on the way, as did the garter snake, who made a trail-side appearance while soaking up the sun's rays.



Morrow Mountain Hike

Jeff Michael led an excited and interested group of hikers by some wonderful historical and natural wonders in Morrow Mountain State Park on March 31st. Members of the group squeezed through Indian needle rock, we all peered curiously at a historic rock wall, and Dennis Testerman even found a picture perfect arrowhead! To add to the excitement, a veritable herd of deer ran swiftly by us, a huge black snake was sighted on a nearby log, and beautiful trees and wildflowers, including dogwoods and fringe orchids, were in bloom. A midway break at beautiful Mountain Creek and a gorgeous view of towering Morrow Mountain as we came near the end made for a great afternoon jaunt.

LandTrust Office Open House

When we invited our supporters to our Salisbury office on a Thursday afternoon for an Open House, we were expecting a handful of die-hard supporters to show up around 4:00 p.m. and stay for an hour and a half. We were in for a pleasant surprise. Almost 50 LandTrust supporters showed up and the event lasted almost four hours! Staff and Board members mingled with bankers, volunteers, business owners, farmers, lawyers, and landowners. We shared some recent successes and fielded questions about current and future projects, and all present enjoyed the opportunity to get to each other better and hear stories and suggestions. Due to the overwhelming success of this event we plan to make Open Houses a regular occurrence.



Arthur and Lislott Harberts catch up with Connor Coleman



Environmental Education Event

When we advertised for our Environmental Education Event we asked: "Do you know what the skull of an armadillo or vampire bat looks like? Ever seen a whale vertebra or a red eyed vireo nest?" We were surprised to find out just how knowledgeable the young people that showed up were and how many knew the answers! Over 45 people joined us at the Center for the Environment at Catawba College as Lisa Wear's and her students taught the attendees through hands-on displays. The event was enjoyable and informative for all who attended.

Upcoming Outings and Events

- *South Yadkin Birding Canoe Trip ~ Sunday, June 3, 2:00-6:00 p.m. (RSVP)*
- *Birkhead Property Celebration in Randolph County ~ Thursday, June 7*
- *Annual Meeting at Historic Barber Farm, Cleveland NC ~ Saturday, June 9*
- *RiverDance 2007 ~ Saturday, July 28*

**Please check out our website, www.landtrustcnc.org, for more information on LandTrust events, or contact us by email at landtrust@landtrustcnc.org or by phone at (704) 647-0302.*

Unique Conservation Properties for Sale!



Hazen Farm, Davie County

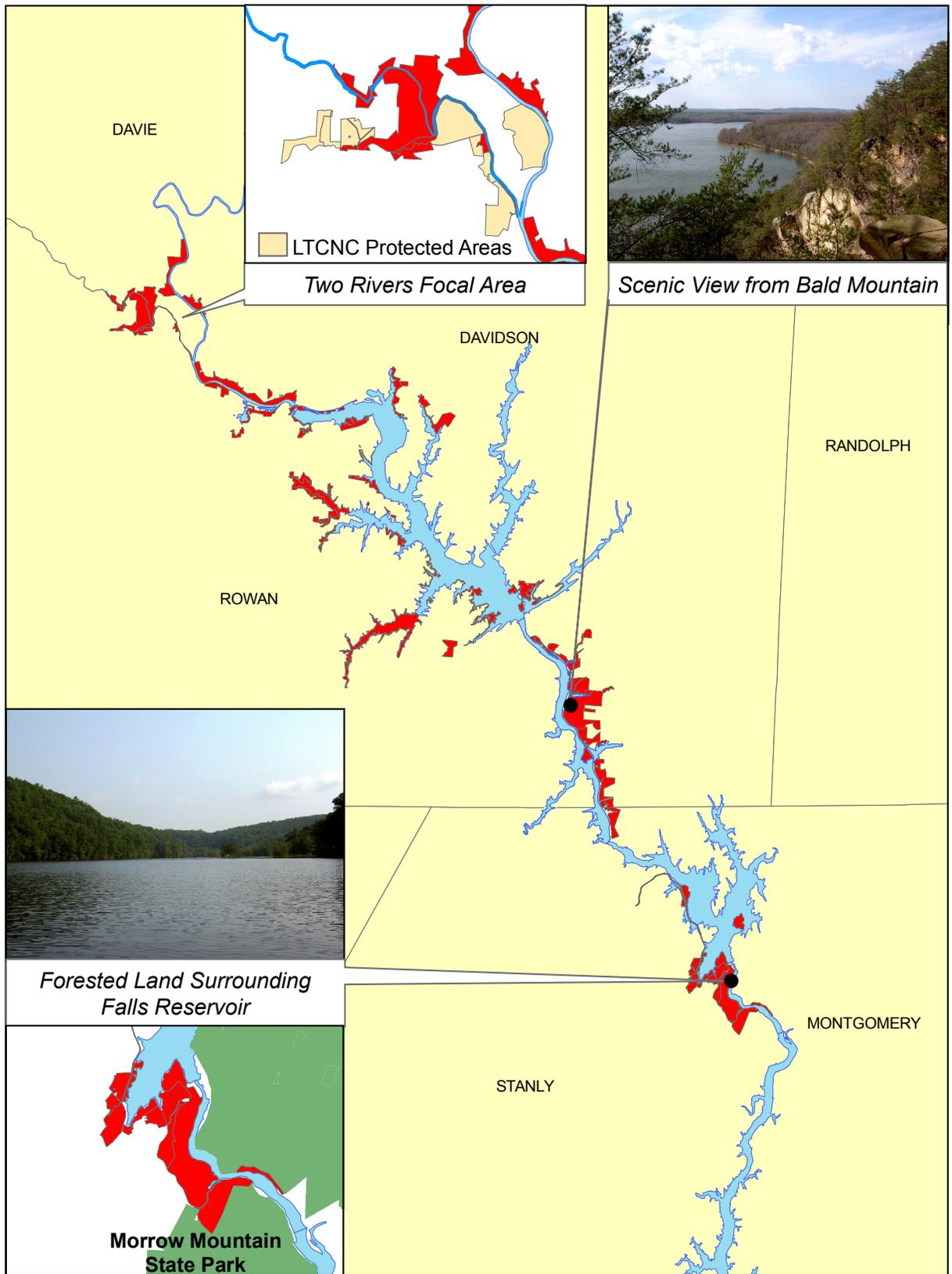
This 138 acres is located between Cooleemee Plantation (1800 acres protected) and the Yadkin River where it intersects with Highway 64. The property has river frontage, rolling hills, and hardwood forests. Uniquely protected after the Hazens purchased it from a charity they had previously donated it to in order to prevent the beautiful hardwoods from being clear-cut. Now you could be a part of this beautiful farm's protection. The LandTrust seeks a buyer for the property subject to an easement. This beautiful setting could be your home, and you could enjoy the natural landscape while also leaving a legacy for years to come.



Bald Mountain Property, Davidson County

This beautiful 88-acre conservation property is located adjacent to Bald Mountain and Tuckertown Lake in southeastern Davidson County. It possesses a charming 2-bedroom home with beautifully manicured grounds, a swimming pool, and stunning vistas, all encompassed by a mature hardwood forest. This property will soon be surrounded on three sides by a new county park that separates conservation property from Tuckertown Lake. This is a true mountain retreat, just minutes away from Salisbury, Asheboro, and Lexington, that needs a buyer who appreciates its natural beauty.

Alcoa Relicensing Map



Your Gifts Support Our Conservation Work

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, 2007** through **March 15, 2007**. 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.

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

Anonymous
Ms. Amy Grissom
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stanback
Mr. and Mrs. William C.
Stanback

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

Silver Eagle Distributors*
Ms. Theresa Bridges*
Locust Lumber Company Inc.
G. W. Smith Lumber Company
Mary Shaw May Family

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

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Mr. and Mrs. John A. Bishop
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Davis
F&M Bank
First National Bank
Ms. Ruth Ann Grissom
Mr. Peter W. Hairston
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis L. Hill
Mr. and Mrs. James Franklin
Hurley III
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight F.
Messinger
Mr. and Mrs. John Harris
Morrison Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Proctor
Norvell
Statewide Title Inc.
Uwharrie Mountain Run
Wallace Realty Company
Walser Technology Group

\$500 - \$999 (Benefactor)

Mr. and Mrs. John Bates

Catawba Lands Conservancy
Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Glenn
Global Contact Services
Mr. Robert Langdell
Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Lowe
Mr. and Mrs. William Pitt
Mr. Bobby C. Sheets
Reverend George Slaton
Mr. and Mrs. Terrell E. Stevens
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\$250 - \$499 (Patron)

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Brady*
Cline's Landscaping & Lawncare
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Floyd
Iredell County Farm Bureau
Dr. Deborah M. Lucas and
Mr. Richard Lewis
Mr. Robert E. Pruehsner
Ramsey Burgin Smith, Architects

\$100 - \$249 (Sustaining)

Mr. Ralph Baker
Mr. Edward Birkinshaw
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Addison
Brown
Mr. and Mrs. G. Boon Chesson
Reverend Cathy A. Cook and Mr.
Kenneth E. Criffield
Mr. Jack Errante
Mr. Louis Eubanks
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Gaither
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Gopen
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Griffis
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sowers
Dr. and Mrs. Willard C.
Thompson III
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Dr. and Mrs. Boyd Watts*
Ms. Shelley Williamson

\$50 - \$99 (Family)

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Mr. and Mrs. Kent Beck
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Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Gordon
Mr. and Mrs. David N. Hall
Mr. Clyde H. Harriss Jr.
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Holshouser Jr.
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Mr. and Mrs. Phillip J. Juneau*
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Ms. Susan Sides
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Vollrath
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Thurston
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Ms. Robin Underwood
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\$25 - \$49 (Individual)

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Mr. Christian P. Cherry*
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Mr. and Mrs. Owen Furuseth
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Glasgow
Mrs. Dolores A. Hall
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Ms. Joan R. Scott
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Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell K. Spear Jr.
Ms. Elaine Stiller
Mrs. Robert Randolph Turner III
Mr. Braxton L. Young

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MacDougall-Fleming and Ken and
Mary Smith*

Reverend Cathy A. Cook
and Mr. Kenneth E.
Criffield

In honor of Peter Wilson Hairston

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey A.
Ceaser

*In honor of Dr. Richard W. Adams
and Sue Carter Walser*

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W.
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*In memory of Peter Wilson
Hairston*

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Mr. and Mrs. J. Charles
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Gascoigne and Miss
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Ms. Amy Grissom
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Albert Walser

*In memory of Zachary Griffith
Smith*

Mr. and Mrs. Dan G.
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In memory of Virginia Poe Shutt

Mr. George H. C.
Shutt III

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Ms. Margaret F. Grigg
Mr. John Holton
Mr. William K. Templeton
Ms. Judyth White

Grants

Tobacco Trust Fund Grant
Z. Smith Reynolds
Foundation Inc.
NC-DENR
NC Foundation for Soil and
Water Conservation Inc

Volunteer Profiles

Adele Goodman



Adele is a passionate conservationist and consistently uses her time and talents to encourage others to make responsible environmental choices. She works for Penske Racing, and began in the Drivers' Schedules & Marketing-Licensing department, and now is the Executive Assistant to the President.

Adele's family has been in Rowan County since the mid-1700's. Her descendents came from Germany down the wagon road and settled in North Carolina because the land here was agriculturally productive, similar to their homeland. The family farm has been in the family for six generations. They love the farm, and meet there every Sunday, sharing a walk in the woods and stories of their past. Adele volunteers with The LandTrust because she strongly believes we must all be good stewards of the resources and gifts we have been given. Adele states, "It's not hard to support an organization like this – above all else, they give me much hope that we can make a difference. It has always been an honor and privilege to help with anything The LandTrust is involved with."

Meredith Reamer Sullivan



Meredith Reamer Sullivan has been the volunteer event coordinator for The LandTrust for Central North Carolina since 2005. She gives unselfishly of her time, and has spent countless hours planning successful fundraising events. Meredith and her husband, Paul, live on an 18

acre horse farm, and are passionate about conservation.

Meredith is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill, and previously had a successful career as an Interior Designer. In addition to her LandTrust work, she serves on the Board of Directors of the Rowan Museum.

Meredith has coordinated events in many of the ten counties served by The LandTrust. She has also been involved in student outreach, teaching the importance of protecting the environment. Additionally, she is a champion of recycling and adaptive reuse.

Meredith's energy, dedication, commitment, and belief in conservation have been a tremendous asset to The LandTrust.

Interested in Volunteering with The LandTrust?

Do you have an interest in preserving our valuable natural resources and want to use your time and efforts to further conservation activities in the Piedmont? Consider volunteering with the LandTrust! Whatever your background or experience, we'd love to have your help Saving the Places You Love. Check out our volunteer webpage at: <http://www.landtrustcnc.org/volunteering.asp>.

Requested Donations

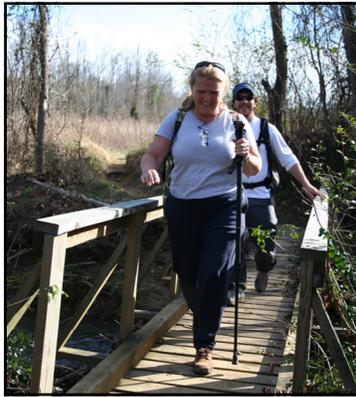
Have something lying around that you're not using but think The LandTrust could? Give us a call! Here's a wishlist of items The LandTrust could use specifically:

- Digital Powerpoint Projector
- Conference Room Table with 12 chairs
- TV with DVD Player

Thanks to all LandTrust Supporters!



Jason Walser shows Morrow Mountain hikers map of Alcoa lands



Hikers enjoy beauty of Birkhead Wilderness Area



Attendees explore nature at environmental education event



Wild azalea bloom on the recently protected Birkhead Property

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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Saving The Places You Love

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