

LANDMARK

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SPRING/SUMMER 2022



WHAT IS A
CONSERVATION
EASEMENT?

PG 10



THREE RIVERS
LAND TRUST

TRLT
CONSERVATION
RAFFLE

PG 24

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Home is where the Heart is

From the sounds of birds in the morning to the crickets in the evening, there is something about the Piedmont and Sandhills of North Carolina that embraces people in a way that feels like home. This feeling of home is what makes this place special, a place worthy of protecting. As we cycle into spring, there are signs of new growth all around us with budding flowers and newborn creatures. There are also signs that our state is transforming with vanishing forests, farmlands and increased traffic. In fact, North Carolina's population is increasing over 100,000 people a year.

In 2022, Three Rivers Land Trust committed their work to protecting the essence of what makes North Carolina "home" to so many. With the support of people like you, Three Rivers conserved over 4,200 acres of land last year alone- protecting the land for current and future generations to experience the warm embrace that the Piedmont and Sandhills offer. This was an incredible feat, but there is still much to do as the growing population is putting pressure on the natural areas, wildlife, and farmlands.

There are so many ways that you can support the mission of Three Rivers Land Trust and create your own living legacy in the land that we call home. In 2022, we have many events, projects, and opportunities for you to participate in and ways for you to contribute! From our interest groups to our fundraising events, there is something for everybody.

Take this year and the opportunities provided by Three Rivers to explore your region. Appreciate the fresh air, a warm breeze, and the opportunity to grow. Whether it is by paddling on the Tuckertown Reservoir, hiking in the Uwharries, or birding in the Sandhills, invest time to connect to the outdoors.

Just remember, Three Rivers relies on you and your connection to the land to be able to do projects that protect farmland, conserve natural spaces, and open public access. The continued natural state of the place you call home cannot exist without your support as a member and donor. The first step to love the land is to support it, which you can do by leaving a living legacy with Three Rivers Land Trust- a legacy that carries on for generations to come.

Mike Mabry
TRLT Board President



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“Life can only be understood backwards but must be lived forwards.”

- Soren Kierkegaard

What an amazing year for conservation 2021 turned out to be. Because of you, this organization was able to permanently conserve over 4,200 acres, help protect over 41 miles of shoreline, and conserve 830 acres of local family farms. Achieving this kind of success would not have happened without your generous support.

The momentum of our success has carried over into 2022. This year, we already have nearly 3,000 acres of local conservation funded and heading towards completion. Our interest groups (Archery, Hiking, Paddling, Sportsman Access Program) are continuing to introduce fresh faces to our organization and our mission. Coming this year, we've added a new fundraising event, the TRLT Conservation Raffle (pg. 26-27), that will help increase our membership, fund our mission, and offer some fantastic prizes to the winners.

Join me in celebrating 2021's conservation successes, but don't forget to live life forward, making the most out of every conservation opportunity.

Travis Morehead
TRLT Executive Director

45,300

ACRES
PERMANENTLY
CONSERVED IN
15 COUNTIES

8,155

ACRES
TRANSFERRED
TO THE
PUBLIC

17,164

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FARMLAND
CONSERVED IN
PERPETUITY

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& STREAM
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DO YOU NEED H.E.L.P. MANAGING YOUR PROPERTY?

A FEW OF THE PROVIDED SERVICES INCLUDE:

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
PLANS - FORESTRY
MANAGEMENT PLANS -
GEOSPATIAL SERVICES AND
MAPPING - FOOD PLOT
DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT
- NON-NATIVE PLANT
CONTROL - PRESCRIBED
FIRE RECOMMENDATIONS
- ASSISTANCE WITH
TREE PLANTING - TIMBER
HARVEST GUIDANCE -
POLLINATOR HABITAT -
COST-SHARE PRACTICES**

**EMAIL [KATIE@TRLT.ORG](mailto:katie@trlt.org)
OR CALL OUR OFFICE FOR
MORE INFORMATION!**

Three Rivers Land Trust is excited to get the Habitat Enhancement Lands Program (H.E.L.P.) off the ground. H.E.L.P. is a for-fee service that is designed to assist landowners in meeting their conservation goals by providing technical advice and guidance that is specific to individual landowners and their property.

Despite living in the world of technology where information is at our fingertips, it can be tough for landowners to get sound management advice. A quick internet search can yield a plethora of results, however, the quality of the information provided can be hit-or-miss. Moreover, even if the information a landowner gathers themselves is solid advice, it is simply impossible to use a cookbook recipe for every property.

Every property is different. Every property has differing prior land uses, with different plant communities, different topographic features, different resource concerns, and most importantly- different landowner goals and priorities! These reasons provide a great example of why it can be critically important to seek the skills and services of someone who has knowledge in each of these areas and can blend them all to best suit your property while best meeting your goals.

We understand that getting sound management advice, cost-share assistance, or implementation of desired practices can be a tough process to navigate on your own. We are here to help streamline those processes and provide dedicated and customizable services to truly meet your objectives. Our Habitat Enhancement Lands Program offers customizable land management services through a one-on-one consultation with our Conservation Lands Manager.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2022

Spring Thru Hike (Thursday, April 28th – Sunday, May 1st)

Hike 40 miles in 4 days along the historic Uwharrie Trail! TRLT Hiking Club hosts this semiannual trek through the Uwharrie Mountains. This experience is a great way for participants to venture into the sport of backpacking with the support of experienced hikers and TRLT staff.

RiverDance (Saturday, August 20th)

RiverDance is Three Rivers Land Trust's premier fundraising event. Our menu will feature a locally sourced farm-to-table selection. Guests will enjoy both a live and silent auction as we dance the night away! Your support of RiverDance is a chance for you to become a part of North Carolina's agricultural legacy.

Sponsorship opportunities are available, please contact membership@trlt.org

Tour de Ag (Saturday, September 17th)

Farming is essential to all of us. Whether feeding us, clothing us, or producing essential products for all, farming is a connecting thread to everyone. Cyclists depend on these beautiful and protected back roads for safe and scenic rides, so ride with us on September 17th to show your support of protecting NC farms!

Registration opens June 17th, 2022

TRLT Conservation Raffle (Sunday, October 1st)

It is the mission of Three Rivers Land Trust to connect the people that appreciate the land we love to our local conservation efforts. What better way than to provide the chance to win prizes and gear that equips them for outdoors? The TRLT Conservation Raffle will do just that. With prizes like camping gear, kayaks, and sportsmen equipment, participants will be able to create their own memories in the rural landscapes we work to protect.

Tickets go on sale April 1st, 2022

Habitat Summit (Friday, October 7th)

Join us as we explore practical land management advice for property owners, no matter the acreage! Keynote speakers for this year will include Grant Woods and Kip Adams. NC Pesticides, NC CFE (Continuing Forestry Education), ISA Certified Arborist & Certified Wildlife Biologist® Renewal credits are available!

Sponsorship opportunities are available, please contact membership@trlt.org

Fall Thru Hike (Thursday, October 13th – Sunday, October 16th)

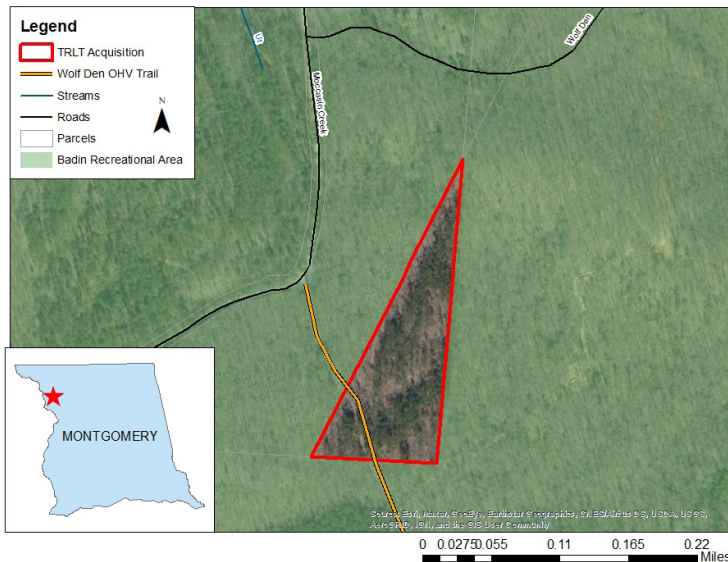
Hike 40 miles in 4 days along the historic Uwharrie Trail! TRLT Hiking Club hosts this semiannual trek through the Uwharrie Mountains. This experience is a great way for participants to venture into the sport of backpacking with the support of experienced hikers and TRLT staff.

After Dark Whiskey Prison Tour (Friday, October 28th)

Southern Grace Distilleries graciously hosts this annual fundraising event for Three Rivers Land Trust. As you will learn on the tour, the water used to produce their products comes from sources conserved by Three Rivers Land Trust.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

TRLT 8.08 Acre Acquisition



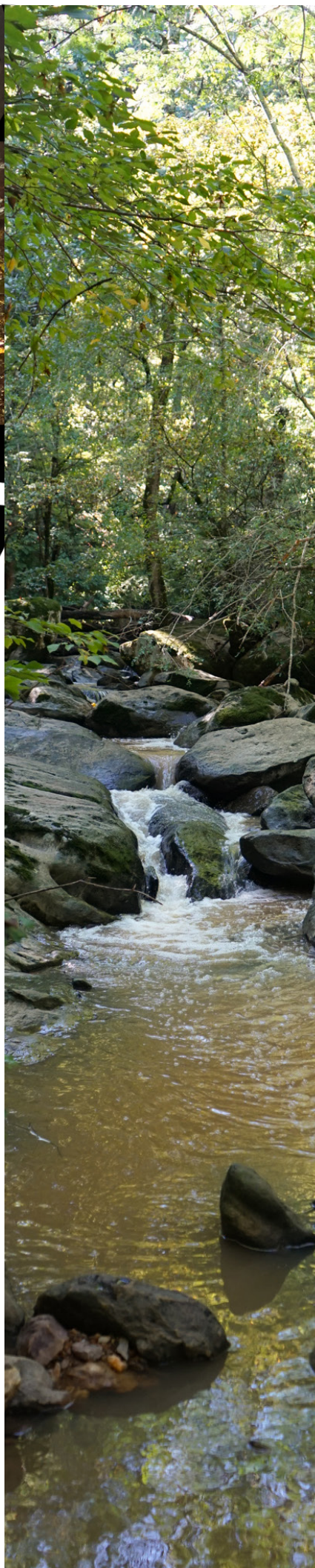
Three Rivers Land Trust has a commitment to public access and with this project, there will be 8.08 more acres available to the public. Located in Montgomery County, this property will become part of the Badin Lake Recreation Area when the property is transferred to the United States Forest Service (USFS).

The Uwharrie National Forest is one of the smallest, most fragmented, and newest national forests in the country. In fact, the amount of land available to the public within its proclamation boundary is only 24%. Three Rivers Land Trust is committed to making strategic connections and filling inholdings to make this a more user friendly and publicly accessible forest.

Three Rivers has transferred over 8,000 acres to the public for recreation, and this project acreage will proudly be added to that total. This project is unique, as the Wolf Den Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) trail runs through it, which is part of the 17 miles of 4-wheel drive trails in the Badin Lake OHV Trail complex in the Uwharrie National Forest. “With this section being known as an easier portion the trail system, it is a great starting point and is often a family’s first introduction to the Uwharrie National Forest,” stated Chris Cagle, owner of Eldorado Outpost. “Recreation use for the Wolf Den area of the forest continues to build, and being able to open and encourage use into multiple areas of the Uwharries allows a greater user experience for all,” commented Cagle.

Three Rivers Land Trust Associate Director, Crystal Cockman, was elated with the conservation of the 8 acres. “Projects like these take an extended period of time, but are well worth it. Providing both locals and visitors of the Uwharries with plenty of space to recreate is a goal of ours and this project helps us achieve just that,” stated Cockman.

“At Three Rivers Land Trust, we have an emphasis on public access,” stated TRLT Executive Director Travis Morehead. “With the eventual transfer of this property to the US Forest Service, there will be an additional 8 acres for the public to enjoy. Any time spent outdoors enjoying our natural landscapes is valuable. Whether that is hiking or off-roading, we are thrilled to get people outdoors and help provide the spaces for it.”



MAKE WAY FOR THE MONADNOCKS

Just five minutes from downtown Asheboro resides a unique landscape, one with large exposed rocks scattered through a mature hardwood forest. With frontage on Cedar Fork Creek, all 30 acres of the property are a sight to take in. Fortunately, Three Rivers Land Trust was able to conserve this property on October 13, 2021, with the intent of eventually transferring the property to the City of Asheboro to be used as a passive park.

“We are elated about the closing of this project,” said TRLT Associate Director Crystal Cockman. “All 30 acres of this property are unique to the region, it is not often that you find a Piedmont Monadnock Forest. The exposed rock on this property is extraordinary to say the least.”

“This particular property is extremely important to a growing city like Asheboro,” stated Travis Morehead, Executive Director of TRLT. “TRLT is excited about the possibility of working with city staff and elected officials to make this property available for public recreation. Providing recreational access is a core tenant of who we are as an organization.”

Since its inception in 1996, Three Rivers Land Trust has transferred over 8,000 acres of land to the public trust, including 2,424 acres from the recent conservation project on the Yadkin River/Tuckertown Reservoir. TRLT’s commitment to public access remains an important pillar in their mission as they continue to transfer lands to local, state, and national government agencies.

This conservation project was made possible in part by a contribution from Fred and Alice Stanback.



What
is a

Conservation Easement?

By Crystal Cockman, Associate Director

You have a family farm that's been in your family for many generations. You'd like to see it remain as a farm forever, but your heirs may not be interested in continuing the farming tradition. *What can you do?*

This is one of many instances where a ***conservation easement might be the right tool to accomplish your goals***. Conservation easements are one of the most important tools for conserving private land. Landowners continue to enjoy ownership of their land while preserving its beauty and natural characteristics for future generations. Conservation easements are negotiable documents that match owners' property-use needs with long term benefits to their community.

What is a conservation easement? A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement that allows you to limit the type or amount of development on your property while retaining private ownership of the land. The easement extinguishes development rights and authorizes a conservation group, such as Three Rivers Land Trust, to enforce the terms. The easement ensures the property will be conserved from unwanted development, regardless of who owns the land in the future. The easement is customized for the natural resources of the property and the needs of the owner.

What land is eligible for placing into a conservation easement? Land eligible for a conservation easement must demonstrate significant conservation values. Woodlands, wetlands, farmland, endangered species habitat, scenic areas, wild and scenic rivers, and historic areas are common examples.

How long do conservation easements last? Conservation easements are perpetual. They apply to the existing owners and all subsequent owners thereafter. The easement "carries with the land." The land can be sold, leased, left to heirs, or transferred, but the easement will always remain.

What are the benefits of placing a conservation easement on your property? The benefits of placing a conservation easement on your property include potential lower property tax rates on the land, reduced estate and inheritance taxes, and reduced federal income taxes for a period of time. Occasionally, grant funding can be available to purchase all or a portion of a conservation easement from a landowner.

How do the tax incentives work? When you donate a conservation easement on a property, you reduce the value of the property because it can no longer be developed or subdivided. The landowner gets a conservation easement appraisal as a first step. This appraisal shows the value of the property before the easement is placed on it, and the value after it is placed on it, and the difference is the value of the conservation easement.



A conservation easement creates a permanent legacy. It is a wonderful way to honor the memory of a family member who instilled a love and respect for land to subsequent generations.

What are the income tax benefits? In terms of federal income tax deductions, landowners can claim a deduction of up to 50 percent of their adjusted gross income in any year. Qualifying farmers and ranchers can deduct up to 100 percent of their adjusted gross income in any year. Landowners can take those deductions the year of the gift and carry them forward for up to 15 years (or until the value of the deduction is exhausted). As always, TRLT staff are not licensed accountants, so please consult your own financial advisors to see how conservation easement donations can benefit your particular situation.

The conservation easement donation must meet the requirements of Section 170(h) of the IRS tax code, and every deduction must be based on a thorough, honest, realistic, and independent appraisal prepared by a qualified and licensed appraiser. The appraiser, landowner, and land trust accepting the easement all sign IRS form 8283.

So what can be done with a property after a conservation easement is placed on it? The easement generally allows for additions and modifications to existing structures, construction of accessory and farm structures, and normal agricultural practices. Most donated easements permit timbering in accordance with accepted forestry practices. Reservation of a limited number of potential future home sites also may be possible, depending on the circumstances. Some grant funded purchased conservation easements may be more restrictive and protect the land in more of a “forever wild” state, conserving natural communities from timbering.

Do conservation easements open my land up to the public? A conservation easement does not grant the public access to your land. The land trust that accepts the conservation easement will be provided access one time annually to inspect the property and ensure that the conservation values are being protected. They will contact you ahead of time and schedule the visit at a time that is convenient for you. You do not have to be present but are welcome to join the land trust staff member on the monitoring visit.

Conservation easements are completely voluntary and appropriate for landowners who wish to permanently protect and conserve the land they love. Conservation easements are as unique as the land they protect. The easement can be crafted to meet the specific needs of the owner.

SHOOTING STRAIGHT WITH THREE RIVERS



When it comes to a little friendly competition, not much can top the Three Rivers Land Trust 3D Archery Tournaments. In 2022, Three Rivers held our second annual 3D Archery Tournament Series in the beginning of the year, consisting of three installments. Of course, there was the usual fun 20 targets scattered throughout Block 4 of the Point Property, but this year, we added a little twist!

At each tournament, Three Rivers introduced a little competition, granting participants the chance to win a portion of the pot! At our January tournament, we had three small targets (turkey, beaver, and groundhog) placed at unknown distances from one shooting location and the person with the highest score won. At our February tournament, we had an elk placed at an unknown distance, way back in the pines, and participants got to shoot at the target 3 times. The participant with the highest cumulative score won. When our March tournament comes around, we plan to do another long shot at a single target!

We are always so excited to have archers out to the Point at this family-friendly event! Whether you are a beginner or a pro, you are more than welcome to come shoot at our 3D Archery Tournaments. Or, if you would rather join us as a volunteer- we can always use a helping hand. Whether is it setting up targets, helping with registration, running the long shot, or helping take down targets- the more the merrier! While you wait for the next shoot, be sure to join our Archery Club on Facebook, and follow along with our social media for the fastest updates on our tournaments!





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Two Properties with One Conservation Story

Earlier in 2021, an anonymous donor approached Three Rivers Land Trust seeking to conserve two different properties in Montgomery and Randolph Counties, totaling 149 acres, each with unique characteristics. Despite the differing features that each property holds, they now have one major quality in common: on October 13, 2021, both properties were conserved by Three Rivers Land Trust.

In Montgomery County, the 88 acres of land has over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of river frontage on the Little River. Found in this stretch of river are Eastern Creekshell and Eastern Lampmussels, two rare species of mussels. Also on this property is a mature hardwood forest with a diverse understory featuring black cohosh and wild comfrey, both of which produce beautiful blooms.

The landowner worked with Three Rivers Land Trust to conserve an additional 61 acres in Randolph County. Covered in mature hardwoods with rocky outcrops, this property has a unique find- an occurrence of Oneflower Bedstraw (*Gallium uniflorum*). Oneflower Bedstraw is rare in this region, in fact, it is the only occurrence in Randolph County of that particular species- making it a county record.

TRLT Associate Director, Crystal Cockman reflected that, “We are so happy that the anonymous donor approached us with the same goals as our organization: to conserve land for future generations. These properties are important to conserve because of their ecological value due to the rare species on the properties and unique natural communities.”

“Our mission at TRLT is to protect and conserve land in the Piedmont and Sandhills, and being able to conserve these properties in Montgomery and Randolph Counties helps us achieve just that. We are so grateful to work with the anonymous donor who wanted to conserve these lands for perpetuity,” stated Travis Morehead, Executive Director of TRLT.

These conservation projects were made possible in part by a contribution from Fred and Alice Stanback.






Protecting Panther Branch

On December 22nd, Three Rivers Land Trust (TRLT) closed a 92 acre project in Montgomery County – one that will help protect the high water quality designation along Barnes Creek and Panther Branch. Both tributaries are designated as outstanding water sources, which is the highest water quality designation that the state of North Carolina gives any stream.

This property is exceptional because of the water frontage, rare species, being in viewshed of the Uwharrie Trail and almost completely surrounded by U.S. Forest Service land. Knowing this, the previous owner (Jordan Lumber Company) came to Three Rivers Land Trust and offered TRLT a unique opportunity to purchase the property.

“This property is definitely a special one,” stated Crystal Cockman, TRLT Associate Director. “We are elated that the previous owner approached us with their interest in ensuring this property’s protection. This is the only private land on the entirety of Panther Branch, and now that it is conserved, we are protecting this water resource in its entirety.”

“Mussels are indicator species, which means they are used to determine the water quality in an area,” said Emily Callicutt, TRLT Land Protection Specialist. Callicutt described that “there are numerous species of rare mussel found in this stream, including a species previously believed to be extinct, the Carolina elktoe. The presence of rare mussels, like the Carolina elktoe, show the pristine water quality of this area because the mussels cannot exist in areas with poor water quality.”



“We are extremely proud of conserving this property, especially with its proximity to the Uwharrie Trail,” commented TRLT Executive Director Travis Morehead. “We [TRLT] have the long term plan of adding this property to the public trust. At Three Rivers, it is part of our mission to provide access for public recreation, and this project will do just that.”

This project was made possible in part by funding from Fred and Alice Stanback, and Jack Horan, along with other private donations from Land Trust supporters.

Board Member Spotlight

Featuring Richard “Rick” Allenbaugh
TRLT Board Member since 2019



My attraction to nature and the beauty of our land began while growing up in a small town in Ohio. In addition to sports, I enjoyed riding my bike in the countryside (as I still do), working on my uncle's dairy farm, and camping with my family and boy scouts.

While attending Ohio University, I decided that joining the 2-year Army ROTC program would be a smart decision since the war in Vietnam changed your draft status upon graduation. That decision began 50 years of service on active duty, as a government contractor and Department of the Army Civilian before retirement.

The Army brought us to Ft Bragg for our first of four tours in 1981 after our assignments in Georgia for airborne and ranger school, Oklahoma, Germany,

Arizona, Texas, Kansas, and Kentucky. We thought that we would eventually call Texas home until we came to NC, knowing we wanted to have a place where we could keep my wife's horses on our own land. The smell of the pine trees after we drove all night from Kansas with only a few days to find a place before returning is something my wife and I will never forget. We bought our first small horse farm in Hope Mills until Jackie found our land in Southern Pines while I was serving in Korea in 1986. We have direct access to 4000+ acres in the Walthour-Moss Foundation for horseback riding- just one reason we call our place our "heaven on earth." The only

place that matches the joy for me is when I am on my boat, "At Ease", on the Intercoastal Waterway, Lake Tillery, Jordan Lake, or Shearon Harris Reservoir.

I graduated with a BBA from Ohio University and MBA years later at the University of Kentucky. After 3-years in the Field Artillery, I transferred to Military Intelligence. Along the way, I had memorable experiences, and made life-long friends and acquaintances- all of which I am grateful for. I retired from the Army as Colonel while serving as the XVIII Airborne Corps senior intelligence officer, and I was fortunate to lead and command at every level to include an MI Brigade at Ft Hood. In 1983, I deployed to Grenada for Operation Urgent Fury and parachuted into Panama for Operation Just Cause on December 20 of 1989, as the G2, 82nd Airborne Division. Later, I served in Iraq as the Deputy Senior

Intelligence officer in 2005 as a Department of the Army Civilian. For 7 years between active duty and my last 13 years as the Director of the Ground Intelligence Support Activity, Ft Bragg, I was an information technology program manager, director and VP as a government contractor for several companies supporting the intelligence community.

After we got sand in our shoes and never contemplated leaving NC, we have grown closer to our land and surroundings. Our daughters, both UNC-Chapel Hill graduates; their husbands, NC State and Warren Wilson graduates; our granddaughter, a freshman at Appalachian State; and three grandsons, who all live in Pittsboro; are all outdoor enthusiasts with their mountain house at Seven Devils and house on Lake Tillery. They enjoy hiking, running, biking, boating, water activities and sports while remaining active in their churches.

In 2002 I was honored to be inducted into the Military Hall of Fame, served as the Honorary Colonel of the Military Intelligence Corps from 2006-2012, and became a Distinguished Member of the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame 2012. In addition to my role with Three Rivers Land Trust and the Walthour-Moss Foundation, other activities I am involved in include being a Men's Sunday School Teacher, Usher, on the Personnel Committee, and on the Seniors Adult Committee at First Baptist Church Southern Pines. I also serve as the Chair of the Advisory Council for Kairos Prison Ministry at the Scotland Correctional Institution.

Over the years, just as many of you have too, we became very concerned about the encroachments, increased loss of our local forests combined with threats to our freshwater streams, rivers, and lakes. Jackie and I donated for several years to the Sandhills Area Land Trust. While serving on their Board of Directors, we made the best decision for our land donors and members by merging with the active and expanding Three Rivers Land Trust. I appreciate the vast NC acreage protected to include farmland, the miles of riverbanks preserved for public access, combined with the TRLT teaming with NC Wildlife and Forestry organizations. I am proud of the many TRLT sponsored events for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages that encourage learning and love of our land and precious natural resources.

I remain totally committed and encourage you, your families, friends, and communities to become active in supporting our Three Rivers Land Trust mission, goals, activities, and funding. What we are all protecting and preserving demands our attention, knowledge, support, and funding. We have been blessed by beautiful surroundings that can be, and must be, protected and appreciated for future generations.



Above: The Allenbaugh's piece of "heaven on earth"

Below: Rick's wife Jackie with one of her horses





SC JOHNSON HELPS SAVE THE FARM

With a recent refocus on conserving farmland, Three Rivers Land Trust (TRLT) created the Save the Farm Campaign to help permanently conserve local farms that are facing increased development pressure. Regardless of who you are or where you live, everyone is connected to a farm. SC Johnson also recognized the need to protect farmland, and donated \$30,000 in late 2021 to TRLT with the goal of permanently conserving more local farms.

In 2021, Three Rivers conserved over 830 acres of farmland in their fifteen-county region, and plans to conserve additional farmland in 2022. The funding provided by SC Johnson will be a substantial springboard to help TRLT work towards conserving more farmland that will not only maintain the rural character of our region but also provide for the area's food and fiber needs.

"We consistently have farmers call us very interested in the permanent conservation of their farms. Farmers are the very first to realize the impact growth and development are having on our region," stated Executive Director Travis Morehead. "We established the Save the Farm Campaign to help permanently conserve local farms, and SC Johnson generously chose to support us in our efforts. Their generous donation will make an immediate difference in our ability to conserve local farms. We hope that other businesses will follow SC Johnson's example and join TRLT in our mission to protect our region's farms."

If you would like to contribute to the Save the Farm Campaign, you can show your support by making a donation on our website at trlt.org/donate and mark your donation as "Farmland Fund".



Wedding Bells at Walkers Creek

By Emily Callicutt, Land Protection Specialist



On October 14-17, 2021, Three Rivers Land Trust hosted the 10th Uwharrie Trail Thru Hike. This event started in 2013 with TRLT Associate Director, Crystal Cockman, intern Rebecca Schonoover, and Don Chlidrey, author of Uwharrie Lakes Region Guide Book. The thru hike was Rebecca's internship project and interns Emily Merino, Kevin Dick, and Shakira Ibrahim helped in the planning and execution of the event. What was once a small event with around 30 participants has grown significantly over the years, with the 2021 fall hike welcoming the largest group yet.

On Thursday morning, 98 hikers headed out from the 24/27 Trailhead to begin the 40-mile, 4-day 3-night journey along the Uwharrie trail. Many participants have hiked with TRLT since the beginning and return year after year to enjoy the hike and provide guidance to the newcomers. Hikers enjoyed pizza at camp Thursday night, provided by Sir Pizza, and the generous donation left them well fueled for another day on the trail. Friday, hikers departed from Yates Place Campground and headed to Jumping Off Rock where hotdogs were waiting courtesy of Sandra and Kyle Lambert. Thanks to our wonderful Trail Angel volunteers, the hikers were kept well fed and hydrated at every road crossing. This event would not be possible without the trail magic that our volunteers provide, and we are so grateful to those who return year after year. Saturday, hikers departed from Jumping Off Rock and headed for the newly designated Walkers Creek Trailhead, where there was a big surprise waiting.

Unknown to most, long time thru hikers Krista Edwards West and Marcus West had big plans for Saturday evening. In 2017, Marcus and Krista met on the Fall Thru Hike, and Saturday evening, they were married at the Walkers Creek Trailhead. The beautiful ceremony was a true celebration of the love they have for each other, and for the trail. Krista remarked, "Marcus and I met on the 2017 thru hike, and so many of the people involved in that hike, and subsequent Three Rivers Land Trust events, have become like family. Getting married at Walker's Creek brought our journey full circle and provided a beautiful backdrop surrounded by amazing people." The ceremony was officiated by Krista's sister and trail angel Kim Anderson, and the view from the top of Walkers Creek provided a beautiful venue. After the ceremony, a delicious dinner was catered by Roland's Backyard Cooking, the festivities were enjoyed by all and continued well into the evening. Saturday's events made this a Thru Hike that we will never forget, and TRLT can not wait to celebrate Krista and Marcus' first anniversary on the 2022 Fall Thru Hike.

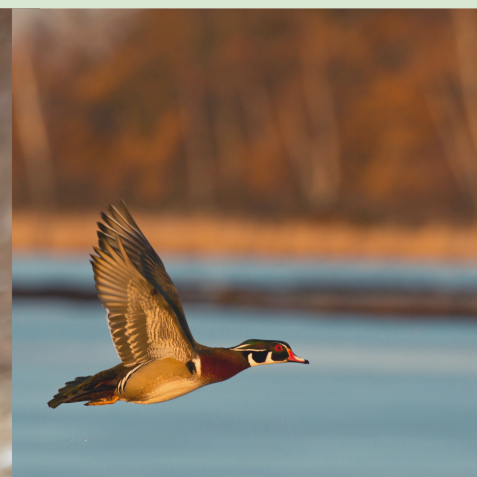
Sunday morning, Hikers departed from the Walkers Creek Trailhead to complete the last leg of their journey. Trail Angels and TRLT staff were waiting at the Tot Hill Trailhead to cheer on the hikers as they celebrated their achievement. The joy and feeling of satisfaction were shared among both returning and new hikers in completing the challenging and rewarding journey that is hiking the Uwharrie Trail. Thank you to all the hikers, volunteers, and sponsors that made this a Thru Hike for the books. We can wait to see everyone on the trail at the 2022 Spring and Fall Thru Hikes!



THREE RIVERS
LAND TRUST

HABITAT SUMMIT

October 7, 2022 | Charles Mack Citizen Center | Mooresville, NC



ABOUT THE HABITAT SUMMIT

The Habitat Summit includes learning sessions for those performing on-the-ground habitat improvement practices, designed for **professionals and landowners** alike, that are interested in improving habitat quality for wildlife species of interest.

Seminar and Panel Discussion Topics:

Habitat Focused Approaches to Quality Deer Management • Methods to Meet Your Property Management Goals • Where Conservation Starts- Soil Health • Leaving a Legacy- Introduction to Conservation Easements • Feral Swine Management • Wild Turkey Biology and Habitat Improvement Techniques • Friendly Fire- Prescribed Fire History, Benefits, and Implementation • High Quality Early Succession- Benefits to Pollinators and Non-Game Species • Developing a Plan for Invasive Species on Your Property • Waterfowl Management on Private Impoundments • Bobwhite Quail- Strategies to Bring Back a Declining Species • Conservation Costs- Bridging the Gap to Enhance Wildlife Habitat • Wildlife Management After Dark (Barn Owl/Bats)

NC PESTICIDES, NC CFE (CONTINUING FORESTRY EDUCATION),
ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST & CERTIFIED WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST®
RENEWAL CREDITS ARE AVAILABLE!

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



DR. GRANT WOODS



KIP ADAMS

This event will include presentations from wildlife biologists and resources professionals that provide sound management advice to landowners wanting to increase their knowledge of wildlife management, conservation, and land management practices for the everyday hunter.



THREE RIVERS
LAND TRUST



PRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS

- Three Rivers Land Trust
- National Deer Association
- Growing Deer TV
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- Ducks Unlimited
- Pig Brig Trap Systems
- Jager Pro Hog Control Systems
- Sandhills Prescribed Burn Association
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Heritage & Habitat
- Quail Forever
- Conservation Easement Attorneys

PUBLIC ACCESS AT THE PEAK



In spring of 2018, Three Rivers Land Trust, then known as The LandTrust for Central North Carolina, purchased 70 acres in Montgomery County. These 70 acres are special, as the peak of Dark Mountain is on the property. Sitting at 940 feet in elevation, Dark Mountain is the highest peak in all of Montgomery County and features mature hardwoods and large rock outcrops.

When this property was purchased by TRLT, the intent was to eventually transfer it to the United States Forest Service. On March 11th of 2022, almost 4 years later, it finally happened. This site is central to local folklore and several interesting features are located on this property as mentioned in Joe Moffitt's book, *An Afternoon Hike into the Past*, including Liquor Springs, Painted Rocks, and Outlaw Cave. This transfer is an incredible addition to the Uwharrie National Forest, as the property adjoins a small portion of the Uwharrie Trail, helping protect the viewshed of the trail.

"Providing public access is a key component of our conservation mission," states TRLT Executive Director Travis Morehead. "We are extremely proud to complete this project with the transfer of land to the U.S. Forest Service, which will provide the public with access to experience this special tract of land in Montgomery County."

With so much history in the Uwharries, Three Rivers Land Trust has put forth efforts to protect and raise awareness about the region. One way that TRLT has worked to raise awareness and funding to protect the area is through the Three Rivers Land Trust Uwharrie Trail Thru Hike. With a hike in both spring and fall, the thru hike is a 40-miles in 4-day experience that you cannot get anywhere else. This fully supported hike is a great way to explore a new area, and show your support for local conservation all while hiking alongside other outdoor enthusiasts. If you would like to learn more about Three Rivers Land Trust's Uwharrie Trail Thru Hike, visit trlt.org/events for more information.

This project was made possible in part by funding from Fred and Alice Stanback, along with donations from Land Trust supporters.



Join our *Conservation Family*

We would love for you to join our conservation family by becoming a Three Rivers Land Trust member! It is through the support of members that we are able to host the hikes, paddles, archery tournaments, and bird watching excursions that you are able to enjoy. Each tax-deductible membership includes a copy of our bi-annual newsletter, exclusive invitations, discounted tickets to our events, and recognition in our publications. As a reminder, the first outing with any outdoor interest club is always free to attend! Any subsequent outings we ask that you become a member to enjoy any upcoming club events for the rest of the year! *You can join by visiting our website at trlt.org/membership.*

We hope you will join us as a TRLT member and if you have any questions about Three Rivers Land Trust or our interest clubs, please do not hesitate to reach out to membership@trlt.org.

TRLT Hiking Club:

1/1 – Morrow Mountain
1/29 – PDNWR Bird Walk
2/19 – Hike at the Point
3/26 – Seaboard Hike
5/14 – Naturalist Day
11/5 – Randolph County Hike

TRLT Paddle Club:

3/19 – Falls Reservoir
6/11 – Crystal Lake

TRLT 3D Archery:

1/9 – SAC
2/6 – SAC, ASA
3/20 – SAC, ASA

WE'RE FLIPPING OUT!

We've always known Steve Fisher is the best, but the F&M Bank family is thrilled that he's been recognized for the second consecutive year by the **Charlotte Business Journal** as one of the area's **"Most Admired CEOs."**

We couldn't agree more. He leads by example, inspiring every employee with his commitment to service and community growth and support. We wish every company had a CEO like Steve (but we're keeping him to ourselves!)



**Congratulations
to Steve Fisher!**

A Tradition for Life

Steve Fisher and Lori Huie at the Boys & Girls Club of Cabarrus County Pancake Day, a fundraising tradition in Concord for over 60 years.



fmbnc.com

Member FDIC



TRLT CONSER

The Three Rivers Land Trust tagline is “Connected to the Land. Committed to Conservation” because it is the mission of TRLT to connect the people that appreciate the land we love, to our local conservation efforts. What better way to connect people to the outdoors than giving them the chance to win outdoor recreation themed prizes? This is one of the reasons why we bring you the TRLT Conservation Raffle! With prizes like outdoor vehicles, boats, kayaks, fishing and sportsmen equipment, raffle participants will be able to create their own memories in the rural landscapes we work to protect.

When selecting prizes, we made sure to connect prizes from the raffle to our interest clubs. As you may know, TRLT currently hosts hikes, paddles, and archery events- and many of the items from this raffle appeal to our club members! In addition to the chance to win awesome prizes, the purchase of each raffle ticket will include a TRLT membership and an exclusive invitation to our club events. We are one of the only land conservation group in the nation that allows sportsmen to hunt on our conserved properties, and prizes will directly connect winners with these activities.

This event will be one the largest marketing campaigns in our state’s conservation history. The conservation connections made through the raffle provide an exclusive platform to reach more than 5,000 new members annually! We hope to reach even more people that support our mission of local conservation.

We invite you to join us on October 1st, 2022 at the TownStage Amphitheater in Troy, NC. The raffle drawing will bring outdoor enthusiasts from across the state to an annual celebration of our local conservation achievements. This event is an opportunity for participants to celebrate North Carolina’s conservation legacy!

We would love for you to become a Three Rivers Land Trust supporter by purchasing a TRLT Conservation Lottery ticket TODAY! **Visit trlt.org/raffle or scan the QR code above to learn more!**

TRLT CONSERVATION RAFFLE SPONSORS



CONSERVATION RAFFLE

**ONLY 5,000
TICKETS SOLD!**

**WIN FROM 100 ITEMS
INCLUDING:**

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FORD STX 4X4
TRACKER BOAT
TRAEGER GRILL
ANDY'S TAXIDERMY GIFT CARD
OLD TOWN SPORTSMAN 106
SHADOW HUNTER MARKSMAN BLIND
BENELLI SUPER BLACK EAGLE 3
OVER \$10,000 IN CASH PRIZES
& SO MUCH MORE!



**\$200,000
IN PRIZES**



**TICKETS
\$100 EACH!**

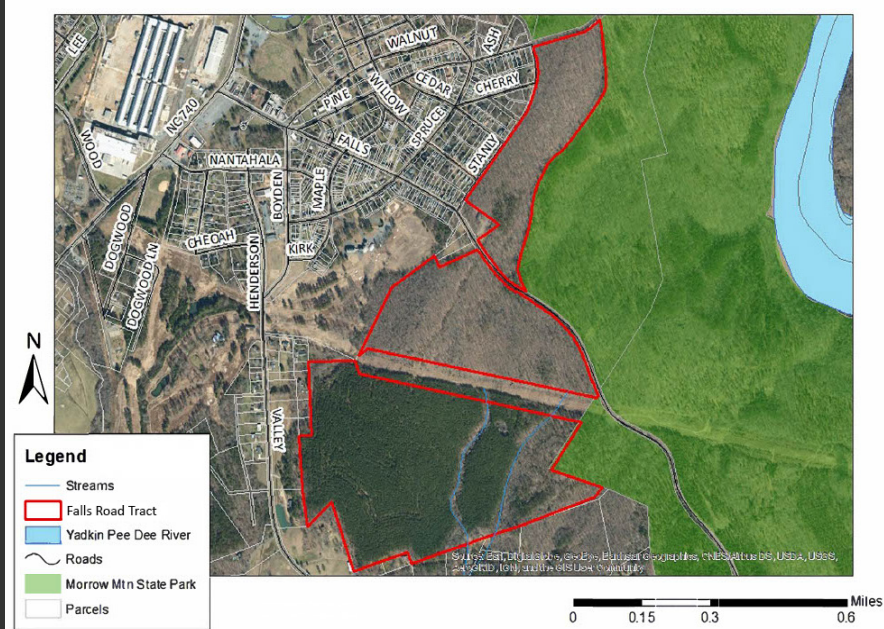
MAKING MOVES AT MORROW MOUNTAIN



Only a half-mile away from the Hardaway Site, a National Historic Landmark known for its Native American archeological significance, and adjacent to Morrow Mountain State Park in Badin, NC are 215 acres of unique forest and rare plant species, now permanently conserved by Three Rivers Land Trust.

From an environmental perspective, this conservation project is extremely valuable, as the forested stream buffers on the tributary help protect water quality. In addition to the protection of one of the best populations of ringed witch grass in North Carolina, a state rare plant, this project will also be advantageous to many other species.

Falls Road Tract
Three Rivers Land Trust



Three Rivers Land Trust Associate Director, Crystal Cockman, was elated with the conservation of the 215 acres. “This project has been one that Three Rivers has wanted to check off of our list for a while. With the help of generous donors, we were able to successfully protect this unique natural area and we could not be more pleased,” stated Cockman.

“At Three Rivers Land Trust, we know how vital it is to conserve important properties just like this one. This parcel protects both natural and historic resources,” stated TRLT Executive Director Travis Morehead. “Our hope is to transfer this site to Morrow Mountain State Park so that others will get to enjoy this beautiful property.”

This conservation project was generously funded in part by the North Carolina Native Plant Society (ncwildflower.org), the Carolina Bird Club, Duke Energy, and Fred and Alice Stanback.



It's a Family Tradition



Located in the scenic Brushy Mountains between Love Valley and Harmony are 410 acres of family farmland. This farm, an organic dairy and organic beef cattle operation, is owned by a father and son operation. Now, this farm operated by Jim and Sam Dobson, is permanently protected for many more generations of Dobsons to carry on the family tradition.



Dobson family pictured with Crystal Cockman, TRLT Associate Director

On March 11, 2022, Three Rivers Land Trust conserved the 410 acres of land, 78% of which are considered prime and statewide important soils. As defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. This is massively important for farmers like the Dobsons to have productive land for their farming operation.

When reflecting on this project, TRLT Executive Director Travis Morehead states, “Farmland conservation is an important facet of what we do at Three Rivers Land Trust. According to the American Farmland Trust, it can take 2-3x the amount of marginal land to make up for the loss of Nationally Significant land, which is why it is important to conserve land like the Dobson farm before it is too late. Unfortunately, in North Carolina we are losing farmland at an alarming rate, primarily to low density development, but projects where we can conserve local farms like the Dobson’s are a great step in the right direction to combat that loss.”

Jim Dobson Jr. was also extremely pleased with the completion of this project and commented, “Our family has been farming this land for eight generations, and now it is permanently protected. It is important that land like our farm is conserved so that we can provide good, wholesome foods for the consumer, and for that reason, I believe that it is essential that our fellow farmers do all they can to conserve their farmland too.”

“For over three years we have diligently worked to conserve this property and now that it is complete, we could not be happier,” states Crystal Cockman, TRLT Associate Director. “The Dobsons are a wonderful family, and we are grateful to have worked with them to protect their 410 acre organic beef and organic dairy farm, a true gem in Iredell County.”

This project was made possible in part by grant funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the N.C. Department of Agriculture through the Agricultural Lands Easement Program and the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.



CONSERVATIONIST'S BEST FRIEND

By Addison Watson
Media and Communications Associate

Most know the friendly, four-legged, canine as a dog or even “man’s best friend”. This is true, as many experience the beloved bond that you can have with a dog. With the level of unconditional love your pup has for you, it is nearly impossible to reciprocate that feeling with your furry friend. Taking that love a step further is the level of appreciation, and satisfaction, of watching your dog implement the skills you trained your dog with. Whether it is to sit, stay, or retrieve, you cannot help to be proud of your pet- and the same can be said about a gun dog.

Over the course of a year, I have worked with my dog Gunner to become a well-rounded gun dog and pet. With his previous owner, Gunner worked as an upland bird dog, but when I met him he did not even know his name. With countless hours of training, Gunner has truly fascinated me with his honed in ability to retrieve ducks, locate fallen doves, and even do a cute trick where he will leave food on his nose until you give him his release word.

Until Gunner became an integral part of the hunt, it was almost inevitable that someone would shoot a bird and we were not able to locate it, and therefore, not get the chance to claim your harvest. This sheer waste became an embarrassment as someone who works in conservation, but with Gunner, things changed. A dove fallen in a tall field became no match for him, and a duck carried away by a current before you could get to it was no longer an issue. Gunner became a tool, not only making our lives easier, but also minimizing the loss of the harvest from a hunt.

After reading “Free-Ranging Dogs and Wildlife Conservation”, a journal by Matthew Gompper, I learned how dogs were truly the best friend of a conservationist. Not only are dogs good for the retrieval of game, but they have also aided in wildlife research for over 100 years! From helping locate armadillos, pythons, box turtles and even killer whales, they have done it all. Their all-powerful nose is a means of learning more about, and protecting, species all over the world. With all the information that dogs have been able to bring to biologists and researchers, they have become a key resource in the field of conservation.

By including dogs in their research, researchers have been able to increase both the size and quality of the data compiled. With a larger and more diverse data group, the results become a more accurate representation of the species demographics. This research takes place through a variety of methods, from detecting scat, carcasses, nests and dens, plants, and live animals (we even talked about turtle tracking dogs on our podcast).

Although many dogs have the natural instinct to retrieve, locate, or flush animals, it takes refined skills to work as a conservation detection dog. The dogs must learn to actively search for hours, as well as communicate with their handler about the location of the target- all while not interacting with, or compromising, the target itself.

So whether your four-legged friend is by your side in the early morning and is attentive to the sound of your safety clicking off, or is helping locate box turtles to assist in an ongoing research project, or maybe they specialize in offering the best snuggles on the couch, give your “conservationist’s best friend” a pet for me.

NAME THE SPECIES



↩
#1



#2



#3

↩
#4



(#1) CANADA GOOSE (#2) DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (#3) GREAT BLUE HERON (#4) EASTERN PHOEBE



2021 WRAP A YEAR OF

CONNECTED TO THE LAND. COME

Conserving our natural resources is essential to maintaining this region's character and quality of life. Protecting water quality, family farms, scenic rivers, and undisturbed natural areas is the mission of Three Rivers Land Trust (TRLT), a non-profit conservation organization. TRLT focuses their efforts in a 15-county region in North Carolina's central Piedmont and Sandhills. Reflecting on 2021, Three Rivers Land Trust had a banner year, conserving over 4,200 acres and increasing their total conserved acreage to 45,300 acres. Last year, TRLT completed 18 different projects in 9 counties, ranging from family farms, to hardwood forests, to wetlands and stream corridors.

In fact, 830 acres of farmland was conserved by Three Rivers Land Trust in 2021. With a determined focus on conserving more farmland, Three Rivers worked diligently to protect the farms that feed our local communities. "With North Carolina losing or impairing almost 6 acres of farmland every hour due to development, TRLT is working against the clock to save North Carolina's family farms," states Travis Morehead, TRLT Executive Director. Many of these farmland conservation opportunities were made possible with funding from organizations like the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFPTF) and the USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

In addition to protecting farms, Three Rivers worked to provide public access to connect residents and visitors to the outdoors. The Yadkin River Game Lands Project is a great example where TRLT and other conservation partners, like the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), worked together to permanently conserve 2,424 acres and 31 miles of shoreline on the eastern shore of the Tuckertown Reservoir. In 2021, TRLT also acquired land that will become part of two local parks, one state park, and the Uwharrie National Forest. The most notable acquisition was a 215 acre tract that will be added to Morrow Mountain State Park. "We appreciate TRLT's long standing commitment to expanding recreational access for all North Carolinians," states Jeff Michael, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources for the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Public access is only one facet of conservation on which Three Rivers focuses. The core of TRLT's mission is to work with private landowners to and conserve land. Conservation minded property-owners often conserve the land they grew up on. "The reasons someone permanently conserves their property varies, but most of them do it because of their deep connection to the land," states Crystal Cockman, TRLT Associate Director.

Looking back on 2021, Three Rivers Land Trust, with the generous support of its members and conservation partners, accomplished a great deal. Travis Morehead, TRLT Executive Director stated that, "This year is one for the record books, but we [Three Rivers] are going to do our best to try and top it in 2022. Thanks to all of our conservation partners like the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), the North Carolina Land and Water Fund (NCLWF) and the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, (ADFPTF), for helping to make 2021 so successful."

APPED: F LOCAL CONSERVATION

OMMITTED TO CONSERVATION.

**4,264 ACRES
PERMANENTLY
CONSERVED**

18 projects in 9
counties
conserved
in 2021



**830 ACRES OF
FARMLAND
CONSERVED**

Protecting the
places that
feed and
clothe us



**41.5 MILES OF
RIVERS AND
STREAMS
CONSERVED**

Protecting
local riparian
areas



**2,866 ACRES TO
BE AVAILABLE
TO THE PUBLIC**

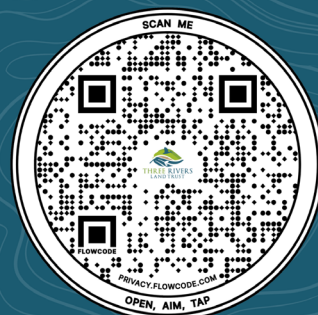
More acreage
for the public to
use for outdoor
recreation

**OVER 1,800
MEMBERS SUPPORT
TRLT'S MISSION TO
PROTECT AND
CONSERVE NATURAL
AREAS, RURAL
LANDSCAPES,
FAMILY FARMS, AND
HISTORIC PLACES IN
NC'S PIEDMONT AND
SANDHILLS.**

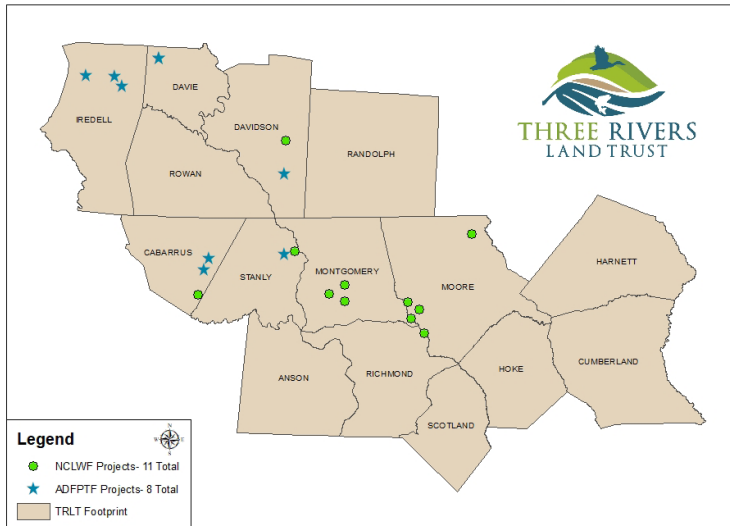


For every dollar donated towards
operational funding, TRLT staff has
leveraged \$13 into local project funds.

**LEARN
MORE AT
TRLT.ORG**



Three Rivers Land Trust 2021 NCLWF and ADFPTF Projects



A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR LOCAL FARMLAND CONSERVATION

In December of 2021, TRLT announced the recent funding in the amount of \$9,755,298 to protect 5,381 acres of natural areas and family farms across their 15-county footprint. Funding was awarded to TRLT by the North Carolina Land and Water Fund (NCLWF) and the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFPTF). This was a record increase in funding from previous years thanks to the generous allocation from the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Cooper.

Through the North Carolina Land and Water Fund (NCLWF), administered by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, \$6,449,917 has been awarded to TRLT to protect 11 properties, totaling 2,701 acres. The NCLWF properties will protect vital natural areas on High Rock Lake in Davidson County, Drowning Creek and the Deep River in Moore County, the Little River and Barnes Creek in Montgomery County, the Rocky River in Cabarrus County, and one tract in Stanly County.

Additionally, \$3,305,381 has been awarded to protect 8 family farms in TRLT's footprint, totaling 2,682 acres, through the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFPTF), administered by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. The ADFPTF properties will protect local family farms in Cabarrus, Stanly, Iredell, Davidson, and Davie Counties. These farms primarily produce beef cattle and row crops. Several of these farms are part of larger phased projects with an opportunity to protect even more acreage with these landowners in the future. This farmland funding is one piece of the puzzle, as the ADFPTF pays for a percentage of the conservation easement purchase and TRLT will be applying to the USDA for the remaining funds needed to complete these projects early next year.

"This is a landmark year for conservation in North Carolina," stated Executive Director Travis Morehead. "We submitted our best projects for consideration. Thanks to a generous allocation by the Governor and General Assembly, both the NCLWF and ADFPTF were able to fund these important local conservation projects."

"Three Rivers Land Trust is thrilled to have been awarded these funds. This funding will make it possible to work with great landowners to protect these special natural areas and family farms across our region," stated Associate Director Crystal Cockman. "Many of these projects have been on our radar for a number of years, and thankfully this year the funds are there to assist with the protection of all these incredible lands."

This grant money goes directly into the acquisition of these properties and easements, which will protect them in perpetuity. Operational and administrative expenses are funded by donations from members of TRLT. For every dollar donated towards operational funding, TRLT staff has been able to leverage \$13 into local project funds.



Conservation that's Close to Heart

Conserving local lands is the mission of Three Rivers Land Trust, and sometimes this mission is achieved through sentimental intentions. Discovering the Land Trust from a newspaper article, Robert Kinch became inspired to help carry out Three Rivers' mission by leaving a conservation legacy of 67 acres in memory of his wife, Virgie Coggin Kinch.

Closing on January 6th, this is the first completed project by TRLT this year. The 67 acres donated by Mr. Kinch are located in Montgomery County, and maintains 3,000 linear feet of frontage on Clarks Creek. The property is two and a half miles upstream from the confluence of the Pee Dee River. The 67 acres contains a mature hardwood forest with a very diverse understory, with lots of native wildflowers and forbs.

"This is the first project closing of 2022, and we couldn't be happier. We [TRLT] could not think of a better way to start off the year," commented TRLT Executive Director, Travis Morehead. "We finished off 2021 strong, conserving over 4,200 acres last year alone. Thanks to Mr. Kinch, we can celebrate another conservation project closing early in 2022."

"We are so pleased to be able to conserve this special property, protecting the diverse plant species in its forest understory," stated Crystal Cockman, TRLT Associate Director. "This donated property means so much to Mr. Kinch, and now it will be protected in perpetuity in memory of his late wife, Virgie, for future generations to enjoy."

This property was donated by Robert Kinch in memory of his wife Virgie Coggin Kinch and transactional costs of this project were generously funded through a NC Land and Water Fund Mini Grant.

Photo taken by Justin Mercer, Eastern Region Field Representative with the NC Land and Water Fund.

SPORTSMAN SPOTLIGHT

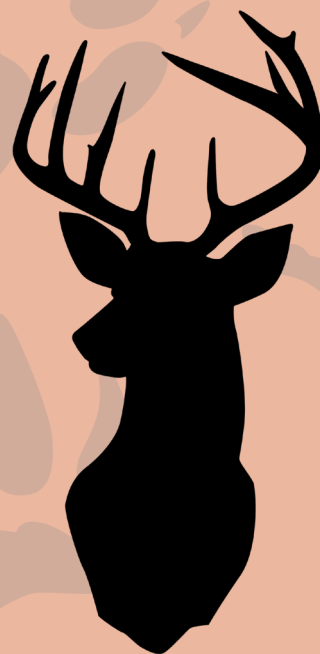
By Joshe Raetz, SAP Member

All of us joyfully remember our first big game harvest. Even if it was decades ago, we probably tell the story like it was yesterday. We remember who we were with. We remember elements of the environment like temperature and terrain. We definitely remember how big the animal was, even if it continues to grow over time. But what do we remember about whose land it was or how it was managed? Thankfully for my son, who harvested his first deer this year, the plot of land he hunted is owned by the Three Rivers Land Trust and forever conserved for use within their Sportsman Access Program. Here is how the hunt unfolded.

My family and I were relatively new to the area and did not have relationships yet to hunt private land. We met the Three Rivers Land Trust team at a local farmer's market and immediately saw the value of their conservation, hiking, paddling, and sportsman approach. For a small donation, we became members of the non-profit and started exploring the best of the Piedmont and Sandhills outdoors. As the fall hunting season drew near, I paid into the sportsman lottery system and earned a week-long hunt at the Harrington property. After sighting in his 20 gauge shotgun at the local wildlife club, finding the right camouflage at the

neighborhood surplus store, and scouring the terrain maps, my son was ready for his hunt over Thanksgiving break. On the first day while my son was still in school, I scouted the 250 plus acres. It was beautiful, rugged, and offered the promise of a great hunt and an equally good harvest. Deer sign was prevalent with game trails, scrapes, and rubs in more than a few spots. While scouting I jumped quail, spooked deer, and watched 25 turkeys closer than I've ever seen before. I even lost a staring contest with an eight-point buck who surprised me while I checked the map. My son grew excited at the potential based on this scouting feedback.

In the early morning of his first day when we hiked in before sunrise, it was a freezing 24 degrees. We hiked in deep and low enough that the sun didn't seem to reach the draw with enough energy to make a difference. It was this first morning when my son learned the value of family traditions while hunting deer- napping in the woods and packing in a thermos of hot soup. After sitting for hours, he spotted two does walking along a creek. We watched. We called. They snorted. It was his choice and he chose to wait for a different option later in the week. On our way out we set up a blind nearby



for the next morning where we repeated a similar cycle of rising early, hiking in darkness, freezing in the cold, napping, eating soup, and passing on deer with the hopes of a “big one” later. One of the deer we barely spotted in the distance and almost out of sight seemed to be a monster. On our way out we scouted that trail and set up a blind to return to later in the week.

On our last day of the hunt, we hiked in for our earliest start time of the week, and it was finally warmer at 28 degrees. We set up, sat, watched, and waited. Somebody might have fallen asleep earlier than normal. Upon hearing either a deer or the biggest squirrel ever headed our way, I woke him up and told him to get ready. He jumped up, grabbed his shotgun, and 40 seconds later harvested a deer bigger than I’ve harvested in decades of hunting. We high-fived, packed our blind, and hiked over to the deer where it had dropped instantly when he shot. He counted all ten points and smiled with pride; I smiled even bigger. We paid tribute to the God given gift and spent the next two hours dragging, tugging, and wrestling the deer over trees and through saplings all seemingly uphill. It no longer felt as cold outside.

This hunt only cost \$200, but the experience to be with your son when he harvested his first deer was invaluable. For this I will be forever grateful to the Three Rivers Land Trust. Two weeks later on an adjoining TRLT property, that eight-point buck that had previously won the staring contest reappeared and that time I was ready. My son congratulated me on harvesting a “nice little buck.” Memorable and priceless! Now for those turkeys.



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A photograph of a large, textured tree trunk in a forest. The tree trunk is on the left side of the frame, with its bark showing deep vertical grooves and some moss. To the right, the forest floor is visible with green grass, small plants, and other trees in the background. The text "Ongoing Projects that Need Your" is overlaid on the tree trunk in a white, bold, sans-serif font with a black outline. The word "SUPPORT" is overlaid on the right side of the tree trunk in a large, green, bold, sans-serif font with a black outline.

Ongoing Projects
that Need Your

SUPPORT

GRANITIC FLAT ROCK

Three Rivers has a unique chance to protect a one-of-a-kind, huge, rare granitic flat rock, unlike anything else in our region. This flat rock possesses several species of rare plant including elf orpine, single-flowered sandwort, and flatrock panic grass. The property is 20 acres, located in Anson County near the town of Morven. There are six different owners, all part of the same extended family and all willing to sell. The North Carolina Plant Conservation Program would like to own and manage the site for the protection of the rare plants and unique natural community. There is an expected price of \$60,000. To make a contribution to this unique site, mark your donation as going to Anson County Flat Rock.

EASTWOOD CONNECTOR

This unique property connects two disjunct portions of the Plant Conservation Program's Eastwood Preserve in Moore County. The Eastwood Preserve protects the rare Sandhills lily, along with several other unique plants, including pitcher plants and yellow fringed orchids. This property is approximately 55 acres and has some mature longleaf pine and some young longleaf pine, along with two drainages which are perfect habitat for the Sandhills lily. Though the lily has not been located on this property to date, it is on both adjoining tracts owned by PCP. The site is also likely home to pine snakes and coachwhip snakes, and possibly Southern hognose snakes. When purchased, the NC Plant Conservation Program would add this to its Eastwood Preserve, making prescribed fire management much easier (a required land management tool for persistence of the rare plants and habitable ecosystems). The expected purchase price of \$550,000. To make a contribution to this acquisition, mark your donation as going to Eastwood Connector.

ROCKY RIVER PASSIVE PARK

We are seeking funds for the purchase of 110 acres on the Rocky River near the town of Midland in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. This property is located near Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site. We hope to make this property into a passive park, with camping and canoe and kayak river access for the local community and tourists and recreationists who visit this area. This is a portion of our region that is experiencing extreme development pressure from the neighboring cities of Concord and Charlotte, only about a half hour drive away from this site. Opportunities like the acquisition of this tract are few and far between. We have already obtained half of the funding, \$1 million, from the Land and Water Fund for purchase of the tract, but will need private donations to match that request. To make a contribution towards this project, mark your donation as going towards the Rock River Passive Park.

BUFFALO CREEK PRESERVE

This 37 acre property with beautiful mature hardwood forest is located just outside of Robbins in Moore County. The property has over 3,500 feet of streamfrontage on Buffalo Creek, which feeds into the Deep River approximately 3.5 miles downstream. This section of Deep River is a High Quality Watershed and is home to the federally endangered Cape Fear Shiner, along with a number of rare mussel species, and the state threatened Carolina redhorse. Numerous neotropical migratory songbirds have been seen on this property along the creek. This site would make a beautiful passive park for local residents. This project has an expected price of \$130,000. Please mark your donation as going towards "Buffalo Creek Preserve."

NEW FACES AT

Katie Stovall

CONSERVATION LANDS MANAGER

Where are you from? I am originally from Mount Airy, NC (better known as Mayberry: home of Andy Griffith, and land of the pork chop sandwich!)

Educational background? I started my higher education career at Surry Community College. After I received my associate's degree, I transferred to Western Carolina University where I majored in Natural Resource Conservation and Management with a concentration in Forestry. Prior to graduation, I received an offer to pursue my master's degree at the University of Tennessee. I spent three years in Tennessee studying the effects of prescribed fire on wildlife species and graduated in 2019 with a Master's Degree in Wildlife Science.

What is your role at TRLT? I am the Conservation Lands Manager. This position coordinates land management activities on properties owned by TRLT. This position also leads the Habitat Enhancement Lands Program that assists landowners with technical advice in regards to wildlife, forestry, and conservation practices on their properties.

What qualifications do you have that may be most beneficial? I am a North Carolina Registered Forester and an Associate Wildlife Biologist, which go hand and hand to help landowners blend forestry and wildlife practices to maximize and fully express the potential of their property. I am also a NC Certified Burn Manager and NC Pesticide Operator. These tools are important to help restore and maintain native plant communities that many wildlife species depend on. I am also a certified Deer Steward I & II through the National Deer Association which is vastly advantageous for folks that want advice to set their property up for hunting success.

What are you most excited about with this position? My passion is promoting healthy ecosystems. Nature can hold a fickle balance. Urbanization and land use conversion are major threats to our native plant and wildlife communities. Just like it is important to protect these rural and natural areas from development, it is also important to manage them to promote native and well-functioning ecosystems. Many systems hold keystone species that are imperative to properly functioning and healthy ecosystem dynamics. I am excited to do my part to ensure areas that we conserve are being managed to do just that!

As a hunter and angler, I am excited to improve areas for individuals that take advantage of our Sportsman Access Program. Improving habitat quality can increase hunter success and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Lastly, I love meeting individuals that share the same passion of land conservation. I am very excited to meet TRLT members that love our natural resources as much as I do. I love helping landowners find solutions to best fulfill their conservation needs and desires.



THREE RIVERS

Andrew Younger DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Where are you from? I was born in Anchorage, Alaska and raised just outside of Portland, Oregon. I jumped around a bit in my mid-late twenties but in 2010 I settled down in Orlando, Florida to start a family. In 2020, my wife and I moved to Lexington, NC with our two young children.

Educational Background? I completed my Bachelors of Science degree at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon in the spring of 2007. Shortly after completing my Bachelor's I packed my bags and moved to the Gold Coast of Australia for graduate school. I completed my Master's in Marketing from Griffith University in 2008. In 2018 I passed the exam to become a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and I also hold a Certificate in Fundraising Management (CFRM) from Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

What is your role at TRLT? I am the Director of Development for TRLT. This is a new role for the organization and my primary focus will be to create/manage the philanthropic mechanisms to support the mission and vision of TRLT.

What qualifications do you have that may be most beneficial? In addition to my education and certifications, I am a born and raised outdoorsman. Growing up in Pacific Northwest taught me the importance of natural green spaces and the intrinsic value it provides to the community. I see no greater good then to use my education and experience to further the mission of TRLT and to help farms stay farms, forests stay forest and to protect the waterways of the 15 counties for which we operate. Personally, I want to help keep NC green for generations to come.

What are you most excited about with this position? The art of fundraising is to align your mission with people's passions. It just so happens that I get to do that while talking about all the things I love to do; fishing, camping, hiking, boating, hunting and enjoying all the great things found in our gorgeous green earth. Whether you enjoy spending time knee deep in a river chasing fish, or you simply see the value in a beautiful farm or scenic forest, the mission of TRLT helps to protect that for years to come.





APPLE-RASPBERRY STREUSEL PIE

By Tiffany Dorn



PIE FILLING INGREDIENTS

12 ounces peeled, sliced,
and cubed apples
12 ounces raspberries
1/8 cup orange juice
3 tbs all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

STREUSEL INGREDIENTS

12/3 cup all-purpose
flour
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
5 tbs cold butter, cubed

PREPARE THE PIE

1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees
2. Put apples and raspberries in a large bowl and mix in orange juice
3. In a small bowl, combine granulated sugar, all-purpose flour, and cinnamon
4. Mix small bowl ingredients into large bowl
5. Pour mixture into a 9" pie crust

MAKE THE STREUSEL

1. In a medium bowl, mix all-purpose flour, brown sugar, cinnamon, and butter until crumbly
2. Pour streusel over the pie filling

BAKE THE PIE

1. Place the pie in the oven, 10 minutes at 425 degrees
2. Reduce heat to 350, bake another 40 minutes or until the filling is tender and juices are bubbling
3. Cool and enjoy



Thank you for supporting local conservation! This list recognizes members that are current as of March 3, 2022. Donations after that may not be included in this edition but will be in our fall newsletter. Every effort has been made to ensure these are correct, we apologize if anything is inaccurately represented. Should there be an error, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact us at (704) 647-0302.

Three Rivers Society: \$10,000+

David C. Bryan • Alton Louis Eubanks • Mike & Kat Mabry • Bradford & Shelli Stanback • Fred & Alice Stanback

Three Rivers Society: \$5,000-\$9,999

Mary Pride Ariail • Frank Bragg • Tim Peppe • Jane and Mark Ritchie • Lowell Strine • Nyoka White • Shelley C. Williamson

Three Rivers Society: \$1,000-\$4,999

Gregory & Missie Alcorn • Paul & Carrie Bardin • Amy Pitser Barnhardt • Johnny & Sydney Beck • David Bennett • Michael Brignola • Charles W. Broadwell • Dohn & Sherri Broadwell • Patricia M. Cameron • Boon & Mary Chesson • Richard & Judy Childress • Nicholas Clark • Brad & Kathy Creed • Andrew Davis • Vickie DeNicola • Luke C. Fisher • Robert L Fox Jr. • Scott & Kathy Gillespie • Peter Wilson Hairston • Larry & Jennie Hale • Robert & Margaret Harris • Terry Lee Hedrick • Sonny, Katheryne, & Katie Helms • Dr. Walter & Edie Holland • Jack Horan • John Horan • John Hubbard • Leon Huneycutt • Steven & Celia Jarrett • Joe & Anne Leahy • Karl & Lynn Legatski • Bill H Kelly • Adele Krik & Lawrence Hughes • Michael Kucera • Mark & Jeannie Lins • Harold & Annette Roberts • Lloyd & Tammy Roberts • Terence McAllister • Martha M. McAninch • Dwight & Deborah Messinger • Daniel Messner • Dr. John Monroe • Michael & Melody Morton • Edward & Susan Norvell • Owen & Elizabeth Norvell • Hubert & Catherine Olive • Larry Pearce • Dr. Carla & Eric Pence • James Plant & Nanci Petrucci • Carrie Poole • Jerome Richardson • Sandra Richardson • James & Marian Rollans • James & Monda Russell • Terry Sharpe • Frank Shaw • Derick Shular & Scarlett Kitts • Jerry & Aurelia Smith • Mark Steven Smith • Tom & Martha Smith • Mike & Karen Snyder • Kyle Sonnenberg • Mary P. Stephenson • William L. Stewart • Ned Townsend • Mr. Redneck • Vivian & Gaston Penry • Todd Walker • John & Karen Walter • Steve & Jane Lee Watson • Colin S. Webster • Mark Weissbecker • Mary L.F. Williams • Sharlene Riddle Williams • Samuel E. Willis • Kerry & Jonathan Zulman

\$500-\$999

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\$35-\$499

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Perzel • David Petroski • Sheila Pevatte • Thomas Pham • Eric Phillips • Clifton & Jan Pickett • Ruby Piddock • Michael Pinkerton • Andrew & Theresa Pitner • Robert & Laura Pitts • Greg Plemmons • Eric Pluer • Emma Poole • Evelyn Poole • Robert Poole • Richard Pope JR • Richard Pope and Family • P. Elliott Porter Jr • Thomas Porter • Cindy Fleming Powell • Matthew & Natalie Powers • Heather Pressley • Mary Frances E. Price • Shirley Price • Larry Pritchett • James Pruitt • Heather Pryor • Mary Joan Pugh • Robert Puskas • Edward Quinlivan • Joshe Raetz • Tim Ragan • Steve Randall • Alex Rankin III • Brenda Rankin • Sam & Missy Rankin • Shawn Reger • Jonathan Reich • Roger Reynolds • George Rhodes • Kyle Rice • Stanley Rice • James Rich • Lee Riddle • Carmen Rippey • Roberts Family • Chris Robertson and Family • Nicholas Robertson • William Robertson • Rick Rochester • Daniel Rodes • Ken Rodes • Abel Rodriguez • Charles E. 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Corporate, Foundation, and Community Partners: \$10,000+

Cannon Foundation • Duke Energy Foundation • Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation Inc. • Richard Wainwright Barber Farm Preservation Trust • S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc. • Uwharrie Bank

Corporate, Foundation, and Community Partners: \$5,000-\$9,999

Carolina Bird Club • Foster Farms Inc. • Leopard Stone Farm, LLC • Norfolk Southern Foundation

Corporate, Foundation, and Community Partners: \$1,000-\$4,999

Backcountry & Beyond • Carolina Farm Credit, ACA • Cumberland County Foundation • EarthShare NC • Energy United • F&M Bank • Fifth Generation, Inc. • Fisher Realty, INC. • Global Contact Services • Horizons Unlimited • Hunting Creek Farms • H. W. Culp Lumber Co., Inc. • J T Gladden Tire Disposal Inc • The Glenn E. & Addie G. Ketner Family Foundation • The Mary & Elliott Wood Foundation • The Mona Lisa & Lee Wallace Foundation, Inc. • New Sarum Brewing Company • North Carolina Native Plant Society • R. Bruce & Eleanor F. Smith Foundation • Shaver Wood Products • Statewide Title, Inc. • Triad Land Clearing • Troy Lumber Company • Troy Rotary Club

Corporate, Foundation, and Community Partners: \$500-\$999

Carrol Fisher Construction Company • Eli Beverly & Associates LLC • Fidelity Bank • Mellow Marsh Farm • Miller Davis Studios • Mossy Oak Properties Land & Luxury • Randolph Electric Membership Corporation • Ray Law Firm • Walser Technology Group, Inc.

Corporate, Foundation, and Community Partners: \$35-\$499

Barefoot Archery • The Cason Group • Catawba College • Charity League of Salisbury • Charles Shuler Pool Co. • Daniel Adams Construction • Montgomery County Schools • Friendly Chevrolet-Buick • Grace Lutheran Church- Men In Mission • Grafton Archery & Outdoors, LLC • Greystone Salon LLC • J & J Marine • Rauch Foundation • Steinman Properties • United Fuels, LLC • Well of Mercy

Honorariums

In honor of Crystal Cockman by Mary Joan Pugh • In honor of Boon Chesson by Lesley A. Chesson • In honor of Carrie Knox by Susan Mott-Coles • In honor of Bob Higby by Brandee Boggs • In honor of Eston Smith Stokes Jr by Jane Everhary • In honor of Judy & Jim Hardison by Gwen Webb • In honor of Dohn & Sheri Broadwell, Charles Broadwell, & Richard Broadwell by Nancy W. Broadwell • In honor of Mary Eva Knight by Ken & Connie Knight-Wallace • In honor of Hyatt Burton Grissom by Heather Higgins • In honor of TRLT staff by Eli Beverly • In honor of Mary & Boon Chesson by Sarah Fitch • In honor of Mike Foust by Richard & Lynn Foust • In honor of Darryl Corriher by Celia Jarrett • In honor of Buford & Mary Newport Poole by Evelyn Poole • In honor of Gwen Pope & Mr. John Carter by Blanche Glover • In honor of Tim Sherrill by Marlow Sherrill • In honor of Richard & Lynn Foust by Michael Foust • In honor of Jeff Davis by Jean Owen • In honor of Cecil Dixon Reynolds Sr. by Rodge Reynolds • In honor of Sim & Michelle DeLapp by Guy Cornman III • In honor of Sadie & Claire Wilson by Christine Wilson • In honor of Catherine Fieselman by Karen Fieselman Stroud • In honor of the Thru Hike Event by Michael Baker • In honor of Martin MacQueen by Sarah Ledbetter • In honor of Sam & Steely by Karen Parrott • In honor of Marji McDade by Michelle DeLapp • In honor of Fred & Alice Stanback by Frank E. Eason • In honor of Tim Wilson by Peggy Wilson • In honor of Jason Walser by Adele Goodman • In honor of Tucker & Lila Coley by Justin Coley • In honor of the Tuckertown Project by Ruth Ann Grissom • In honor of Lawrence Stanback by Donny Clement III • In honor of Ed & Susan Norvell by Frank Labagnara • In honor of Bill Stanback by Eric P. Slipp • In honor of Ray Shular by Scarlett Kitts • In honor of Marsh Smith by Mary O. McAden • In honor of TRLT by Paul & Karen R. Hinkle • In honor of Cody Fulk for his help with Scout Troop 44 by Karen Hobson • In honor of James & Emma Stephenson by Mark Stephenson • In honor of Earth Day by Christine Wilson • In honor of Dr. John Monroe by William L. Stewart

Memoriams

In memory of Afton and Oliver Koontz by Robert & Mary Gail Nesbit • In memory of Robert Lane, Sr. & Robert Lane, Jr by Kimberly Lane • In memory of Ann Ross Abbey Liles by Richard V. Liles Jr. • In memory of Larry Cheek by Rudy Singleton • In memory of Debbie Bernhardt by Claude H. Bernhardt • In memory of Rev. Banks D. Shepherd by Eulene F. Shepherd • In memory of Ms. Frances I. Juneau by Esther Juneau • In memory of Bill Creswell by Janey Cresswell • In memory of Harry Huberth by Susan Buckley • In memory of Harry Huberth by Eleanor Lehner • In memory of John G. Shaw by Frank Shaw • In memory of John G. Shaw by Augusta C. Daniel • In memory of John G. Shaw by Ben & Joan Yelverton • In memory of John G. Shaw by Robert Bryan • In memory of John G. Shaw by Sam Meares • In memory of Judge Peter Hairston by Arlene Edwards Thompson • In memory of Joyce B. Bell by Harold Knox Roberts Jr. • In memory of John G. Shaw by Winifred M. Grannis • In memory of John G. Shaw by Jerome Richardson • In memory of Gail Bunn & Mark Alexander by Linda Alexander • In memory of John G. Shaw by A. Elizabeth Keever • In memory of John G. Shaw by Maxine G. McCoy • In memory of John & Delphine Cridlebaugh by Mary C. Cridlebaugh • In memory of John G. Shaw by Ray Law Firm • In memory of John G. Shaw by The Orange and Chatham Counties' Public Defender Offices • In memory of John G. Shaw by Anthony Cimaglia • In memory of John G. Shaw by Dohn & Sherri Broadwell • In memory of John G. Shaw by Dougald and Lynda Clark • In memory of John G. Shaw by Lyndo Tippet • In memory of John G. Shaw and Mary Pride Ariail • In memory of John G. Shaw Roland & Dena Lingle • In memory of Jack R. Lee & Hazel R. Lee by Jane Lee Watson • In memory of Richard Browder by Larry Murray • In memory of John G. Shaw by Perry H. Olive • In memory of John G. Shaw by Mary Frances E. Price • In memory of John G. Shaw by Elford H. Morgan • In memory of John G. Shaw by Philip Haigh • In memory of John G. Shaw by Johanna R. Herring • In memory of John G. Shaw by Susan Shereff • In memory of John G. Shaw by Nancy W. Broadwell • In honor of John G. Shaw by Katherine Christiano • In memory of Ezra C. Gilliam by Marion D. Gilliam • In memory of Ellie Barbara by James Barbara • In memory of Judge Thomas W. Seay, Judge Larry G. Ford, & Judge W. Erwin Spainhour by Russell & Diane Walker • In memory of Dan Coughlin by Robert Becker • In memory of Harry Huberth by Denis McCullough • In memory of Harry Huberth by Dione Appleton • In memory of Harry Huberth by Estelle & Christopher MacKenzie • In memory of Harry Huberth by Rosa Ronlater • In memory of John F. Barden by Debby Barden • In memory of Harry Huberth by Sandy Donovan • In memory of Harry Huberth by Mary P. Stephenson • In memory of Patricia Yelton by Al Brown • In memory of Jimmy Snyder by Johnny S. Beck • In memory of Harry Huberth by Anne & John Krahnert • In memory of Harry Huberth by Sarah & Toby Johnson • In memory of Harry Huberth by Jeffrey Duryera • In memory of Sam & Cheryl Buchan by Art Parker • In memory of Harry Huberth by Sandra McShea • In memory of Harry Huberth by Joe & Maureen Wurzel • In memory of Harry Huberth by Richard M. Johnson • In memory of Harry Huberth by Norman & Babette Minery • In memory of Harry Huberth by John Monroe • In memory of Harry Huberth by Jon Bachelder • In memory of Harry Huberth by Susan Smithson • In memory of Harry Huberth by Maria Duryea • In memory of Harry Huberth by Dave & Collene Duryea • In memory of Harry Huberth by Emma Poole • In memory of Harry Huberth by Gwendolyn Haag • In memory of Harry Huberth by Kim & Bruce Geddes • In memory of Harry Huberth by Ed & Kim Auman • In memory of Harry Huberth by John Shofeitt • In memory of Harry Huberth by Kristyn Commerford • In memory of Harry Huberth by Ralph Gaeta • In memory of Harry Huberth by Alane Gaeta Lennon • In memory of Ralph Oliphant & Joe Andrews by Trevor Andrews • In memory of Joe Doub by Jacqueline Doub • In memory of Sonny Morris by Luann Bridle • In memory of William C. Stanback by Nathan J. Errante • In memory of Kirby Hughes by Adele Kirk • In memory of Ken Kolkebeck by Amy Moir • In memory of Ken Kolkebeck by Gina D. Shinn • In memory of Ken Kolkebeck by Pamela Chris Howard • In memory of Hyatt Grissom by Ariana & Darrell Klotz

*Be a Champion for
Conservation with Unique
Planned Giving Options*





CREATE TOMORROW'S LEGACY...*Today*

While many planned giving options are gifts that are meant for the future, there are several options that allow you to make an immediate impact in conservation in your community. Unlike other legacy giving vehicles, the options below are two types of gifts that you can achieve online in a few clicks, without the expense of an attorney. These approaches to philanthropy will enable you to immediately see the impact of your generosity, making you a champion for conservation both today, and for generations to come.

Commit to Conservation Through Your IRA

If you are 70½ or older with a traditional IRA, you are eligible to make a tax-free gift to Three Rivers Land Trust called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Because you are not receiving the money yourself, you will not pay taxes on the transfer, so this is a very tax-smart way to make a gift even if you don't itemize deductions on your tax return. By making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to Three Rivers Land Trust from your IRA, you are making an immediate difference and commitment to conserving our lands, in a tax-savvy way that will enable you to create a lasting legacy for future generations through your generosity.

Make an Immediate Impact Through Your DAF

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) have always been a smart way to support the conservation work TRLT does, but they've become an even more effective tool in the current economic conditions of COVID-19. For those who aren't familiar with DAFs, it is a philanthropic vehicle which allows you to thoughtfully set aside money for charity giving, obtaining a tax deduction on that money at the time you establish or contribute to the fund. Funds are even flexible in the amounts that can be donated, making it a philanthropic tool that is perfect for anyone.

In essence, a donor-advised fund (DAF) is an opportunity to put your charitable dollars to work on your own terms, giving you the flexibility to tailor your philanthropic giving in easy, cost-effective ways. You can initiate a grant directly from your DAF by using our convenient DAF Direct Widget on our website: threeriverslandtrust.org/todays-gifts/.

If you would like to learn more about planned giving options, we would be happy to answer any questions you have. Please consult your attorney and your tax or financial advisors as well. Your attorney or financial advisor can also get in touch with us. All information regarding your charitable contribution will be held in the strictest of confidence.

The information on this page is for educational purposes and not considered tax or legal advice. *Please consult with your professional advisor while making charitable plans. Three Rivers Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*



TRLT MISSION:

To protect and conserve the best natural areas, rural landscapes, family farms, and historic places within North Carolina's Piedmont and Sandhills.

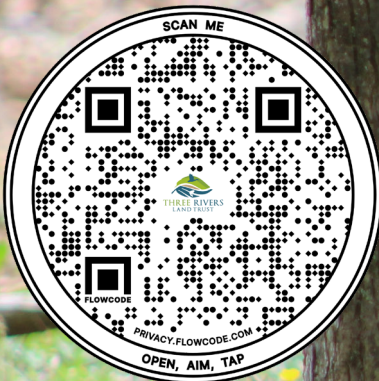
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