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Conservation Initiatives Raise Capital Through Collaboration

The Conservancy is participating in three important initiatives that have the potential to dramatically increase the funding allocated to land protection in the Charlotte region.

At the regional level, the Foundation For The Carolinas is planning an aggressive program to promote large scale funding of open space preservation in 14 counties of North and South Carolina. The Conservancy is playing a leadership role in this initiative and is pleased with the high energy and enthusiasm this effort is generating in our community.

In addition to the Foundation initiative, Duke Energy is in the midst of seeking relicensing of its Catawba River power facilities, a process that may result in significant land set-asides. This process occurs once every 50 years, and the Conservancy is serving on the local advisory team.

“This is a pivotal time for conservation here, and I’m very pleased the Foundation and Duke Energy are involving us and other land trusts in these efforts,” Executive Director Dave Cable said. “Community leaders are beginning to prioritize conserving land as an extraordinary tool in enhancing our quality of life. The outcomes of these discussions will have major implications for the amount of land protection we can do in the future.”

On a statewide level, Catawba Lands Conservancy

is stepping up its involvement in Land for Tomorrow, a broad coalition of organizations across North Carolina working to increase funding for the state’s land conservation trust funds, such as the Clean Water Management, Parks and Recreation, Natural Heritage and Farmland Preservation trust funds. These funding sources are critical to the Conservancy’s efforts to protect significant natural lands in our region.

Because state funding is so limited compared to the escalating demand for grants, Land for Tomorrow is asking the NC General Assembly to increase funding to the trust funds by \$200 million more per year for five years. This money will be available to protect rivers, farmland, park land, greenways, pristine vistas and more. You’ll be hearing more about Land for Tomorrow over the next year as the Conservancy involves the Charlotte area in



Mission

Catawba Lands Conservancy protects the land, water and wildlife resources of the Southern Piedmont and Lower Catawba River Basin to sustain our region’s health, natural beauty and ecological diversity now and in the future.

5,843 acres protected!



The Clean Water Management Trust Fund helps Ed Friday and other landowners conserve their property. Photo by Nancy Pierce.

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Andrew Waters, *Land Protection Director*
Sharon Wilson, *Land Stewardship Director*



Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to announce the Conservancy has completed an important strategic planning process. This comprehensive process involved the board, committees and staff, and touched nearly every aspect of the organization. The process culminated in an energized and productive spring meeting of the Board of Directors. I want to share with you some of the highlights of the plan.

Conserving more of the best land. Much of our area is urbanizing at a rapid rate, and land prices and development activity are increasing. In order to fulfill our commitment to our community, the Conservancy is embracing the changing realities of our market by becoming more creative and thoughtful about conservation, including becoming more active in establishing greenways and trails and collaborating more with other organizations that share our vision.

Capital for conservation. It takes real money to conserve land, and the amount required continues to increase rapidly with land values. As our capital needs *increase*, the availability of capital actually *decreases*. The competition for state funds has never been fiercer. We seek to tap several potential sources for capital, including conservation buyer projects, bank debt and an aggressive capital campaign. We are aggressively supporting North Carolina's Land for Tomorrow initiative.

Connecting land and people. The core of the Conservancy's mission is to enhance the quality of life for the people in our area. With your generosity, the Conservancy has conserved some of the most special land in the region. While some of this protected land is very sensitive to public use, other lands hold great potential for public access so you can truly experience these natural places. We will be working harder to connect the people in our community to these wonderful land assets.

Commitment to excellence. At a time of increasing scrutiny, your land trust is committed to the highest standards and practices and rigorous internal governance. We are providing leadership in educating the appraisal community about the technical aspects of conservation easement valuation, and through the great work of Robin Underwood of the Open Space Protection Collaborative, are working to disseminate professional counsel to our area's financial and legal communities.

Thank you for your continued strong support of the Conservancy – we are nothing without you. Please call me anytime with your suggestions on ways that we might improve our effectiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Davis".

Davis J. Cable
Executive Director

Help your land trust save resources! E-mail us today.

We would like to begin sending e-alerts to notify members of conservation successes, events and newsletter postings on our web site. If you would like to receive future e-alerts, please e-mail info@catawbalands.org, and include your name, mailing address and phone number so we can update your information in our database.



Attorneys at Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson hike with Frank Bragg and Conservancy staff last summer in the Ramah Creek corridor.

Law Firm Shows True Commitment

Professionals who donate their services pro bono or at a discount are instrumental in the Conservancy's ability to carry out its mission while being fiscally responsible.

The attorneys at Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson demonstrate this commitment at the highest level through their extensive efforts to assist the land protection program. Led by board member Tom Gates, the firm donated more than 120 hours of legal counsel in 2004—a value of \$26,000. Gates himself contributed nearly 80 hours of legal counsel beyond his regular board and committee service, saving the Conservancy more than \$17,000. Eight other attorneys join him in pro bono work for the land trust.

“As our region grows, preservation of land becomes more important to our quality of life,” Gates said. “The Conservancy does not seek to regulate property use but provides resources and assistance to property owners who want to see their land permanently preserved. I work with the Conservancy because I want to be involved in the process of helping people preserve their land, and because I agree with the organization's approach to conservation.”



We welcome **Andrew Waters** as the Conservancy's new **land protection director**. Andrew comes to the Conservancy from a background in real estate and communications. A native of western North Carolina, he earned bachelor's degrees in English and psychology from UNC Chapel Hill before working as an editor at John F. Blair, Publisher and Wake Forest University Magazine. He received a master's degree in business administration from UNC Greensboro and was a real estate broker with Coldwell Banker in Winston-Salem, where he served on the board of the local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful.

Corporate Partners

Leadership: \$20,000+

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GOVERNMENT



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Horizon Eye Care	
Howard Construction Co.	



Photo by Joseph Brymer/Joseph Brymer Photography

Queen's Cup Celebrates 10th Anniversary

They pounded the pavement to hang posters. They directed a rainbow of car passes through busy race-day traffic. They made calls, answered calls and sold more raffle tickets that one can imagine.

More than 300 volunteers came out in March and April to support the Conservancy and the Queen's Cup Steeplechase. Thanks to their efforts, the 10th anniversary of the Queen's Cup on April 30 and the various festivities leading up to it went off without a hitch.

The event is a wonderful opportunity to showcase Brooklandwood, one of the Conservancy's protected properties, while raising money to conserve other beautiful natural areas in the Southern Piedmont. Race fans enjoyed six thoroughbred horse races, Jack Russell Terrier races, the annual hat and tailgate contests and socializing with friends.

We would like to thank all of you who supported the Queen's Cup through your volunteer time, attendance or purchase of an advertisement or raffle tickets.

Lobby Day Brings Land Trusts to Raleigh

Catawba Lands Conservancy and others in the land trust community will participate May 25 in Land and Water Lobby Day to advocate funding for the state trust funds.

The Clean Water Management, Parks and Recreation, Natural Heritage and Farmland Preservation trust funds are crucial in conserving North Carolina's natural areas, water quality and working farms. The Conservancy alone has used more than \$5 million in Clean Water Management Trust Fund dollars to protect 983 acres.

If you would like to participate, send a letter to your state legislators to encourage their support of full funding for these essential trust funds, or call the Conservancy for other ways you can be involved.

Volunteers Make it Happen

We would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted in winter 2004 and spring 2005.

Office/Miscellaneous

Diane Blanke
George Buck
Micki Cook
Mimi Curlee
Anne Davidson
Sue and Hannah Davis
Coleen Frenzel
Trude Gretz
Sally Henderson
Liz Horgan
Nancy Huegerich
Sally Kneidel
Carolyn Lawson
Steve Mayeaux
Teresa McQuide
Kathy Ruse
Connie Sharp
Jane Shoemaker

Phonathon

Budd Berro
Bo Elliot
Michelle Garey
Charlie McRee
Bill Price
Mary Tribble

Parties for the Land Hosts

Rob Bierregaard
Mary Lou Buck
Sally Cooper
Bo and Mollie Elliot
Fania Greenwood
Donald and Janet Haack
Kathryn Heath and Tom Webb
PFL committee
Haywood and Sabine Rankin
Charlie Williams
Jean Woods

Wreath-Making Event

Frank Bragg
Alonzo and Margaret Killian
Kay Killian
Dick and Carolyn Lawson
Robin McCoy

Breneman and Karen Thompson
Price and Margaret Zimmermann

Queen's Cup Publicity

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Ela Mae Casuga
Micki Cook
Trude Gretz
Starr Hill-Bennett
Betty Howell
Julie Jones
Erika Kramer
Elizabeth Milam

Hike Leaders

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Les Gullede
Helen Halliday
Robin Heafner
Jason Huffstetler
Jason Johnson
Dr. Mark Kelso
Jack Meckler
Mike Murphy
Haywood Rankin
Jordan Reynolds
Mike and Christine Romot
Queens University CORE students
Scout Troop #8
Tex Squires
Calvin Stiles
Greg Sutphin
Cindy Thompson

Volunteer of the Year

We congratulate Bill McMullen for receiving the Conservancy's 2004 Eugene O. Daniels Volunteer of the Year award. Bill is an attorney with Buckley, McMullen and Buie, P.A., and donates hundreds of hours of legal expertise each year to the land protection program.

Bill has volunteered with the Conservancy for more than a decade and was recognized for his extraordinary service and dedication at the Jan. 30 Annual Meeting. Bill also is a member of the Lands Acquisition Committee and served on the executive director search committee last summer.



Photo by Nancy Pierce

Stretch Your Gift with a Match

Want more for your money? Several opportunities are available to maximize your gift through foundations or companies that match charitable donations.

We would like to recognize those who participated in this year's Run for the Money with the Community Foundation of Gaston County. The foundation seeks to further the work of charities serving Gaston County by partnering with local businesses that match individual donations. This is the Conservancy's second year to participate.

With the help of these individuals, the Conservancy reached the \$10,000 cap that the foundation will match. The match amount was 67 percent in 2004 and varies each year with corporate participation.

Anonymous

Harry and Ruby Bryant Sr.

Davis and Libby Cable

Kurt and Erin Culbert

Thomas and Nancy Duncan

Tilman T. and Sherard Anne Gates

Walter Gray

Hendricks Foundation

Justin and Deborah Little

Chuck and Lindsay Meakin

Johan T. Newcombe

Adam and Sonia Perillo

William and Carrington Price, IV

Haywood and Sabine Rankin

Mr. and Mrs. W. Porter Rhoton III

Richard and Sarah Park Rankin Jr.

Charles and Helene Pearson Jr.

Ruth M. Rice

Connie H. Sharp

Shannon C. Sharp

Dr. Steven and Mrs. Camilla Tracy

In addition to the Run for the Money each spring,

members who work at companies that match their employees' charitable gifts have a unique opportunity to double their money for conservation. The following companies currently match contributions to the Conservancy. If you work at any of these, please contact your employer for more details.

American International Group, Inc. (AIG)

Bank of America

BellSouth

Charles Schwab

Clariant Corporation

HSBC

IBM

Microsoft

Philip Morris, Inc.

Wachovia

Name Your Newsletter Contest Runs Through July 1

Since the fall of 1996, Conservancy members have opened their mailboxes each quarter to find *Outlook* keeping them informed of their land trust's work.

As part of a redesign of this publication, we invite you to enter our contest this summer to give your newsletter a new name. We're looking for a title that better reflects our work to permanently conserve land, water and wildlife habitat and enhance our quality of life in the Charlotte region and Southern Piedmont.

To enter the contest, visit our web site at www.catawbalands.org, and complete the form located under the "What's New" section on the front page.

If we choose your idea, you will receive your choice of Conservancy T-shirt and a \$100 gift membership, or a free ticket to the exclusive Ben Owen Kiln Opening party Aug. 25. This Parties for the Land themed event allows you the first look at the famous potter's new collection and includes lunch with the artist. The entry deadline is July 1.



First Public Trail Opens in May

Catawba Lands Conservancy celebrates a landmark this spring—the official opening of a public trail that provides scenic beauty, recreational opportunity and increased access to protected land. The **South Fork River Rail Trail** will open with an official ribbon cutting and hike Saturday, May 14, at 10:30 a.m. The one-mile trail, located just south of Lincolnton on Laboratory Road, breathes new life to an abandoned railroad corridor on the 324-acre Paul and Agnes Rhyne Preserve. Hikers or bicyclists may enjoy the trail from dawn to dusk. Visit www.catawbalands.org for directions to the trail.

New and Renewing Memberships

Thank you to our new and renewing members and contributors (received 1/1/05 to 3/31/05.)

Landscape Steward, \$2,500+

Mike and Lisa North
William Anderson and Karen
Sennewald

Heritage Benefactor, \$1,000+

Dr. Andreas Bechtler
Mike and Kaki Clement
John Crosland
Peter and Anne Gilchrist
Kathy Mixon and Doug Tyler

Piedmont Patron, \$500+

Budd and Leslie Berro
Sharon Brown
William and Veronica Clark
Rennie Cuthbertson
Eugene and Marie Anne
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John and Lynne Ford
Peggy Harrington
Robert Heyward and Betsy
Alexander
Joel and Beverly Wissing

Watershed Sponsor, \$250+

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John and Leslie Culbertson
Jim and Jan Farley
Frank and Sarah Gentry
Mike and Claire Gwyn
Tim and Robin Heafner
Barbara B. Hiestand
Mayor Bryan Hough
Leonard Martina and Beth
Eakes
Myers Park Baptist Church
Scott and Shari Roberts
Van and Mattie Rowell
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Sisir and Lola Sen Gupta
Patrick and Sally Stout
June and Kenneth Winston

Forest Preserver, \$100+

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Mrs. George Wrenn

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James and Alberta Blecke
Alan and Rosalie Blumenthal
Robert and Elinor Butt
Donald and Priscilla Bynum
ColeJenest & Stone, PA
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John and Sandy Yakob
Melinda Yelton

Habitat Conserver, \$35+

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Charles and Mallory Ballard
Robert and Evelyn Blalock
Robert Blanton
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Sheila and Alfred Brown
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Kathryn Bumgardner
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 E. T. and Barbara Weiant
 Joe and Elise Williams
 Scott and Anne Wilson

Honorariums, Memorials and Gift Memberships

Mary Edith Alexander, gift
 membership to Dr. Richard
 Mattson.
 Bob and Alice Bischoff, in
 memory of Bee and Bill
 Lupo.
 George and Mary Lou Buck,
 gift membership to Bibiana
 Wiley.
 Oscar, Juddie, Kenneth and
 Richard Penegar, in memory
 of Monroe Penegar.
 Charles Chafin Rhyne, in
 memory of Dan Froneberger.
 Sharon Wilson, gift membership
 to Mamie Cole.

Foundations

Philip L. Van Every Foundation
 Hendricks Foundation—Run for
 the Money

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George and Mary Lou Buck
 CaroMont Cancer Center
 Marie-Claire Marroum-Kardous
 Ronald Melton and Katherine
 Boyd Rankin
 Richard Plati
 Chase and Carolyn Saunders
 Dale and Kim Stewart
 Emily Zimmern

In-kind

ATCOM
 Bragg Financial Advisors
 Buckley, McMullen & Buie, P.A.
 IBM Corporation
 Lee Lytton
 Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson
 Shield Engineering

*Every effort was made to ensure
 the accuracy of this list. Please
 notify the Conservancy office of
 any corrections, and we apologize
 for any errors or omissions.*



Photo by Nancy Pierce

Grants Totaling \$125,000 Assist on the South Fork

Catawba Lands Conservancy recently received grants totaling \$125,000 to expand and promote activities in the South Fork river corridor.

The Conservancy and several other land conservation organizations in the state were awarded in March a \$1 million grant by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to preserve land along riparian corridors that are important habitats for migratory and wetland-dependent birds. The Conservancy will receive \$100,000 toward obtaining conservation easements on land bordering the South Fork, an important flight corridor for migratory birds.

Last fall the Conservancy received a grant of \$25,000 from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF), through the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, to initiate or continue landowner negotiations for conservation of environmentally important properties on the South Fork in Gaston and Lincoln counties. Specifically, the grant funds efforts to research ownership records and revise maps; contact and educate landowners in the project area; produce and disseminate updated information about the Conservancy and conservation options; and work toward securing conservation easements or acquiring properties.

“This is an exciting opportunity to expand our efforts to reach out to landowners on the South Fork,” said Executive Director Dave Cable. “We thank the funding agencies for their support and our project partners for their generosity and expertise in securing these funds.”

The Conservancy has been awarded two grants totaling \$442,000 from CWMTF for specific land acquisition projects in the South Fork watershed. The properties total more than 75 acres in Gaston and Catawba counties and are adjacent to other protected lands. We anticipate completing the projects later this year.



Land Trust Day

Saturday, June 4
Great Outdoor Provision Co.

Prepare for all your summer outdoor needs Saturday, June 4, by shopping at the 13th annual Land Trust Day. Great Outdoor Provision Company stores statewide donate 25 percent of the day's sales to their local land trust, and we need you to make it a success. Stop by the store in the Park Road Shopping Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to shop and enter prize drawings. It's a perfect time to join as a member or bring a conservation-minded friend to learn about your land trust.

June 4 also is National Trails Day, and in honor of the day, the dedication of the Westfield Drive portion of Little Sugar Creek Greenway will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. that Saturday. Sponsored by Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department, Partners for Parks, Inc. and the Mecklenburg South Rotary Club, the event includes the dedication ceremony, music, entertainment and Duck Derby. The dedication will occur at the Brandywine Trailhead behind Park Road Shopping Center.

Stop by and see the Conservancy at our greenway dedication display, and then head over to Great Outdoor Provision Co. for your summer outing supplies!

Catawba Lands Conservancy is a member of the North Carolina Land Trust Council, 23 local and regional land trusts that collectively have protected more than 161,900 acres of the lands you love in North Carolina.

Upcoming Events

South Fork River Rail Trail Ribbon Cutting
Saturday, May 14, at 10:30 a.m. in Lincoln County

Headwaters Wildflower Hike
Saturday, May 28, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. This Parties for the Land themed event is \$40/person and includes transportation to Ashe County. Registration required.

Land Trust Day
Saturday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Great Outdoor Provision Co. in Park Road Shopping Center.

Gar Creek: Protecting Our Drinking Water
Saturday, June 25, from 10 a.m. to noon. Registration required.

Piedmont Prairie Prowl
Saturday, July 16, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Join the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Dept. at the McDowell Nature Center for this walk through the Piedmont prairie to learn about the history and wildlife of this habitat. \$4/adults; \$3/children ages 7+. Registration is required at (704) 588-5224.

Ben Owen Kiln Opening Party
Thursday, Aug. 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
This Parties for the Land themed event is \$125/person and includes transportation to Sea Grove and lunch with the world-famous potter. Registration required.

Parties for the Land Gala
Saturday, Nov. 5, time to be announced

Please visit www.catawbalands.org, or call the Conservancy at (704) 342-3330 for more details.



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