

CATAWBA LANDS CONSERVANCY

FALL 2010 ❖ VOLUME XX ❖ NUMBER 2

‘WE SPEAK FOR THE LAND’

Stories teach, inspire and compel us to think about our corner of the world in a broader context. In this new series, we will share the stories of people in our community who have a heartfelt connection to our local conserved lands. We look forward to making this ongoing series a central part of our newsletter.

A COMMITMENT TO FOREVER

Jean Woods grew up in a coal camp in Virginia near the Kentucky border. When she was 18, the company went out of business and her family was forced to move to a nearby town. The company cleared the land she grew up on and stripped it for any remaining coal.

“If I were to take you back there, I would not even be able to show you the original contour of the land where we lived,” said Jean. “This had a very big emotional and spiritual impact on me.”

“Over my life, I’ve come to realize that the land doesn’t have a voice, it’s powerless, so it needs someone to speak out for it,” said Jean. “Through the Catawba Lands Conservancy, I have been able to be a part of a group of people who help conserve the land and protect the land.”



Jean Woods secures a photo point sign on the banks of Ramah Creek

Jean and her husband took a guided walk at the Catawba Wildflower Glen in the late 1990s led by a guide who recommended

that Jean become a Stewardship Volunteer for the Conservancy.

“As Stewardship Volunteers, our job is to monitor conserved properties to ensure that the land is being protected from encroachment and that it is being used in accordance to the conservation easement,” explained Jean.

The Stewardship Volunteer team works under Sharon Wilson, the Conservancy’s Stewardship Director. Every year Sharon is responsible for making sure that the Conservancy’s more than 8,000 acres of conserved lands are being thoughtfully stewarded.

“When the Conservancy conserves a property, we make a commitment to look after it forever, and forever is a long time,” said Jean. “For that reason, it’s imperative that we have a strong stewardship group.”

Stewardship activities include a yearly visit to each property with a conservation easement, as well as workdays on lands owned by the Conservancy. The team documents each property’s status, and takes note of any changes. If there are activities that could compromise the land’s

conservation values, the Conservancy works with the landowner to resolve the issue.



Sunflowers in bloom at the Ramah Creek conservation area

“Land changes hands, but a conservation easement goes with the deed,” said Jean, explaining that not every encroachment on conserved property is intentional. “A municipality was going to put a sewer line in and hadn’t checked the deed. If we hadn’t had a monitor on that property who noticed some of that activity, we wouldn’t have been able to get involved and do something about it.”

Jean points to the Conservancy as serving a vital role to the region for local land conservation.

“If it wasn’t for your local land trust, properties of local or regional interest would not be protected,” said Jean. “Catawba Lands Conservancy provides that opportunity for people to say ‘I don’t want my land to be paved over, I want it to be protected.’”

Jean performed some of her stewardship activities on the banks of Ramah Creek on the Bragg property, 473 acres of private lands in Huntersville.

“When properties are conserved that contain wooded areas or water sources, we’re protecting valuable natural resources,” said Jean. “Conserved land along rivers and streams helps filter water so it stays clean and trees absorb carbon dioxide while putting out oxygen. Conserved properties help keep our region healthy.”

Jean cautioned that rapid development in the Charlotte region has put pressure on these natural resources.

“It’s very important that we support our local land trusts now, because if we don’t the land is going to be gone in the very near future,” said Jean.

For her, there is something rejuvenating about connecting with the natural world.

“Not only is it clean air and clean water, but I think that there is something about being

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FROM THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL



Friends,

The opportunity to conserve 1,600 acres of natural lands is immediately in front of us.

Now is the time to act.

Despite the challenges of a sluggish economy, the current economic climate also presents a rare opportunity, and one that should not be missed. Land previously slated for development is now available for purchase, and in many cases at a significant discount. Our shared goal of making significant strides for land conservation in the urban and rural areas of our region is now more attainable than ever.

The Conservancy is poised to take full advantage of this unique opportunity. Our proactive land acquisition program has a “pipeline” with more than 1,600 acres of land presently awaiting conservation. The land will not be

available for long, and we need your help.

In June 2010, the Conservancy began a concerted effort to secure and sustain an additional \$400,000 annually for land acquisition and stewardship. This funding is critical to protect natural resources for the current and future generations living in the Southern Piedmont. The Conservancy’s Board has called together a leadership team for fundraising – The Conservation Council – charged with raising the bulk of these funds by November 2010.

You too are being called to participate in this effort. Become a part of the Catawba Society by pledging \$1,500 annually, or help out with a gift of \$50 or \$100. Every gift is important, and every \$1 that you give to Catawba Lands Conservancy is leveraged to provide \$10 in conservation value for our community.

This fundraising effort will provide the needed financial resources to fund the organization’s land acquisition and

stewardship work, sustain a comprehensive outreach strategy and replenish the land acquisition fund at a pivotal time in the organization’s history.

The lasting impact of our actions today will affect the character of our home for generations to come. Supporting the Conservancy’s commitment to local land conservation ensures that we will have trails and greenways where families connect to nature, clean water to drink, farms to provide local food, and habitat where wildlife thrives. Not to mention clean air to breathe and green spaces where we can retreat to repair.

The time is now. Join us by taking our mission to heart at this critical hour. Together we can truly make a difference by saving land and connecting lives to nature.

Eddie Poe
Chair, Conservation Council

LAND ACQUISITION: PRESERVING NATURE CLOSE TO HOME

- 8,112 acres in our region have been permanently conserved
- 1,600 acres are pending conservation projects for the Conservancy; bringing these projects to completion falls to the Land Acquisition team

- The Kettner Fund for Land Acquisition is currently depleted
- One full-time employee shepherds as many as 10 land acquisition projects at a time

STEWARDSHIP: A COMMITMENT TO FOREVER

- Currently, 104 conserved properties totaling 8,112 acres are monitored annually

- The Conservancy has committed to look after its conserved properties forever; this job falls to the Stewardship team
- More than 2,000 acres of land owned by the Conservancy must be cared for to maintain their conservation value
- One full-time employee oversees more than 100 volunteers, who gave 1,138 hours of their time in 2009



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SPEAK FOR THE LAND (CONT FROM PAGE 1)

out here and feeling the breezes and seeing things are not all straight lines that helps your mind, your spirit and your mental attitude,” said Jean. “If we lose these green places we’re going to do ourselves a grave injustice.”

KEEPING FARMLAND A LIVING LEGACY

On an open field set against a background of bright blue sky and distant mountains, Gerald Frye stands beside a concrete feeding pad recently installed on his cow-calf farm. The 206-acre Frye Farm spans Lincoln and Cleveland Counties and is in the final stages of being permanently protected through a conservation easement made possible in partnership with Catawba Lands Conservancy.



Gerald Frye, owner of a 206-acre farm spanning Lincoln and Cleveland counties

The Fryes came to farming later in life. Gerald had no background in farming, while his wife Leslie’s family had a cattle operation when she was a child.

“I used to roll my eyes at the thought of driving around the farm and checking on the cows,” said Leslie, who now calls herself the “nurse” of the husband and wife team. She shares stories of bottle-feeding newborn calves, naming the farm’s bulls for their peculiar personalities, and the awful experience of losing several heifers in a lightning storm.

Gerald, who is an active member of the regional Cattlemen’s Association, said he learned a lot in the early years of the farm, and was well-supported by his local agricultural cooperative extension and the Cattlemen. The land was an abandoned wheat farm, which the Fryes have turned into a growing cattle operation through a firmly-held commitment to farming best practices.

Like the new feeding pad, which makes it easier to collect manure as fertilizer and prevents it from running into the nearby streams, Gerald points to other farming



The Fryes are committed to rotational grazing on their cow-calf farm

practices they depend on to sustain a healthy farm. He is diligent about rotating the cows in grazing fields and providing water for the cows away from the streams to prevent erosion, among other best practices.

“What’s good for the environment is also good for the cows, and when your cows are healthy, you’re more profitable,” said Gerald. “Other ways of farming might be easier in the short term, but in the long term, taking shortcuts is going to cause problems.”

The benefits of farming best practices such as rotational grazing and using water and feeding stations, include improved water quality, wildlife habitat and nutrient-rich soils. But the conservation value of the land was not the only factor driving Gerald and Leslie to pursue an easement on their land.

“After a while, it felt like none of what I was doing to make the farm better would matter in the long run,” said Gerald. “I always thought, ‘when I’m gone this will just be another development.’”

Gerald had heard about conservation easements, and was put in touch with Catawba Lands

Conservancy. Gerald and Leslie met with the Conservancy’s land protection team and decided to pursue an easement on their property. Once the easement agreement was in the pipeline, Gerald saw his work on the farm in a whole new light.

“Now, the farm is something much bigger than me. It will outlast me and the next farmer and it will still be a farm,” said Gerald. “It is incredibly fulfilling to be a part of something that is lasting like that. For me, that has been the greatest gift in getting the easement.”

The Conservancy is in the process of finalizing the purchase of a conservation easement from the Fryes with the help of matching funds from the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program and the North Carolina Environmental Enhancement Grants Program.

“We could not have done this without the Conservancy,” said Gerald. “It’s a complicated process, and we’re so grateful that the land protection team has been our guide in making this possible.”

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NATURE IS KEY IN NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

A historic and natural treasure lies hidden on a dead end street in the Lakewood neighborhood just three miles northwest of Uptown Charlotte.



Dave Nichols, Executive Director of Lakewood CDC

“Where we’re standing used to be the bottom of a lake in one of the largest recreation parks in our region 100 years ago,” said Dave Nichols, Executive Director of the Lakewood Community Development Corporation (CDC).

Once compared to Coney Island’s theme park, Lakewood Park was Charlotte’s finest park between 1910 and 1933, and drew crowds who enjoyed amusement rides, gardens and boating on the lake in an area that covered 100 acres at the park’s heyday.

Now, the natural bowl of the historic lake bed is traversed by Stewart Creek and is home to some of Charlotte’s most economically challenged neighborhoods, including Lakewood.

Since 1991, Lakewood CDC has been working to improve the lives of Lakewood families through a holistic approach to neighborhood revitalization.

The nonprofit organization has partnered with other nonprofits to improve services, housing opportunities and engage children in various activities.

After several outings to biking trails hours from Lakewood, several children lamented having to go so far away when there were trails in their own neighborhood. Led by the neighborhood children, the CDC staff discovered the area surrounding Stewart Creek.

“We never saw this area as an asset until we realized the possibility of being able to transform a wooded and oftentimes unsavory area into a neighborhood park,” said Dave.

The overgrown wooded area has long been off limits to the neighborhood kids as a dangerous place where they’re discouraged from going. Dave and other community partners are hoping to change that.

“We believe we can transform this area from an abandoned, hidden area where people are coming for drug deals and prostitution, to a park that people see as a beautiful place, one where you want to come, where people will visit and connect,” said Dave.

The Conservancy saw an opportunity to partner with the Lakewood CDC to create a nature preserve in the community as a Crossroads Charlotte initiative. The preserve will serve as a resource for neighborhood empowerment, improved quality of life, and protection of natural resources.

The Conservancy’s work to make the nature preserve in Lakewood

a reality has involved several partners, including Duke Energy, a key landowner, and Charlotte Storm Water Services, which hopes to use the Stewart Creek corridor clean up for water quality mitigation. Additionally, Conservation Trust for North Carolina and Natural Resources Group are helping to cover the transactional costs of the land purchase for the nature preserve.



Lakewood children explore Stewart Creek, which borders their urban neighborhood

“Catawba Lands Conservancy is an essential player in negotiating these deals and helping us to piece this project together,” said Dave.

Unfortunately, securing funding in lean economic times has been challenging. Despite matching commitments and Duke Energy’s bargain sale price, the project still faces a \$70,000 shortfall. While the Conservancy seeks additional funding for the nature preserve, the Lakewood neighborhood continues to dream big.

In working with the Carolina

Thread Trail, the community’s vision for a neighborhood park has grown into an opportunity to connect Lakewood to Uptown Charlotte and out to the Whitewater Center.

“Allowing kids in this neighborhood to ride three miles along a trail to Ray’s Splash Planet and never get on a road is something they had never even dreamed of until recently,” said Dave.

The Conservancy and Lakewood CDC have also engaged Lakewood’s Children and Family Outreach Coordinator, Jamaal Griffin, whose work is supported by a Crossroads Charlotte grant. Jamaal is helping to get kids from the neighborhood outside nearly every day.

“Having this natural area in the neighborhood has allowed our kids to gain a greater understanding of their impact on the environment,” said Dave. “We’ve had several clean up days in the woods near their

homes where kids picked up their own cans and could see what happens when they throw their trash on the street. They are learning to see this natural area as part of their world and it’s changing their world view.”



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LAKEWOOD CDC, VISIT LAKEWOODCDC.ORG.

Stay tuned for more stories from the Conservancy’s friends and neighbors that speak for our local lands. Check out catawbalands.org for videos of these and other stories, as well as photos from our conserved lands. ■

NATUREFEST AND RACE FOR THE LAND A SIZZLING SUCCESS



Visitors learn more about the Conservancy and The Thread



Families at NatureFest brave the heat to enjoy the beauty of Redlair

The sun was shining and temperature already climbing the morning of June 5th as the first half marathons arrived at Redlair Farm and Forest to kick off the NatureFest 2010 festivities with the Conservancy's first annual "Race for the Land." Nearly 150 runners crossed the finish line for both the half marathon and 8k races, making the inaugural event a great success.

"I've run in many trail races over the years and the trails at the Race for the Land were awesome," said Joe Schlereth, who ran the half marathon. "It was a fun race and I plan on coming again next year."

At 10 a.m. the Conservancy held its annual meeting in the shade of a natural amphitheatre known as "The Cathedral."

"I am so pleased to welcome you to Redlair," said Redlair landowner and Conservancy Board Member Haywood Rankin to more than 90 people who gathered for the meeting. "By sharing this special place, my hope is that each of you may appreciate the unique character of our native upland forest and the importance of protecting our local natural treasures."

The festival attracted approximately 1,200 people who visited displays by conservation-themed organizations and local artisans. People also enjoyed oven-fired pizza, ice cream and barbeque, between listening to live music and playing at the family activity tent.



Face painting was a popular activity at NatureFest

A highlight of the daylong celebration was taking part in one of the many guided hikes led by expert volunteers. Participants learned about native species of plants, the natural history of Redlair, and edible treats found in the forest, among other interesting facts.

"This is our first year at NatureFest," said the Spencer family, who braved the heat to

enjoy the festival. "We're looking forward to taking the kids on the Creek Crawl."

Visitors also had the chance to canoe or paddle along the South Fork River, a new offering made possible through local river guide service, Countryman Livery.

"The paddling trip was a great way to see a beautiful, protected river locally available to all," said NatureFest attendee Wendy Roberts. "Having paddled many rivers in the Carolinas, it was a delight to find such a peaceful spot so close to urban Charlotte."

SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM NATUREFEST AT CATAWBALANDS.ORG/PHOTOS.

THANK YOU

NatureFest would not have been possible without the support of our lead sponsor:



A special thanks to Julie Hulley for designing our event t-shirts, and to race sponsors Inside Out Sports, H2Oasis, Kane Training, Newton Running Shoes and ThorLo.

Finally, we are deeply grateful to the Rankin family for hosting NatureFest.

NatureFest Volunteers

Allyson Reynolds
Amanda Bradley
Ashley Council
Audrey Hollingworth
Barbara Rainwater
Becky Stoever
Bobby Gillespie
Brad Allf
Brian Barksdale
Bridget Mitchell
Carla Vitez
Carol Marley
Carol Raedy
Catherine Sullivan
Charlotte Folk Society
Chris Bridges

Christina Whitson
Cindy Caldwell
Community Singers
Corey Floyd
Courtney Reynolds
Cynthia Wilson
Dan Sowder
Danielle Burnham
David Maynard
Deborah Little
Debra Porter
Donna Davis
Donna Johnson
Frances Fugate
Gary Mims
George Buck
Gerald Frye
Glenn Johnson

Gloria Brinkman
Greg Richardson
Honky Tonkers
Jack Meckler
Jane McLaughlin
Jane Shoemaker
Janet Levy
Jean Farmer
Jeffrey Huss
Jennifer Hall
Jennifer Simmons
Jennifer Stanton
Jud Little
Karen Singleton
Kathy Abernethy
Katie Marc
Katie Miller
Kelly Law

Kitty Barnes
Kurt Biller
Linda Salinas
Lisa Swayne Proud
Mark Smith
Martha Odom
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Melinda Yelton
Melissa Bell
Mitchael Sanders
Molly Braswell
Nancy Pierce
Nick Stewart
Peter Caan
Peter Young
Phil Kuttner
Randy Brown
Reid Culp

Ric Browning
Rick Erexson
Robin Helton
Roy Alexander
Russ Keanini
Shirley Rosen
Steve Mullis
Terri Genschock
Tom Covington
Tom Proud
Tom Wilson
Veronica Brinkman
Vivian Riegelman
Wendy Parker
Woods Potts

MINERAL SPRINGS DEBUTS GREENWAY TRAILS, PUBLIC ACCESS PLANS FOR CONSERVED LAND



From left: Catawba Lands Conservancy's Matt Card and RoxAnne Smith with Mineral Springs Council members Peggy Neill, Lundeen Cureton, Janet Critz and Mayor Rick Becker

On Saturday, June 12, the town of Mineral Springs hosted a "Sneak Peek" of its newly acquired nature preserve and future greenway located in the Copper Run and Harrington Hall communities. The conserved land encompasses

nearly 60 acres along the Wolf and Bates Branches and may be used for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.

Saturday's event started at the approximate center of the

new trail system, where visitors had the option of participating in two guided hikes. More than 50 people from the greater Mineral Springs community came to learn about the project and walk the new trails.

"We're thrilled to have the

opportunity to invite our residents to enjoy such a beautiful place right in their own backyard," said Mineral Springs Mayor Rick Becker. "Conserving this land will benefit our community in so many ways, both today and for future generations. We look forward to expanding on ways that our citizens can get out and enjoy these trails and open spaces."

The first route, led on horseback, headed downstream along the creeks to a loop at a wider section of the floodplain. The other route headed upstream along the Wolf Branch, bordering the Harrington Hall subdivision site. Hikers had the opportunity to experience the floodplain ecosystem of ferns, walnut trees, and towering pines, and the upland ecosystem of mature hardwood trees and

wide-open spaces.

The conserved land was made available through Carmel Brothers and Niblock Homes, local developers who donated creek frontage and made portions of the property available at discounted prices.

The Conservancy helped to secure the conserved property using a \$307,000 grant from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The land will provide critical riparian buffer and floodplain protection, helping to ensure water that enters the creek has a lower risk of contaminants.

Ultimately, Mineral Springs hopes to connect five new and existing subdivisions to this growing network of trails in their community. ■

STATE AND FEDERAL CONSERVATION NEWS

At a time when our country is facing major economic challenges, the Conservancy and its conservation partners are working hard to keep the long-term health of our environment and land protection a high priority for decision-makers at the state and federal level. Here is some of the latest news that impacts our regional conservation efforts.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESERVES CONSERVATION FUNDING

In June, the Conservancy, together with NC Land Trust Council, Conservation Trust for North Carolina and other partners, asked the North Carolina General Assembly to maintain funding commitments for Clean Water Management Trust Fund at \$50 million per year, protect the dedicated revenue streams for the Natural

Heritage and Parks and Recreation trust funds, and include \$2 million per year for the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, which helps maintain family farms and sustain agriculture across North Carolina.

Thanks to the leadership of Governor Perdue in supporting the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and to the many members of the legislature that upheld their commitment for a healthy environment, funding was preserved with the passage of the

budget in July. These funds are vital to sustaining our state's natural resources.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS INITIATIVE

President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors Initiative in April, applauding the conservation work of America's 1,600 land trusts. While Mr. Obama's remarks included no promise of dedicated funding, he signed a Presidential Memorandum seeking a report on America's Great Outdoors by

November 15th.

The President has directed the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality to lead this effort and to listen and learn from people all over the country. To accomplish that, the Department of the Interior is hosting "listening sessions" throughout the country.

The Conservancy's Associate Director RoxAnne Smith and The Thread's Capital Resource Director Lindsey Dunevant attended a listening session held in Asheville, NC in July. Stay tuned for more about the America's Great Outdoors Initiative in upcoming Catawba Lands Conservancy e-news and newsletter issues. ■

SUPPORT OUR LAWMAKERS' CONSERVATION ETHIC

Please thank Governor Perdue and our state legislators for funding North Carolina's conservation trust funds. Contact information for Governor Perdue and NC legislators is available at www.nc.gov.

Share your ideas for America's Great Outdoors Initiative! Visit <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf> to vote on good ideas or contribute your own thoughts to the conversation.

EDDIE POE NAMED 2009 VOLUNTEER CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Conservancy Board Member Eddie Poe was named the 2009 North Carolina Stanback Volunteer Conservationist of the Year for his work to create legal protection for conserved lands at risk of condemnation in North Carolina. The award, presented annually by North Carolina's 24 land trusts, goes to an individual who has shown outstanding commitment to land conservation in North Carolina.

A law partner with Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, Eddie invested more than 200 pro bono hours researching condemnation case law. From his findings, he crafted a comprehensive bill that expands protection for conserved lands facing condemnation. With the support of Rep. Ruth Samuelson and Sen. Dan Clodfelter, the NC General

Assembly passed the amendments as Session Law 2009-439. The bill was signed by Governor Perdue in August 2009.

"We're thrilled that Eddie has received this recognition for his extraordinary work to advance land conservation legislation in our state. His tenacity and commitment to his community sets a great example for us all," said Louis Stephens, Conservancy board member and chair of the Land Acquisition Committee. "This bill ensures that our state's conserved open lands will remain protected for future generations."

Eddie was recognized at an awards ceremony hosted by Conservation Trust for North Carolina on Wednesday, May 26, at the Marbles/IMAX Museum in Downtown Raleigh. ■

ANDREW DANA AWARDED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Conservancy Board Chair Jack Meckler (left) presents Andrew Dana with his award

Catawba Lands Conservancy recognized Andrew Dana as the Eugene O. Daniels "Volunteer of the Year" during its annual meeting on June 5th.

An associate with Charlotte firm Culp Elliott & Carpenter, P.L.L.C., Andrew is a tax lawyer with expertise in charitable giving. He is also nationally recognized for his work with conservation planning and wetland mitigation.

"Andrew's legal advice on land conservation and mitigation issues has been invaluable for the organization and for land donors," said Jack Meckler, president of the Conservancy's Board of Directors and chair of the Stewardship Committee. "We cannot thank him enough for sharing his expertise so generously."

Andrew was introduced to the Conservancy through his work on Sally's Y conservation easement in 2007. He has since become an active member of the Conservancy's Land Acquisition Committee and has provided legal consultation for landowners regarding the tax benefits of land conservation.

Andrew is currently advising the Conservancy on the carbon credit market. ■

BOARD WELCOMES LINDA MCFARLAND FARTHING



Catawba Lands Conservancy Board of Directors welcomes its newest member, Linda McFarland Farthing. A

resident of Charlotte, Linda recently retired as President and CEO of Stein Mart. She has spent more than 30 years as a successful retail executive, serving as Sr. Vice President at Ivey's Department Stores, President and COO of Cato Corporation, and President and COO of Friedman's Jewelers before assuming her position at Stein Mart.

"It's a great pleasure to join an organization committed to protecting our local, natural lands," said Linda. "I grew up playing in the woods and I strongly believe that every child should have the opportunity to be close to the earth. Catawba Lands Conservancy is working to ensure that the children of our community have a place close to home to experience nature."

Linda has served on the Boards of Cato, Friedman's, CT Communications, Discovery Place and currently serves on the Board of Stein Mart. She is a member of the United Way Board, the Committee of 200, Women Corporate Directors, an Advisor for Dress for Success, and a graduate of Leadership Charlotte Class XXII. ■

2010 VOLUNTEERS TO DATE

Allen Hubbard	Heather Bolick	Peggy and Bob Culbertson
Amy Davis	Henry Fleming	Pete Kaplan
Andrew Dana	Holly Knox	Phil Kuttner
Ann Franklin	Jamaal Griffin	Queens University CORE Class
Aprille Shaffer	Jarred Cochran	Ralph McGee
Ben Baldwin	Jason Harpe	Ray Holmes
Ben Ellis	Jean Woods	Ray Stutzman
Bill McMullen	Jim Burke	Rebecca Scroggins
Boriana Bakaltcheva	Joan and Bob Zimmerman	Reed Patterson
Boyce Falls	Jocelyn Sikora	Rick Becker
Callie Glass	John David Semones	Rick McSwain
Cameron Moore	John Ong	Rob Carson
Charlie McRee	Jud Little	Robin Branstrom
Charlie Williams	Karen McMillan	Ron Bost
Christian Cherry	Kay Killian	Roy Alexander
Chuck Meakin	Lat Purser	Scott Attaway
Cindy Caldwell	Leadership Charlotte	Scott Hastings
Colleen Angstadt	Lisa Gaffney	Scott Lail
Colleen Sperati	Louis Stephens	Scott Pyle
Corey Floyd	Marc DeBree	Stephen Fairhurst
Craig Wyant	Marsha O'Brien	Susan Shackelford
Damon Houghton	Marty Viser	Sylvia Holmes
Dave Brown	Mary Cauthen	Sylvia Wallace
David Maynard	Mervil Paylor	Todd Gingerich
David Smoots	Michael Heafner	Tom Sanders
Dr. Carrie DeJaco	Michelle Pearson	Tommy Lee
Dr. Reed Perkins	Mike and Laura Grace	Tommy Cousins
Dr. Robert Peet	Mike Davis	Vicki Taylor
Eddie Poe	Nancy Pierce	William H. McMullen
Elizabeth Bennett	Nick Stewart	Woods Potts
Gary Wirth	Paul Arena	
Haywood Rankin	Paul Mainwaring	

NatureFest Volunteers on Page 5

CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND SPOTLIGHT



Goat Island Preserve

To better protect our valuable water resources, the North Carolina General Assembly created the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) with a mandate to develop a grant program to clean up impaired waters and to protect remaining pristine waters of the state.

In 2008, CWMTF awarded a \$3 million grant to The Thread to protect water quality and create public recreation opportunities on an unprecedented regional scale. The Conservancy, as lead agency for The Thread, has worked diligently to identify opportunities to create conservation corridors along our local waterways to preserve water quality and allow public access to natural areas.

GOAT ISLAND PRESERVE

Winding along the South Fork of the Catawba River in Cramerton, North Carolina, Goat Island Preserve is approximately 38 acres of wooded land along Wilkinson Boulevard, and includes a northern piece of Goat Island. The property protects 4,675

linear feet of riparian buffer (critical lands along the river bank). Part of Gaston County's master plan for the Carolina Thread Trail, the Goat Island trail will connect conserved land to the north to the Town of Cramerton's park and greenway lands to the south. Catawba

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL AWARDED \$1 MILLION IN CLEAN WATER FUNDING

Clean Water Management Trust Fund recently announced that the Carolina Thread Trail has been awarded \$1 million, bringing the total CWMTF funding to \$4 million. The award enables the project to make significant advances in land conservation and trails along our region's waterways.

As communities self-identify their sections of The Thread, many are selecting buffer lands along streams and rivers. These buffer areas filter pollutants, revive the water table, prevent erosion and flooding, and support

Lands Conservancy purchased the property as a bargain sale from The Pier at Cramerton, LLC in 2008, using a grant from CWMTF. The Goat Island Preserve protects water resources in a rapidly urbanizing area, and will contribute to a continuous conservation corridor along the South Fork.

PHARR YARNS PRESERVE

In our last newsletter, we shared the news of the 95-acre Pharr Yarns Preserve, located along the South Fork of the Catawba River in McAdenville, North Carolina. Donated by the Carstarphen family, the Pharr Yarns land transaction was funded in part through CWMTF monies. When funds were frozen due to economic factors, the Carstarphen family generously donated the land value. Their donation allows the Conservancy to leverage matching funds for the CWMTF grant into additional land and water protection projects.

The Pharr Yarns Preserve features 3.45 miles of river frontage, approximately 27 acres of wetlands, protects 18,000 feet of riparian corridor and provides habitat for numerous species of wildlife and plants. Construction of a natural surface trail extending 2 miles is now underway.

On October 9, Pharr Yarns will host a trail dedication of the new trail segment on the preserve as part of their Community Day celebration.

COMING SOON!

Later this year, the Conservancy expects to close on a project of more than 500 acres on Lake Norman in Catawba County that was funded in part by CWMTF, and reclassified as a priority project in 2009. Stay tuned for more on this exciting project in our next newsletter.

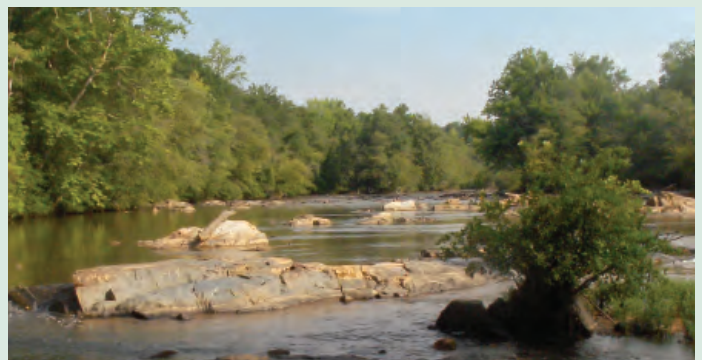


LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION AT CATAWBALANDS.ORG.

wildlife habitat. Trails hosted on these protected lands provide freely-accessible opportunities for walking, hiking, biking, paddling,

and connecting with nature.

The Thread received a \$3 million CWMTF grant awarded in 2008.



Pharr Yarns Preserve

COME OUT AND PLAY ON THE THREAD!



Bakers Creek Greenway

BAKERS CREEK GREENWAY - KANNAPOLIS, NC

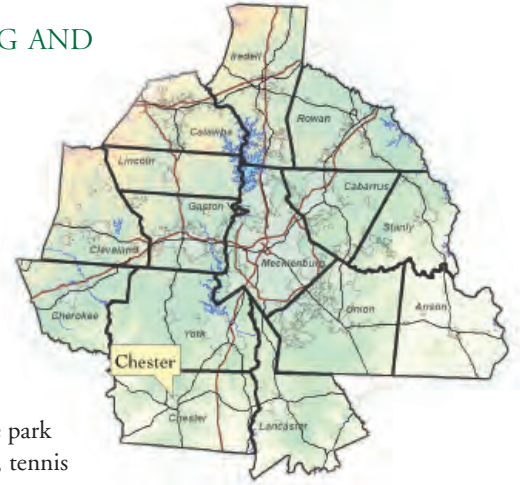
Located in the heart of Kannapolis, the Bakers Creek Greenway offers a 2-mile paved walking trail connecting the Bakers Creek Park Office and Village Park. The greenway is named for a local creek in Kannapolis and is ADA compliant. Visitors may take advantage of facilities at either end of the greenway, including

miniature golf, basketball courts, tennis courts, an amphitheatre and a splash pad.



WYLIE WALKING AND BIKING TRAIL - CHESTER, SC

For an easy stroll and family fun, stop by the Wylie Walking and Biking Trail in Chester, South Carolina. The 1-mile trail is located in the City of Chester's Wylie Park, a 48-acre recreation complex. The park also offers a playground, tennis courts, an 18-hole putt-putt course and a swimming pool. The trailhead is marked by small, stone columns with dark green



palmetto trees on each side. Parking is conveniently located next to the playground just after you enter the park. ■



Wylie Walking and Biking Trail



FOR DIRECTIONS TO BOTH TRAILS VISIT CAROLINATHREADTRAIL.ORG AND CLICK ON "MAP."

'GOING THE EXTRA MILE' AT THIRD ANNUAL TRAIL FORUM

Ever wonder about best practices for designing bridges along a prospective trail segment? Curious about how to make the most of private and public funding opportunities? Don't miss this year's Trail Forum hosted by the Carolina Thread Trail on Thursday, December 2 from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Charles Mack Citizen Center, 215 North Main Street in Mooresville, North Carolina.

Participants may choose from concurrent educational sessions led by experts in the areas of

trail planning, funding, design and construction. Session topics will include the economic impact of paddle trails, bridge and boardwalk construction, brownfield greenway development, overcoming cultural deficit disorder, and updates on successful trail models and corridor construction. Selected sessions are also available for continuing education credits.

Trail Forum is open to practitioners and community leaders interested in advancing The Thread throughout our 15-county region. Forum participants

have the opportunity to learn, collaborate and strategize together on ways to weave

The Thread throughout our community. To learn more, contact us at 704-376-2556. ■

IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS UPDATE

The Carolina Thread Trail received grant applications from seven counties representing 18 projects during its second annual call for implementation grants. The requests include a mix of corridor design, land acquisition and construction projects to advance segments of The Thread throughout the region. The Grants Committee is reviewing the requests and will make recommendations to the Governing Board, which will vote on the grants at its September meeting.



FOR THE LATEST ON THE GRANT APPROVAL PROCESS, VISIT CAROLINATHREADTRAIL.ORG.

FIRST NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SEGMENT OF THE THREAD OPENS IN ROCK HILL



Visitors enjoy the newly opened Riverwalk Trail

A cool breeze blew through the trees along the banks of the Catawba River on July 1st for the grand opening of the Riverwalk Trail in York County. In a morning celebration hosted by the City of Rock Hill and the Riverwalk development company, city officials cut the official

ribbon to welcome assembled cyclists, walkers and families to enjoy 2.25 miles of trail open to the public for the first time. The 10-foot paved multi-use trail is the first newly constructed segment of the Carolina Thread Trail to be unveiled in the region, a landmark event for both the project and area residents.

“We’re thrilled that the Riverwalk Trail is a part of the Carolina Thread Trail,” said Rock Hill City Manager Carey Smith during his opening comments. “One day, a cyclist will be able to ride from here to Charlotte or Gastonia along The Thread’s interconnected trails and greenways.”

The Riverwalk Trail is part of a city-owned park that will be a focal point for the mixed-use, recreation-themed community, Riverwalk. Approximately 250

acres of the community will be devoted to public recreation amenities including river access, additional trails, athletic fields, parks, gardens, a climbing wall, and a variety of cycling venues.

The Riverwalk Trail is the first improvement to the development site, and showcases the natural beauty of the Catawba River, where bald eagles are frequently sighted. The trail includes a parking facility, paddling and canoe launch, kiosk and seating along the trail. Visitors on the trail will experience a number of historic landmarks, including an Indian trading path called Nation Ford, a Civil War-era gun battery and the stone remnants of a summer house built in the 1900s by textile magnate Hamilton Carhartt.

The site of the future Riverwalk community and new trail once

was home to the largest cellulose acetate manufacturing facility in the U.S. The plant closed in 2005 and was purchased by the Assured Group, who worked closely with the State of South Carolina Department of Environmental Control and Celanese Corporation to clean up hazardous waste generated from more than 50 years of manufacturing, and to dismantle the 2.5M square foot facility.

The Riverwalk Trail is marked as part of the Carolina Thread Trail’s Catawba River Corridor. This 23-mile corridor plan is an integral part of the Carolina Thread Trail’s 15-county system of trails and greenways. ■



FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT WWW.CL.ROCK-HILL.SC.US OR
RIVERWALKCAROLINAS.COM.

KINGS MOUNTAIN PROCLAIMS MAY 1ST ‘CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL DAY’



Cleveland County leaders celebrate the opening of the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail

For residents of Kings Mountain, May 1st now holds special meaning following Mayor Edgar Murphrey’s official proclamation naming it “Carolina Thread Trail Day.”

The city hosted a springtime celebration to unveil Cleveland County’s first marked segment of The Thread. The event kicked off with the Gateway 5k trail race, which drew a crowd of over 200 runners, spectators and volunteers.

The race was followed by a sign unveiling ceremony.

“The Carolina Thread Trail is such a great way to encourage area families and residents to get outside and enjoy nature,” said Shirley Brutko, Director of the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce Kings Mountain Office.

“The Kings Mountain Gateway Trail is an awesome addition to our community, and it’s an exciting first step in making the Carolina Thread Trail an integral part of Cleveland County.”

This first segment of The Thread follows the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail, and will eventually connect the City of Kings Mountain to Crowders Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain State Park, and

Kings Mountain National Military Park. The trail will ultimately be connected to The Thread’s 15-county regional network of conservation corridors.

The Kings Mountain Gateway

Trail segment of The Thread is 2.26 miles long and includes paved and soft-packed gravel trail surfaces. The trail head offers restrooms, parking, a bike rack, an information kiosk, and a picnic shelter with two large grills. ■

DID YOU KNOW? INSPIRATION FOR THE THREAD LOGO

The name, Carolina Thread Trail, was inspired by our region’s roots in textile arts. Building on that theme, Mervil Paylor created a stunning logo to brand The Thread through symbolism and artistic elements:

Crafts & Heritage –

The logo’s form is inspired by an Eight-Pointed Star, a classic quilt pattern.

Adventure & Exploration –

The design is reminiscent of a compass, the adventurer’s guiding tool.

Community – Directional elements of the logo converge to form a vibrant and harmonious whole.

The logo is prominently featured on signs along The Thread.

CAPITAL RESOURCE DIRECTOR SUPPORTS THREAD COMMUNITIES



In July, Lindsey Dunevant joined the team as Capital Resource Director for

the Carolina Thread Trail. He serves in a consultant role to The Thread communities by helping to identify public funding opportunities to support the 15-county network of trails and conservation corridors. Lindsey works closely with elected officials and community leaders to maximize public funding opportunities.

“Lindsey’s role is to provide guidance and support to

communities along The Thread who are looking to develop local trails and greenways to their fullest potential,” said Alex Rankin, member of The Thread Governing Board and community leader in the City of Concord. “His familiarity with funding sources and experience working in local government make him a great asset as we start turning the Carolina Thread Trail vision into miles of trail that people can enjoy.”

Lindsey served as the director of Albemarle Parks and Recreation for more than 20 years and has been a Stanly County Commissioner since 2006. He is a standing board member for the Land Trust for Central North Carolina. Lindsey was active in the initial discovery process leading up to the launch of The Thread and has served on the organization’s Regional Advisory

Council since the project’s inception in 2007.

In his spare time, Lindsey enjoys spending time with his wife, Sherry, and two adult children, Catherine and Charles. ■

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR JOINS TEAM



Brenna Sowder joined Catawba Lands Conservancy in May as Communica-

tions Coordinator for the Conservancy and the Carolina Thread Trail. In this newly created position, she supports the organizations’ development, outreach and communications strategies.

“We’re glad to welcome Brenna on board, and are confident that her enthusiasm and dedication will be a great asset in taking our mission forward,” said Phil Kuttner, board member for the Conservancy and chair of the Outreach and Education Committee.

Brenna graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in writing and communications, and went on to complete a master’s degree in human relations. Most recently, she was director of public relations for a marketing agency in Chapel Hill, and has diverse professional experience, including marine conservation, education, events planning and journalism.

In her free time, Brenna enjoys cooking and eating local food, reading and exploring local trails and waterways with her husband. ■

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Thank you for your continued support of our mission: *saving land and connecting lives to nature*. We would not be where we are today without you! As we look forward, we appreciate your efforts

more than ever. Here are some ways your involvement helps us further local land conservation:

- **Make a donation today** or consider increasing your giving amount. Our ability to conserve local lands is dependant on the

donations of our supporters.

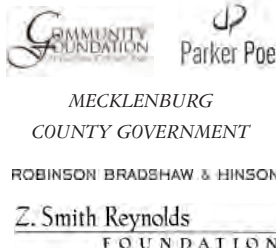
- **Be a land ambassador** – Tell five friends about the Conservancy and how we work to preserve and protect local, natural lands. Encourage them to support the Conservancy.

- **Check out our wishlist** –

In addition to your generous donations, there are a few things we could use to make our operations more efficient and keep our costs down. Visit catawbalands.org/wishlist.

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Catawba Lands Conservancy is part of a network of land trusts that collectively have protected more than 309,361 acres of the places you love in North Carolina.

North Carolina's LAND TRUSTS Saving the Places You Love

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IT'S EASY BEING GREEN! Save trees and reduce paper waste by asking for your Conservancy news delivered to your inbox. Simply send us an email or give us a call to tell us you'd like to get your newsletter by email. Contact Heike at 704-342-3330 ext. 210 or heike@catawbalands.org.

CONSERVANCY PROTECTED LANDS

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL

