



FIELD NOTES

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina

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

LandTrust Receives Grants for Land Protection Efforts

The LandTrust has received notification of several grants and awards, and is awaiting grant contracts and closings. The North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) which provides grant funding for protecting important stream buffers and wetlands to protect and enhance water quality, has awarded The LandTrust funds to protect 90 acres on the Uwharrie River. The Cannon Foundation has also awarded the LandTrust significant funding for the acquisition of a property with numerous important conservation values adjacent to Morrow Mountain State Park.

The Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC) is administering two grants that have awarded funding to The LandTrust. The North Carolina Land

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Gilliam Farm—A History of Hard Work, Leadership, and Conservation Ethic

On October 20th, Ezra and Marian Gilliam placed a conservation easement on their 75-acre farm in eastern Rowan County. The tract is entirely comprised of either prime farmland or soils of statewide importance. For 2/10th of a mile, the property borders an unnamed tributary of High Rock Lake on the Yadkin River, and it is adjacent to Alcoa lands. The easement protects the property in its current state and allows for one more residence to be built by a family member.

It was Ezra's father, Coke Gilliam, who planted the conserva-

tion seed, the spark of inspiration. The Gilliam's desire to see their family's farm preserved and kept intact was also Coke's wish, who bought the farm before the Depression. He was a blacksmith, and they moved here from Jersey City (a community of Salisbury on Kerr Street). Marian remembers Coke Gilliam telling her that he was looking for a farm "so the children could learn to work and wouldn't grow up in the streets." In 1922, he bought the farm for \$3,200.

Continued on page 3...

Letter from the President “Saving State Treasures with Your Support” By Dan Williams

In late September, the state of North Carolina announced plans to purchase Grandfather Mountain and the “mile high swinging bridge,” and permanently preserve the popular tourist attraction. This announcement, coupled with the recent purchase of Chimney Rock, guarantees that two of North Carolina’s most scenic natural landmarks will forever be protected from sprawl and development. In addition to the “swinging bridge,” Grandfather Mountain is an important wildlife habitat and boasts scenic views across the Blue Ridge Mountains. The mountain also contains the headwaters of both the Linville and Watauga Rivers, and is the only park designated by the United Nations as an International Biosphere Reserve. After the purchase is complete, Grandfather Mountain will become North Carolina’s 34th state park.

The Land Trust for Central North Carolina can boast its own crown jewels in the Piedmont re-

gion we serve: the 354-acre King Mountain preserve, purchased in April, protects one of the highest mountains in the Uwharrie range and provides a key link for recreational opportunities in the Uwharrie National Forest; the 1288-acre Low Water Bridge property preserves one of the most scenic corridors on the Uwharrie River; the Pisgah Covered Bridge, one of two remaining covered bridges in North Carolina, is owned and protected by the LandTrust; and the “Two Rivers Park” project provides permanent protection of approximately 2,000 acres of riparian corridors, wetlands area, and natural heritage areas at the confluence of the Yadkin and South Yadkin Rivers, a critical area for water quality protection and recreational opportunities.

With a price tag of over \$12 million dollars, the Grandfather Mountain acquisition illustrates that land conservation is never inexpensive. But how do you value a state icon, beloved by millions for genera-

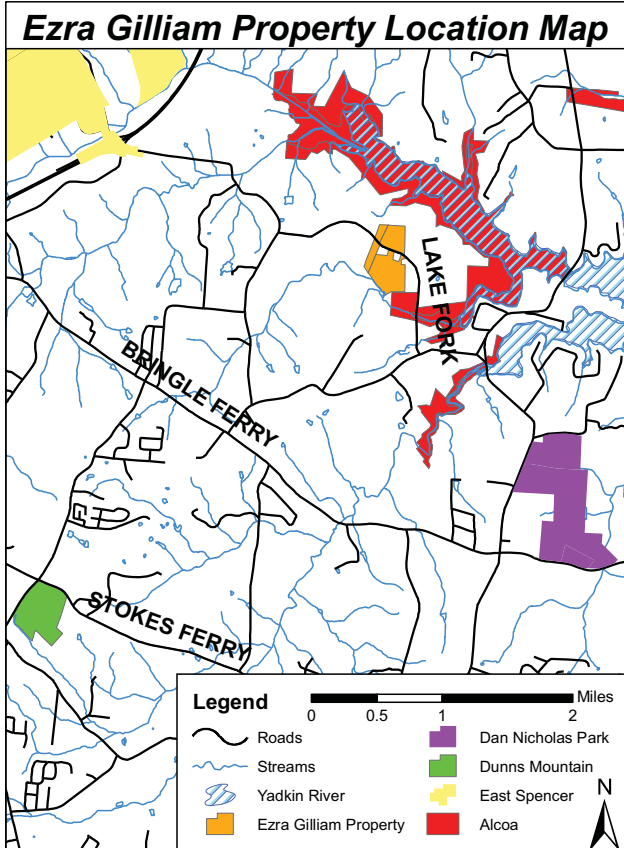


tions? How do you value clean water, or the scenic rural landscapes we enjoy in our region, or the amazing recreational opportunities available to us in the Uwharrie National Forest and on the Yadkin River, our own backyard?

2009 is shaping up to be a challenging financial year for all of us. Many of our budgets are already stretched to the max, with the upcoming year providing nothing but more uncertainty. But as someone who attends every board meeting, every finance committee meeting, and reviews the LandTrust’s annual budget, I can assure you that this organization can not continue to conserve the most scenic, important pieces of our natural landscape without your support. I applaud our state for conserving Grandfather Mountain, and I applaud your ongoing support of land conservation in Piedmont North Carolina. And I ask you to continue that support in 2009. Together we can insure our “crown jewels” will survive this economic turmoil intact and remain for our children to enjoy.



Gilliam Farm Article Continued...



They raised corn, beans, apples, cucumbers, pumpkins, peanuts, sweet potatoes, grapes, peaches, and they had chickens and hogs. They were a poor family and lived through the Depression, but they always had food on the table and meat all year long because the farm sustained them. His parents had 8 children, and could have divided the farm equally amongst them, but his father firmly believed that the farm should be kept intact, as a family farm that could support them in case of future depression times. According to Ezra, "We had everything, but we were very nearly poor. During those years we heard about the Depression but never suffered, and it was all because of the basic philosophy of my mother and father." So, Coke

gave the greater portion of the farm to Ezra, and gave his other 7 children other assets of equal value that wouldn't divide up a piece of excellent farmland. During a time when food security wasn't a buzz word, the Gilliam family believed in it. They believed that if you take care of the land, it'll take care of you.

The LandTrust received funding from the Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC), a \$10,000 grant that paid for a survey and stewardship of the property. Barry Williams with CTNC enjoyed working with the Gilliams. "This is a

great project, and I cannot say enough what an amazing couple the Gilliams are," says Williams.

Ezra has lived his life guided by 4 guiding principals his parents encouraged: "righteousness, value of work, integrity, and dependability." He is a community leader of days gone past, a principal at the all black Dunbar High School, as well as an active community volunteer with civic and agricultural groups. He recently rotated off as an advisor to the Farm Service Agency, and is a member of the Farm Committee of Cooperative Extension. He is an active Board member of the Nazareth Children's Home and of the Dunbar Alumni Association. "The conservation easement is protecting a piece of prime farmland, but it is also protecting a way of life that is disappearing, the small family farm," says Michele d'Hemecourt, Land Protection Specialist with The LandTrust. "This farm and the Gilliam family's philosophy are an example of how the farm can be kept together through generations, and how a piece of land can sustain a family. I hope their story inspires others as much as it has inspired me."

Grants Article Continued...

Trusts Small Grants Program has provided funding for outreach and education about the State Wildlife Action Plan. The North Carolina Land Trusts Small Grants Program to Support Diversity Initiatives, also administered by CTNC, has awarded The LandTrust to hire an intern to work on a Farmland Preservation Plan and landowner outreach in Anson and Stanly Counties.

Also, the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Protection Program (ADFP)

Trust Fund has awarded The LandTrust grants to help preserve small working family farms in Rowan County. The implementation of this funding will result in the protection of over 466 acres.

The LandTrust would like to thank the grant programs and foundations for their commitment to land conservation and civic involvement in this region, as well as the landowners and entities working with us on these great projects.

Through the Eyes of a Child

Ever since I was a boy, I've loved poetry and songs. I think most kids do. My favorite Sesame Street scene presented Kermit the Frog, voiced by Jim Henson, as he sang Joe Raposo's song: It's Not Easy Being Green. I remember the melancholy emotions that tune engendered in me when I first heard it. The lyrics exposed a sense of feeling insignificant and ordinary in a universe rife with color, "flashy sparkles" or "stars in the sky." But they reached an epiphany when expressing that "green's the color of spring and green can be cool and friendly like. And green can be big like an ocean or important like a mountain or tall like a tree."

I remember thinking that those green things seemed pretty significant. While the green spaces of this world have always been extraordinary, I began to take them for granted as I forgot about the singing frog's simple philosophy. Oh, I've participated in recycling programs, turned out lights and rode my bicycle thirty miles round trip to work and back. But, until I met some folks with The Land Trust for Central North Carolina, I wasn't personally invested in the conservation of green spaces. That was someone else's job, somewhere out there.

Thanks to the dedicated folks at our local Land Trust, my interest in land conservation has grown - not because someone cornered me and piped green-speak into my ears. No, they were subtler and smarter than that. They invited my family to participate in some fun events like the Creepy Crawly Walk at the Catawba College Ecological Pre-



serve, the Uwharrie River canoe trip during the peak of fall color and the North Carolina Zoological Park trip, just to name a few.

I'm still a big kid at heart. I think most folks are. There's nothing quite like experiencing the beauty of nature through the eyes of your children. They know that "green's the color of spring and green can be cool and friendly like." They know that green can be

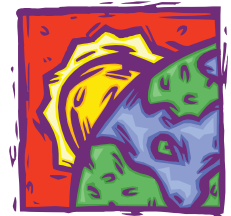
big like an ocean or important like a mountain or tall like a tree." They don't have to "wonder why, wonder" who will help protect the natural habitat and wildlife they love so much. We will - together. They understand what Kermit meant when he sang: "I am green and it'll do fine. It's beautiful and I think it's what I want to be."

-Michael Hollingsworth

Conservation Connections

We want to hear what you think!

Here is your chance to express why you care about the future of our natural landscapes, or any other aspect of land conservation that interests you. Michael's article is the first in a new section of our newsletter called *Conservation Connections*, where we ask you, our supporters to share your story. Please submit your story of 400 words or less to The LandTrust by fax at (704) 647-0068 or by email at landtrust@landtrustcnc.org. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and we're sure our readers will, too. As always, thanks for supporting The LandTrust for Central NC!



RiverDance 2008 Showcases Local Farmers!

On Saturday evening, August 9, over 350 guests dined and danced the night away to support LandTrust conservation efforts. This year's emphasis was on local food and wine. All drinks were served in compostable biodegradable cups made from corn. Area farmers supplied goods including meats, fresh vegetables, fruits, breads and bread. Farmers participating included: Erika and Mike Miller of Miller Produce, Ardy and Bill Wetmore of Wetmore Farms, Patterson Farms, Steve Tate of Goat Lady Dairy in Randolph County, David Correll of Correll Farms & Red Barn Market, and Lee Menius of Wild Turkey Farms.

Rowan County's own Debbie Suggs of Debbie Suggs Catering worked her magic and prepared an absolutely scrumptious buffet. Decorations included "home grown" sunflowers provided by Hillcrest Farms in Linwood, and mixed flowers provided by Mount

Ulla Farms. Guests danced under brightly colored lanterns to the sounds of The Risse Band. RiverDance 2008 raised over \$40,000.00



Senator Elizabeth Dole and Executive Director Jason Walser.



The Risse Band provided attendees with music for the evening.

which will enable The LandTrust to continue land protection efforts at the confluence of the Yadkin and South Yadkin Rivers.



Local sunflowers brightened tables.



Statesville supporters Pam and Bob Stamey and Tammy and David Pressly looking dapper at RiverDance.

Many thanks to our RiverDance Sponsors!

Table Sponsors

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In Kind

Cheerwine
 Hillcrest Farm
 Mt. Ulla Gardens
 Rushco

Recent Outings and Events

Paws in the Park Event

On September 20th, 100 dog lovers came out to the Salisbury Greenway, and \$6,000+ was raised in support of the LandTrust and Faithful Friends, a no kill animal sanctuary. Lazy 5 Vets sponsored the “pre-game show,” Dog Olympics, there were agility demonstrations, the Chik-fil-A cow was present, and walkers enjoyed a 1.5 mile stretch of the Salisbury Greenway. This annual event is hosted by The LandTrust and Rowan Surge, title sponsored by Lazy 5 Vets and Miller Davis (see www.SalisburyPawsinthePark.com for sponsor list). Hope to see you next year!



Boggy Excursion, Black Ankle Preserve

The LandTrust hosted a trek on the protected Black Ankle Bog, owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), on Saturday June 7th. This property houses native longleaf and wetland areas with yellow and purple pitcher plant species. Wetland and forest conversion have resulted in only a few examples left of this beautiful ecosystem once common to the area. The LandTrust assisted TNC and other partners, including Environmental Defense and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, in planting 2100 saplings of Uwharrie Ecotype longleaf earlier this spring. Thanks to TNC and thanks to all who came out!

Kids Day at the NC Zoological Park

Even though the sky was overcast, the rain held off and the weather was almost perfect for The LandTrust’s Kid’s Day at the Zoo. Roger Robbins, retired biology professor at East Carolina University, and Zoo and LandTrust volunteer, awed attendees with the plethora of interesting critters he found in two random buckets of pond water! Diving beetles, dragonfly larva, and a baby sunfish were pulled from the buckets and examined. Then the group headed on to see the new Watani Grasslands exhibit with a close look at elephants and rhinos. Thanks to the NC Zoo for their help with this event.



History of Longleaf Pine Walking Tour

The third annual Uwharrie Mountain Festival took place on October 11th at the Kings Mountain Point recreational facility in the Uwharrie National Forest. Landowner Boon Chesson gave a riveting tour and discussion for attendees on the history of longleaf pine in the area. Attendees saw an almost 200 years old longleaf, and some historic tools that were used to harvest tar from longleaf pine which was then made into turpentine for the naval industry. Thanks again to Boon for sharing his beautiful property with us.

King Mountain Property Hike

The perfect weather and almost overnight change in leaf color to bright reds, oranges, and yellows brought almost 40 people out to The LandTrust’s hike on the newly purchased King Mountain Property. This gorgeous tract has a rare Piedmont monadnock (rock) forest, and two rare plants, Piedmont indigo bush and the federally endangered Schweinitz’s sunflower. This 4.5 mile trek gave attendees a great overview of the beautiful mature hardwoods and topography of this great tract, which fills in a gap in the Uwharrie National Recreational Trail.





Upcoming Outings and Events



Nature Walk at Dunn's Mountain, Sunday, November 16th, 2:00pm

The LandTrust is offering another unique outdoor opportunity! Come out for a rare behind the scenes look at this beautiful park! Bob Pendergrass will be leading a special tour on a portion of the park not usually open to the general public. A perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon, come check out the unique rock formations and gorgeous views that this park provides. Meet for the hike at Dunn's Mountain Park at 2pm.

Ornament Making at Green Goat Gallery, Saturday, December 6th

Calling Santa's helpers, young and old! Please join us as we make all natural, edible ornaments for wildlife. These ornaments can be taken home, or used at the LandTrust Tree Trimming (see below). All materials will be provided -- all that is needed is your creativity! The birds and squirrels will thank you!

Tree Trimming, Sunday, December 7th, 4:00pm-5:00pm

Get into the holiday spirit with The LandTrust! This year's annual tree trimming will be held at the new Centennial Park located in Fulton Heights. Santa's helpers, both young and old, are needed to help decorate a tree with homemade, edible ornaments for birds and squirrels. Rumor has it that there may be a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus! Mark your calendars now!

LandTrust Open House, Thursday January 22nd, 5:00pm-7:00pm

The third annual always popular LandTrust Open House will occur on January 22nd at our Salisbury Office at the Train Depot in Historic Downtown Salisbury. All are invited to attend and please bring your friends! This is our yearly chance to catch up with our supporters, share updates on ongoing projects, and thank you all for your support. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Stewardship Update

Volunteers and staff came out in late August to begin the first stage of our WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program) management agreement with an herbicide treatment. The group were able to successfully eradicate the majority of



the microstegium that had begun spreading on our historic Lawrenceville Property on Highway 24/27 near the Wood Run Trailhead of the Uwharrie National Forest.

This nasty invasive species needed to be killed before they seeded. The plan is to perform a cool season prescribed burn on the property in late winter, which will promote healthy forest growth. This invasive had to be sprayed beforehand, because the fire would have increased its ability to extend its cover even further on the property. The invasive ailanthus, or tree of



heaven, was also treated during this herbiciding, by a method of hack and squirt. Hopefully at the end of the contract the property will be well on its way to being in a more natural and healthy state of forest and habitat.

Your Gifts Support our Conservation Work

Your donations will allow us to continue "Saving the Places You Love" in the Piedmont Region. The following are **new** or renewing members from **April 25, 2008** through **September 25, 2008**. Every effort has been made to ensure that these names are correct. Should there be an error, or if you have questions or comments, please contact us at (704) 647-0302. Thank you for supporting The LandTrust!

Golden Oak (\$5,000 and above)

Mr. R. Jeep Bryant
The Cannon Foundation, Inc.
Ms. Amy Grissom
The Estate of Lucille Proctor Norvell
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stanback
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stanback
The Margaret C. Woodson Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Mark C. Ritchie

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

Conservation Trust of North Carolina
Locust Lumber Company
Mr. Rednecheck
Walser Technology Group

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

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Ms. Shelli Lodge-Stanback
Taylor Clay Products, Inc.
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Mr. and Mrs. James Mauney
Mr. and Mrs. John McCrary Parrott
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Mr. Harley R. Smith
Mrs. Edward Tennent Taylor
Ms. Sue Carter Walser

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Mr. and Mrs. Steve Blount
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 by Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Smith

In Honor of Ron Bryant
 by R. Jeep Bryant

Memorials

In Memory of Peter Wilson Hairston
 by Ms. Betty J. Hairston

In Memory of Dr. Joseph Cullen Hall
 by Ms. Catherine C. Hall

In Memory of Hoyle N. Holland
 by Mrs. Hoyle N. Holland

In Memory of Elizabeth Schofield,
 Sarah Harmon, Danny McQueen
 and Jack Edwards
 by Mr. Jim Tucker

In Memory of Bill Walker
 by Ms. Sue Carter Walser

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LandTrust Launches Carbon Sequestration Fund with Walser Technology Group

Those interested in making a local impact on global warming can now donate to The LandTrust's "Carbon Fund" to enhance carbon sequestration efforts on locally conserved land. Local technology firm and long-time LandTrust partner Walser Technology Group is becoming the first local donor to the fund. Donations to the fund will be used to re-forest cleared land or implement other carbon sequestration strategies.

Carbon sequestration is the removal and storage of carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks (such as oceans, forests or soils) through physical or biological processes, such as photosynthesis. As

global warming has become a worldwide concern, efforts to reduce, or "cap," atmosphere-warming carbon have become a cornerstone of international energy and environmental policy.

"With over 17,000 acres permanently preserved, the majority of it covered in trees and vegetation, The LandTrust is one of the major carbon sequestration agents in our region," says executive director Jason Walser. "Donations to the Carbon Fund will enable us to enhance these efforts, through simple projects like planting trees on cleared land or more complex projects that will emerge as carbon sequestration becomes part of our national envi-

ronmental and energy policy."

Walser Technology Group founder and CEO Brad Walser says the donation is a way to keep his company "carbon neutral" while supporting a local organization. "As a progressive technology services provider, it is important for us to maintain a leadership role in offsetting our carbon emissions," says Walser. "We are excited about partnering with the LandTrust on this effort, and proud that we are meeting our carbon offsetting objectives with an organization right here in our region." For more information about The LandTrust's Carbon Fund, contact Andrew at 704-647-0302 or andrew@landtrustcnc.org.

North Carolina State Wildlife Action Plan

The State Wildlife Action Plan was established in 2002 with a primary goal simple in concept but true to purpose – to keep rare species from becoming endangered, to keep common species common.

The Teaming with Wildlife Coalition helped get the State Wildlife Grants program put in place, with funds appropriated annually to protect wildlife diversity and habitats. One goal is to secure dedicated long-term funding, which will hopefully be realized in the future. As more land is converted, habitats are increasingly fragmented, and more species are unable to sustain their populations and ecosystems their diversity. SWG funds are meant to assist ongoing state wildlife funding, not replace it. To receive these funds, each completed a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

North Carolina's plan focuses on maintaining and enhancing habitats for wildlife and human benefit. This includes protecting natural areas for clean water and air, economic resources in the form of recreation and tourism, protection from weather disasters, and preserving natural species and landscapes that make our state special biologically, ecologically, and aesthetically.

Understanding diversity, conserving habitats, creating partnerships, promoting outreach, and improving regulations for conserving habitats are some of the primary goals of the plan. In addition to identifying priority species and habitats and researching how to effectively conserve them, this program also assists with on-the-ground land conservation funding for projects that directly preserve these species and natural areas.



Through a partnership with the Doris Duke Foundation and The Conservation Fund, The LandTrust has been able to use SWG funding to secure the King Mountain Property, which fills a gap in the Uwharrie Recreational Trail, houses rare plants, a unique Piedmont Monadnock forest, and mature hardwood trees, habitat for many of our state's species, including the eastern box turtle. The goal of SWAP to keep common animals common ensures that all species, including humans, have a healthy and happy home.

Board Member Profile

Joe Morris

Joe Morris acquired his love of nature tromping in the creeks, fields and woods in and around his hometown of Rockingham. “I have fond recollections of the old dairy farm and tributary to Hitchcock Creek where I played for hours on end as a kid,” he remembers. “It’s a subdivision now.” Growing up in an age of environmental awareness and reckoning helped shape his view of the region and the world. “I’ve always felt connected to the land and a deeply-felt desire to protect and manage our natural resources.”

Morris spent the first part of his professional career as a horticulturist, working for the City of Rockingham. Trained in the landscape

gardening program at Sandhills Community College, he returned to his hometown in 1979 to implement the city’s landscape master plan. In 1987, Morris moved his family, wife, Pam, and daughter, Sarah, to Salisbury lead the city’s landscape operations division. Their son, Seth, a Land Trust volunteer and intern, now 17, was born in Salisbury.

Over time, Morris gravitated to the planning profession. He returned to school at UNC Charlotte, graduating at the top of his class in the earth science and geography department. Eventually, Morris became the city’s planning director.

As a LandTrust Board member, Morris has some definite ideas, “I hope to strengthen the inter-relationship between urban and ru-



ral interests. We not only need to preserve open space and farmlands, but we need to make sure our towns and smaller communities are viable. The central Piedmont region is fertile ground for redevelopment, relocation and (economic) restructuring. The LandTrust will play an ever increasingly vital role in ‘Saving the places we love.’ That should be our primary mission.”

Thanks to Our Summer Interns and Volunteers!

Anna Allie

Anna is a Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment Master’s student. She is working on a Rocky River Corridor Conservation Prioritization in Stanly, Anson and Union Counties. Her work will assist the LandTrust as we prioritize land conservation efforts in this region. Thanks so much Anna!



Ben Bubnovich

Ben is a junior at Duke University, majoring in English and History. He came to The LandTrust with a desire to help us with our field work and spend some quality time outside in the beautiful Uwharrie Mountains. He assisted with baseline reports, trail marking and GPSing, and was a great asset to our work.



Adam Williamson

Adam Williamson is a high school senior at West Montgomery High School. He volunteered this summer with The LandTrust and helped us out with events, assisted with monitoring LandTrust properties, and identifying and marking trails. Adam will graduate this year and hopes to attend UNC-Asheville in the fall.





Supporters mingle and discuss LandTrust projects at the annual meeting at the RiverPark at Cooleemee Falls.

Over 100 dog lovers showed up for the annual Paws in the Park Event on the Salisbury Greenway, hosted by The LandTrust and Surge.



Photo: Teen Aron



Patsy and Ozzie Reynolds and the Robert Bertram family enjoy visiting at RiverDance.

THE LANDTRUST FOR CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA

The LandTrust is a private, nonprofit organization working with private and public landowners to protect the special natural areas, family farms and rural landscapes of Anson, Cabarrus, Davidson, Davie, Iredell, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, Rowan and Stanly Counties. With 501 (c) (3) status, all donations to The LandTrust qualify for maximum tax deductions.

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