

-Executive Director's Note -



Hello! In case we haven't met yet, I'm Sandy Sweitzer, Executive Director of TLC. I originally began working at TLC back in July 2013 as Director of Development and was deeply honored when the Board selected me as the organization's new leader in April.

Amazingly, almost six months have passed since I began this new role. The time went by so quickly because it was filled with exciting projects and interesting people, many of which are highlighted in this newsletter.

I'm especially excited about progress toward opening our Brumley Forest Nature Preserve to the public. TLC staff, in cooperation with conservation committee members and local professionals and with input from neighbors and TLC members, completed a management plan for the property this spring. Generous grants from REI and the Duke Energy Water Resources Fund have allowed us to begin trail and ecological restoration work that will allow us to open Brumley to the public - hopefully in the fall of 2016 (page 9).

TLC members will have special opportunities to visit and volunteer at Brumley Forest before it opens, so please be sure your membership is up to date. You especially don't want to miss the BioBlitz on October 3rd, a one-day science extravaganza for nature lovers of ages (page 10). It's easy to make a gift to TLC online, just visit triangleland.org/donate.

Brumley Forest is not only beautiful, it plays an important role in safeguarding drinking water for the people of

Durham and Wake counties. One of the most cost-effective ways to protect our water is land conservation. Forests, wetlands, and open fields filter water, slow erosion, and control stormwater runoff, while also providing important habitats for plants and animals and open spaces for us to enjoy!

We're highlighting other water-related conservation work in this newsletter, including new projects with Maple View Farm, our most delicious easements (page 5), and Green **Button Farm** in Durham County (page 7). Dip your toes deeper into water quality and land conservation issues by joining us for the next event in our fun and successful Wild Ideas series this fall (detail on page 11 and online at triangleland.org/wildideas.

As the Wild Ideas series demonstrates, we take our work here at TLC seriously, but we also like to have fun. We want to thank you, our members, by sharing a fun-filled Saturday morning with you on September, 12th. Join me for TLC's annual membership day at Irvin Farm for hikes, hayrides, food and more (page 11)! I look forward to meeting more of you, both long-standing and new members, at Irvin and to continue our work together conserving the places we love and the land we need!

Sincerely,

Sandy Sweitzer

Executive Director

P.S. Thanks again to everyone
who gave a gift to TLC this
who gave a gift to TLC this
spring and helped us exceed our
spring and helped us challenge!!!
\$26,000 matching challenge!!!

CONSERVANCY www.triangleland.org

919-908-8809

Our Vision - We see the Triangle region as an increasingly healthy and vibrant place to live where wild and working lands are protected and everyone has access to open space, clean water, and local food.

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On the cover: TLC partnered with Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association in June for a birding hike at ECWA's Glennstone Nature Preserve in Durham County, home of a large heron rookery.

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Passionate Volunteers Make New Connections in the Triangle

BY LAURA SMITH

Bob Stoothoff has lived all over the country, but for the last two years he and his wife, Cindy, have called the Triangle home. When they arrived, they were interested in finding a local, reputable environmental organization they could support. They found out about Triangle Land Conservancy through the another conservation organization they support.

From all he has learned, Bob Stoothoff describes the organization as "solid" with a great business plan and good staffing and support. This is one of the reasons why the Stoothoffs have chosen to become **Heritage Society** members and include TLC in their estate plans.

Bob has always been a man involved with business planning. He first got experience at Quaker Oats, where he worked for 19 years doing marketing and sales management, then by years of independent consulting. He has since lent his planning abilities to several volunteer organizations.

Bob's volunteering began in 1993 when he and his wife moved to Beaufort, SC. (He is careful to distinguish the pronunciation of "Bue-fort" SC and "Bo-fort" NC.) The Stoothoffs spent 20 years of their life in Beaufort. During that time, both Bob and Cindy were involved in the community, Cindy with the Arts Council and Habitat for

Bob and Cindy Stoothoff

Humanity and Bob with environmental/planning organizations as well as being part of the Chamber of Commerce and Lady's Island Business and Professional Association.

Bob spent six years volunteering with the Friends of

"You're an organization that's focused on the right stuff. I want to be a part of that financially."

Hunting Island where, among other projects, he helped with trails and eventually initiated a successful - if untraditional -

collaboration between park rangers and mountain bikers; he spent seven years with the Beaufort County Open Land Trust serving on its board and helping to build its endowment; and he founded Pathways Connect, a bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organization that helped design the Beaufort County Greenways Plan.

With all of that work in his past, Bob has decided that life in the Triangle will have a slower pace. The Stoothoffs have taken time to get to know the area and, while they have long been donors to many organizations, they wanted to start narrowing down their interests and thinking about their estate planning. TLC stuck out in their minds as one of the organizations to include.

"You're an organization that's focused on the right stuff. I want to be a part of that financially," he said.

If you, like the Stoothoffs, are interested in including TLC in your estate planning, you will be helping to ensure our good work continues. For more information about becoming a member of TLC's **Heritage Society**, please contact Meredith E. Gibbs, Director of Development, at 919-908-0059.

Corporate Spotlight: REI

TLC has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from REI to help build trails at Brumley Forest Nature Preserve. In addition to the grant, TLC is working with REI to plan diverse



outdoor events and outings at the future preserve, similar to those already being offered at TLC's Horton Grove Nature Preserve in Durham County. For a list of REI's upcoming events and classes, visit rei.com/learn.



The View of Maple View Farm from the Ice Cream store on Rocky Ridge Road in Hillsborough

The early bird may get the worm, but it doesn't stand a L chance at getting the milk. The employees of **Maple** View Farm Milk Company start their day as early as 1:30am in order to process up to 9,000 gallons of milk per week. This milk, which comes only from Maple View Farm cows, is processed and distributed to select stores as whole, low-fat, skim and chocolate milk as well as into buttermilk, butter, eggnog, and, quite notably, ice cream.

Despite the early hours, Roger Nutter, founder and manager of the Maple View Farm Milk Company, knew he wanted to work on the farm from an early age. His father, Bob Nutter, originally bought the farm back in 1963 when he decided to move the family's dairy operations from Maine to North Carolina.

"Around March, my father and grandfather came down to a cow sale in Virginia," explained Roger. "There was still three feet of snow on the ground up in Maine. They got down here and everything was turning green." So, his father sold the farm back in Maine, bought the land in Orange County that would become Maple View and hauled 20 loads of equipment (and his family - Roger was just three at the time) down US-1 in the back of a pickup truck.

Maple View Farm may have seemed like an easier place to farm than Maine, but low milk prices in the 90s threatened the farm's economic stability. After doing research and visiting other farms, they decided to try bottling their own milk and Roger became a partner in the now successful Maple View Farm Milk Company.

The farm has about 300 Holstein cows now of which 150 or so are in the milking herd. The farm raises all its own cows as well as the barley, corn, and grain the milking cows eat. This mix increases the protein content of the milk, resulting in especially flavorful, award-winning products.

Those familiar with the Maple View Ice Cream store may not know it is considered a separate business from the farm. "We have four different companies here," explained Roger.

is independent from the farm. It

"The milk company Roger Nutter, Maple View Farm Milk Company founder and manager, stands next to the central panel controlling the milk bottling processes.

buys the milk from the farm and we process and sell it. The ice cream store is another business. We make the ice cream mix here in the milk company facility, put it in a 300-gallon tank, and take it up to them."

The fourth company, the **Maple View Agricultural Center**, is actually a non-profit designed to teach children about agriculture. School groups participate in classes related to the dairy, soil science, conservation or other agricultural topics before receiving a guided tour of the farm. Chapel Hill Magazine readers also recently named it the best place to host a children's birthday party.

continued on the next page...

- More than Milk: Behind the Scenes at Maple View Farm

When asked whose idea it was for the Ag Center, Roger quickly noted, "That was my father's dream. It's his way of giving back to the community. Teaching kids where their food comes from and what it takes to get food to the table. That it doesn't just come from the grocery store."

The Conservation Story

Falling milk prices weren't the only threat facing Maple View Farm back in the 90s. Due to development in and around the farm, the value of the property had risen to more than ten times the original purchase price. The family worried how the future burden of estate taxes would impact their ability to keep the larger property intact and in agriculture.

"We wanted this to always remain open land," explained Roger. "I don't know if we'll always be able to make a living, have it as a farm, but we wanted it to remain open. It is a beautiful place and we want to keep it that way."

A preservation plan created by Brian Dobyns of Piedmont Planning Associates in August of 1995 identified conservation easements as an option and Triangle Land Conservancy as a potential easement holder. The first conservation easement on Maple View Farm, completed in December 1995, protected 107 acres north of Dairyland; a second easement on 80 acres was added in 2005. Now, Roger is working with TLC to conserve an additional 185 acres of the Farm in cooperation with the mitigation company RES., Resource **Environmental Solutions.**

RES works with landowners, developers, operators, and regulatory agencies across the country to create a balance between sustainable economical development and the environment. Throughout the US, RES has restored over 32,000 wetland acres, enhanced 155 miles of streams, and



Clockwise from top left: Teaching kids where their food comes from at the Maple View Ag Center; the Maple View Ice Cream store; a pregnant Holstein; freshly packaged milk; touring the farm

preserved over 3,700 acres of habitat.

Maple View Farm is working with RES on a mitigation project along Morgan Creek and its tributaries. This will further protect the wooded buffers along the streams, filtering the water as it flows downstream to University Lake, a water supply for the Town of Chapel Hill. It will also help cover the transaction costs of protecting the additional upland farm acreage through a conservation easement with TLC.

With the completion of these two conservation projects this fall, the majority of Maple View Farm will be permanently conserved. The rolling pastures, fields, woods, and ponds that surround the dairy will forever remind visitors of the area's rural heritage.

And while Maple View is certainly about more than milk, hopefully those visitors will be able to enjoy the view with a cone in hand for many, many more years to come.

Maple View Farm will hold its annual Customer Appreciation Day on Sunday, September 13th. Enjoy ice cream, music, games, fun, face painting, food trucks and more! Learn more at mapleviewfarm.com.

Interested in learning about conservation options for your farm or property? Contact Bo Howes, TLC Director of Conservation and Stewardship at rhowes@triangleland.org or 919-908-0052.

Green Button Farm: Food with an Address, Not a Barcode

million and half people. How do

you put a value on clean water?"

Ryan and Alicia Butler moved from Baltimore, Maryland to a rural farm in Durham back in 2007. Alicia's father and TLC board member Norris Cotton owned the land at the time. Aside from a farmer who owned a few head of cattle, the farm was sitting mostly unused.

"This was a landing spot for us. We thought we were going to live here for six to ten months. We just never left," said Alicia.

Living on the farm with their three children, **Jackson**, **Gates**, and **Finn**, the couple started growing a small family garden as a relaxing activity. Deciding they wanted to have their own eggs, Ryan and Alicia then raised six chickens. They began sharing their food with the community by bringing eggs and vegetables to cocktail parties with friends.

"People really liked it. People would say you should take up golf or offshore fishing because it would be cheaper than your farming habit and less time consuming. We decided style barbeq we either needed to scale back or start generating some revenue," said Ryan.

"We are protecting water for a

Ryan and Alicia have become successful farmers by marketing to people like

themselves, younger families. Alicia was a stay-at-home mom when the family started packaging **community supported agriculture** (CSA) boxes. Understanding that younger families cannot always make it out to a farmer's market, the couple decided to deliver their CSA boxes.

Aside from growing for young families, the Butlers also wanted to make their healthy and organic food affordable. "If you are savvy about it you can get really good local food on a budget and that is part of what drives us," said Alicia.



The Farm maintains a flock of heirloom, threatened breeds of chickens including Black Austrolorps, Dominiques, Welsummers, Ameraucana, White Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, and Silver Spangled Hamburgs.

Apart from growing local food for the Durham community, the couple is also the third party in a new restaurant opening up in Durham that will be called **Picnic**. Ryan provides the pork and works with other local farmers, **Ben**



Jackson, Alicia, Finn, and Gates on the farm

Adams is the chef, and **Wyatt Dickson** is the pit master. During the day, Picnic will be a barbeque spot where people can stop for a barbeque sandwich, mac and cheese, and good beer or iced tea. At night, the restaurant will be tapasstyle barbeque cuisine.

BY LAURA WHALING

Ryan and Alicia first approached TLC through the Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District for help preparing a Forest Stewardship Plan and implementing a number of EQIP practices

on their farm through the Healthy Forest Initiative. They also expressed an interest in conserving their farm through a conservation easement.

"We have been trying to save money to conserve more land and it's wonderful that TLC has been able to help our smaller farm do that. Most of the land owners around us are at the end of their farming career. There is a lot of opportunity for us over the next 50 years," said Alicia.

In the last two years, the Butlers have improved their farm greatly in order to protect clean water. Mountain Creek, their southern and western boundary line, is a main tributary into Little River reservoir. "We paired up with UNCWI to help [improve] water quality because we are right on the cusp of the reservoir," said Alicia.

Larger hog farms in North Carolina have received a lot of negative attention because of their potential impact on water quality. The Butlers try to quell those fears by managing their farm sustainably in the "old-fashioned way" by pasturing their pigs, cows, and chickens. "Even the term "pig farm" sends a lot of people into a tailspin. We don't appreciate the way it's done in modern times, but we feel our continued on next page...



Green Button Farm's heirloom breed pigs graze on pasture with access to grasses, legumes, forested areas, and, occasionally, pumpkins.

farm is run as a throwback to how farms were done 60 years ago," said Alicia.

Under the EQIP program, the Butlers added 2.5 miles of fencing around the streams and in the pastures, ran 6,000 feet of underground piping and a well for the cattle, and constructed a new gravel road to minimize runoff.

"We are protecting water for a million and half people. How do you put a value on clean water?" said Ryan.

TLC is currently working with the Butlers to purchase a permanent conservation easement on the 37-acre farm to further safeguard water quality and to support their farming efforts. Ryan and Alicia want to use this project as a stepping stone to purchase, and conserve, more property around their farm.

When asked what people could do to help the great cause of conserving land, Ryan and Alicia commented, "Donate to TLC because this farm would not look like this without TLC. Support local farms. Join a farmers market. Support restaurants and politicians that support local farms."

Ryan and Alicia noted that cooking world-class, organic food and providing it for their community makes the job worthwhile. "Being able to have our family on this farm and see how our kids have grown and developed an appreciation for life and a work ethic is very rewarding," said Ryan.

Learn more about Green Button Farm, including how to join their CSA, by visiting their website, greenbuttonfarm.com. You can also purchase their produce, meats, and eggs every Saturday at the South Durham Farmers' Market in the Greenwood Commons Shopping Center.

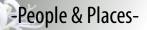
Summer Interns Gain Experience with TLC

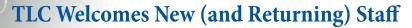
TLC received a boost of energy from three interns this summer. Communications intern Laura Whaling, a journalism major and political science minor at George Washington University, wrote the piece above on Green



Button Farm as well as several articles about TLC's work for the Durham Herald-Sun. **Duncan Dodson**, an environmental science major at Duke University, worked with

Conservation and Stewardship staff to research and start the comprehensive management plan for Walnut Hill Farm. **Benjamin Chapman**, a rising Senior at Carolina Friends School, pursued his interest in photography by taking photos for TLC of various properties and staff as well as helping to organize the large photo database. Many thanks to our hard working interns and best of luck in your future endeavors! *Photos (by Benjamin Chapman) clockwise from top left: Laura Whaling, Benjamin Chapman, and Duncan Dodson.*





Join us in extending a warm welcome to several new and one returning staff member. New staff, clockwise from top left, include Meredith E. Gibbs, Director of Development; Cléa Major, Donor Database Manager; Carla M. Nunn, Director of Finance and Administration; and Laura Stroud, Conservation and Stewardship Associate, and Leigh Ann Hammerbacher, Associate Director of Conservation and Stewardship, who returns to TLC after helping

> lead the Watershed Protection Program for the City of Raleigh. You can learn more about TLC's staff and find their contact information online at triangleland.ous/staff.

Clockwise from top left: Meredith E. Gibbs, Cléa Major, Carla M. Nunn, Laura Stroud, and Leigh Ann Hammerbacher. Photos by Benjamin Chapman and Diana Hackenburg.



New TLC Board Members

TLC's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members, Norris G. Cotton of Durham and Danielle Spurlock of Chapel Hill. Norris is a Financial Advisor and First Vice President of the Cotton Moehrke Group at Morgan Stanley. A retired US Marine Corps officer, Norris is an active community volunteer currently serving on the board of Clean Jordan Lake and the Durham Veterans Administration Hospital's Internal Review Board. Danielle is an assistant professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her specialization is land use and environmental planning and she teaches in the areas of environmental policy and development dispute resolution. You can learn more about these and other TLC board members at triangleland.org/board.



Restoration, Trail Work Begins at Brumley

TLC's 613-acre Brumley Forest Nature Preserve is located in western Orange County, approximately two miles southeast of Hillsborough. Currently, TLC plans to open Brumley to the public in the fall of 2016.

Beginning this fall, TLC will start to remove invasive species throughout Brumley and conduct thinning activities in a few forest stands. These activities will help increase biodiversity, improve the habitat for wildlife by supporting more species, and decrease the risk of wildfire at Brumley. Tree planting will also take place to reforest some of the property's old fields starting this year and continuing in subsequent years.

Prescribed burning operations will be an ongoing part of the management at Brumley, most likely beginning this year and continuing yearly in differing sections of the property. Prescribed burns will open the understory, reduce the prevalence of some invasive species,

encourage native herbaceous species, promote the regeneration of desirable hardwood tree species, and reduce the risk of wildfire.

In addition to the ecological restoration activities at Brumley, TLC is also beginning work on the trail system. There are 4.5 miles of planned hiking-only trails and just over 7 miles of multi-use trails for a total of 12 miles of trails. Sustainable hiking and multi-use trails will be constructed using approaches that minimize erosion and environmental impact by following the existing topography.

TLC is looking for volunteers interested in helping with ecological restoration and trail building at Brumley. If you are interested, please email Kyle Obermiller at trails@triangleland. org. For more information about Brumley Forest and the ongoing ecological restoration work, visit triangleland.org/brumley.

The beautiful Brumley Forest Nature Preserve is full of life and ripe for discovery! Photos by Sonke Johnsen.

Brumley Forest BioBlitz for TLC Members

Saturday, October 3, 2015 (Rain date - Saturday, October 17) Brumley Forest Nature Preserve, Orange County (directions sent only to registed participants)

Join us on Saturday, October 3rd for a special BioBlitz at the future Brumley Forest Nature Preserve. You and fellow nature-lovers will fan out into these woods under the guidance of scientists from NatureServe, the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, and Triangle Land Conservancy.

Participants will pinpoint, photograph, and document the plants and animals that make this

tranquil sanctuary their home. Fascinating discoveries (and plenty of fun) await. But even more importantly, your findings will build the foundation from which scientists can understand the true significance this place holds.

NatureServe brings the science, and TLC supplies the land, but your passion and local roots are "musts" for the BioBlitz to succeed. Without the participation

of people like you—people who cherish biodiversity and our natural communities—conservation would not see the science it needs in order to be effective.

This event is free and only for TLC members. Not a TLC member? Make a gift today to TLC in support of our land conservation work and gain access to

We Bring the Science, You Bring the Passion! triangleland.org/donate.

this special event! You can donate online at

For a full schedule of BioBlitz events, including kids activities, and registration information, visit triangleland.org/bioblitz. Space is limited so please register as soon as possible! 🌃



Sandy Creek Monarch Festival

Saturday, October 10, 2-4pm Sandy Creek Park, 3510 Sandy Creek Drive, Durham

Celebrate the journey of a beautiful butterfly by attending the first annual Sandy Creek Monarch Festival on Saturday, October 10 at Sandy Creek Park in Durham. There will be music, family friendly activities, and food. Experts will be giving talks about Monarch biology, ecology, and conservation and everyone will go home with **FREE** Monarch friendly plants and seeds.

Since 1990, nearly a billion Monarchs have vanished. Scientists attribute these losses primarily to habitat destruction caused by development, cropland conversion, and agricultural practices like increased use of pesticides.

Sandy Creek Park is a certified waystation for Monarch butterflies as they migrate throughout North America. This unique Durham park features milkweed, nectar sources, and shelter that help sustain Monarchs throughout their migration. Visitors to TLC's Horton Grove can also find large groupings of milkweed in the restored grassland areas.

Find more information at triangleland.org/monarchfestival.

10 | Conservation Connections Fall 2015



Travel Journals with FRANK Gallery

Calling all artists (and aspiring artists): learn and practice plein air drawing techniques with artists from FRANK Gallery! You will receive your own blank journal in which to work during each workshop and to continue to practice your skills in between sessions. Workshop locations include TLC's Johnston Mill Nature Preserve (October 24th) and TLC's not-yet-opened Brumley Forest Nature Preserve (December 12th).

Both teens and adults are welcome to participate and no previous experience with drawing is necessary. The cost is \$20/session and includes a set of supplies at your first workshop. For more information and to register, visit frankisart.com/journals.

TLC Annual Membership Day

Saturday, September 12, 8:30am-1:00pm J. Logan & Elinor Moore Irvin Nature Preserve, Orange County

TLC wants to say THANK YOU to our members by sharing a fun-filled Saturday morning with you on September, 12th! Join us at Irvin Farm in Orange County for hikes, hayrides, cornhole, kids activities, art, music, a farm tour, volunteering, food and more!

We'll kick things off with an early hike at 8:30am, giving members an opportunity to explore trails that are not open to the general public. We'll offer another hike at 11am along with hayrides and cornhole throughout the day. Around 9:40, kids can join the folks at Learning Outside for some fun activities while the adults join artists from FRANK Gallery in some plein air sketching of the farm. Transplanting Traditions will offer a farm tour at 10am followed by an optional volunteer workday. Their farmers will also have fresh produce for sale, including traditional Burmese vegetables. We'll wrap everything up with snacks under the pavilion around noon. Feel free to bring a full picnic lunch with you to enjoy along with the snacks!

Irvin Nature Preserve, a 269-acre mix of forest and farm land, is a living legacy of Logan Irvin, a founding TLC board member, and his wife, Elinor. After Logan's death in 1984, TLC established the Logan Irvin Fund stewardship



An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association



endowment. Elinor then left the property to TLC upon her death in January 2007. In keeping with the Irvin family's wishes, Irvin Farm is not open to the general public making this an extra special opportunity for our members!

YOU make conserving and protecting important places like Irvin Farm possible. Come experience a little bit of your legacy in our community! Event registration is free for TLC members. Register and find more information, including directions, online at **triangleland.org/membershipday**.



514 South Duke Street Durham, NC 27701

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- triangleland.org/the-dirt

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You don't want to miss TLC's Annual Membership Day on Sept. 12th! Details can be found inside on page 11.

