

## TLC's Irvin Nature Preserve and partners working overtime to benefit community

TLC works hard to protect land, and sometimes, that land works hard, too.

Simply protecting land from development can often result in cleaner water and wildlife habitats. Sometimes, conserved land can also provide local food and places to connect with nature.

The J. Logan and Elinor Irvin Nature Preserve is just such a place. This unique property west of Carrboro is home to several programs providing the Triangle with local food and opportunities to connect with nature, in addition to cleaner water and wildlife habitats.

The Irvin Nature Preserve is blessed with good agricultural soil, and we are making use of that asset.

Through a partnership with the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, garden space has been created to grow nutritious food for our region's hungry. With funding from a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation grant, one acre is busy growing fresh vegetables this year. The garden will

expand to five acres next year.

We've also teamed up with the Orange County Partnership for Young Children to provide garden space for displaced people from Burma to grow their own food. These families will surely have delicious, fresh food at their dinner tables in the coming weeks and months.

The Irvin Nature Preserve also provides a perfect backdrop for environmental education. The Irvin Learning Farm has been hosting camps, workshops and other events at the preserve for the past two years. This entirely outdoor program offers students the opportunity to interact with nature in a variety of ways and in several diverse habitats.

Every Thursday, the Conservation Corps is busy working on the preserve. From refurbishing barns and removing fences to building tepees and planting a native garden, this group of volunteers does it all.

A new group of volunteers, the Weedwackers, is busy mapping and removing invasive plants from the preserve. This is no



A displaced person from Burma tends her garden at the Irvin Nature Preserve.



A new food processing shed taking shape at the Irvin Nature Preserve will be used to wash vegetables for distribution. The building includes a greenhouse to provide opportunities for starting the next season's crops

easy task with 269 acres to cover. You can be a Weedwacker, too! Find out more at [www.triangleland.org](http://www.triangleland.org).

Even with all of this activity, there is still ample space for wildlife and native plants. In addition, a creek runs through the property, eventually emptying into University Lake, a water supply for Orange County. The land left in its natural state surrounding the stream filters and cleans the water on its way to area faucets.

The preserve is also the site for the Green Jamboree, TLC's celebration of local conservation. Come on out to see these programs in action while enjoying local music and local food! Find out more about this year's celebration on the other side of this newsletter.



## Upcoming Events...

For more information or to register for any of these events, go to [www.TriangleLand.org/calendar](http://www.TriangleLand.org/calendar).

### 2011 Spring Outings Series

#### Mother's Day Children's Hike

May 8, 1 p.m.

#### Conservation Gardens Tour

May 14, 1-5 p.m.

#### Green Jamboree

May 21, 4-7 p.m.

#### Endor Iron Furnace Paddle

May 28, 10 a.m.

#### Haw River Paddle

June 11, 2 p.m.



The Aveda Institute of Chapel Hill strutted their stuff for clean water at Earth Jam. This event was one of many Aveda hosted this spring to raise funds for TLC.

## Give every year. Be a local conservation champion every day.

Annual Funds gifts make it possible for TLC to continue protecting our green spaces, farms and waterways as the only local conservation group working across all six counties of the Triangle. You are part of our success, allowing TLC to use those unrestricted dollars where they are most needed and empowering our staff with the resources to support our mission.

Give today.

[www.triangleland.org/donate](http://www.triangleland.org/donate)

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## Other Highlights...

### Celebrate local conservation at Green Jamboree 2011

We're dusting off the lawn games and getting ready for Green Jamboree 2011, Saturday, May 21! Soothe your soul with music by the Haw River Rounders, appease your appetite with great local food from Lip Service Contemporary Catering, connect with nature on a tranquil walk in the woods, and entertain the whole family with plenty of fun activities! To find out more and buy tickets (\$15, free for kids <12), go to [greenjamboree.org](http://greenjamboree.org).

Volunteers at the Green Jamboree will get a free ticket! If you are interested in volunteering, contact Aime at [amitchell@triangleland.org](mailto:amitchell@triangleland.org) or call 919-833-3662 ext. 116. And, if you have a cornhole (a.k.a. beanbag toss) set we could borrow, let Aime know!

### TLC conserves two tracts for clean water

TLC has secured two conservation easements protecting clean water flowing into the Deep River and into University Lake.

The 85-acre Williams tract lies in Chatham County, just south of Pittsboro, and is less than a mile from TLC's White Pines Nature Preserve. The Williams tract is not river front property, but it does contain the headwaters of several tributaries flowing to the Deep River. This tract is an important addition to the White Pines Nature Preserve, expanding the protection of this nationally significant nature preserve to 374 acres of important forestland and wildlife habitat. This tract is not open to the public at this time.

Merrill Petrow donated a conservation easement to TLC aimed at protecting roughly 30 acres along a section of Neville Creek, approximately half a mile upstream of University Lake, one of the reservoirs of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority. Mrs. Petrow timed the donation of the easement to coincide with the sale of her property. By doing this, not only did Mrs. Petrow donate the easement but she paid all of the transaction costs out of her proceeds at closing. Because this is a conservation easement, TLC does not own the property and it is not open to the public.

### Increased federal income tax benefits for conservation easements extended

Federal tax benefits for conservation easements have been extended, but are set to expire at the end of 2011. If you're a landowner interested in donating a conservation easement to TLC in 2011, contact us soon.

The income tax benefits raise the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%. The also allow qualified farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI and increase the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years.



Volunteers removed invasive plants at the Irvin Nature Preserve as part of a statewide awareness campaign. You can join this group of volunteers, the Weedwackers! Find out more at [triangleland.org](http://triangleland.org).

[triangleland.org](http://triangleland.org)