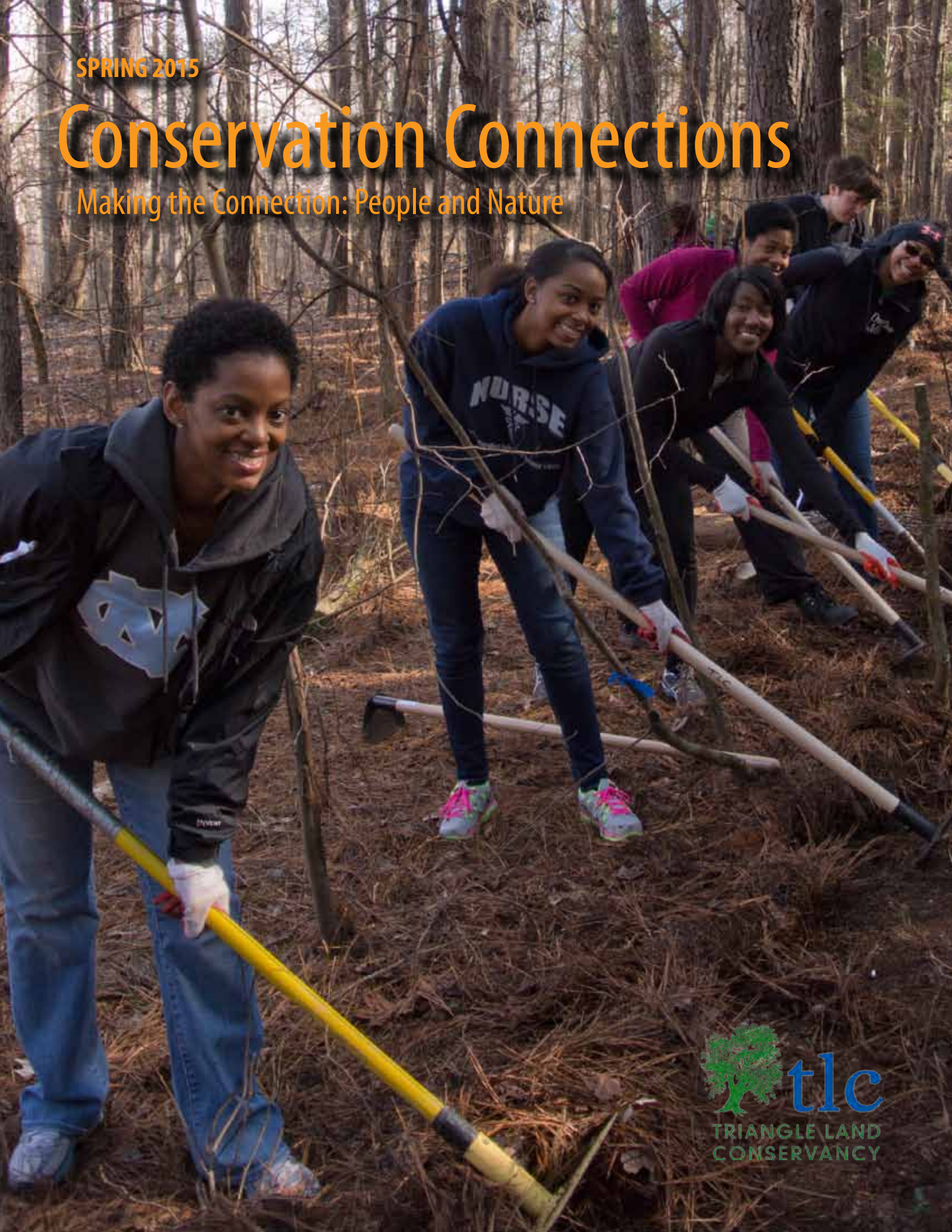


SPRING 2015

Conservation Connections

Making the Connection: People and Nature



The Promise of Spring



The changing of the seasons gives us more than just glorious spring days. It gives us time to reflect on our past work and a springboard for a fresh outlook and new opportunities. This spring, Triangle Land Conservancy continued to bloom as a regional leader in conservation while also saying goodbye to a familiar face.

Chad Jemison, TLC's Executive Director since 2012, submitted his resignation in March to TLC's Board of Directors. While at TLC, Chad hired a highly capable leadership team, built a solid and engaged board, and steered development of our new strategic plan. Chad's innovative thinking and boundless energy helped strengthen TLC's foundation as a regional leader in conservation and will serve him well as he pursues new challenges.

I am happy to announce that TLC's Board of Directors has unanimously chosen Sandy Sweitzer as the organization's new Executive Director. Sandy has more than 20 years of experience leading nonprofits, creating community partnerships, and fundraising, most recently as TLC's Director of Development

Under her leadership, significant projects continue to move forward this spring like the planning of trails and community facilities for public use at TLC's signature

Brumley Forest Preserve in Orange County and Walnut Hill Farm Preserve on the Wake/Johnston County line as well as our Johnston County farmland protection initiative.

Several very successful programs have already taken place this year and are highlighted in this newsletter, including the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service volunteer workday, our 2nd *Wild Ideas* event, and a series of Plein Air art workshops with Chapel Hill's FRANK gallery. The excitement continues this spring with a week-long series of events in April to celebrate Earth Day followed in May by our annual Rhodo Ramble at Flower Hill and the 150th Juneteenth Celebration at Horton Grove.

We on the TLC Board of Directors are confident in the direction of the organization and the ability of our great staff to implement our strategic plan. Much has been achieved so far in my tenure as board chairman, but there is also much more to be done in the community to safeguard clean water, support farms and food, protect natural habitats, and connect people with nature. Thank you for sharing and supporting our vision of a healthier, more vibrant Triangle for all of us to enjoy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John R. McAdams".

John R. McAdams
TLC Board President



Staff

Katherine Baer, Director of Conservation
Ben Blankenship, CFO & Director of Administration
Diana Hackenburg, Communications Manager
Robert (Bo) Howes, Associate Director of Conservation
Kyle Obermiller, Land Maintenance Technician
Matt Rutledge, Associate Manager of Stewardship
Sandy Sweitzer, Executive Director
Tonya Taylor, Community Engagement Coordinator
Walt Tysinger, Senior Land Manager

Correction: A story in the Winter 2014 issue of Conservation Connections misspelled Sarah Williamson's name. Our apologies.

Board of Directors

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On the cover: *Volunteers Building a New Trail during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service by Diana Hackenburg, January 2015*

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In March, friends and neighbors of TLC's Brumley Forest Preserve explored the property (pictured here) as part of a mini-BioBlitz hosted by Marcia Angle, Mark Trustin, Ron Strom, Cathy Pascal, Michael Warner, and Betty Craven. TLC is working with NatureServe to plan a full BioBlitz this fall that will be open to TLC members.



- About Triangle Land Conservancy -

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.

Mission

TLC strives to create a healthier and more vibrant Triangle region by safeguarding clean water, protecting natural habitats, supporting local farms and food, and connecting people with nature through land protection and stewardship, catalyzing community action, and collaboration.

Unique Childhood Experiences Inspire Couple's Planned Giving

"Tell her about your pet squirrel too," **Cathy Lambe** urged her husband, **Dr. Randy Lambe**, after telling her own pet squirrel story during a recent lunch conversation at Guglhupf Café. Gladly, Randy recounted, "when I was in the third grade, my neighbor gave me a flying squirrel that lived in our screened-in porch." He recalled taking it to school with him in his shirt pocket, noting the nocturnal creature generally just slept all day.

Dr. Randy and Cathy Lambe, 2015



The two Charlotte natives met during a high school summer class long after their pet squirrel days, and started dating when Cathy asked Randy to a Sadie Hawkins dance. While it may not directly have been their shared pet squirrel experiences that brought them together, the couple did have many common memories of spending time in nature and learning about the natural sciences.

As a child, Cathy remembers picking wild strawberries and blackberries and climbing trees with her brother. Her family regularly visited the Charlotte Nature Museum. Randy remembers first travelling to the same museum with his mom at age six, and his seriousness when he sent his mom to school with a dime so he could enroll as a museum member despite being home sick that day.

"The museum offered two week summer courses on subjects like the taxonomy of insects which made me want to be an entomologist," said Randy. "Later, I wanted to be a zoologist, but then model airplanes and ham radio came along."

These distractions, plus a change in course from West Point to UNC-Chapel Hill as a Morehead Fellow, led Randy to study physics. Later, he moved to computers and then management at Data General where he worked on the team that created the first laptop.

Instead, Cathy became the zoologist after first studying chemistry and biology. While working in the zoology department at Duke, she was offered a chance to join the lab of Gertrude Belle Elion, a Nobel Prize winner, which helped develop new drugs that later lead to development of the AIDS drug AZT. She spent the latter half of her career working at Burroughs Wellcome.

The couple both retired at the early age of 52 and now have plenty of time to pursue other interests, including distinguished service and participation in the Durham Savoyards. (*Did you happen to catch Cathy in the March production of Utopia, Limited?!*) Cathy also volunteers at the Orange County Habitat for Humanity and as a Master Gardener. They are ardent supporters of TLC as well as other local organizations like the Eno River Association.

"Back in 1985, my boss told us that TLC wanted someone from the company to come out to White Pines," recalled Randy. He agreed to go, and liked both the people and the idea of a local conservation organization.

Cathy agreed, "TLC went along with what we believed in already." Later adding, "if you feel the woods and outside are unsafe, why would you want to save them? **It's so important to get kids involved because as you can tell that's what got us involved.**"

In addition to being loyal **River Society** members, Dr. Randy and Cathy Lambe are members of TLC's **Heritage Society**. By including TLC in their estate plans, they are supporting TLC's efforts to build connections between the people and the land.

To further explain their commitment, Randy paraphrased the classic environmental writer Stephen Jay Gould adding, "**if people don't learn about the outdoors and nature, and love it, they won't support it.**" 🌿

A Legacy of Giving: TLC's Heritage Society

*Planned gifts are a wonderful way to carry on your legacy and commitment to TLC and its mission. Those who, like the Lambes, make planned gifts to TLC become members of the **Heritage Society**, recognizing their dedication to protecting our land for future generations. Heritage Society members are invited to special events and programs in recognition of their support. Planned giving options include bequests, retirement plans, real estate, and more. For more information about how your planned gift can benefit TLC, contact **Sandy Sweitzer** by phone at **919-908-0051** or by email at **advancement@triangleland.org**.*

Making the Connection: People and Nature



Connecting people with nature is essential as we try to balance our increasingly indoor, urban lives with the benefits and fun of being outside. Access to open space has been linked to healthier people. To this end, TLC is focusing on “activating” its preserves by planning, funding, and opening two more preserves (Brumley and Walnut Hill) and engaging people on our land through volunteer work and outings.

These initiatives are moving forward as evidenced by the almost finished management plan for Brumley and the more than 30 outings scheduled this year. We see a clear role for TLC as a leading advocate for open space and making the case for conservation throughout the region. New opportunities to connect people with nature in urban areas are already presenting themselves and will be further explored and evaluated within the context of the 2014-2020 Strategic Plan.

Read on to learn how Triangle Land Conservancy helps people of all ages connect with nature. Then, check out our blog, *The Dirt*, at triangleland.org/the-dirt for even more stories about the places and people you help by supporting TLC.

- Making the Connection: Facts and Figures -

Photo by Jodie LaPoint

5 PUBLIC NATURE PRESERVES
1 RIVER ACCESS POINT
2 FUTURE PRESERVES

Nature increases brain function and creativity.¹

PROGRAMS
in 2015 30+

15 MILES
of Trails

Physical activity and health are positively correlated with time spent outdoors.³

Being outside makes us happy and less stressed.²

PARTNERSHIPS
across the Triangle

References

1 Kuo and Taylor, 2004; Oppezzo and Schwartz, 2014

2 MacKerron and Mourato 2013; Thompson et al. 2011

3 Schaefer et al. 2014; Kerr et al. 2012

Photo by Wendy Banning

Spotlight on... Learning Outside

Location: TLC's J. Logan and Elinor Moore Irvin Nature Preserve

One thing you'll never hear after school at TLC's Irvin Farm is the dreaded moan of "I'm bored." That's because the kids participating in **Learning Outside's** programs are always busy exploring the preserve's diverse ecosystems and learning new things.

"Kids spend way too much time inside with media," Learning Outside instructor **Maia Derewicz** explains. "If nature's there, kids will gravitate to it. Sometimes they just need a little push to get outside."

Once outside, there's something new to discover each day and around every corner. "In fall, it's all about leaves – their shapes and color and in spring we find lots of flowers, including edible ones like violets," describes Maia. "In winter, we build fires, find tracks, and learn about shelters. Fort building is big with the kids."

These kids, ranging in age from 3 to 12, come from different schools and backgrounds. "We try to serve youngsters that wouldn't normally have the opportunity to be out in these environments," says Maia. Adding, "kids that tend to get in trouble at school because of 'big energy' find Learning Outside to be a safe place where they can feel free and express whatever they need to."

Maia hopes that for all of them, Learning Outside will "foster an ongoing love, compassion, and empathy that they will carry on to adulthood, making it a much better world in which to live."

Spotlight on... Project BUILD

Location: TLC's Horton Grove Nature Preserve

When asked if they had ever planted a tree before, a quick chorus of "NOs" filled the crisp forest air one Saturday in March.

These first-timers were busy planting hundreds of short-leaf pine seedlings in a bramble-filled field at TLC's Horton Grove thanks to a new partnership between TLC and **Project BUILD**. Project BUILD, a multi-disciplinary gang prevention and intervention program, has served Durham youth since 2009 by providing one-to-one mentoring, job skills development and more. At Horton Grove, participants are learning about the local ecology in addition to proper tree planting techniques.

Overall, more than 2,000 shortleaf pine seedlings along with a selection of flowers will be planted at Horton Grove this spring. **Matt Rutledge**, Associate Manager of Stewardship, anticipates a survival rate of about 70% for the seedlings. The trees will need about five years to reach the average height of a person, but each tree should reach a mature height of about 100 feet during its 90+ year lifespan.

"Cool!" exclaimed a self-described "city boy" upon learning how these small trees would probably outlive everyone in the group. When someone remarked that "you can always find something new to discover and learn about in nature," another student replied matter-of-factly, "you're right about that." These mostly laconic teens may have felt out of their element, but they quickly picked up the planting techniques. After just a half-hour of work, they had planted a whole field and almost certainly learned a new thing or two about the world around them.



Learning Outside participants with instructor Maia Derewicz



Project BUILD participants and TLC staff at Horton Grove

Spotlight on... Thank Goodness It's Hike Day & TLC's Hiking Challenge

Location: TLC Nature Preserves throughout the Triangle

This spring, TLC kicked off its new **Thank Goodness It's (TGI) Hike Day** series with a two mile hike around Swift Creek Bluffs led by TLC Communications Manager Diana Hackenburg. TGI Hike Days offer community members an opportunity to explore a new place or an old favorite while getting to know a different TLC staff member each month. The series continues in May with a hike at White Pines, led by Associate Manager of Stewardship Matt Rutledge.

Many of these hikes will also help participants competing in the new **TLC Hiking Challenge**. Open only to TLC members, the Hiking Challenge is a series of five hikes, one at each public TLC preserve, that participants complete and log on our website. Hiking Challenge participants receive a nifty TLC badge upon completing the Challenge, and they are also entered into random drawings for TLC swag and outdoor gear.

Sign up for TLC's Hiking Challenge and register for TGI Hike Days at triangleland.org/events. 🌲



TGI Hike Day participants at Swift Creek Bluffs,
photo by Sam Upchurch



Students explore the diverse ecosystems of Temple Flat Rock with CHER Executive Director Randy Senzig

Spotlight on... Center for Human-Earth Restoration (CHER)

Location: TLC's Temple Flat Rock property in Wake County

When asked about their favorite memories of the program, the middle school students participating in the **Center for Human-Earth Restoration's Neighborhood Ecology Corps (NEC)** could hardly contain their excitement: "Owl eyes and deer ears!" "Be the tree!" "Sandy the hawk!" "S'mores!" "Lichen, algae, all that good stuff!" "Natural music!" "Catching the bugs!"

The NEC, which usually meets after school once a week for two hours during the school year, begins with a week-long immersive experience at TLC's Temple Flat Rock property.

"It was one of the most magical moments of my life," scribed a sixth grader in his journal of his experience at Temple Flat Rock. **Tiana**, also in sixth grade, had a slightly different experience: "For the first three days, I was scared because I thought I was going to get attacked." Though, thanks to the time spent outside, exploring nature with NEC, Tiana said "I'm not scared to pick things up...as long as they won't jump out of my hands."

Lyric seconded those initial misgivings, "I was not comfortable in nature, but now I feel okay. We have so many things in common with nature. We have families and there are families in nature. All of these families need the same things like nutrients and a place to live. I can connect with it better because now I understand it better."

Randy Senzig, CHER's Executive Director and NEC leader, relished seeing that newfound comfort and deep connection with nature as the kids recounted their experiences. "As one child spoke of an experience, another's eyes would light up with the thoughts of their own experience, and they could hardly contain themselves until they could speak of it," reminisced Randy. "It was one of my most amazing encounters with students...it was as if each experience on the land had a secret meaning lying hidden in the heart only waiting for the right moment to burst into the collective consciousness." 🌲

Triangle Land Conservancy has a long history of permanently protecting important conservation lands in the Triangle. Inherent in this role is the perpetual responsibility to look after, or steward, these properties whether they are conserved by easements or directly owned by TLC.

For properties with conservation easements held by TLC, that means a member of our stewardship team visits the site at least once per year to ensure the provisions of the easement are being upheld. Often, we spend time with the owners walking the land and working together to address common concerns that may threaten the conservation values of the land such as invasive species and soil erosion.

Properties owned by TLC, including our five nature preserves and river access point, are also monitored yearly, but require additional stewardship depending on their uses and condition. A preserve management plan is prepared for each property to establish specific conservation goals and

TLC Seeks National Accreditation

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Triangle Land Conservancy is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation. **A public comment period is now open.**

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Triangle Land Conservancy complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on TLC's application will be most useful by May 24, 2015. Questions about submitting a comment or about TLC in general? Contact Diana Hackenburg at 919-908-0056 or dhackenburg@triangleland.org.



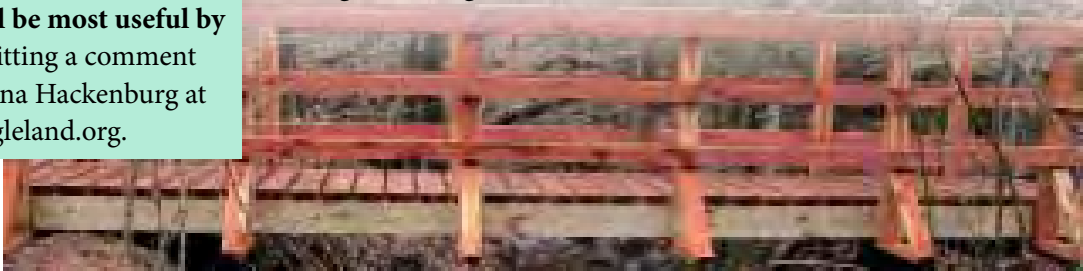
objectives. For example, at Horton Grove, one of the goals is to restore the aquatic habitats, including streams, ponds, and wetland areas so they support more native species.

A management plan is almost completed for Brumley Forest Preserve, a 600-acre future public preserve located in Orange County. The plan will be based on extensive data collection and meetings with stakeholders including property neighbors and potential program partners. This year, the goals for Brumley are to continue community outreach about the project, finalize the comprehensive management plan, and develop a sustainable funding plan with the hopes of opening the preserve to the public by the fall of 2017.

This year, we kicked off our stewardship work at Horton Grove where over 60 volunteers joined us in building trails and cleaning up garbage for the MLK Day of Service (pictured above and on the cover). **Walt Tysinger**, Senior Land Manager, and **Kyle Obermiller**, Stewardship Technician, later worked alongside students from Durham Academy and Conservation Corps members to re-route two sections of trail at Johnston Mill. The finishing touch was a beautiful new 24' cedar bridge over Booth Branch (pictured below).

The majority of work this spring is happening at White Pines, the first nature preserve established by TLC and located in southern Chatham County. Grants from the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department and Active Chatham will allow us to improve existing trails and add a few more miles of trails. White Pines will receive new signs along its trails and all of our public nature preserves will soon sport new, easier-to-read entrance signs.

All of these stewardship activities reflect TLC's commitment to protect our conserved lands and their conservation values for the community now and in the future. Land protection and stewardship both protect the land's natural resources and provide access to high-quality open spaces for recreation, learning, and community building. Join us "behind the scenes" by signing up for our volunteer email list at triangleland.org/volunteer.





Celebrate Earth Month with TLC

Triangle Land Conservancy has celebrated **Earth Day** every year since our formation in 1983. This year, we join people from more than 192 countries around the world in celebrating the 45th anniversary of Earth Day. While Earth Day is officially April 22, 2015, TLC is hosting activities throughout the month of April in honor of this special day and to celebrate conserving over 17,000 acres of land in the Triangle!

For more information and to register for TLC events, visit triangleland.org/events. Most TLC events are free unless otherwise noted. Hikes and workdays are weather dependent. **Please register for these events** to ensure you receive additional communications!

Walking with the Giants

Monday, April 20th, 10am-Noon
TLC's Johnston Mill Nature Preserve, Orange County

Birding at Horton Grove

Tuesday, April 21st, 7:30-9:30am
TLC's Horton Grove Nature Preserve, Durham County

EarthShare NC Earth Day Leadership Breakfast

Wednesday, April 22nd, 8-9:30am
21c Museum Hotel, 111 N. Corcoran Street, Durham
Cost: \$70/person (Purchase tickets at earthsharenc.org)

Earth Day Paddle on the Deep River with Frog Hollow Outdoors

Wednesday, April 22nd, 10am-3pm
Deep River Park to 15/501 (Endor Iron Furnace trip)
Cost: \$49/person (\$39 with TLC discount)

Walking with the Giants

Wednesday, April 22nd, 4-6pm
TLC's Horton Grove Nature Preserve, Durham County

Sand County Almanac Reading

Wednesday, April 22nd, 7-9pm
The Regulator Bookshop, 720 9th Street, Durham

Meteor Shower Hike with REI

Wednesday, April 22nd, 6:30-9:30pm
TLC's Horton Grove Nature Preserve, Durham County
Cost: \$20 REI members/\$40 non-REI members

Walking with the Giants

Thursday, April 23rd, 10am-Noon
TLC's White Pines Nature Preserve, Chatham County

Earth Week Hike with TLC and Historic Stagville

Friday, April 24th, 1pm
Horton Grove and TLC's Horton Grove Nature Preserve,
Durham County

Walking with the Giants

Friday, April 24th, 10am-Noon
TLC's Swift Creek Bluffs Nature Preserve, Wake County

Spring into Temple Flat Rock/Walking with the Giants

Saturday, April 25th, 10am
TLC's Temple Flat Rock property, Wake County

Earth Week Trail Crew - Volunteer Trail Building

Saturday, April 25th, 9am-Noon
TLC's White Pines Nature Preserve, Chatham County

Earth Day Paddle on the Deep River with Frog Hollow Outdoors

Sunday, April 26th, 10am-3pm
Deep River Park to 15/501 (Endor Iron Furnace trip)
Cost: \$49/person (\$39 with TLC discount)

Annual Rhodo Ramble

Saturday, May 2nd, 10am-Noon
TLC's Flower Hill Nature Preserve, Johnston County

TGI Hike Day - White Pines

Saturday, May 16th, 9am
TLC's White Pines Nature Preserve, Chatham County

150th Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday, May 30th, 10am-4pm (hikes at 10am and 1:30pm)
Horton Grove and TLC's Horton Grove Nature Preserve,
Durham County

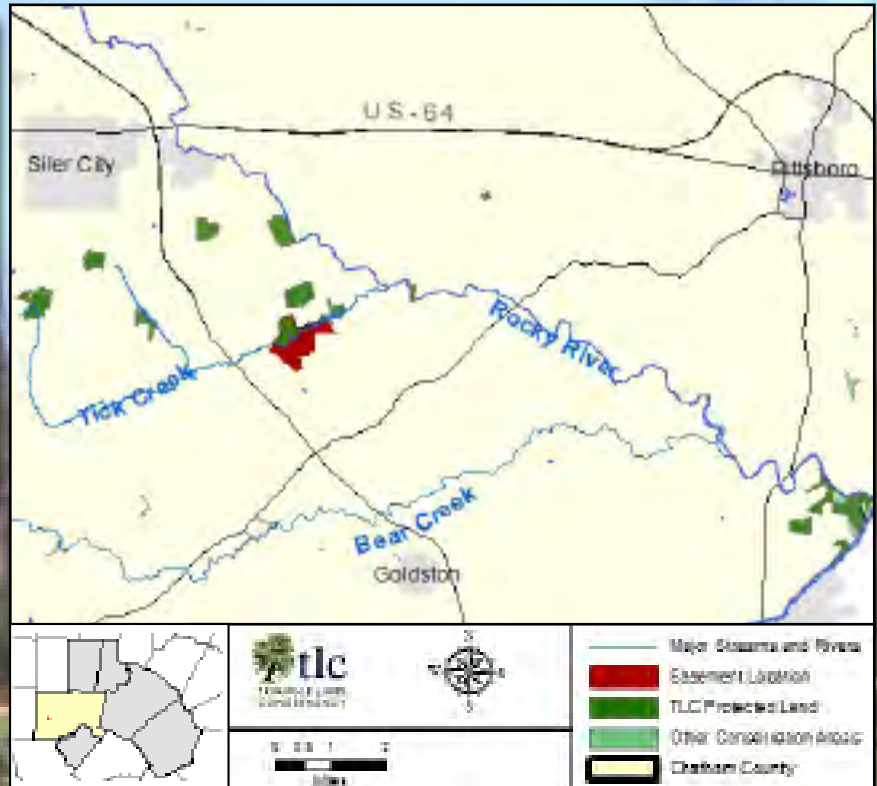
*Photo: CHER Students at Temple Flat Rock,
by Leigh Ann Hammerbacher*



TLC Protects 345 More Acres in Chatham County for a Grand Total of Over 17,000 Acres Since 1983

During the last few days of 2014, **three conservation easements** went into effect on the **Bonlee-Tick Creek property** in Chatham County. Working closely with landowner **Bobby Branch**, TLC has now protected almost 500 acres of the property which is located about ten miles south of Siler City. The easements allow for farming and forest management, but extinguish all mining rights on the protected property.

Mr. Branch is reclaiming the pasture from early succession forest and plans to maintain a herd of cattle on the property.



The easements protect approximately 7,130 feet of **Tick Creek** and 7,550 feet of its tributaries. Tick Creek, a major tributary to the **Rocky River**, is on the State's 303(d) list of impaired waterways.

The land overlaps with the nationally significant **Upper Rocky River Aquatic Habitat Natural Heritage Area** which is home to nine mussel species, including three species of state concern and a federal species of concern, the **Carolina creekshell** (*Villosa vaughaniana*) shown below.



TLC has acquired easements on 12 other Chatham County family farms, including in 2013 the **Andrews Farm** and **Lindley Farm**.

Other TLC protected lands in this area include the **Winter Farm**, **Sheppard Farm**, **Seilkop Forestland**, **Robinson Forest**, and the **Condoret Nature Preserve**.

With the recording of these new easements, TLC has helped protect over 17,000 acres of land in the Triangle since it began as an all volunteer organization in 1983. A special thank you to everyone who has contributed to this success over the past 30+ years!

Wells Fargo Grants TLC \$75,000

TLC has received a \$75,000 grant from **Wells Fargo** to increase access and visibility at its public nature preserves. This grant will provide support for improved signs, planning and stewardship, including ecological management such as prescribed burns, removal of invasive species and trail restoration at TLC's six existing public preserves and two preserves in development. Additionally, the funding will provide new opportunities for individuals and organizations, including Wells Fargo employees, to engage in volunteer and team-building activities at TLC nature preserves.

"Wells Fargo is proud to support organizations like TLC that work hard to strengthen local communities," said **Jack Clayton**, Regional President for Wells Fargo Piedmont East Community Banking and TLC Board Member. "Investments in TLC's nature preserves benefit the community now, while also protecting the long-term ecological and recreational values for future generations." Thank you Wells Fargo! 🌲



Wild Ideas for Getting Outside in the Triangle

Over 200 community members and 20 organizations came out to share their *Wild Ideas* for Getting Outside in the Triangle on Tuesday, March 3rd at RTP's The Frontier.

Host **Joe Miller** of **GetGoingNC.com** kicked off the night by taking us on a journey across the Triangle with adventures as mellow as a hike at Umstead to those as wild as SCUBA diving at a local lake. Following Joe, the presentations delved deeper into specific ways to connect with nature in your own backyard with presentations from **Banks Dixon** (Frog Hollow Outdoors), **Beky Branagan** (Outdoor Afro), **Wendy Banning** (Learning Outside), **Vanessa Roth** (Triangle Off-Road Cyclists) and **Mike Murphy** (Director of NC State Parks).

The good times continued at the **Outdoor Expo** where participants chatted with organizations offering outdoor activities around the Triangle. Thanks again to our host Joe Miller, featured speakers, Expo organizations, participants, **Lonerider Brewing Company** for donating beer, and to our sponsors: Platinum Series Sponsor **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina** and Bronze Sponsor **Great Outdoor Provision Company**. 🌲

2014-15 Platinum Series Sponsor



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Photos - Wild Ideas story (above, left to right): Joe Miller's presentation, a door prize winner, volunteer photographer Marjorie Light with speaker Beky Branagan. Top story: Kyle Obermiller oversees the January 2015 prescribed burn at Horton Grove Nature Preserve.



TRIANGLE LAND CONSERVANCY

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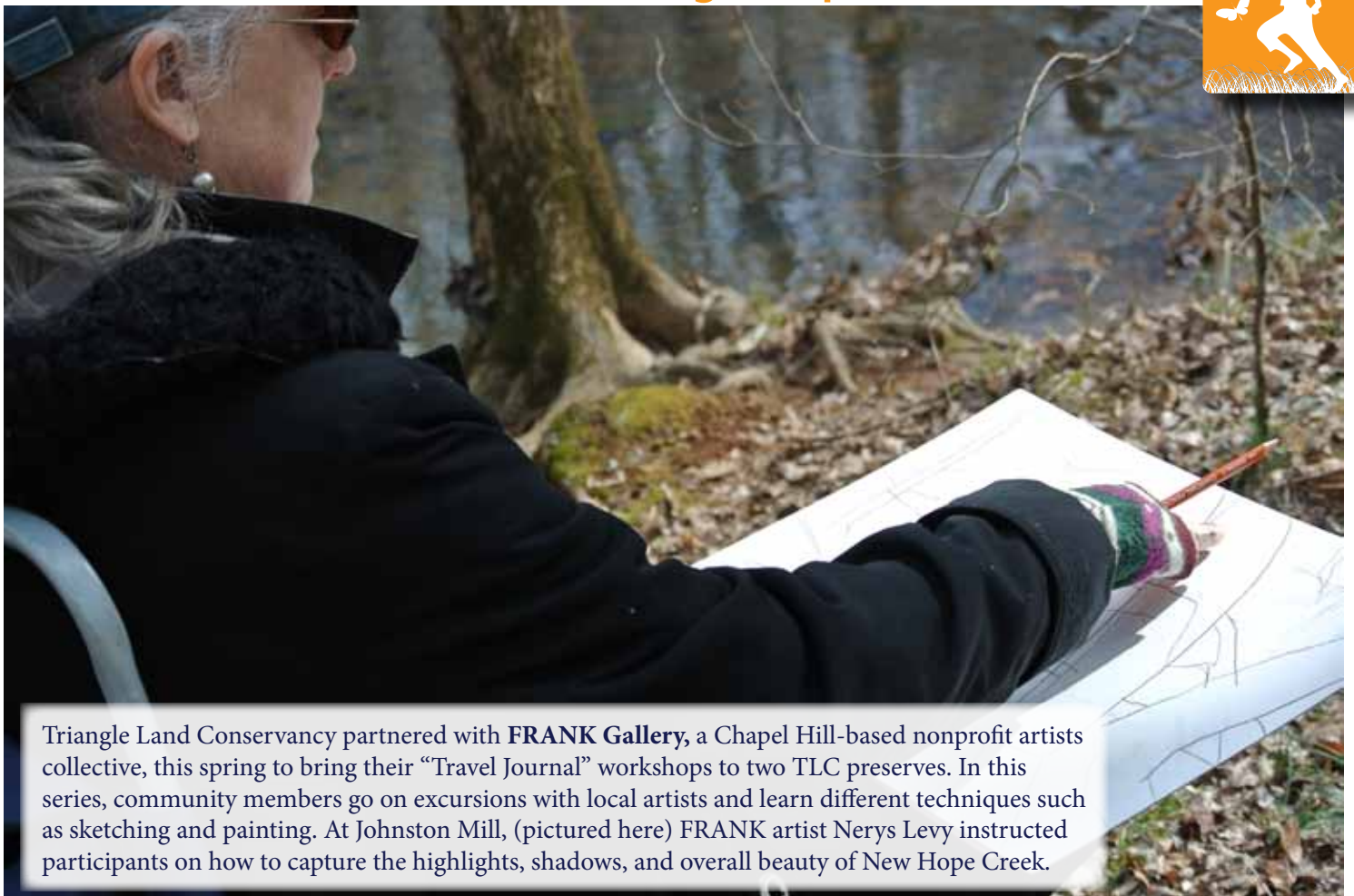
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 triangleland.org/the-dirt

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Connecting People with Nature



Triangle Land Conservancy partnered with **FRANK Gallery**, a Chapel Hill-based nonprofit artists collective, this spring to bring their “Travel Journal” workshops to two TLC preserves. In this series, community members go on excursions with local artists and learn different techniques such as sketching and painting. At Johnston Mill, (pictured here) FRANK artist Nerys Levy instructed participants on how to capture the highlights, shadows, and overall beauty of New Hope Creek.