Saving the Places You Love

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-07
OUR MISSION:
Triangle Land Conservancy protects important open space—stream corridors, forests, wildlife habitat, farmland and natural areas—to help keep the Triangle region a healthy and vibrant place to live and work.
With Triangle Land Conservancy celebrating its 25 year anniversary in 2008, now is a good time to reflect on our accomplishments from this past fiscal year while being thoughtful about the challenges we will face in the future. We have all become familiar with the projections for growth in the six-county Triangle region: our population could double to nearly 3 million people by 2030. TLC’s mission is becoming increasingly urgent in light of our region’s growth patterns and we must work more creatively to save our remaining open spaces and natural areas.

In reviewing the 17 projects that TLC completed in the 2007 fiscal year (between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007), I see a common and creative thread: collaborative and borderless conservation. The projects are collaborative because they are the product of strong partnerships that TLC has built with landowners and public and private conservation agencies. The projects are borderless because they protect areas that are not constrained by political and geographic boundaries, but actually connect different counties and aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

Consider these examples:

• In the Deep River Priority area, TLC is collaborating with local communities and the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation to protect a forested river corridor in Chatham and Lee counties. For several years, the partnership has been working to create a “blueway,” the riverine equivalent of a greenway, which will protect wildlife and drinking water supplies and provide boat access for paddlers and anglers. The authorization of the Deep River State Trail in the summer of 2007 was a tremendous success for the partnership. TLC has now protected 2,000 acres in the Deep River region, including two purchases this fiscal year: a 109-acre addition to the state-owned Justice Lands and the acquisition of an 86-acre tract near White Pines Preserve.

• The recent drought has amplified the need to safeguard our region’s drinking water through innovative programs like the Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative. Through the initiative, TLC is partnering with landowners, community leaders and conservation organizations to protect the farms, forests and wetlands that buffer nine drinking water supply reservoirs in five counties. TLC has played a key role in the partnership, assisting with technical studies, planning and land protection, including recent generous donations at Horton Grove Preserve and Snow Hill in Durham County.

• Through the Mark’s Creek Rural Lands Initiative, TLC is teaming up with Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space and The Trust for Public Land to protect the rural lands between the Neuse River and Mark’s Creek in Wake County. The partners envision protecting a 7,500-acre core area of farms, forests and wetlands that will be accessible through the Mountains to the Sea Trail and a greenway network. This year the Initiative protected four tracts within the Mark’s Creek Priority Area. We continue to seek partnerships in Johnston County to expand this important work across the county line.

• TLC and its partners secured the missing link in a corridor extending from Duke Forest to the Orange-Durham county line along New Hope Creek. Through its Lands Legacy Program, Orange County acquired a 26.5-acre tract from Trinity School of Durham and Chapel Hill that contains a floodplain forest and provides a key connector in a planned green corridor between Duke Forest and Jordan Lake. TLC worked with the school to bring this project to fruition.

In addition to these projects, TLC and its partners protected three critical additions to the Lower Haw River State Natural Area. All of these projects illustrate how creative collaborations can protect areas as varied as riparian corridors, working lands, open space and even school sites. You can read more about these exciting projects in the following pages.

Of course, there is another invaluable partner group that deserves much of the recognition for these conservation achievements: Our members and supporters. Our work is only possible because of your commitment to our conservation mission. On behalf of TLC’s Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your support of Triangle Land Conservancy. Best wishes for 2008.

Charles B. Neely, Jr.
Chairman, TLC Board of Directors
LITTLE RIVER

Landscape snapshot: From its headwaters in Orange County, the Little River winds through a scenic rock-strewn gorge before flowing into the Little River Reservoir, a drinking water supply for the City of Durham. Further downstream, the Little, Eno and Flat rivers braid together to form the Neuse and its progeny, Falls Lake. The Little River and its floodplain are home to abundant wildlife and several historic mill sites. Through the Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative, TLC and its partners are working to conserve land along streams and wetlands in the region. This conservation effort is designed to limit runoff and maintain good water quality in the Upper Neuse River Basin, a source of drinking water for half a million people.

Horton Grove & Snow Hill

Developer D.R. Bryan continues to demonstrate a visionary commitment to balancing development and conservation. Along with his business partners in Bryan Properties, Bryan has donated 995 acres of conservation lands in the Little River priority area to TLC since 2004, including a complex land deal that closed in October 2006 and resulted in a victory for both Durham County Schools and Triangle-area conservation.

The conservation effort began with the company’s donation of 245 acres off Snow Hill Road in Durham County to TLC between 2004 and 2006. In 2005, the company donated a conservation easement to TLC on 48 adjacent acres and donated 32 acres to Durham Public Schools for a new middle school. In 2006, TLC traded 114 acres of the Snow Hill Road property to Durham Parks and Recreation to create a new active recreation park, in exchange for the ecologically significant 61-acre Little River Lowlands Preserve.

Through another generous donation in 2006, Bryan Properties added 38 acres to the Horton Grove Preserve, bringing TLC’s largest owned property to 708 acres. The preserve’s hardwood forest is home to creatures such as wild turkey and pileated woodpecker that depend on extensive forested areas.

DEEP RIVER

Landscape snapshot: The core of TLC’s Deep River Priority Area is the 29-mile border between Chatham and Lee counties where the river and its floodplain endure as a haven for wildlife and a reservoir of historical curiosities. TLC is focusing on protecting unique natural habitats and keeping the Deep clean for the local communities that depend on it for drinking water (Goldston, Gulf, Sanford and Lee County). TLC’s advocacy for a new state park on the Deep culminated in 2007 with the authorization of the Deep River State Trail, making this waterway a focal point for ecotourism in North Carolina’s Piedmont.

Additions to Justice Lands and White Pines

TLC continues to work with the NC Division of Parks and Recreation (NCDPR) to assemble a “blueway” along the Deep River in Chatham and Lee counties. In 2006, the state purchased the 109-acre Hanson Aggregates Tract in Chatham County. TLC facilitated the purchase, as it has done for several other state acquisitions on the river. This tract provides significant water quality buffers on the Deep River and feeder streams, at a stretch where the river contains the largest known populations of the rare Cape Fear shiner. The property is a strategic inholding in the Justice Lands, a 760-acre tract on the river near Moncure that TLC purchased in 2003 and later transferred to NCDPR.

In May 2007, TLC expanded its holdings in Chatham County by purchasing the 86-acre Williams Tract, which contains the headwaters of a Deep River tributary and is located a quarter-mile from TLC’s flagship preserve, White Pines. Anticipated conservation deals on two adjacent tracts would connect this parcel to White Pines Preserve.
“I didn't want to sell it, but I saw there was nothing in it as far as agricultural possibilities. I didn't want a gang of houses on it. I just got the feeling that we need some land left. Houses everywhere . . . I don't think we need that in Wake County.” – Reuben Broadwell

**MARK’S CREEK**

*Landscape snapshot:* With its patchwork of farmland, forest and wetlands, the Mark’s Creek region offers a glimpse of the Piedmont’s rural past. Through partnership in the Mark’s Creek Rural Lands Initiative, TLC is working with Wake County and The Trust for Public Land (TPL) to protect 7,500 acres of mixed natural and open lands in the area. The partners are helping develop a regional park along the Mountains to Sea Trail and are promoting the concept of a greenway network that will connect the Trail to neighboring communities.

The Mark’s Creek Initiative features three distinct but connected project areas: Lake Myra and its surrounds north of Poole Road in Wake County, Mark’s Creek Wetlands from Poole Road to the Johnston County line and Neuse Forest from the county line to the Neuse River. The thread that connects these areas, Mark’s Creek, forms in Wake County north of US 64 near Knightdale and empties into the Neuse River a few miles north of Clayton.

**Lake Myra Uplands, Poor Boy Farms, and Wendell Falls**

In 2006-2007, the Mark’s Creek partners protected 360 acres on four separate tracts: Lake Myra Uplands, Wendell Falls and two tracts at Poor Boy Farms (see spotlight at right).

**Poor Boy Farms**

Reuben Broadwell has been farming in eastern Wake County for almost 50 years. When the tobacco buy-out came along in 2004 he didn’t want to stop farming, but he didn’t see a future in it. He also didn’t want to see his property developed. So when TPL offered to buy portions of his “Poor Boy Farms” for conservation, Broadwell was willing to listen.

In February 2007 Broadwell sold two tracts totaling 145 acres for inclusion in the Mark’s Creek Initiative: the 92-acre Lake Myra tract and the 53-acre Shotwell tract. The protection of these tracts preserves water quality and wildlife habitat and provides a key link between other tracts purchased through the Initiative.

These purchases increase the amount of land conserved in the Initiative to 727 acres—the beginning of a planned assemblage of tracts that will create a corridor along Mark’s Creek between Lake Myra and the Neuse River.
NEW HOPE CREEK

Landscape Snapshot: On its journey from western Orange County to Jordan Lake, New Hope Creek passes through an extensive forested valley. Early European settlers who built homes, farms and mills along the watercourse named the stream to reflect their dreams of a prosperous life in the Piedmont. Great expectations for New Hope Creek continue today, updated by the hopes of outdoor enthusiasts and local conservation groups. TLC and a variety of public and private partners are collaborating to protect a 15-mile hiking and wildlife corridor extending from the Hollow Rock section of the creek to Jordan Lake. The partners are beginning to develop parks and greenways along the creek, including an access area off Erwin Road.

Trinity School

In January 2007, TLC and Orange County protected the final link in a land corridor from Duke Forest to the Orange-Durham county line. Through its Lands Legacy Program, Orange County acquired a 26.5-acre tract from Trinity School of Durham and Chapel Hill. The school played a key role by acquiring one tract from a private seller and packaging that land with its own property. TLC worked with the school to bring this project to fruition, including securing funding for the project from the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program.

The property is sandwiched between two other Lands Legacy Program parcels on the creek: a 22-acre tract purchased in 2006 from Wade and Carolyn Penny (also in partnership with TLC) and a 1.1-acre tract at the Durham County line purchased in 2005. Durham County owns land along the creek all the way to US 15-501. Just a few Durham County tracts need to be protected to connect the corridor to Jordan Lake.

Upstream, about 2,200 acres of the corridor are conserved in Duke Forest and TLC’s Johnston Mill Nature Preserve.

Land Conservation 2006-07

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2006-07 acres conserved 1,439
Total acres conserved 9,755 (as of June 30, 2007)
Logan Irvin had a great and passionate love of the land, and he insisted on measured objective actions in support of that love. He was well aware of both the problems caused by urban development and the necessity and inevitability of such development. He was unwilling to leave that paradox as an unworked problem... As a member of TLC’s first Board of Directors, Logan Irvin helped delineate and establish the rational operating principles that guide TLC today.

— From Triangle Land Conservancy News, Fall 1989
IRVIN FARM

Connecting the past and the future at Irvin Farm

Tranquil Irvin Farm, with its mix of forest and farmland, is a rare rural space near Chapel Hill. The 269-acre farm is also a living legacy of Elinor and J. Logan Irvin, who owned this property on Jones Ferry Road, just a few miles west of University Lake.

A Kenan Professor of Biochemistry at UNC-Chapel Hill, Logan was one of TLC’s founding board members. TLC established the Logan Irvin Fund, a stewardship endowment fund, after he died in 1984. Later that year, Mrs. Irvin contacted TLC to see if the organization would be interested in the property. She subsequently left the property to TLC in her will.

Mrs. Irvin lived on her beloved farm for many years after her husband’s death. She passed away in January 2007 and the property was transferred to TLC for ongoing stewardship.

The property is forested in mature hardwoods and pines, including some 100-year-old trees, and contains several intermittent streams and one major stream. About 50 acres of pasture and hay meadow have been slowly reverting to forest. Wildlife including bobcat, gray fox and wild turkey that inhabit unfragmented forested blocks find a safe haven on the property, and migratory songbirds such as ovenbird and Kentucky warbler likely nest here.

The Irvin Farm gift is the largest bequest TLC has ever received. “There are few, if any, tracts of that size remaining in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School District,” says Tandy Jones, TLC protection specialist. “And this gift is so significant not only because of the Irvins’ generosity and altruism, but also because it is such a wonderful tribute to the landscape in which they lived.”

Future plans for farm take shape

TLC is managing the Irvin Farm in accordance with Mrs. Irvin’s will and with the goal of conserving the property’s historical and natural features. The first priority at the Irvin Farm was to renovate the 1880s farmhouse and Dr. Irvin’s chemistry lab on the property, and to restore the farm’s historic habitats, such as open meadows and forest.

TLC staff is also exploring how this historic piece of Orange County’s rural past could be used for educational programming. The property could potentially become a living laboratory for onsite education of school groups and adult education focused on sustainable land management, forestry and farming. TLC staff and volunteers continue to explore the potential opportunities at the property.

HOLDING FARM

With the donation of a 95-acre conservation easement on their Johnston County farm, the Holding family increased their protected property to 401 acres. For several years, the family has been donating conservation easements on land that contains a combination of managed pine and natural hardwood forests. The farm is located in a rapidly developing area near Clayton and the easements ensure that the forested land will maintain a water quality buffer on Buffalo Creek.

BORLAND CREEK: MULLEN AND WILSON

Neighboring landowners Bill Mullen and John & Marion Wilson generously donated conservation easements to TLC that permanently restrict development on their Orange County lands on Borland Creek. With the support of their three sons, the Wilsons donated a conservation easement on their 152-acre property off Arthur Minnis Road. Their neighbor to the north, Bill Mullen, donated a conservation easement on his 40-acre property off Hawes Road. The easements create water quality buffers on about 1.4 miles of several New Hope Creek tributary streams, including Borland Creek.
Haw River

The reach of the Haw River between Chicken Bridge Road and US Highway 64 courses through some of Chatham County’s most rugged terrain. Steep bluffs and rocky outcrops interspersed with wide bottomlands line the river, which is home to rare species like the Cape Fear shiner. A parking area on US 15-501 South provides river access for anglers, canoeists and kayakers.

The Lower Haw River State Natural Area was created in 2003 when TLC helped the state purchase more than 1,000 acres owned by Duke University on both sides of the river between Bynum and US 64.

After a three-year lull, conservation efforts on the Haw took off again in 2006-07, with TLC and Haw River Assembly teaming up to facilitate three acquisitions by the state near Bynum.

The first two deals, in August and November 2006, provide conservation bookends on either side of the river at the Bynum Dam—the 40-acre Stevens West Tract on the west side of the river and the 82-acre Pegg Tract on the east side. With Pittsboro’s drinking water intake located behind the Bynum Dam, these forested buffers on almost two miles of the Haw and several tributaries will help maintain clean drinking water for the growing community.

In February 2007, TLC and Haw River Assembly struck again, this time facilitating the state’s purchase of the historic 7-acre Bynum Mill tract. Though small, this riverbank property is important for connecting the 1,000+ acres south of Bynum with the newly conserved lands upstream.

Working Lands Initiative

A TLC-funded “Cost of Community Services Study for Chatham County” presented to the county commissioners in May 2007 found that agricultural and forestry lands more than pay their own way in the county’s budget. The study, requested by the Chatham County Agricultural Advisory Committee, demonstrated that forestry and agriculture are net contributors to the Chatham County government finances and showed that conservation of working lands is beneficial to county taxpayers.

Other initiative efforts in 2006-07 focused on nurturing the nascent Chatham Conservation Partnership. Comprised of county citizens, farmers, business owners, developers and representatives of public and private agencies, the Partnership seeks to create a community conservation vision that builds awareness, protection and stewardship of the county’s natural resources, including its significant working lands (active farms and managed forests) that comprise 41 percent of the county’s land use.

Dorothea Dix Campus Conservation

With Raleigh’s Dorothea Dix hospital moving to Butner in 2008, the 306-acre hospital campus in Raleigh has become a highly coveted property. A growing number of community members believe that the campus should be dedicated as Raleigh’s version of Central Park. Staff and members of TLC’s board of directors continued this year to work with state legislators toward a vision that calls for the permanent conservation of the campus’ existing open space (about 220 acres) and rehabilitation of the historic buildings, particularly the main building designed by A.J. Davis, who also designed the North Carolina State Capitol.

Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative

TLC continues to participate in this partnership effort to prioritize and protect those lands most critical for the long-term safety and health of the Upper Neuse River Basin’s nine public drinking water supply reservoirs that together serve more than 500,000 people. TLC is now focusing on conservation efforts in the Little River Priority Area. TLC’s accomplishments this year at Horton Grove and Snow Hill directly support the Initiative.
Stewardship activities for a land trust like TLC vary from season to season and property to property. A multitude of factors influence how TLC staff manages each preserve or open land, including the habitat type, public use, surrounding land use and changing environmental conditions.

Volunteers make a Difference

TLC land stewards are fortunate to have the support of an army of volunteers who donate their time and talents to tasks from clearing trails to weeding out invasive species. TLC volunteers include site stewards who have adopted a specific preserve to monitor, as well as one-time volunteers who attend work days organized by their employer. Whatever the task, a day working in the field as a TLC volunteer is always a rewarding, rejuvenating experience. Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers who participated in stewardship activities in 2006-2007.

White Pines: Gilbert Yager Trail

With Gilbert Yager’s encouragement and financial assistance in the early 1980s, a young TLC was able to conserve the most important natural area in the Triangle—White Pines Preserve in Chatham County. Bounded by the Deep and Rocky Rivers, this nature preserve has a mountainlike feel, with its groves of ancient white pines, mountain laurel bluffs and diverse birdlife.

In fall 2006, a group of volunteers helped build a new trail at the preserve and named it in honor of the preserve’s early champion, who passed away in June 2006. The Gilbert Yager Trail explores the southern portion of the preserve, meandering through several distinct forest types: dry oak-hickory forest on the ridge, Piedmont bottomland forest in the Deep River floodplain and several stands of native white pines.

TLC thanks GlaxoSmithKline for funding to build the Gilbert Yager Trail.
### Revenue & Expenses

#### Revenues (Excluding Land Transactions)

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#### Expenses (Excluding Land Transactions)

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### Endowment and Board Reserves

Thanks to your generous contributions, TLC’s permanent endowment continues to grow, showing an increase of $57,195 in FY07. Board Reserves represent a percentage of operating revenue that the Board of Directors assigns to organizational priorities every year.

#### Total:

- **2005:** $833,394
- **2006:** $896,415
- **2007:** $953,610

#### Revenues by Restriction

The majority of TLC's revenue comes from the value of land and easement donations. This restricted revenue is not available for TLC operations. Unrestricted donations can be used for TLC’s general operations.

- **TOTAL:** $12,334,559
  - **RESTRICTED**
    - Land and Grants for Land Acquisition: $9,472,601 (76.8%)
    - Campaign*: $982,318 (8%)
  - **UNRESTRICTED**
    - Contributions: $1,507,083 (12.2%)
    - Government Grants: $153,398 (1.2%)
    - Other: $219,159 (1.8%)

* TLC will announce an ambitious fundraising campaign in 2008.

#### Leveraging your Donations — Value of Protected Land vs. Member Donations

TLC Members and supporters generously contributed more than $1.5 million in FY07, enabling TLC to protect land valued at more than $21 million. For every $1.00 contributed, TLC was able to protect $14 worth of land.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Unrestricted Contributions</th>
<th>Value of Protected Land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$571,285</td>
<td>$8,732,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$539,157</td>
<td>$11,519,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$1,507,083</td>
<td>$21,742,430</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To see a copy of TLC’s audit for 2006-07, contact business manager Jessica Poland at (919) 833-3662 ext. 104.
Bo ard of Directors  
(as of June 30, 2007)  
Charles B. Neely, Jr., Chairman  
Wake County  
Ron Strom, Vice President  
Orange County  
Anne Stoddard, Secretary  
Orange County  
Lanier Cansler, Treasurer  
Wake County  
Adam Abram  
Orange County  
Wade Barber  
Orange County  
Charlie Bolton, Jr.  
Chatham County  
William Brian, Jr.  
Durham County  
Rebecca Bumgardner  
Wake County  
Celeste Burns  
Durham County  
Rodney Gaddy  
Wake County  
Ayden Lee, Jr.  
Johnston County  
Steven Levitas  
Wake County  
John R. McAdams, Past President  
Orange County  
Sonya McKay  
Wake County  
Chris Mumma  
Durham County  
Bud Taylor  
Lee County  
Nicholas Tennyson  
Durham County  
Dale Threatt-Taylor  
Wake County  
Larry Tombaugh  
Wake County  
Laura Horton Virkler  
Orange County  
Kevin Brice  
President & CEO  
Alberto Alzamora, CPA  
Accountant  
Marisa Bryant, MPA  
Membership Coordinator  
Cheryl Chamblee  
Associate Director, Our Water Our Land Campaign  
Leigh Ann Cienek, MRP  
Conservation Planner  
Tandy Jones  
Land Protection Specialist  
Tracy Joseph  
Director of Development  
Ida Phillips Lynch  
Communications Coordinator  
Jeff Masten, MRP  
Director of Conservation Strategies  
Aimee Mitchell  
Development Coordinator

A copy of the license and financial information of Triangle Land Conservancy may be obtained from the Department of Human Resources, Charitable Solicitations Licensing Branch by calling 919-733-4510. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

Triangle Land Conservancy  
TLC’s mission is to protect important open space—stream corridors, forests, wildlife habitat, farmland, and natural areas—to help keep our region a healthy and vibrant place to live and work. TLC is a private, nonprofit land trust serving Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Orange and Wake counties.

Since 1983, TLC has protected more than 10,000 acres at scores of sites across the Triangle region. These sites enhance the quality of life in the Triangle by protecting wildlife habitats, water quality, recreation areas and open space. The generosity of many individuals, corporations, foundations, government agencies and organizations makes our work possible.

To make a contribution to TLC or for more information, please visit our website at www.triangleland.org or contact us at:

Triangle Land Conservancy  
1101 Haynes Street, Suite 205  
Raleigh NC 27604-1455  
919.833.3662 (t) / 919.755.9356 (f)

Staff (as of January 1, 2008)  
Kevin Brice  
President & CEO  
Jessica Poland  
Business Manager  
Jon Scott, MNR  
Land Protection Specialist  
Walt Tysinger  
Land Manager  
Doug Nicholas  
Director of Communications  
Katherine Wright, MEM  
Easement Steward

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Page 2: Deep and Rocky Rivers, Sonke Johnsen  
Page 4: Mark’s Creek, Sonke Johnsen; Reuben Broadwell, Ida Phillips Lynch  
Page 5: New Hope Creek, Ida Phillips Lynch  
Page 6: Irvin Farm photos, Sonke Johnsen  
Page 8: Pegg Tract on Haw River, Doug Nicholas  
Page 9: Stewardship photos from White Pines Preserve, Doug Nicholas, Johnston Mill Nature Preserve volunteers, Katherine Wright  
Page 12: Belted kingfisher, C. Schlawe/USFWS  
Page 13: Haw River, Sonke Johnsen; Sundrops, Sonke Johnsen  
Page 14: Rocky River, Sonke Johnson  
Page 15: Fowler’s toad, Ida Phillips Lynch  
Page 17: Lower Haw River, Sonke Johnsen  
Back cover: Irvin Farm, Sonke Johnsen

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