



Conservation Connections

Winter 2015

Executive Director's Note



This fall, my husband and I celebrated 25 years of marriage with a dream vacation to South America. After a week of exploring the Amazonian rainforest, we set out to conquer the infamous Inca Trail to Maccu Pichu.

We knew the journey would be a challenge, but still underestimated its difficulty. Long days, many steps, the high altitude, and really, a lot of steps, tested our physical and mental strength. However, finally laying eyes on those awe-inspiring ruins amid the towering mountains and lush forest **made every step worth the journey.**

TLC is also on a journey and I'm grateful you've decided to come along with us. Many probably underestimated the ability of a small, dedicated group of volunteers to blossom into a 1,000+ member organization with a dedicated and highly capable board and staff and a conservation record of 17,000+ acres *and growing*. Let's take a moment to revel in our accomplishments.

Last fiscal year alone, TLC permanently conserved an additional **431 acres and protected 4.75 miles of streams**. From Falls Lake to the Rocky River, we helped safeguard clean water for us to drink and for the many species of wildlife that call the Triangle home.

Conservation staff worked closely with local farmers to find the right conservation options for them and their lands. We have a few projects set to close by the end of this year and

look forward to having a few more next year as a result of our new **Johnston County Initiative** (page 7).

We also provided another important public benefit throughout the year - opportunities for you and your community to connect with nature. Volunteers continue to be essential to our organization, generously giving over 2,000 hours of service last year worth an estimated \$46,000 to the organization. Of course, this doesn't even include the positive impact we had on the many others who participated in one of the 50+ outings supported by TLC.

You can learn more about these achievements and the individuals who's lives we touched through our Annual Report which will be mailed later this month and can be accessed online at annualreport.triangleland.org.

Our trip on the Inca Trail would not have been successful without support along the way from our guides and fellow hikers. **You alone can do it, but you can't do it alone.** The same is true for conservation. You are helping us conserve the natural resources that make our community a great place to live, work, and play.

And with your continued support, we will make sure this work stands the test of time - one step at a time.

Sincerely,

Sandy Sweitzer
Executive Director

We want to hear from you: take our member survey and be entered to win a special day with our conservation staff! Find the survey at www.triangleland.org/membersurvey



514 S. Duke Street
Durham, NC 27701
919-908-8809
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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: In November, Wells Fargo volunteers planted over XX milkweed and built a brand new fence to protect fragile plant habitats at TLC's Temple Flat Rock Preserve.

This page: Johnston Mill Nature Preserve by Keith Longiotti

Meet Our Supporters

Encouraging Curiosity in Nature: The Bethune Family BY LAURA SMITH

The Bethune's kids aren't into iPods and iPads. Instead, they are most interested in going outside.

"I like for our kids to be outside," says **Rachel Bethune**. Rachel, along with her husband **Alec**, take their two kids hiking a lot and encourage their curiosity with nature. While they try to get their daughter, **Juliette**, 14 months, to learn by touching different things outdoors, their son, **Colin**, 4, most enjoys digging in the dirt.



Rachel and Alec Bethune with their children Juliette and Colin at the NC Botanical Garden.

Alec, a senior IT project manager at Fidelity Investments and Rachel, a senior business intelligence analyst at Blue Cross Blue Shield NC, have been members of Triangle Land Conservancy's **River Society** since before their two children were born. Rachel says when she and her husband first sat down to decide where they would give their money, TLC seemed like an obvious choice. After a few years of donating annually, the Bethune family decided to become

TLC Stewards; now, they make automatic monthly gifts that provide sustained resources for TLC to conserve and maintain beautiful green spaces in the Triangle.

And while having green space nearby has always been important to them, it is even more so now. "**Having kids makes it even more important**," explains Rachel.

Alec agrees; he is concerned about development pressures in the Triangle, which aren't going away any time soon. He wonders what the Town of Chapel Hill will look like in 10 years. To him, local leaders can't always be trusted to make the best decisions, which is why supporting land conservation is so important.


"The more places people can interface with nature, the better."

"Community leaders have done a poor job with natural spaces and sustainability," cautions Alec.

The Bethune property abuts the NC Botanical Garden. Its proximity to the garden sold them on their house. The family often hikes the Garden's trails on Sundays with their children and dog. But Alec knows not everyone is as lucky.

"The nice thing about TLC," Alec says, "is that not everyone has backyard trails nearby."

Before the Bethunes had children, they enjoyed hiking at both Johnston Mill and White Pines Nature Preserves. Alec, a deacon at First Presbyterian Church in Durham, also arranged several trail building days at Johnson Mill.

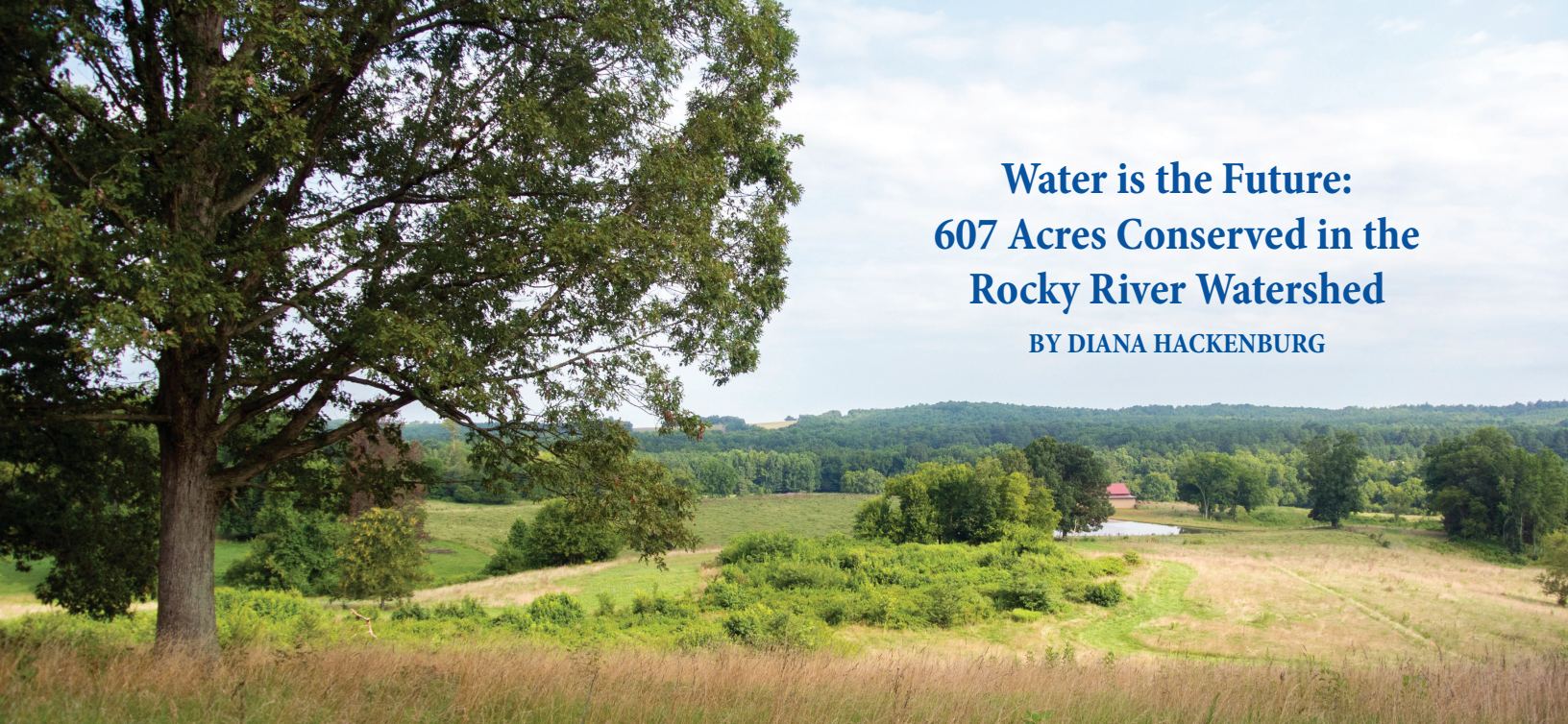
"The more places people can interface with nature, the better," he said. 

TLC Stewards help protect wild and working lands by making automatic monthly contributions. It's a safe, easy, and efficient way to support conservation in your community. Become a TLC Steward today at www.triangleland.org/donate.



Partner Spotlight: Murphy's Naturals

Raleigh-based Murphy's Naturals is the maker behind Murphy's Mosquito Sticks & Candles, both all-natural and toxin-free mosquito and flying insect repellent products. A certified **B Corporation**, Murphy's Naturals forms partnerships with like-minded organizations like TLC, supporting causes close to their mission of celebrating nature and inspiring good through quality natural products. Their products are distributed nationwide online and in natural product stores, lawn and garden centers, hardware stores, and elsewhere. *Interested in partnering with TLC? Contact us at 919-908-0056.*



Water is the Future: 607 Acres Conserved in the Rocky River Watershed

BY DIANA HACKENBURG

“This right here is about as rural as it gets.” You can believe **Bobby Branch** when it comes to declaring such a superlative. Bobby grew up in Lee County, lives in Chatham County, and has traveled up and down the east coast for work, exposing himself to all types of landscapes and communities. He’s a hardworking businessman with an obvious affection for the rural lands he calls home.

‘Here’ is a tranquil hill on a farm Bobby owns about 10 miles south of Siler City in Chatham County, a place that will always stay rural thanks to Bobby’s commitment to conservation. Like many landowners, conservation was not originally a familiar concept or driving factor for him, but something that started to make sense over time.

“I actually quit school at 16 and I went to work,” explained Bobby. He began working with developers and eventually started his own successful business. However, the more development work he did, the more he started to think about the landscape as a resource for future generations. These thoughts multiplied as he watched his young son Jordan (8) explore and enjoy the farm.

“I have watched conservation projects for years and have always thought about it,” recalled Bobby. “The older my young one gets, I think, well, you know **if I put this land in conservation, I have something for him, something for his young ones, something that can always be there.** So the older I get, the more I think about it for down the road, the big picture. That’s one reason why we choose to go the conservation route.”

“The older my young one gets, I think, well, you know if I put this land in conservation, I have something for him, something for his young ones, something that can always be there.”

What began as a 148-acre easement with TLC completed back in December 2013 has grown into a contiguous conserved area of 607 acres with the addition of easements in December 2014 and another on December 3, 2015. And that’s just the beginning; Bobby hopes to conserve an additional 360 acres by the end of next year.

Together, the donated easements protect about 14,000 feet of streams, including parts of **Tick Creek**, a major tributary to the **Rocky River**. Classified as an impaired stream on the state’s 303(d) list, Tick Creek is a high priority for conservation to help improve water quality and prevent further impairment of the critical aquatic system downstream. Tick Creek provides habitat for nine mussel species, including three species of state concern and a federal species of concern, the Carolina creekshell (*Villosa vaughaniana*).

The easements specify 50 to 300-ft buffers to protect stream banks and keep sediments from entering nearby streams.

Additionally, Bobby has worked to protect water quality by implementing some agricultural best practices, including more than 6,000 feet of new fencing, because as he put it simply, **“water is the future.”**

“When we bought this place, the fence was on the other side of the creek and the cows just went into the creek,” said Bobby. “We moved the fence to this side of the creek. This area actually used to be a cornfield, but it was down in the bottomland and stayed wet. We let it come back into grass to protect what last little bit of water went off into the creek.”

continued on next page

Water is the Future *continued from page 5*

A lot of effort has gone into reenergizing this former dairy farm. They've planted several new pastures as feed for the 100 cows managed by his father and the 100 sheep his son raises as a small source of income. The family uses the property for outdoor recreation, including hunting, and has opened it up to family, friends, and area organizations like the Wounded Warrior Project and a local church.

Bobby talks fondly about the wildlife this land supports, including the thousands of released quail and the Barred Owl that routinely greets him

from the same weathered fence post.

It is a lot of hard work, but you understand why Bobby does it as soon as you hear some of his comical, but heartfelt stories.

"Justin's friends that live in town come out here and they just find this place amazing," relates Bobby. "We were at the barn working with the cows one rainy winter, mud halfway up your knee. This little boy fell face first in the mud and from his mom's reaction you would have thought it was the end of the world. But, I saw the boy this

morning and he asked when we were going to play in that cow mud again!"

Contemplatively, Bobby noted, "**I wouldn't trade growing up on a farm for anything.**"

Through conservation, he has created an opportunity for his son, and potentially his son's sons to have a similar experience. TLC is proud to have worked with Bobby to fulfill his goals as a father and as a landowner, and to provide protection for the public benefits like clean water this land provides the community. 🌿

You Won't Believe Your Eyes: The Seven WakeWonders

WakeWonders are the most outstanding natural features in Wake County - features sure to inspire awe and amazement in all who visit. The Seven WakeWonders are:

- 🌿 **Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve Park**
 - 🌿 **Harris Lake County Park**
 - 🌿 **Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve**
 - 🌿 **Prairie Ridge Ecostation**
 - 🌿 **Robertson Millpond Preserve**
 - 🌿 **Swift Creek Bluffs Nature Preserve***
 - 🌿 **Temple Flat Rock Nature Preserve***
- *TLC owned properties*

The first Seven Wonders of Wake were identified by the **WakeNature Preserves Partnership**, which will add to the list over time. This Partnership brings together natural resource professionals from local governments, NC State University, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations to build capacity among Wake County's local governments to identify the most valuable natural resources areas they own and improve environmental stewardship of these areas.

Temple Flat Rock Nature Preserve, a registered Natural Heritage Site, was TLC's very first conservation project back in 1984. The property's unique undisturbed granitic outcrop is home to over 40 species of lichens and many different flowering plants. The exposed outcrop is part of the Rolesville Granite Botholith, which lies beneath the ground throughout the eastern Triangle region.



Over 40 species of lichens have been identified at TLC's Temple Flat Rock Nature Preserve, a newly recognized WakeWonder.

Swift Creek Bluffs Nature Preserve is a remarkable remnant of historical Piedmont forests located just minutes from downtown Cary. The bluffs feature stately beech trees estimated to be 200 years old and a diverse bottomland hardwood forest occupies the creek's wide floodplain. A one-mile trail system provides a route for visitors to explore these diverse habitats at their leisure every day of the year.

Some WakeWonders (Swift Creek Bluffs) are open to the public, with ample parking, easy access, and detailed interpretation; others (Temple Flat Rock) require special arrangements. You can learn more about all the WakeWonders and find events at www.WakeNature.org.

Johnston County Farmland Protection Initiative BY LEIGH ANN HAMMERBACHER

TLC has just kicked off a new initiative to expand our work on farm and forest land protection efforts in Johnston County. Currently, TLC is working with Johnston County landowners on three easement projects that would conserve an additional 200 acres in the next year.

For many years, TLC has focused its work on family farms in the area that provide areas to grow food and forests. These farms also help safeguard clean water and protect threatened habitats including meadows, woodlands, wetlands and streams, as well as the agricultural heritage that has long characterized this area of the Triangle.

To date, TLC has conserved **2,475 acres** of land in Johnston County. Much of this land has been protected through easements held on private farms. Over the next several years, TLC hopes to expand on these efforts with a specific focus of farm and forest land protection through conservation easements.

As part of this initiative, TLC has been working with the **Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC)** on an agricultural mapping study to identify the highest priority farmlands in our region. Looking at a five-county area, Johnston County stands out in preliminary mapping as having some of the **highest value farmlands** in the region. Most of Johnston County and regions of western Chatham County, where TLC has another ongoing farmland protection effort, rank highly in comparison to other areas of our region (see the blue and green areas on the map at right).

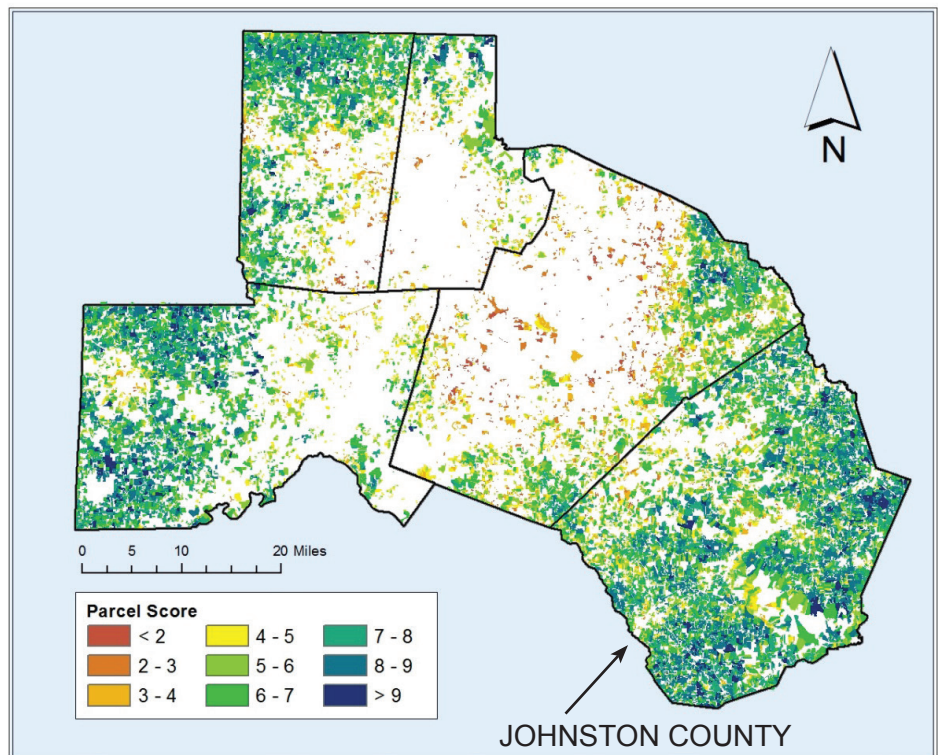
This is not surprising when considering Johnston County alone has approximately **194,827 acres, or 40% of its land still in agricultural use**. In fact, Johnston County can be considered the cornucopia of our region for food production. The County ranks **second in the state for vegetable production** and many Johnston County farms supply vegetables to the State and other local markets that support the urban populations of the Triangle.¹

However, this agricultural land is under extreme development pressure, and parcel fragmentation has been

identified as a primary threat.² The population in Johnston County is expected to **increase by 16.2% from 2010 to 2020** and then **grow by an additional 13.7% between 2020 and 2030**, making it one of the fastest growing counties in the entire state.³ With such a rapidly growing population, the prospects of losing our region's highest priority agricultural lands is very real.

TLC hopes that by collaborating with landowners and local partners we can all increase the area of high value farmlands under permanent conservation. 🌱

Farmland Protection Model Output



If you would like more information on this project or if you are a landowner interested in conservation options for your farm, please contact Leigh Ann Hammerbacher at 919-908-0060 or lhammerbacher@triangleland.org.

1. United States Department of Agriculture, Census of Agriculture, 2012
2. Agricultural Development Plan for Johnston County
3. Office of State Budget and Management, County/State Population Projections

Tales from the Field: Progress at Brumley Forest Nature Preserve

BY KYLE OBERMILLER

There's been a lot of buzz lately about TLC's Brumley Forest Nature Preserve in Orange County. Guided hikes, a neighbor meet and greet, the BioBlitz, and other events have brought folks out to Brumley for a sneak peek at the property. Many people over the past few years who have explored the property with us, and we're excited about getting it open to the general public next fall.

The work to prepare Brumley Forest ramped up in a huge fashion a few weeks ago. Our trail contractor, Stewart Bryan of **Native Trails**, began construction of the trail system outlined in our preserve master plan. On Thursday, Nov. 22, our loyal **Conservation Corps** volunteers had their first trail workday, helping move along the trail building more efficiently and quickly. Our eight great volunteers that morning spent three hours clearing debris, roots, rocks, and trees from the trail corridor and followed after with the trail-building machine to create a smooth, beautiful finished trail surface that will last for years to come.



Conservation Corps volunteers at the first Brumley trail workday.

If you read our blog, *The Dirt*, you may recall my "John Henry" blog a few months ago. In that post, I compared hand-built vs. machine-built trail work at TLC's White Pines Nature Preserve in Chatham County. I listed all the different factors that go into deciding how we utilize our limited resources to efficiently create beautiful and sustainable trails. For the trails at Brumley, we decided a hybrid of man and machine-built trails would be most efficient with respect to both time and money.

Besides the trail building, many other activities are ongoing at Brumley Forest to get it ready to open as TLC's 7th public nature preserve. When rains slow trail building, or extra volunteers come out to lend a helping hand, we send

them over to the old **Craig Manor** to clear out a massive overgrowth of invasive plants like Kudzu. Removing the vegetation will help stabilize remains of the old mansion's foundation. It will also help open up the area around an old standing chimney, possible future roosting habitat for the Chimney Swift, a near-threatened bird whose population has declined an average of 2.2 percent a year since 1966. (Check out TLC's *The Dirt* blog to read about another addition at Brumley Forest - a new Chimney Swift tower!)

Thanks to the helpful research and support provided by volunteer **Jack Blackmer**, we hope to soon replace an old dock on the pond. Then, we will work to update and stabilize a wooden hunting blind that has been remarkably converted into a bird watching platform near one of the property's many wetland areas.

It will be an ongoing transformation at Brumley Forest Nature Preserve for the next year and really, there's a lot of excitement in the air. If you're not already subscribed to our **e-newsletters**, I encourage you to do so. You will get updates about our many activities along with ways you can get involved such as volunteer workdays and events. Whether you volunteer, help promote, or donate during this process, we hope you too anticipate a time next fall when you can share Brumley with family and friends and proudly say, **"I helped create this."**

>>> Watch a portion of the trails being built online at www.triangleland.org/the-dirt/brumleytrails or sign up to help at www.triangleland.org/volunteer.

TLC Signs MOU with TORC for Brumley Forest Nature Preserve Multi-Use Trails

TLC and **Triangle Off-Road Cyclists (TORC)** have signed an MOU for the construction and maintenance of the multi-use trails at Brumley Forest Nature Preserve. The plan for Brumley includes a total of 12 miles of trails, 4 miles of hiking-only trails and 8 miles of multi-use trails.

This will be TLC's first preserve open for mountain biking, and we are excited to work on this project with TORC, the local leader in promoting mountain biking and sustainable trail use. TORC volunteers will assist in building some of the new trails, and afterwards, they will help maintain, inspect, and promote the trails. Many thanks to TORC for partnering with us and for helping expand opportunities for getting outside in the Triangle!

Almost 200 Species Observed During the Brumley BioBlitz BY NATURESERVE

How many species can 100 people find in one day at TLC's Brumley Forest Nature Preserve? According to the event's iNaturalist project page, a lot!

On October 17, 2015, scientists, naturalists, students, kids, parents, and community members spent the day making observations and **discovered nearly 200 different species** inhabiting just a portion of TLC's 613-acre Brumley Forest Nature Preserve.

The **Brumley BioBlitz**—a one-day bonanza of exploration to pinpoint, photograph, and document as many plants and animals as possible at Brumley—was organized by TLC, NatureServe, and the **North Carolina Natural Heritage Program** to harness the passion of the local community to inventory the plant and animal species hidden in this special place.

Beginning with a sunrise bird walk, over 400 observations of nearly 200 species were made throughout the day. There were plenty of games for kids led by volunteers and staff from **Learning Outside**, demonstrations by local experts and explorations of the pond, wetlands, and wooded trails.

For all participants including **Mary Klein**, NatureServe's

President and CEO, this year's BioBlitz was an exciting and educational event.

"I loved the positive energy generated by all of the participants. It was fantastic to see both kids and adults getting so excited about going searching for salamanders and skinks, jumping spiders, ferns and fungi. And the species list we generated provides a great snapshot of the biodiversity of the Triangle area," Klein said.







The information collected through the BioBlitz will be used to help enhance TLC's plans for Brumley. You can view all the observations online at www.inaturalist.org/projects/plants-and-wildlife-of-brumley-forest-nature-preserve.

Many thanks to our event partners and sponsors: **Duke Energy, Learning Outside, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, Syngenta, and The Fresh Market.** A special thank you to the staff and volunteers of **NatureServe**. Learn more about NatureServe at www.natureserve.org.

>>>**Start recording all your observations at TLC preserves using the iNaturalist app on your smartphone, or record them at www.triangleland.org/citizenscience.**



BRUMLEY BIOBLITZ OBSERVATIONS - OCTOBER 17, 2015

Mammals	Plants	Fungi	Birds	Amphibians & Reptiles	Insects & Spiders
					
4	240	57	82	18	29



Photographers clockwise from top left: Diana Hackenburg, Sam Upchurch, and Caroline Gilmore

Caroline Gilmore

Events & Outings



Caroline Gilmore

A group of hikers enjoyed a fine fall morning hike at White Pines Nature Preserve in celebration of the new and improved Gilbert Yager trail.

First Day Hike

1/1/16 | 10am-Noon | FREE

Horton Grove Nature Preserve

Start the new year right - with a hike! A great hike for individuals, families, and dogs (on leash)!

Travel Journals (Art Workshop) with FRANK Gallery

1/16/16 | 10am-Noon | \$20

Ackland Art Museum

Learn to draw from a painting. Each Travel Journals class costs \$20 and materials are included with your first class.

MLK Day of Service 2016

1/18/16 | 9am-Noon | FREE

Brumley Forest Nature Preserve

Make it a day on, not off, by volunteering with TLC. We will be building trails at Brumley. Ages 6+. Space is limited - register soon!

That Makes Sense! Kids Trail Opening

1/30/16 | 11am-2pm | FREE

Horton Grove Nature Preserve

Did you know bees dance and bats aren't blind? Learn more about these and many other fascinating creatures by following the new That Makes Sense interpretative trail for kids. Come out and help us celebrate with biology experts, kids activities, and more!

40 Days of Peace Project

2/4/16 | 9am-Noon | FREE

Brumley Forest Nature Preserve

As an extension of the MLK Day of Service, volunteers are invited to join the regular Conservation Corps group for a trail workday at Brumley Forest. 18+. Space is limited - register soon!

Wild Ideas for Getting Outside

3/9/16 | 5:30-8pm | FREE

The Frontier at RTP, 800 Park Offices Drive, Durham, NC 27703

Explore all the different ways you can hike, paddle, and play in the Triangle while also meeting new people and enjoying delicious food and beer!

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: This spring, a new partnership between TLC and the **Durham Arts Council (DAC)** will help you connect with nature through art. Even better, **TLC members can now receive a 10% discount** on all regular DAC Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter classes. Just enter **TLCMEMBER!** at checkout. Sign up for these and other DAC classes at www.durhamarts.org.

Plein Air Watercolor Workshop with Durham Arts Council

4/17/16 | 1-3pm | \$35 | Johnston Mill Nature Preserve

This workshop concentrates on plein air watercolor painting in the landscape.

Beginner's Outdoor Photography with Durham Arts Council

5/7/16 | 9am-3pm | \$100 | DAC Qualex Photo Studio & Johnston Mill

For beginners and intermediate level photographers, teens and up, this class will cover outdoor photography techniques, composition and many more topics. At the end, participants will practice with a photoshoot at TLC's Johnston Mill Nature Preserve.

Travel Journals with FRANK Gallery Reception & Showing

2/12/16 | 6-9pm | FREE

FRANK Gallery, 109 East Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC, 27514

See what beautiful creations have been made during this year's Travel Journals series during this free reception.

Annual Rhodo Ramble

5/7/16 | TBA | FREE

Flower Hill Nature Preserve

View the spectacular display of Catawba Rhododendron on this short, but exceptional hike.

Register for these and other events at www.triangleland.org/events.

Show Your Support



Holiday Gift Shopping List

<input type="checkbox"/> Mom & Dad	As the year draws to a close, please put TLC on your holiday gift list. Your gift goes to a great cause: keeping the Triangle we all love a great place to live, work and play. With so many different ways to protect North Carolina's beautiful and unique natural resources this holiday season, you can contribute no matter your busy schedule or tight budget. Bonus - all gifts to TLC are a tax-deductible charitable contribution so make your list and don't forget to check it twice!
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandpa Joe	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cousin Megan	
<input type="checkbox"/> Teachers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dogsitter	
<input type="checkbox"/> TLC	

Ways to Give to TLC This Holiday Season

'Tis Better to Give than to Receive - Make a Donation

Give today and help TLC conserve important natural resources in your community. It's safe, easy, and fast for you to donate now online at www.triangleland.org/donate.

Celebrate All Year Long - Become a TLC Steward

As a TLC Steward, your monthly gifts provide reliable support for TLC's land conservation work. Start your monthly gifts now at www.triangleland.org/donate.

Bring Joy to the World with Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support TLC every time you shop, at no cost to you. Simply go to smile.amazon.com, select Triangle Land Conservancy as your charitable organization, and when you make a purchase, Amazon donates a portion of the sale to TLC.

Place Something Under the Tree - In-Kind Donations

TLC would greatly benefit from donations of the following items: a new vehicle, a 4-wheel drive ATV, golf cart, pressure washer, GoPro camera, video camera, and a white board.

A Gift that Gives Back - Membership or Honorary Gifts

Share your love for the land with someone special. Give them a TLC membership any time of year with a donation

of \$30 or more, or make a gift in someone's honor. Just be sure to specify the recipient and their address in the "gift preferences" section of the online donation form.

Spread the Cheer - Workplace Giving

TLC is a proud member of **EarthShare North Carolina**, a nonprofit helping North Carolinians support the environmental groups they value through workplace giving. Learn how you can participate at www.earthsharenc.org.

Fill Our Stocking with Stocks and Bonds

Gifts of securities provide another option for you to support TLC's local conservation mission. The simplest way to donate stock to TLC is to have your broker contact us.

For Holidays Yet to Come - Planned Gifts

Planned gifts are a wonderful way to carry on your legacy and commitment to TLC and its mission. Those who make planned gifts to TLC become members of the **Heritage Society**, recognizing their dedication to protecting our land for future generations.

To learn more about these options and for even more ways to give, please visit www.triangleland.org/give or call 919-908-8809. Happy Holidays!



TRIANGLE LAND
CONSERVANCY

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 triangleland.org/the-dirt

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Protecting Natural Habitats



The Autumn Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum vicinum*) is a small, widely distributed type of dragonfly. Dragonflies, which eat insects as adults, are a great control on the mosquito population. A single dragonfly can eat hundreds of mosquitoes per day. This photo was taken by John Petranka at Horton Grove Nature Preserve.

