



Conservation Connections
Fall 2016

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We recently received some big news that I am so pleased to share with you now: Triangle Land Conservancy was awarded accreditation by The Land Trust Accreditation Commission! TLC was commended for “an extraordinary commitment to excellence, trust and permanence in land conservation.” The commission especially recognized Triangle Land Conservancy “for its excellent communications with members and its significant community outreach.”

When I read that, I thought “Our members and partners are the reason TLC has protected almost 18,000 acres across the Triangle—of COURSE we communicate with them, they are our lifeblood!”

Accreditation is official recognition of the good work that so

many TLC staff, board members, volunteers and supporters like you have done for the past 33 years.

The volunteers who started TLC and the first Executive Director, Kate Dixon, laid the groundwork (literally) for land conservation done according to best practices and that work has continued to evolve and improve. I'm deeply honored to be part of that legacy of protecting the wild and working lands across the Triangle and proud that TLC has been recognized for its important work. I hope you are too.

In this issue you'll learn about some of the exciting projects and partnerships that drive our work forward.

Enjoy!



514 S. Duke Street
Durham, NC 27701
919-908-8809
www.triangleland.org

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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FEATURE

NC Youth Conservation Corps By Chris Fowler

Temperatures approach 90 degrees under the late June sun. A team of nine young people toil through the heat at Brumley Forest Nature Preserve. They come decked out in uniforms, wearing work boots and wielding heavy tools. “We smell great—don’t get too close,” one of the crewmembers says with a laugh.

This is Crew 4 of the North Carolina Youth Conservation Corps (NCYCC). Now in its third year, NCYCC is a youth development program that uses the natural world as a means for teaching environmental stewardship, job skills, life skills, and community service. Each of the four crews

works under the supervision of two adult leaders on high priority conservation projects. This year one of those projects was TLC’s Brumley Forest Nature Preserve.

The NCYCC is a partnership between the Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC) and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC). Patrick Pfeifer, Operations Manager for VYCC, explains “VYCC has a 31-year history of creating opportunities for young people to learn about service, leadership, and conservation; and has managed hundreds of YCC crews in and around Vermont. This history made VYCC a logical partner

as CTNC sought to develop a YCC program in North Carolina. VYCC recruits qualified Crew Leaders and provides them with extensive additional training to prepare them for the challenges of leading their crew and for the technical rigors of the work. VYCC also recruits and hires diverse youth for the Corps Member positions, and collaborates with CTNC staff to identify and manage priority projects with a wide range of federal, state, and local partner organizations to create a well-rounded experience based on meaningful conservation work.”

Crew 4 is comprised of crew leaders Molly O’Reilly and John Bayle, along with seven 16 to 18 year olds who come from all over North Carolina. Crew members include Lucy Dixon, Sherrice Moore, Oliver Harper, Nicholas Perisich, Nate Allain, Anna Wechsler, and David Ulin-O’Keefe. Collectively they will put in 400 hours of work for TLC in the June heat. When work is done each day they have time to relax and enjoy the outdoors at the Rolling View campsite at Falls Lake. Supper is cooked in a dutchoven over an open fire and everyone sleeps in the open air, under the stars.

The work NCYCC Crew 4 completed at Brumley was substantial. They cleared huge loads of debris from the ruins of the Craig Manor, the once impressive house that stood on the property. They removed patches of the invasive species Autumn Olive, which is prolific in the area and if left unattended will colonize a forest’s understory and inhibit the growth of native plants. The crew also made trail improvements along 3,200 feet of trail, which included 600 feet of clearing and 850 feet of tread improvements. Crew 4 also installed 2 sets of gate posts.

REI generously donated \$10,000 to sponsor NCYCC’s week of crew time at Brumley. Nick Cross, Outdoor Programs Manager for REI Central North Carolina explains, “The goal of REI’s community investments is to create a meaningful impact in local communities. We aspire to increase access and to steward inspiring outdoor places where our members and customers play and want to play.”

Christine Wilson, Director of Development at TLC said of the partnership “By supporting this collaboration, REI affirms its commitment to strengthening the recreational resources in our communities. Their generosity made it possible for us to prioritize our participation and experience the



tremendous rewards of working with YCC and our fellow conservation partners.”

TLC is grateful for their efforts. All of their good work brings us closer to the long-anticipated public opening of Brumley Forest in the spring of 2017. Cross says “REI is proud to support TLC’s development of Brumley Preserve as it is helping to provide a new outdoor recreation destination

in our rapidly growing area. By partnering with the NCYCC, REI has been able to provide additional resources for the Brumley project while also fostering the values of stewardship and conservation amongst a new generation of outdoor advocates. Together, REI, TLC and NCYCC are able to have a greater impact on the Brumley project, creating more opportunities for outdoor recreation in our community.” 🌿





Expanding Access

By Chris Fowler

“It’s fascinating to see kids thinking about nature as something that’s interesting and worth studying—many of the kids have never held or looked at an earthworm or millipede up close.”

Barbara Goldentyer, Community Outreach and Education Associate at TLC, has been working hard to expand access to TLC nature preserves. Goldentyer comes to TLC as a Conservation Trust for North Carolina AmeriCorps Member with an extensive background working with youth in nature education programming. She holds a black belt in Tae kwon do and a Master’s Degree in Sociology from NC State University. Her graduate work concentrated on social inequalities.

Originally from Cary, Barbara began working with youth when she was in high school by volunteering with the Brentwood Boys and Girls Club in Wake County. “I always liked teaching and learning and connecting kids to things that are new and interesting,” Goldentyer explains. She is especially interested in promoting nature education programming that is accessible to everyone, with special attention to low-income and underserved communities. “I hope to help TLC establish an education program that will continue after my service term that gets kids and families outside. I’m really proud every time we get kids out to the preserves who wouldn’t have necessarily visited on

their own,” she says. Since joining the TLC team Goldentyer has taken the lead on building partnerships and programs that connect youth with nature.

Goldentyer was instrumental in forming two new partnerships with the East Durham Children’s Initiative (EDCI) and the Salvation Army of Wake County. Goldentyer led nature classes where youth dissected owl pellets, handled a live corn snake, made insects out of construction paper, and played field games. Goldentyer also led fieldtrips to TLC preserves that included guided hikes and group scavenger hunts.

Goldentyer has also been busy at TLC leading its *Get Wild!* series of family friendly events sponsored by Duke Energy at TLC’s different preserves. “These are free events that are accessible to children and families,” she explains, “that are hands on, in the creek looking for crayfish, or frogs, or salamanders, or turtles—and we also sneak some nature education in for good measure.” She added, “I hope the *Get Wild!* programs will help families discover cool activities they can do in nature, learn a little bit about our native plants and animals, and have enough fun that they want to come back and visit the preserves again.”

Please visit <https://www.triangleland.org/give/volunteer> if you are interested in getting involved with these programs. 🌿



Conservation Update

TLC closed on the 36.52-acre Ray Farm Project on June 28th. Located in the Sandy Plains area of northwestern Wake County, the project protects water quality, natural habitats, farm land, and scenic view sheds. The property is approximately 300 feet from Falls Lake and has several head-water streams that feed into the lake. TLC will expand water quality buffers on the property and portions will be kept in agriculture. The project was funded in part by the Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative (UNCWI), a partnership program funded by the City of Raleigh to protect the area's drinking water resources.

In addition to closing the Ray Farm Project, TLC was awarded funding from the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund to cover the transaction costs of a donated easement in Johnston County. The property is adjacent to an already protected property and will help create a corridor of protected high-quality farmland in Johnston County.

By Leigh Ann Hammerbacher & Chris Fowler

Protecting Durham's Drinking Water

Katie Warnell is a student in the Master of Environmental Management program in the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke. This summer she completed a Stanback Internship at TLC. The Stanback Internship Program provides Duke students with project-based learning experiences in energy, conservation, advocacy, policy, research, and applied resource management.

Warnell worked with TLC Conservation staff and Durham Water Management staff to develop a GIS-based prioritization of land in Durham's drinking water supply watersheds. The project culminated in a 30-person stakeholder meeting to gather input on the plan and develop strategies to increase the pace of conservation for water quality. The project will help inform and strengthen partnerships in the Upper Neuse as well as lead to additional funding and resources dedicated to conservation



Photo by John Petranka



Photo courtesy of Katie Warnell

projects for water quality protection.

Warnell explained, “During my summer at TLC, I worked on a watershed protection prioritization for the City of Durham. The ultimate goal was to help ensure that Durham continues to have clean, high-quality sources of drinking water for its residents as the region grows and development increases. The City of Raleigh supports the Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative (in collaboration with local conservation groups), to protect water quality in Falls Lake (Raleigh’s drinking water source), my project is part of an effort to establish a similar program for the City of Durham.”

“We expect the GIS model that Katie developed to be very helpful in reviewing potential land conservation projects that might help protect Durham’s water supply. We are grateful to Katie for her excellent work and to the TLC for supporting this effort,” explains Sydney Miller, Water Resources Planning Manager at the Department of Water Management

for the City of Durham.

Warnell went on to say “Durham’s primary drinking water sources are Lake Michie and Little River Reservoir. The water quality in these lakes is influenced to a large degree by what is happening on the land that drains into them (their watersheds). For example, clearing land for development can cause a lot of sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants to enter waterways. To preserve drinking water quality and keep water treatment costs down, the City of Durham is interested in preserving some of the land in the Lake Michie and Little River Reservoir watersheds that contributes to water quality protection in those lakes. The largest part of the project was to identify the parcels of land that are most valuable for that purpose.”

Warnell lives in South Durham with her husband John Warnell, and their dog, Marley. 🌿



Photo courtesy of David Davis

MEET OUR SUPPORTERS

David Davis

By Laura Smith

David Davis grew up the son of a United Methodist preacher in the middle of rural Tennessee. He, his parents, and five siblings moved around a lot between small towns. Davis remembers spending time outside as a child exploring, playing in creeks, and visiting his grandparents' farm that was situated on 100 acres of land outside of Nashville.

"When my grandparents died, their land was donated to the county. It became Caldwell Park in Ashland, TN," he said proudly.

His love of nature carried over into college—at Vanderbilt he took weekend hiking trips to the Smoky Mountains with his friends—and has continued into adulthood. Davis has a cabin in the mountains near Chimney Rock State Park with easy access

to all kinds of hiking: He has hiked at Dupont State Forest, Pisgah National Forest, Bearwallow Mountain, Lake Lure, Chimney Rock, and various other places along the Blue Ridge Parkway. He visits there about four times a year and spends a couple of weeks there each summer.

He also hikes locally, often with his seven-year old son, Andrew, at Triangle Land Conservancy's Horton Grove Nature Preserve and Johnston Mill Nature Preserve. Hiking these properties is actually what led Davis last year to become a member of TLC.

"I appreciate the work they do," he said about TLC, "Even for properties that aren't open to the public...I want my son to be able to enjoy these places." If it wasn't for TLC, these places would even-

tually be gone, he said.

In addition to valuing preserved land, Davis also tries to live his life in a conservation-minded way. He drives a Chevy Volt (electric car), for instance. His house is energy efficient and he mows with an old-fashioned reel mower. Davis has even purchased carbon offsets.

“I keep my personal footprint low,” he said.

Davis’ employer, Biogen, where he works as a Director of Engineering, is also known for being environmentally responsible. The company is carbon-neutral and, in 2015, was ranked number one in the world in Newsweek’s Green Rankings. 🌱



*Tiger Swallowtail on Thistle at Johnston Mill Nature Preserve.
Photo by John Petranka*



Green Button Farm will host their inaugural NC BBQ Revival at the farm this fall, October 28th – 30th. Triangle Land Conservancy holds a conservation easement on the farm and proceeds raised during the event will benefit TLC.

The three-day weekend begins with an intimate, seated dinner at Alicia and Ryan Butler’s modern farmhouse overlooking Green Button Farm, where guests will dine with visiting pitmasters and feast on a five-course dinner.

Educational and entertaining experiences celebrating the time-honored pig pickin’ will be offered throughout the day on Saturday including: Southern pies with Phoebe Lawless of Scratch and Maddy DeBoeur of PICNIC;

Whole-hog butchery with Ryan Butler & Steve Geoff; Preparing the pigs for the trenches with Wyatt Dickson; History of BBQ with Southern Living’s BBQ Expert, Robert Moss.

Saturday includes a vegetable-focused lunch in the pasture featuring southern sides. Saturday night festivities offer a progressive dinner beginning with an oyster roast by the pond with Saltbox Seafood and Locals Seafood, followed by Arrogant Swine, B’S Cracklin, Lewis Barbecue, and concluding with live music and s’mores in the barn. The event will close on Sunday with a symposium on whole-hog, wood-smoked barbecue and a pig pickin’. For more information or to purchase tickets please visit www.ncbbqrevival.com.

**Win 2 Saturday/Sunday Passes (\$600 value) to the
NC BBQ REVIVAL!**

**\$25 to enter the drawing. The winner will be chosen on Oct 17th.
Visit our website for your chance to win!**



You Make The Difference

By Christine Wilson

perpetuity
per•pe•tu•i•ty
noun

1. a thing that lasts forever or for an indefinite period, in particular. 2. the state or quality of lasting forever.

Forever. The essence of our mission and the reason behind the many conservation projects across the Triangle. To protect land forever for the public benefits of safeguarding clean drinking water, protecting natural habitats, providing spaces for people to connect with nature, and supporting local farms and food. Our work is driven by you, the communities you live in, and the focus on generations to come.

We rely on our members to provide the critical funding necessary to achieve perpetuity and depend on your generosity to fund efforts to build community partnerships such as those you read

about in this issue. Breaking barriers that limit under-served members of our community from recreating in the wild lands that you worked to protect, stewarding and maintaining the many conserved lands across our region: this work takes time and patience to accomplish but is worth every minute. Thank you for being a member of TLC and for continuing to make our work a priority.

In the coming weeks you will receive your annual membership renewal or special gift request. Please continue your generosity and if possible, look to increase your annual gift – even by a few extra dollars. Or even better, choose to

join our TLC Steward program by committing to make automatic, recurring gifts on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. And as you make plans for the future, consider planned giving options with TLC. Heritage Society members have pledged a commitment to TLC that extends beyond their lifetime. In the last few months, we received three bequest donations that further strengthen our endowment fund, so the next generation of conservationists can carry on our legacy.

Your continued support enables us to ensure that our work lasts forever...now that has a nice ring to it. 🌿



Wild Ideas

By Laura Smith
Photos by Caroline Gilmore

The week of June 19 created quite a buzz at TLC. It was National Pollinator Week, a week to celebrate all kinds of pollinators—from butterflies and birds to beetles and bees—and raise awareness about how essential they are to our food system.

TLC's Wild Ideas for Birds and Bees took place on June 22 at The Frontier in Research Triangle Park. The event featured speakers who delivered fast-paced presentations and an expo that brought together pollinator friendly organizations and groups (MC Mz. Polly Nator and speaker John Gerwin pictured above).

Join us October 11 at 5:30 pm for our next Wild Ideas for Farms and Food! The event will highlight restaurant professionals, farmers, and others in the conservation community. As always food and beverages will be complimentary. Please register at triangleland.org/explore/wild-ideas



Thanks to our Wild Ideas sponsors!



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Upcoming Events

Registration for these and other TLC events is limited and required. Please register and reserve your spot online at: triangleland.org/events.

September

24 Fall Trail Crew Kick Off! 9:00am-12:00pm at Brumley Forest Nature Preserve | FREE On September 24th, volunteers will help prepare Brumley Forest Nature Preserve for its public opening in the spring of 2017! Tasks may include building trails, constructing railing on boardwalks, removing invasive species, etc. This workday is being supported by our friends at REI, Johnson Subaru, and TORC! REI will be providing snacks, t-shirts and swag for participating volunteers and Subaru will be showing off one of their favorite outdoor adventure vehicles!

Volunteers should be six years of age or older and minors must be accompanied by an adult or guardian.

October

08 Get Wild! Campfire 6:00pm-7:30pm at Horton Grove Nature Preserve | FREE Join us for an evening walk, a campfire, and a rare chance to see the preserve after dark. As it starts to get dusky, we'll walk the mile long loop around our That Makes Sense Children's Trail learning about some of the many nocturnal animals that call Horton Grove Nature Preserve home. Then as the sun sets, we'll make

a campfire and toast some marshmallows for s'mores. S'mores supplies are provided. Please bring your own flashlight if you have one and lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Bug spray is also recommended. Ideal for children ages 4 and up.

11 Wild Ideas for Farms and Food 5:30pm at The Frontier at RTP | FREE Foodies, farmers, and conservationists connect when it comes to supporting local farms and food. Hear from all of them as we dig into how conservation affects the food we eat, the land we farm, and our community's capacity to feed the Triangle. Fast paced-presentations, expo, and great free food and drink. Come and see what everyone is talking about.

15 Wild History Walk 3:00pm-5:00pm at Brumley Forest Nature Preserve | \$25 for TLC Members Take a walk on the wild side with the foraging foodies from Piedmont Picnic Project. This beginner level foraging class will cover foraging basics (including rules and etiquette) and provide a solid knowledge of a handful of practical Piedmont plants to enjoy incorporating into your table. The tour will take place at Brumley Forest, still closed to the public but abounding with plant diversity and a rich wild history just waiting to be explored. The walk will be followed by a picnic of foraged and hyper local wild edibles!

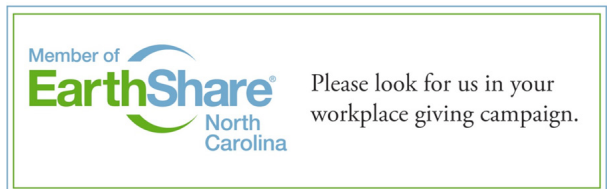
22 Get Wild! Halloween 3:00pm-5:00 pm at Swift Creek Bluffs Nature Preserve | FREE Bats, beetles, slugs, snakes, and spiders are just some of the creepy crawly critters

who call Swift Creek Bluffs Nature Preserve home. We'll walk along the creek side trail, roll some logs to look for frogs and salamanders, search for spider webs, and even look at some of the places bats bed down for the day. Finally, we'll finish up with some "edible dirt" treats and spooky Halloween games. Costumes are encouraged. Please wear closed-toed shoes and comfortable clothes for walking. Bug spray is recommended.

November

06 Woods and Words 4:00pm at Irvin Farm Preserve | FREE A celebration of the written word in the natural world. Wisdom House Books is teaming up with TLC to bring some of their best new material into the forest for this new TLC series.

Please register and reserve your spot online at: triangleland.org/events.



Visit earthsharenc.org/ to find out how you can get involved today.



Together we can make a
healthier and more vibrant
Triangle region.

Donate today!