



Confluence

Spring 2023



A Legacy of Protecting Breathing Spaces

I am proud to lead Triangle Land Conservancy in our 40th anniversary year — following in the footsteps of three executive directors, many staff, and even more volunteer leaders. Anniversaries provide an opportunity to reflect on progress, challenges, and growth and to recognize all the people who have built this organization. It is also a good moment to evaluate, learn, and shape intentions for the future. To that end, we've invited Kate Dixon, TLC's first Executive Director from 1992 to 2003, to share her perspective in this issue's ED letter.

Warmly,


Sandy Sweitzer / Executive Director

Forty years ago, visionaries from all six Triangle counties came together to protect “breathing spaces in the midst of developed areas.” I love this quote from TLC's first newsletter – it captures the critical nature of TLC's work and the impact of its preserves. When I started work as TLC's first full-time staff person in 1992, board members and TLC's first staff member, Ann Carter, had already accomplished extraordinary things. They had protected some exceptional lands, including four of the most significant natural areas in our region — White Pines, Swift Creek Bluffs, Flower Hill, and Temple Flat Rock.

And they had already done something unusual for land trusts at the time – opened the preserves to the public. White Pines in southern Chatham County was already a popular hiking destination when I started, and Flower Hill — in far eastern Johnston County — was a draw when the rhododendron blooms around Mother's Day. Jim Allen and Bill Hornsby were hard at work building the “stairway to heaven” up Swift Creek Bluffs in Cary, and I remember the happy celebration when the stairs and trail were complete and opened to the public. In my day, we purchased the Johnston Mill Nature Preserve and built the trail system there.

The grand opening stage was the bridge over Old Field Creek with huge beams each carried in by teams of eight to ten volunteers.

We dedicated that bridge to the memories of Clyde Ryals and Jim Pullman. Jim and Liz Pullman organized and conducted a detailed biological inventory of the land that would become Johnston Mill, while Clyde and Hildegard Ryals were huge advocates for conservation along New Hope Creek.

Their efforts allowed us to identify exactly what land to ask for. And we named a tributary “Booth Branch” for Audrey Booth who tirelessly led the fundraising campaign to buy the land.

We accepted the gift of McIver Landing from Nancy McIver Griffin who had grown up in Gulf, NC; worked with the Eno River Association to raise the money for Orange County to buy the Little River Nature Preserve; and negotiated for State Parks to purchase land for Raven Rock State Park.

Many of the preserves you enjoy now have taken years of quiet talks with landowners to come to pass. George Brumley was on the TLC Board when I left in 2003. J. Logan Irvin was a founding board member, and his wife Elinor still lived on their farm in my day. Bailey and Sarah Williamson had started talking to me about leaving their land to TLC, as had the Hester family of the Brogden Bottomlands. Roger Perry had just reached out to us about Horton Grove.

That is why your steady support of TLC matters. Staff and board are working now with people who own land you will come to love in the future. The landowners need to think and mull their options, often for many years. Circumstances change. Funding becomes available. And TLC must be there — staying connected, answering questions, looking for the right way to meet the landowner's needs.

And the result? Just what those visionaries understood 40 years ago — breathing space for us and other living things in this special place we call home. 🌿



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- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship



Trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*) by John Petranka

A group of five people, three men and two women, are standing outdoors in a grassy field with trees in the background. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The man on the far left is wearing a black t-shirt. The man next to him is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and a green baseball cap. The woman in the center is wearing a red jacket over a black shirt. The woman next to her is wearing a white sweater with a colorful floral pattern. The woman on the far right is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt.

Conservation Education In Action

Daniel Ivan Vargas – PINES Fellow (first cohort), Diquan Edmonds – Education & Outreach Manager, Kayla Ebert – Education & Outreach Associate, Meera Butalia – PINES Associate, and Kenaz Flores – EcoStudio Intern.

TLC's Education and Outreach team brings conservation and environmental education to thousands of people across the Triangle yearly through innovative programs and a network of dedicated volunteers, interns, and students. Get to know some of TLC's programs and accomplishments here!

TLC's Pathways Into Natural Environments and Science (PINES) program was developed to create opportunities for a diverse set of high school students to learn about conservation and natural resources. PINES launched in the spring of 2022 with five students from Knightdale High School (KHS) who enjoyed many hands-on experiences centered on the public benefits of land conservation. After a successful first year, two of the students graduated, and three returned as seniors. During the fall of 2022, staff worked with the returning seniors to expand the curriculum and supported them in their college applications.

PATHWAYS INTO NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS AND SCIENCE (PINES)

"I genuinely think that PINES is amazing. It is run by some cool people, and they helped me figure out what I wanted to do in school," shared one of the senior fellows.

This spring, TLC welcomed 10 students — both returning and new — to the 2023 cohort.

Through PINES, students will have opportunities to learn about environmental stewardship, climate resiliency, traditional ecological practices, and more — while having fun camping, learning outdoor survival skills, and birdwatching. PINES Fellows get a stipend for their time and commitment. There is also grant funding available for expenses for college applications and standardized testing costs, college tours, and relevant certifications to support their next career steps. Students can also return to the program each year while they are in high school to help build leadership skills.

"I want people to know that PINES is an irreplicable opportunity to discover yourself while discovering the processes of nature," one senior shared. The PINES program, made possible due to generous funding from the Protolabs Foundation, Grifols, Q2, and Great Outdoor Provision Co., is excited to continue growing — helping to provide additional opportunities to more young people in our region.

CAREERS IN CONSERVATION

While the PINES program is currently working with Knightdale High School students, we are committed to providing career growth opportunities for a wide range of young people in our region. With the Triangle rapidly growing in population and development, it is more important than ever to create these strong ties and empower future leaders in conservation.

Recently, TLC began working with UNC-Chapel Hill's EcoStudio, which helps pair undergraduate students with environmentally focused, client-based research, applied learning projects, and paid internships. TLC's current EcoStudio intern, Kenaz Flores, works on a variety of education and outreach tasks from managing our Hiking Challenge to developing educational programs from start to finish. She has been working on a program to educate school children on the history and impact of the land at TLC's Horton Grove Nature Preserve. Kenaz is the third EcoStudio student TLC has hired.

In fall 2022, TLC welcomed Meera Butalia to our team as PINES Assistant. Meera, who is a student at NC State, provides essential services to our PINES Program such as helping to develop curriculum, facilitating meetings, developing evaluation tools, and being a positive role model for students.

Through engagement with many college students, such as those enrolled at NC State's College of Natural Resources and Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment, PINES students build relationships with people who are making strides in environmental careers. 🌱



The 2023 cohort of PINES Fellows pictured at Williamson Preserve.

SAVE THE DATE

April 16 – 22, 2023

Earth Week Giving Challenge

To celebrate Earth Day and our 40th Anniversary, TLC's annual Giving Day will be a week-long Giving Challenge! Together we can build a stronger, more

Join or tell a friend about TLC!

- All donations matched up to \$40,000!
- Unlock an additional \$10,000 match if 40 new TLC monthly donors join by Earth Day!
- Help us reach our goal of 400 new members during our 40th year.

triangleland.org/givingday

Photo by Don Kinney

Unleash Your Adventurous Spirit

Discovering Nature's Hidden Treasures With TLC



Enjoy trained volunteer-led hikes.

TLC TRAIL GUIDES

Each spring and fall, TLC hosts a Trail Guide training for volunteers to become hike and program leaders. We have a wonderful group of 82 Trail Guides that lead most programs offered at TLC nature preserves.

These intrepid conservation heroes lead groups of all ages on trail walks and touch upon subjects such as the environment, birding, geology, botany, the land's history, and much more. Without volunteers, TLC would not be able to achieve our mission to connect more people with nature.

Conservation-minded programs, educational hikes, and social hikes alike help share nature with the public and emphasize the importance of TLC's work to protect a vibrant Triangle region. There are hikes and programs every week, so make sure to check the event calendar to register. 🌲



Stargazing with TLC and RAC on First Fridays.

LEARNING UNDER THE STARS

Well over 1,000 people have enjoyed evenings stargazing at monthly events co-hosted by Raleigh Astronomy Club (RAC) and TLC at Three Bears, a private TLC property located in Creedmoor, 18 miles from downtown Durham and 23 miles from Raleigh. We began hosting monthly stargazing events at Three Bears in April 2022 with the NC Statewide Star Party, a signature event of the NC Science Festival produced by Morehead Planetarium and Science Center.

The property is surrounded by Wildlife Resources Commission lands, which means there are minimal amounts of light from the city obscuring the night sky, a prerequisite for optimal views. We are excited to continue this series and host this year's Statewide Star Party once again, which will be held on Earth Day, April 22, 2023. This property is only open for special events, so please register in advance to experience this event. Go to TLC's events page to sign up for upcoming astronomical adventures! 🌲

Wild I.D.E.A.s

Inspiring A More Vibrant Tomorrow

On February 15, over 375 people came to the NC Museum of Natural Sciences for Wild I.D.E.A.s for a More Vibrant Tomorrow to learn and discuss how we can make the outdoors more inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible for all.

Attendees enjoyed engaging talks from four expert speakers and connected with representatives from 28 local outdoor and environmental organizations and partners at the Expo.

We extend our gratitude to the speakers, Vickie Jeffries (Mihe Heyananhes Yattse), Kierra Hyman, Matthew Brune, Earl B. Hunter Jr., and our emcee Dale Threath-Taylor, for their contributions to the event's success. We hope that attendees were inspired to not only spend time outdoors but also to encourage others to connect with nature. Lastly, we would like to thank all the volunteers who provided us with extra hands — your support is invaluable. 🌿



Thanks To Our Wild IDEAS Sponsors!



The next Wild IDEAS event

Look out for more details later this year about the next Wild IDEAS event. Check triangleland.org/explore/wild-ideas for updates!





TLC At 40: A Rich History and a Vibrant Future

Horton Grove photo by Don Kinney

As you read TLC's first newsletter on the next page or on our blog (tinyurl.com/HowTLCGotStarted), you will see how much TLC and the region have grown and changed since 1983. You may also be struck by how much is still the same — from concerns about the rapid development of the region to our mission to protect natural and historic lands in the Triangle region and hold these lands in public trust.

Even TLC's commitment to conserving land FOR people has remained steady: "TLC knows that protecting natural, open spaces for scenic, education, and recreational pleasure is important to people. Preserving the areas in perpetuity will guarantee that these places remain attractive features of our region." We are so grateful for these visionaries. The volunteer founders also talked about the Critical Land Program — a plan to identify and protect lands with exceptional value to communities in the region. Planning along with stakeholders remains central to our work.

It is gratifying to see how TLC has shown both a continuity of purpose and the ability to strategically innovate.

We opened White Pines Nature Preserve in 1986 with 3 miles of trail. Since then, we expanded White Pines by 229 acres and 2.8 miles of trail. TLC staff, with help from thousands of supporters, have also conserved and then opened 7 more public nature preserves where we built and now manage over 55 miles of trails, including 22 miles for mountain biking.

Together, we have protected over 23,000 acres of land in the region and expanded our free educational programming for all ages, connecting more people to nature. As the number of acres conserved has grown, so has our staff, board, and volunteer corps, becoming more diverse to reflect the communities we serve. Hundreds of volunteers enthusiastically help our stewardship team keep these green places a welcoming space for human visitors and wildlife. If you'd like to join them, sign up here: tinyurl.com/volunteerwithTLC.

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE CLOSE TO HOME

In addition to population growth that is increasing demand on food production, water, wildlife corridors, and recreational lands, we face the sobering realities of a changing climate.



Pearson Stewart, Ann Carter, and Julie Moore, early TLC leaders

The good news is that land conservation can provide climate resiliency close to home. In 2022, a member of the UN Panel on Climate Change said of conservation that “few other strategies deliver as much environmental bang for your buck.”

Well-managed farmland and protected forests sequester carbon in the soil. Undeveloped wetlands and floodplains slow downstream flooding, protect wildlife habitat and corridors, and clean the air and water. TLC’s strategic investments to protect and effectively manage lands can strengthen the resilience of natural areas, working lands, and the human and wildlife communities that depend on them.

At any given moment, TLC staff are working to conserve at least 1,000 acres somewhere in the Triangle.

Last fall, TLC was awarded over \$7M from the state’s Land and Water Fund toward seven land protection projects that will conserve prime farmland, forests, and wetlands. We are working hard to find the remainder of the funding needed to close those projects.

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Summer 1983



HOW DID TRIANGLE LAND CONSERVANCY GET STARTED?

In early 1982, the Triangle J Council of Governments, a regional planning agency surrounding the Research Triangle Park area, made a commitment to study the formation of a regional land trust for the six counties in its region. The rapid rate of growth and development in the Triangle region has been well-documented. Since 1950, the population of the region has increased by over 70%. By the year 2000, the population is projected to increase by another 53%.

Triangle J Council of Governments wanted to create a separate, private organization that would act as a steward for the region’s natural resources. After months of study by Triangle J staff and interested citizens throughout the region, an organization was incorporated in early 1983 as Triangle Land Conservancy, Inc.

Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) is a private, nonprofit corporation created to protect natural and historical lands in the Triangle region, and hold these lands in public trust. TLC works in the six counties of Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Orange, and Wake.

The concept of a private land holding organization created for the sole purpose of land conservation has the flexibility which a public agency does not. TLC is a practical, private alternative for preserving our natural resources.

Just barely six months old, TLC is on its way to completing its first land protection project in Wake County. And TLC is embarking on its first-year workplan to identify critical lands throughout our six counties which are unique natural areas and should be protected for public use and benefit.

TLC knows that protecting natural, open spaces for scenic, educational, and recreational pleasure is important to people. Preserving these areas in perpetuity will guarantee that these places remain as attractive features of our region.

A regional land trust is a new idea for this area, but one which has had a good deal of success in other parts of the country. We think it can be successful here. Our support is widespread. We look forward to working with you, and others throughout the region to protect our favorite places.

PROTECT YOUR FAVORITE PLACE WITH TLC

Triangle Land Conservancy participated in this year’s 2nd Annual Outdoors North Carolina Exposition celebrating North Carolina’s natural resources. The Expo was held

in March at the Raleigh Civic Center. TLC’s exhibit, titled, “Protect Your Favorite Place With TLC”, included a running slide/tape show which explained the purposes of the organization, information on membership, and an opportunity for visitors to comment on their favorite places. Over 1000 brochures were distributed; and Board members who staffed the booth during the four-day Expo discovered a long list of favorite places in our six counties.

REAL ESTATE CONCEPTS FOR NONPROFITS

Memorial Day Weekend, the Board of TLC joined Board members and staff of The North Carolina Nature Conservancy, The Historic Preservation Fund of North Carolina, and the North Carolina Land Trustees of America, for a workshop on understanding real estate issues for nonprofit corporations.

TLC organized the workshop, held at the Quail Roost Conference Center in Durham, with the assistance of Myrick Howard from The Historic Preservation Fund, and Charles Cooper, from North Carolina Land Trustees. For a day and a half participants studied land acquisition tools, tax laws, appraisals, land management, and financing for land acquisition.

Speakers at the workshop included representatives from The Nature Conservancy, The Historic Preservation Fund, The Institute of Government, the State Natural Heritage Program, as well as local appraisers, historic preservationists, and planners.

The workshop was a first step in providing information for nonprofit corporations that acquire real estate. It was also an effort to bring together the relatively few organizations in North Carolina that preserve natural land and historic sites.

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGES

The Outdoors North Carolina Exposition, in March, was a kick-off for TLC’s membership campaign. Our membership goal is to attain 2000 members by 1986. We have two membership drives ongoing in our first year. The first is a general membership drive with dues ranging from \$10.00 to \$100.00. Our second drive is a charter membership drive with slightly higher dues that include a contribution.

In attempting to keep the membership dues low, TLC is trying to attract people who may be interested in protecting the natural resources of our region, but are unfamiliar with land trusts and the goals of TLC. A small membership fee gives them the opportunity to get acquainted with TLC.

You, as our first members, can help us solicit new members. Pass this newsletter on to a friend who might be interested. Or, if you are a member of a local civic organization or club, TLC may be able to arrange a presentation of its slide show at one of your meetings.

We need to get the word out about TLC. By passing on a copy of this newsletter or a brochure you may be helping TLC to gain a new supporter.

CRITICAL LANDS PROGRAM

The primary goal of Triangle Land Conservancy is to protect those natural and historical areas in the region that are critical to our education and enjoyment. Our Critical Lands Program, the core of our workplan, will identify those lands in our region that have special value to us. In addition to working with landowners who would like to make donations, TLC will seek out those properties in our six counties which are unique and special to the region.

TLC will be looking at local land use plans, open space plans, and historical and natural inventories, and talking with people throughout the region to discover which areas are special and should be held in public trust.

The Land Use Committee of TLC is in the process of creating six subcommittees, one for each county. Each subcommittee will be responsible for a local inventory of critical open lands in their county.

TLC is especially interested in properties that are threatened by unsuitable development. By protecting natural areas in certain parts of our region we are ensuring breathing spaces in the midst of developed areas. There are also a number of properties in the region that TLC is looking at that may not be threatened by adverse development, but represent some of the best examples of our natural heritage. Historical sites, which give this area its character and culture, and agricultural lands, which provide many residents with a profitable livelihood, are also being reviewed by TLC.

Once critical properties have been identified, Triangle Land Conservancy will work with landowners to determine the best way to protect and manage these lands so as to preserve their natural character.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Critical Lands Program or would like to work with your local county committee, con-



TLC At 40: A Rich History and a Vibrant Future

At the same time, TLC land protection staff just submitted 12 additional applications to the Land and Water Fund for over \$10M to conserve an additional 1,000+ acres. Every year we identify important properties and work with landowners and funding agencies to conserve those special places — each one takes hundreds of hours to complete.

OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

While challenges are unavoidable, there is much that we can accomplish together. In the forty years since our founders and other supporters cared enough to take the first step in starting TLC, the pandemic highlighted the importance of local farms to produce food and preserves to provide recreational opportunities close to home.

We are working collaboratively to meet some of the most pressing future needs and strategically target our land protection work to safeguard our rivers, creeks, and groundwater. For example, Stony Creek at Brumley Nature Preserve helps protect a clean drinking water source for residents of Raleigh, Wendell, and Clayton, all of whom draw their drinking water from the Neuse Watershed. However, more than ever before, we need to be fast-acting and well-positioned to move quickly and strategically in an increasingly competitive market while staying effective.

Today, 40 years later, we are working with other stakeholders, including local governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals. These long-term partnerships are crucial to ensuring our region continues to be a place with healthy and productive natural resources everyone enjoys.

We are progressing towards a new level of accountability as we protect the beauty and health of our natural resources and drive change at the scale and pace needed for people and the planet to thrive. And, just as our history shows us, together we will emerge a stronger, more vibrant, and healthier Triangle region.

We're excited to see how much TLC will be able to accomplish with partners in the Triangle as we continue to implement our Strategic Action Plan.

“Even if someone never steps foot on a preserve, there are so many benefits beyond recreation for these lands — the wildlife corridors they’re protecting, the water quality and the water they’re drinking,” said Leigh Ann Hammerbacher, Director of Land Protection and Stewardship — East. 🌿



Eastern bluebirds at Williamson by Don Kinney



Conservation & Stewardship Highlights

Brogden Bottomlands showing Neuse River by Rupert Hester

TLC COMPLETES TRANSFER OF BROGDEN BOTTOMLANDS

In 2019, TLC purchased the 1,120 acre Brogden Bottomlands in Johnston County with help from a generous private donor who extended a zero interest loan to provide the funds. This year, NC Division of Parks and Recreation purchased the property from TLC after recognizing it as a suitable site for a future state park and a pathway for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST). The MST is a 1,175-mile trail system that runs from the Smoky Mountains to the Outer Banks and connects to ten state parks. The trail winds through places like Asheville, the Triad, and the Triangle before turning south toward the coast.

Brogden Bottomlands is part of the ‘last vast wilderness areas’ in the southeastern United States. While TLC bought this property in 2019, we began focusing efforts to protect land within the Neuse River Lowgrounds, the larger region Brogden Bottomlands are a part of, in the 1990s. The area holds many unique natural features found in a few places in North Carolina and is listed as a Regionally Significant habitat by the NC Natural Heritage Program.

TLC consistently seeks opportunities to collaborate with local and state governments, and other stakeholders to balance growth and development across the Triangle.

We are excited to know that this land will not only remain a permanently protected natural area for wildlife but also a future addition to the scenic trails that display the diversity of North Carolina’s natural beauty.

WAKE COUNTY LAZY J FARM PROTECTS VITAL FARMLAND

TLC recently bought an 86-acre conservation easement on Lazy J Farm with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Land Easement Program, the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, and Wake County.

This agricultural easement advances TLC’s goal of supporting local food production while preserving an active family farm in one of the fastest-growing counties in North Carolina. The establishment of the easement here will preserve the opportunity for agriculture in an area under enormous development pressure.

Almost all of the soil on this property consists of prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance. But the land has other qualities that add value to the community: rolling hills and pristine waters to healthy woodland that supports various species of plants and animals. The streams on this property make it important to conserve watershed health and protect water draining to the downstream Buckhorn Reservoir.

Conservation & Stewardship Highlights

Continued



Manco Dairy photo by TLC staff

MANCO DAIRY EASEMENT PROTECTS 257 ACRES

This easement is on a NC Century Farm, a program that honors longstanding contributions to NC's rich agricultural heritage, in Chatham County that has been owned and managed by the Mann family since 1840. The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services awards the Century Farm designation to farms that have been in the same family for at least 100 years. The farm is northwest of the town of Pittsboro, a rapidly expanding area in the County, with lots of new developments underway on its outskirts. With the Manco Dairy easement and the Harland's Creek Farm easement TLC recorded last year, we have 450 acres of conservation land buffering Pittsboro to the northwest.

In a county with an average farm size of 95 acres, this 257-acre easement significantly contributes to keeping the rural character prioritized by Chatham County residents and is a key step TLC has highlighted in its Strategic Action Plan to support local farms that improve food access in our communities.

ENHANCED PRESERVE SIGNS

The next time you visit Johnston Mill, Brumley South pond or Swift Creek Bluffs, you should notice the updated kiosk signage. New wayfinding signage at Johnston Mill not only helps visitors navigate the trail system, these signs also include updates of notable species, habitat features, and historical information. We are incredibly thankful for donor support that funded this project. Revamped signs at Brumley South pond and Swift Creek Bluffs provide updated information about watershed conservation efforts and species highlights.

Our stewardship team and volunteers do an amazing job of keeping the trails safe, including keeping trail markers visible, clearing blocked trails, especially after storms, to make sure that all visitors can enjoy a refreshing outdoor experience. Always be sure to check TLC's website for trail status updates before going to Brumley South or Williamson because trails are closed when wet! We look forward to seeing you on the trails.🌲



Photos by Malcom Williams Jr.

Investing In Local Food Production In Wake County

The Bailey and Sarah Williamson Preserve has a new 40 x 60-foot timber frame agriculture and education pavilion located along Walnut Hill Way. Some of the wood is selectively harvested from a TLC property in Wake County by a local horse logger to help create healthier forest habitat and are used as accent knee braces in the structure.

Once completed, the pavilion will serve as an educational event space for the community, hosting farming workshops, special meetings, classes, and events, including a place for our PINES Fellows to meet.

The timber frame for the agriculture pavilion was completed in February 2023 by Earth-Bound Building, a Maryland-based company. Earth-Bound Building is a worker-owned collective of skilled Black builders, craftspeople, and farmers that specialize in timber framing, natural building, and agricultural infrastructure using sustainable low-impact construction methods in their projects. However, the pavilion is not yet fully operational, as several essential tasks, including the installation of the roof, fixtures for the wash/pack station, a walk-in cooler, and wiring, are yet to be completed.

We were Inspired to hire Earth-Bound Building after seeing a similarly constructed pavilion built for Earthseed Land Collective, a farming collective in Durham County where TLC holds an easement.

Danny from Shady Grove Produce and one of the new farmers at Williamson shared, “The Ag Pavilion will facilitate a fresher and cleaner product with the use of the wash/pack station and a walk-in cooler. We look forward to this project being completed and hope to have access this summer!” Williamson hosts several new and beginning farmers who use sustainable agriculture practices that include regenerative cattle grazing, native plant propagation, and small-scale produce production. This “NextGen” farming program is supported in part by Wake County.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of The Jandy Ammons Foundation and an anonymous donor who made this beautiful addition to the preserve possible. Their support has been instrumental in bringing this vision to life, and we are inspired by their commitment to supporting local food producers like Danny. 🌱

TLC is everywhere!

Ten years ago, TLC moved into what has been our head office on Duke Street in downtown Durham. A lot has changed since then. As the Triangle's population has grown, our team has doubled in size to meet the increased need for land protection, stewardship, outreach, and fundraising — including our finance and administration team — to support the growth vital to doubling the pace of conservation in our region.

The pandemic also highlighted the way we work; most of our land protection, stewardship, outreach, and philanthropy work is best done in the field and we are fortunate to have a great satellite office in the white barn at Williamson which was renovated and opened for staff just before the pandemic.

The land protection and stewardship staff working in Wake and Johnston Counties have really appreciated having a work site at a preserve.

With the cost of renting increasing and only a few employees using it as their primary office, it has become clear that having satellite offices and work from home options are the most cost-effective and efficient way forward. Beginning in May, we will not be renewing our lease on the Duke Street “main” office and have begun plans to renovate an old hunting lodge at Brumley Preserve to serve as a satellite office in Orange County.

TLC employees are empowered to maintain a schedule that best fits their needs while advancing the mission, and we are happy to reduce our carbon footprint by reducing commute times, too.

We are happy to announce that we found a new office right next door on Duke Street. Several TLC team members will continue to work primarily out of the white barn office at Williamson Preserve in Eastern Wake County and thanks to the AJ Fletcher Foundation, several staff work from a co-working office in Raleigh. For now, we ask that you update our mailing address in your records to Triangle Land Conservancy, P. O. Box 1848, Durham, NC 27702. 🌱



The white barn at Williamson Nature Preserve

Statewide Star Party | April 22

At Three Bears

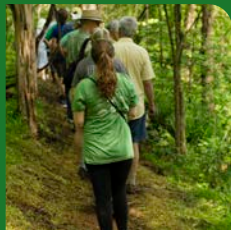


triangleland.org/event/star-party-earth-day

Upcoming Events



Scan QR for
more events.



Speed Hike

Mt. Sinai Rd. Entrance

Apr 29 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM



What's Up Buttercup? Rare Flora Hike

White Pines

Apr 29 from 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM



First Saturday Birding

Brumley North Parking lot

May 6 from 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Plan a legacy with Triangle Land Conservancy!

Make your will in as little as 20
minutes with this free, online
estate planning tool thanks to our
partnership with FreeWill.

freewill.com/triangleland

2023 is the Year of the Trail across North Carolina! It's the largest statewide celebration of trails and outdoor recreation in North Carolina history — and you're an essential part of it. We invite you to spring into action and take a hike with us!

Visit www.greattrailsnc.com



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Palm warbler Photo by Don Kinney



**P.O. Box 1848,
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