

FIELD NOTES

News for Members and Friends of Tar River Land Conservancy

Fall 2012

NATURE TRAIL OPENED ON PRESERVED LAND IN TARBORO

In June, members of the Tarboro community attended a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the opening of a new nature trail. The celebration included refreshments and an opportunity to explore the new trail. The new trail is located on nine acres of land purchased by Tar River Land Conservancy from St. Luke's Episcopal Church in 2010. TRLC transferred the land to the Town of Tarboro to expand Riverfront Park as part of the Town's 250th anniversary.

"We are excited that this trail will give Tarboro residents and visitors another opportunity to be active and enjoy the outdoors," notes Derek Halberg, TRLC Executive Director. "We are so grateful to everyone who helped bring the vision for this property to reality."

The purchase of the parkland and building of the trail were made possible with support from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation, the Nicholas Bunn Boddie Sr. and Lucy Mayo Boddie Foundation, the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, and numerous other donors.

The ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the entrance to the trail on E. St. James Street one block east of Panola Street. Visit <http://vimeo.com/43937839> to see a video of the ribbon cutting with remarks from Mayor Donald Morris.



Above: TRLC staff join Mayor Donald Morris (with scissors), officially opens the new nature trail in Tarboro with cutting of the ceremonial ribbon.

LINDA FISHER JOINS CONSERVANCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Fisher of Nashville was recently elected to a three-year term on the TRLC Board of Directors. Ms. Fisher grew up in the Red Oak community of Nash County. She raises cattle on several farms in Nash County and Halifax County.



Ms. Fisher received degrees in History and Geography from East Carolina University. She was a school teacher before returning to farming – her first love. She is a strong believer in land protection and education. In 2007, Ms. Fisher placed a permanent conservation easement on 52 acres of Nash County farmland with the assistance of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

She enjoys horseback riding, canoeing, travelling, and storytelling. Ms. Fisher serves on the boards of the Nash County Farm Bureau, the Franklin County Livestock Association, the Nash County Agricultural Advisory Board, the NC Forage and Grasslands Council, and the NC Cattlemen's Association. In addition to cattle, Ms. Fisher raises goats and sheep and grows pumpkins, gourds, hay and other crops. She gives tours of her Red Oak farm to local school groups each October.

"Linda brings a great depth of knowledge and professional experience to our board," remarked Mr. Ernie Averett, the Conservancy's President. "She will be a tremendous asset in our mission to preserve the farms and forests of the Tar River Basin."

Ms. Fisher joins Mr. Averett of Oxford, Elizabeth Shearin of Aventon, Boyd Sturges of Louisburg, Loretta Lautzenheiser of Tarboro, and Ryon Wilder of Raleigh on the Conservancy Board of Directors.

TAR RIVER LAND CONSERVANCY SEEKS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

In September 2012, Tar River Land Conservancy applied for accreditation through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

The TRLC's application is the culmination of hundreds of hours of work by the TRLC staff and Board of Directors to update policies, inventory records, and refine business practices. The Commission will conduct an extensive review of TRLC's policies and programs over the coming months. The Commission invites public input and accepts comments on pending applications. To learn more about the Land Trust Accreditation Commission's program and to submit a comment on TRLC's pending application, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org or send an email to info@landtrustaccreditation.org.

Saving the Places You Love in
Person, Vance, Granville, Franklin, Warren, Halifax, Nash and Edgecombe Counties

SUPPORTERS ENJOY FIELD DAY AT THE GUTHRIE FARM



Above: TRLC members and friends enjoy sunny weather, good food, and bluegrass music at Field Day on the Farm 2012.

Tar River Land Conservancy held its annual Field Day on the Farm event on Saturday, April 14, 2012, at the farm of Randy and Barbara Guthrie of Oxford in Granville County. Over 110 supporters of the Conservancy attended this year's event, which celebrated 12 years of land conservation by the local land trust.

The family event featured door prizes, live bluegrass music by Mule Town, a catered lunch by Ted's Catering, and a guided hike along Shelton Creek and the Tar River. The picture-perfect weather provided ideal conditions for the celebration. On the hike, wildlife biologists Judy Ratcliffe and Rob Nichols captivated listeners on the banks of Shelton Creek with a talk about the native fisheries and wildlife while Forest Ranger Rob Montague educated visitors on the benefits of preserving hardwood stream buffers.

The Guthrie family worked with Tar River Land Conservancy to place conservation easements on their 296-acre farm in 2004 and 2007. "Field Day is a chance for us to show our supporters the results of our work to protect farmland, forest, wildlife habitat, and drinking water," remarked Derek Halberg, TRLC's Executive Director. "We are so grateful that Randy and Barbara allowed us

to showcase their beautiful farm to the community. It is truly a testament to their commitment to conservation."

For more photos of this fun event, please visit picasaweb.google.com/pamlicopress/TRLCFieldDay#.

GRISSOM AND HANSEN COMPLETE SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AT TRLC

In August, Greg Grissom of Henderson and Zoe Hansen of Raleigh completed 12-week summer internships with TRLC. Greg's projects included monitoring of conservation easement properties and preparing natural resources reports. Zoe spearheaded the reorganization of TRLC's land protection files and gathering of data and information for TRLC's application to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

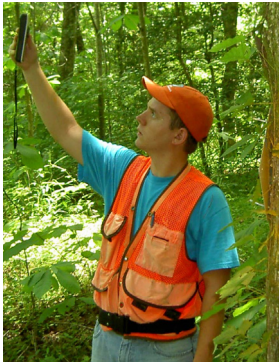
Greg is currently a senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill pursuing a degree in Economics and Environmental Studies. He previously interned with The Nature Conservancy at Nags Head Woods Preserve in Kill Devil Hills, NC. Greg will continue to assist TRLC as a part-time Land Stewardship Specialist during his final year at UNC.

Zoe is a senior at North Carolina State University majoring in Natural Resources, Economics and Management. She is also a national champion majorette with the NCSU Marching Band. Zoe interned with TRLC from January-April and helped organize the 2012 Field Day on the Farm.

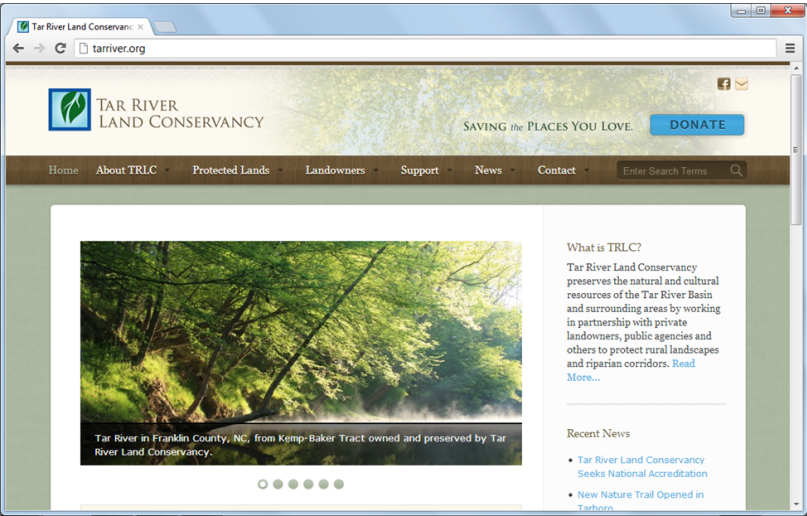
"TRLC was very fortunate to have Zoe and Greg intern with us this summer," stated Derek Halberg, TRLC's Executive Director. "They both provided outstanding support to us while gaining valuable conservation experience that will help them in their future careers."



Above left: Zoe Hansen greets guests at Field Day on the Farm 2012 in Granville County.



Above right: Greg Grissom collects GPS points during monitoring of land in Warren County.



TRLC UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE



Tar River Land Conservancy launched a completely overhauled website in October 2012. Visitors to www.tarriver.org will find many exciting changes. The website now provides a comprehensive summary of lands protected by TRLC since its founding in 2000. Supporters can browse news articles about TRLC projects and learn more about the history of the organization. Landowners interested in preserving their land will find detailed information about donating land and conservation easements to TRLC.

Find us and friend us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TarRiverLandConservancy to keep up with the latest news and projects!

GIVE GIFT MEMBERSHIPS TO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

For a meaningful gift that helps protect special places in our communities, give a **gift membership** to TRLC this holiday season for \$50 or give a **gift in honor or memory of a friend or loved one** for \$25. We will send an acknowledgement card to the recipient or honored individual!

Call Sheryl Munt or Amy Edge at 919-496-5902 to make a gift over the phone or simply donate on-line at www.tarriver.org. Thanks for helping Tar River Land Conservancy protect more land and water for future generations. Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year!

