

# FIELD NOTES

News for Members and Friends of Tar River Land Conservancy

Fall 2013

## TAR RIVER LAND CONSERVANCY AWARDED NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

After extensive preparation and review, Tar River Land Conservancy (TRLC) was awarded accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in August 2013. TRLC is one of just 230 land trusts from across the country to be awarded accreditation since the fall of 2008. There are more than 1,700 land trusts nationwide. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awards its accreditation seal to land trusts that meet national standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

"We are so happy to have reached this important milestone. It represents so much work and accomplishment, but also recognizes Tar River Land Conservancy as one of the elite land trusts in America," stated Ernie Averett, TRLC Board President.

TRLC is able to display the seal of accreditation indicating to the public that it meets the highest standards for excellence, upholds the public trust, and ensures that its conservation efforts will be permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

"Tar River Land Conservancy's accredited status demonstrates our commitment to permanent land conservation across the communities we serve," noted Derek Halberg, TRLC Executive Director. "Our land trust is a stronger organization today having gone through the rigorous accreditation program."

"Land trusts are gaining higher profiles with their work on behalf of citizens and the seal of accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission is a way to prove to their communities that land trusts are worthy of the significant public and private investment in land conservation," noted Land Trust Alliance President Rand Wentworth.

Across the country, land trusts have worked with willing landowners to save over 47 million acres of farms, forests, parks and places people care about. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources and safeguard the land through the generations. Visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org) to learn more about the Land Trust Accreditation Commission's accreditation program and how it is strengthening the work of land trusts across the country.



**ABOVE:** Amy Edge, TRLC General Counsel, accepts the Certificate of Accreditation at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in New Orleans.

**BELOW:** The Seal of Accreditation awarded to TRLC.



## 214 ACRES PURCHASED IN GRANVILLE COUNTY WILL PROTECT LEDGE AND HOLMAN CREEKS

Thanks to very timely contributions from both the Granville County Commissioners and the Creedmoor City Commissioners, TRLC purchased 214 acres along Brogden Road in Granville County in September. Funding from these local partners helped TRLC and the Conservation Trust for North Carolina secure generous grants from Raleigh City Council and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities. The property was purchased from the estate of Ann Summers Jordan.

"The Jordan property is one of the most picturesque that we have preserved since Tar River Land Conservancy was founded," remarked TRLC Executive Director Derek Halberg. "Oaks, poplars, and beech trees tower over the steep slopes that line more than a mile of frontage on Ledge Creek and half a mile on Holman Creek." Ledge Creek and Holman Creek converge three miles downstream to form Lake Rogers.



TRLC plans to manage the forested property for wildlife habitat and water quality protection. Hiking trails are also planned to allow the public to explore the property. TRLC staff will develop a land management plan later this year to guide future projects.

"We hope to use volunteers to build trails and complete other projects on this beautiful property in 2014," said Sheryl Munt, TRLC Development Assistant. "We will schedule several hikes on the property for TRLC members and the community before the property is ready to be opened to the public."

To volunteer or receive emails about scheduled hikes, please contact Sheryl at **919-496-5902** or [smunt@tarriver.org](mailto:smunt@tarriver.org).

**LEFT:** Ledge Creek and surrounding hardwood forest on the Granville County property acquired and preserved by TRLC in September 2013.

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



# SUPPORTERS ENJOY HIKE AND HISTORIC HOME TOUR IN WARREN COUNTY

Tar River Land Conservancy supporters and friends enjoyed a beautiful day hiking along Fishing Creek and touring historic Cherry Hill Plantation on June 15, 2013. Participants gathered at Cherry Hill and then carpooled to the nearby Fishing Creek property owned by Lynn Capps Martin, who placed a conservation easement on 37 acres along the creek in 2005. Lynn shared information about the land and wildlife species found in Fishing Creek. The group hiked through the beautiful forest, learning about the ecology of the site and guessing the size and age of trees. A highlight was finding a patch of Paw Paw trees! At the banks of Fishing Creek, hikers paused to hear about rare mussels and how they clean the water, and that stirring up and adding silt to the stream smothers these wildlife species that normally help filter and clean the water. After hiking back along the creek and out of the woods, the group returned to the historic Cherry Hill to enjoy refreshments and to take a guided tour with Mary Raiford, Executive Director of the Cherry Hill Historical Foundation. Afterwards, visitors sipped lemonade and rocked on the front porch and shared conversation over a picnic lunch. It was a perfect summer day!



## HURRY BEFORE THE NC CONSERVATION TAX CREDIT GOES AWAY!



If you have been considering donating land or a conservation easement to the Tar River Land Conservancy (TRLIC), now is the time to take advantage of the NC Conservation Tax Credit. Unfortunately, donations of land or conservation easements made after December 31, 2013, will no longer provide any state income tax credits for donors.

Any donations made before the end of the year can still generate tax credits worth 25% of the fair market value of the donated land with a maximum credit of \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for corporations. Even though the NC Conservation Tax Credit Program is expiring, donors may carry forward the unused portion of the tax credit through 2018, depending on a donor's specific tax situation.

For more details or to discuss a possible donation, please contact Derek Halberg, TRLC Executive Director, at 919-496-5902 or [dhalberg@tarriver.org](mailto:dhalberg@tarriver.org).

## SAVE THE DATE!

### FIELD DAY ON THE FARM

*April 12, 2014*

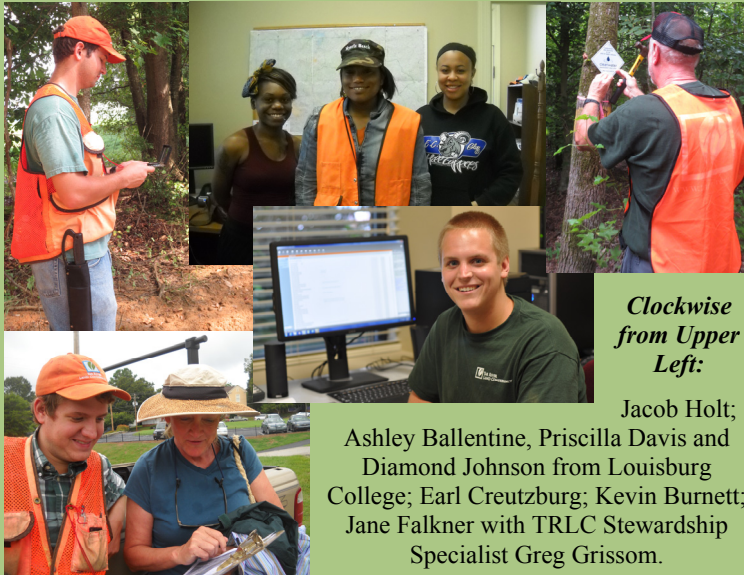
*JENKINS FARM  
Philo White Rd.  
Granville County*



Mark your calendar for Tar River Land Conservancy's next Field Day on the Farm on Saturday, April 12, 2014. The event will be held at the 116-acre family farm of Bettie Anne Jenkins and Rufus and Sarah Jenkins Brown - protected with a TRLC conservation easement in 2007.

Look for announcements of more upcoming outings and events in emails and on TRLC's Facebook page!

## JOIN OUR CIRCLE OF VOLUNTEERS



*Clockwise from Upper Left:*

Jacob Holt; Ashley Ballentine, Priscilla Davis and Diamond Johnson from Louisburg College; Earl Creutzburg; Kevin Burnett; Jane Falkner with TRLC Stewardship Specialist Greg Grissom.

## HOFFMAN EXCELS AS A TRLC STEWARDSHIP INTERN



Brittany Hoffman came to Tar River Land Conservancy with a desire to gain knowledge, to help save land and natural resources, and to connect people to the land - all of which she accomplished during her time as TRLC's Stewardship Intern. Brittany is a recent graduate of NC State University, receiving her bachelors in Fisheries, Wildlife and Biological Conservation in May 2013. Drawing upon previous field work studying wildlife conservation in India, mapping invasive plants for Triangle Land Conservancy, and tracking jaguars in Belize, Brittany brought a variety of experiences to her internship with TRLC. During her internship with TRLC, she completed a comprehensive inventory of invasive plants on land owned by TRLC and tirelessly worked with landowners and volunteers to monitor numerous conservation easements.

Brittany plans to pursue her Master's Degree in the future studying the connection of land to people. The TRLC staff and Board thank Brittany for her hard work and dedication this summer and wish her all the best in her conservation career.



TAR RIVER  
LAND CONSERVANCY

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