



# TAR RIVER LAND CONSERVANCY

17,532 ACRES  
PROTECTED!

Annual Report 2013-2014

News for Members and Friends

## KELLOGGS PLACE CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON 146-ACRE FAMILY FARM NEAR FRANKLINTON

### *Generous Support from Conservation Trust for North Carolina Makes Project Possible*

Bob and Dottie Kellogg began thinking about putting a conservation easement on their farm after attending a workshop hosted by Tar River Land Conservancy (TRLIC) in March of 2007. By the summer of 2013, they were ready to move forward and, as Dorothy indicated, to mark it off their "bucket list". Thanks to a timely and generous farmland preservation grant from the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, TRLIC and the Kelloggs completed the preliminary steps and then signed the conservation easement agreement just after Christmas.

The 146-acre farm is located on May's Crossroads Road in Franklin County one mile east of the Town of Franklinton. The farm was purchased in 1944 by Dottie's late parents, Bill and Almira Shugart. Mr. Shugart worked for the federal Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and later served as a conservation agent for the USDA Soil Conservation Service

*(see KELLOGG FARM PROTECTED, page 4)*



*Above: A conservation easement placed on the farm of Bob and Dottie Kellogg will prevent future development on pasture, forest, and wetlands.*

## CRITICAL PROPERTY PURCHASED ON FISHING CREEK

### *50 Acres Completes the Protection of a 5½-mile Stretch of the Creek in Halifax County*

Tar River Land Conservancy's work to preserve habitat and water quality in the Tar River's largest tributary took another step forward in April 2014. That's when fifty more undeveloped acres were purchased along Fishing Creek in Halifax County. The purchase of "Lane Tract" is the fourth purchase of land on Fishing Creek completed by TRLIC since December 2012.

Funding for the latest purchase was provided by four partners: the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation, the NC Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant Program, and the Hillsdale Fund. The TRLIC staff negotiated the purchase for the property from Lane Land and Timber, Inc., which acquired the property in 1975.

The Lane Tract adjoins Fishing Creek just west of NC Highway 43. The purchase of the Lane Tract completes the permanent protection of 5½ continuous miles of land along the north bank of Fishing Creek stretching from NC Highway 561 to NC Highway 43. The Lane Tract adjoins a 2,350-acre unit of the Shocco Creek Game Lands. Fishing Creek is designated as a nationally significant stream because of its excellent water quality and the presence of several rare and

*(see FISHING CREEK LAND ACQUIRED AND PRESERVED, page 5)*

We're Saving the Places You Love for Future Generations  
IN PERSON, GRANVILLE, VANCE, FRANKLIN, WARREN,  
HALIFAX, NASH AND EDGEcombe COUNTIES



## TAR RIVER LAND CONSERVANCY

Tar River Land Conservancy (TRLC) was founded in September 2000 to preserve the natural and cultural resources of the Tar River Basin and surrounding areas by working in partnership with private landowners, public agencies and others to protect rural landscapes and riparian corridors. Our service area includes Person, Granville, Vance, Franklin, Warren, Halifax, Nash and Edgecombe Counties. We work directly with landowners throughout the region to protect drinking water, wildlife habitat, farms, forests and recreational open space. We achieve our objectives by acquiring conservation land and permanent conservation easements and by collaborating with other public and private entities on projects that achieve mutually beneficial land conservation objectives. The result of TRLC's work has been the permanent protection of 17,532 acres of land – 15,060 acres through perpetual conservation easements and 2,472 acres through fee-simple acquisitions of land permanently held for conservation by TRLC or a partner conservation agency.

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## LEAVE A CONSERVATION LEGACY THROUGH A BEQUEST

Members and friends of Tar River Land Conservancy find many ways to generously support our work on an ongoing basis. Over 450 individuals, families and businesses make charitable membership gifts to TRLC each year. Some folks volunteer their time to help organize outings and events, to monitor and steward our protected properties, and to help keep the organization running strong. And many families work with us to place their land into the conservation easements that TRLC will hold forever.

One additional way that friends are thinking of supporting our conservation work is through bequests. A bequest is a gift that you would direct your estate to make to TRLC after your passing. TRLC was created to serve as a permanent institution in our communities. This long-term thinking goes hand-in-hand with our perpetual responsibility as stewards of the land that we've saved and conservation easements we hold. It's therefore only natural for TRLC to encourage our members to think equally long-term about ways to support our beneficial work in the years and decades to come.

Bequests can be set up in two ways. The first is by stating in your Last Will and Testament that a specific asset or portion of your estate is to be given to TRLC. The second is by naming TRLC as a beneficiary of your qualified retirement account or life insurance policy.

Designating TRLC as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or tax-deferred retirement account (such as a 401(k) or IRA) is relatively easy to do. Simply request a new beneficiary form from your account administrator. Add "Tar River Land Conservancy, Inc." as a beneficiary on the new form and then sign and return it to the administrator. You may decide that TRLC should receive all or a portion of the asset or account.

Leaving an asset or a portion of your estate to TRLC in your will is also straightforward. I always encourage folks who are thinking of naming TRLC in their wills to reach out to us. We can provide specific language for your attorney to include in your will. This is particularly important when you intend for your bequest to be used for a specific purpose or when you intend to leave your land or other property to TRLC.

Whichever way you chose, a bequest is a most fitting way to culminate your support for Tar River Land Conservancy. Bequests are the ultimate "legacy gifts" that honor both the giver and the TRLC's mission of protecting special places for generations to come. Thank you so much for helping TRLC achieve more and grow stronger each and every year!

Derek E. Halberg  
 Executive Director  
 dhalberg@tarriver.org

# FIELD DAY CELEBRATION HELD AT JENKINS FARM

Tar River Land Conservancy's 10th Field Day on the Farm was hosted by the Jenkins family at their farm on Philo White Road in Granville County on April 12, 2014. Over 120 supporters of TRLC gathered to celebrate land conservation with great food, music, demonstrations, raffles and a silent auction. The attendees also learned about the conservation easement placed on the farm in 2008 by the Jenkins family through TRLC, and about the ongoing conservation management of the land, including improving wildlife habitat as a part of professional timber management.

TRLC thanks Rufus and Sarah Jenkins Brown, and Bettie Anne Jenkins Perry, for hosting this outstanding event, the LJC Holt Trio for providing excellent music, Dave Halley for providing information about timber management and wildlife enhancement, and Alvin Braswell and Jan Weems for adding their knowledge of local flora and fauna along the hike.

To see additional photos from this event, check out TRLC's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/TarRiverLandConservancy!](http://www.facebook.com/TarRiverLandConservancy!)

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 FIELD DAY SPONSORS!

- Wake Stone Corporation
- Mr. Mayo Boddie
- Hopper Hicks & Wrenn
- Julie Wright Land Company
- Mr. Norman Gleason
- The Char Grill Companies
- Universal Leaf North America
- Duke Energy Progress
- Ag Carolina Farm Credit
- Country Snacks Manufacturing
- Flatwood Farm
- Toney Lumber Company
- Shackelford & Associates
- Shearin's Tire Service
- True North Consulting Group
- Vance Family Medicine
- Winston Williams Creech Evans & Co.



*Left: Supporters enjoy music by the LJC Holt Trio and a catered lunch at Field Day, April 12, 2014.*

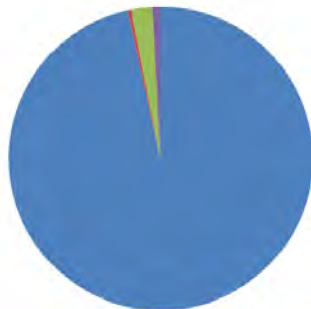
*Right: Forester Dave Halley leads hike at Field Day.*

## Financial Report

October 1, 2012—September 30, 2013

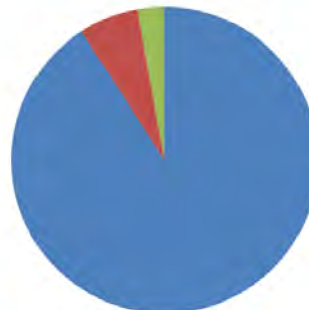
The following financial data was generated from TRLC's IRS Form 990. In addition to filing this form, each year TRLC also hires a professional accounting firm to conduct an independent audit of the organization.

**REVENUE**  
Total = \$1,277,508



- Contributions & Grants = \$1,232,785 (96%)
- Program Service Contracts = \$4,870 (1%)
- Investments = \$28,911 (2%)
- Other Revenue = \$10,942 (1%)

**EXPENSES**  
Total = \$885,890



- Program Services = \$805,042 (91%)
- Management = \$55,575 (6%)
- Fundraising = \$25,273 (3%)

## KELLOGG FARM PROTECTED WITH EASEMENT (continued from page 1)



**Above:** Forest buffers a stream on the farm of Bob and Dottie Kellogg in Franklin County, which is now protected by a conservation easement.

until retiring in 1969. “This conservation easement truly honors the family’s multi-generational effort to conserve the natural resources found here,” noted Derek Halberg, TRLC Executive Director.

Bob and Dottie have continued to manage and improve the farm over the years. Thirty-five acres of pasture are leased to a local farmer who raises cattle and “free-range” chickens. With assistance from the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Kelloggs installed fencing and water tanks to prevent cattle from entering the streams that flow through the farm.

Like many of the properties protected with TRLC conservation easements, Bob and Dottie’s farm also includes forestland that they manage for timber production and wildlife habitat. Earlier this spring, they worked with consulting forester Dave Halley to develop a new Forest Stewardship Plan for the 107 acres of forest on the farm. The Plan calls for young pine stands to be thinned later this year to improve the health and growth rate of the trees. Prescribed burns will follow within a few years to promote the growth of understory plants for wildlife cover and food. A hunting lease with a sportsmen’s club provides income to help manage the farm while keeping the game populations in check.

The conservation easement ensures that agricultural, forestry, and wildlife management activities can continue indefinitely. “Thanks to Bob and Dottie’s commitment, we can be sure that this beautiful farm will remain permanently undeveloped,” said Mr. Halberg. “We hope that their decision will inspire others who are weighing a conservation easement for their family’s land.”

## SURVEYING FOR NEUSE RIVER WATERDOGS

In late January and early February, North Carolina’s Natural Heritage Program and the Wildlife Resources Commission conducted surveys for a special salamander species found only in the Neuse and Tar River Basins. The Neuse River waterdog (*Necturus lewisi*) is a large, fully aquatic salamander with dark red feathery gills. It is light brown to pink with black spots.

The Wildlife Resources Commission monitors the status of the salamander and currently recognizes it as a Species of Special Concern in North Carolina. Neuse River waterdogs are vulnerable because of their narrow habitat range. Over the past several years, Commission staff, partner agencies, and volunteers have resurveyed sites from a 1970s study to compare the past and current range of the species. This will provide information necessary to fully understand the species’ status.

Heritage Program ecologist Judy Ratcliffe commented on the importance of these Neuse River waterdog surveys: “As an endemic species with a limited distribution, this comprehensive survey offers an opportunity to assess whether known populations are stable or declining and if our level of concern should be elevated, remain the same, or be lowered”.

The sites surveyed this year by Natural Heritage staff were located on private lands, Wildlife Resources Commission Game Lands, and Tar River Land Conservancy properties. Tar River Land Conservancy offered access to their preserved land and played a significant role in helping scientists secure permission to survey on privately owned lands.

Temperatures below freezing did not stop scientists from visiting multiple sites and pulling hundreds of traps. Timing was essential to the success of the survey because Neuse River waterdogs are most vulnerable to trapping during winter months and difficult to find in summer months. After several weeks of hard work, an aquatic biologist from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found a Neuse River waterdog in Franklin County! The size was recorded and a small tissue sample was taken for genetic testing. Surveys like this one help protect and ensure a future for the special species of our region.

Article provided by Marie E. English  
Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership/Americorps



**Above:** Neuse River waterdog (credit: Geoff Cantrell, NCWRC).

**Below:** Scott Pohlman of NCNHP checks a trap for waterdogs on Reedy Creek, Warren County (credit: Albemarle Pamlico National Estuary Partnership).



## FISHING CREEK LAND ACQUIRED AND PRESERVED (continued from page 1)



endangered fish and wildlife species, including the Tar spiny mussel, Roanoke bass, Carolina madtom and Neuse River waterdog. Fishing Creek is the largest tributary of the Tar River, draining an 894-square mile area from its headwaters northeast of the City of Henderson in Vance County to its confluence with the Tar River near the Town of Tarboro in Edgecombe County.

“We will continue to work steadily to preserve more tracts of land along Fishing Creek,” said Derek Halberg, TRLC Executive Director. “The purchase of the Lane Tract was another critical link in this conservation chain.”

The Lane Tract has a mix of pine and hardwood stands. Mature beech and red oak trees cast deep shade during summer on the steep slopes along Fishing Creek and two smaller streams that flow through the property. Mountain laurel and Christmas ferns are also abundant on the slopes.

The TRLC staff expects to offer guided hikes on the Lane Tract, possibly in the fall of 2014 or spring of 2015, to give the public a chance to learn more about this protected property. To receive announcements of this hike, send an email with your contact information to [events@tarriver.org](mailto:events@tarriver.org).

**Left (above):** *Fishing Creek flows past the Lane Tract upstream of NC Highway 43 in Halifax County.*

**Left (below):** *Beech and oak trees cast shade on a small stream flowing through the Lane Tract, which was acquired by Tar River Land Conservancy in April 2014.*



## LAKE HOLT HIKE HELD IN MARCH

Over 40 people joined Tar River Land Conservancy staff for a hike at Lake Holt near the Town of Butner on March 23, 2014. Local naturalist and historian, Buddy Thompson, led the hike from the gathering spot, through hardwood stands, down to the Knap of Reeds Creek. Mr. Thompson engaged the hikers with information about the unusual geology of the area, and by explaining the establishment and role of mills along the creek during the 1700 and 1800s.

Alvin Braswell, of the Museum of Natural Sciences, described the role of native mussels in the creek, and discussed local wildlife while showing a black snake to the group. TRLC thanks the Town of Butner, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Braswell, and all of the participating hikers, who joined together to make this a successful event.



**Right:** *Hikers stop for a photo along Knap of Reeds Creek during the hike at Lake Holt, March 23, 2014.*

## GRANVILLE NATIVE GARY HARRIS JOINS TRLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Gary A. Harris was elected to a 3-year term on the TRLC Board of Directors in April 2014. Mr. Harris grew up on a farm in the Gray Rock community of Granville County and now resides in Raleigh. He earned a degree in Business Administration from Atlantic Christian College. He worked for the tobacco industry for 22 years, including serving as the Chief Operating Officer for the Flue Cured Stabilization Corporation. Mr. Harris presently serves as the managing partner of H & M Financial Group, LLC, in Raleigh.

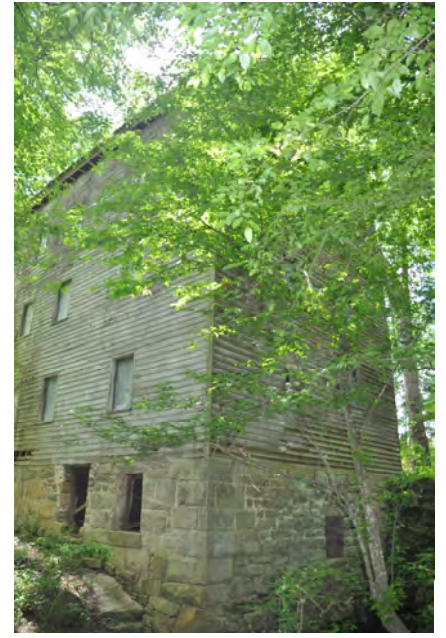
When he is not working, Mr. Harris contributes to his community through his service on other boards, at his church, and by coaching American Legion baseball. His interest in serving on the TRLC Board stems from his love for the land and open spaces, and from his desire to create a legacy for present and future generations of North Carolinians.





# JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF CASCINE PLANTATION ON JUNE 7TH

Tar River Land Conservancy will host a tour of Cascine Plantation and a hike along Cedar Creek to the old mill. The antebellum mill and plantation buildings are among the historical treasures found in Franklin County. Learn about scenic Cedar Creek, the ongoing renovation of the millworks, and the history of the plantation. Bring snacks and water for your walk, and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on large, flat rocks at the creek or in a shaded spot near the mill. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, and shirt suitable for walking through brush. The mill and the house are not regularly open for visitors, so come and enjoy this special opportunity. For more information or to register, please go to [www.tarriver.org](http://www.tarriver.org) or contact **Sheryl Munt at 919-496-5902**.



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