



# TAR RIVER LAND CONSERVANCY

17,778 ACRES  
PROTECTED!

Annual Report 2014-2015

News for Members and Friends

## CONSERVANCY RECEIVES AWARD FROM RALEIGH FOR CLEAN-UP OF ABANDONED HOG FACILITY

### *Project Will Protect Water in Falls Lake*

Tar River Land Conservancy (TRLC) received the Regional Environmental Award at the City of Raleigh's eighth annual Environmental Awards ceremony. The awards ceremony was held on April 22 at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane presented the award to the Conservancy for its work to acquire the Haynes Tract in Granville County and clean-up a long-abandoned hog lagoon and buildings.

In May 2014, TRLC acquired and permanently protected the 117-acre Haynes Tract located along Robertson Creek in Creedmoor, just one mile upstream of Falls Lake. TRLC went above and beyond a traditional watershed conservation project by working with partners to clean up a 600,000-gallon abandoned hog waste lagoon on the site and remove three run-down hog buildings. The two-acre restoration area was replanted

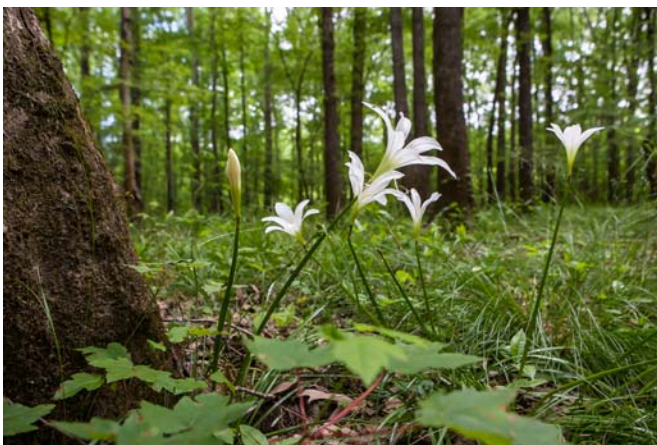
(see *CLEAN-UP OF HOG FACILITY*, page 4)



**Above:** Tar River Land Conservancy receives an award from the City of Raleigh on April 22, 2015. From left to right are Michael Tiemann of Red Hat, Inc., Amy Edge and Derek Halberg of TRLC, Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane, and Ernie Averett of TRLC. (Photo credit: City of Raleigh Public Affairs)

## LAND PRESERVED ON TAR RIVER AND FISHING CREEK

### *Projects Supported by Smith Family Foundation and Clean Water Management Trust Fund*



Tar River Land Conservancy staff completed the purchase of 35 acres on the Tar River and 57 acres on Fishing Creek in recent months. Both projects received generous funding support from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation, and the NC Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant Program. The projects are the latest to be supported by these long-time partners who've helped TRLC to preserve extensive forested habitats along the Tar River and Fishing Creek over the last decade. Including these newly acquired tracts, TRLC and its members and funding

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

**Left:** Atamasco lilies blooming in the shade of oaks on a newly acquired property on the Tar River, Franklin County (credit: Sam Upchurch).

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 17,778 acres of land – 15,060 acres through perpetual conservation easements and 2,718 acres through fee-simple acquisitions of land permanently held for conservation by TRLC or a partner conservation agency.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ernie Averett, *President*, Oxford  
 Loretta Lautzenheiser, *Vice President*, Tarboro  
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 Boyd Sturges, *Secretary*, Louisburg  
 Tim Bevacqua, Raleigh  
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 Gary Harris, Raleigh  
 Carl Pike, Oxford

### STAFF

Derek Halberg, *Executive Director*  
 Amy Edge, *Business Manager & General Counsel*  
 Brittany Hoffman, *Land Stewardship Specialist*  
 Justin Mercer, *Land Stewardship Specialist*  
 Sheryl Munt, *Development Assistant*  
 Emilee Wooster, *Land Stewardship Intern*

### VOLUNTEERS

Charlie Averett, Ernie & Phyllis Averett, Randy Bechtel, Tim Bevacqua, Alvin Braswell & Jan Weems, Mary Ann Brittain, Simon Brough, Rufus & Sarah Brown, Kevin Burnet, Virginia Clay, Thomas Cofield, Eric Copeland, Earl Creutzburg, Merwin & Betty Dieckmann, David Duncan, Jim Ellis, Jane Falkner, John Fisher, Linda Fisher, Erin & Chris Flora, Alex & Jan Floyd, Greg, Thomas & Pam Grissom, Gary Gurganus, Randy Guthrie, Dave Halley, Scott & Leigh Ann Hammerbacher, Zoe Hansen, Gavin Hardin, Shane & Brenda Hardin, Gary Harris, Kevin Harvey, Donnie Hicks, Matt Hawk, Lynne Hoffman, Leon & Perri Holt, Jacob Holt, Charlton Holt, Christy Johnson, Bob Kelly, Harry LeGrand, Loretta Lautzenheiser, Skylar Magee, Melissa McGaw, Jeff Miles, Rob Montague, Ed Munt, Christopher & Melissa Oakley, Jim Overton, Debbie Perry, Jesse Perry, Carl Pike, Joseph & Bernice Pitt, Judith Ratcliffe, Scott Rogers, Kevin Rumsey, Bill Sandifer & Robin Hammond, Jay Shackelford, Elizabeth Shearin, Delaney Short, Skip Stoddard, Boyd Sturges, Buddy Thompson, Sam Upchurch, Charles & Karen Vaughan, Reed Wheless, Ryon & Frances Wilder, Pier Williamson, Ferne Winborne, Meredith Wojcik, Dan & Evelyn Winslow, Charles Yelton, Jeff Zimmer

## TAKE A HIKE WITH TRLC (AND PLEASE BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!)

Hopefully you've noticed that Tar River Land Conservancy (TRLC) staff and volunteers have been making a concerted effort to connect more of you to the nearly 18,000 acres we have protected over the last 15 years. We've done this by offering more opportunities to visit and learn about these special places through guided nature hikes and historic property tours over the last few years. Since the spring of 2013, over 520 folks have participated in the 11 organized hikes and tours that TRLC has offered!

About 18% of the land protected by TRLC is open to the public on a daily basis as local parkland and state game lands found around our eight-county service area. The remaining lands are only accessible with special permission and/or guides. These include farms and forestland placed into conservation easements that are owned by the 120 families and individuals listed as "Stewards" on page 6 of this report. It also includes 1,048 acres of land owned outright by TRLC, including the tracts on the Tar River and Fishing Creek described in the article on page 1. We have visions of opening some of the properties owned by TRLC as nature preserves – by establishing hiking trails and gravel parking areas for visitors, installing educational signage, and constructing benches and picnic tables. But many of the tracts owned by TRLC will remain accessible to our members and the public only during guided walks due to the remoteness of the land or the sensitivity of wildlife habitat found onsite.

Because of these realities, the TRLC staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors have made it a priority to offer hikes and tours to our members. The feedback from these outings has been overwhelmingly positive! The goals that we've aimed to achieve through these events have included:

- ❖ to connect kids (and grown-ups!) with the natural world
- ❖ to highlight the history of our region through visits to historic farms
- ❖ to see wildlife that thrive on our protected lands and streams
- ❖ to meet and hear from landowners who've placed their land into conservation easements
- ❖ to understand how protected lands are being managed to grow crops and forest products, to improve wildlife habitat, and to safeguard drinking water for local communities

Watch for more opportunities to visit the lands that TRLC has protected with your help. Stay abreast of upcoming outings via our email announcements (send a request to Sheryl Munt at [smunt@tarriver.org](mailto:smunt@tarriver.org)) or following TRLC on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/TarRiverLandConservancy](http://www.facebook.com/TarRiverLandConservancy)). Remember that all of our events and hikes are open to everyone. Please invite a friend, neighbor, or family member when you sign up for a hike.

Thanks for supporting TRLC's vital mission. We hope to thank you in person at one of our events or outings!

Derek E. Halberg  
 Executive Director  
[dhalberg@tarriver.org](mailto:dhalberg@tarriver.org)

# VAUGHANS HOST FIELD DAY AT HEPTINSTALL PLACE

Tar River Land Conservancy's friends and supporters enjoyed a warm and sunny spring day at Field Day on the Farm, on April 18, 2015. This year's Field Day was hosted at Heptinstall Place, the historic home and farm of Charles and Karen Vaughan near Aurelian Springs in Halifax County. The Vaughans provided tours of their 1825 Greek Revival house and displayed collections of artifacts found on the property over the decades. The trio of Leon, Jacob, and Charlton Holt provided music during a barbeque lunch on the lawn catered by David's Restaurant. After lunch, naturalists Alvin Braswell and Jan Weems led a hike along Bear Swamp Creek, forever protected by a conservation easement placed on the farm by the Vaughans in 2005. Highlights of the hike included a bamboo forest, turtle hatchlings, and pink lady slippers and may apples in bloom!



*Photo credit: Sam Upchurch*



## THANK YOU TO OUR FIELD DAY SPONSORS!

- Robert C. Kelly, Land Surveyor
- Universal Leaf North America
- Wake Stone Corporation
- Ag Carolina Farm Credit
- Boddie Noel Enterprises
- Duke Energy Progress
- Halifax Electric Membership Cooperative
- Heptinstall House Preservation Society
- Mr. Matt R. Johnston
- Mr. Marvin Newsom, III
- Mott & Shay Consulting Foresters
- Parkway Ag Center
- Shackelford & Associates

To see more photos from this event, please visit <https://www.flickr.com/photos/TarRiverLandConservancy>

## Financial Report

October 1, 2013—September 30, 2014

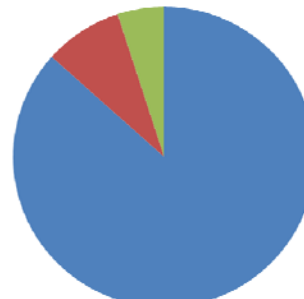
The following financial data was generated from TRLC's IRS Form 990. In addition to filing this form, each year TRLC also hires a professional accounting firm to conduct an independent audit of the organization.

**REVENUE**  
Total = \$880,612



- Contributions & Grants = \$819,823 (93%)
- Program Service Contracts = \$4,981 (1%)
- Investments = \$37,900 (4%)
- Other Revenue = \$17,908 (2%)

**EXPENSES**  
Total = \$587,343



- Program Services = \$508,775 (87%)
- Management = \$49,238 (8%)
- Fundraising = \$29,330 (5%)

# CLAY AND PIKE ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Virginia Clay and Carl Pike, both of Oxford, NC, were recently elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors of Tar River Land Conservancy.

Ms. Clay grew up spending much of her time in Hall's Drug Store, her parent's business in downtown Oxford in Granville County. She trained and worked in nursing and pharmacy roles from 1989 until 2002, earning degrees from Campbell University and the Harvard University School of Public Health. Since 2006, Ms. Clay has worked as a financial advisor and planner with Morgan Stanley. She is married to Donald T. Currin, also a native of Granville County. Together, they enjoy many outdoor activities including a homesteading project, hiking, hunting for game and wild flowers, and gardening. Ms. Clay's commitment to land conservation comes from her love of being in the outdoors and finding and preserving wild flowers.



Mr. Pike was born in Louisburg, NC, and spent his first five years living in Chapel Hill while his father finished law school at the University of North Carolina. Upon his father's graduation, the family moved to Oxford. Mr. Pike is a 1989 graduate of J.F. Webb High School. In 1994, Mr. Pike graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a degree in finance and moved back to Oxford with his wife Jill Pike. He worked as a realtor with Adcock ERA Realty for ten years before opening his own real estate firm, Triangle North Realty, which he and his wife still own and operate. Mr. Pike has always enjoyed small town rural life in Granville County where he can pursue his love of hunting and fishing. He can also be found at the coast on Harkers Island doing much of the same. Mr. and Mrs. Pike have two daughters and currently live in the home in which Mr. Pike grew up on College Street in Oxford.

"We are extremely honored to have Virginia and Carl lend their expertise and leadership to our Board of Directors," stated Ernie Averett, TRLC President. "Their own professional success and local knowledge will help us grow even stronger as a land trust and to preserve more farms and forest across our region in the coming years."

## CLEAN-UP OF HOG FACILITY (continued from page 1)

this winter with native oak and hickory seedlings. The cleanup of the hog lagoon eliminated the threat of a catastrophic discharge of wastewater into Robertson Creek which feeds Falls Lake, the City of Raleigh's primary drinking water supply.

"We are honored to be recognized by the City of Raleigh for our work to protect and clean up the Haynes Tract," remarked Derek Halberg, the Conservancy's Executive Director. "We thank not only Raleigh but all our partners whose support and expertise made this project possible. It is very rewarding to combine the protection of a sensitive watershed area with the cleanup of a lingering water quality threat."

Tar River Land Conservancy leveraged funding awarded by the City of Raleigh's Watershed Protection Program for the Haynes Tract project to secure additional support from local, state and federal sources. Other partners on the project included the City of Creedmoor, Granville County Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, Environmental Enhancement Grant Program, Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Conservation Trust for North Carolina, and Bio-Green Services, Inc.

The Haynes Tract and an adjoining 37 acres owned by TRLC were annexed into the Creedmoor City Limits late last year. Long-term, Creedmoor plans to construct a greenway path along Robertson Creek to connect nearby neighborhoods and businesses to TRLC's land and other preserved nature areas across the city.

*Photos to right: The hog waste lagoon on the Haynes Tract before and after wastewater was pumped out and replanted to prevent erosion. Wastewater was sprayed as fertilizer on pastures, supervised by the Granville Co. Soil & Water Conservation District.*



Learn more about the cleanup of the lagoon and buildings at the Haynes Tract! Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for **Tar River Land Conservancy**

## EMILEE WOOSTER JOINS TRLC FOR STEWARDSHIP INTERNSHIP



Tar River Land Conservancy's staff will increase by one during the summer of 2015. Emilee Wooster, a native of Raleigh, will serve as Land Stewardship Intern for the months of May through August. Her duties will include meeting with landowners and annual monitoring visits to conservation easements held by TRLC. Ms. Wooster is a rising senior at North Carolina State University (NCSU) in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology with a concentration in Fisheries Biology and Management. She serves as an Ambassador for NCSU's College of Natural Resources and is a member of the Student Fisheries Society. She is currently working on a research project on the habitats of sport and non-sport fishes in Puerto Rican estuaries. Prior to attending NCSU, Ms. Wooster served as a Junior Curator at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. After graduating from NCSU, Ms. Wooster plans to pursue a masters degree in genetics.

## ACQUIRED AND PRESERVED ON FISHING CREEK AND TAR RIVER (continued from page 1)

partners have protected 17,778 acres across its eight-county region over the last fifteen years.

The Fishing Creek property is located at the northernmost tip of Nash County near NC Highway 561. TRLC bought the property from a local timber company, who agreed not to harvest the valuable hardwood trees found onsite while TRLC raised the funds for the purchase. In March, a group of hearty volunteers helped TRLC staff to collect trash and tires that had washed onto the property during past flood events in Fishing Creek. Since 2012, TRLC has purchased five tracts on Fishing Creek – the Tar River's largest tributary – to protect water quality and conserve habitat for endangered fish and wildlife species that reside in the creek.

The Tar River property – located just three miles downstream of Louisburg – contains one of the most magnificent stands of cherrybark oak, swamp chestnut oak, and willow oak trees remaining in Franklin County. The newly purchased land is located directly across the Tar River from the 103-acre Kemp-Baker Tract, which TRLC acquired in transactions completed in 2008 and 2011. Biologists with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences have determined that these tracts are home to the rare and elusive four-toed salamander.

"We hope to provide guided nature walks on these properties for the community in the future," said Derek Halberg, TRLC Executive Director. "Both tracts host a wide diversity of trees, native wildflowers, and wildlife. We are so thankful to the landowners and our funding partners for allowing us to protect these special tracts of land forever as natural areas."

**Right (above):** *The Tar River flows past 35 acres recently acquired near Louisburg.*

**Right (below):** *Volunteers remove tires and debris on a newly purchased 57-acre tract on Fishing Creek in Nash County on March 28, 2015.*



## WEATHER PERFECT FOR HIKES IN HALIFAX AND GRANVILLE COUNTIES



Perfect weather provided for an ideal fall hike along Fishing Creek on the Lane Tract in Halifax County (right), led by Executive Director Derek Halberg and biologist Judy Ratcliffe last November. Superb spring weather again accompanied a hike on the Jordan Tract in Granville County (left), which included an exploration of Holman Creek led by Alvin Braswell that was enjoyed by kids and grown-ups alike!



*Photo credit: Sam Upchurch*





## JOIN US FOR A HIKE & TOUR AT BURNSIDE PLANTATION NOV. 14TH

Please mark your calendar to join Tar River Land Conservancy on Saturday, November 14, 2015, for a fall hike and tour at historic Burnside Plantation, located near Henderson in Vance County. Burnside features a 1800's plantation house built in the Federal architectural style. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2005, landowners George and Agnes Harvin worked with TRLC to place 407 acres of Burnside into a conservation easement to permanently protect the land from future development.

Our hike will follow horse trails where we will learn about wildlife management activities and the history of the plantation. The guest house, barn and grounds will be open during our visit, so plan to come and enjoy this special opportunity. For more information about the guesthouse and grounds, visit [www.burnsideplantation.com](http://www.burnsideplantation.com).

For more information or to register for this hike and tour, please go to [www.tarriver.org](http://www.tarriver.org) or contact **Sheryl Munt** at **919-496-5902**.



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