



# Pee Dee Land Trust

*Protecting the past. Ensuring the future.*

Summer 2016  
Volume 12 • Issue 1

## from Oxbows to Tidal Flows

Chesterfield • Darlington • Dillon • Florence • Georgetown • Horry • Marion • Marlboro • Williamsburg



*Growing our conservation community across generations!*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(PDLT is governed by a board with representatives from each county)

### CHESTERFIELD

John Long

Andrew McLeod

### DARLINGTON

Mary Caroline Vaught

Keith Williamson

### DILLON

Douglas Lynn, Secretary/Treasurer

Dickie Sherman

### FLORENCE

Diddy Anderson

Buddy Brand, Chairman

### GEORGETOWN

Steve Jones

Johnny Weaver

### HORRY

Brice Harry

Ruell Hicks

### MARION

Katherine Battle

Gwen Strickland

### MARLBORO

Billy Hinson

Catherine Rogers

### WILLIAMSBURG

Louise Easterling

Bill McCullough

### AT-LARGE

Kent Caudle

Tim Dargan, Vice-Chairman

## STAFF

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Harper

### DIRECTOR OF

### EDUCATION/OUTREACH

Lyles Cooper Lyles

### DIRECTOR OF

### LAND CONSERVATION

Seth Cook

### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

### COORDINATOR

Ashley Scott

## OFFICE CONTACT

PDLT is located in historic downtown  
Florence at 154 W. Evans Street,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Phone: 843-667-3229

Fax: 843-667-6818

info@peedeelandtrust.org

Our mailing address is:

**P.O. Box 2134**

**Florence, SC 29503**

# Board and Staff News

## Welcome to the following newest board members:

### John Long, Chesterfield County

John Long is a native of Chesterfield where he grew up working on a farm all through high school and during summers while attending the University of South Carolina. Upon graduation, John continued his agricultural career as a salesman with USS Agri-Chemicals and he went on to eventually work with Elanco Products Company. After years in the agricultural community, John shifted gears and began his banking career which led him to a move in 1998 to Cheraw. John currently serves as the EVP and Regional Manager for First Bank, managing all locations in Cheraw, Florence, Dillon and Latta. John never lost his love for the land and he still enjoys spending time with his wife Bron in the Pee Dee outdoors.



### Mary Caroline Vaught, Darlington County

Mary Caroline has lived in the Pee Dee for most of her life. She spent her childhood in Conway, married the next door neighbor and together they raised their four children in Florence. She has served on several boards, volunteers with local organizations, and has served as an Elder in First Presbyterian Church, Florence where she continues to wear many hats. She and her husband Wallace live on a new farm in Darlington County where they raise beef cattle, heritage pigs and vegetables for their own table. Wallace and Mary Caroline became involved with the Lowcountry Land Trust in 1999. She recognizes the importance of preserving the land for future generations and will continue to support land conservation.



### Katherine Battle, Marion County

Katherine Battle was born in High Point, NC, although both her parents were originally from the Pee Dee. She grew up on her grandparents' farm in Dillon County. After graduating from Columbia College with a major in Elementary Education, she married James A. Battle, Jr. and moved to the town of Nichols in Marion County. There, she served two terms on the Nichols Town Council and has been active in The Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, the Brookgreen Gardens Friends organization, and Wildlife Action where she specialized in environmental issues. Katherine is a member of the Nichols UMC and serves on the Administration Board. She and Jim have a daughter, Elizabeth A. Battle, an attorney in Marion.



### Gwen George Strickland, Marion County

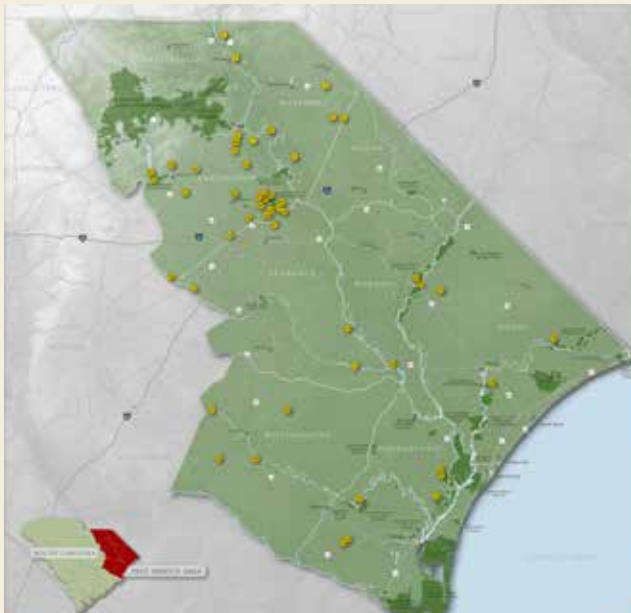
Gwen George Strickland is a long time resident of Marion County and continues to honor her family farm in Dillon County. She graduated from Clemson University, served as a Special Agent with the US Dept. of State, then returned to SC and finished the Physician Assistant program at MUSC. Since then she has lived in Marion working as a Physician's Assistant, raising a son, George, a 2015 graduate of the US Naval Academy, and instilling in him the same love of the family farm. Gwen can often be found on the farm hiking, busting beaver dams, finding arrow heads, and just enjoying the solitude as she serves as a caretaker of the land for her son and future generations.



### Kent Caudle, At-Large

Kent is an avid outdoorsman and has a true passion for the Pee Dee. As a realtor with Palmetto Commercial Real Estate, Kent has worked with clients to purchase and preserve some of the most beautiful resources in our area. He brings a wealth of knowledge gained from his professional experience in the financial, insurance, staffing and real estate industries. Kent currently serves on the Florence County Council for District 5, along with many other boards and organizations working to better our community. Kent and his wife Carolyn live in Florence and are active members of First Presbyterian Church. They have three grown children that have all attended Clemson University. He looks forward to helping on the Board level to grow our conservation community.





*Visit our website to view this map in its entirety.*

## *In the Hopper*

Protecting land takes energy and time. It can be compared to farming in a sense. We plant seeds and over time those seeds become projects that then develop. The culmination is completing the transaction and the beauty of it all is that the land stays as it is and will remain that way. We are always looking for opportunities to plant seeds that will one day blossom into protected land. We currently have some nice projects growing that, when mature, should result in nearly 3,000 acres protected in Darlington, Marlboro, and Williamsburg Counties. Collectively these lands are wonderful examples of family farmland that can be passed down intact from one generation to the next, woodlands that provide habitat to all sorts of critters, and bottomland hardwoods that are on the front lines when floodwaters rise and always at work to keep our waters clean. Look for exciting press releases to come later in 2016 announcing these projects.

## *PDLT represents SC in DC*

PDLT was part of the South Carolina delegation of land trusts who met with US Senators and Representatives in April to thank them for making the Conservation Tax Incentive permanent and to strongly encourage their support for reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Executive Director David Harper joined colleagues Andrew Waters of the Spartanburg Area Conservancy and Catherine Main of the East Cooper Land Trust as representatives of the South Carolina Land Trust Network. They met with Senator Tim Scott, staff of Senator Lindsey Graham's office, Representatives Tom Rice, Mark Sanford, James Clyburn, Trey Gowdy and others.



One of the key points that most legislators can agree with: conservation of our valued farms, forests, natural areas and historic sites supports a full 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the South Carolina economy by protecting land for forestry, agriculture, outdoor recreation and heritage tourism. This was PDLT's first experience on Capitol Hill and we're proud to have been a voice at the federal level for conservation in SC.

## *Enhanced Conservation Easement Tax Incentive Made Permanent*



In the 1980's Congress passed a law that allowed landowners to take deductions against income taxes for donating Qualified Conservation Contributions, or conservation easements. This gave landowners a way to create financial returns for voluntarily protecting their farms and woodlands without compensation to keep them in agriculture, forestry, and natural uses. In 2006, Congress passed the Enhanced Incentive which increased the amount of federal tax

deductions a landowner could use in a given year and also gave landowners a longer period of time to use their deductions. The Enhanced Incentive had expired and a push by conservation groups resulted in the Enhanced Incentives being made permanent by Congress in December 2015. Under the current law, landowners who donate a conservation easement on their land may be eligible to deduct the value of the conservation easement for income tax purposes. A landowner may be eligible to deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income and carry any unused deductions forward for 15 years. Essentially, more people can benefit from donating conservation easements and can use deductions faster making this a big win for land conservation.

We are entering a great time for conservation! If you are looking to potentially protect your land, please contact Seth Cook, PDLT Director of Land Protection, by calling 843-667-3229 ext. 304 or via email: [landprotection@peedeelandtrust.org](mailto:landprotection@peedeelandtrust.org).



# "Our Places" - Endowment for the Pee Dee Land Trust

PDLT continues to make great progress with "Our Places", the second phase of our Operating Endowment campaign to support our mission and uphold our conservation agreements in perpetuity. PDLT's Endowment now stands at more than \$680,000, or 68% of our goal to reach \$1 million prior to the end of 2017. \$400,000 of this amount was contributed by 32 "Stewards of the Pee Dee" who each donated \$10,000 or more during the first phase (2008 - 2014). The staff and board of Pee Dee Land Trust wish to express our sincere gratitude for those who have given so generously as Sustaining Stewards (multiple gifts of \$10,000), Stewards (\$10,000), and at every level. Contributions can be made in gifts of cash, appreciated stock, and even real estate. For more information, contact David Harper, Executive Director, at [pdlt@peedeelandtrust.org](mailto:pdlt@peedeelandtrust.org) or 843-667-3229. Please consider your role in this important campaign for the future of Pee Dee Land Trust as a voice for the land -- Long Live the Pee Dee!

The roots of Pee Dee Land Trust's Our Places endowment campaign can be found in the generous contributions of the Stewards of the Pee Dee. A Steward donated \$10,000 to the operations endowment between 2008 – 2014 during the first phase of the campaign. The following 31 individuals, families, foundations, and corporations each expressed their commitment to PDLT:

Diddy and Jim Anderson  
Anonymous  
Daphne and Dave Aycock  
BC Moore Foundation  
Blackwater LLC  
Janet and Buddy Brand  
Mary Alice Ingram Busch  
Rhetta and Buddy Calhoun  
Marianne and Jim Crawford  
Charles W. and Elizabeth H. Coker Foundation  
DSM  
Kirk Dunlap  
Anne and Dan Ervin  
First Bank  
Deborah and Ruell Hicks  
Billie and Alan Houghton  
Snoots and Richard Howard  
Mary Coker Joslin  
Diane and Sumter Langston  
Flo, Don and Carol Mabe  
McCall Farms  
McTeer Real Estate  
Charles and Tommy O'Neal  
Pearce Land Company  
Jennie Williamson Pezé  
Marie and Tony Shank  
Janet and Dickie Sherman  
Turner Padgett Graham and Laney, PA  
Charlotte and David Van Hoose  
Webster Rogers, LLP  
Sara Williamson

The following Steward level donors have made lead gifts in support of the second phase of the Our Places endowment campaign which we launched in 2015:

Diddy and Jim Anderson \*  
Frances and Charlie Bethea  
Janet and Buddy Brand \*\*\*  
Mary Alice Ingram Busch \*  
James C. Crawford III Charitable Fund  
Caroline and Tim Dargan  
Linda and Eddie Drayton  
Deborah and Ruell Hicks \*\*  
Ella Reese and Billy Hinson  
Bee and Steve Jones  
Karen and Avie Rainwater  
Catherine Rogers \*\*\*  
Linda Russell \*\*  
Pati Martin and Brad Turley \*\*  
Mary Caroline and Wallace Vaught  
Ida and Alva Whitehead  
Caroline and Keith Williamson  
Kathe and Edwin Williamson

*\*Sustaining Stewards are donors giving at the \$10,000 Steward level for multiple years.*

Our Places Endowment Campaign Goal is to raise \$1,000,000 by the end of 2017 to help ensure PDLT will be able to fulfill our mission in perpetuity.



## *Bottomland hardwood forest along Great Pee Dee protected by Pee Dee Land Trust, DNR*

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources and Pee Dee Land Trust completed a partnership conservation deal protecting a 100-acre inholding of bottomland hardwood forest along the Great Pee Dee River in Marion County, within the existing 5,600-acre Marsh Wildlife Management Area, in May 2016.

The property acquisition was made possible through a wetlands mitigation agreement reached with CSX Transportation. Mitigation was a necessary component of the company's plans to upgrade an existing wooden railroad trestle crossing the Great Pee Dee River downstream from US 378.

According to a statement released by CSX, "Since this section of tracks carries daily freight traffic from the South Carolina Ports and other industries, CSX had to devise a plan to replace the bridge in sections, so rail traffic could move each day. This necessitated a temporary platform in the river swamp to do the bridge work, as well as a permit from the Charleston District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers." CSX contracted with Columbia-based environmental engineering firm AMEC-Foster Wheeler to coordinate property evaluation and permitting for the project.

As outlined in the mitigation agreement, the addition of the new property will "connect this isolated private land with state-owned lands to create a contiguous wetland habitat corridor along the Great Pee Dee River." The agreement codifies the long-term protection of the 100-acre parcel known as the "King Tract," and will also "complete the protection of the confluence of the Great Pee Dee River and Mulyn Creek, a significant aquatic feature within the Marsh WMA."

"In this case, the company is mitigating for a temporary loss of wetland function, rather than a permanent loss," said Greg Mixon with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Office of Environmental Programs.

"Construction of an access road that will be removed after the work is complete will entail filling some wetlands at the site," Mixon said, "but the federal Clean Water Act, administered in South Carolina by DHEC and the Corps of Engineers, requires that even temporary wetland impacts be mitigated when the temporary fill remains in place for a longer period of time."

"The property will be a valuable addition to Marsh WMA for a number of reasons," said DNR Regional Biologist Sam Stokes Jr.

"We are excited that we have the property intact and as-is, because it's a continuation of the habitat that we already have on Marsh," said Stokes. "The main benefit it provides is that now we know for sure that this tract will remain intact into the future, which supports the continuation of our overall management goals for the property. The existing road into the property will also provide a way for hunters, hikers and other people who want to use the property to access that part of it."

This valuable addition to DNR's public lands program would not have been possible without the cooperation and assistance of Pee Dee Land Trust. "We were able to act as a placeholder to help bridge the gap and give DNR time to do the due diligence necessary to take ownership of the property," said Seth Cook, director of land conservation at the nonprofit. "The land trust's flexibility in being able to act

as option-holder for DNR was a new type of support role for the land trust and allowed us to facilitate an important land conservation project in a different way."

"We are always looking for opportunities to work with state agencies generally, and with DNR in particular, to pursue common conservation goals, and this project really accomplishes that" said Pee Dee Land Trust Executive Director David Harper. "This is a win-win for DNR and for the Pee Dee."

"DNR is committed to partnering with the private sector, other state and federal agencies and non-government organization" said DNR Director Alvin Taylor. "This is another great example of working together to enhance and preserve the natural resources of our state and make more lands available for public recreation."



*A boater rounds a bend in the Great Pee Dee River; just downstream from the new addition to Marsh WMA.*

*The King Tract, a recent addition to the DNR-owned Marsh Wildlife Management Area, is home to many large bottomland trees such as this cypress.*



*This unimproved logging road will provide a way for visitors – hikers, hunters, anglers or birdwatchers – to access the new section of Marsh WMA by foot.*

*The three above DNR photos by David Lucas*

### **What is Mitigation Banking?**

Mitigation banking is the restoration, creation, enhancement, or preservation of a wetland, stream, or habitat conservation area which offsets expected adverse impacts to similar nearby ecosystems. The goal is to replace the exact function and value of the specific wetland habitats that would be adversely affected by a proposed project.



# Spring Events Recap

## Oyster Roast

Supporters joined us on a gorgeous afternoon to help celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual PDLT Oyster Roast at Hobcaw Barony, on February 20<sup>th</sup>. It was our largest and most successful Oyster Roast ever! Thank you to all of the Members that were patient while we had to work through a few kinks, but were able to get tickets for all Members that expressed interest in joining us. Our guests enjoyed delicious food by The Catering Company that included SC Local and Gulf select oysters, Brunswick stew, fried hushpuppies and okra, libations and homemade desserts provided by PDLT Board members. We had the opportunity to present two of our newest easement donors, Jo Jeffers represented the Back Swamp Woods (93 acres, Florence County) and Eddie Drayton (Tilghman Tract-670 acres in Marlboro Co), with bird boxes as a symbol of our appreciation for their conservation efforts. It was fun catching up with old friends and making new ones while everyone enjoyed the spectacular views across Winyah Bay and the lowcountry rhythm of The Spots. A very special thank you to the staff and volunteers of Hobcaw Barony/ Belle W. Baruch Foundation, PDLT Board Members, volunteers, auction donors, our sponsors and members in attendance!

## Special Thanks to our Pee Dee Land Trust



### 2016 Oyster Roast Sponsors



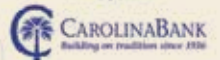
#### Entertainment Sponsors



Presenting Sponsor  
**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Wendell Jones

#### Site Sponsors



#### Beverage Sponsors



#### Tent Sponsors

SilvaTech

#### Food Sponsors

Diddy & Jim Anderson



Baruch Sponsors  
DARGAN KING & KNIGHT, LLC  
**FIRST BANK**



#### Hobcaw Sponsors

Chase Oil Company  
Bernice & Gordon McBride

Dargan Construction Company  
Palmetto Commercial Real Estate

#### Barony Sponsors

Janet & Buddy Brand  
Kathi & Marshall Flowers  
STIFEL

Frances & Charlie Bethes



## Taste of Briggs Farm-to-School

Pee Dee Land Trust was proud to help support Briggs Elementary School's new micro-farm chicken coop as a way to integrate agricultural education through hands-on learning. PDLT staff had a great opportunity to talk about our mission and share our BioBlitz wildlife study with hundreds of attendees at the Taste of Briggs Farm-to-School event in May.

## Paddle Trip on the Black Mingo Creek

PDLT members enjoyed a glorious spring paddle up the Black Mingo Creek on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>! The weather was absolutely beautiful as 20 PDLT Members made their way from the Whitehead's family home, Mingo Lodge, along the magnificent Black Mingo Creek. A special thank you went out to our trip leaders Paul Shaw and Hunter Morgan of Naturally Outdoors. After a long adventure everyone returned to Mingo Lodge for a picnic lunch by the creek that featured the famous Scott's BBQ, followed by strawberry shortcake compliments of Dargan Farms!



## A Ride through Damon History

PDLT hosted 'A Ride through Damon History' on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Damon Gun Club in Darlington. Fifteen riders on horseback and thirty wagon riders enjoyed a beautiful afternoon trail ride through some of the most pristine and historic properties in the Pee Dee. Our hosts, Meredith and Campbell Coxe, shared tales throughout the day about the property and generations of people that have lived and worked on the land. A unique wagon ride experience was enjoyed thanks to our wagon master, Gene Driggers, and friends. We were treated to a chicken bog lunch at the Damon Gun Club thanks to donations by Carolina Plantation Rice and Carolina Fresh Foods. The Pee Dee Cowboy, David Grant, shared his passion for SC's State Horse, the Marsh Tacky and we learned about this great horse's heritage that is interwoven with the history of the Pee Dee. Some of the video footage taken on the trail ride and during lunch aired on an episode of Horse Tales earlier this summer. You can view the experience on their website at [www.horsetalestv.com](http://www.horsetalestv.com). Stay tuned for PDLT's next equestrian experience.



## Annual Picnic

Over 150 PDLT Members and Guests gathered for a fun family afternoon at the 2016 Annual Picnic on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the home of Buzz and Rae Rogers, outside of Timmonsville. All ages enjoyed fishing, swimming and paddling on Emerald Lake with boats courtesy of Naturally Outdoors. It was a kids paradise with nature crafts, outdoor games including shuffle board, volleyball, badminton, croquet, horse shoes, bubbles and more! The afternoon was kept lively with music by Sean Mills, delicious food, cold beverages and treats from the Ice Cream Truck. A special thank you to our hosts Buzz and Rae Rogers for sharing with us their amazing outdoor playground!

**Please visit our website and Facebook page to see all the photos from these experiences and links to our sponsors and in-kind donors.**

Thanks to our Annual Picnic Sponsors:

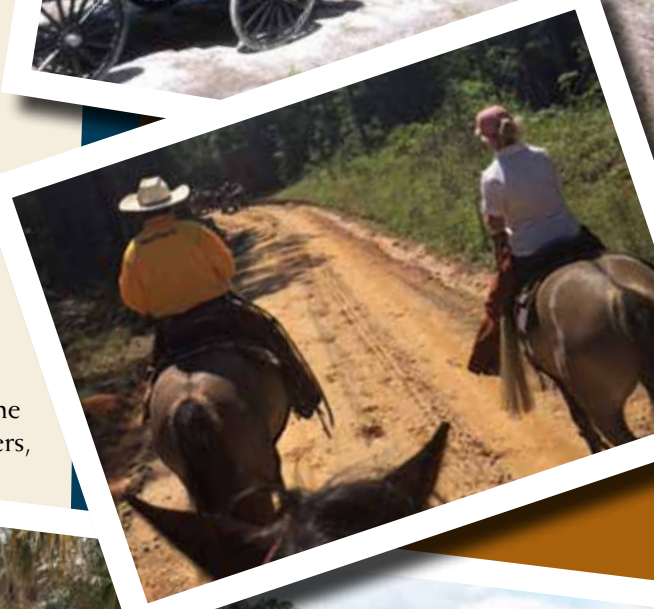
Presenting Sponsor:  
**PEE DEE**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Entertainment Sponsor: **RAINES** HOSPITALITY  
Tent Sponsor: **LifeCARE**  
HELPING WITH THE CARES OF LIFE  
Drs. Avie and Seth Rainwater

Beverage Sponsor: **STELLA ARTOIS**

Site Sponsor: **Southern 8th's Farm**  
Activity Sponsor: **FIRST BANK**

Picnic Sponsors:  
Anderson Brothers Bank  
Jay James • Linda Russell





# Upcoming Events

## Bountiful Brunch Benefit

Plans are in full swing for the sixth annual Bountiful Brunch Benefit. The date for this year's brunch is Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> and will be held at Boxwood Plantation. Our hosts, Beth and Jack Marchette along with their family will be sharing their historic circa 1870 home and gorgeous surrounding property with us. Boxwood Plantation's 311 acres were put under conservation easement with PDLT in 2012. The property is located just off Hoffmeyer Road where Florence and Darlington Counties meet.



Over the past five years, the Bountiful Brunch Benefit has become the fall's most anticipated event in our region. This event draws 230 guests annually and is attended by folks of all ages from across the Pee Dee who gather to celebrate the connection between the people and the land through a unique, upscale farm-to-table experience. The event is particularly special because guests are treated to a fabulous meal and exquisite wines, all in a beautiful, private setting on a lovely fall afternoon. The event begins with a reception at noon in the garden, and is followed by the seated five course meal at 1:00pm on the main avenue. The carefully planned menu will include local ingredients gathered from Pee Dee area farmers and purveyors, and paired with the perfect wines generously donated by Micky Finn's. We look forward to sharing our diverse agricultural bounty in the Pee Dee Region and wine pairings with our guests.

Each year the Bountiful Brunch Benefit sells out quickly. This year, we will be sending invitations out by priority mail to our sponsors, easement donors, Stewards, and Watershed, River, Creek and Stream level donors a few days prior to general membership (all will be mailed the last week of September). Due to the high demand, we are limiting ticket sales to four tickets per member. Please keep in mind the Bountiful Brunch Benefit is PDLT's fall celebration of our year round conservation work, while being a very important fundraiser supporting our operations.

### **SPECIAL THANKS GOES OUT TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS THAT HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE 2016 BOUNTIFUL BRUNCH BENEFIT:**

**Presenting Sponsors:** Edward Jones-Wendell Jones and Micky Finn's

**Site Sponsor:** ArborOne Farm Credit

**Plantation Sponsor:** Duke Energy

**Reception Sponsor:** McLeod Health

**Boxwood Sponsors:** Lane & Al Gilpin, Grantham Properties & Development, Jane & Rex Huggins, Brian Sang DMD, Sonoco

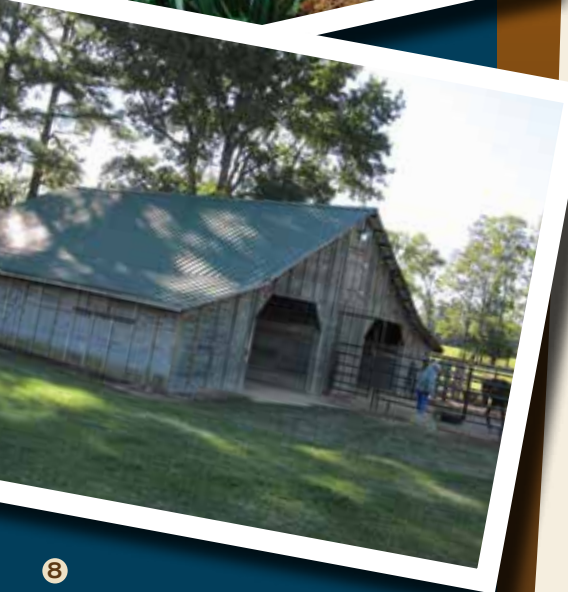
**Host Committee Sponsors:** Diddy & Jim Anderson, Cindy & Eric Belk, Frances & Charlie Bethea, Janet & Buddy Brand, Ann Rodgers Chandler, Chase Oil, Ricky Coxe, Tim Cunningham, Gilbert & Fields Construction, Donna Goodman & Dewey Ervin, Kathi & Marshall Flowers, Jana & Christopher Goss, Edwin Haenni, Chip Helms, Jill & Joe Lewis, Bernice & Gordon McBride, Joan & Michael Pavy, Signature Wealth Strategies, Patricia Martin & Brad Turley, Mary Caroline & Wallace Vaught, Ida & Alva Whitehead, Marguerite & Frank Willis

A special thank you to our hosts, Beth & Jack Marchette, our Experience Coordinator, Jeff Murrie and our wine expert, Dennis Fraley.

We could not make this experience a successful fundraiser without the donation of time, talent and resources of some of our key volunteers including: Caroline Dargan, Deetz & Derrell Mullins, Finley James, Diddy Anderson, Bess Harry and many more!

Please contact Lyles Cooper Lyles to inquire about potential sponsorship opportunities, at 843-667-3229 ext. 303 or [lclyles@peedeelandtrust.org](mailto:lclyles@peedeelandtrust.org).

*Keep an eye out for the Fall / Winter 2016 Events Calendar, which will be mailed out in August. Throughout the year, we will continue to hold special events to mark our next phase of growth as a community-based organization. Moreover, we will continue to work to protect the places you love around the Pee Dee-- places where you hunt, fish, hike, bike, and otherwise enjoy this special region.*





# Diverse Cover Crops for Prosperous Farms

Preserving farmland is a core part of PDLT's operations. Preserving the profitability of that farmland is equally important if we are to retain the family-owned farms that are the foundation of communities across our region. Single species cover crops are widely used as a way to reduce soil erosion between plantings of cash crops. A group of farmers in Dillon and Marlboro Counties, in conjunction with the University of South Carolina's (USC's) Environmental Health Sciences program, are taking a closer look at the role that diverse cover crop mixes play in building healthy, living soils to increase farm profitability AND productivity. The land they farm, totaling more than 10,000 acres, is some of the best cropland in the state, with naturally productive soils.

On a recent spring day, farmers and soil experts gathered at the Dillon county farm of Carl Coleman to observe first-hand how multi-species cover crops and conservation tillage can be used to increase soil health and reduce fertilizer use on a rotation of corn, wheat, and soybeans. The key is choosing the right mix – grasses such as rye, oats and barley, legumes including hairy vetch, crimson clover, winter peas, along with pearl millet, sunflower, tillage radish, and sorghum can all add nutrients and organic matter. What they are learning can be an inspiration to other farmers -- planting a diverse mix of cover crops in conjunction with no-till practices over successive growing seasons can "mimic what nature does", leading to:

- more consistent crop yields (including in hot, dry summer months)
- lower fertilizer costs
- reduced weeds
- higher net farm income
- healthier soils and waterways
- less erosion of precious topsoil
- enhanced wildlife habitat



*With cover crops including oats, vetch, and clover, roots can reach 4 feet deep on the Coleman Farm*

USC Professor Buzz Klotz, a self-proclaimed "soil health nut", is passionate about working to improve soils and improve the lives of farmers and the health of the environment. For the past several years, he has been working with Coleman and several other Dillon and Marlboro County farmers on a USDA Conservation Innovation Grant to stretch the limits of diverse cover crop systems to answer a key question: How much can we reduce our use of commercial fertilizer, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen, and how much money can we save? Can we actually get more from using less?

Most recently, with technical assistance from Clemson University, Klotz and Coleman have laid out 10 acres of experimental plots of cover cropped fields to show the results from various levels of fertilizer reduction. They planted sun hemp, buckwheat, sorghum-sudangrass as cover crops to see if the nutrients they provide to the soil could "drive" the corn crop alone, without adding commercial fertilizers. The initial results look promising. They are looking to demonstrate savings of up to \$100 - \$150 per acre in commercial fertilizer costs. When expanded over hundreds or thousands of acres, this can lead to big savings for farmers, in addition to reduced water pollution from fertilizers in our streams, ponds and rivers, benefitting fish and other aquatic life.

"I just feel like I'm doing the right thing," said Coleman, a 2016 National Soil Health Champion for South Carolina.



*Photo: Justin Ballew, Clemson University*

Marlboro farmer John McInnis points out that, by using these methods, he hasn't used commercial potash or phosphorus in 3 years, and no lime in 4 years. These nutrients are now stored in the organic matter of his soils. Once the cover crops have grown, they are "rolled" down flat and the next crop is planted into the cover crop residue which decompose and add organic matter (roots, stems) back into the soil. This helps build beneficial bacteria, microbes, and earthworms in the topsoil, all of which recycle nutrients so they are available for crops. These farmers are managing soil as a living system with an eye toward improving their bottom line. "This is the way to save farming," says McInnis.

The take home message is that agriculture may be shifting once again -- from high input systems (fertilizers, pesticides, water, plowing) to low input systems (cover crops, no-till), from carbon-releasing systems to carbon-sequestering systems, from dead dirt to living soil. The more diverse your cover crop system, the more it supports soil biology which in turn supports farm crops. "When farmers view soil health as not an abstract virtue, but as a real asset, it revolutionizes the way they farm, and radically reduces their dependence on inputs to produce food and fiber," says Buz Klotz. As these Dillon and Marlboro farmers are learning, the key is to give it a try, and experiment, with an open mind. Try one year of diverse cover crop mixes, and watch the results.

They have started a Facebook group called the Carolina Cover Crop Connection. To learn more and participate in the group, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/carolinacovercropconnection/>.





## Black Creek BioBlitz Update

The Black Creek BioBlitz is going full steam ahead – with more than 300 students in over 16 field trips this spring joining us as “environmental detectives.” Their mission is to identify hundreds of species of wildlife and vegetation at the 217 acre Louise and Woods Dargan Nature Preserve along Black and Swift Creek just outside of Darlington. Normally, a bioblitz is a 24-hour marathon session to identify as many species as possible on a given site. Ours is a year-long program broken into smaller, 1 to 2 hour bioblitzes. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of 500 students and indirectly reaching a much wider range of students, teachers, and parents with success stories posted on the Black Creek BioBlitz webpage: <http://www.peedeelandtrust.org/bioblitz>

The Black Creek BioBlitz is supported by grants from the Wells Fargo Foundation and the Duke Energy Foundation, and targets students from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades, in public and private schools, scout troops, church groups, 4-H clubs, Boys and Girls Clubs, home school groups, summer camps, and even biology classes from the Governor's School for Science and Math. Project Coordinator, Sarah Rawlins,

works with PDLT staff to design and manage the BioBlitz, with an advisory team including Dr. Jeff Steinmetz of Francis Marion University's Biology Department, and Teresa Lott of Clemson Extension, a Master Naturalist. Amanda Morrell, a landscape architect from Latta, has provided design assistance for the BioBlitz logo, workbooks, and kiosks at the Dargan Preserve.

The program is designed to get student's help surveying the property while they explore the rich oak-pine forest laden with biodiversity such as birds, fish, and other organisms yet to be discovered on-site. They are provided workbooks to help them document what they find, and learn fun surveying techniques including searching under cover boards, rocks, and fallen logs for hidden organisms. This hands-on learning experience enhances skills for observing, documenting, and analyzing data. After all, this is the next generation of conservationists!

Some of the highlights the students have discovered so far: marbled salamanders, squirrel tree frogs, black racer snakes, five-lined skinks, luna moths, river otter (droppings), highbush blueberries, resurrection ferns, and a 125+ year old loblolly pine. Stay tuned for more discoveries by visiting the webpage!

## The Big Give Pee Dee

PDLT proudly participated as one of the 45 area non-profits in The Big Give Pee Dee May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the online donations we received, we won the \$500 Linda P. Russell Golden Ticket Award! Thank you to the Eastern Carolina Community Foundation for hosting such a great community funding opportunity.



**The BIG GIVE Pee Dee**  
Live here. Give here. Grow here.

## WBTW's 3 Degree Weather Guarantee program

PDLT was honored to have been the selected area non-profit to receive the proceeds from WBTW's 3 Degree Weather Guarantee program, sponsored by Glasspro for the month of April. A special thank you to PDLT Board Member, Ruell Hicks, for going on camera and accepting the \$1,500 big check on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from Glasspro's owner, Mr. Paul Heinauer.





## Fall 2015/ Winter 2016 Photo Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone that shared photos with us for the Fall 2015/Winter 2016 photo contest! It is so fun to see some of our friends enjoying the great Pee Dee Outdoors. All the photos submitted were wonderful, so it was truly a hard decision for the panel to decide on just one.



*1<sup>st</sup> Place award went to  
J.W. Nelson Chandler for his submission of  
'Soybean field after the Flood'*



*2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to Charles Jeffcoat for his  
submission of 'Exploring Jefferies Creek'*



*3<sup>rd</sup> Place went to Leslie Barth for her  
submission of 'Muscadines in Marion'*

---

*The people's choice award went to  
Jennie Pezé for submission of  
'Walking around Oaklyn'  
(front cover, top right)*

## Going Deep with History in the Pee Dee:

PDLT board members Billy Hinson, Catherine Rogers, and Dickie Sherman joined PDLT member Janet Brand, several guests, and Executive Director David Harper for an eye-opening visit to the site of the Johannes Kolb Archaeology and Education Project, located on SC DNR's 2,725 acre Great Pee Dee Heritage Preserve north of Florence. SCDNR Chairman D. Glenn McFadden met with the PDLT group and they discussed the importance of working together to continue growing our conservation successes. This project is extraordinary for several reasons:

- The Kolb site contains an unusual range of artifacts from 5 different periods: stone points dating to 11,000 BC; stone scrapers, points, pottery shards and shell piles dating to 8,000 BC; arrow points, pottery shards and animal bones dating to 1,000 BC; and metal spoons, keys, tools and china dating to the 1700's.
- The site is named for Johannes Kolb, a German immigrant who migrated from New Jersey to this land he acquired as part of the Welsh Tract in 1737.
- PDLT member Dr. Ernest "Chip" Helms discovered the site in 1973 as a curious teenager who was thoughtful enough to properly record the site with the State Archaeologist's office.
- After the site was acquired by DNR in 1992, Chip Helms became involved with the Heritage Trust Program to support an unusually long-running series of excavations that have spanned the last 20 years and yielded thousands of valuable artifacts.



## Wonderful Work of Art

Thanks to board member Catherine Rogers, Pee Dee Land Trust now has a wonderful work of art to add to our office collection – a stunning aerial photograph of the historic rice fields along the Waccamaw, Pee Dee, and Black Rivers at the head of Winyah Bay in Georgetown. This gorgeous piece by Charleston-based photographer David Soliday, is mounted on aluminum and is part of a series of aerial images he has taken of historic rice fields along the Atlantic Coast from Wilmington, NC to Jacksonville, FL. It will be proudly hung in our office and we welcome you to drop by for a closer look.





# Milkweed for Monarchs

If you've ever stood on the beach in late September or early October you may witness one of the great spectacles of the natural world – a seemingly endless stream of monarch butterflies heading south along the dunes. Millions of monarchs migrate along our Atlantic Coast and further inland, stopping to rest and feed on nectar plants along the way. These monarchs eventually reach their destination over a period of one or more years – a relatively small patch of pine forest in the mountains of central Mexico, where they overwinter by the millions.

Here in the Pee Dee and the Grand Strand, we are fortunate that Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is native and can grow abundantly in the landscape. Common Milkweed is the single most important plant for the life cycle of monarch butterflies. Monarch butterflies have been in serious decline over the past 20 years with 2014 being the lowest recorded winter population ever according to Monarch Watch ([www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)). Common Milkweed populations have been declining as well. The latest science working to determine why this is the case has identified a combination of probable causes including: severe weather impacts in wintering areas; clearing of natural edges along agricultural fields and roadways; increased use of herbicide-tolerant crops; and pesticide use in yards, roadsides, utility lines, and farm fields.

Common Milkweed thrives in well-drained soils and produces a profusion of sweet scented lavender to pink flowers that provide nectar to monarchs and a wide range of other pollinators. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs exclusively on plants in the *Asclepias* genus. Caterpillars feast on the leaves and then form a chrysalis on the plant before transforming into a butterfly. Related plants such as Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) are also beneficial to monarchs.

What can you do to boost monarch populations? Consider planting plenty of Common Milkweed in your yard, garden or in fields on your property and encourage your neighbors to do the same. If you know people who help make land management decisions for farms, utility lines, public parks, golf courses, school properties, and even stormwater basins – make sure they know about the milkweed-monarch connection. Any of these areas can be excellent habitats for milkweed and monarchs to thrive. School properties in particular are ideal places to create butterfly gardens as outdoor classrooms for children to see first-hand the interconnections of the natural world. If we all promote a resurgence of Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed, and Butterflyweed across our region, we'll be doing our part to ensure that the ancient migration of monarch butterflies between the Pee Dee and the mountains of Mexico continues for generations to come.



## Black Farmer Storytelling Reception

The storytelling reception featured a panel discussion with area black farmers on February 16th at the Doctors Bruce and Lee Foundation Library, in Florence. PDLT co-hosted the event with the library and Family Agricultural Resource Management Services (F.A.R.M.S). The event coincided with the traveling exhibit of storyboards PDLT prepared, sharing the stories of black farmers in the Pee Dee through photos and interviews. Thank you to ArborOne Farm Credit for their sponsorship of the event and the Humanities Council of South Carolina for their community grant to fund the project.



# Have you considered making a planned gift to Pee Dee Land Trust?

**Planned gifts can be a great way to support our vital work while meeting your financial and estate planning goals.**

Planned gifts are simply donations to charity that are made as part of a donor's overall financial or estate planning. They come in a variety of forms, giving donors the opportunity to choose the strategy that best satisfies their philanthropic wishes while maximizing their financial and tax-related goals.

Planned gifts are a large part of how many charitable organizations accomplish their missions. Given their long-lasting impact, planned gifts are especially important to Pee Dee Land Trust (PDLT): an organization that must operate well into the future to uphold its perpetual conservation agreements. It is for this reason that an investment with PDLT is safe and guaranteed to keep its end of the bargain for the donor—PDLT will be here far into the future fulfilling our responsibilities and we will be here to foster donors' investments far into the future as well.

There are many planned giving vehicles available to achieve your estate planning goals, falling into three general categories:

- Outright gifts that use appreciated assets as a substitute for cash, such as appreciated real estate, securities, retirement plan assets or life insurance
- Gifts that return income or other financial benefits to the donor, such as a charitable gift annuity or retained life estate
- Gifts payable upon the donor's death, typically a bequest of assets

PDLT's Board of Directors and financial advisors review all gifts to ensure each gift will benefit the organization's long term goals.

Did you know PDLT welcomes gifts of real estate? People who gift land to PDLT share a common

vision of stewarding our region's working farms and forests, natural areas and historic sites as a living legacy for current and future generations. Gifts of land, commercial real estate, or residential property will enable PDLT to carry out our mission for the long haul. Donation of a home, family farm or recreational property or other real estate can all be tailored to meet the exact needs of your financial situation.

One of the most profitable ways to make a planned gift can be to donate property with a retained life estate. With this type of gift, one donates real estate to a charitable organization but retains the right to live on, recreate on, and even transfer a life estate in the property for the rest of his or her life. Even though this planned gift costs nothing in the present, it will give the donor immediate tax benefits worth the value of his or her donation. Some of PDLT's most important contributions have been gifts of land and real estate from generous supporters. For a wonderful example of a gift of this kind, please read the article "75 Years of Marriage and 668 Acres of Conservation" on Page 3 of PDLT's Summer 2013 newsletter, which is archived on our website: <http://www.peedeelandtrust.org>.

Working with your estate planning professionals, Pee Dee Land Trust would be honored to help you achieve your financial and philanthropic goals, making them work to your best advantage. To learn more about planned giving with PDLT, please contact Lyles Cooper Lyles, Director of Education and Outreach, at (843) 667-3229 ext. 303 or [lclyles@peedeelandtrust.org](mailto:lclyles@peedeelandtrust.org).





## SPECIAL THANKS

*to the following volunteers  
and in-kind donors:*

AFTCO

Diddy & Jim Anderson

Ben-No-Mo, Jay Gregg

Charlie Bethea

Janet & Buddy Brand

Burry Bookstore, Sandi Brown

Harold Brasington

Carolina Fresh Foods

Carolina Plantation Rice

Carolyn & Kent Caudle

CHi design, Caroline Harper

Erika Cook

Blair Cooper

Meredith & Campbell Cox

D. Newks Southern Artisan Cooperative,  
Dick & Marcia Newcomb

Caroline & Tim Dargan

Julius Dargan

Dargan Farms

Dennis Fraley

Rick Havekost

Caroline Harper

Bess & Brice Harry

Ruell Hicks

Billy Hinson

Homegrown Cotton, Atwood McIntosh

Hotel Florence

Jay James

Jo Jeffers

Wendell Jones

Bee & Steve Jones

Brandon Lyles

Marcia & Jerry Lyles

Valerie, William, & Douglas Lynn

Mark Lexton, Lex, & Lisa Matthews

Christie & Andrew McLeod

Eric Milam

Hunter Morgan

Jeff Murrie

Naturally Outdoors

Resource Environmental Solutions

Banks Reynolds

RiverRats Kayak & Canoe Rentals LLC

Catherine Rogers

Rae & Buzz Rogers

SC Joggling Board Co, Jammie Harris

John Scott

Paul Shaw

Louise Dargan Thompson

Mary Caroline & Wallace Vaught

Victor's

Jessica Watts

Johnny Weaver

Ida & Alva Whitehead

Emily & Weave Whitehead

Keith Williamson

## Donors to 2015 Annual Campaign

At the end of each year, we send a special appeal for year-end gifts. Donors to this campaign go above and beyond their regular membership gifts by contributing to this campaign. Many make their gifts in honor or memory of a loved one. Gifts to the year-end campaign help fuel our conservation and education efforts for the coming year, and we thank these generous individuals, families and businesses who gave so generously to this campaign.

Elizabeth and Jim Anderson

Lyne and Greg Askins

Frances and Charles Bethea

Pat and Paul Bonham

Jane and John Chapman

Ina Coggeshall

Edwin Dargan

Doris and Robert Goodson

Sandra and Gerald Griffin

Rebecca and Edwin Hinds

Albert Law James, Jr.

Eleanor and John Lock

Mary Jane McDonald

Nancy and Robert Mottern

Deetz and Derrell Mullins

Kalli and Thomas Norton

Nancy and Carroll Player

Mary Courtney and Tom Rogers

Sherry and Dwight Stewart

Beth and Steve Stokes

Jessie and George Whitaker

Ann and Ben Williamson

Your name is not listed above if you sent in a donation in a year-end campaign envelope and it was not in addition to your annual membership donation. All donors will be listed in the Membership report (donors between October 16, 2015-October 14, 2016) for the year in the Fall/Winter edition of the newsletter.



## GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

**Fred Beck**

from Catherine G. Rogers

**Hunter and Walt Burch**

from Cynde White

**Katie and Chris Fukuda**

from Mary Caroline and Wallace Vaught

**Kristi and Dave Horger**

from Mary Caroline and Wallace Vaught

**Cynthia and Michael Morgan**

from Cynde White

**Jeff and Janice Wyatt**

from Catherine G. Rogers

## CHANDLER AWARD

JW Nelson and Anna Chandler



# In Memoriam

## Marion Coggeshall Rogers Coxe

PDLT lost a great supporter with the passing of Marion Coggeshall Rogers Coxe, on January 25, 2016, after a brief illness. Born March 7, 1954, she grew up in Darlington and married Richard Badham Coxe, also of Darlington.

After graduating from Converse College, she followed her interest in politics working various campaigns. She worked in banking with C & S Bank for 10 years in several capacities. A lifelong member of St. Matthew's Episcopal.....She enjoyed reading, gardening, generously sharing the beautiful house she and her husband Ricky had built with as many family and friends as possible, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Participation in conservation and preservation efforts were very important in her life, as were community organizations. She was a member of the Williamson Park Committee, an enthusiastic supporter of Pee Dee Land Trust, and was involved with the Guardian ad Litem program. She was a member of Over the Teacups Club and The National Society of The Colonial Dames in America, among others.



## Albert "Juny" Law James, Jr.

Sadly, the Pee Dee lost an amazing man this spring. Albert "Juny" Law James, Jr. passed away on Saturday, May 14, after a car accident in Darlington. Mr. James and his family have been instrumental supporters of BCLT and PDLT from their inception. It was a rare PDLT event that Mr. James was not present with a smile on his face and a story to share. He was a prominent attorney in Darlington, WWII Veteran, loved the Pee Dee outdoors, sharing hunting and fishing skills with the younger generations and was an overall well respected man throughout our community. Mr. James was only 15 days shy of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We were honored to have had Mr. James join us for lunch during PDLT's 'A Ride through Damon History' on his last day. As the oldest living member of the Damon Gun Club, Mr. James was invited by our host Campbell Coxe to give the blessing and then he shared a funny story from the old days at the Gun Club. Luckily we were able to get a photo of Mr. James and his sons, Albert and Jay James (pictured above).



## Honoraria

Received between  
November 16, 2015- June 15, 2016

**Bennett Baxley**  
by Pat and Paul Bonham

**Frances and Charles Bethea**  
by Susan and Ted Whisnant

**Toby Bethea**  
by Laura Bethea

**Lana Blackmon**  
by Mary Kay Belissary

**Charlie Cook**  
by Pat and Paul Bonham

**CK Dunlap III**  
by Jane and C Kirk Dunlap

**Anne and Dan Ervin**  
by JoAnn and Raymond Fisher

**W.A. 'Billy' Hinson Jr**  
by W.A. Hinson III

**Jay James**  
by Gayle and George Sawyer

**Lyles Cooper Lyles**  
by Blair and Pete Cooper

**Tommy O'Neal**  
by Jan and John Alford

**Ashley Cooper Scott**  
by Blair and Pete Cooper

**Marie and Tony Shank**  
by Jonathan E. Buchan

**Ann and Shelton Tyler**  
by Florence M. Ervin

**Mildred and Sherwin Welch**  
by Paige Welch of Heritage  
Home of Florence

**Alva Whitehead**  
by Joe Carson  
by Mary and Charles Harding  
by Ashley and John Scott

**George, Ben, Clement and  
Scott Wilds**  
by Sara Wilds

## Memorials

Received between  
November 16, 2015- June 15, 2016

**Anna Divver Allen**  
by David Allen

**Frank Avent**  
by Lyles and Brandon Lyles

**Bill Chandler**  
by Zilphy and John Durant

**William H. Chandler**  
by Margaret N. Chandler

**William J. Chandler, Jr**  
by Pat and Paul Bonham

**Elting L. Chapman, Jr.**  
by Elting L. 'Ted' Chapman III

**Marion R. Coxe**  
by Meta and John Loftin

**Dwight Dana**  
by Ann Marie and  
William Jay Ward

**Harriet Drake**  
by Catherine G. Rogers

**The Ervins of Back Swamp:  
Ludie, Martha, Jake & Rion**  
by John Herbert

**Gary Halleman**  
by Jennifer King

**Ray Harris**  
by Caroline and Tim Dargan

**Albert L. James, Jr.**  
by N. Winfield Sapp III  
by Renée Brown-Bryant  
by Caroline and Tim Dargan  
by Lt. Col. (Retired) Clayton  
C. Harlee

**Mike King**  
by Jennie and Vincent Pezé  
by Carolyn Schretzmann-Jebaily

**Ed Lee**  
by Beth and Steve Stokes

**Mark Raines**  
by Lyles and Brandon Lyles

**Kenny Segars**  
by Brenda and Bill Coleman

**Al Taylor**  
by Beth and Steve Stokes

**Rami Zakhour**  
by Mona and Isam Zakhour





P.O. Box 2134  
Florence, SC 29503

(843) 667-3229  
info@peedeelandtrust.org  
www.peedeelandtrust.org



**OUR MISSION:**  
To conserve, and to promote an appreciation of,  
the natural, agricultural and historical resources  
of the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina

Non Profit Org  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Florence, SC  
Permit #113

## Inside this Issue

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Board & Staff News.....      | pg. 2-3 |
| Our Places Endowment.....    | pg. 4   |
| Mitigation Partnership ..... | pg. 5   |
| Events Recap.....            | pg. 6-7 |
| Upcoming Events.....         | pg. 8   |
| Diverse Cover Crops.....     | pg. 9   |
| Grant Updates .....          | pg. 10  |
| Outreach.....                | pg. 11  |
| Milkweed & Monarchs .....    | pg. 12  |
| Estate Planning.....         | pg. 13  |
| Gifts.....                   | pg. 14  |
| In Memoriam .....            | pg. 15  |
| Membership .....             | pg. 16  |



## Is Your Membership Current? Would you like to give the Gift of Membership to a friend or family member?

I would like to support Pee Dee Land Trust's work through a monetary contribution.

*Donor Information:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Level

- ☐ Watershed: \$5,000+
- ☐ River: \$1,000-\$4,999
- ☐ Creek: \$500-\$999
- ☐ Stream: \$250-\$499
- ☐ Tributary: \$100-\$249
- ☐ Spring: \$25-\$99
- ☐ Corporate: \$250+



*If this is a gift, please provide the recipients contact information in  
order for us to inform them of their gift membership.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**Pee Dee Land Trust, P.O. Box 2134, Florence, SC 29503**

You may also donate at [www.peedeelandtrust.org](http://www.peedeelandtrust.org).