

From Oxbows to

Newsletter of the Pee Dee Land Trust

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



Pee Dee
Land Trust

Volume 10 • Issue 1
Spring 2015

Tidal Flows

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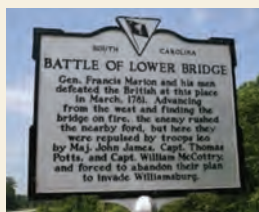
Preserving a Piece of Early American History and Prime Farmland

We closed our 15th Anniversary year with 726 additional acres of protected land, thanks to three exceptional easements and one property acquisition. Our two most recent projects are located in Williamsburg and Darlington Counties and embody the connection between people and land in the Pee Dee, a cornerstone of the Land Trust's mission. In addition, PDLT accepted more than 3,000 acres of conservation easements and two nature preserves transferred from the Black Creek Land Trust.

Pee Dee Land Trust now protects just over 21,800 acres in the Pee Dee region. While most remain in private ownership, the lands protected by PDLT are along the rivers and streams we swim in, farms and forests we manage, hunting and fishing areas we recreate on, and make a lasting contribution to our community. Our two newest easement projects are summarized below.

Montgomery Tract 149 acres, Williamsburg County

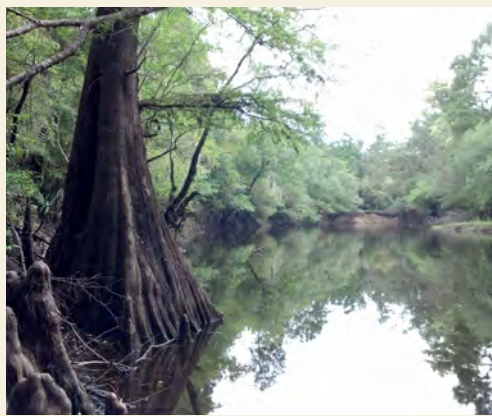
Set along the scenic Black River, the Montgomery Tract is home to mature cypress trees hanging over the slow-moving black water for nearly two miles. The property also boasts historical significance



*Revolutionary War
battle site marker*

as the site of the Battle of Lower Bridge. In 1781 Francis Marion and his troops held off the British who were unable to aim their cannons down the steep

bluff. General Marion and his riflemen demonstrated their sharpshooting abilities and left a lasting impression on the British commander who claimed he had "never seen such shooting before in my life." Cannonballs and other artifacts have been found by the Montgomery family attesting to the battle that occurred on this land over two hundred and thirty years ago. Pulling together as a family, all six owners chose to permanently protect this special place as a natural and historic setting.



*Scenic Black River frontage on the
Montgomery Tract*



*Prime farmland and mixed pine
hardwoods forest on the Rogers Tract*

Rogers Tract 108 acres, Darlington County

A retired farmer, Mr. Roy McCall knows the difference good land can make. With abundant prime farmland, the Rogers Tract

will be kept available for agriculture well into the future as a result of the agreement Mr. McCall made with PDLT. The open fields and uneven aged timber make for an appealing

scenic view along Highway 52 between Darlington and Society Hill. In addition to the habitat provided by the forests and fields, beavers have left their mark damming up an un-named tributary to Buckholtz Creek thereby creating a welcome feeding and resting place for egrets, herons, ducks, and geese.



*Handiwork of beavers along
tributary to
Buckholtz Creek*

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2nd Floor

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Board and Staff News

New Director of Education and Outreach: Lyles Cooper Lyles

Lyles joined PDLT in April 2015 as the Director of Education and Outreach. Lyles' professional experience spans multiple organizations in both the corporate and non-profit worlds. A graduate of the College of Charleston with a degree in Corporate Communications and Marketing, Lyles brings a unique mix of skills to PDLT. She is actively involved in many community organizations and currently serves on the Board of the Boys & Girls Club of the Pee Dee. Growing up and having spent much of her childhood enjoying all the Pee Dee outdoors have to offer, she is excited about helping preserve our resources for future generations. Lyles is married to Brandon, a Mortgage Banker in Florence, and has a son, Woods.



Lyles Cooper Lyles

PDLT Represented at the State Level

Executive Director David Harper was recently nominated to serve as a conservation representative on the steering committee of the Rural Resource Coalition SC (www.ruralrc.org), a statewide alliance of affordable housing, agriculture, community development, conservation, forestry, heirs' property and tourism leaders. The group works on behalf of all of South Carolina's residents to strengthen the state's rural communities and optimize stewardship of natural resources.

PDLT Says Farewell to Jennifer King

Jennifer King joined the Pee Dee Land Trust staff in March of 2008 as only our second employee. As a constant welcoming face of the organization, she worked diligently to befriend new and current members, to plan and execute a diverse and changing roster of amazing events, guide us through national accreditation, and to effectively manage our communications with a wide and growing audience. Pee Dee Land Trust is what it is today due in no small part to the contributions that Jennifer has made. She will be missed by all who enjoyed working with her. We wish her well in her new position as Marketing Specialist with ArborOne Farm Credit.



Jennifer King

Donors to 2014 Year-end 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, particularly during the holiday season. These

gifts 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 the 2014 annual year-end campaign.

Gina and Bill Barron
Elin Berg
Frances and
Charlie Bethea
Lana Blackmon
Walt Brown
Ray Clanton
Emeline Clarkson
Blair and Pete Cooper

Ida and Bill Dailey
Pete Dennis
Linda and
Eddie Drayton
Barbara and
Ronald Fowler
Karen Gentry
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Frances and
Charles Hupfer
Vera Hyman
Christine and
Steve Intemann
Peggy and Bill Kinney
Margaret Lee
James Lockemy
Jeanne McGowan

Bob Mottern
Jessie C. Rogers
Angela and Tom Roop
Christy and
Heath Ruffner
Ashley and John Scott
Donald R. Sheeley
Sherry and
Dwight Stewart

Stewards of the Pee Dee

Thank you to the following committed individuals, families, foundations, and corporations who took the initiative to help fund phase one of our Operations Endowment campaign. "The Stewards of the Pee Dee" donated \$10,000 between 2008-2014 to help ensure PDLT will be able to meet our mission in perpetuity.

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

Honoraria

Received October 16, 2014
to April 15, 2015

In honor of James Little Alford
By Charlie O'Neal

In honor of Jane and Herbert Ames
By Leslie and Dale Barth

In honor of Bennett Baxley
By Pat and Paul Bonham

In honor of Mary Kay Belissary
By Lana Blackmon

In honor of Cindy and Eric Belk
By Zilphy and John DuRant

In honor of Mary Alice Ingram Busch
By Mary Grantham

In honor of Mark W. Buyck, Jr.'s Birthday
By Ginny and Hugh Willcox

In honor of Margaret N. Chandler
By Pat and Paul Bonham

In honor of Charlie Cook
By Pat and Paul Bonham

In honor of Anne and Dan Ervin
By Raymond Fisher

In honor of Juana and Richard Gamble
By Pat and Paul Bonham

In honor of Billy Hinson
By Alex Hinson

In honor of Charles G. Howard, Sr.
By Mary and Charles Hardin

In honor of Jay James
By Marty and Rene Josey

In honor of Sunny and David Keller
By Leslie and Dale Barth

In honor of Helen McFadden
By Pat and Paul Bonham

**In honor of George, Ben, Clement,
and Scott Wilds**
By Sara K. Wilds

In honor of Ann and Ben Williamson
By Caroline and Tim Dargan

**In honor of the marriage of
Bess Williamson and Wayne Stiles**
By Isabel and Steve Smith

**In honor of the marriage of
Susie Williamson and Doug Mills**
By Isabel and Steve Smith

**In honor of the marriage of
Frances Armour and DuBose Williamson**
By Isabel and Steve Smith

Memorials

Received October 16, 2014
to April 15, 2015

In memory of Smith Buchan
By Jonathan Buchan

In memory of William J. Chandler, Jr.
By Pat and Paul Bonham

In memory of Dr. L.B. Courtney
By Jeannie and Tommy Abbott

In memory of Marion Field
By Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Ervin

In memory of George Fuller
By Melinda Fuller and Marty Honney

In memory of Grace and Ronald Jones
By Steve Jones

In memory of H. Joseph Lewis
By Marge Lewis

In memory of Ronald Makowski
By Jennifer King

In memory of John Gregg McMaster
By Jennie and Vincent Pezé

In memory of Odestine Sims
By Keith Williamson

In memory of Mary Ann Stalvey
By Jeannie and Tommy Abbott

In memory of Rami Zakhour
By Mona and Isam Zakhour

In memory of Judy Haenni
Shelli and Bill Wilson
John E. Allison
Greta and Marion Hawkins
Jacqueline J. Segars
Liz Segars
Margaret and Lee Lanier
Cecelia and Tom Brown
Virginia and Larry Gantt
Hartsville Woodworkers
Iris and Phil Kennedy
Sharon Debar
Mary Lutie and Wade Fletcher
Patricia and Jerry Carnell
Caroline and Keith Williamson

OUR PLACE, OUR PEOPLE, OUR HERITAGE

PDLT has recently kicked off "Our Place, Our People, Our Heritage", the second phase of our Operating Endowment campaign. We are happy to share we are now over 50% of the way toward reaching our goal to raise \$1 million prior to the end of 2017. A very special thank you to the following contributors that have made lead pledges in support of phase two of the campaign at the Steward level of \$10,000+.

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
Bee and Steve Jones
Catherine Rogers
Mary Caroline and Wallace Vaught
Ida and Alva Whitehead
Caroline and Keith Williamson

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS:

For Sam Howle
From Catherine Howle

For Lyllian and Munford Scott
From Ashley and John Scott

For Molly and Ellerbe Dargan
From Caroline and Tim Dargan

For Laura and Timothy Dargan
From Caroline and Tim Dargan

WILLIAM H. CHANDLER AWARD FUND:

From Mrs. William J. Chandler, Jr.

SPECIAL THANKS:

Bess and Brice Harry
Holly King
John Scott
Diddy Anderson
John Snow
Johnny Weaver
Buddy Brand
Caroline Harper
Erika Cook
Travis Knowles
Melinda Fuller
Marty Honney

Events Update

Oyster Roast: Saturday, Feb. 21st at Hobcaw Barony

While the weather on Winyah Bay was misty that day, our Oyster Roast attendees would not be deterred and came out once again in large numbers to enjoy one of the region's most unique events. As one guest remarked, "Each time I go I see so many old and new friends, and I run into people I haven't seen for years." Guests enjoyed the spectacular setting beside the Hobcaw House, Ryan Hicks' wonderful Gulf and local oysters, Brunswick Stew, famous hush puppies, and great R&B tunes by Handsome Ransom. Special thanks to all our event volunteers, PDLT Board Members who provided baked goods, the staff and volunteers of Hobcaw Barony/Belle W. Baruch Foundation, and of course our sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Wendell Jones

Tent Sponsors



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Marshall & Kathi Flowers



Ruell Hicks

Barony Sponsors

Dargan, King and Knight
Consulting Foresters



Hobcaw Sponsors

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McBride

MARK LEXTON



Black Creek Supporters Welcome Event: Thursday, March 12th at the Black Creek Arts Council gallery in Hartsville

PDLT hosted a Welcome Event for former members of Black Creek Land Trust (BCLT), which has reorganized as Friends of Black Creek. PDLT staff and Darlington board members welcomed familiar faces and met some new ones, shared good food and beverages, and viewed slides of BCLT's history to celebrate their accomplishments. We also introduced guests to PDLT and let them know that we are committed to carrying on the conservation mission for Black Creek.

Earth Day Presentation at Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School:

PDLT staff, Seth Cook and Lyles Cooper Lyles, celebrated Earth Day on April 22nd with a presentation to more than 100 upper school students at Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School. Special thanks to William Jones for helping coordinate the presentation to give PDLT the opportunity to share our mission and details about our conservation efforts.



Trinity-Byrnes
Collegiate School

left to right: Bobby Houck (TBCS Director of Development),
Lyles Cooper Lyles, Seth Cook, William Jones (TBCS Student),
Rebecca Conway (TBCS Biology Teacher)

Books, Coffee, and Tea: Thursday, April 2nd at The Clay Pot Coffee Shop in Florence



Charlie Bethea and
William Walker

William Walker discussed his latest book, *Down the Little Pee Dee: Paddling South Carolina's Legendary Blackwater River*. With stories and slides, Walker shared a fascinating account of the people, places, and wild beauty he encountered on his journey. Traveling with cousin and local naturalist L.L. Gaddy, Walker paddled 109-miles of this scenic river from its headwaters at Red Bluff Lake in Marlboro County to its confluence with the Great Pee Dee River at Britton's Neck. Attendees

enjoyed The Clay Pot's fine selection of coffee, tea, and fresh-baked sweets. Special thanks to Peggy Brown and her crew for hosting us and Charlie Bethea for introducing us to William Walker.

Bird Walk: Saturday, April 11th at Louise and Woods Dargan Preserve

A small but dedicated group of novice and experienced bird watchers met in a light rain at the Louise and Woods Dargan Preserve in Darlington to enjoy a spring morning. Led by Francis Marion University biology professor Travis Knowles, the trip represented the first organized group outing at the 217-acre wooded preserve since it was transferred to PDLT from the Black Creek Land Trust in December. The rain subsided and the group walked down a forested path beneath towering oaks and pines, hearing the songs of birds setting up their nesting territories for the season. Some of the highlights included hooded warbler, summer tanager, ovenbird and white-eyed vireo. These species are known as "neotropical migrants", which migrate thousands of miles to wintering habitats in forests of Central and South America and the Caribbean, then return each spring to breed in our own eastern forests. Thank you to all who joined us in starting what we hope will be a long running series of nature-based outings at the Dargan Preserve, and thank you to all who support us in protecting wild native places for wild native birds.

Wine in the Pines: Friday, October 24th at Highland Farm above Hartsville

PDLT regularly honors those supporters who contribute to our success through our higher giving levels by offering a special outing in a unique setting. This year, we met on a glorious fall day at Highland Farm, the 531 acre property of Lone Coker Lee and John Lee, which was preserved by a conservation easement granted to PDLT in 2013. Guests enjoyed a highly informative hayride through the fields, ponds, and managed longleaf pine stands guided by master naturalist Josh Arrants. Following the hayride, guests enjoyed a waterside reception with the Lees and David Allen, a true steward of the land. With 120+ acres of mature longleaf pine forest located at the southern edge of the Sandhills, Highland Farm is truly a unique setting.

Coming Events

Annual "Here Comes Summer" Picnic
May 31st, 1-4pm,
Blackwater Farms, Florence County

Bountiful Brunch
November 1st, 12-4pm

More details to come.



left to right: Jay James, Claire and Bradley
Callicot, David Harper, Travis Knowles



Farms to Food Bank

PDLT has partnered with the Harvest Hope Food Bank and F.A.R.M.S. to launch "Farms to Food Bank". The idea is simple: raise grant funds, coordinate with small-scale and limited resource farmers in the area to grow fresh, healthy vegetables, and to purchase and distribute the produce through the Harvest Hope Food Bank warehouse in Florence to food pantries serving those facing hunger across the Pee Dee.

The results are an incredible win-win: in 2014, the program worked with three limited resource farmers -- Dicksons Organics, C&S Farms, and Wilson Farms -- to grow and deliver nearly 4,000 lbs of fresh Dixie Lee Peas, Butter Beans, Sweet Potatoes, and Organic Kale to Harvest Hope. This means that hundreds of food-insecure families in our region had better access to foods that are packed with nutrients, contributing to healthier diets that not only stave off hunger but promote mental and physical wellbeing. At the same time, the profitability of small-scale and limited resource farms is increased.



Farmer Ivory Wilson of Mullins delivers 40 bushels of butter beans to Michael Murphy, Director of the Pee Dee Branch of Harvest Hope Food Bank. (Pictured left to right: David Harper, Jillian Hishaw, farmer Ivory Wilson, Chris Daly, Michael Murphy)

One of the challenges facing land trusts across the country is to not just preserve farmland but also farming as a way of life. In addition to the productive commodity crop farms that help define our region, there are many small-scale food producing farms across the Pee Dee that contribute to our rural communities. With grant funds from the Bi-Lo/Winn-Dixie Foundation and New Belgium Brewing, PDLT saw the opportunity to work with Jillian Hishaw in reaching out to farmers growing produce on a small scale. Ms. Hishaw, who started the non-profit organization F.A.R.M.S. (Family Agriculture Resource Management Services), works with African American landowners to address heirs property issues and retain ownership of farms.

An estimated one in six South Carolina families do not have enough food to feed themselves each night. Harvest Hope Food Bank is the largest food bank in South Carolina, distributing more than 28 million lbs. of food per year to more than 38,000 residents weekly across 20 counties. The majority are foods contributed by grocery stores and food companies. Only a small percentage of this is fresh produce, and an even smaller amount is grown by farmers in the Palmetto State. Food banks across the country strive to increase the percentage of fresh produce they offer, whether sourced nationally or locally.

We are proud to have played a role in launching Farms to Food Bank, and hope that with the guidance of F.A.R.M.S., small-scale farmers, and food banks, the idea will spread across the Palmetto State to ensure that South Carolinians facing hunger and nutrition needs have increased access to fresh, healthy produce grown by farmers in their communities.



Graceland property on the Black River in Georgetown

Land Trust Lobby Day

On April 21, PDLT Executive Director David Harper joined fellow members of the South Carolina Land Trust Network for the annual Land Trust Lobby Day at the State House in Columbia. The Network was recognized by both the House and Senate, and individuals held meetings with Representatives and Senators from each region of the state. The main topic was funding allocations for the South Carolina Conservation Bank, and PDLT highlighted the value that Bank funds have added to the Pee Dee region with the protection of unique family farms, forests, natural areas, and historic sites. Since its inception in 2002, the SC Conservation Bank has permanently preserved nearly 250,000 acres of public and private land across the Palmetto State.

Beauty and the Pest: What is on your land?

With spring in full swing, flowers are blooming and bees are buzzing. At the time of this writing, wisteria is in full bloom and the cone shaped purple flowers are unmistakable, creating a waterfall of purple draped over and around trees and shrubs. You may be thinking yes, they are beautiful, and they have graced many porches, walls and gardens in the South since the 19th century. What is also true is that this plant was introduced from Asia and can easily and quickly form dense infestations. Unlike our native American wisteria, the Asian variety spreads aggressively by rooting at nodes and can grow several feet a year, forming dense thickets that outcompete native plants. Its tough vines climb up and take over native trees at heights of 60 feet or more.

Exotic species can make good landscape plants and ornamentals because of their ability to thrive and their aesthetic appeal. Their robustness is advantageous in some ways but can be troublesome in others. Introduced species that are considered non-native and invasive are often used as landscape plants and the problems they can cause weren't known until it was too late. Several such plants including Chinese wisteria, Japanese honeysuckle, Chinese privet, Bradford pear, and mimosa among others are found in our yards as well as farm field edges and woodlands. The context can make all the difference and what may be pretty in a yard may become a pest elsewhere because although landscape plants can be controlled, their seeds spread to other properties leading to unintended consequences. Maintaining healthy natural areas, woodlands and farms that benefit our rich diversity of plants and wildlife across the Pee Dee requires that we are diligent about keeping invasive species in balance.

There are many resources available to help landowners control invasive plants by identifying species and recommending mechanical and chemical treatments or combinations thereof. An excellent place to look for help is your local USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office. They provide technical assistance for whichever invasive plant you are trying to manage and also have financial assistance programs available to provide cost share for implementing the management techniques. Now is a great time to start thinking about developing a management plan for your property to address invasive species issues and starting the conversation with your local NRCS office. Additional information for the identification and management of invasive species can be found on the following website: www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/controlmech.shtml



The wisteria vines have grown so thick around this tree there are no branches producing leaves.

Arbor Day Tree Planting

South Carolina celebrates Arbor Day in December. Each year, the city plants a tree in a specified location of importance; this year, the tree planted was at Lucy T. Davis Elementary School. Jennifer King of the land trust staff addressed a group of fifth graders about the importance of trees to our health and our economy, relating to them using Dr. Seuss' classic tale, *The Lorax*. Special thanks to Tallon Temple, representing the Parks and Recreation Commission, for this valuable opportunity to speak to the next generation of conservationists.

PDLT has secured SCCB funding to protect the 2,032-acre Donoho Plantation in Marlboro/Dillon Counties, the 982-acre Graceland property on the Black River in Georgetown County, and the 93-acre Back Swamp School Woods in Florence County. The Bank is funded by a percentage of the state deed recording fee, and the budget is approved each year by the General Assembly. The entire program must be re-approved every five years, the next time being 2018. We currently have three projects approved for funding that we hope to finalize in 2015.



Water Quality Panel

PDLT was honored to be part of a panel discussion on the water quality and quantity of the Great Pee Dee River, organized by the League of Women Voters.

Our message: forested buffers along rivers are the best insurance policy for our water supplies now and in the future.

Other participants included Amy Bennett, Pee Dee Watershed Manager for SC DHEC, Florence City Manager Drew Griffin, Bunny Beeson of Wildlife Action and Robert Stroud, a fisheries biologist with SC DNR.

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Is Your Membership Current?

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

Name _____

Level

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- ☐ Watershed: \$5,000+
- ☐ River: \$1,000-\$4,999
- ☐ Creek: \$500-\$999
- ☐ Stream: \$250-\$499
- ☐ Tributary: \$100-\$249
- ☐ Spring: \$25-\$99
- ☐ Corporate: \$250
(Includes special recognition in newsletter and two tickets to annual summer membership event)



Please make checks payable to:

Pee Dee Land Trust

P.O. Box 2134

Florence, SC 29503

You may also donate at www.peedeelandtrust.org.



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

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