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Catawba Lands Conservancy is part of a network of land trusts that collectively have protected more than 311,000 acres of the places you love in North Carolina.

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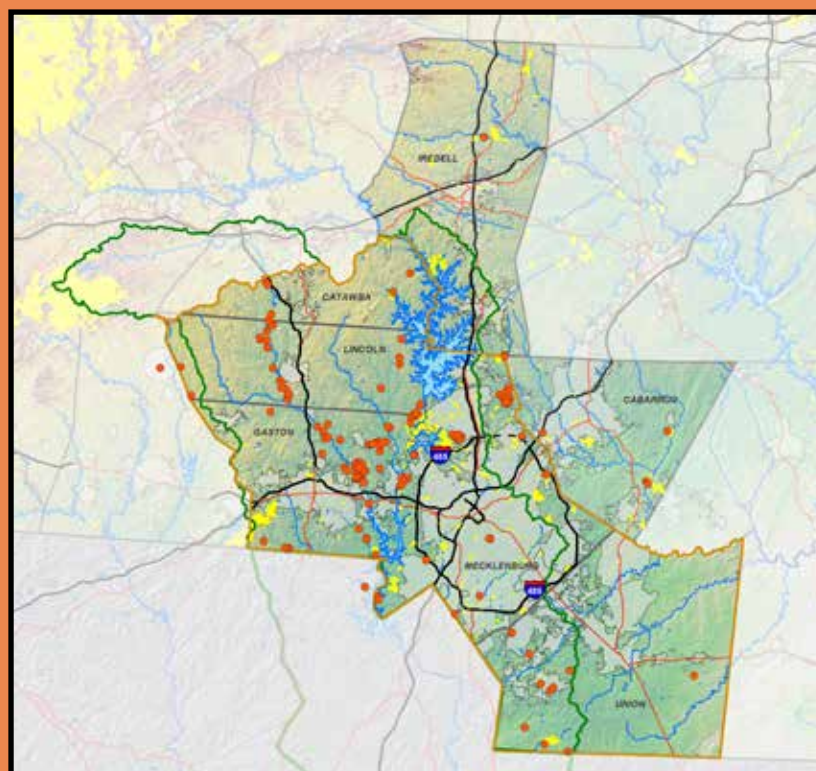
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Stay up-to-date on our successes by signing up for our e-news or like us on Facebook. Go to catawbalands.org for more information.

I invite you to get out and enjoy an increasing number of conserved properties that are open to the public through our partnership with the Carolina Thread Trail.

CONSERVANCY PROTECTED LANDS



CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL



CATAWBA LANDS CONSERVANCY

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



A RECORD YEAR FOR CONSERVING LOCAL LANDS

In 2013, Catawba Lands Conservancy protected a record-breaking 1,962 acres of local lands. As Board President I am extremely proud of our team here at CLC, and of you, our supporters. Your contributions made it possible to conserve 14 new properties that will help safeguard our drinking water

repeal the Conservation Tax Credit for landowners who donate conservation easements, effective as of December 31, 2013.

We will continue to educate our legislators about the importance of land conservation tax incentives and continued funding. You can help by contacting

Your contributions made it possible to conserve 14 new properties that will help safeguard our drinking water supply, host vital wildlife habitat and preserve places where our children and future generations can play happily outdoors.

supply, host vital wildlife habitat and preserve places where our children and future generations can play happily outdoors. That is a gift that no one can take away, and I want to thank you most sincerely from all of us here at CLC.

It was a rollercoaster year for land conservation policy and funding at the state level. The good news is that the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund was preserved. We will continue to use your financial contributions to leverage this important funding resource to conserve lands that filter and protect our regional water supply. Unfortunately, the NC General Assembly voted to

your representatives and telling them why land conservation matters to you. North Carolina was one of the first states to have a conservation tax credit program, and we believe that as our economy recovers, reinstating the program will help our state flourish in the long run.

As we push forward in 2014, I invite you to get out and enjoy an increasing number of conserved properties that are open to the public through our partnership with the Carolina Thread Trail. Four of the properties conserved by CLC in 2013 will host future segments of The Thread and two properties highlighted on Page 5 are already open.

Take some time this spring and summer to get outdoors and reflect on the importance of protected lands in our region.

It has been an honor to have served with a fantastic board and dedicated staff during my tenure as president. Walter Fisher, the managing partner for the real estate practice of the K&L Gates Law Firm, is taking the reigns and brings a wealth of knowledge in land transactions, as well as a passion for local conservation. Learn more about Walter and other new board members on Page 7.

More than ever, we are grateful for your continued support and partnership in helping CLC to advance land conservation and protect our local natural resources.

Sincerely,

Phil Kuttner

CEO, Little Diversified Architectural Consulting
CLC Board President 2013-2014

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our children and future generations will be thankful for what you did in 2013. Through your interest, efforts, and dedication, Catawba Lands Conservancy preserved 14 important properties that will permanently be part of our natural landscape. While it was a record year in terms of acreage preserved, this was yet another small step in the incredible task that we face. That task is to ensure we conserve the most special places as our region continues to grow at a rapid pace. While this is a challenge, we also see it as an incredible opportunity - what we do over the next 15 to 20 years will determine every bit of natural space that will be left, forever.

As State and Federal policy makers eliminate incentives for conservation, individuals and businesses have stepped in to make sure CLC continues to fulfill our promise to this region. In response to the impending expiration of the conservation tax credit at the end of 2013, several individual contributors worked with the

Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC) to pay transactions costs for easement donations made before the tax credit expired. This had a

It is the actions of conservation-minded people - like those that worked with CTNC and like you, our supporters - that will define the future of our region's natural landscape.

tremendous impact on conservation statewide and in CLC's region. Through this initiative, we were awarded \$165,000, which was instrumental in the preservation of eight properties.

It is the actions of conservation-minded people - like those that worked with CTNC and like you, our supporters - that will define the future of our region's natural landscape. Our ability to conserve local lands ultimately comes down to how much we value our region's natural resources, and what steps we take to ensure they remain protected in perpetuity.

A longtime friend of CLC, Hayward Rankin and his family exemplify this deep sense of responsibility and connection to local lands. They have devoted

tremendous energy, time and money to the permanent preservation of a very special property known as Redlair. Their dedication and focus

continue to be an inspiration to all of us involved in conservation.

In 2013, CLC and the Rankin family entered into a partnership with the State of North Carolina's Plant Conservation Program, which you can read about on Page 4. This partnership adds an additional layer of certainty that Redlair will be preserved and maintained appropriately forever.

Your support has played an important part in this and the many other special stories in our region. We are very grateful.



Tom Okel
Tom Okel

Executive Director

The Fork Farm and Stables

The largest project ever conserved by CLC, the Fork Farm and Stables is a majestic 1,353-acre natural area in Stanly County. The privately owned recreation area includes natural lands that provide habitat for ten species on the NC Wildlife Action Plan Priority List. These include the American bald eagle, pileated woodpecker, Eastern king snake and Eastern box turtle.

The Fork gets its name from its location at the confluence of the Pee Dee and Rocky Rivers. Through its permanent protection, it provides significant water quality protection throughout the Pee Dee and Rocky River watersheds. The property was protected through a 1,353-acre conservation easement donated by an ownership group led by Jim Cogdell. The Fork is managed to protect mature forest and early successional habitat, and is home to seasonal waterfowl impoundments for the conservation of wildlife.

Dean Conservation Easements

Patrick and Kathleen Dean donated two conservation easements to CLC in 2013, one located in Lincoln County and the other in Cleveland County.

In Lincoln County, CLC helped to protect 34 acres of forest and pasturelands that protect important water quality and wildlife habitats. The conserved lands include 1,200 linear feet of two perennial tributaries that flow into Little Buffalo Creek. The property also contains nearly 12 acres of soils identified as either prime or of statewide significance for agricultural purposes.

In Cleveland County, CLC has protected 57 acres on the Dean's crop farm. This land, in combination with the previously conserved Frye Farm, helps to support an agricultural economy in Cleveland County in an area facing significant development pressures. The property also contains rich soils that are considered prime or of statewide significance.

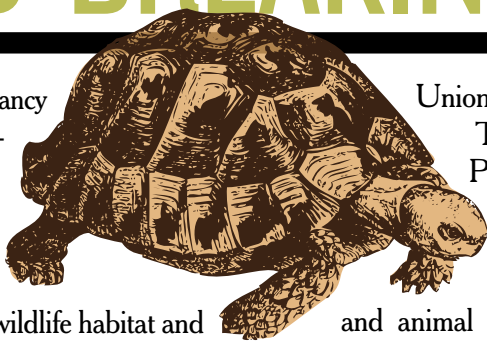


LAND CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS FROM A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

In 2013, Catawba Lands Conservancy permanently protected a record-breaking 1,962 acres of land in 14 different locations across the Southern Piedmont of North Carolina. Of the total acreage, 1,939 acres preserve significant wildlife habitat and 640 acres help to protect water quality in the South Fork, Yadkin-Pee Dee and Broad River watersheds. CLC now protects a total of 174 properties, totaling 14,783 acres in the greater Charlotte region.

Waxhaw Creek Preserve

If you're looking for quiet and idyllic natural lands, a babbling creek and rich wildlife habitat, one of CLC's newest preserves offers all of the above on more than 152 acres along Waxhaw Creek in



Union County.

The spectacular Waxhaw Creek Preserve is comprised of flood-plain and upland forests. Offering high quality habitat to a tremendous mix of plant and animal species, the preserve includes a NC Significant Natural Heritage Area. In addition, Waxhaw Creek is one of only two waterways in North Carolina and five in the nation to provide critical habitat for the federally endangered Carolina heelsplitter mussel.

The preserve was purchased through a bargain sale from Griffin Land Holdings, with funds from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The property is part of Union County's plan for a future segment of the Carolina Thread Trail.

WHAT IS A NATURAL HERITAGE AREA?

A Natural Heritage Area provides high quality habitat for species of concern, at a regional, state or national level. In other words, these areas encompass land and waterways that make a good home for animals and plants that may be rare, threatened or endangered.

WHAT ARE "PRIME" SOILS?

Soil designated as "prime" for agricultural purposes means that it has the physical and chemical characteristics that is ideal for growing crops. Prime soils of state or local significance have the potential to be highly productive farmland.

RAMAH CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

The Ramah Creek Conservation Area is the result of many years of working with a dedicated group of landowners to permanently protect a contiguous region of natural lands in Mecklenburg County. This area is unique because of its location in the most densely populated county in CLC's service area, and for the number of landowners involved in securing the future of this privately owned natural area.

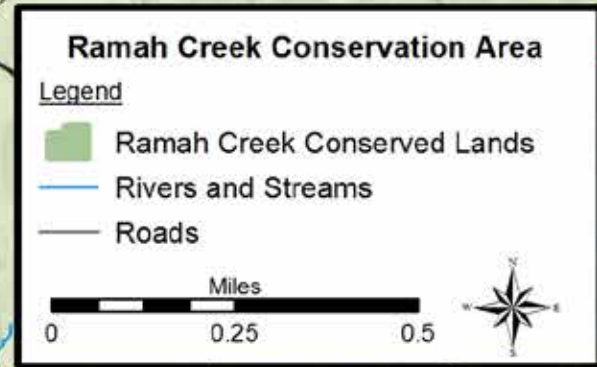
The first properties to make up what would become the Ramah Creek Conservation Area were conserved in 2000. Today, the area is comprised of 16 protected properties and encompasses 737 acres in the historic McAuley Road area of Huntersville. In 2013, four properties were added totaling more than 78 acres of land.

The Ramah Creek Conservation Area provides important viewshed protection in the **historic McAuley Road area**. McAuley Road is the last public gravel road in Mecklenburg County, and has been designated a historic landmark by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission.

The **hairy woodpecker**, **Eastern box turtle** and the **Carolina darter** have been found in the wildlife habitats protected in the area of Ramah Creek. Mature forests, prairie lands and a number of creeks are part of what makes these natural lands valuable habitats for a diverse number of species.

Ramah Creek is part of the **Clarke Creek Watershed**, which feeds into the larger Yadkin River Watershed. This is a relatively underdeveloped watershed in Mecklenburg County, and has been identified as an area of concern due to lack of fish species diversity. Permanent protection will help to improve water quality and species diversity in the long term.

Although the area is made up of privately held lands, several groups have conducted wildlife surveys with permission from the landowners, making it an important resource where scientists can access protected natural habitats. Davidson College has used the area to study the **screech owl**, **loggerhead shrike** and **rare snake species**. The **National Audubon Society** also uses the area for its annual Christmas Bird Count event.



REDLAIR PRESERVED UNDER NC PLANT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

By **Bruce Elliott**, CLC Outreach and Education Committee Member and Trail Master with The Thread

The Redlair Preserve encompasses 735 acres of unique natural lands in Gaston County, and has been owned for generations by the Rankin family. Located only 30 minutes from downtown Charlotte, Redlair is one of several contiguous conserved properties that make up a 1,200-acre natural area that is home to mature hardwood forests, pristine natural communities, quiet meadowlands and four miles of frontage along the South Fork Catawba River.

Since the early 1990s, siblings Haywood, Katherine and Charles Rankin, have partnered with Catawba Lands Conservancy to protect the ecologically diverse lands at Redlair. The preserve is especially unique because of the number of rare plant species that thrive among its forests and meadows, including a significant number of state threatened big leaf magnolia and the federally endangered Schweinitz sunflower.

In 2013, the Redlair Preserve was purchased

by the State of North Carolina under the Plant Conservation Program. The purchase was made possible in part by a significant donation to CLC from Fred and Alice Stanback. The proceeds from the sale will be donated by the Rankin Family to create an endowment at the Foundation For The Carolinas, which will support future property management and maintenance. The purchase ensures that Redlair will be actively managed to preserve its natural plant communities and diverse habitats.

"My family's vision for Redlair has been to preserve its ecological integrity for this and future generations, keeping in mind that it is now surrounded by suburbia," said Haywood. "We are so fortunate that the Conservancy, and many others in our region and state, have worked tirelessly to make this possible."

CLC will continue to hold a conservation easement on the preserve, and will work in partnership with the State and the Rankin family to ensure that Redlair's conservation values are protected in perpetuity.



CLC HOSTS CAROLINA VEGETATIVE SURVEY PULSE EVENT

In May, CLC hosted 59 botanists, field biologists, and other naturalists for the 26th Annual Carolina Vegetation Survey “pulse” event. These annual events intensively survey and catalog plant species found in the Carolinas, and allow scientific analysis of areas that typically may have limited or no public access.

This year’s survey took place on six of CLC’s most ecologically rich properties: the Pharr Family Preserve in Cabarrus County; Hagans Forest, Stanley Creek Forest, Jack Moore Preserve, and Buck-Smith-Long Preserve in Gaston County; and the Paul and Agnes Rhyne Conservation Area in Lincoln County.

During the survey, participants had the opportunity to explore a number of diverse and unique natural communities. Natural communities are defined as a distinct collection of plants and animals that



typically occur together in nature. Several of the properties surveyed are home to more unusual natural communities, such as monadnock forest, basic-mesic forests and upland depression wetlands.

The annual event includes a core group of scientists representing UNC Chapel Hill, NC State University, Clemson University, Western Carolina University, The Citadel, NC Botanical Garden, NC Natural Heritage Program, The Nature Conservancy, NatureServe, and the Plant Conservation Program of the NC Department of Agriculture.

For more information on the Carolina Vegetation Survey, visit cvs.bio.unc.edu.



CHIP SELL HONORED AS CLC VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

At the CLC Annual Meeting held at Redlair Farm and Forest in April 2013, Chip Sell was honored as the Eugene O. Daniels Volunteer of the Year. Chip is retired from BB&T Bank and generously shares his talents and enthusiasm for the Conservancy’s stewardship efforts. He currently serves in an advisory capacity on the Land Stewardship Committee and is deeply involved in fieldwork on CLC preserves and conservation easement properties.

Chip brings a contagious, cheerful attitude to even the most difficult projects. As a trained Trail Master for the Carolina Thread Trail, he oversees volunteer trail construction crews, performs trail surveys and maintenance, and eagerly assists with conservation projects on CLC preserves. Chip has been involved with tree plantings, habitat restoration and invasive plant control, and he often accompanies the staff on conservation easement monitoring site visits.

Chip Sell is a tremendous asset and friend of the Conservancy. Whenever Chip shows up for a workday or meeting, it’s bound to be a more productive day... and a lot more fun for everyone!



RESTORING NATIVE SPECIES TO CLC’S PINHOOK PRESERVE

The Pinhook Preserve encompasses nearly 125 acres of exceptionally diverse wildlife habitat and natural communities, including a Nationally significant NC Natural Heritage Area that is home to the bigleaf magnolia, Carolina silverbell and basswood tree. Pinhook is part of an important 1,200-acre area of land conserved by CLC along a 2-mile stretch of the South Fork Catawba River. This contiguous tract of protected lands provides enormous value in water quality and wildlife habitat protection.

On the Pinhook Preserve, there is an area along the river that prior to 1950 was an island in the South Fork Catawba River. This ecologically unique area has become infested with invasive



Chinese privet and Japanese stiltgrass, effectively choking out many of the native plants. Thanks to funding from a Duke Habitat Enhancement Grant, CLC is in the process of restoring this part of the Pinhook Preserve.

Since the project began in the spring of 2012, volunteers have donated more than 100 hours to this massive restoration effort. The project started with the removal of invasive species, including a nearly impenetrable thicket of privet that covered an entire acre. Following removal of invasive plants, volunteers and staff planted tree and shrub species that are native to the Pinhook area.

Although the work done thus far has been enormously beneficial, the Pinhook restoration project will require years of additional maintenance to control sprouting invasive plants, planting additional trees and caring for the native plants previously planted

CONNECT WITH NATURE ON CLC PRESERVES

An integral part of CLC’s mission is to make it possible for people from across our region to connect with nature on lands that are preserved forever. Through local land preservation, we are ensuring that our children and future generations will have natural lands to explore and enjoy in our own backyard.

Historically, land trusts have worked with private landowners to protect lands that offer significant conservation values, but remain private. This important conservation model is still a large part of what we do.

However, thanks to CLC’s role as lead agency for the Carolina Thread Trail (The Thread) and to funding support that enables the maintenance that comes with public access, an increasing number of properties now offer trail and blueway access. Here are some of the ways you can connect with nature on CLC preserves:

BUFFALO CREEK PRESERVE - 8510 MALIBU RD. NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF MT. PLEASANT ROAD SOUTH AND MALIBU ROAD IN MOUNT PLEASANT, NC (Cabarrus County)

Just 30 minutes east of uptown Charlotte, the 390-acre Buffalo Creek Preserve hosts 2 miles of scenic natural surface trail that weaves through an oak savannah, open working fields and young pine forest. The trail corridor, designated as part of The Thread, provides a natural buffer for Adams Creek and a great path for jogging and walking. The trail features a beautiful suspension bridge over Adams Creek constructed by a contractor assisted by volunteers.

The oak savannah at Buffalo Creek is in the process of being restored by CLC’s stewardship team. Through a series of prescribed burns, native grasses and plants will eventually establish a prairie-like environment under the hardwood trees. The first burn was conducted in the fall of 2012 and the second

is scheduled for fall 2014. As a result of the 2012 burn, native wildflowers and grasses grew up over last spring and summer, providing ideal cover and food for insects and birds.

Looking for a good excuse to get out and get active on CLC’s conserved lands and explore The Thread? Join us for “Tread The Thread,” a 5k and 10k trail run at the Buffalo Creek Preserve on Saturday, May 3. Read more in the Carolina Thread Trail 2013 Report to Communities or visit CarolinaThreadTrail.org.

Corporate partners like Duke Energy, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, REI and Husqvarna donated volunteer hours and other resources to make this trail possible.



GIVING GROUPS BOOST LOCAL LAND CONSERVATION IN 2013

Charitable gifts made to Catawba Lands Conservancy are essential to local land conservation, and provided more than half of the dollars raised to support local land conservation in 2013. We’re proud that CLC supporters are an extremely committed group – this means YOU! Your loyalty surpasses the national average, meaning that CLC retains first-time donors more than the national average.

Many of our donors are involved with one of CLC’s donor groups, the Catawba Society and Catawba Corps. These giving circles provide fellowship among supporters, and serve as a way for conservation-minded people to come together and support CLC’s land protection efforts.

Through leadership gifts of \$1,500 or more, Catawba Society members provide significant financial support for Catawba Lands Conservancy’s operating fund. In fact, approximately 69 percent of individual donations are contributions from Catawba Society members.

During 2013, Catawba Society members hosted several key fundraising events. In the spring, members Tom Webb and Kathryn Heath hosted quest for an evening with Jay Erskine Leutze, author of Stand Up That Mountain. Leutze led a discussion about his book, which follows the story of a town on the Appalachian Trail that stands up to illegal mining activity. Later in the year, members Claudia and

SEVEN OAKS PRESERVE - 6900 S. NEW HOPE

ROAD IN BELMONT, NC (Gaston County)

The Seven Oaks Preserve offers visitors 2.8 miles of natural surface trail, which meanders through the preserve’s woodlands along the Lake Wylie shoreline. This beautiful spot is designated as part of The Thread, and connects to trails that are part of the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden.

Employees from Rodgers Builders, Inc. donated 725 volunteer hours, as well as building materials, to make three pedestrian bridges along the trail this past summer. Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Premiere Healthcare, Bank of America and Duke Energy all provided employees for various trail-building workdays that culminated in a total of 285 volunteer hours.

Funding to purchase and conserve the Seven Oaks Preserve, and construct the trail and trail amenities was generously provided by the Seven Oaks Farm, LLC., Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden Foundation, Pam Warlick Foundation, W. Duke Kimbrell Family Foundation, North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund, and the Recreational Trails Program.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPRING EVENTS

CLC’s Annual Meeting and Hike at Laurel Hill - May 9

Hear about CLC’s conservation priorities for 2014, visit with other supporters, board members and staff, and enjoy the pristine natural beauty of Laurel Hill on a hike after the meeting.



HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN; CONSERVING LOCAL LANDS?

- Join CLC’s Catawba Society or Catawba Corps to connect with a like-minded group of people who are committed to conserving local lands
- Volunteer! Help with trail construction and maintenance, assist with invasive plant removal, walk conserved lands for monitoring and stewardship duties, host community and special events, lend your time to help with administrative needs
- Tell a friend about CLC and why local land conservation matters to you
- Donate a gift from our wish list
- Invite a staff or board member to speak to your civic organization
- Join our online community and get regular updates from CLC by “liking” our Facebook page
- Attend events and hikes on local conserved lands – and bring a friend!
- Include CLC in your planned giving





STUDENTS LEARN, PROTECT NATURAL HERITAGE ON PROTECTED LANDS

By **Bruce Elliott**, CLC Outreach and Education Committee Member and Trail Master with The Thread

Just minutes from Charlotte, it is yet possible to wade in clear water creeks, to smell the sweet fragrance of the woods, to hear an eagle's cry, and feel a gentle breeze whispering across meadows splashed with wildflowers. These are lands conserved by CLC, a natural world that sparks the imagination of explorers, and provides an opportunity for young people to understand the importance of conservation.

Queens Students Study Local Lands, Volunteer as Stewards

Central to CLC's mission is "connecting lives to nature." To help further that mission, the organization welcomes opportunities for area schools and universities to get involved in projects that allow them to explore the special lands that CLC has preserved.

This is where Environmental Science professor Reed Perkins of Queens University of Charlotte comes in. He's been a tireless proponent of the

collaboration between Queens and CLC, and has served as a CLC board member since 2009.

"These special places are living laboratories that provide our students with invaluable opportunities to learn," said Dr. Perkins. "Getting them involved with CLC is a wonderful win-win for both organizations."

Students from Queens use conserved lands as an extension of their classrooms, conducting research that can help experts better understand local flora, wildlife and water quality. In addition to their research, students are taught about land stewardship and help to maintain conserved properties.

"Queens students have contributed many hours of volunteer work on CLC lands since 2003. Stewardship is an important component of what we teach here and the students get to practice this through their work in the field," says Dr. Perkins.

In 2013, Queens students removed invasive species, cleaned up debris from summer storms and performed other tasks to help maintain and improve CLC lands.

Summer Interns Gain Hands-On Experience

In the summer of 2013, CLC's Land Stewardship team hosted five interns from diverse academic backgrounds, but with a common desire to enhance their studies by working on the land.

The five student interns were Patrick Lyon from Elon University; Matthew Eckmair who graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington; Meghan Stuart, a recent graduate of the University of the South; Natalie Bock of Clemson University; and Peter Conway at Wake Forest University.

Interns helped stewardship staff to monitor conserved properties, post boundaries, and conduct trail maintenance. They also participated in tree plantings and invasive plant control.

"My internship with CLC allowed me to appreciate the beautiful natural landscapes that are all around the Charlotte area," said Meghan, who graduated with a B.S. in Geology and currently works in a chemistry lab at UNCC. She aspires to use her degree to pursue a career in the field of environmental health and toxicology.

"I can't thank the Conservancy enough for giving me this opportunity," Meghan said.

"With supervisor Andy Kane and others, I picked up knowledge on subjects such as land management, habitat restoration, and native plants and animals," said Peter, a junior majoring

These special places are living laboratories that provide our students with invaluable opportunities to learn

in history, with a double minor in environmental studies and entrepreneurship.

"There was rarely a dull moment, and I thoroughly enjoyed my experience," he said.

For more information about how to get involved with CLC, visit Catawbalands.org/ volunteers.



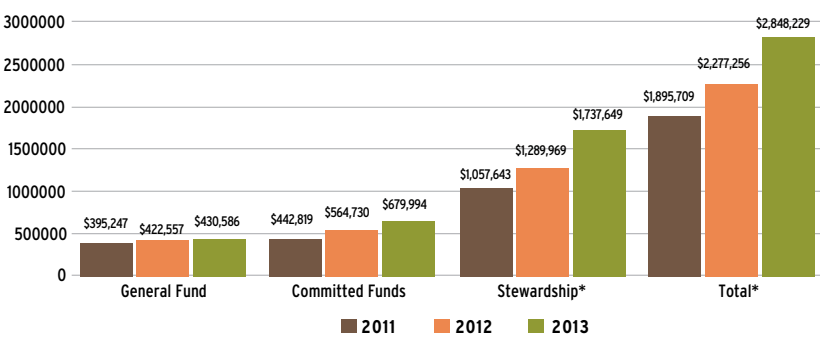
FINANCIALS

BUDGET SUMMARY 2012-2013 / GENERAL FUND¹

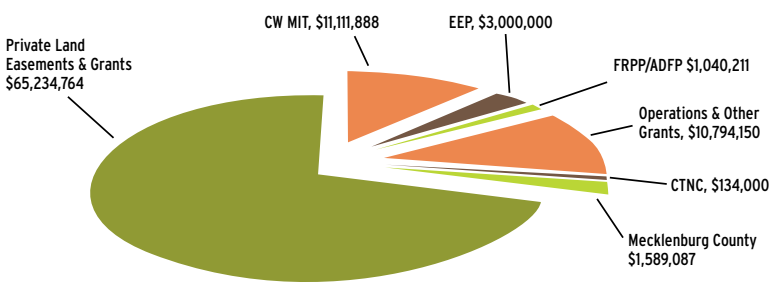
| | | 2012 Actual | 2013 Actual | Annual Avg. Delta |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| REVENUE | Donors | \$393,765 | \$456,141 | 16% |
| | Foundations & Gov't | \$144,163 | \$127,990 | -11% |
| | Corp. Partners | \$152,862 | \$129,150 | -16% |
| | Fee for Service | \$8,850 | \$6,000 | -32% |
| | Other | \$28,852 | \$21,886 | -24% |
| | Stewardship Transfer | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | 0% |
| Total Revenue | | \$753,492 | \$766,167 | 2% |
| EXPENSES | Compensation | \$469,773 | \$514,398 | 9% |
| | Comm & Outreach | \$33,523 | \$40,066 | 20% |
| | Rent & Maintenance | \$38,124 | \$37,058 | -3% |
| | Insurance & fees | \$15,322 | \$21,453 | 40% |
| | Printing & Supplies | \$33,251 | \$23,046 | -31% |
| | Other | \$119,200 | \$91,646 | -23% |
| | Total Expenses | \$709,193 | \$727,667 | 3% |
| | Operating Net | \$44,299 | \$38,500 | |

Notes: ¹Excludes land projects, other project funding and costs, including the Carolina Thread Trail revenue and expenses

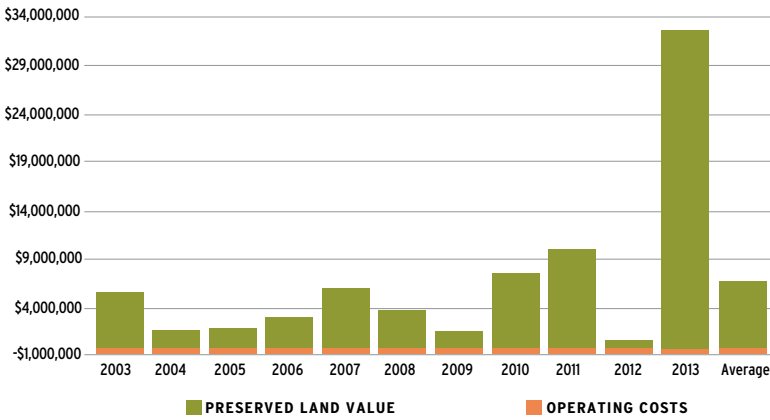
CASH BALANCES



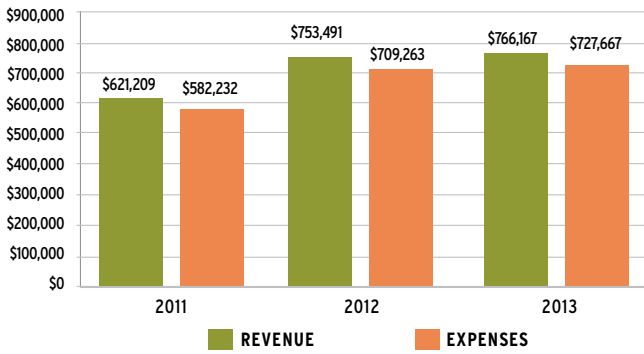
CONSERVATION ASSETS



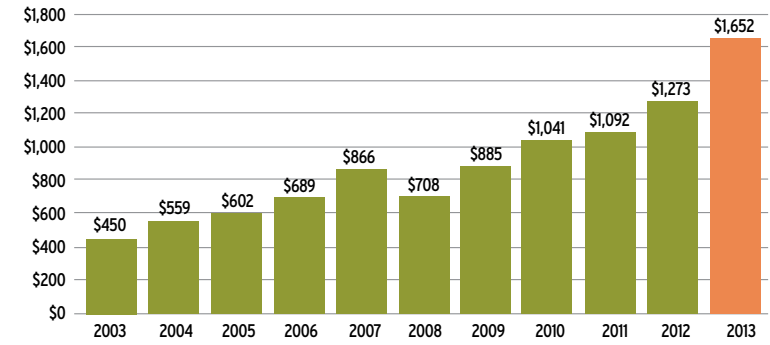
LEVERAGING CAPITAL FOR CONSERVATION



GENERAL FUND REVENUE & EXPENSES



STEWARDSHIP & LEGAL DEFENSE



For the husband-wife team that's helped to guide a decade of change and growth at CLC, a commitment to the land isn't just a matter of principle – it's personal. As Kathryn Heath said, "We have always been outdoor people."

In 2002, CLC board member Frank Bragg recruited Kathryn. Bragg knew CLC's board would benefit from her experience building an organization. Kathryn founded First Union's First University, winning the bank's highest award for her "ability to motivate and inspire," among many other talents.

For the next six years, Kathryn helped to expand the CLC board, seeking out people with long-term vision and skills to grow the organization. One of her recruits was community leader Peggy Culbertson, who started CLC's Catawba Society.

Kathryn's husband, Tom Webb, joined the board as she was stepping down. As head of residential development for Crescent Resources, Tom had an appreciation and commitment to "communities that take care of their land."

Tom brought CLC "a huge amount of expertise in assembling land for conservation," said former CLC Executive Director Dave Cable. Tom's experience proved a great asset for CLC. He's "a deal-maker and closer," said Dave, plus "Tom has great vision for conservation projects. He can envision projects and community benefits others miss."

KATHRYN HEATH & TOM WEBB

A DECADE OF SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CONSERVATION & TRAILS



Kathryn and Tom have also both been influential in launching the Carolina Thread Trail with CLC acting as the lead agency. Early on Kathryn saw the value of combining land conservation with a project to open up natural spaces for people to enjoy.

"The Thread wouldn't exist at CLC without Kathryn," Dave said. "Her influence, her belief in the project, and her ability to articulate that" were instrumental in the board's decision to take on the project.

Tom, now a board member with both CLC and The Thread, has helped to coordinate the two missions. The couple "tag-teamed" their efforts for The Thread, said Dave – Kathryn in the initial launch and Tom in "keeping it moving forward and on track."

How do they see CLC's mission in the future? It's more important than ever. Urbanization today, said Tom, is moving to greater densities and is putting ever more pressure on green spaces.

"We have to be really good stewards of the land," he said.

"If we don't take care of the land, it's lost forever," added Kathryn.

Tom and Kathryn are convinced that finding ways to give our region's growing population access to – and an appreciation for – natural spaces is as vital as conserving them. Recalling a recent outing at Sugar Creek Greenway, they shared that "the greenway was full of families. People want this!"

There's another reason why all this seems important: their young granddaughter. "I'm hopeful," said Kathryn, "that we're leaving her a better place to be."

THANKS TO CLC FUNDING PARTNERS

We are deeply grateful to our corporate, foundation, and government partners for their commitment and support in 2013. Together we achieved a record year for land conservation. Thank you for joining our efforts to protect wildlife habitat and clean water, conserve local farms and food supply, and connect people to nature.

We especially want to recognize Duke Energy for its second

corporate challenge grant to CLC, matching donated funds up to \$50,000. CLC and Duke Energy successfully leveraged this grant opportunity to attract an additional \$70K from corporations and business in the community. .

If your organization or business is interested in partnering with CLC, please contact Development Director Margaret Brantley at margaret@catawbalands.org or 704-342-3330 ext. 218.

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION & GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

| | |
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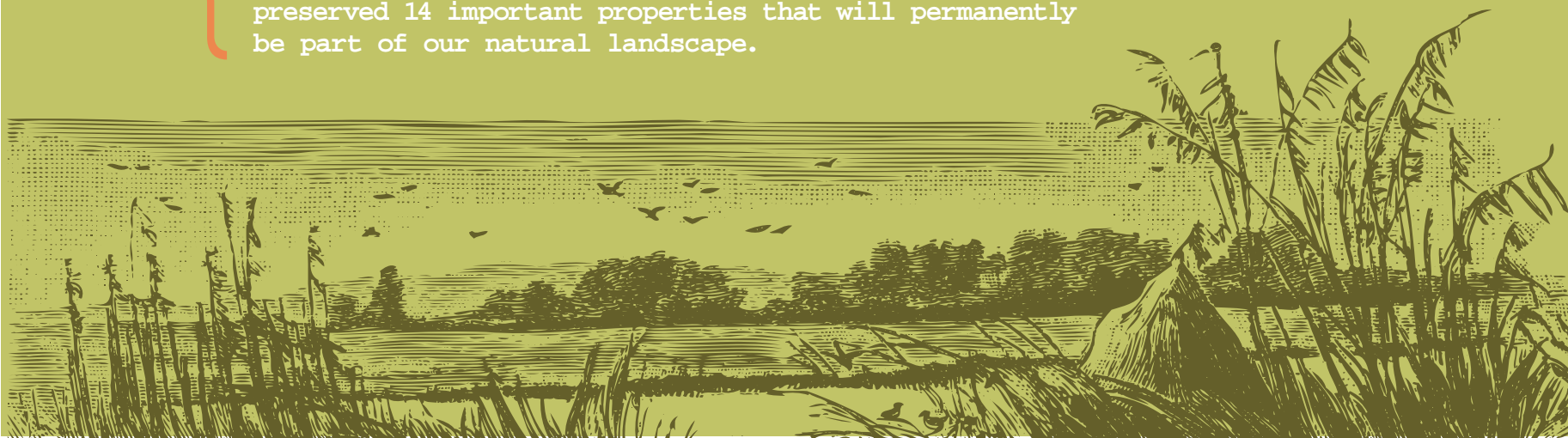
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