

NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST

# COASTLINES

## A Wild Place Saved



The Murray Tract, our newest nature preserve, lies along the Northeast Cape Fear River in Pender County. Learn about this wild place on page 4.

## Dirt to Dollars! Program: Trade Land FAQ's

### WHAT IS A "TRADE LAND"?

We use the term "Trade Land" for real estate with little or no conservation value that is donated to the Coastal Land Trust to be put on the market and sold. Examples include first and second homes, condos, vacant land, subdivision lots, and commercial property. The sales proceeds are then used by the Coastal Land Trust for its conservation programs.

### WHEN SHOULD I CONSIDER DONATING A TRADE LAND?

If you own real estate without conservation values, which you no longer wish to maintain; and you do not want to sell your property yourself; If your land has risen in value, and you can utilize an income tax deduction for the current fair market value of your property.

### WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THE COASTAL LAND TRUST FOR A TRADE LAND DONATION?

We know real estate!

Other charities, even large ones, may be unfamiliar with the complex legal, title, environmental and appraisal issues involved in real estate donations, but it's

what we do every single day. It's a great way to transform unproductive real estate assets into the conservation success stories you're committed to as a member of the Coastal Land Trust!

### DOES IT REALLY WORK?

You bet!

In November 2014, the Coastal Land accepted a donation of a vacant lot near Calabash in Brunswick County; we had it appraised, listed it with a realtor, and seven months later it was sold.

In the past, we've also received subdivision lots in Guilford County (in 2000) and vacant land in Lenoir County (in 2011). In each case, the owner's gift of non-conservation real estate resulted in a substantial charitable contribution to the Coastal Land Trust.

### CAN I LEAVE THE COASTAL LAND TRUST A TRADE LAND IN MY WILL?

Yes; for example, a supporter's will named us and several others to receive the proceeds of her home in Raleigh after its sale by her executor. Just make certain to include language specifying your intent

TRADE LANDS, continued on page 3

## TAX NEWS

### *Federal Conservation Easement Tax Incentives Made Permanent*

According to national studies, when enhanced federal tax incentives were first put in place, the pace of land conservation increased by about 33 percent, or one million acres per year! In December, Congress PERMANENTLY extended the enhanced federal income tax deduction for donations of conservation easements. First established in 2006, the enhanced incentive expired in 2014. Now, with the incentive renewed and made permanent, an important tool for land trusts has been restored.

The expanded federal tax deduction is especially welcome in North Carolina, where the popular state conservation tax credit was abolished by the General Assembly at the end of 2013. Land trusts throughout the state reported that 2013 was a banner year for conservation transactions, followed, unfortunately, by dramatic decreases in 2014 and 2015. The North Carolina Coastal Land Trust has a similar story to tell. Landowners and our lawyers literally raced to the courthouse in December 2013. We protected an astonishing 12,180 acres of coastal habitat in 2013, but 670 acres in 2014 and 2,990 acres in 2015.

TAX, continued on page 3

## How Does It Work?

### The conservation easement incentive:

- Raises the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%
- Allows qualified farmers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI
- Increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years.

**Example:** Without the enhanced easement incentive, an agricultural landowner earning \$50,000 a year who donated a conservation easement worth \$1 million could take a total of no more than \$90,000 in tax deductions. Under the enhanced incentive, that landowner can take as much as \$800,000 in tax deductions!





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NC Coastal Land Trust on



NCCLT Welcomes New Board Members



Melanie Allen  
DURHAM

Melanie serves as Conservation and Diversity Director at the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, where she facilitates conservation and community engagement carried out by all of North Carolina’s 25 land trusts. A Greensboro native, Melanie graduated from Columbia University. She serves on the boards of Black Belt Justice Center and the North Carolina Conservation Network.



Maggie Ashburn  
WILMINGTON

Maggie is a Certified Public Accountant and Tax Manager at McGladrey LLP, where she has worked since 2003. She has a bachelor’s degree from UNC at Chapel Hill and a master’s degree in accounting from UNCW. She has previously served as a board member and treasurer of the Historic Wilmington Foundation and on the finance committee of Cudalorus Independent Film Foundation.



Hannah Holt  
WILMINGTON

Hannah is one of the owners of Holt C-Stores, a group of convenience stores, for whom she serves as Director of Operations for Convenience and Franchised Foods. She joined the family business in 1989 and quickly set out to diversify the company. She has served on several professional and charitable boards, including the NC Employment Security Commission



Robert Perry  
MANTEO

Born in Mexico City in 1952 (to American parents), Robert grew up mostly in New York and North Carolina. His background is in education (high school and college), philanthropy (private foundation work with the Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge Foundation), and agriculture (he manages a local community garden on Roanoke Island). Robert served as the director of the Outer

board, UNCW’s Foundation Board, and the Airlie Gardens Foundation Board. Hannah is a graduate of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This will be her second tour on the board of the Coastal Land Trust; she has also served as president.

Banks Field Site for six years before retiring from UNC at Chapel Hill in 2012. His passion is in conserving natural ecosystems and helping communities not outpace the capacity of their local ecosystems to sustain and nourish them.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board members serve three, three-year staggered terms. Board members are elected each year by the membership during the annual meeting.

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**Clark Wright, Jr.**  
New Bern, NC

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

Credit to Denise Patterson for her article, “Giving Bees and Butterflies a Hand” was omitted from the Summer 2015 Coastlines. Denise originally wrote the article for “Coastal Review Online” before the butterfly garden was planted at the Everett Creek Preserve. She gave permission for the Coastal Land Trust to reprint and update her article.

IN MEMORY OF TERRY TAIT  
1949-2015

TERRENCE LEE “TERRY” TAIT, age 66, of New Bern, NC passed away on November 23, 2015, after a valiant fight against illness. Terry started his career as a forester, then became a highly respected CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, singing, wood turning and teaching others.

Terry was a generous volunteer leader for the Coastal Land Trust, his church, and a host of other community organizations. His absence will be felt by many, including his beloved wife Teeny Tait, his three sons, and a large circle of extended family, friends, and community groups for whom he made life richer in innumerable ways. The Coastal Land Trust staff and volunteers join Terry’s family in celebrating a life well lived.



The Coastal Land Trust preserves the forests, waterways, beaches and farms that make our coast such a great place to live, work, and play. Since 1992, we’ve protected more than 65,000 acres in the Coastal Plain of North Carolina.

By purchasing a specialty plate, you can fund our future by creating a new sustainable revenue stream that can greatly increase our ability to protect the beauty of the NC coast. For each plate on the road, the Coastal Land Trust receives \$20 to fund coastal conservation – the other \$10 supports tourism and highway beautification throughout the state.

Visit [www.CoastalLandTrust.org/licenseplate](http://www.CoastalLandTrust.org/licenseplate) to get yours today!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT  
Ann Simpson

*Cherishing Our Natural Resources*

Orton, Poplar Grove, Old Town, Currituck Sound Marshes – all these places are privately owned, yet they are all protected by conservation easements held by the Coastal Land Trust. Each of these places has a storied history. Each of them is a place where nature reigns supreme. I know that I wouldn't want to see them turned into golf courses, shopping centers, subdivisions, or marinas.

And it's not just the coast – places like

the Blue Ridge Parkway are protected by scenic easements, and farms in the Triangle, where I live, are protected by agricultural easements.

As a native North Carolinian, and as someone who enjoys photographing nature, I cherish our natural resources. I'm proud of our state's long-standing tradition of stewardship of our lands and waters – and our historic places and buildings, too. I'm grateful that Congress

has enacted tax laws that encourage landowners of such special places to protect them in perpetuity.

As the new president of the Coastal Land Trust, I look forward to more conservation easements in our future over more wonderful places. I'm excited about leading this organization in a time when there is such promise ahead!

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR  
Camilla Herlevich

*Conservation Easements*

Tax laws matter, and we're glad that Congress has made donating a conservation easement attractive to landowners.

Conservation easements protect clean water, coastal wetlands, working farms, forests, and wildlife habitat by preventing development on the properties. And since the incentives are permanent, landowners will have more certainty as they plan how

to conserve their family lands. Everyone will benefit from safer drinking water, cleaner air, more fresh local foods, and having more of nature preserved!

While conservation easements don't necessarily mean that lands are open to the public, they're a great way to ensure that coastal landscapes are saved for future generations – and for today's wildlife, too.

As your local land trust here at the coast, we'll continue to use all the tools in the toolbox to set aside lands from development—whether it's tax incentives for private landowners, or partnering with local cities and counties to open more nature parks for children.

TAX, continued from page 1

Tax incentives like these are frequently the “extra” motivation for landowners who decide to ensure a legacy of conservation. Tax laws do make a difference! We are ready to increase the pace of conservation again in 2016!

*More Good Tax News!*

The IRA charitable rollover, which allows individuals aged 70½ and older to make tax free distributions of up to \$100,000 from their IRAs to charitable nonprofits, has also been PERMANENTLY extended.

TRADE LANDS, continued from page 1

for your property to be sold, not to be used as a nature preserve.

**DIRT TO DOLLARS! DONORS**

We would like to express our gratitude to our generous Trade Land Donors: Ms. Barbara Schmidt of Davidson NC, the late Dr. Dellmer B. Seitter, Jr. of Wilmington, the heirs of C. Aubrey Wiggins, Sr. of Ohio and North Carolina and the late Alice Zawadski of Raleigh.

**Interested?**  
Remember, Trade Lands can be located anywhere in the country, not just here at the coast.  
Email or call Camilla at 910-790-4524, [camilla@CoastalLandTrust.org](mailto:camilla@CoastalLandTrust.org) to find out more!

*Board on the Move*  
*New Bern, September 3, 2015*



**Above:** Board members toured the Veteran's Organic Garden with the garden's executive director Lovay Wallace-Singleton, who is also a member of the Coastal Land Trust board. Looking out over the garden from the potting shed are Camilla Herlevich and board members Paul Hosier and Don Hoss.

**Left:** Lovay Wallace-Simpson, foreground, Jessica Blake and John Napiecek.



# LAND ACQUISITIONS

## *Coastal Land Trust Acquires More Land on Ocracoke Island*

The Coastal Land Trust recently acquired 24 acres of barrier island hammock and marshes on the east side of Ocracoke Village. Located between Cape Hatteras National Seashore's Loop Shack Hill and the Ocracoke Community Ball Field, this acquisition is a critical conservation addition to the island.

The permanent conservation of the property, in the hands of the Coastal Land Trust, protects the scenic view from the Ocracoke Corridor of N. C. Highway 12, a portion of the Outer Banks Scenic Byway. This property is identified by North Carolina's Natural Heritage Program as lying within a State Significant Natural Heritage Area, and is a high priority for conservation by the Coastal Land Trust.

The property is protected through a partnership between the Coastal Land Trust and the Ocracoke Preservation Society, a community-based organization dedicated to preserving Ocracoke Island's historical and cultural heritage. The Coastal Land Trust hopes eventually to construct a nature walkway and interpretive signage on this newly-acquired property to enhance community enjoyment.

The Coastal Land Trust also owns and manages the island's largest nature preserve, Springer's Point Nature Preserve, located on the west side of Ocracoke Village. With this new tract, the Coastal Land Trust became the largest non-government land owner on Ocracoke Island.

### **SMALL BUT SWEET!**

In November, the Coastal Land Trust

*OCRACOKE, continued on page 11*

## *A Wild Place Conserved on the NE Cape Fear!*



Tall trees and lush undergrowth can be found along the Northeast Cape Fear River.

*by Janice Allen*  
**NCCLT Deputy Director**

Swamp tours. That is what our surveyor, John Rudolph, suggested that the Coastal Land Trust do with our newest nature preserve along the Northeast Cape Fear River in Pender County. As we slogged through a particularly stunning hardwood slough, I knew he was not kidding. John and I marveled at the tall trees and lush undergrowth of this vast and remote floodplain forest. Home to black bears, otters, wood ducks, bats and prothonotary warblers, I figured that very few intrepid people might be willing to make this trek. Just getting there is daunting as you have to drive down a 5+mile bumpy soil road that tests even the toughest 4-wheel drive. If you are insect wary, this place is definitely not for you.

In September 2015, the Coastal Land Trust

purchased more than 1,000 acres of bottomland hardwood sloughs, cypress-gum swamp, beaver ponds, and upland mixed pine hardwoods along over 2.5 miles of the Northeast Cape Fear River. Strategically located, this amazing property lies west of the expansive Angola Bay Game Lands, owned and managed by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and abuts more than 2,300 acres of privately-owned land already under conservation easement.

So, how did we manage to raise the seven-figure price tag for this sizable property? We did something new, new for us at least. We partnered with the owners of the 2,300-acre protected property to the south and pooled our resources to make the purchase. The Coastal Land Trust received grant funds from the U.S.

*NE CAPE FEAR, continued on page 11*

## TOWN CREEK HEADWATERS TRACT TO BE RESTORED

Town Creek in Brunswick County has been a focus for the Coastal Land Trust from its beginning. The owners of the two tracts located at the confluence of Town Creek and the Cape Fear River donated conservation easements over their properties almost twenty years ago. Subsequently, the Coastal Land Trust was able to complete another 12 transactions with other private landowners to protect farmland, working forests, and wetlands along Town Creek. In 2003, the Coastal Land Trust's Town Creek efforts culminated in its purchase of the 922-acre Brunswick Nature Park tract, which it donated to the County.

Last fall, the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust received a 640-acre conservation easement, the first of three that are planned for the headwaters of Town Creek. The conservation easements are a key component of a wetland mitigation bank being established for the property by Resource Management Service LLC ("RMS") under guidance provided by the US Army Corps of Engineers. With this new mitigation project, more than 7,000



acres in the Town Creek watershed have been protected by the Coastal Land Trust.

"Since we've protected so much land down in the lower reaches of Town Creek, we're

pleased to be part of a partnership to restore this tract in the headwaters," said Camilla Herlevich, Executive Director of the Coastal Land Trust. "Historically, much of the land in the upper area of the watershed was drained and ditched."

RMS is planning to plug ditches in this first phase of the new wetlands mitigation bank. Plugging ditches will improve the ability of the wetland to hold water helping to restore its natural hydrological function.

"This mitigation bank brings significant conservation benefits to a high priority conservation area outside Wilmington," said Jimmy Bullock, Sr. Vice President for Forest Sustainability at RMS. "A mitigation bank like this works by allowing us to offer wetland restoration 'credits' to others for highway construction or other projects, which would otherwise be blocked, or would result in a loss of wetlands for the region. Our foresters are looking forward to restoring this property to its natural vegetation and hydrology."



STAFF NEWS



Christopher Ketchie, Stewardship Biologist

Christopher, a native North Carolinian, has been with the NC Coastal Land Trust since July 2015. After completing his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2002, he pursued his sense of adventure by moving out west to become a wildland firefighter for the United States Forest Service.

In 2007, he returned home to study at North Carolina State University, where he earned his master’s degree in Forestry and Environmental Resources with a concentration in Geospatial Information Science. After spending four

rewarding years with a social justice nonprofit in Durham, the call of the woods was strong, and he decided to pivot back to natural resource management in Wilmington with the Coastal Land Trust.

As a Stewardship Biologist / GIS Specialist, Christopher maintains our GIS System and oversees the monitoring and management of the Coastal Land Trust’s conservation easements and preserves. He is also a strong advocate for the use of prescribed fire as a land management tool and is particularly fond of our State Tree, the Longleaf Pine.



Intern Amanda Fox

Amanda Fox graduated from East Carolina University with a bachelor’s degree in Biology and a minor in Coastal Studies. She will be pursuing her master’s in environmental studies, concentrating in environmental conservation and management. While interning at the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust, Amanda was able to gain knowledge of in-field practices of conserving North Carolina’s coastal plain and learn the different administrative measurements involved with land stewardship. This knowledge will be beneficial to Amanda as she continues her studies in conservation.



Intern Dan Hemme

Daniel (Dan) Hemme is a newly licensed attorney who graduated from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 2015. He earned a bachelor of arts in sociology from the University of Florida in 2011. He is originally from Dunedin, Florida, where his love of the coast grew from an early age. While in law school, he interned with the Southern Environmental Law Center and was a part of the Environmental Appellate Advocacy Moot Court team.

Dan worked as a legal intern in the Coastal Land Trust’s New Bern Office this past fall where he assisted with

reviewing documents for conservation real estate closings, drafting contracts, and researching various conservation issues. Dan especially enjoyed getting outdoors and helped us with trail work at the Gales Creek Preserve and monitoring conservation easements.

We wish him all the best in his future work and know he will always have some fun Coastal Land Trust adventures to talk about – especially painting boundary lines in the swamps along the Northeast Cape Fear River! How many lawyers have that on their resume?



Ethan Cavanaugh: Caretaker at Everett Creek Preserve!

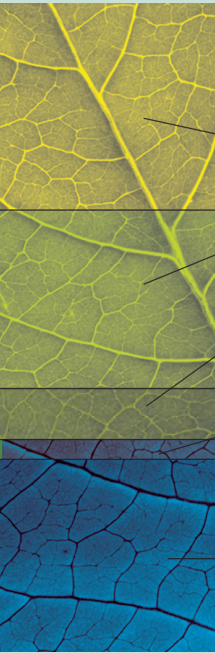
We are delighted to welcome James (Ethan) Cavanaugh as our new caretaker of the Everett Creek Preserve in Onslow County. Ethan moved into the caretaker’s residence this summer and is passionate about wildlife. He sends us regular reports about the wildlife he observes on the preserve.

Ethan is originally from Wallace, North Carolina. He graduated from Lees-McRae College in 2014 with a bachelor of science in Wildlife Biology and a minor in Appalachian Ecology. He currently

works close by at the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River as Wildlife Specialist. With this job, he monitors wildlife at the airfield at MCAS New River and also helps the biologists at the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune with sea turtle monitoring and protection.

Ethan is a certified wildland firefighter, member of the North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and an Eagle Scout. We are fortunate to have a caretaker with his background and training at Everett Creek!

NCCLT Annual Report of Funds  
October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015 \*



OPERATING REVENUE		
\$1,122,564		
Members	\$ 376,571	34 %
Foundations	\$ 259,990	30%
Corporations	\$ 76,112	7%
Federal, State and Municipal Grants	\$ 40,141	4%
Other	\$ 287,453	25%

\* Unaudited



OPERATING EXPENSES		
\$1,079,634		
Land Acquisition	\$ 788,133	73%
Land Stewardship	\$ 118,760	11%
Conservation Education	\$ 43,185	4%
Development	\$ 97,167	9%
General Administrative	\$ 32,389	3%



# EVENT SCRAPBOOK

## FAMILY FUN DAY: Brunswick Nature Park, October 3, 2015



**Above:** Up the creek... with a paddle, of course.

**Right:** Gullah cultural preservationist Ron Daise engaged the audience in an interactive presentation of Gullah Geechee language, songs, and stories at Family Fun Day.



**SHOW ME DAY**  
**Gales Creek Preserve at Camp Sam Hatcher**  
**October 17, 2015**



Representatives from the Boy Scouts along with Coastal Land Trust members came out to learn about longleaf at Show Me Day at Gales Creek Preserve at Camp Sam Hatcher.



**Above:** It's time to hit the bike trails!  
**Left and below:** Young Family Fun Day attendees enjoy learning about wildlife and the woods.



## ANNUAL CELEBRATION LAWN PARTY: Wilmington, October 11, 2015

**Right:** Julia Wessell is prepared to handle a little (or a lot!) of rain. The event was dubbed by Land Trust supporter Diana Corbett as "The Best Hurricane Party Ever"!

**Far right:** "L Shape Lot Duo," Eric Miller (left) and Alex Lanier, were good sports to perform during the torrential rains. Sarah Moran listens intently.





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## Save the Date

March 5, 2016

Field Day  
at  
5 Eagles

March 17, 2016

Be Our  
VaYfNDine!  
Cruise

For Tidewater, Live  
Oak, and Bartram  
Society Members

April 12, 2016

Holt CStore  
Golf  
Tournament

April 23,  
2016

Flytrap  
Frolic

September 17,  
2016

Annual  
Celebration  
Lawn Party

Fall 2016

"Show Me"  
Tour

Everett Creek



# 2015 Honor Roll of Donors

The North Carolina Coastal Land Trust expresses our gratitude to the families, foundations, and corporations who made a gift during our fiscal year (October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015). Your support helps us fulfill our mission: protecting the beauty, history, and the natural treasures of the NC Coastal plain. Thanks for your support.

*\*If you have questions or would like to change the listing of your name in our publications, please contact Vann Pearsall at (910) 790-4524 ext. 210*

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## Land Trust by the Numbers

Total Acres Protected: 65,777



Above: Board Vice President Jason Kesler and Hunter Hagenbach from Live Oak Bank are obviously having a great time at the Satellite.



Right: From left are Ellen and Drew Salley, Kyle Lackey and Julia Wessell.

OCRACOCKE, continued from page 4

acquired a 2.38-acre parcel of property in Tyrrell County. This small parcel provides our stewardship staff with much-needed access from Old U.S. Highway 64 to our 94-acre nature preserve on the Alligator River, which we own and manage. We're grateful to The Conservation Fund for donating this parcel to us and helping us meet the goal of continually enhancing our conservation portfolio.

NE CAPE FEAR, continued from page 4

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's North American Wetlands Conservation Act program and from the ever-generous private donors, Fred and Alice Stanback.

After the purchase, the Coastal Land Trust ended up with a new 526-acre nature preserve along the river, and our conservation partners now own the remaining 541 acres that they plan to manage for timber and wildlife. The Coastal Land Trust holds a conservation easement over the latter forever restricting any future development. With limited state and federal conservation funding sources, the Coastal Land Trust will continue to seek creative partnerships like this to conserve some special wild places!

### Workplace Giving - A Way to Do More

The Coastal Land Trust is proud to be a member of EarthShare NC!



EarthShare NC partners with employers to provide workplace giving campaigns and employee engagement programs across the state. It is an opportunity for environmentally-conscious businesses to provide employees an easy way to support more than 70 conservation and environmental groups and help protect North Carolina's natural resources.

Look for the Coastal Land Trust in your workplace giving campaign (SECC #1113, CFC # 91392) or contact Vann Pearsall (910) 790-4524 x210 for information on how your business can become involved!

**NATURE TRIVIA ANSWER**

**Answer: B.** According to National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this is the explanation for the unusual name for this striking bird. This is likely a common breeding bird at the Coastal Land Trust's new Northeast Cape Fear River Preserve!





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## COASTLINES

### Protecting Pocosin and Making Connections



Photo by Joe Young

Pocosins are thick, often impenetrable swamp forests. The Algonquin Indians coined the term “pocosin” meaning “swamp on a hill.” This is quite the appropriate description as these forests are situated slightly above their surroundings due to a deep organic soil layer overlaying typical sandy coastal plain soils.

Pocosins host evergreen shrubs and stunted trees including titi and redbay interlaced with a tangle of Harry Potter-like

vines of the greenbrier variety. They are not a place for an enjoyable walk in the woods! What may be a messy and wet place for humans serves as essential habitat to many of our native wildlife species. Black bears take refuge in pocosins as well as forage on the variety of berries found there.

Many rare songbirds such as Swainson’s Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Wayne’s Black-Throated Green Warbler are known to nest there. In addition, these wetlands serve as sponges absorbing flood waters, slowly releasing them into streams. Pocosin wetlands only occur in the coastal plain from Virginia down through Georgia, with most acreage being right here in North Carolina.

On December 4, 2015, the Coastal Land Trust purchased 1,081 acres of pocosin habitat in Pender County and transferred it to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to be managed as public game lands. This large pocosin is significant because, unlike much of the neighboring wetlands, it has never been ditched and converted to loblolly pine plantation. This new acquisition links more than 3,000 acres of existing conservation lands along the Northeast Cape Fear to the state’s 33,000-acre Angola Bay Game Lands.

### TOAST TO THE COAST: Chapel Hill, September 2, 2015



Everyone is all smiles to support the Coastal Land Trust in Chapel Hill.  
**Above:** Margaret Hamner, Alice Horton, Betty Kenan and Trig Horton.



**Above:** From left are Jane Oliver, Lisa Church and Bill Ross.



**Left:** Bland Simpson and Bill Garlick.

### NATURE TRIVIA

The Prothonotary Warbler is a vibrant yellow bird which is a summer resident of our southeastern swamp forests. One of only two warblers to nest in cavities, the Prothonotary Warbler selects nest holes found in bald cypress, willow trees, sweet gum and other bottomland hardwood trees, often with the cavity situated near or over water.

What is the explanation behind the Prothonotary Warbler’s unusual name?

- A.** A Prothonotary, a chief clerk and record keeper, first discovered the bird and hence the name.
- B.** The name refers to the clerks in the Roman Catholic Church who wore bright yellow robes.
- C.** The bird was first discovered in Prothonotary Swamp of Louisiana and was named after it.

Answer on page 11



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Jim Parnell