

NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST

# COASTLINES

## WHAT IS A GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT?

The designation Global Biodiversity Hotspot is given only to regions on Earth with at least 1500 endemic species of plants and greater than 70% loss of habitat. Together, these 36 hotspots comprise just 2.3% of the Earth's land surface, but they support more than half of the world's native plant species and almost half of native birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

Applying the scientists' rigorous criteria, a wide swath of our own continent's coastal plain – stretching from Cape Cod south to the Florida Keys and west to Tamaulipas, Mexico – is among the most threatened reservoirs of plant and animal life on Earth, and joins 35 other global hotspots.

Many of the other global hotspots are in exotic and far-away places – the Himalayas, Madagascar, and the Andes, for example. But sometimes something precious is "right under your nose, but goes unnoticed," said Dr. Reed Noss of the University of Central Florida, writing for the scientists who announced the new Hotspot.



Photo by Stuart R. Borrett

## ***Surprise!!! Our coast is a GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT!***

By Camilla Herlevich

Director, North Carolina Coastal Land Trust

**W**ilmington Mayor Bill Saffo recently issued a proclamation celebrating the news that the North American Coastal Plain was recognized by a consortium of international scientists as a "Global Biodiversity Hotspot," one of only 36 such areas on the entire planet.

These are places that are both biologically

rich – and deeply threatened. "This designation means a great deal to the City of Wilmington. We are keenly aware of the importance of this ecosystem and are pleased to partner with the Coastal Land Trust to protect the Venus Flytraps and other carnivorous plants at Wilmington's own Piney Ridge Nature Preserve," said Mayor Saffo.

It's not just the Mayor of the City of Wilmington who is excited by the news.

"We've always known that nature here at the coast is rich, beautiful, and wonderful," said Camilla Herlevich, Executive Director of the Coastal Land Trust. "Recognition of our focus region as a new Global Biodiversity Hotspot has really energized the Coastal Land Trust's staff and volunteers. As one of the top five land conservation groups in the United States working in this region, we're going to kick it up a notch to raise even more money and save even more land."

## ***Wild about the Waccamaw!***



Intern Ashley Gordon explores the Waccamaw River by canoe.

**T**he Coastal Land Trust is wild about the Waccamaw River. It is one of North Carolina's most remote, most beautiful, and most ecologically significant rivers. Its water chemistry and geology are quite rare on the coast; as a result, many of the plants and animals that flourish in, and along, the Waccamaw are found nowhere else on earth. Namesake creatures like the Waccamaw spike and Waccamaw fatmucket (freshwater mollusks) can be found on the river bottom filtering water and siphoning microscopic food while the Waccamaw killifish and Waccamaw silverside fish dart through the clear waters of Lake Waccamaw occasionally swimming downriver. On land, colorful songbirds such as Black-Throated Green and Prothonotary Warblers flit through the canopy while river otters play among the tangled tree roots below. It is a wild place, and one to be wild about conserving.

The Coastal Land Trust recently acquired another property along the Waccamaw River. On May 27, 2016, the Coastal Land Trust purchased 669 acres in Columbus County which is contiguous and downstream of another 671 acres acquired in 2014. These two parcels comprise our new 1,300-acre

WACCAMAW, continued on page 5





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IN MEMORY OF  
EVERETT BOWMAN, 1953-2016

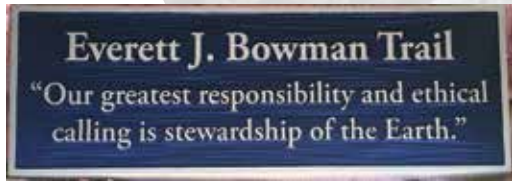
EVERETT J. BOWMAN, AGE 63, DIED peacefully at his home in Charlotte on June 12, 2016, due to complications of prostate cancer. Survivors include



his sister Carol Hatcher and brother Kim Bowman, and their families and his former wife Vicki Bott. Everett was a brilliant student, prominent corporate lawyer and avid

environmentalist. He earned accolades for his philanthropy, including generous gifts to Coastal Land Trust, Catawba Lands Conservancy and the Southern Appalachian Lands Conservancy.

In 2015, he received the NC Land Trusts’ Stanback Volunteer Conservationist of the Year Award for his philanthropy and his passion for protecting the places he loved. The Coastal Land Trust has honored him by creating the Everett Bowman Trail at its Gales Creek Preserve at Camp Sam Hatcher in Carteret County.



Total Acres Protected: 66,647

DUKE ENERGY WATERS OF WACCAMAW AWARD



From left, Coastal Land Trust Executive Director Camilla Herlevich; Shawn Heath, Jess Powell

The Coastal Land Trust is one of nine organizations across North Carolina and South Carolina to collectively receive more than \$730,000 in the third grant announcement made by The Water Resources Fund. The Water Resources Fund is a \$10 million multi-year commitment from Duke Energy designed leave a legacy of improved water quality, quantity and conservation in the Carolinas and neighboring regions.

“This grant will help us advance our long-term goal of protecting the Waccamaw River corridor,” said Camilla Herlevich, Executive Director of the Coastal Land Trust. “We thank Duke Energy for its support and are eager to launch this project so that we can continue protecting our local waterways.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

<b>PRESIDENT</b> <b>Ann Cary Simpson</b> Chapel Hill, NC	<b>Melanie Allen</b> Durham, NC	<b>John Haley, III</b> Wilmington, NC	<b>Bob Oakes</b> Nags Head, NC
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<b>TREASURER</b> <b>Sadie S. Price</b> Wilmington, NC	<b>Nancy J. Bray</b> Grifton, NC	<b>Paul E. Hosier</b> Wilmington, NC	<b>Clark Wright, Jr.</b> New Bern, NC
	<b>John Fussell</b> Morehead City, NC	<b>Bob Jones</b> Wilmington, NC	

Save the Date

September 10, 2016  
“Show Me” Tour  
at Everett Creek  
Preserve

September 17, 2016  
Annual  
Celebration  
Lawn Party on  
the Intracoastal

December 24, 2016 –  
January 1, 2017  
NCCIT Closed  
for the Holidays

April 17, 2017  
Holt Store  
Golf Tournament  
at Landfall  
Country Club



LAND TRUST LEADERS

The Coastal Land Trust had two of our nominees receive awards at the North Carolina Land Trust Council’s Annual Assembly recently. We are proud of our volunteers and partners who conserve North Carolina’s natural resources!

Stanback Volunteer Conservationist of the Year Award winner Tony Doster with representatives from the NC Land Trust Council and Coastal Land Trust Stewardship Director Jesica Blake and Executive Director Camilla Herlevich.



Representatives from the US Fish & Wildlife Service receive the Federal Government Conservation Partner of the Year Award. Janice Allen, Deputy Director, far right.

Camilla Herlevich

Executive Director Camilla Herlevich has been elected to membership in the North Caroliniana Society, dedicated to the promotion of increased knowledge and appreciation of North Carolina’s heritage.

Jason Kesler and Lee Leidy

Board member Jason Kesler and Lee Leidy, Attorney and Northeast Region Director, have both been appointed to the North Carolina Natural Heritage Advisory Committee, which oversees the creation of Dedicated Nature Preserves and Registered Heritage Areas, and the development of Natural Heritage Program policies.



Gene and Sue Huntsman receive Order of the Long Leaf Pine

Among the most prestigious awards conferred by the Governor of North Carolina is The Order of the Long Leaf Pine. It is awarded to persons for exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and their communities that is above and beyond the call of duty and which has made a significant impact and strengthened North Carolina. The Huntsmans helped the Coastal Land Trust build a nature trail at Sea Gate Woods in partnership with the Carteret County Wildlife Club. Coastal Land Trust Deputy Director Janice Allen said, “They are great at trailblazing!”

LAND TRUST INTERNS

Jasmine U. Cooper



Jasmine U. Cooper’s task as a marketing intern this past spring was to re-write website content, find new ways to make the website easier to navigate, and create an interactive map displaying all the properties the Coastal Land Trust has helped protect. She is hopeful that the improved website will attract a larger audience and encourage them to get involved with NCCLT.

surveys were made to help guide the organization down the right path to increasing community awareness and membership.

Kyle Heuser



Kyle Heuser grew up in South Florida in the greater Fort Lauderdale area. He received his BA in English from the University of Florida in 2014 and moved to North Carolina after graduating. He spent a year in the Triangle before beginning law school at the Wake Forest University School of Law in 2015. This summer, as a Coastal Land Trust law clerk, Kyle has assisted with legal research on the many challenging issues faced by the trust, written memoranda on the best practices for the trust to adopt, and has participated in field outings to learn more about the overall work of the Coastal Land Trust.

Ashley Gordon

Ashley Gordon is a Master of Environmental Management student at the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, concentrating in Coastal Environmental Management. She graduated from Miami University (OH) in the spring of 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and Environmental Science. This summer, she is assisting the Coastal Land Trust with stewardship activities and spatial analysis of climate resiliency data for protected lands along the Waccamaw River.

Gabrielle Henry-Bermudez



Gabrielle Henry-Bermudez was the marketing research intern for the Coastal Land Trust last spring. Her main responsibility consisted of finding new target audiences for spreading the Land Trust message. She worked with the development team to create two surveys: one for businesses in the local community and one for our existing members. Both

Caroline Kealoha

Caroline Kealoha, who comes from the Portland, Oregon area, is a rising sophomore at Duke. As a stewardship intern for the Coastal Land Trust, her main goal for the summer is to increase outreach with the community. She is also working on a few side projects that have to do with Civil War history and sea turtles. “Not combined,” she quips, “but wouldn’t that be cool?”

Samantha Liu

Yinan Liu (Samantha) is originally from a “small” city, with a population of seven million, called Tangshan in Northern China. She is a rising second year law student at Wake Forest University School of Law. Growing up in a highly-polluted industrial city,



Kindred Spirits

Summer interns visit Bird Island for an educational beach walk. From left are Joseph Spreight, Caroline Kealoha, Samantha Liu and Ashley Gordon.

Samantha has a perfect vision in mind of what will happen if people stop caring for the environment and pursue economic development only. As a summer legal intern, she is working on corporate compliance matters and helping the Coastal Land Trust prepare for Land Trust Accreditation renewal. Samantha says that she is “excited to learn about the land conservation practices in the United States as well as to offer her knowledge of law to assist the Coastal Land Trust in addressing its mission to enrich the coastal communities of North Carolina.”

Joseph Spreight

Prior to attending Wake Forest Law School Joseph was heavily involved in the real estate industry in Eastern North Carolina. He was a residential home builder in Greenville, Maysville, and Jacksonville, land developer, and also owned investment property. Joseph graduated from Washington and Lee University with a degree in Economics. In his free time he enjoys playing basketball, golf and soccer as well as spending time with my identical twin 4 year old boys, Alex and Ward.



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# LAND ACQUISITIONS

## Earth Day Acquisition Marks Military Partnership Milestone

**O**n April 22, 2016, the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust celebrated Earth Day with the purchase of 302 acres of forested land along the headwaters of Mill Creek in Carteret County near Newport. This property lies between two portions of the Croatan National Forest now connecting thousands of acres of public and privately-conserved forest land, home to black bear, bobcats, and a myriad of songbirds. The 302-acre property, which will be owned and managed by the Coastal Land Trust, features significant habitats such as longleaf pine forest, pocosin, and brackish marsh along over 2,400 linear feet of Mill Creek, a tributary of the Newport River.

In addition to its water quality, wildlife and wetlands values, the property lies beneath a busy (and noisy) military flight path that leads to the main runways at the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) at Cherry Point. Since development of the property would be incompatible with military flight training, MCAS Cherry Point partnered with the Coastal Land Trust to purchase the property. The Mill Creek project marks a milestone as the 20th Coastal Land Trust property acquired to help buffer Marine Corps installations at the coast since 2006. “We’re so proud of these 20 projects in 10 years that benefit the US Marine Corps here at the coast,” said Janice Allen, deputy director of the Coastal Land Trust. “Those 20 projects add up to more than 8,000 acres of land that buffer the bombing range, main base and outlying landing fields from incompatible development that may



affect their training.”

Major funding to purchase the property was provided by the Department of the Navy and the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund. In addition, Golden LEAF Foundation and the Conservation Trust for North Carolina each provided grants in support of the Coastal Land

Trust’s efforts to plan and execute the project successfully. “This tract stood out like a “hole in the donut;” we wanted to make certain that it would continue to be a wooded, natural area, both from the standpoint of its location on the borders of the Croatan National Forest, and from the standpoint of the pilots overhead, as they fly back and forth to Cherry Point Air Station,” said Janice.

## PARTNERSHIP SECURES LAND AND BUILDING FOR RECREATIONAL ACCESS TO LOCAL WATERWAYS



**I**n late January 2016, the City of New Bern purchased a 1.5+ acre property with a 2,700-square foot building located on Country Club Road. The property is located adjacent to the City’s 140-acre Lawson Creek Park and will be used for water-based recreation--canoeing, kayaking, sailing and paddle-boarding. The building now houses the City’s Department of Parks and Recreation staff offices and provides storage for canoes and kayaks, and restroom and shower facilities for visitors.

A collaboration between the City of New Bern, Coastal Land Trust and the Harold H. Bate Foundation carried this project to fruition. The Coastal Land Trust provided a grant from the Harold H. Bate Foundation of \$50,000 to the City of New Bern, which was applied towards the purchase price of the property. Other funds for the purchase came from the City itself and the state of North Carolina’s Coastal Waterfront Access grant program.

“The Coastal Land Trust is grateful to the Harold H. Bate Foundation, and thrilled to be able to contribute to this project”, said Janice Allen, deputy director of the Coastal Land Trust. “The location of this parcel on New Bern’s waterfront means that lots of people will be able to get outside and enjoy the region’s beautiful waterways.”

**Trivia Answer (from page 8):** c. 4 people (data from NC State University and A&T State University Cooperative Extension-[www.ncsu.edu/projects/treesofstrength/benefits.htm](http://www.ncsu.edu/projects/treesofstrength/benefits.htm))

WACCAMAW, continued from page 1

nature preserve that hosts over three miles of protected riverfront. The Coastal Land Trust received grants from the State Clean Water Management Trust Fund and Duke Progress Energy’s Water Resources Fund, and combined those with the remaining U.S. Department of Justice settlement funds to carry out this conservation project.

What are we planning with this newly expanded 1,300+acre Waccamaw River Preserve? The Coastal Land Trust will restore some of the managed pine stands to bottomland hardwood forest (possibly also planting rare Atlantic white cedar), will lease a majority of the preserve for hunting and fishing to a local hunt club, and is considering transferring about 200-acres to the adjacent Lake Waccamaw State Park. Anyone can explore the nature preserve by canoe or kayak. In fact, the entire Waccamaw River in North and South Carolina has been nationally designated as a “Blue or Water Trail.” You can put in at Mile Marker#1 at the dam at Lake Waccamaw State Park and float approximately four miles to the old burned out bridge at the far corner of our nature preserve, and paddle back upstream to the dam. Or if you are really strong and adventurous, you can continue to paddle on past the old bridge and take out at the Dock Road Bridge, an approximate nine-mile trip. Whatever your preference, make sure you pick up a water trail map ([www.americanrivers.org/assets/pdfs/blue-trails/Waccamaw-River-Blue-Trail-Map.pdf](http://www.americanrivers.org/assets/pdfs/blue-trails/Waccamaw-River-Blue-Trail-Map.pdf)) and go prepared with plenty of water and supplies for a wild time on the Waccamaw!



Have 5 minutes to spare to help the Coastal Land Trust?  
Take this quick online survey!  
[www.CoastalLandTrust.org/survey](http://www.CoastalLandTrust.org/survey)

Photo by Stuart R. Borrett



# Take Your Best Shot Using a Wildlife Camera



Fawns – NC Coastal Federation, Wildlands Network and Cape Fear River Watch

By Janice Allen,  
Deputy Director,  
Coastal Land Trust

The use of trail cameras to document the comings and goings of wildlife on the land is nothing new. Hunters often set them up to get intel on the big buck or wild turkeys frequenting their favorite hunting grounds. Wildlife enthusiasts use them to find out what species are present on their land. After viewing the amazing trail photos of bears, bobcats, deer, turkeys, raccoon, foxes (and sometimes all of them together!) that Joe Hughes has taken over the years, it is obvious that one can get some very professional photos just by following a few guidelines.

Yep, Joe Hughes knows a thing or two about the use of wildlife cameras. Sitting with him at his cabin (Hughes Lodge) on his Craven County farm, Joe explained that if you want to up your game with the trail photos, you need to first find the right location to set it up. That means knowing a bit about the wildlife you are hoping to photograph, their habits and habitats. A game trail or path is always a good bet, or perhaps, you can throw out some corn (be careful what you are

feeding wildlife as you do not want to run afoul of local wildlife regulations!) in a strategic area near, or in, the woods that may attract some wildlife. Good camera placement is key. The height of the camera, its angle and the amount of light in the area all will affect the quality of your photos. Try experimenting a bit to find just the right spot and set up. Also, don't forget about composition. i.e., make sure you have a nice background for your photos. Of course, the higher the resolution of your camera, the higher the quality of photos (5-8 megapixels is suggested). Implementing Joe's suggestions from his years of trail camera use, you can take your best shot at capturing the wildlife on your property!

Below are a few of Joe's wildlife photos taken on his property using a Browning Trail Camera HD (bear and raccoon) and Cuddeback Trail Camera (turkeys). Also, included are some photos taken along the Northeast Cape Fear River in Pender County with a Reconyx PC900 Hyperfire Profession IR (infrared) camera by the North Carolina Coastal Federation, Wildlands Network and Cape Fear River Watch.

FAR RIGHT:  
Smokey and the  
Bandit, Joe Hughes

CENTER RIGHT:  
Let's Talk Turkey!,  
Joe Hughes

RIGHT: Bobcat, NC  
Coastal Federation,  
Wildlands Network  
and Cape Fear  
River Watch



## PRESCRIBED BURN AT CAMP SAM HATCHER

FIRE, continued from page 8

flytrap is a meat-eating killer – think ‘Little Shop of Horrors’. At the end of each leaf is a pair of terminal lobes that, when triggered, snap shut trapping prey. As the insect struggles, the trap tightens, and the flytrap secretes enzymes, turning the prey to liquid for easy digestion. Also carnivorous, pitcher plants and sundews are often neighbors, along with many varieties of moss.

My gratitude goes to the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust for allowing me to witness and photograph the controlled burn. The mission of the Coastal Land Trust is to conserve natural habitats, provide educational opportunities, and to promote responsible land stewardship. For more information on the Coastal Land Trust's activities, membership, and opportunities to make a real difference in protecting our rich natural heritage, visit their website at <http://www.coastallandtrust.org>.



The guys with Premier Forestry kept everything under control at the prescribed burn at Gales Creek at Camp Sam Hatcher.

### THANK YOU, PAIGE



The Coastal Land Trust gives a big shout out to Elizabeth (Paige) Brown for volunteering as our field trip photographer. Paige has offered her time and photography expertise to the Coastal Land Trust for several recent events including our Flytrap Frolic, Everett Creek Planting Day and Field Day at Five Eagles Farm. We thank you Paige for your amazing photos, your love of wild flowers and wild things, and your support of the Coastal Land Trust!

### BIRD COUNT AT SAM HATCHER

Kendall Smith of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service just did his annual bird survey out at Camp Sam Hatcher as part of our Onslow Bight Longleaf grant. For the past several years, he reported just hearing the common birds, but this year he had an RCW (Red Cockaded Woodpecker) and a bunch of brown-headed nuthatches, both of which are FWS priority birds! So, the recent burn might have really jazzed things up out there!



# SCRAPBOOK

## "BE OUR VA-LAND-TINE" SUNSET CRUISE: CAPE FEAR RIVER, WILMINGTON, MARCH 17, 2016

Wells Fargo Advisors was the presenting sponsor for the Cape Fear River cruise in Wilmington.

RIGHT: Liz and Paul Hosier.



## POLLINATOR GARDEN PLANTING DAY: EVERETT CREEK PRESERVE, SNEADS FERRY, MAY 14, 2016



Adult volunteers and students met in May to help create a natural garden at the Coastal Land Trust's Everett Creek Preserve at Sneads Ferry in Onslow County. The garden will provide habitat for Monarch butterflies and other pollinator species. Student volunteers Gage and Garrett Grady from Arendell Parrot Academy in Kinston pick up a tray of plants from Janice Allen, deputy director of the Coastal Land Trust.

## PARTY FOR THE POINT: OCRACOKE, MAY 21, 2016

Jennifer Rich and Amy Spencer.



## SUNSET ON THE TRENT: NEW BERN, MAY 14, 2016

Party hosts Charles and Audrey Cushman.



## A TOAST TO THE COAST: GREENSBORO, FEBRUARY 28, 2016

Charlie Brummitt, member of both Piedmont Land Conservancy and the Coastal Land Trust.



## BOARD ON THE MOVE: BOARD MEETING AND GARDEN TOUR, WILMINGTON, MAY 5, 2016



Board members are dazzled by the sea of pitcher plants in the Stanley Rehder Carnivorous Plant Garden. From left: Board President Ann Simpson, John Fussell, Lovay Wallace-Singleton, Merrie Jo Alcock, Sadie Price, Hannah Holt, Paul Hosier, Coastal Land Trust Ambassador Royster Hedgepeth, and Robert Perry.

## HOLT GOLF TOURNAMENT: WILMINGTON, MAY 2, 2016



The 2016 Holt C-Store Golf Tournament, Title Sponsor Coca-Cola, was the most successful fundraising golf tournament for the Coastal Land Trust yet. A record number of golfers had a terrific day playing the Nicklaus Golf Course at the Country Club of Landfall. From left: Holt C-Stores Director of Operations Hannah Holt; Coastal Land Trust staff Vann Pearsall, Development Director; and Camilla Herlevich, Executive Director.

## DUKE ENERGY IN ACTION: WILMINGTON, MAY 20, 2016



The Rehder Carnivorous Plant Garden continues to flourish, and got a big boost from 20 Duke Energy Employee Volunteers who planted 400 new flytraps! Duke's "Energy in Action" volunteers, led by John Elliott (standing, second from left) and April Arellano England (seated, second from right), pause for a group photo in the garden.





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# Fire in the Pines

*By Paige Brown  
Coastal Land Trust Volunteer*



## COASTLINES

**W**hite ash fell like snow and smoke filled the air as flames licked at the trunks of the trees. The sound was thunderous as the fire roared through the woodland, a living, breathing presence consuming all the undergrowth. This fire was no accident, but a carefully controlled burn that would benefit this longleaf pine habitat located in the coastal plains of North Carolina.

Natural fires once nurtured these forests; but as cities and towns grew, they were suppressed to protect homes and businesses, making human intervention necessary.

Periodic controlled burns kill the undergrowth, reducing competition for the young pines and keeping the forest floor reasonably open. This open forest habitat is the home of Fox squirrels, pileated woodpeckers – think Woody Woodpecker, endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, red fox, and white-tailed deer. More than 30 species of wildlife depend on the longleaf pine habitat.

While many understory plants are killed during a burn, a rich diversity of plant life thrives in its aftermath. Native only to a 60-mile radius in North and South Carolina, the Venus flytrap

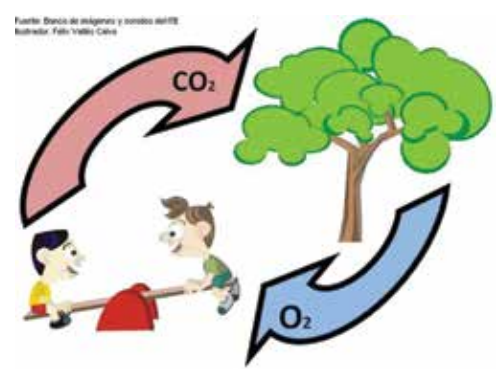
*FIRE, continued on page 6*

## 6th Annual Flytrap Frolic, Wilmington, April 22, 2016



Photos by Paige Brown

### NATURE TRIVIA



One large tree can supply a day's supply of oxygen for \_\_\_\_ people.

- a. 2
- b. 3
- c. 4

*Answer on page 5*

### WINE NOT...IT'S FRIDAY, WILMINGTON, APRIL 29, 2016



From left, Diana Corbett, Camilla Herlevich with Ms. Flytrap (Jessica Blake) at Whole Foods' benefit for the Flytrap Frolic.