NEWS FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE COAST

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1 SPRING 2013

"The land is the only thing in the world worth working for...because it's the only thing that lasts."

- Gerald O'Hara, Gone With the Wind

Congress Extends Tax Incentives for Conservation Easements

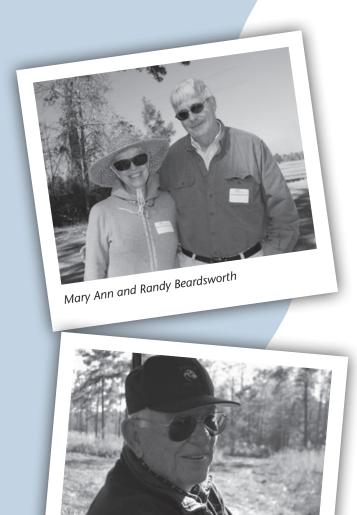
If you've attended Field Day at Five Eagles Partners Farm near Rocky Point, you've toured a mosaic of cleared and cultivated fields, ponds and wetlands, and hardwood forests and swamps. You may have been fortunate to sight a bald eagle, hear the rush of a covey of quail, or caught a glimpse of deer and other wildlife. And you've certainly been entertained by Labrador retrievers, meeting their marks and demonstrating their ability to retrieve on land and in water.

John Thomas, patriarch of the family that owns Five Eagle Partners Farm, had been managing his property to enhance its wildlife habitat for years when his Greensboro attorney first called the Coastal Land Trust in 1999. Mr. Thomas was committed to conservation for the long term. After a series of meetings with the Land Trust, and after consulting with their own attorneys and accountants, the Thomas family decided to place a conservation easement on Five Eagles Partners Farm.

The decision to donate a conservation easement over land means giving up development rights, which generally make up a good part of any property's intrinsic value. Congress has long recognized the wisdom in providing incentives to landowners for such "good works", and has allowed donors of conservation easements to claim a federal income tax contribution for such gifts.

This spring, there's some very good news for owners of land who may be considering donating a conservation easement. Congress has voted to extend enhanced tax incentives for conservation easements: donors can apply their deduction to more of their income (generally up to 50%) and they can use or carry over their deductions longer (up 16 years). (Please visit www.lta.org for more information about the new law.) These new incentives are effective for qualified conservation easement donations made by December 31, 2013, and will make conservation easement donations more attractive to modest-income land owners.

We're grateful for the vision that Mr. Thomas had when he and his family placed their land in a conservation easement; and we're hoping that these new incentives might inspire other landowners to consult with their tax advisors and then give us a call!



John Thomas

Over the wetlands and through the hardwoods around 5 Eagles we go!



Silverio Smokey Masters, Manager of Pine Valley Food Market, serves up a pan of low country boil. With Josh Autry in the back



Hoot retrieves the training dummy and brings It back to Callie Keller.



Oh boy, oh boy, that was fun!

CoastLines VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

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NC COASTAL LAND TRUST STATISTICS

WEBSITE www.coastallandtrust.org

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NC Coastal Land Trust

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IN PRAISE OF PRIVATE LAND OWNERS

As a volunteer leader for the Coastal Land Trust, I've had the good fortune to visit many of the places protected by conservation easements held by the Coastal Land Trust. This spring alone, my family and I participated in the Field Day at Five Eagle Partners Farm in Pender County, owned by the John Thomas family, and we have visited Jubilee Farms near Edenton, owned by the Simon Rich family. Both owners have a remarkable sense of love for the land and stewardship, which shines through in the thoughtful way these properties are managed and cared for.

Private land conservation like this is worth recognizing, rewarding and, yes, incentivizing. So

it's good for all of us who enjoy being outdoors that landowners who voluntarily relinquish development rights are able, through our nation's tax laws, to recoup some of that lost value.

It's also a refreshing reminder of the important role of local land trusts – working with private landowners in communities all over the nation – who have accepted the responsibility of monitoring these conservation lands in perpetuity so that their natural values will be saved for the next generation.

Thank you for your support!

GAR.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

THOSE LAWS REALLY DO MATTER!

With everything else that goes on in Raleigh and Washington, most folks wouldn't think that legislation in the General Assembly and in Congress has much impact on nature, wildlife and conservation. But what happens in Washington and Raleigh frequently does end up affecting conservation. One example is the expanded federal tax incentives for conservation easement donations described in the cover story, which will be in effect through the end of 2013. Those changes are expected to increase the pace of conservation by about a third this year over last year!

An example going in the opposite direction is the downward trend of appropriations for the state's Clean Water Management Trust Fund. From a peak of \$100 million, down to \$50 million, it was reduced last year to under \$11 million – with this year's appropriation still to be decided. This fund has been the primary source

of grants used by the Coastal Land Trust to purchase land and conservation easements during the last decade. Among the projects funded have been Bird Island, Springer's Point and the Brunswick Nature Park. Reduced levels for this fund are expected to decrease the pace of conservation in North Carolina.

Clearly, the big picture in Raleigh and Washington will make a difference in the Coastal Land Trust's ability to take advantage of conservation opportunities here at the coast. We're hopeful that strong, bipartisan public support for conservation will translate into decisions in our capitals that will move conservation forward. And we're glad to be among those who speak up for nature!

Camillate Herlwich

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

NCCLT Landowner Louis Bacon Honored for Conservation Achievements

Congratulations to Louis Bacon on being the recipient of the Audubon Medal, given in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of conservation and environmental protection.

"We are pleased to be able to award the Audubon Medal to Louis Bacon in recognition of his significant and diverse efforts to preserve and protect key natural ecosystems" said Holt Thrasher, Chairman of the Board of National Audubon in a press release from the Audubon Society.

Mr. Bacon is a well-known environmentalist who has partnered with many conservation groups across the country. He has worked with the Coastal Land Trust for many years, first in protecting property a decade ago at Springer's Point Preserve, in Ocracoke and now with Orton Plantation where he has a direct ancestral linkage. Mr. Bacon's stewardship and recent efforts to protect all 8,000+ Orton Plantation acres in Brunswick County includes improving water, forests and threatened habitats. Conservation and preservation efforts are underway at Orton Plantation to rehabilitate rice fields and longleaf pine forests, providing a natural habitat for



Louis Bacon

wildlife such as the endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers.

For more information on Louis Bacon's accomplishments in Eastern North Carolina and beyond, visit www.moorecharitable.org.

LAND ACQUISITIONS

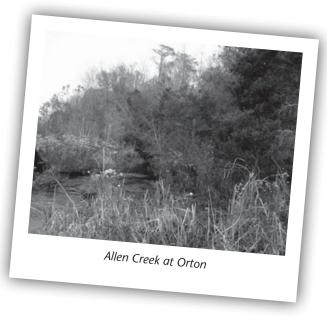
Conservation Easement Protects Wildlife at Orton

A recently completed conservation easement that protects more than 2 ½ miles of critical habitat along Allen Creek at Orton Plantation is one of the most extensive stretches of creek front the Coastal Land Trust has ever received in one transaction. All the creeks and ponds at Orton, including Allen Creek, are very significant from a conservation standpoint.

The 256-acre tract, protected from any future development, follows the run of Allen Creek, with streamside buffer along both sides. The conservation easement will protect fish and wildlife, and will protect water quality and wetlands. The area along Allen Creek is heavily used by wildlife and is home to cypress, sweetbay, red maple, black gum, tupelo gum and a variety of oak, hickory and pines.

"The protection of our fishery, wildlife, forests, water quality and wetlands that this easement at Allen Creek guarantees is part of a larger conservation plan that we are currently undertaking at Orton Plantation," said Dillon Epp, Orton Plantation's Property Manager. "We are excited to work with the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust to ensure that this beautiful piece of land is preserved and protected for generations to come."

The conservation easement was part of an agreement between the US Army Corps of Engineers and Orton Plantation Holdings LLC in which the Corps issued a permit for the restoration of Orton's historic rice fields along the Cape Fear River, and was given to the Coastal Land Trust at no cost.



Coastal Land Trust Preserves Old-Growth Forest

A beautiful tract of valuable hardwood forest in the Albemarle/Chowan watershed has been purchased for conservation by the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust. The property twists and turns along over one and a half miles of the Meherrin River and includes a network of its tributaries in Northampton County. The protection of this property is the first project for the Coastal Land Trust in this northern coastal county.

The protection of forests along the Meherrin also enhances water quality in the Albemarle/Chowan watershed, one of the most productive in the nation and a place where the traditions and heritage of waterways and forestry come together. The Meherrin connects to several thousand acres of conserved swamp forest along the main stem of the Chowan River, among the largest contiguous blocks of cypress swamp habitat in North Carolina.

This project is the first step of conservation collaboration with conservationists in Virginia to protect land that is part of the same watershed. And, as it turned out, the tract the Coastal Land Trust protected included a bit of land across the state line in Virginia – a first for the Land Trust.

Goodwood Virginia, LLC and Conservation
Forestry, LLC are conservation-oriented timber
investment firms based in Exeter, New Hampshire. Kent Gilges, the managing member of
Goodwood Virginia, LLC and Conservation
Forestry, LLC, said, "The permanent protection of
this stretch of the Meherrin River and bottomland
forest is a great complement to our business
strategy to promote and practice conservation
and sustainable forestry. North Carolina Coastal
Land Trust has done a wonderful job in protecting this parcel during a very difficult economic
period. This project is a model for partnerships



between for-profit companies with an 'impact' mission and conservation groups. North Carolina Coastal Land Trust may have helped put together here the conservation approach of the future."

Partnership Protects Lands Near Military Bases

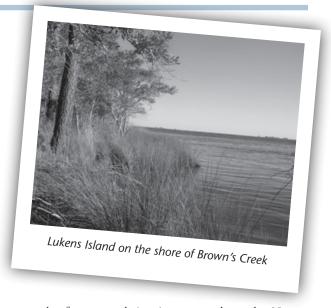
A strategically located conservation property at Lukens Island has been protected by North Carolina Coastal Land Trust. This project was completed as a result of a partnership between North Carolina Coastal Land Trust, the State of North Carolina, the Marine Corps and the Navy, in which lands with conservation value located near military bases are protected from incompatible development.

The Marine Corps' ability to keep flight paths clear around their Main Base in Havelock along with their Auxiliary Outlying Landing Field at Bogue and the Piney Island Bombing Range free of residential development is greatly aided by these conservation projects. Since 2006, the Land Trust has completed 15 such "dual" military/conservation projects, protecting more than 7,500

acres of valuable wildlife habitat and preserving water quality while helping our local military bases.

The 678-acre property features pine and hard-wood forests, sloping down to estuarine marsh along the banks of Brown's Creek, a relatively pristine tidal creek in Carteret County. The Lukens Island peninsula is located across Turnagain Bay from the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point's Piney Island Bombing Range.

Additionally, the protected land is adjacent to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's 1,300 acre State Game Lands property that is open to the public and west of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge. Thus, this project contributes to a growing net-



work of protected riparian areas along the Neuse River and multiple tributaries within the lower Neuse River Estuary.

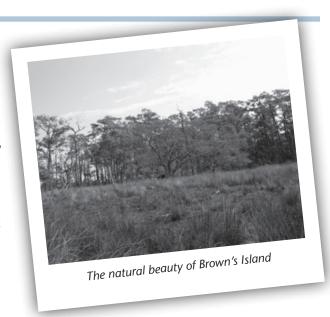
Saving Brown's Island a Top Priority

The Coastal Land Trust has acquired a key parcel of land at Brown's Island, which lies off Harkers Island in Core Sound near Cape Lookout. More than 600 acres in size, Brown's Island is one of the largest undeveloped coastal islands in the state that is still in private ownership. The tract acquired by the Coastal Land Trust is more than 74 acres.

Saving Brown's Island from development has been a top priority of those who care about our coast for many, many years—because of its size and the rich abundance of nature to be found there; including live oak and longleaf forest, forested wetlands, estuarine marsh, and coastline. Brown's Island is a haven for beautiful shorebirds, waterfowl, and other wildlife.

The Coastal Land Trust loves to protect islands. Chances are, if there's island habitat to be saved, the Coastal Land Trust is involved in trying to

The North Carolina Coastal Land Trust owns and manages Springer's Point Nature Preserve at Ocracoke Island, and also has been involved in land conservation projects at Bird Island, Masonboro Island, and Lea Island, which are now owned by the state.



CoastLines VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

ALCOKE & SIMPSON JOIN LAND TRUST BOARD

Merrie Jo Alcoke New Bern

Merrie Jo is a NC Superior Court Certified Mediator. Previously, she was NC Assistant Attorney General,



serving as senior coastal attorney for the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. She is a member of the N.C. General Statutes Commission and the NC Coastal Resources Law, Planning and Policy Center Advisory Board. She holds undergraduate and law degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill. She lives in New Bern with her husband Tom Wilson and their two young daughters.

Ann Cary Simpson Beaufort

Ann is Associate Dean for Development at UNC's School of Government. She previously served as major gifts manager for the UNC Center for



Public Television. Prior to that, she spent 16 years working with environmental organizations including the US Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy. She has also provided professional development training in communications and fundraising for land trusts throughout North Carolina. She and her husband Bland have collaborated on two books, for which she provides the photography. Ann is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She lives in Orange County with her husband, and has a family home in Beaufort.

NEWEST STAFF MEMBER RETURNS TO HER ROOTS

Julia Wessell, returning to Wilmington after five years working in political fundraising in Washington, DC, joined the Coastal Land Trust in 2013, to help facilitate the Land Trust's fundraising and outreach activities. A 2007 graduate



Julia Wessell Development Assistant

of UNC Chapel Hill, Julia grew up in Wrightsville Beach where she spent the majority of her summers exploring Banks Channel and Masonboro Island with her family and friends. Julia still enjoys being on the water by boat or paddle board and when on land especially enjoys live music at Greenfield Lake Amphitheater and Carolina basketball games.

REID & LINDA MURCHISON NAMED 2012 PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR

Reid and Linda Murchison were recognized as outstanding philanthropists by the Cape Fear Region Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals at the chapter's annual Awards Breakfast held in November.

Reid and Linda are well-known throughout the community for their expert guidance and example of how to expend time, talent and treasure to charity. Together, the couple has made extraordinary financial contributions to local charities such the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust, Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity, Good Friends of Wilmington, the Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCare Center, Good Shepherd Center, and many more.

Not only have Reid and Linda made financial contributions to local organizations, they are also actively involved in each of these organizations. Reid is a founder and first president of Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity and has served on at least 10 boards, chairing five. Linda is founder of Good Friends of Wilmington and has served on at least 10 local boards, chairing seven.

Linda served on the Board of NC Coastal Land Trust from October 2006 to September 2012, serving as President during her final year. She adopted "board engagement" as the signature initiative for her Presidency, and led successful efforts in this arena. In addition to leading reforms of the Board itself, Linda with her husband Reid have made numerous contributions to the Coastal Land Trust. In addition to financial support, they have hosted neighborhood fund-raising parties, and have donated a much-needed vehicle, which is being used by our land management staff.

Linda is the current Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Wyoming Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, a former steering committee member of Friendship Bridge (micro-credit/lending to women in Guatemala), chaplain at the local hospital and a social worker at Hospice.



Reid and Linda Murchison

OUTSTANDING INTERNS HELP LIGHTEN THE LOAD

Julia Flagler

Julia Flagler joined the Land Trust at the end of 2012 as the Development Intern. Prior to working with NCCLT, Julia took time off of from school



to volunteer in Honduras at an orphanage for HIV positive children. Although taking time off of school has been a great experience for her, she looks forward to returning to UNC Chapel Hill in the fall to finish her undergraduate degree. Born and raised in Wilmington, Julia loves to spend time soaking up the sun at Wrightsville Beach and roaming the streets of Historic downtown. When she gets a chance, Julia loves to experience the crisp mountain air in Boone, NC, and exploring the Blue Ridge Parkway. She also has a passion for art, particularly working with clay, and music festivals.

Zack Gibble

Zachary Gibble joined the Stewardship staff this past winter as our spring semester intern, and is currently in his last semester as a master's



student at UNC-Wilmington. He is pursuing his masters in environmental studies and after graduating he hopes to start a career in the environmental non-profit field. Zach is assisting the Stewardship staff with monitoring conservation easements, painting boundary lines, and administrative tasks. Zach is native to the Wilmington area. He grew up in Holden Beach and enjoys spending his free time surfing.

Save the Date!

May 10 Springer's Point Marsh Grass Planting Day for the Coastal Land Trust's Living Shoreline Project at Springer's Point Preserve

(volunteers needed)

May 11 Springer's Point Preserve's 10th Birthday Celebration at Springer's Point Preserve, 10 a.m.

Coastal Land Trust Annual Celebration and Lawn Party

June 29 Sage Salon & Spa Anniversary Benefit for the Coastal Land Trust

Oct. 19 Family Fun Day at Brunswick Nature Park

Sept. 28

GARDENING THERAPY FOR VETERANS

With an idea as the seed, and organic soil and compost from a lifetime of experience a yet unseen plant will spring up, flower and bear fruit. It will be a new non-profit organization to feed both gardeners and consumers.

Retired Navy Veteran Lovay Wallace-Singleton has been cultivating the Veterans Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden for the past two years. In addition to her service career she spent summers in Mississippi working on her uncle's farm.

"I am disabled from severe carpal tunnel and had the release surgery in 2010," Wallace-Singleton said. "I was in a painful rehab and the counselor suggested I do something I love with my hands. I said I love to garden, do you know of any place that has vocational rehab for veterans who like to garden?" He said "no."

Wallace-Singleton responded by creating gardening therapy. She volunteered in every public garden she could find in the New Bern area. She started with the Monarch Ability Garden, then the Tryon Palace gardens and on to the local

branch of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Agricultural Extension office

After learning the Eastern North Carolina soil and planting possibilities, Wallace-Singleton went indoors to grow a program to service disabled and homeless veterans. It will have gardens in New Bern and Havelock. The organic, heirloom and specialty vegetables will be sold at area farmers' markets and through the national grower to consumer program, Community Supported Agriculture, which she plans to establish in North Carolina.

"We are partnering with employment security, homeless shelters, the local VA and the VA in Durham, pulling veterans from them all," Wallace-Singleton effused. "Now I'm speaking with commissioners, aldermen, parks and recreation departments. It's like I'm eating an elephant in the dark and if I knew how big it is I'd be overwhelmed so I just keep going on."

The North Carolina Coastal Land Trust has stepped up to provide fiscal sponsorship, which



Lovay Wallace-Singleton

will allow the Veterans Employment Base Camp And Organic Garden to apply for grants while its non-profit status is finalized. The project fits into NCCLT's farmland conservation and military partnership efforts.

Wallace-Singleton plans to start planting in 2014. She welcomes volunteers to help realize her program for homeless and disabled vets. For more information and to volunteer, go to the website. http://www.veteransorganicgarden.com/

- Roberta Penn, volunteer for the Coastal Land Trust

AWESOME VOLUNTEER HELPS MONITOR MILES OF RIVERFRONT



For over ten years, Ben Bowditch has been an "awesome!" volunteer and land steward for the Coastal Land Trust. His work includes monitoring Coastal Land Trust conservation easements and preserves along the Neuse River and helping to maintain CLT boundary lines on local conservation easements.

Ben first's encounter with the Coastal Land Trust was through the Land Trust's Deputy Director Janice Allen. Janice took Ben out to Bellair Plantation (Craven County) so that he could get an idea of what the Land Trust was doing regarding land conservation. He offered to help monitor the conservation easement at Bellair, and has monitored the 255-acre old historic plantation property ever since.

Now Ben has added stewarding properties along the Neuse River from 220 acres of property at our Neuse River Greens Thoroughfare Island conservation easement to 1100 acres of property along the river to the north. Each winter, he is monitoring approximately eight miles of wetlands along the river.

Ben said that some folks from Massachusetts moved down to Oriental near him, and he took them out by boat up the Neuse River where our conservation lands are. "You won't see anything here that the Indians haven't seen," he said. He loves how wild it all is along this section of the Neuse.

He was born in Boston, MA and then spent some time growing up in Illinois, eventually returning to Boston for college. His grandmother taught him to fly fish when he was eight years old and his love of the outdoors stemmed from these visits to his grandparent's cabin in the Laurentian Mountains of Quebec, Canada. He has continued his love of fishing, a passion he has passed on to his two sons; and he loves being out on the water in Eastern North Carolina.

He and his wife, Jean, live in Oriental during the winter. They move up to Maine in the summer where they have a cabin on a lake. Ben is retired from Vanguard Investment Group as Senior Vice President. Ben's first involvement in land conservation was working on a project with the New England Forestry Foundation and the Pingree Forest Partnership, which resulted in protecting 750,000 acres of forested land, essentially much of the land around his cabin.

If you are interested in becoming a stewardship volunteer, contact Jesica Blake, Director of Stewardship at jesica@coastallandtrust.org.



Department of the Navy and the Marine Corps Air Station Joint Recipients of Conservation Award

Carmen Lombardo, the natural resources manager at Cherry Point, and Carla Roth, a supervisory real estate contracting officer for the Navy, are co-winners of the 2013 North Carolina Land Trust Government Conservation Partner of the Year Award.

This annual award recognizes the individual or agency that has shown a sustained and outstanding commitment to partnering with land trusts for conservation initiatives, or has actively supported public policies with a positive influence on land and water preservation in North Carolina.

Lombardo representing the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point and Roth representing the Department of the Navy, were nominated by the Coastal Land Trust for their substantial contributions to land conservation in the North Carolina Coastal Plain.

Together with their colleagues, Lombardo and Roth are responsible for carrying out long-term partnerships with the Coastal Land Trust specifically to conserve lands with military and conservation significance in and around Cherry Point and the outlying landing fields in Carteret County. Along with the Coastal Land Trust, they have promoted an aggressive and successful land conservation effort with 15 specific projects targeted for conservation.

The partnership has successfully acquired key tracts of land that help buffer one of our military bases from encroachment and ensure safe flight patterns. At the same time, it has enhanced local water quality, conserved valuable wildlife resources and provided for public access and recreation.

Photo: Carmen Lombardo and Carla Roth, center, are recognized as co-winners of the 2013 North Carolina Land Trust Government Conservation Partner of the Year Award. With them are Camilla Herlevich, left, Executive Director of the Coastal Land Trust and Janice Allen, Deputy Director.



Answer: B. It can take red-cockaded woodpeckers up to 3 years to drill their cavities. This is why it is so important to them to have some old (greater than 80 years old) trees, preferably longleaf pine which often gets red heart disease after 80 years old; and this softens the heartwood for the woodpeckers!



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North Carolina LAND TRUSTS Saving the Places You Love

Kayak Winners!

winning raffle ticket and received a very much Coastal Land Trust and Christmas present. "Thanks again sleek, sporty Tetra kayak as an early **Land Trust** Julie Boone Cummins held the Holds Fund Raiser for the Kitty Hawk Surf Company

Company upfitted it for fishing already started talking about and gave us good advice on our paddle selection. Our family has Kneeling in front of the kayak Company employees, is Julie, displayed by Kitty Hawk Sur center, her son Boone and daughter Elly Blue.

and the guys at Kitty Hawk Surf are really excited to use it [kayak], Kitty Hawk Sports!" wrote Julie. We

summer vacation and bringing it

back to the coast, although I'm sure it will get plenty of use here in Chatham County as well."

all the folks at Kitty Hawk Surf Co. and Kitty Hawk Kites for hosting the great raffle and for all that they do for us throughout the year! The Coastal Land Trust extends a buge thanks to John Harris and

Nature Trivia



- A. Have a diet that consists mainly of insects such as beetles, ants, roaches and caterpillars.
- B. Nest and roost in cavities in living pine trees to drill a cavity). (takes the birds between 6 months to 3 years
- Live in the southern states from Virginia to Texas.
- D. Have bristle-like feathers over their nostrils to keep wood particles from being inhaled

Answer on page 5.

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