



NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL LAND TRUST

# CoastLines

NEWS FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE COAST

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1  
WINTER 2014

## YEAR-END LAND RUSH – A HOLIDAY MARATHON

OVER 11,000 ACRES PROTECTED IN ONE MONTH!

The Coastal Land Trust completed six new significant conservation acquisitions between December 1 and December 31, 2013. “We think that the Coastal Land Trust may have protected more land this December than any other conservation group in the state,” said Camilla Herlevich, Founder and Executive Director. “If we hadn’t planned ahead – foregoing December vacations; scheduling routine work ahead of time during the summer and fall; lining up attorneys, surveyors and contractors; and raising the money to pay them – we could never have made it through December’s marathon.”



*Brown’s Island/  
Tract #1 –  
Carteret County*



*McFadden  
Tract –  
Bladen County*



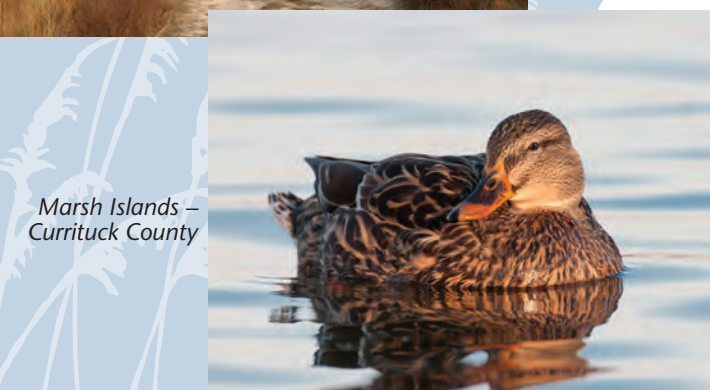
*Joyce Creek –  
Camden  
County*



*Owens &  
Williams Tract –  
Pender County*



*Allen’s Creek/  
Orton Plantation –  
Brunswick County*



*Marsh Islands –  
Currituck County*

*Photo courtesy of Walker Golder*

### Brown’s Island/Tract #1

Recognized as a natural heritage site of statewide significance, this 600-acre island is one of the largest remaining undeveloped islands along the coast. Located just north of Harker’s Island in Carteret County, the island features an unusual maritime forest community of longleaf pine, live oak, and wiregrass that provides excellent habitat for a host of wildlife that inhabits the island, including beautiful shorebirds and waterfowl.

By acquiring this 183-acre tract, which was purchased with a grant from Fred and Alice Stanback and a significant donation from the owners, the Coastal Land Trust has now protected 415 acres, on Brown’s island! This tract will be transferred to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for management.

### Cape Fear River/McFadden

The Coastal Land Trust purchased title to the McFadden Tract, 238.10 acres along the Cape Fear River in Bladen County. The property, which is located just south of the 1,400 acre N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Whitehall Plantation Game Lands, features cypress-gum swamp and hardwood wetlands providing natural habitats for fish and wildlife along the Cape Fear River and French’s Creek. This property will be transferred to the Wildlife Resources Commission for management.

### Joyce Creek/Williams

The Williams family donated an agricultural conservation easement on 418.28 acres of their family farm near South Mills in Camden County. The farm, which grows corn, wheat, soybeans and rapeseed, also features wood land, beautifully-managed wildlife food plots and one mile of frontage along both sides of Joyce Creek.

The conservation easement held by the Coastal Land Trust will permanently preserve the agricultural viability and productivity of the property’s prime agricultural soils, preserve the woodland nature of the forested portions of the property and prevent development of the property.

### Northeast Cape Fear/ Owens & Williams

Property owned by the Owens and Williams families along the Northeast Cape Fear River was identified as early as 2002 as a high priority by the Coastal Land Trust. The Coastal Land Trust worked with HVW Legacy Holdings, the families’ limited partnership, to close on a conservation easement over 2,315.56 acres of this property in late December. A grant from Fred and Alice Stanback, and a significant donation from the owners, made the project possible.

“This property is an absolute gem, with more than five miles of frontage along the Cape Fear River, with high bluffs in many places,” said

Executive Director Camilla Herlevich. “Its uplands are characterized by longleaf pine and mixed loblolly pine forest, which grade into bottomland hardwood sloughs and small depression ponds as the topography varies throughout this beautiful property.” The protection of this tract adds to the protected lands along the Northeast Cape Fear begun with the conservation easement donated on 1,200 acres by the Thomas Family at Five Eagle Partners Farm in Pender County.

### Allen’s Creek/Orton Plantation II

On December 27th, the Coastal Land Trust completed one of the largest transactions in its history. Orton Plantation Holdings, LLC, which is owned by conservation philanthropist Louis Bacon, donated a conservation easement on 6,442.72 acres at Orton Plantation. This tract comprises land west of NC Highway 133 and does not include the area along the Cape Fear River, where the plantation house and most of the historic features and archaeological sites are located.

The area placed under easement includes a variety of natural features and managed forests. Water features on the property include Allen’s Creek (which changes its name to Lilliput Creek); McKinzie Pond, Blue Pond and a host of small limesink ponds.

Its forests include stands of longleaf pine and wiregrass; mixed longleaf and loblolly pine; cypress-gum swamp; pocosin and pine flatwoods communities. Wildlife habitat includes the federally endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (for which the owner has entered into as Safe Harbor Agreement with the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service) and a host of game species including quail, wild turkey, and other upland game birds.

This donated conservation easement represents a giant step forward in permanently protecting the lower Cape Fear corridor, a founding goal of the Coastal Land Trust more than two decades ago.

### Currituck Shooting Club/ Marsh Islands

On December 31, the last day of the 2013 year, the Coastal Land Trust acquired a donated conservation easement on 1,535 acres of the historic Currituck Shooting Club property from The Fidelity Company, as the agent for The Currituck Shooting Club. The property includes an extensive marsh island and buffer system along the Currituck Sound. It features prime waterfowl and fisheries habitat and provides connectivity and a critical buffer to the neighboring Audubon Sanctuary at Pine Island and the nearby Narrows Marshes. This area is one of the most significant habitats for migratory waterfowl on the entire East Coast Flyway. The Coastal Land Trust plans to transfer the easement to National Audubon Society in 2014, for them to manage as part of its Currituck Marshes - Pine Island Important Bird Area and Sanctuary.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board members serve three (3) year staggered terms. Board members are elected each year by the membership during the annual meeting.

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## STAFF

<b>MAIN OFFICE</b> 131 Racine Dr., Suite 202 Wilmington, NC 28403 (910) 790-4524 (910) 790-0392 Fax	<b>Tatum Justice</b> Stewardship Assistant Ext. 201 stewardship@coastallandtrust.org
<b>Camilla M. Herlevich</b> Executive Director ext. 206 camilla@coastallandtrust.org	<b>CENTRAL OFFICE</b> <b>Janice L. Allen</b> Deputy Director 3301-G Trent Road New Bern, NC 28562 (252) 634-1927 Phone (252) 633-4179 Fax janice@coastallandtrust.org
<b>John Napiecek</b> Business Manager ext. 204 john@coastallandtrust.org	<b>NORTHEAST OFFICE</b> <b>Lee L. Leidy</b> Northeast Region Director Attorney at Law 1108 W. Main Street Elizabeth City, NC 27909 (252) 335-9495 lee@coastallandtrust.org
<b>Jesica C. Blake</b> Director of Stewardship ext. 203 jesica@coastallandtrust.org	
<b>Jennifer Avesing</b> Stewardship Biologist Ext. 207 jennifer@coastallandtrust.org	
<b>Meryl Murtagh</b> Legal & Administrative Assistant Ext. 208 meryl@coastallandtrust.org	
<b>Vann Pearsall</b> Director of Development Ext. 210 vann@coastallandtrust.org	
<b>Beth W. Steelman</b> Development Associate / Volunteer Coordinator Ext. 200 bsteelman@coastallandtrust.org	
<b>Stephanie Borrett</b> Development Assistant Ext. 209 julia@coastallandtrust.org	

## NC COASTAL LAND TRUST STATISTICS

Acres Protected. . . . . 61,986 Acres  
Household Memberships . . . . . 1,715

WEBSITE  
[www.CoastalLandTrust.org](http://www.CoastalLandTrust.org)

Pre-Press Composition & Printing By:  
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# PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

WOW! A record-breaking year for the Coastal Land Trust!! More than 12,000 acres of fabulous conservation land saved in 2013 – from Currituck in the north, to Brunswick in the south, and everywhere in between. And what beautiful lands – high, forested bluffs overlooking the Northeast Cape Fear River – storied waterfowl habitat in Currituck Sound – a productive, working farm in Camden County – and last but certainly not least, more than 6,000 acres of longleaf and other forests at Orton Plantation.

Several of these lands create great opportunity for public use in 2014 and beyond. We'll bring more children to nature and expand our educa-

tional programming by partnering with the Boy Scouts at Camp Sam Hatcher and the founders of “A Time for Science” at Bray Hollow.

These great accomplishments didn't happen by accident. The staff and Board have been planning and preparing for months so that the Land Trust would be positioned to capitalize on the opportunity created by the change in the tax laws. As President, I couldn't be prouder of our staff in getting our work completed before the stroke of midnight on December 31st.

# DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

With the cold days of January now upon us, December seems even more extraordinary now than it was at the time!

In June, when the legislature abolished the NC conservation tax credit for 2014, we knew that we could expect more closings than usual this December. By any measure, whether quality or quantity of acres, whether variety or significance of habitat – our most ambitious hopes have been wildly exceeded.

But the real heroes of this story are you, our supporters, who gave generously when we alerted you to this one-time opportunity. Without you, these would have remained conservation opportunities, instead of completed conservation projects. Who are the “You” who are our heroes?

- Fred and Alice Stanback, who provided capital grants for us to pursue “bargains” for purchas-

- es at Brown's Island and along the Northeast Cape Fear;
- The F M. Kirby Foundation, the Cannon Foundation, and the Conservation Trust for NC, each whom provided grants that we used for costs related to end-of year projects;
- The landowners themselves, who made extraordinarily generous contributions of their property and, in almost every case, contributed to the expenses and endowments needed, too (astonishingly, an estimated \$22,000,000 in donated value of property rights was contributed to the Coastal Land Trust in December); and
- Our members, who responded to our special end-of-year appeal with checks from \$25 to \$5,000.

December will be a month to remember for all of us – and a legacy of conservation for all of you!

# INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF



**Stephanie Wert Borrett**  
Development Assistant

Stephanie grew up on the high plains of Texas and Kansas and has a deep appreciation for wide-open spaces and big sky. She earned undergraduate degrees in psychology and religion from Austin College (Sherman, TX) and a master's degree in nonprofit organizations from UGA (Athens, GA). She brings to the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust over a decade of experience in nonprofit program and organizational development. Stephanie and her family moved to Wilmington in 2007, and they have grown to love the beauty of the coastal flatlands where they enjoy biking, camping, and canoeing/kayaking.



**Becky Peter**  
Executive Intern

Becky joined the Coastal Land Trust in October as Executive Intern for the fall and spring semesters. She grew up in rural Pennsylvania; and her hearing coyotes at night and sighting black bears in her backyard fostered her love of nature. Becky received a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She moved to Wilmington in August of 2012 to pursue further education and experience coastal living. She is nearing completion of a master's degree in public administration from UNCW and is concentrating on environmental policy and planning. Becky enjoys kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, and cooking.

## Nature Trivia

Answer: C. Gopher frogs use borrows of the gopher tortoise as hiding places in the Deep South, which is how they got their common name. In NC, they hide in stump holes, root tunnels and mammal and crayfish burrows.



# NEW BOARD MEMBERS INTRODUCED AT ANNUAL MEETING



**John Fussell**  
Morehead City

John is a self-employed biologist consultant and a resident of Morehead City. He has conducted surveys and worked on numerous projects throughout coastal North Carolina for the U.S. Forest Service, Nature Conservancy, N.C. Natural Heritage Program, U.S. Department of Defense and other agencies. The author of two bird-finding guides, John is an active volunteer and enjoys bird watching and botanizing in his free time. He received his BS and MLS in zoology from NC State.



**Bob Oakes**  
Nags Head

Bob is the Broker-in-Charge at Village Realty in Nags Head. He entered the real estate property management field in 1986 and received his Broker's license in 1988. He has since earned his Certified Property Manager designation and has always been passionate about being a good steward to the Outer Banks and the environment. Married with two children, Bob is an Eagle Scout and former Scout Master and is the immediate past Mayor of Nags Head.



**Bob Jones**  
Wilmington

Bob is currently the Associate Director of Institutional Advancement for Cape Fear Community College. A Native of Albany, New York, Bob moved to Wilmington in 2001. He is a Board Member for the Association of Fundraising Professionals – Cape Fear Chapter, formerly serving as President. He has volunteered for several non-profits in the area including No Boundaries Art Colony and Wildlands Network. Bob and his wife Peggy reside in Wilmington and are very active within the community. They enjoy going to hard-to-reach places on Masonboro Island by canoe or by boat to explore and to relax. As Bob has a passion for fundraising, the community, the environment and the ocean, he welcomes an opportunity to serve on the NC Coastal Land Trust board.



**John H. Haley, III, PhD**  
Wilmington

John is a retired Emeritus Associate Professor of History at UNC Wilmington. A native of Warrenton, Virginia, he is retired U.S. Army Officer. John has been published twice by UNC Press and specializes in race relations, African American history, the American South, the Civil War and Reconstruction and the U.S. Military. He is a member and Vice Chairman of the North Carolina Humanities Council and also serves on the Board of Directors of Preservation North Carolina. He and his wife Stephanie reside in Wilmington, where he is a very active member of the community.

# SIMPSON MAKES CAREER SHIFT



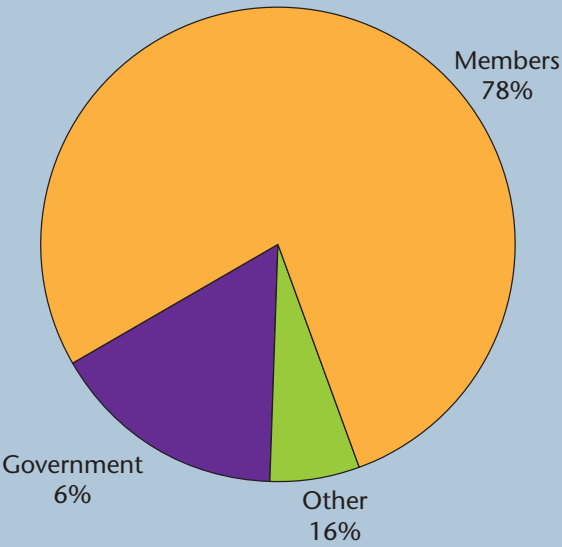
**Ann Simpson**

Board member Ann Cary Simpson left her position as Associate Dean for UNC's School of Government in 2013 to work on several books with her husband Bland and to pursue new challenges. Ann has already collaborated with Bland on several environmental books about the coast, including "Into the Sound Country" and "The Inner Islands." In addition, she most recently accepted the position of Interim Director for NC Catch, a non-profit organization that works to market local seafood.

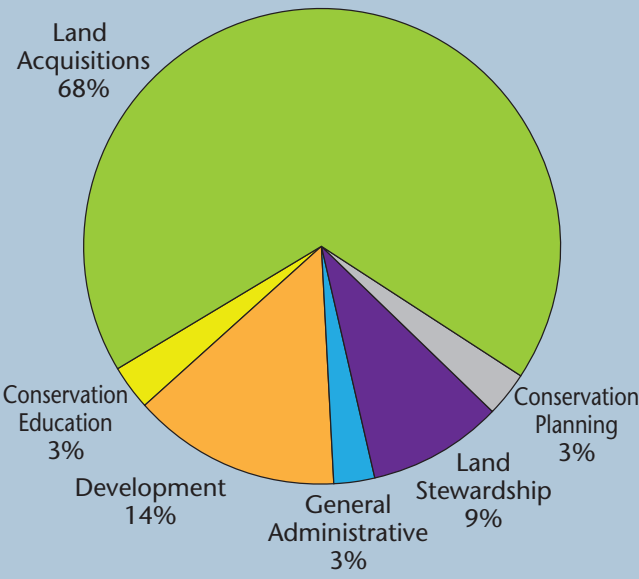
She had been at UNC for 16 years and was responsible for building the School's formal fundraising program. When announcing Ann's departure, Dean Michael Smith of the School of Government listed her many successful fundraising accomplishments. In addition, he praised her for shifting the faculty culture from one of skepticism about fundraising to fully embracing and generating ideas for fundraising opportunities. "That is a cultural shift that is significant and it would never have happened without Ann's good work over the years," he wrote.

# ANNUAL REPORT

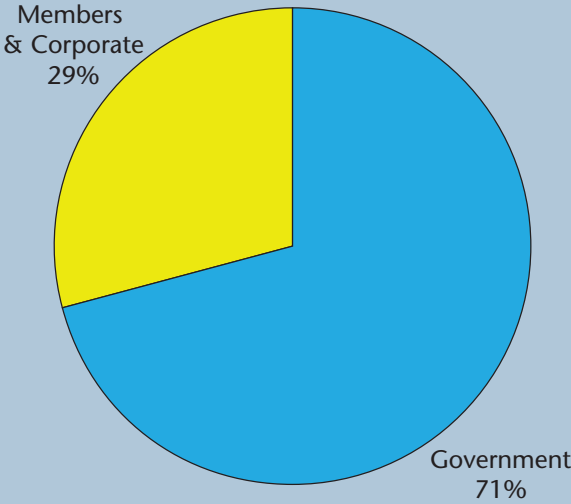
## Operating Revenue



## Expenses



## Land Grants



By including the Coastal Land Trust in your estate planning, you provide the means for the organization to remain strong, successful, and always here to preserve the lands that you love at the coast.

Talk with your financial advisor about how you can leave a legacy of conservation!

[www.CoastalLandTrust.org/planned-giving](http://www.CoastalLandTrust.org/planned-giving)

2013 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, 2012 – September 30, 2013). Your support helps us fulfill our mission: protecting the beauty, history, and the natural treasurers 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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## PRESERVATION TAKES FLIGHT

The City of Havelock is another step closer toward completing a multi-phase project to transform a winding stretch of Slocum Creek into a center for history, preservation, recreation and education. The Coastal Land Trust partnered with the city to help obtain the funds to purchase land along the creek that will provide waterfront access adjacent to the Tourist and Event Center and Aviation Heritage Museum.

At the event to dedicate the Slocum Creek Recreation Area, Lt. Col Brian Blalock, MCAS Cherry Point, praised the City of Havelock, the Eastern Carolina Aviation Heritage Foundation and the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust for their collaborative efforts to secure land that not only will conserve land for recreation, but will also provide safe training grounds for the military by limiting encroachment. The Slocum Creek Partnership is another in a long line of projects the Land Trust has undertaken with MCAS Cherry Point to help protect the Base and outlying fields from incompatible development that may affect training.

“I can appreciate the areas of unspoiled beauty that are created or set-aside by our cities and counties for recreation,” said Col. Blalock. “This particular project on Slocum Creek, a mere stone’s throw from our nation’s largest Marine Corps Air Station, will undoubtedly improve the quality of life for so many Havelock residents and military families.”

“The board and staff of the Eastern Carolina Aviation Heritage Foundation hosted an outstanding event,” said Vann Pearsall, Development Director for the Land Trust. “The Tourist Center is an amazing facility. We hope to have more opportunities to partner with them in the future.”

*The Havelock Tourist and Event Center is home to the USMC Aviation Exhibit.*



*Coastal Land Trust Executive Director Camilla Herlevich and Maj. Gen. Tom Braaten, USMC (Ret), Airport Director, Coastal Carolina Regional Airport and Chairman of Aviation Heritage Foundation. “Shall we save more land for Cherry Point?”*



*All suited up and ready to take off!*



## CONSERVATION “CREEPS” INTO BRAY HOLLOW

“John and Nancy Bray are ‘picture-perfect’ conservation partners,” said Lee Leidy, Attorney and Northeast Region Director for the Coastal Land Trust. “Through the years, they have patiently waited and strategically purchased the property that is now permanently protected by three conservation easements donated by the Brays since 2008. Instead of development creeping in, conservation is creeping in!”

With the addition of 120 acres they donated in October 2013, the Brays have now protected more than 330 acres of working farmland, woodland and waterfront along Muddy Cut Branch and tributaries of Contentnea and Little Contentnea Creeks, near Grifton in Pitt County.

“We are glad to partner with the Coastal Land Trust to protect Bray Hollow,” said John Bray. “Our passion is introducing children to nature and science, and Bray Hollow serves as the home to the nonprofit nature and science learning center we established, *A Time for Science*.” Placing an emphasis on “Experiencing Nature, Doing Science, and Having Fun,” *A Time for Science* provides science and environmental education programs for Pitt County school students.



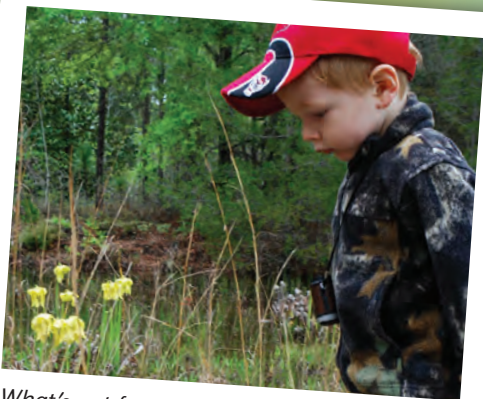
*Nancy and John Bray.*

## Save the Date!

- March 8, 2014
- Field Day at 5 Eagles
- April 26, 2014
- Flytrap Frolic
- May 3, 2014
- Cyclists Goin’ Coastal
- May 20, 2014
- Holt CStore Golf Tournament
- May/June
- BW Wells Wildflower Walk with Richard LeBlond



*A hayride around Five Eagles Farm is something to get excited about. Courtesy of Crystal Clear Photography*



*What’s not fun about a frolic among carnivorous plants? Courtesy of Crystal Clear Photography*



*On your mark, get set, let’s ride!*  
*Photo courtesy of Billie Jo Edwards – Don’t Blink Photography*



*How’s your golf game?*

Visit the Coastal Land Trust website at [www.CoastalLandTrust.org](http://www.CoastalLandTrust.org) for more information on these upcoming events



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### New Bern Social Event Benefits Coastal Land Trust

Also in June, Teeny and Terry Tait opened their home to increase awareness of conservation in the mid-coast of North Carolina.



L to R: Erin McNally, Julie Rehder, Land Trust Executive Director Camilla Herlevich, and Whole Foods marketing team member Michelle Lopez.

### Wine-Not?...It's Friday!

In June nearly 200 community members turned out for Wine Not...It's Friday. Whole Foods chose the Coastal Land Trust's Fly Trap Fund to benefit from the event "Together we raised \$972," said Erin McNally, Marketing Team Leader for Whole Foods Market. "We had a lot of fun ourselves and Julie was great up front informing customers about the Flytrap Fund."



L to R: Dr. Darryl Warren, Pete and Pat Rowlett, Karen Skipper.



Aaron Arnette and Chef Smoke Boyd of The Flame Catering.



### Sage Salon

June went out with a bang as Sage celebrated their 3rd Anniversary by supporting the Coastal Land Trust! For the third year, Sage Salon and Spa has donated the proceeds from their Anniversary Celebration to the Coastal Land Trust. This year featured a cornhole tournament, raffles, and live music at Capt. Bill's Backyard Grill.



Photos courtesy of Crystal Clear Photography



Hosts Judge and Cris Point dedicate the evening in memory of Bruce Watkins.

### Lawn Party

The October Annual Celebration and Lawn Party was held at the home of Judge and Cris Point which overlooks Masonboro Island. More than 130 people gathered to celebrate 50,000 acres saved.

Photos courtesy of Crystal Clear Photography



Swinging out over Masonboro.

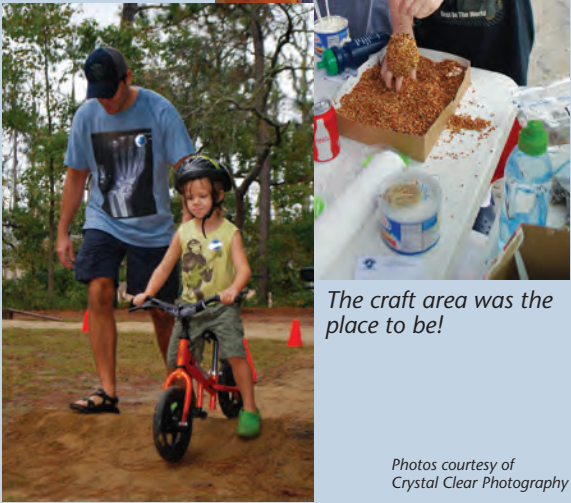


Barbecue, beer, bluegrass...what more can you ask for?

### Family Fun Day

The rain did not dampen any spirits at Family Fun Day at Brunswick Nature Park in October.

The crafts area was extremely popular. All the credit goes to the Girl Scouts in Jennifer Murrill's Troop 1491 who were in charge.



The craft area was the place to be!

You're never too young to try out the bike trails.

Photos courtesy of Crystal Clear Photography



L to R: Jim Price, Sadie Price, Joe Hughes, Janice Allen, Paul Hosier, Randy Beardsworth, Ed Norvell, Kevin Hicks, Linda Murchison, Betty Ann Beardsworth and Al Weller.

### Field Trips a Popular Addition to Board Meetings

In December, Board Members took a field trip to Cool Springs Environmental Education Center at the December Board meeting in New Bern.

Al Weller (retired from Weyerhaeuser) showed the group the track box at Cool Springs. The staff puts corn in the box and when animals come to eat it, they leave tracks for visitors to the Center to see. It is a way to educate children on animal track identification. On this trip, the group observed primarily deer tracks.



Al Weller showed the track box at Cool Springs.

## LAND SAVED BY COASTAL LAND TRUST IN 2013

### February

Slocum Creek Gent Tract, Craven County: 2.59 acres assist to City of Havelock  
Browns Island Tract #2, Carteret County: 74.5 acres purchased

### March

Slocum Creek Jerrett Tract B, Craven County: 1.43 acres assist to City of Havelock

### May

Gales Creek Camp Sam Hatcher Tract, Carteret County: 20 acres conservation easement plus 200.5 acres purchased  
Brice's Creek Weyerhaeuser Mitigation Tract, Craven County: 636.27 acres donated conservation easement

### October

Little Contentnea Creek Bray Phase III, Pitt County: 116.34 acres donated conservation easement

### December

Cape Fear River McFadden Tract, Bladen County: 238.1 acres purchased, to be transferred to N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission  
Browns Island Tract #1, Carteret County: 183.27 acres purchased, to be transferred to N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission  
Joyce Creek Williams Tract, Camden County: 418.28 acres donated conservation easement

Northeast Cape Fear River HWY Legacy Holdings Tract, Pender County: 2,315.56 acres purchased conservation easement  
Allen's Creek II Orton Plantation Tract, Brunswick County: 6,442.72 acres donated conservation easement  
Currituck Island Shooting Club Tract, Currituck County: 1,535 acres donated conservation easement, to be assigned to National Audubon Society

**New Acquisitions Total for 2013:  
12,184.56 acres protected**

**Also, the Coastal Land Trust transferred the following land for public use in December:**

Carolina Beach Lake Lots, New Hanover County: 3 lots totaling less than 1 acre transferred to the Town of Carolina Beach  
North Topsail Beach Lot, Onslow County: 1 lot less than 1 acre transferred to Town of North Topsail Beach





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## Nature Trivia

The Carolina gopher frog is a very rare frog known from scattered localities in the Sandhills and Coastal Plain of North and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. Gopher frogs get their common name because:

- A. They look like a gopher.
- B. They can create a tunnel system like a gopher.
- C. They like to hide in holes.

Answer on page 2.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Marcus, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

*North Carolina Coastal Land Trust thanks these*

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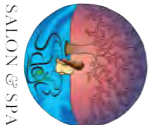
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