Kay Killian’s familial connection to the land on the west side of Mountain Island Lake is a strong one that can be traced to colonial America’s horse-drawn covered wagons and one-room schoolhouses.

“My roots go way back, and my ancestors settled this area,” she said. “Even today I can still visit places I played as a child when I walk around our family farm, which is unusual. So, this land has a personal connection for me. I think the Conservancy is one of the best things that ever happened to this region to protect this area from development because development has come so fast.”

Kay and her family have faithfully tended their land for many decades. Her father’s relatives were German while her mother’s Bynum side were Scots-Irish and German. Both families settled in North Carolina in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

Kay is a graduate of Wake Forest University for both her undergraduate and law degrees. She’s also a retired prosecutor who worked for more than 20 years in Lincoln County. Her greatest joy these days is riding her horse, Mia, across the many acres of land her family has called home for generations. Those acres are permanently protected through the Conservancy’s easement program.

“Between 2000 and 2010, Kay and her parents, Margaret Bynum and Claude Alonzo Killian, decided to partner with the Conservancy and permanently protect their land from development through conservation easements.

“My family loved our farmland and the forestland, and this keeps the land the way we wanted it to be anyway,” she said.

All of her property is part of the Mountain Island Lake watershed, with half in Gaston County and half in Lincoln County. The properties represent her maternal and paternal family farms for a grand total of 563 acres.

“I have a lot of favorite spots on the property,” she said. “It’s a nice mix of field, forest, pasture, fish and beaver ponds. There’s a big patch of mature hardwood trees, which is unusual.”

The land is home to hayfields and beef cattle. In the past, Davidson College conducted a five-year research project on the effect of development on salamanders. They found there are more species in areas with better water quality like hers, Kay said.

Kay’s mother, Margaret, passed away in 2011. Her 96-year-old father, Alonzo, passed away at the end of last year. He will be deeply missed and was a great supporter of the Conservancy and cherished preserving simpler ways of life.

“‘A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE THIS CONCEPT OF HOME AS THEIR HOUSE, BUT I’M HARDLY EVER IN MY HOUSE,’ KAY SAID. ‘I’M ALWAYS OUTSIDE SOMEWHERE. I LOVE IT ALL – THE WHOLE FARM IS MY HOUSE.’”

“He loved the farm and forest side and didn’t want to see it developed.” Kay said. “When my mom discovered wildflowers on the Bynum-Killian Farm and decided to donate her family’s land to the Conservancy, that’s how my dad was convinced easements were the way to go.”

Born on the family land, Alonzo spent his boyhood building boats to fish on the Catawba River and selling his catches at different farms in Lincoln County. As a young man, he served in the U.S. Army during WWII as a machine gunner where he was stationed on the Solomon Islands. His adulthood was spent farming his family’s land where he raised cotton and other grain crops before transitioning to beef cattle and hay production. He enjoyed the cantaloupe grown on his land and had a penchant for nurturing fruits, maintaining a peach orchard and strawberry fields.

One of Kay’s favorite memories of her father is of him building her a high-quality horse barn on the property when she was in college. Alonzo was unafraid of hard work and grew up wandering around to area farms to hunt and fish because they were owned by family and close friends. During his childhood, his older sisters even attended a one-room schoolhouse tucked away in a grove of trees reminiscent of something out of “Little House on the Prairie.”

Kay recalls many conversations with her father over the years about the area’s growing population and expanding development.

“We talked a lot about the traffic being an issue,” she said. “There was increased unnatural light from the development, and we’d say how it’s much more peaceful when there’s darkness, and you can see stars.”

The Killian family land would normally be prized for development. Instead, they have donated their land to the Conservancy, preserving it as rural and protecting the water quality and wildlife of Mountain Island Lake. The land borders Johnson Creek, the largest western tributary of Mountain Island Lake. Nearly half of the lake’s shoreline is protected.
1920 was a year for land conservation with just under 700 acres conserved. But as important as the number of acres is the positive impact that land will have on everyone across our region. Whether or not you ever step out on those acres (although we hope that you do!), you are enjoying its benefits through clean air and water, areas for outdoor recreation and connections to nature. In 2018 we connected 1,036 people to nature through programs, protected a 195-acre preserve in Mecklenburg County that will be the future home of a segment of Carolina Thread Trail that will also connect to the Whitewater Center’s trail network, protected a 62-acre forest in Gaston County, and saved the habitat for a population of threatened bog turtles.

2019 will bring big changes, as we said goodbye to our previous executive director, Tom Orl, and are now under the leadership of Bart Landess. Bart has had a long career in the nonprofit world and has a love for the land, making him the perfect fit to lead the Conservancy into the future. I hope you enjoy getting to know Bart and his family in this issue. We are grateful for Tom’s time with us and all of the accomplishments we experienced under his leadership, and we are excited and hopeful for what the future will bring with Bart at the helm.

“I think the rate of land development is frightening right now, and it’s so important to keep the land in its natural state,” she said.

“That’s what I appreciate about the Conservancy and its mission – it’s helping to preserve the nature and quality of this area.”

These days, Kay serves on the the Land Stewardship Committee for the Conservancy. The committee is responsible for making sure each conserved property’s special natural features remain intact. Yet her favorite pastime remains soaking in the sunshine and fresh air while riding her horse.

CONT. FROM PG. 1 through land put into conservation easements, as well as land purchased by county and state governments to protect the drinking water source for roughly 1 million area residents. “The watershed is so small, but it gives water to Charlotte, Mount Holly and Gastonia, so it’s very important that it stays protected,” Kay said.

In 2013, The Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission presented its Blue Fin Award to Kay for preserving so many acres. She also served on the Conservancy’s Board of Directors for six years in the mid-1990s. The Mountain Island Educational State Forest formed during this time, with part of its land adjoining her property. She said it was wonderful to have more contiguous preserved property along her boundary line.

More recently, Kay notes an increasing rate of trespasser problems on the family land, particularly from those riding four-wheelers. Subdivisions along the edge of her land can cause development issues, too. Some living there have wanted to expand their patio space, pulled up signs marking the boundaries of the Killian conservation easements in the process.
Welcome New Board Members!

We are pleased to congratulate our newest Catawba Land Conservancy board members: Len Botkin, Compie Newman, Bill Carstarphen, William Blair, Katrina Moffett and Steven Scruggs.

The new Carolina Thread Trail board members are Delane Clark, Blair Boggs, Jarred Cochran, Tom Belk and Leslie Johnson. We know you will all help advance our mission for many years to come!

The new Catawba Land Conservancy board members are Delane Clark, Blair Boggs, Jarred Cochran, Tom Belk and Leslie Johnson. We know you will all help advance our mission for many years to come!
Like his predecessors, Bart Landess, who began his role as Executive Director of the Catawba Lands Conservancy and the Carolina Thread Trail March 1, is straight out of central casting.

He has the essentials: business acumen, people skills and a love for the land. Not only that, he worked at Foundation For The Carolinas when the Thread Trail was in its infancy and got to know the Conservancy’s then-executive director Dave Cable as they collaborated on financing the vision.

“He came to the table with a background on the Thread Trail’s concept and origin that few others could duplicate,” said Alex Rankin, chair of the Carolina Thread Trail Governing Board and a member of the executive search committee.

Here’s how Kelly Katterhagen, Conservancy and Thread Trail board member and a search committee member, put it. “You look at Bart’s work experience, and it’s almost as if he was training for this job his whole career.”

Outgoing executive director Tom Okel has been a beloved and effective leader. The committee understood the daunting task ahead of them as they set out to find Tom’s successor. They decided to cast a nationwide net, said Jonathan Mangels, chair of the Conservancy’s Board of Directors. “We defined what our successful candidate looked like. We didn’t limit it by saying we were only looking in the business world or only in the nonprofit world. We looked all over the country.”

And they found the right candidate right here in Charlotte. “One of the benefits of hiring Bart is that he’s local,” Jonathan said. He already has area contacts, and he knows and believes in the missions of the organizations he’s now leading.

“The process was very extensive,” said Alex. “One of the finalists was in California. Coleman Lew [the search firm the Conservancy engaged] started with over 100 prospects.”

Alex has kudos for Coleman Lew and cites the firm’s “thoroughness and stamina in staying with us in a fast-moving process that required a lot of meetings – including weekends – in a compressed time period.”

**Right Opportunity at the Right Time**

Bart feels ready for the job. “I’ve practiced law, including real estate law; I’ve helped nonprofits raise money; and I’ve helped them manage assets they already own,” he said. “Also, I enjoy helping people grow into their full potential. Staff development is important to me.”

The thread that runs through Bart’s diverse resume is fundraising – something that immediately attracted the attention of the search committee. In fact, one of the non-negotiables the committee decided on was a proven fundraising ability. The ideal candidate had to have that. Jonathan said: “There’s a lot of land we can conserve, but we need money to do it.” Since 2010, Bart has been vice president of major and planned gifts at the YMCA of Greater Charlotte.

Before joining the Y, he served for a decade as senior vice president of development and planned giving at Foundation For The Carolinas. Under his leadership, annual donations rose from $39 million in 2000 to a high of $260 million in 2007. Finance, accounting and legal matters related to the endowment and asset management were also under his purview.

Bart’s fundraising prowess, his legal background, his familiarity with the Thread Trail – all were impressive to the committee. But it was much more than Bart’s resume that wow’d them. “What sealed the deal was his enthusiasm,” said Alex. “Even in the first interview, he was asking challenging questions. In the follow-up interview, he was totally engaged and was burning to jump in and move the Conservancy and the Thread Trail forward. That energy was obvious and contagious.”

Like Tom, Bart is a Davidson College alum who maintains close ties to his alma mater. In fact, he worked there from 1990 to 1999 – first in Major and Planned Gifts during a $162 million capital campaign – and later as General Counsel and as the president’s executive assistant.

After graduating cum laude from Davidson, Bart moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked at the Department of Justice in the Office of Planning and Management Analysis and later in constituent services for U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Georgia). Then, he returned to his native Charlottesville, Virginia – where he grew up running the trails near his home – to attend law school at UVA.

He worked as an attorney at Smith Helms Mullins & Moore in corporate formation and governance, finance and – most significantly for the Conservancy – land acquisition.

“Clean water, preserving green space, setting aside land for recreation – all these are important to me,” he said in explaining why the job appealed to him. “And getting to know the staff and seeing how talented they are made this feel like the right opportunity at the right time.”

Bart and his wife, Fran, have four grown children – three sons and a daughter. The Landess kids grew up exploring the outdoors. As a family, they skied, hiked, camped and even went caving.

Bart is former Chair of the North Carolina Planned Giving Council. He’s a founding member of the Institute of Philanthropy and Leadership Gift School and of Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont (now Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy) and a former board member of First Presbyterian Church. He’s was part of the American Leadership Forum’s Charlotte Class V.

Bart’s devotion to the community impressed Kelly and the search committee. She said, “He has spent decades using his legal training, easygoing and empowering leadership style and development skills to make our local and surrounding communities better.”

---

**The Seekers**

The search committee looked nationwide for the ideal executive director. Representatives from the Catawba Lands Conservancy and the Carolina Thread Trail boards served on the volunteer committee and put in countless hours to find the organizations’ new executive director. Thanks to these tireless board members for their outstanding work:

Jim Hovis, Search Committee Chair and Conservancy Board Member

C.T. Anderson, Conservancy Board Member

Ann Browning, Former Thread Trail Director and Former Interim Conservancy Director

Sally Daley, Thread Trail Board Member

Kelly Katterhagen, Conservancy and Thread Trail Board Member

Lat Pussett, Thread Trail Board Member

Alex Rankin, Thread Trail Board Chair
he Catawba-Wateree River flows east from McDowell County, winding through its namesake valley, fed by streams and rivers of the Blue Ridge Mountains and South Mountains, onward into a series of reservoirs of the foothills — passing through Burke, Caldwell, Alexander, and Catawba counties. As it turns south, it spills into Lake Norman, flowing through the outskirts of Charlotte and across the border into South Carolina, where it later joins with the Santee Basin before washing out to sea at Charleston.

In total, the Catawba-Wateree River flows across 225 miles through 24 counties in two states, with 5,000 combined miles of waterways, containing 11 reservoirs, 14 dams, and supplying more than two million people with drinking water.

But, without preventative measures to protect this natural resource, how many years of clean water in this crucial basin do we have left?

In preliminary studies of this river basin, researchers found that “at our current growth rate — counting for population growth, climate change, future development, and water-use needs — the system was not going to supply enough water by 2050,” said Andrew Kotas, executive director of Foothills Conservancy. “The safe yield would not be met. That woke up a lot of people.”

In addition, the region experienced a “drought of record” in 2002 and again in 2007-2008. Duke Energy, along with the water utilities drawing water from the river system, knew they had to act.

This prompted the formation of a Drought Management Advisory Group, along with a Low Inflow Protocol to be implemented during times of drought. Following that, the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group (CWWMG) was formed as a nonprofit corporation dedicated to funding projects to protect and enhance our water supply while maintaining the ecological integrity of the waterway. Duke Energy and all 18 municipal utilities that draw water from the river and its reservoirs are members. A number of successful projects have been completed by the Water Management Group, including the development of a Water Supply Master Plan.

Similarly, in 2013, Foothills Conservancy, Catawba Lands Conservancy, and The Conservation Fund formed the Catawba-Wateree Clean Water Initiative to identify and protect watershed lands and forests throughout the Catawba River Basin.

“This is the reality of the situation,” said Vicki Taylor, environmental advisor to CWWMG and lead staff of the Catawba-Wateree Clean Water Initiative. “Even though we’ve always been pretty compliant about being a water-rich state and region, the reality is that we need to change the way we manage our water now so the region can continue to grow and thrive. We need to understand how climate change and development affect our water supply, and figure out how and where watershed land conservation can help protect our water before we experience any major negative impacts to the quality and abundance of our water.”

In early fall 2018, RTI International, a nonprofit research institute, completed a study to determine key, strategic areas where the Initiative should focus its watershed conservation efforts. Funded by the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group, the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the Water Research Foundation, and a grant to Foothills Conservancy from Duke Energy’s Water Resources Fund, this study examined the future impacts of land use changes and climate change on the Catawba-Wateree Basin. Its results will provide recommendations for target conservation areas, along with suggestions for efficient and cost-effective ways to protect both water quality and quantity throughout the watershed.

What’s so important about land conservation when speaking about water?

“In places where the land is developed — cities, towns, neighborhood — water flows over impervious surfaces,” Andrew said, artificial landscapes like asphalt, concrete, brick, and stone, “and directly into stream channels, oftentimes picking up pollutants along the way.” This may increase the amount of water in rivers and reservoirs, but usually only for short periods of time. Little or none of this water is stored in the landscape for discharge at a later date.

“Forested landscapes do a much better job absorbing and filtering that water so it can be cleansed and discharged through creeks and streams over periods of weeks or months — and this can be very important for our water supplies during long, dry periods,” he continued.

“This is why you still see many creeks flowing during drought, because of the stored water. This study is the first step in developing a strategy to protect some of the most important forested areas for water storage. It’s helping us to better understand the hydrologic system across the entire Catawba River Basin and to locate the most important watershed landscapes to protect. Next, we need to develop partnerships at the local and regional levels to make a positive impact.”

With the results of this recent study beginning to take shape, it’s now up to the study’s partners to collaborate with diverse stakeholders in the Catawba-Wateree Basin to plan and fund extensive conservation efforts of critical watershed lands.

And these partnerships, this plan, the future of our region’s water — it all begins with education, Vicki said. “It’s something that a lot of folks really have not considered — that water in places like Charlotte or Columbia is connected to what happens on the land miles and miles away in the Blue Ridge Mountains or South Mountains, in the headwaters of the river system.”

Andrew agreed, adding that future conservation and preservation efforts require a committed team effort from all communities along this basin — all 24 counties across two states.

“A droplet of water that ends up in your glass from your faucet might have originated in the national forest, far beyond your county or municipality,” Andrew said. “This water doesn’t come into existence at the municipal water utility intakes. The entire basin is connected, from upstream to downstream — and it’s a much bigger process, a much bigger landscape than just the creek right beside your house or the lake that you visit for recreation.”

Over the coming months, the land trusts involved in the Catawba-Wateree Clean Water Initiative will use a grant from the Healthy Watersheds Consortium, which is funded by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to transform the results of the study into an action plan. Though the Initiative and its many partners realize it will take years to spread awareness, advocating for the future of the region’s water is crucial for future generations and for the region’s economy to thrive.

“The next step,” Vicki said, “while building this plan that includes counties, towns, utility companies, state and federal agencies and those working in agriculture and recreation — is to arrive at a consensus on how to put this plan into place and how to fund the continued protection of the Catawba-Wateree River.”

Photos by Nancy Pierce
ROCKY POP PRESERVE PROTECTS 39 ACRES ALONG THE ROCKY RIVER

Rocky Pop Preserve secures the marshes and forest land along the Rocky River from the effects of development. The Conservancy purchased the 39-acre property with grant funding from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The property is located along the Thread Trail’s Rocky River Corridor. In time, it will provide public access to a future segment of the Hector H. Henry Greenway, a part of the Thread Trail, near where the Cross Charlotte Trail enters Cabarrus County. The segment will be approximately 6.5 miles long.

CONSERVED AREA IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY GAINS MORE FORESTLAND

Landowners Frank and Kathy Bragg added 11 acres of forestland to the existing 730-acre Ramah Creek Conservation area in Mecklenburg County. Now known as the Bragg East Addition Conservation Easement, the property is home to one of the largest recorded Shortleaf Pine trees in the state of North Carolina and the largest in Mecklenburg County. The tree earned a Champion Big Tree certificate from the NC Forest Service. The preserve is also home to the rare Carolina Darter, listed as a federal species of concern by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

CITY OF CHARLOTTE DONATES LAND THROUGH TREE CANOPY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The City of Charlotte recently donated 27 acres of land located at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to the Conservancy. It did this through its Tree Canopy Preservation Program, which was established to help advance the City’s goal of achieving a 50 percent tree canopy by 2050. This Mallard Creek – UNCC Conservation Easement will protect the natural setting of the Mallard Creek Greenway, safeguard the local watershed, and protect the natural habitat of fish, wildlife and plants.

CONSERVANCY PROTECTS FORESTLAND ALONG FORNEY CREEK

Thanks to a grant from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Conservancy was able to preserve 29.3 acres of wooded land along Forney Creek in eastern Lincoln County. Dubbed Little Falls Preserve, the land increases the size of the existing 280-acre Forney Creek Conservation Area and protects 3,320 feet of stream bank. It also provides a future half-mile extension of the Thread Trail which will bring the total to nearly three miles of trail in the Forney Creek corridor.

NEW PRESERVED LAND WILL PROTECT WATER AND EXPAND THREAD TRAIL

The Conservancy purchased a conservation easement from Nancy Pharr Haines on a 28-acre property known as the CAT Long Preserve. This forested preserve in Cabarrus County was bought with support from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund. It protects 2,282 linear feet along the Rocky River and an additional 1,100 feet along a tributary of the Rocky River. The preserve will house a segment of the Thread Trail in the future.

OLD STILL FARM CONSERVED IN PERPETUITY

The Conservancy purchased a conservation easement on Old Still Farm, a 339-acre active farm in Union County just north of Marshville, N.C., off Highway 205. The project was funded through a partnership with the Yadkin Riverkeeper and the Southern Environmental Law Center. The property has 9,400 linear feet of stream frontage on Salem Creek and Jack’s Branch. The landowner worked with the Conservancy to design a conservation easement that would protect the streams for water quality purposes while also ensuring the continued agricultural viability of the land.

CONSERVANCY PROTECTS HOLLY TRACK PRESERVE WITH U.S. NATIONAL WHITewater CENTER

The Conservancy partnered with the U.S. National Whitewater Center to permanently protect 193 acres of forestland in northwest Charlotte. The property expands the Whitewater Center’s reach to the north, while adding to the Conservancy’s existing Long Creek Conservation Area, which makes up 1,060 acres of preserved land in Mecklenburg County along Long Creek, a major tributary of the Catawba River. The North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund contributed $1 million toward the acquisition of the property. The project will extend Long Creek Trail, part of the Thread Trail, for an additional 1.5 miles around the Whitewater Center. The conserved land is listed as a significant natural area by the NC Natural Heritage Program because it contains a number of rare plants like the Virginia Spiderwort and the Georgia Holly.

LAND PURCHASED TO SHELTER TURTLES IN JANE’S MEADOW BOG

A population of bog turtles, the smallest species of turtle in North America, recently faced a dangerous threat to their marshy home at Jane’s Meadow Bog. Through generous donations from 233 supporters, nearly $42,000 was raised towards the purchase of the 17 acres adjoining the bog. The bog has been protected by the Conservancy since 2005, and development of the adjacent land would have disrupted the watershed and destroyed this unique and sensitive habitat. Unfortunately, only 96 known colonies of bog turtles remain in the Southeast, most containing fewer than 20 turtles. Bog turtles are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.
STROUPE PROPERTY
JOINS CONSERVANCY’S PROTECTED LANDS

In the small community of Alexis located between Stanley and High Shoals in Gaston County lies 62.6 acres of property that has been in Stephen Stroupe’s family since the 1770s.

Stephen’s father, Henry, was born in 1914 on the property in a log cabin. The cabin itself was built in the 1820s, but it no longer rests on the land. It currently resides in Hart Square Village, the largest collection of original, historical log structures in the United States, about 14 miles south of Hickory. The Stroupe land was continuously farmed until the 1930s when Stephen’s grandfather, also named Stephen, became a full-time minister, settling in at Alexis Baptist Church a couple miles from the property.

Although he has owned the land for a decade, Stephen has not lived in North Carolina for many years. He grew up in the Winston-Salem area, where his father worked as a professor at what was then Wake Forest College. After receiving an undergraduate degree in chemistry from the same school, Stephen’s graduate studies – also in chemistry – brought him to Purdue University. Stephen has lived in the Chicago area and worked as a chemist for decades ever since.

“I couldn’t maintain the land well from afar, but preserving my familial heritage without seeing the land developed into a subdivision was very important to me.”

Part of Stephen’s fondness for the property stems from many memories of visiting it as a child with his dad.

“Dad always liked to visit because that’s where he was born and that’s where he grew up,” he said. “He went back until the year he died. That was certainly his home.”

While Stephen would have liked to keep the land in his family, neither of his children nor his close relatives were interested in the task of taking care of it. The family was looking for an organization to properly maintain it, and the Conservancy fit the description. Stephen generously donated the land to the Conservancy and contributed to the land stewardship funding. Charlton K. Torrence, III of Gastonia also donated $8,000 to help cover the deal’s transaction costs.

The Stroupe property protects the headwater streams of Little Hoyle Creek, which is a tributary of the South Fork of the Catawba River. In total, it buffers 1,375 feet of the western bank of the creek as well as approximately 2,000 feet of other perennial tributaries to Little Hoyle Creek. It’s also located in a Class IV water supply watershed, meaning the creek provides water for the local drinking supply.

Several high-quality tributaries run through the expansive green space as well. The Conservancy’s Director of Land Acquisition Matt Covington noted that it’s home to old-growth mesic hardwood forests, in addition to dry oak-hickory and dry-mesic oak-hickory thiclets. The Stroupe family also planted 20 acres of pine trees there for a timber harvest, but they were never cut down.

“This type of project is historically our bread and butter as a small nonprofit,” Matt said. “We get grant funding to purchase conservation easements sometimes. So, when these types of projects come to us, we’re pleased to be able to act quickly to protect the land and water. If not for the generous donations of these families, we wouldn’t be able to take on projects like this.”

The Conservancy’s Director of Land Acquisition Matt Covington noted that it’s home to old-growth mesic hardwood forests, in addition to dry oak-hickory and dry-mesic oak-hickory thiclets. The Stroupe family also planted 20 acres of pine trees there for a timber harvest, but they were never cut down.

“This type of project is historically our bread and butter as a small nonprofit,” Matt said. “We get grant funding to purchase conservation easements sometimes. So, when these types of projects come to us, we’re pleased to be able to act quickly to protect the land and water. If not for the generous donations of these families, we wouldn’t be able to take on projects like this.”

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Catawba Lands Conservancy is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant’s policies and programs. Accreditation is important to the Conservancy because it is a mark of distinction that demonstrates our adherence to rigorous quality standards and provides assurance to our partners and supporters that we can be counted on to follow the highest ethical standards in working to permanently conserve important natural spaces and working lands.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Catawba Lands Conservancy complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on Catawba Lands Conservancy’s application will be most useful by September 15, 2019.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on Catawba Lands Conservancy’s application will be most useful by September 15, 2019.
Frank is one of the most involved and outgoing volunteers walking the Carolina Thread Trail. He serves as a Trail Master and Thread Trail Ambassador and has volunteered at outreach events, volunteer workdays, outdoor programs and countless projects at our office. Last year alone he gifted the Thread Trail more than 30 days of his personal time.

Frank’s life is built upon helping others improve their own. From his time serving in the U.S. military to teaching high school history, he continues to set a fine example for others through community causes. Lately he’s become deeply interested in the preservation of our natural spaces and eagerly works to connect the public to them.

Frank is an essential part of our efforts at the Conservancy, and we’re incredibly grateful for his service to our community and the Thread Trail! Congratulations on your Volunteer of the Year Award, Frank!
Founders Trail: York County • This 2.3-mile mostly natural surface trail officially opened in March along a scenic stretch of the Catawba River in Fort Mill, and includes a connection, via the Route 21 Bridge sidewalk the popular Piedmont Medical Center “Riverwalk” Trail in Rock Hill. It also connects north to the 1.25 mile Masons Bend Trail. A new trailhead is located within the Masons Bend development at Weir Court. Collectively, this trail system extends nearly eight miles.

Masons Bend Trail: York County • Running 1.25 miles along the Catawba River through the Masons Bend development in Fort Mill, this trail links to the Founders Trail. It officially opened in late March.

Little Sugar Creek Greenway: Huntingtowne Farms to I-485, Mecklenburg County • This 2.2-mile segment of paved greenway, expected to open in late spring, runs south from Huntingtowne Farms. A new trailhead will be located at Sharon Road West.

Long Creek Trail Extension: Mecklenburg County • Located at the U.S. National Whitewater Center, this natural surface trail will extend the existing Thread Trail for approximately 1.5 miles. This trail extension was made possible through a 193-acre conservation easement by the Conservancy in cooperation with the USNWC.

Hector H. Henry II Greenway: Cabarrus County • This 2.4-mile natural surface trail is located near The Mills development off Rocky River Road. The trail will become open to the public once the trailhead and parking area is fully complete in July.

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail: Cherokee County • This 6-mile natural surface trail is currently being built around Lake Whetzel and represents a portion of the historically significant Overmountain Victory Trail. The trail is anticipated to open in June.

Greenway at Antiquity: Mecklenburg County • This 0.6-mile paved greenway located in the Antiquity development will connect downtown Cornelius to the Davidson Greenway. It’s expected to open this fall.

In 2018, there was a significant amount of construction started on trail projects. We’re thrilled to report the following 16.7 miles of trails will open to the public in 2019:

Little Sugar Creek Greenway: Tyvola to Huntingtowne Farms, Mecklenburg County • This 1.4-mile segment of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway constructed by Mecklenburg County opened to the public last June, providing connections to Marion Diehl Park, Park Road Park and several residential areas. The Little Sugar Creek Greenway will soon run 18 continuous miles from Cordelia Park to the South Carolina state line.

Salisbury Greenway: Rowan County • This nearly 3-mile paved greenway links Kelsey Scott Park and Lake Alexander Boulevard. The segment is part of the Salisbury Greenway system and will lead joggers, walkers and cyclists through recreational areas, parks and natural spaces.

Mount Holly Mountain Island Park Trail: Gaston County • This 1.5-mile natural surface trail runs south from Mountain Island Lake Park along the Catawba River. When you visit, check out the Mountain Island Lake Dam as well as several fishing areas perfect for catfish and bass fishing.

Grover Street Pathway: Cleveland County • This 0.75-mile greenway runs along Grover Street and provides a connection from the First Broad River Trail to the residential areas near Morgan Street. Walkers can access this new pathway via the trailhead for First Broad River Trail.

One of the Carolina Thread Trail’s main goals is connecting people’s lives to nature regularly. A great way to accomplish this is by encouraging people to lace up their walking shoes or hop on their bikes to hit the trails crisscrossing the region.

In 2018, there was a significant amount of construction started on trail projects. We’re thrilled to report the following 16.7 miles of trails will open to the public in 2019:

Founders Trail: York County • This 2.3-mile mostly natural surface trail officially opened in March along a scenic stretch of the Catawba River in Fort Mill, and includes a connection, via the Route 21 Bridge sidewalk the popular Piedmont Medical Center “Riverwalk” Trail in Rock Hill. It also connects north to the 1.25 mile Masons Bend Trail. A new trailhead is located within the Masons Bend development at Weir Court. Collectively, this trail system extends nearly eight miles.

Masons Bend Trail: York County • Running 1.25 miles along the Catawba River through the Masons Bend development in Fort Mill, this trail links to the Founders Trail. It officially opened in late March.

Little Sugar Creek Greenway: Huntingtowne Farms to I-485, Mecklenburg County • This 2.2-mile segment of paved greenway, expected to open in late spring, runs south from Huntingtowne Farms. A new trailhead will be located at Sharon Road West.

Long Creek Trail Extension: Mecklenburg County • Located at the U.S. National Whitewater Center, this natural surface trail will extend the existing Thread Trail for approximately 1.5 miles. This trail extension was made possible through a 193-acre conservation easement by the Conservancy in cooperation with the USNWC.

Hector H. Henry II Greenway: Cabarrus County • This 2.4-mile natural surface trail is located near The Mills development off Rocky River Road. The trail will become open to the public once the trailhead and parking area is fully complete in July.

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail: Cherokee County • This 6-mile natural surface trail is currently being built around Lake Whetzel and represents a portion of the historically significant Overmountain Victory Trail. The trail is anticipated to open in June.

Greenway at Antiquity: Mecklenburg County • This 0.6-mile paved greenway located in the Antiquity development will connect downtown Cornelius to the Davidson Greenway. It’s expected to open this fall.

Cramerton Greenway: Gaston County • This half-mile paved greenway built by the Town of Cramerton will run from Goat Island north to an existing paved greenway near the bridge on Wilkinson Boulevard, linking Cramerton to McAdenville and eventually to Poston Park and Spencer Mountain.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for one of our upcoming programs! Visit the Catawba Lands website for more information and to register. All public programs are FREE, but pre-registration is required.

PUBLIC EVENTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 1: NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
10 a.m.-2 p.m. • Cramerton, NC
Save the date! Carolina Thread Trail will celebrate National Trails Day at Goat Island Park and Greenway. National Trails Day is the only nationally coordinated event designed to connect people with nature and encourage them to find their own outdoor adventures. The event will be presented by CaroMont Health and will feature free kayak, SUP and bike rentals, guided walks and bike tours, nature activities for kids, live music, food, craft beer and outdoor lifestyle exhibitors. Admission to National Trails Day is free and open to all.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1: NATIONAL TRAILS DAY VOLUNTEER WORKDAY
9 a.m.-12 p.m. • Long Creek Preserve Trail • Charlotte, NC

SATURDAY, JUNE 1: NATIONAL TRAILS DAY VOLUNTEER WORKDAY
9 a.m.-12 p.m. • Forney Creek Trail • Denver, NC

SATURDAY, JUNE 1: NATIONAL TRAILS DAY VOLUNTEER WORKDAY
9 a.m.-12 p.m. • South Fork Trail • McAdenville, NC

TUESDAY, JUNE 18: BIKE-N-BREW WITH BLUE BLAZE BREWING
6-7 p.m. • Charlotte, NC
Evening leisurely bike ride through the city. 3 miles. Easy. Ages 21+.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20: SUNSET BIKE RIDE AT WEST BRANCH ROCKY RIVER GREENWAY
6-8 p.m. • Davidson, NC
Cruise through several neighborhoods and the West Branch Nature Preserve. 5 miles. Easy. Ages 15+. No dogs please.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 1: NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
8 a.m.-1 p.m. • Cramerton, NC
Save the date! Carolina Thread Trail will celebrate National Trails Day at Goat Island Park and Greenway. National Trails Day is the only nationally coordinated event designed to connect people with nature and encourage them to find their own outdoor adventures. The event will be presented by CaroMont Health and will feature free kayak, SUP and bike rentals, guided walks and bike tours, nature activities for kids, live music, food, craft beer and outdoor lifestyle exhibitors. Admission to National Trails Day is free and open to all.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1: NATIONAL TRAILS DAY VOLUNTEER WORKDAY
8-10 a.m. • Cramerton, NC
National Trails Day preserve and trail maintenance. Tools, drink, snacks and food truck voucher provided. Ages 10+ with parent. No dogs please.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1: NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENT VOLUNTEER SUPPORT
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. • Cramerton, NC
Event management or kayak safety support. Shirt, lunch and drink voucher provided. Multiple shifts. Ages 13+ with parent.

MEMBERS ONLY EVENTS

Preregistration is required for all member programs.

SATURDAY, MAY 18th
8 a.m.-1 p.m. | Crowders Mountain Day Hike
522 Park Office Lane, Kings Mountain. 4.5 miles. Strenuous. Ages 15+. No dogs please.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22nd
8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. | South Fork River Blueway Kayak Trip
119 Willow Drive, McAdenville. 5.5 miles. Moderate. Ages 18+.
WOMEN’S IMPACT FUND GRANT ALLOWS FOR PROGRAMMING EXPANSION

In 2016, the Conservancy was awarded a Women’s Impact Fund grant for $74,000 to finance a program coordinator on staff. The program coordinator engages children and adults alike in the Conservancy’s four key conservation areas: clean water, wildlife habitat, local farms and connection to nature.

Emma Rose Parker currently holds the position and is responsible for developing programs, including weekly nature hikes and fitness walks, bike rides and kayaking trips as well as outings for community organizations that have members who are interested in getting outdoors and learning about the natural history of the region. These have included Outdoor Afro Charlotte, EmpowHERment, Blue Cross Blue Shield’s Hike NC, Queens University, Sustain Charlotte and Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, among others.

IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE CONSERVANCY AND THE THREAD TRAIL HAVE HOSTED MORE THAN 200 PROGRAMS REACHING 9,000 PEOPLE THANKS TO THE GRANT.

The grant funding has also enabled the Conservancy to provide greater access to its conserved lands. Additionally, the grant is being used to help address critical community needs such as conserving natural resources and promoting the health benefits of time spent outdoors.

The grant came at a critical time as projections from the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute show that within the next 15 years, the greater Charlotte region could lose 30 percent of its remaining green space. This would have a major effect on water and air quality, wildlife habitat, access to locally grown foods and opportunities for recreation.

The mission of the Women’s Impact Fund is to maximize women’s leadership in philanthropy by engaging and educating members, increasing charitable contributions and strengthening communities through the impact of collective giving.

CONNECTING WITH NATURE

PUBLIC PADDLES
Adventurous nature lovers had a blast on morning kayak trips cohosted with the Catawba Riverkeepers along the scenic Catawba River last year. This section of blueway, including Lake Wylie, is part of the Thread Trail’s blueway network, which includes more than 170 waterways in North and South Carolina. It’s the source of public drinking water for the region.

BIKE-N-BREW
In conjunction with Charlotte B-cycle’s Queen City Joyrides program, bikers enjoyed leisurely evening rides through the city along Irwin and Stewart Creek greenways in 2018. Along the way, they learned about the history of the area and the Thread Trail and cooled down with a refreshing drink from Blue Blaze Brewing afterward.

WATERFALL WOWS ON HIKE THROUGH GREAT FALLS
Our nature hike along Rocky Creek Trail in Great Falls, South Carolina, on Feb. 2 was such a big hit with more than 50 participants that another was planned for the end of the month. Program Coordinator Emma Rose Parker spoke about riparian ecology and the natural history of the area that runs parallel to Rocky Creek. She also led hikers around the area’s signature waterfall and encouraged them to keep an eye out for native bird species, as the area is designated an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.
2018 BY THE NUMBERS

36 PROGRAM, OUTREACH AND WORKDAY NONPROFIT PARTNERS

200 PROPERTIES MONITORED

61 HIKES, BIKE RIDES AND PADDLE TRIPS

308 SHARES OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED TO THE FAMILIES IN THE LAKEWOOD COMMUNITY OVER 14 WEEKS

41,967 RAISED TO SAVE A RARE SPECIES OF BOG TURTLE AT JANE’S MEADOW BOG

50 GOATS CLEARED KUDZU AT SEVEN OAKS PRESERVE

690 TOTAL ACRES PROTECTED

1,917 VOLUNTEER HOURS

582 VOLUNTEERS

1,036 PEOPLE EXPOSED TO NATURE

1,350 MEMBERS
CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL
2018 GRANTS TO THE COMMUNITY

We’re pleased to look back on all the great projects from 2018 that have their roots in grant funding we’ve provided to the following organizations:

CITY OF SHELBY
$45,000 given to the City of Shelby for construction on the First Broad River Trail in Cleveland County.

CITY OF LINCOLNTON
$5,000 given to the City of Lincolnton to connect the Marcia Cloninger Rail Trail to the South Fork Rail Trail.

TOWN OF WADESBORO
$20,000 given to the Town of Wadesboro to design and plan the extension of the Wadesboro Greenway in Anson County.

TOWN OF MCADENVILLE
$2,500 given to the Town of Mcdalenville for a trail easement from Cramerton to the South Fork Trail.

CITY OF SALISBURY
$132,000 given to the City of Salisbury to connect the Salisbury Greenway between Catawba College and Kelsey Scott Park in Rowan County.

CATAWBA LANDS CONSERVANCY & CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL
2018 GRANTS RECEIVED

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL
$10,800 given to Catawba Lands Conservancy to purchase the Massapoag Preserve, which will connect the Marcia Cloninger Trail to the South Fork Rail Trail.

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL
$9,500 for construction of a parking lot and driveway at the Rocky River Trail (Hector Henry Greenway — Mills at Rocky River segment) in Cabarrus County.

CONSERVATION TRUST FOR NORTH CAROLINA (CTNC)
$7,500 from CTNC to CLC for a digital marketing campaign as a part of their Connecting 100,000 Voices to Conservation statewide campaign.

NORTH CAROLINA CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND (CWMTF)
$555,800 from CWMTF to CLC for the acquisition of the Saint James Preserve.

NOVANT HEALTH
$27,000 from Novant Health to fund the Lakewood Farm Share project.

RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT, INC (REI)
$7,500 from REI to CTT for trail assessment and repairs on the Nation Ford Greenway.

RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT, INC (REI)
$3,600 from REI to CTT for the addition of Thread Trail segments REI Hiking Project map.
CATAWBA LANDS CONSERVANCY
FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Budget Summary 2018-2017 General Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donors</td>
<td>$520,811</td>
<td>$530,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations &amp; Govt.</td>
<td>$87,280</td>
<td>$106,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corp. Partners</td>
<td>$288,451</td>
<td>$286,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$16,866</td>
<td>$48,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship Transfer</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$956,407</td>
<td>$969,137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compensation</td>
<td>$521,998</td>
<td>$552,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office/Administrative</td>
<td>$160,410</td>
<td>$172,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach &amp; Development</td>
<td>$132,688</td>
<td>$122,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$815,396</td>
<td>$847,624</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


2018 Functional Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UNAUDITED $5.7 M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compensation</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office/Administrative</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach &amp; Development</td>
<td>94.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018 Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UNAUDITED $5.9 M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Acquisition</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Revenue</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cash Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$691K</td>
<td>$605K</td>
<td>$674K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committed Fund</td>
<td>$1.4M</td>
<td>$2.2M</td>
<td>$2.2M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>$4.9M</td>
<td>$5.4M</td>
<td>$4.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$8.5M</td>
<td>$8.2M</td>
<td>$8.4M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stewardship & Legal Defense Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program*</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Net</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Fund Revenue & Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>$920,000</td>
<td>$920,000</td>
<td>$920,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leveraging Capital for Conservation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-Year Land and Easement Investment</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Year Cumulative Operating Cost</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2018 CATAWBA LANDS CONSERVANCY DONORS

Our donors' generous support each year enables us to pursue our mission of saving land and connecting lives to nature. This list includes gifts that were made during the 2018 calendar year.

$10,000

Phillips and Amy Blumenthal

Philip and Amy Blumenthal*

Ann and Ric Browning

Ann and Ric Browning*

Jeffrey and Martha Brown

Karen Hales*

Andrew and Tracy Brown

Andrew and Tracy Brown*

Karen Hales*

Allison and Fred Brown

Allison and Fred Brown*

Karen Hales*

Sandy and Fred Brown

Sandy and Fred Brown*

Karen Hales*

Andy and Emily Brown

Andy and Emily Brown*

Karen Hales*

Kathy Brown

Kathy Brown*

Karen Hales*

Susan Carter

Susan Carter*

Karen Hales*

Margaret and John Carter

Margaret and John Carter*

Karen Hales*

Stephen and Mary Carter

Stephen and Mary Carter*

Karen Hales*

Dr. and Mrs. George R. Miller

Dr. and Mrs. George R. Miller*

Karen Hales*

Dan and Mary Ann Johnson

Dan and Mary Ann Johnson*

Karen Hales*

Barbara Huffman

Barbara Huffman*

Karen Hales*

Damon Houghton

Damon Houghton*

Karen Hales*

Janet F. Hince

Janet F. Hince*

Karen Hales*

Kate Hill

Kate Hill*

Karen Hales*

Peggy Harrington

Peggy Harrington*

Karen Hales*

Tim and Carol Head

Tim and Carol Head*

Karen Hales*

Dr. and Mrs. Margaret James B. Wolf and Mark Propst*

Karen Hales*

Lillian and Chris Teigland*

Lillian and Chris Teigland*

Karen Hales*

Stewart and Martha Tate

Stewart and Martha Tate*

Karen Hales*

Paul and Dia Steiger*

Paul and Dia Steiger*

Karen Hales*

Trey Sheridan

Trey Sheridan*

Karen Hales*

Steve and Katie Scruggs

Steve and Katie Scruggs*

Karen Hales*

Chris and Vicki Rolfe

Chris and Vicki Rolfe*

Karen Hales*

Thomas and Sarah Rednecheck

Thomas and Sarah Rednecheck*

Karen Hales*

Jack and Melissa Sullivan

Jack and Melissa Sullivan*

Karen Hales*

Laurie Smith

Laurie Smith*

Karen Hales*

Jack and Melissa Sullivan

Jack and Melissa Sullivan*

Karen Hales*

John and Michelle Madsen

John and Michelle Madsen*

Karen Hales*

Dr. Marie-Claire Marmorek, M.D.*

Dr. Marie-Claire Marmorek, M.D.*

Karen Hales*

Luke and Amy Cash

Luke and Amy Cash*

Karen Hales*

Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Livesay

Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Livesay*

Karen Hales*

Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Livesay

Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Livesay*

Karen Hales*

Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Livesay

Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Livesay*

Karen Hales*

Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Livesay

Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Livesay*

Karen Hales*
CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATING EXPENSE BY PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 ACTUAL</th>
<th>2018 ACTUAL</th>
<th>2019 BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Cost</td>
<td>$578,075</td>
<td>$532,146</td>
<td>$615,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office/Admin</td>
<td>$82,206</td>
<td>$102,982</td>
<td>$102,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach &amp; Development</td>
<td>$117,141</td>
<td>$137,168</td>
<td>$143,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>$19,137</td>
<td>$25,197</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expense</td>
<td>$778,499</td>
<td>$798,453</td>
<td>$909,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUND BALANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fund Balance 12/31/2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$11,105,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Pledges</td>
<td>$2,252,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
<td>$29,368,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets, Net</td>
<td>$1,907,594</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018 CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL DONORS

Your generous support enables us to advance trails throughout a 15-county region in North and South Carolina. This list includes corporate and individual gifts to the Carolina Thread Trail made in the 2018 calendar year.

DONORS

$20,000+
- Bill and Sharon Allen
- Katheryn Heath and Tom Webb
- Kelly Ketteringham and Larry Sobolak
- Ruth Tomkinson Legacy Gift

$10,000+
- Amy and Robert Bradley
- Grzeg and John Collett
- Alvaro and Donna De Molina
- Jamie and Hunter McLawhorn
- Ruth and Colin Shaw
- Edsel Wheelock, Jr. and Betty Fleemig

$5,000+
- Donald J. Sherrill
- Keith Smith

$1,000+
- Shari Alden
- Baher and Timothy Andrews
- Cranford and Dolores Stone
- Ann and Ric Browning
- Gwendolyn Peterson
- Pam and Andy Warlick

$500-$249
- Cheryl Johnson
- Chadwick Jeffery
- Andrew Huneycutt
- Erma Deen Hoyle
- Jon Hinson
- Jim Hinkle
- Rachel G. Hill
- Kari Hess
- Mark and Christine Helms
- Daniel Hayward
- Krista Harvey
- Catherine H. Hart
- Terry Genay
- Cathy Barnes
- Brooks and Jane Burchett
- Luther Buntger
- Steven and Mary Martha Bewy
- Nancy Belono
- Richard M. Bell
- Bob and Lisa Bradley
- Elizabeth Borch
- Bob and Sandra Busam
- Dr. and Mrs. "T. Blackmon
- Sara and Mandy Bower
- Philip and Amy Bielzourel
- Brenda Biltz
- Donald and Becky Isakel
- Danny Bradley
- Sandy Bradford
- Scott and Kerri Brooks
- Christopher and Amanda Burkman
- Kyle Bollard
- Eric Brown
- Amber Perry Carney
- Nathan and Laura Clark
- Mark Clifton
- Roger Coates
- Mexico Cole
- Williams and Susan Cole
- Mary Anne Coles
- Jennifer Dugg
- Dick Eckler
- Michelle Davis
- Mary Kay Deering
- Leonard and Teresa Delopoulos
- Ralph Doll
- Fred and Janet Jackson
- Debbie Elgie
- Christine and Bob Li
- Pete and Page McCarth<br>

2017 ACTUAL 2018 ACTUAL 2019 BUDGET

- Outreach & Development
- Operations
- Total Operating Expense

- Donors

2017 ACTUAL 2018 ACTUAL 2019 BUDGET

- Personnel Cost
- Office/Admin
- Outreach & Development
- Operations
- Total Operating Expense

2018 CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL DONORS

- Your generous support enables us to advance trails throughout a 15-county region in North and South Carolina.
- This list includes corporate and individual gifts to the Carolina Thread Trail made in the 2018 calendar year.

- Bill and Sharon Allen
- Katheryn Heath and Tom Webb
- Kelly Ketteringham and Larry Sobolak
- Ruth Tomkinson Legacy Gift

- Amy and Robert Bradley
- Grzeg and John Collett
- Alvaro and Donna De Molina
- Jamie and Hunter McLawhorn
- Ruth and Colin Shaw
- Edsel Wheelock, Jr. and Betty Fleemig

- Donald J. Sherrill
- Keith Smith

- Shari Alden
- Baher and Timothy Andrews
- Cranford and Dolores Stone
- Ann and Ric Browning
- Gwendolyn Peterson
- Pam and Andy Warlick

- $50-$249

- Cheryl Johnson
- Chadwick Jeffery
- Andrew Huneycutt
- Erma Deen Hoyle
- Jon Hinson
- Jim Hinkle
- Rachel G. Hill
- Kari Hess
- Mark and Christine Helms
- Daniel Hayward
- Krista Harvey
- Catherine H. Hart
- Terry Genay
- Cathy Barnes
- Brooks and Jane Burchett
- Luther Buntger
- Steven and Mary Martha Bewy
- Nancy Belono
- Richard M. Bell
- Bob and Lisa Bradley
- Elizabeth Borch
- Bob and Sandra Busam
- Dr. and Mrs. "T. Blackmon
- Sara and Mandy Bower
- Philip and Amy Bielzourel
- Brenda Biltz
- Donald and Becky Isakel
- Danny Bradley
- Sandy Bradford
- Scott and Kerri Brooks
- Christopher and Amanda Burkman
- Kyle Bollard
- Eric Brown
- Amber Perry Carney
- Nathan and Laura Clark
- Mark Clifton
- Roger Coates
- Mexico Cole
- Williams and Susan Cole
- Mary Anne Coles
- Jennifer Dugg
- Dick Eckler
- Michelle Davis
- Mary Kay Deering
- Leonard and Teresa Delopoulos
- Ralph Doll
- Fred and Janet Jackson
- Debbie Elgie
- Christine and Bob Li
- Pete and Page McCarth<br>
MEMORIALS

H. W. Colp Lumber Company in memory of Henry Colp
Jeanie M. Neuman in memory of Kelly Chasten
Julie Poff in memory of Tracy Braunick
Hal Rubins in memory of Edwin Rubins

HONORARIUMS

Rufus M. Dulin in honor of Philip Blumenthal
Duke Energy Foundation in honor of Mary Gwain
Jack Gaskill in honor of Madame Gaskill
Sandi Guy in honor of Emily Johnson
Larry Hornick in honor of Patrick Hornick
Patrick Hornick in honor of Chad Daring
South Carolina Native Plant Society in honor of John Glaub

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION & GOVERNMENT

Blue Ridge Trail Works, Inc.
Catawba Water Adventures
Carolina Marketing and Design
CED
Denial
Eleazor and James Barnhardt Foundation
EV
Expo Industries
Equinox
Horse Consulting Group, Inc.
H. W. Colp Lumber Company
LandDesign
March Properties
McLean Homes
Tilson United Way of Central Carolinas
U.S. National Whitewater Center
Wildwadi Engineering, Inc.

GREENWAY GALS

$500+
Ingrid Amsol
Donna de Molina
Amadee Grigg

$250-$499
Suzanne Adams
Diana Allen
Lynn Armstrong
Catherine Armstrong
Sylvia Bryan
Emily Buckner
Suzanne Carabene
Cheryl Carson
Wanda Cross
Virginia Coleman
Melissa Cornwell
Miriam Durante
Deborah Durante
Helen Farn
Elizabeth Fender
Annie Flett
Rebecca Gribben
Jane Green
Heather Holland
Lori Hamrick
Mary Grace Hollett
Tricia Horn
Jenifer Jones
Linda Kossel
Dina Kim
Stephanie Kimbrel
Melisa Lopez
Elsa Loening
Jennifer Matson
Beverly Messier
Stephanie Miles
Joseph Minick
Stacy Pardue
Julia Prater
Laurie Richardson
Stacy Scherer
Kim Schiller
Maye Starnes-Russell
Elizabeth Sheh
Kathleen Smith
Eva Stokkebye
Kathleen Smith
Lana Truong
Mary Talley
Lara Thorpe
Cynde Tuellens
Alisa Weingart
Mary White
Kathryn Whaley
Ana Zimmerman

$100,000+
Duke Energy Foundation
Foundation for The Carolinas
Wells Fargo Foundation

$25,000+
Gaston County Community Foundation
Tourney Family Foundation

$10,000+
Buckhard Partners
Davidson College
KBC
Seasports
SPK
Yellow Duck Marketing

$5,000+
Alon Foundation
NARCECO

$2,500+
Arborguard Tree Specialists
Dean Martin & Associates
Mohave
McIntosh Women’s Club

$1,000+
Berkeley Capital Advisors
Blue Blaze Brewing
Clute & Rassole Abenroth
Charitable Trust
Lenny Boy Brewing Co.
North Carolina Foundation
Stuart
Sun Up Studios
Thomsen Sanders, LLP
Unibank Bank

$500+
Alta Planning + Design

$50,000+
Bohe, van Hook, & Turoff
Duke Energy Foundation
Foundation for The Carolinas
Wells Fargo Foundation

$25,000+
Claude and Raenelle Abernethy
Blue Blaze Brewery
Berkeley Capital Advisors

$10,000+
Kathy Bixler
Brown and Brown
Carmel Country Gardners
Birdsong Brewing Co.

$5,000+
Claude and Raenelle Abernethy
Blue Blaze Brewery
Berkeley Capital Advisors

$1,000+
Kathy Bixler
Brown and Brown
Carmel Country Gardners
Birdsong Brewing Co.

$250
Alpaca Trains
Arco Structures
Black Arch Partners
FoodFalls Outdoor & Recreational Group
Groce Masing
K. Martin Waters, IV Memorial Fund
Omni Wellness Center
PepsiCo
PBW Wine International

UP TO $249
Banshee Brewing Co.
Catawba Gardeners
Keg of Pipes Charitable, LLC
Kings Mountain Gateway Trail, Inc.
Outdoors Ati
South Carolina Native Plant Society

$10,000+
Bill and Alena Allen
Amy and Robert Aronk
Gaston Community Foundation
Eisenhower
James and Hunter McLandorn
Grants
Tom Wehle and Kathleen Heath

$5,000+
Blackbird Partners
Kelly Katterhagen and Larry Nabatoff

$250
Alpaca Trains
Arco Structures
Black Arch Partners
FoodFalls Outdoor & Recreational Group
Groce Masing
K. Martin Waters, IV Memorial Fund
Omni Wellness Center
PepsiCo
PBW Wine International

UP TO $249
Banshee Brewing Co.
Catawba Gardeners
Keg of Pipes Charitable, LLC
Kings Mountain Gateway Trail, Inc.
Outdoors Ati
South Carolina Native Plant Society

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

$50,000+
Bank of America Foundation
Duke Energy Foundation
Foundation for The Carolinas
Tourney Family Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation

$10,000+
Bill and Alena Allen
Amy and Robert Aronk
Gaston Community Foundation
Eisenhower
James and Hunter McLandorn
Grants
Tom Wehle and Kathleen Heath

$40,000+
Blackbird Partners
Kelly Katterhagen and Larry Nabatoff

$25,000+
Julie Lemon Lecte
Bill and Cola Shaw

$10,000+
Sally and Michael Dale
Deborah and Alice Hunt
Reiley and Mildred Patrick
Alex and Sharon Rankin
Keith Smith

$5,000+
Shelley Safford
Jenifer DeWitt
Jim and Lisa Landin
Marshall Rogers
Oaklands Bank
Christopher and Tyson Weinert

$2,500+
Duke Energy Foundation
Foundation for The Carolinas
Wells Fargo Foundation

$1,000+
Michael Goodman
CESI
Carolina Marketing and Design
Cannon Water Adventures
Blue Ridge Trail Works, Inc.
Catawba Water Adventures
Carolina Marketing and Design
CED
Denial
Eleazor and James Barnhardt Foundation
EV
Expo Industries
Equinox
Horse Consulting Group, Inc.
H. W. Colp Lumber Company
LandDesign
March Properties
McLean Homes
Tilson United Way of Central Carolinas
U.S. National Whitewater Center
Wildwadi Engineering, Inc.

GREENWAY GALS

$500+
Ingrid Amsol
Donna de Molina
Amadee Grigg

$250-$499
Suzanne Adams
Diana Allen
Lynn Armstrong
Catherine Armstrong
Sylvia Bryan
Emily Buckner
Suzanne Carabene
Cheryl Carson
Wanda Cross
Virginia Coleman
Melissa Cornwell
Miriam Durante
Deborah Durante
Helen Farn
Elizabeth Fender
Annie Flett
Rebecca Gribben
Jane Green
Heather Holland
Lori Hamrick
Mary Grace Hollett
Tricia Horn
Jenifer Jones
Linda Kossel
Dina Kim
Stephanie Kimbrel
Melisa Lopez
Elsa Loening
Jennifer Matson
Beverly Messier
Stephanie Miles
Joseph Minick
Stacy Pardue
Julia Prater
Laurie Richardson
Stacy Scherer
Kim Schiller
Maye Starnes-Russell
Elizabeth Sheh
Kathleen Smith
Eva Stokkebye
Kathleen Smith
Lana Truong
Mary Talley
Lara Thorpe
Cynde Tuellens
Alisa Weingart
Mary White
Kathryn Whaley
Ana Zimmerman

$100,000+
Duke Energy Foundation
Foundation for The Carolinas
Wells Fargo Foundation

$25,000+
Gaston County Community Foundation
Tourney Family Foundation

$10,000+
Buckhard Partners
Davidson College
KBC
Seasports
SPK
Yellow Duck Marketing

$5,000+
Alon Foundation
NARCECO

$2,500+
Arborguard Tree Specialists
Dean Martin & Associates
Mohave
McIntosh Women’s Club

$1,000+
Berkeley Capital Advisors
Blue Blaze Brewing
Clute & Rassole Abenroth
Charitable Trust
Lenny Boy Brewing Co.
North Carolina Foundation
Stuart
Sun Up Studios
Thomsen Sanders, LLP
Unibank Bank

$500+
Alta Planning + Design

$50,000+
Bohe, van Hook, & Turoff
Duke Energy Foundation
Foundation for The Carolinas
Wells Fargo Foundation

$25,000+
Claude and Raenelle Abernethy
Blue Blaze Brewery
Berkeley Capital Advisors

$10,000+
Kathy Bixler
Brown and Brown
Carmel Country Gardners
Birdsong Brewing Co.

$5,000+
Blackbird Partners
Kelly Katterhagen and Larry Nabatoff

$250
Alpaca Trains
Arco Structures
Black Arch Partners
FoodFalls Outdoor & Recreational Group
Groce Masing
K. Martin Waters, IV Memorial Fund
Omni Wellness Center
PepsiCo
PBW Wine International

UP TO $249
Banshee Brewing Co.
Catawba Gardeners
Keg of Pipes Charitable, LLC
Kings Mountain Gateway Trail, Inc.
Outdoors Ati
South Carolina Native Plant Society

$10,000+
Bill and Alena Allen
Amy and Robert Aronk
Gaston Community Foundation
Eisenhower
James and Hunter McLandorn
Grants
Tom Wehle and Kathleen Heath

$5,000+
Shelley Safford
Jenifer DeWitt
Jim and Lisa Landin
Marshall Rogers
Oaklands Bank
Christopher and Tyson Weinert

$2,500+
Duke Energy Foundation
Foundation for The Carolinas
Wells Fargo Foundation

$1,000+
Michael Goodman
CESI
Carolina Marketing and Design
Cannon Water Adventures
Blue Ridge Trail Works, Inc.
Catawba Water Adventures
Carolina Marketing and Design
CED
Denial
Eleazor and James Barnhardt Foundation
EV
Expo Industries
Equinox
Horse Consulting Group, Inc.
H. W. Colp Lumber Company
LandDesign
March Properties
McLean Homes
Tilson United Way of Central Carolinas
U.S. National Whitewater Center
Wildwadi Engineering, Inc.

GREENWAY GALS

$500+
Ingrid Amsol
Donna de Molina
Amadee Grigg

$250-$499
Suzanne Adams
Diana Allen
Lynn Armstrong
Catherine Armstrong
Sylvia Bryan
Emily Buckner
Suzanne Carabene
Cheryl Carson
Wanda Cross
Virginia Coleman
Melissa Cornwell
Miriam Durante
Deborah Durante
Helen Farn
Elizabeth Fender
Annie Flett
Rebecca Gribben
Jane Green
Heather Holland
Lori Hamrick
Mary Grace Hollett
Tricia Horn
Jenifer Jones
Linda Kossel
Dina Kim
Stephanie Kimbrel
Melisa Lopez
Elsa Loening
Jennifer Matson
Beverly Messier
Stephanie Miles
Joseph Minick
Stacy Pardue
Julia Prater
Laurie Richardson
Stacy Scherer
Kim Schiller
Maye Starnes-Russell
Elizabeth Sheh
Kathleen Smith
Eva Stokkebye
Kathleen Smith
Lana Truong
Mary Talley
Lara Thorpe
Cynde Tuellens
Alisa Weingart
Mary White
Kathryn Whaley
Ana Zimmerman
National Trails Day

A LOCAL CELEBRATION HOSTED BY CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL

www.CarolinaThreadTrail.org/NTD

SATURDAY, JUNE 1
10AM - 2PM
GOAT ISLAND | CRAMERTON, NC

PRESENTED BY:
CaroMont Health

GUIDED NATURE WALKS
LIVE MUSIC
FREE BIKE RENTALS
FREE KAYAK RENTALS
BEER & FOOD TRUCKS

Photo by Ronnie Taylor