



We wish to thank Comporium Communications for the production of this newsletter.



Lancaster, SC 29721
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KATAWBA VALLEY LAND TRUST




KVLT Fall Events at a Glance

2013 Annual Meeting	Sunday, September 29
Forty Acre Rock/	
Astronomy Club Outing	Friday, October 4
Stumpy Pond Kayak Trip	Saturday, November 2
Dr. John Lane Lecture	Thursday, November 8



Lupine
by Bill Stokes



Osprey Nest
by Bill Stokes

KVLT Board Members and Executive Director

- Mark H. Grier,**
President
- Lindsay Pettus,**
Vice President
- Paul M. Gettys,**
Secretary/Treasurer
- James J. White IV**
William H. Stokes
- Gere Engel**
- Ann Bass**
- Sandy Nelson**
- J.E.B. Wilson**
- Barry R. Beasley,**
Executive Director



Note Cards Available

Mary Brown's beautiful note cards of area lilies and our special places are still available at the Lancaster County Welcome Center in the old courthouse in downtown Lancaster.

The purchase of these note cards benefits the land trust. Stop by the next time you are in downtown Lancaster.



Photo by Bill Stokes

The Katawba Valley Land Trust is a private, nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to the protection of natural resources, open lands, waters, and historic resources in the Catawba River Valley and surrounding areas. To date, KVLT has protected 8539 acres of land in five South Carolina counties.

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Searching for Michaux's Rare Flower



Kalmia Search
Barry Beasley

One of the most famous and skilled European botanists who traveled in America during the late 18th and early 19th century was the Frenchman Andre Michaux. He explored much of the eastern half of the continent and traveled extensively in the Carolinas. He made his home in Charleston, South Carolina, moving there in 1787. In 1795, Michaux was

traveling northward and passed through Kershaw County on what is now Flat Rock Road. Somewhere north of the town of Camden, perhaps near Gum Swamp, Michaux saw and documented a population of kalmia cuneata, commonly known as white wicky. The plant has a beautiful white bloom with a deep red in the center and grows to a height of three to four feet. Kalmia cuneata is a rare plant and historically was found in only seven counties in North Carolina and three in South Carolina.

Charlie Williams, a KVLT member and expert on Michaux, has spent considerable time documenting the explorations and discoveries of the famed botanist in the Carolinas. The KVLT members who attended our annual meeting last year at Craig Farm had the opportunity to see and hear Charlie appear and give a lecture as Michaux.

Charlie has documented the location of several of Michaux's botanical discoveries including the big leaf magnolia, magnolia macrophylla, and has long maintained an interest in finding the

elusive population of kalmia cuneata described by Michaux north of Camden.

This past spring, under Charlie's leadership, the land trust organized an outing to look for white wicky on the Battle of Camden site, slightly north of Gum Swamp, where KVLT holds a conservation easement. The botanizing expedition included Dr. John Nelson, Chief Curator of the University of South Carolina Herbarium, Dr. Bert Pittman, botanist for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' Heritage Trust Program and several master naturalists.



Kalmia cuneata
©William S. Justice

According to the botany experts, kalmia cuneata likes sandy ridges near wet areas. With springtime growth, these areas were thick and dense. However, the group plowed through several of these areas hoping to catch a glimpse of the evasive plant. We spent several hours searching likely habitat, but we did not find any of Michaux's kalmia cuneata. Much has changed in the 218 years since Michaux

traversed Flat Rock Road in 1795. The long leaf forests which white wicky prefers are gone and fire which used to control undergrowth no longer burns regularly through the woods. Yet, the beautiful kalmia cuneata may still be out there. Regardless of whether it is there or not, it was sure fun to look.



Kalmia Search
Barry Beasley

iNaturalist.org

There is a new online community for people who are interested in the natural world and spend time exploring creeks, woods, natural areas or even your own backyard. Actually this new website is fun even if you do not spend time exploring the out-of-doors. All you have to do is enjoy nature. With our advanced technology today it is quite easy to record what we see when observing interesting plants, animals or insects while we are enjoying nature.



Tiger Swallowtail
on Button Bush
by Bill Stokes

www.iNaturalist.org is a relatively new website where you can share your observations with fellow naturalists around the world. The site will also help you identify things you see such as plants or animals that you cannot identify.

The iNaturalist site was started by graduate students at Stanford University in 2008. iNaturalist is now run by Ken-ichi Ueda, one of the co-founders, and Scott Laurie and it is becoming a great resource for the

sharing of information about the natural world. Observations on iNaturalist.org are organized both by species and places. For example, you can search on South Carolina and see all the observations that have been recorded for a particular species such as Carolina wrens or green salamanders. There are numerous species for South Carolina posted on the site.

Hopefully, this site, besides being great fun for amateur observers and naturalists, will become a resource for scientists as we continue to document the range, distribution and numbers of species. It can also be a great resource for teachers as well as a way to document species observations at places like Forty Acre Rock and other special places. The website is www.iNaturalist.org. Check it out and start recording and sharing what you see as you enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us all.



Green & Gold
at 40 Acre Rock
by Barry Beasley

KVLT Has New Corporate Sponsors

Founders Federal Credit Union became a corporate sponsor of the Catawba Valley Land Trust in 2012 and renewed their support in 2013 with a very generous donation to the land trust. Founders Federal Credit Union President and CEO Bruce Brumfield said of the land trust support, "It is vital to our communities to conserve and protect our natural areas so they continue to thrive for the well-being of our future generations." Stevenson-Weir, a family owned and operated redi-mix concrete and aggregate hauling company located in Rock Hill and Charlotte, became a corporate sponsor of the land trust in 2013.

Mark Grier, KVLT President states, "We are pleased and honored that corporations and businesses like Founders Federal Credit Union and Stevenson-Weir are willing to support the conservation work of the land trust. Their financial support demonstrates a strong commitment to protecting the natural and cultural resources in our region and the importance that these businesses place on the quality of life for all of us who live in the Catawba River Valley."



Flood Waters
on the Catawba
by Bill Stokes

New KVLT Website Under Construction

KVLT is in the process of constructing a new website which will be more informative and will have a new look and style. We hope to have the new website up within the next month. The new website address will be our old address, www.kvlt.org.

Name the Mystery Plant

We are starting a new feature in the KVLT newsletter that hopefully readers will find fun and a little challenging as well. The feature will run periodically and will feature a mystery plant with a photo and description for readers to identify. The first person to call the office (803-285-5801) with the identity of the plant will receive a KVLT t-shirt.



This mystery plant is a fungus and is a genus of mushroom in the family Geastraceae. The common name for the fungus comes from a behavior of its outer protective layer or the peridium, which encloses and protects the inner spore sack of the fungus. This particular fungus was photographed in June while monitoring one of KVLT's conservation easements. Call the land trust office with the common name and win a KVLT t-shirt.

Thoughts From the Director



Barry Beasley
by Bill Stokes

Wow, what a rainy summer we have had in South Carolina and the southeast. For the first time in several years the entire state is out of a drought. The rain has made for a lush, green summer with our trees healthy and everyone's yard thick and green. However, the rain has also showed us where the floodplains along our rivers and creeks are and demonstrated the value they have in controlling flood waters. A couple of weeks ago we had an intense rain in Lancaster that began in the morning

and lasted until midday. Many of Lancaster's creeks were over their banks and water quickly spilled over into their floodplains. The parks on Gills Creek were under water and waters from Bear Creek covered the soccer fields.

Fortunately, these floodplains are used for recreation and have never been developed like so many floodplains throughout South Carolina. Recreation is a good way to use these areas. The Catawba Valley Land Trust has also protected over 500 acres of land along the creeks in Lancaster, mostly in the floodplains of these creeks. These protected areas provide a place for water to go when these flood events happen, which seems to be more and more often. Protecting floodplains and riparian areas along creeks and rivers is critical to protecting property and preventing the damaging effects of high water when the floods come.