

KVLT Protects Property on Beaver Creek



Beaver Creek property in Kershaw County
Barry Beasley

both native and migratory songbirds, and a pond/waterfowl impoundment provides good habitat for waterfowl and wading bird species. Beaver, as well as traditional game and non-game species are found on the property. Two small creeks are dammed to form the pond which, when leaving the property, flows through a hardwood bottomland to Beaver Creek. The Beaver Creek floodplain contains a good stand of bottomland hardwoods.

This conservation project is a joint effort with the South Carolina Conservation Bank. The conservation bank provides funding to assist land trusts in purchasing conservation easements. Established in 2002, the bank provides funding to land trusts through a competitive application process to purchase conservation easements from willing sellers on properties with significant natural or cultural values. To receive funding, projects must be approved by the conservation bank board. This is the fourth KVLT conservation project to receive funding from the bank. This property is owned by Douglas B. Sheorn.

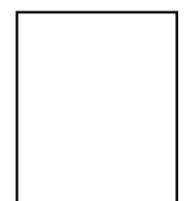
The Sheorn property contains significant conservation values which include water quality protection, wildlife habitat conservation and open space protection. Land Trust Executive Director Barry Beasley states "that protecting this property with a conservation easement will help protect the water quality and aquatic health of Beaver Creek and Lake Wateree. Protection will also maintain rural landscapes and forested lands, as well as important South Carolina traditional land uses and traditions such as hunting."

The Katawba Valley Land Trust had one successful conservation project in 2015, protecting a 152-acre property on Beaver Creek in northern Kershaw County. The property was protected by a conservation easement. A conservation easement is a legally binding agreement between a land trust and a landowner that protects the conservation values on the property in perpetuity.

The property, approximately 80% forested, is characterized by stands of planted pine, mixed hardwoods, wildlife openings and bottomland hardwoods. It has significant elevation changes, rising sharply from the floodplain of Beaver Creek to hilltops that offer sweeping vistas of the Beaver Creek drainage south, and the Stoneboro/Liberty Hill area to the northwest. Managed forest lands surround the property.

The property has a variety of habitats that sustain both game and non-game wildlife species. The hardwood areas provide good habitat for

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KVLT Events at a Glance

40 Acre Rock Hike - April 2	Hilton Pond - August 2
Morgan Wolf - April 14	Rick Hoffman - August 18
Spring Bird Count - April 16	Dr. Chester DePlatter - Oct. 13
Lilyfest - May 15	Annual Meeting - Oct. 16
Colette Degarady - June 9	Great Falls History Hike - Nov. 13

Note Cards Available



Mary Brown's beautiful note cards of area wild flowers and our special places are available at the KVLT office. The purchase of these note cards benefits the land trust. For more information call 803-285-5801 or stop by 106 E. Meeting St.

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 9174 acres of land in five South Carolina counties.

Newsletter design & layout by




Rocky Shoals Spider Lily
Bill Stokes



Lupine at 40 Acre Rocky
Bill Stokes



Sand Patterns in Moss
Bill Stokes

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New License for Hydro Operations Issued to Duke Energy



Headworks Dam in Great Falls
Bill Stokes

In 2006 Duke Energy submitted an application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a new license to operate the 13 hydropower facilities on the Catawba River in North and South Carolina. This application and a Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement signed by 72 parties in the relicensing process were the result of over ten years of meetings, studies, field trips and negotiations by hundreds of stakeholders, including state and federal agencies, conservation groups, counties and municipalities. The license was finally issued by

the FERC on November 25, 2015.

This license will bring an interesting and very positive array of benefits to the river and to river users. Water will again roar through the great falls of the Catawba in the town of Great Falls. Water will be released in the spring and fall on the weekends to the delight of whitewater boaters in the area and beyond. Other significant enhancements include new access areas to the river and reservoirs, including the Cedar Creek (Stumpy Pond) and Fishing Creek Reservoirs, fishing platforms, swimming areas and other recreational amenities. There will also be increased flows to enhance aquatic habitat, and reservoirs will have maximum and minimum levels established for the first time.

These enhancements, along with many others too numerous to list here, will be implemented over the next few years. More information on relicensing can be found by visiting the Duke Energy relicensing website at www.duke-energy.com/lakes/catawba-wateree-relicensing.asp.

Conservation Easement Tax Benefits Expanded

In December of 2015, the United States Congress made permanent a federal tax incentive for conservation easement donations that can significantly help landowners who wish to protect their property. The new legislation raises the deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of his or her income to 50%. It allows farmers and ranchers to deduct 100% of their income. Also, the period over which a donor can take deductions is extended from five to fifteen years.

Barry Beasley, KVL Executive Director comments that "these are very exciting changes in tax law that will greatly benefit landowners who wish to grant a conservation easement and

protect the character of their land. It is a particularly valuable tool for modest-income donors to receive enhanced economic benefits for their gift."



The Sheorn Property
Barry Beasley

Pettus Greenway Update

Progress is continuing on the work to build a greenway along Gills Creek in Lancaster. Brochures have been printed and distributed to various businesses and organizations in the area. A new website, www.lindsayspettugreenway.org, and a Facebook page have been created and are online. Also a program is now on LearnTV, cable channel 114, about the greenway.

Greenway board members are now in the process of raising money to fund the completion of construction drawings and to complete the process of securing all necessary permits required for the construction of the trail for Phase

I of the project, which extends from the parking lot behind the Barr Street Campus to Gillsbrook Road. This will make the trail project "shovel ready" once the necessary funds are raised to build the trail.



Gills Creek
Barry Beasley

Thoughts from the Director



Paddler on Stumpy Pond
Bill Stokes

I have just finished reading one of the most interesting books I have read in quite a while. The book is entitled *The Invention of Nature: Alex Von Humboldt's New World*, by Andrea Wulf. I knew of Humboldt but had no idea of his influence on the way we see and understand the natural world today. He was a daring and fearless explorer and the most famous scientist in the world during his life and for many, many years afterward. Humboldt was the first person to describe and scientifically demonstrate the interconnectedness of the components of the natural world. He was warning of the impacts of

changes to the natural world on climate in the early 1800s.

Humboldt advised world leaders from President Thomas Jefferson to the heads of state of Europe. He was also a friend to many great artists and writers and he understood and wrote about the critical connection between art and nature.

The first two thirds of the book is a biography of Humboldt with the last third devoted to discussing his influence on later scientists and naturalists ranging from Charles Darwin to John Muir. If you are interested in our natural world and how we understand it today, I guarantee that you will be amazed by, and enjoy, this marvelous story of Alexander Von Humboldt's life and influence.



Ice pattern
on Stumpy Pond
Bill Stokes

KVLT 2016 Speaker Series

The Katawba Valley Land Trust Speaker Series will begin on Thursday, April 14, with Morgan Wolf. Morgan is the Endangered Species Biologist with the South Carolina Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Charleston, South Carolina. Morgan's responsibilities are statewide in scope, but she has worked extensively in Lancaster County on our native population of the endangered mussel, the Carolina heelsplitter. She is also the lead biologist nationwide for the heelsplitter. Morgan has worked in the area of contaminants and regulatory and recovery programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Morgan's talk is entitled "South Carolina's Threatened and Endangered Species". She will discuss the history and language of the Endangered Species Act and the role of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in conserving the nature of America. Morgan will also discuss the federally threatened and endangered species found in South Carolina, and some of the recovery efforts underway to protect them.



River Channel Great Falls
by Bill Stokes

The lecture will be held at the Carole Ray Dowling Center on the USC-L campus, and will begin at 7:00 p.m. All KVLT Speaker Series lectures are free and the public is invited and welcome. Also all lectures are co-sponsored by USC-Lancaster.

Other 2016 Speakers

Colette Degarady, Senior Conservation Ecologist with the South Carolina Nature Conservancy. Colette's topic will be "The Migration of the Monarch Butterfly". This will be very interesting and timely, given the issues of habitat loss for the Monarch over the last several years.

August 18: The speaker will be Rick Hoffman, who is the founder and a past president of the South Carolina Native Plant Society. Rick is a landscape architect and the principal and founder of Earth Design Inc., in Pickens, South Carolina, with over 26 years of experience in landscape design, horticulture, bioengineering, and ecology. Rick will discuss the importance of native plants in our landscape.

June 9: Our speaker will be

October 13: Our last speaker for 2016 will be Dr. Chester B. DePratter. Dr. DePratter is a research professor at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. In 1996, Dr. DePratter and Dr. Stanley South discovered the long sought-after French garrison of Charlesfort on Parris Island in Beaufort County, South Carolina, completed in 1562, which established a presence for the French in North America. Dr. DePratter's talk is entitled "Santa Elena: Capital of Spanish Florida".



Prothonotary Warbler
John Ghent

2016 Spring Bird Count

The annual Katawba Valley Land Trust Spring Bird Count is set for Saturday, April 16. We hope you can join us as we document the warblers and other neo-tropical migratory birds that use our protected lands as migration corridors. Target areas include Landsford Canal State Park and the KVLT Great Falls property along Rocky Creek. Bird count leaders are Roger Smith (Rocky Creek) and Bill Rogers (Landsford Canal State Park). The Rocky Creek and Landsford Canal State Park groups will meet at the Catawba Fish Camp on Hwy. 9 at 7:30 a.m. You can also meet in the lower parking lot at Landsford Canal State Park at 8:00 a.m. or the parking lot for the Rocky Creek Trail in Great Falls on Hwy. 21/200 at 8:00 a.m. If you have an interest in birds, come join us. You do not have to be a bird expert to enjoy this event. The event is free and open to both members and the public, but registration is required. For more details and to register for the event, contact us at kvlt@comporium.net or (803) 285-5801.

Lilyfest at Landsford Canal State Park

Each year, the blooming of the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily is celebrated at Landsford Canal State Park. This year's festival will be held on Sunday, May 15. It begins at 12:00 p.m. and ends around 5:00 p.m. KVLТ always sets up a display in the picnic shelter in the main part of the park, and we sponsor a history and nature hike. Other activities include music, food and vendors. The highlight of the festival is the opportunity to see one of the most incredible wild-flower displays in the southeast as the lilies blooming in the Catawba River at the park and are typically at their peak during this time in May. If you have not ever seen the lilies in bloom, you owe it to yourself to see this amazing sight.



Rocky Shoals Spider Lily
by Bill Stokes

Hikes and Outings

We will have the annual KVLТ Spring Hike at Forty Acre Rock on Saturday, April 2. We are fortunate to have Johnny Stowe, a biologist with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the manager of Forty Acre Rock as our hike leader for the 2016 hike. Johnny is an extremely knowledgeable land manager with expertise in areas ranging from forest resource management to prescribed burning. He is one of the leading experts in the southeast on the use of fire in land management. Johnny will focus his talk on the complexities of natural resource management and the challenges of managing Forty Acre Rock.

We will visit the vernal pools on the rock and if time allows see a portion of the newest part of the Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve, the Rainbow Ranch acquisition. The hike will begin at 9:30 in the main parking lot (the upper parking lot on Conservancy Road) at Forty Acre Rock and will be limited to 30 people. We should finish around 12:30. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and sun screen. The event is free and open to non-members but registration is required. Call the office at 803-285-5801 or email Barry Beasley at kvlt@comporium.net to register.



Eagle
by Bill Stokes



Osprey Nest
by Bill Stokes

Other 2016 Events

On Saturday, August 20, we will host a very unique event at Hilton Pond in York County. We will join naturalist Dr. Bill Hilton, Jr., to band humming birds. This outing will be limited to 20 people and will require a small fee to help with the bird banding costs at Hilton Pond.

Look for more details, including registration information on this outing, soon on the KVLТ website.

On Sunday November 13, we will again have a history hike in Great Falls to the remains of the Southern Electro-Chemical Company or the Nitrolee Plant as it became known. KVLТ is the owner of this property. This plant was built by James B. Duke and William States Lee on the banks of Fishing Creek and was going to use an experimental technology to create nitrogen, which was desperately needed in the manufacture of fertilizer. The walk will begin at 2:00 p.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. Look for more details on the KVLТ website and in the fall newsletter.

We will also have the KVLТ Annual Meeting in the fall. The annual meeting will be held at Andrew Jackson State Park on Sunday, October 16. Look for details in our fall newsletter and on the website.

Other fall outings will include a hike on the proposed Lindsay Pettus Greenway and a visit to the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club's Riggsbee Observatory near Forty Acre Rock. Look for details on the website and in our fall newsletter.



Turtle at Stumpy Pond
by Bill Stokes