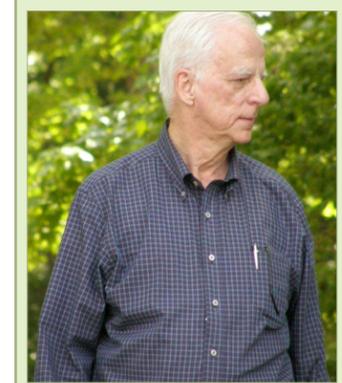


KVLT Celebrates 25 Years of Conservation Work



Lindsay Pettus
Bill Stokes

In 1992 Lindsay Pettus had a vision of a way to protect significant natural and cultural areas in Lancaster County where he was born and raised. Gathering friends and fellow conservationists Paul Gettys, Mark Grier, Jimmy White, IV and Ralph Garris, the Katawba Valley Land Trust was founded in March of 1992. This group of friends became the first board of directors with Lindsay Pettus as President.

over 350 acres along the creeks in the City of Lancaster protecting important floodplain areas along the creeks. We are now working to develop a greenway along the Gills Creek property. KVLT has also partnered with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to purchase almost 2800 acres along the Catawba River which increased the size of Landsford Canal State Park, and over 1500 acres on Stumpy Pond near Great Falls. These properties were transferred to these two state agencies. Areas of emphasis for KVLT's conservation efforts have included buffers along the Catawba River and its tributaries, the Landsford Canal and Forty Acre Rock areas, and the Great Falls area.

KVLT has also promoted environmental education efforts throughout its 25-year history by publishing books such as *Spider Lilies*, publishing prints and photographs, and leading numerous hikes and bird counts and holding its successful speaker series.

The land trust has much to celebrate and much to be proud of in its 25 years. To celebrate the anniversary, KVLT will host an active slate of hikes and outings and a special 2017 speaker series. Look for information on these events in this newsletter and on our website.

Lindsay Pettus states, "I am proud of the conservation work over the past 25 years accomplished by board members, friends and volunteers. However, much is left to be done if we are to protect important watersheds like Flat Creek and the lands along the Catawba River. We are also looking forward to the completion of the greenway. Conservation is more important now than ever and the land trust is committed to protecting critical natural and cultural resources for the next 25 years and beyond."

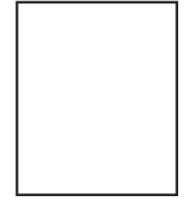


Morning Mist on the
Catawba River
Bill Stokes

The seeds of this new land trust were rooted in the work of the Catawba River Task Force in the early 1990s, on which Lindsay served along with Murray White of Fort Mill. This group published the Catawba River Corridor Plan which recommended protecting buffers along the river and its tributaries. Lindsay and Murray became co-chairs of the Implementation Committee for the river management plan, which was a key motivation in the creation of both KVLT and the Nation Ford Land Trust (NFLT), founded by Murray White. KVLT's original service area focused on Lancaster and Chester counties, while the NFLT focused on York County.

The first property protected by KVLT was a 1.1 acre tract on the Catawba River across from Landsford Canal State Park. This property, acquired in 1995, contained a mobile home visible from the state park. Lindsay felt this property was extremely important to restore this significant historical viewshed at Landsford. The property was acquired, the mobile home removed and the viewshed was restored.

Since this small but significant beginning, and working as an all-volunteer group for most of its 25-year history, the land trust has protected over 9296 acres in five South Carolina counties. Of these protected properties, 37 conservation easements protect over 5400 acres, which include easements protecting the important Battle of Camden site in Kershaw County and the Hanging Rock Battlefield. The land trust owns over 1000 acres, with



KVLT Events at a Glance

Rudy Manche - March 23
Forty Acre Rock Hike - March 25
Spring Bird Count - April 15
25th Celebration Day - March 22
Earthday Celebration - April 22
Lilyfest - May 21

Dr. John Cheatham - June 8
Patrick McMillan - Aug. 24
Josh Arrants - Oct 13
2017 Annual Meeting - Oct 15
Lindsay Pettus Greenway Hike - Oct 29
Nitrolee History Hike - Nov. 12

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 9296 acres of land in five South Carolina counties.

Newsletter design & layout by
Original DesignsByMary



Egret
Bill Stokes



Bumble Bee
Bill Stokes



Blue Heron
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
Sandy Nelson
Matt Clinton
Robert H. Collins
Christy Barnes
Richard Christie

Barry R. Beasley,
Executive Director

KVLT Receives Three Conservation Easements

The land trust has recently protected three properties through conservation easement agreements conserving a total of 229 acres. 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.

Two of these easements protect farmland near Lowrys, South Carolina, in Chester County. One parcel is a 50-acre tract and the other is a 57-acre tract. They are both owned by William C. Crosby and will be farmed by Mr. Crosby. These tracts are primarily open farm fields with approximately 40 acres of hardwood forests. They are located in the historic farming community of Lowrys and the easement will maintain these lands as farmland in perpetuity, protecting South Carolina farming traditions and the rural character of this beautiful part of South Carolina.

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. The bank, established in 2002, provides funding to land trusts through a competitive application process to purchase conservation easement 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 fifth KVLT conservation project to receive funding from the bank.

Mark Grier, KVLT President states, "KVLT is proud

to be a part of protecting farms and farmland. It is a wonderful opportunity to be able to help preserve our area's rich farming traditions."

The third conservation easement, a 122.17 acre tract, protects a part of the Second Battle of Hanging Rock battlefield, where a Revolutionary War battle was fought on August 6, 1780. The battle was part of a campaign led by South Carolina Militia Colonel Thomas Sumter to harass British outposts in the South Carolina backcountry. In the battle, Sumter, with 800 men, defeated 1400 Loyalist troops under the command of Major John Carden. The area protected by the easement was the site of a British camp and was a core area of the battle. This important project was a partnership between KVLT, the South Carolina Battleground Trust, the Civil War Trust, the National Park Service and Lancaster County.

Barry Beasley, KVLT Executive Director states, "the land trust has a strong interest in protecting important historical sites, and we are delighted to hold this easement on this important battlefield site".



Hanging Rock Memorial
Mary Brown

New Land Trust Sign



Artist Bob Doster's
KVLT Sign

KVLT is the proud recipient of a new land trust sign by acclaimed Lancaster artist Bob Doster, located in front of the land trust office at 106 East Meeting Street in Lancaster. Bob is the recipient of South Carolina's highest arts award,

the Elizabeth O'Neil Werner Award and also was named a Keeper of the Culture by the York County Heritage and Culture Commission. Doster's work can be found in museums, galleries, public art displays and in corporate and private collections worldwide. KVLT is excited to now have its own incredible work of art by Lancaster's own Bob Doster. If you have not seen our new sign, please come by for a viewing.

New KVLT Email Communication

KVLT has recently added the ability to communicate with land trust members through email, utilizing Constant Contact. This will allow us to communicate with members in a more timely manner regarding upcoming land trust events and special land trust news. We will continue to publish our newsletter twice each year, but the email

communication will allow us to remind you of events throughout the year. If your email address is not in the KVLT database, please email the address to kvlt@compoium.net. If you do not wish to be included in the KVLT email distribution list, please let us know. We promise not to fill your inbox with emails.

Lindsay Pettus Greenway Update

The Lindsay Pettus Greenway (LPG) Board is making significant progress in work on the greenway. A design build team will soon be hired to complete the planning and design, construction drawings, permitting for Phase I of the greenway. They will also supervise construction when the necessary funds are available. Phase I of the trail, which will be approximately two miles in length, begins behind the Barr Street School campus and runs west along Gills Creek to just beyond Gillsbrook Road. The trail will be a hard surface trail of concrete, asphalt and boardwalk. The estimated cost is \$3 million.

A capital campaign will be initiated on February 24.

Everyone is encouraged to support this important transformative project that will benefit young and old alike and bring increasing economic opportunities to Lancaster. For more information and to donate, visit the greenway website at www.lindsaypettusgreenway.org. You can also find more information at the greenway's Facebook page.



Gills Creek
Barry Beasley

New Plaque at Battle of Buford Site

The Friends of the Battle of Buford Massacre Battlefield, through extensive research, have documented the names of 215 soldiers who fought in what many believe to be one of the Revolutionary War's most important battles, the Battle of Buford, also known as the Battle of the Waxhaws. The battle was fought on May 27, 1780, between a Continental Army force under the command of Abraham Buford and a force of British Green Dragoons led by Banastre Tarleton. In less than 15 minutes, 113

of Buford's soldiers were dead, 150 wounded and 53 missing. Virtually no quarter was given to the Continental troops by Tarleton.

The Friends of the Buford Massacre Battlefield are raising \$2500 to pay for the plaque which will be dedicated on May 17. If you would like to donate, send a check to the Friends of the Buford Battlefield Plaque Fund at 57139 Nightingale Way, Indian Land, South Carolina, 29707.

Thoughts from the Director

In 1992 Lindsay Pettus gathered some friends who shared his interest in conservation and discussed the idea of forming a local land trust that would give landowners in Lancaster County and the surrounding area an opportunity to work with friends and neighbors to conserve their land. From this humble beginning, the Catawba Valley Land Trust has now protected over 9296 acres that include important areas along the Catawba River, hundreds of acres along the creeks in the City of Lancaster and the surrounding area, and hundreds of acres of farmland. This is a wonderful accomplishment and benefits not only the landowners who were afforded the opportunity to conserve their land but the larger community by protecting water and air quality, wildlife and bird habitat. This affects the quality of life for all of us who live in this area. KVLT has many great outings and events planned

to celebrate this wonderful 25 years of conservation. Please plan to join us to celebrate our history of conservation accomplishments as we look forward to conservation opportunities in the coming years



Hike at 40 Acre Rock
Barry Beasley