

Land Protection Efforts Continue

KVLT completed four conservation projects since the last newsletter was printed. The largest of these is a 294.5-acre addition to the Battle of Camden on Flat Rock Road, which was the site of a lopsided British victory in August of 1780. The property was purchased by the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust with a grant from the National Park Service. This addition increases the total acreage pro-

ected at the Battlefield site to about 768 acres. The property is open to the public, and Historic Camden offers periodic tours of the property. The management plans call for restoring the property to longleaf pines and adding interpretive sites to tell the story of the battle.

Battle of Hanging Rock – this battle took place in August of 1780 as well, and it was considered to be a win for General Thomas Sumter and his patriot forces. This addition of a 15.8 acre tract increases the acreage of our Hanging Rock easement to about 137 acres.

Two properties were acquired for the Lindsay Pettus Greenway, thanks largely to the diligence of LPGW Director Sherri Gregory and local attorney Mr. Robert Folks. One of these properties was donated by the Mt. Zion AME Zion Church in Lancaster, and the other by the Lancaster County School District. Both of these properties will provide access to the greenway, and we thank the donors for their generosity. Our land protection total now exceeds 10,700 acres!



Battle of Hanging Rock Partners

SC Conservation Bank Update

The SC Conservation Bank hired a new Executive Director in June. Mr. Raleigh West comes to the conservation bank from the Lord Berkeley Land Trust in Moncks Corner. Raleigh's previous experience with land transactions will be a big asset to his Board and the agency. Raleigh and his administrative assistant, Ms. Amber Larck, spent a day in the field looking at potential Katawba Valley Land Trust projects. The bank has authorization to spend about 10 million dollars on conservation projects in fiscal year 2019/2020.



Photo by Bill Stokes

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Fading Summer
Bill Stokes

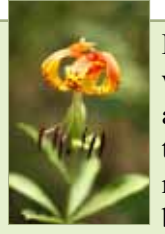


Spider Web
Bill Stokes

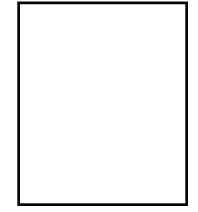


Pileated Woodpecker
Bill Stokes

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.



2019 Annual Meeting



Fading Summer
Bill Stokes

The 2019 KVL T *Annual Meeting* will be held at 3:00 PM on Sunday, October 13, at the Ivy Place. Genie and Terry Graham welcome you to spend an afternoon on their beautiful, historic farm in Van Wyck. Activities will include nature walks, garden tours, and a historic re-enactment firing of a canon will precede the business meeting. Mr. Robert Perry, former Director of Environmental Programs for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and now an environmental consultant for the *Palustrine Group*, will discuss the large-scale development he has observed over the past 10 years in the State and the importance of habitat protection. The business meeting will be followed by a barbeque dinner catered by Dan “the pigman” Huntley. Registration will be \$25.00 for adult members and \$15.00 for kids (less than 16 years of age), and \$35.00 for non-members. You can pay at the door, but pre-registration is required (email kvl t@comprium.net, or phone (803)285-5801).

KVL T Loses Two Long-time Friends

We recently lost two long-time friends of KVL T, and we will miss them both. We are very thankful for their important contributions to our land trust.

Jerry Blackmon of Charlotte was a friend of KVL T from its very beginning. Jerry, who was a very successful businessman, took great pleasure in owning rural property in Lancaster County and surrounding areas. He was a careful steward of his properties, using them for outdoor recreation and timber management, but always working to protect the natural resource values. In 2010, Jerry placed a conservation easement with KVL T on a 389-acre portion of one of his properties along Flat Creek in eastern Lancaster County. Flat Creek is habitat for the endangered Carolina Heelsplitter fresh water mussel. Jerry’s wife, Irene, and his daughter, Ann Bass, were part of the first Catawba Master Naturalist class in 2010. Younger members of the class were in awe of Irene’s stamina and enthusiasm as exploring the areas visited by the class. Ann later became a board member of KVL T. In addition to his many accomplishments in

the business field, the civic life of Charlotte, and his family, Jerry will be remembered for his love of the land and our natural resources.

Geri Engel was another good friend. Geri and her husband Bob moved to the Sun City Carolina Lakes development and immediately became involved in local affairs. Through friendships with Lindsay Pettus and Louise Pettus, Geri became active with KVL T. She was in one of the early classes of the Catawba Master Naturalist group, and began volunteering to visit KVL T properties and help monitor our easements. Geri’s joy at being in nature and her enthusiasm for our work were contagious. She eventually became a member of the Board of Directors and served until her illness made it necessary to resign.



Photo by
Angel Estridge

Lindsay Pettus Greenway Update

Construction has begun!!! Construction began on the 2.5 mile long Phase I section in June. Crews from Duke Power Company chipped in to help with brush clearing on this section of the trail that will run from the Barr Street School to Gillsbrook Road. Completion of the first phase is expected in the fall of 2020. It is not too late to support the LPGW, and tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to *LPGW, P.O. Box 1776, Lancaster, SC 29721*.

Comments from the Director

We have been busy since our spring newsletter was published. A number of projects have been completed, including the update of the KVL T brochure and the plant identification brochure for Landsford Canal State Park. Our environmental education events continue to be well attended and Our “3rd annual *Toast to the Trees*” had about 75 participants, even though the weather was on the gloomy side. Weather was nice for *Lilyfest*, and we had a good turnout.

On the land protection front, we completed several projects, including two for the Lindsay Pettus Greenway and two associated with battleground protection. We are currently working on two large projects contingent on funding from the South Carolina Conservation Bank. For a small land trust like ours, the bank is a very important source of funding for land protection projects, and I ask you to encourage your local politicians to support the work of the bank.

We have a number of fall activities scheduled. Our final speaker series will present the history and restoration of longleaf pinetrees, which are still an important resource for South Carolina. Our annual meeting at the Ivy Place should be a lot of fun for the family, and I hope you can join us for a visit to this historic farm to meet and socialize with other KVL T supporters. Our final event will be a history hike at the Niotrolee plant. More details about these events can be found in this newsletter and on our website.

The land trust faces big challenges going forward. The population in South Carolina is growing rapidly, and we are gaining about 55,000 people/year. That rate of growth makes us the 18th fastest growing

State in the country. Evidence of this rapid growth abounds in the local area, and all you have to do is drive up Hwy. 521 from Lancaster towards Charlotte to get a sense of it. We all need places to live, shop and conduct business. Despite our rapid growth, we still have a lot of open, undeveloped green space. That open space is what makes South Carolina attractive to a lot of us, and protecting open space is at the core of our mission. Our first land protection project was a 6.5 acre easement on an island in the Catawba River in 1996. We are proud that the land protection efforts envisioned by Mr. Lindsay Pettus have grown from that first small project to more than 10,700 acres! We continue to search for properties that have important natural, historical, cultural or agricultural values *and* an owner who shares our appreciation for permanently protecting those areas. If you know someone who might fit that description, help us build on Lindsay’s legacy and let us know! Have a great fall.



Executive Director
Richard Christie

Accreditation

The *Land Trust Alliance* is the voice of the land trust community. As the national leader in policy, standards, education and training, they work to support land trusts so they can save and secure more lands now and for future generations. Accreditation from the Alliance is a mark of distinction, showing that a land trust meets high standards for land conservation. It sends a message to landowners and supporters: “Invest in us. We are a strong, effective organization you can trust to conserve your land forever.” We are pleased to announce that we have been selected to apply for accreditation in 2020, and we look forward to the challenge! As part of the accreditation process, we will be requesting stakeholder input regarding the operation of the land trust. A notice will follow in our spring newsletter.



Photo by
Angel Estridge