

TLC's mission is to protect important open space – stream corridors, forests, wildlife habitat, farmland and natural areas – in Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Orange and Wake Counties to help keep our region a healthy and vibrant place to live and work.

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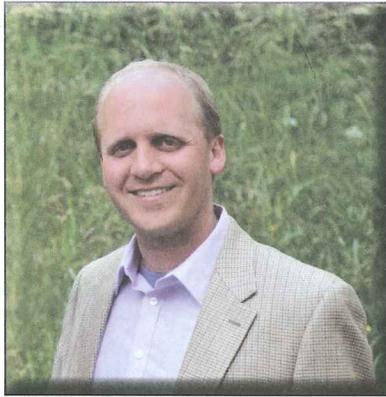
A nature photography workshop led by photographer David Blevins was held in May at White Pines Nature Preserve in Chatham County. David took this photo of participant Kim Hawks capturing the overhead canopy. Join us on Facebook for more great photos!

“Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world.”
~ John Muir

Legacy, Urgency and the Future

by Chad Jemison, Executive Director

Last month a woman shared a story on Triangle Land Conservancy's Facebook page about a powerful memory she had of White Pines Nature Preserve back when TLC was just getting started. She told of how on a cold February day in the mid-80s, a group went out to the Preserve on the day that TLC purchased another key parcel of land that added significantly to the total acreage. She recalled how the group tromped joyfully through a foot of snow down to the confluence of the Rocky River and the Deep River in celebration of what had been accomplished.



I suspect there was a great deal of pride that the nascent TLC was truly able to accomplish big things and protect amazing places. I also imagine they may have felt humility, knowing that generations upon generations would be able to visit this site to connect with its natural wonder and awe. This dynamic – the urgency to protect and the long-term legacy TLC's work provides our fast-growing region – is a key reason that I am so passionate about community-based conservation.

Together we are building on TLC's incredible 30-year legacy. Our six Nature Preserves in five counties are open to the public year-round, offering a variety of opportunities for visitors to engage in activities such as paddling, bird-watching, photography and enjoying nature trails. One preserve – Irvin Farm – has received national recognition for how TLC promotes educational, environmental and agricultural programming through innovative partnerships. To date TLC has protect-

ed over 16,000 acres of strategically important land. And perhaps most impressive, you – TLC's community of supporters – donated an incredible \$5.5 million during the Our Water, Our Land capital campaign to ensure that TLC would thrive in the years to come. Thank you!

And thrive we will.

Of course half the fun in building movements to accomplish big things is tackling herculean challenges together in the years ahead. And there is no shortage – believe me!

The Triangle is one of the fastest growing regions in the country, so our window of time to protect key areas is, essentially, now. Our major drinking water supplies (Jordan Lake and Falls Lake) are severely impaired and challenged by recent droughts, while projections estimate another million people will depend on them in the near future. Yet, we face 90% cuts in state funding, and state tax incentives for conservation easements will expire on December 31, 2013. Similar legislation is pending at the federal level.

One of the things that I have heard again and again from people during my first year as executive director is that they wish me great success – I know that it's obviously not about me personally. They believe there is such a sense of urgency that they desperately hope TLC is successful in accomplishing its mission in the coming years: safeguarding clean water, supporting farmers and local food, protecting wildlife habitat and connecting people with nature. I deeply believe that TLC can and will accomplish wonderful

things in the years ahead as we work to be ever more relevant to the communities of the Triangle.

Over the last century, North Carolina's population has shifted from 80% rural and 20% urban to just the inverse. In order for people to care about nature and conservation in the future – from the mountains to the coast – we need to provide ample opportunities now to build a love for nature near where they live. With the Triangle's population nearing two million, a vibrant economy requires smart development in smart places and critical conservation lands protected.

This is where we come in! In order to have a greater impact on the Triangle and its residents, we have plans to improve our internal organization to take it to the next level. These plans include: stabilizing and strengthening our finances in the coming 18 months; sharpening our program goals and priorities; building deeper partnerships with local governments, corporations and other NGOs; and continuing to attract and retain outstanding volunteers, members and staff who want to be part of this important movement.

As we reflect on the past 30 years, we embrace the spirit of the mission and enthusiasm that prompted our founders 30 years ago. A new energy is evident as we work to reconnect with our most passionate and dedicated supporters (you!). We encourage you to join us and recommit to this critically important and meaningful venture. Thank you for your years of support that has led to TLC's many successes. We couldn't have done it without you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chad Jemison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Wildlife Spotlight

Spring Chapel Hill Bird Count at Johnston Mill Nature Preserve

by Bo Howes

Each spring, fall and Christmas, in conjunction with the National Audubon Society, the Cornell School of Ornithology and local bird clubs, a count of all birds seen and heard is conducted across the country. The Christmas Bird Counts garner the most attention, but the spring and fall counts tend to have the widest variety of migratory species as they pass through the count areas.

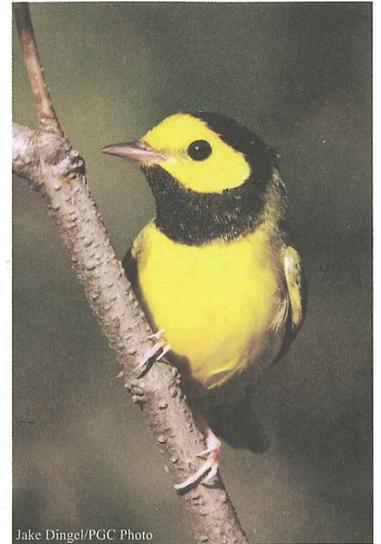


TLC's Johnston Mill Nature Preserve is part of the Chapel Hill bird count area. This year's Spring Chapel Hill Bird Count in May tallied 59 species and 366 individual birds in the area. Highlights from Johnston Mill include Prairie Warbler, Indigo Bunting and Hooded Warbler.

A wide variety of habitat for birds exists at Johnston Mill Nature Preserve. New Hope Creek is a water source that attracts both migrant and year-round birds; the

Duke Power line provides a prairie like habitat that attracts a whole different variety of species; and the upland woods provide a unique habitat particularly attractive to woodpeckers and nuthatches.

Bo Howes has been with TLC for five years and is the Senior Land Project Manager.



Visit triangleland.org to learn more about our periodic outings with staff and volunteers!

TLC Chosen to Monitor Carolina North

Carolina North is a 947-acre portion of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus that currently houses the Horace Williams Airport. The University plans to close the airport and develop a portion of this land for new academic uses. As part of this development process, the University has set aside 258 acres of the parcel for permanent conservation to be comprised of three "conservation areas." The selection of these sites was based on a comprehensive ranking of the most sensitive natural areas of Carolina North.

TLC entered into a fee-for-services contract with UNC-CH in January for two district functions. First, TLC will produce a Baseline Documentary Report (BDR) for the Conservation Areas of Carolina North. A baseline documentary report is a written record or snapshot of the condition of a property at a certain date and will serve as the starting point for gauging any changes to the property. Second, TLC will annually monitor the conservation areas to ensure the University upholds the agreed upon conservation principles. TLC's contract with the University runs for three years.