

## **Katawba Valley Land Trust Receives Two Conservation Easements in 2012**

The Katawba Valley Land Trust received two conservation easements at the close of 2011 which protects a total of 380 acres. A 187-acre conservation easement was donated by the Stoneboro Plantation LLC in the Stoneboro area of southern Lancaster and northern Kershaw counties. This is the second easement donated to KVLТ by the Stoneboro Plantation LLC, bringing the total protected acreage to 751 acres on this heavily wooded property which protects the headwaters of Little Beaver Creek.

This is a forested property consisting of stands of loblolly pines and mixed hardwoods in the floodplain and riparian areas along Little Beaver Creek. These pine forests are open with little understory growth due to the use of prescribed fire in the management of the property. The use of fire stimulates natural conditions and enhances the growth of native grasses and shrubs. Game animals such as white-tailed deer, wild turkey and mourning dove are abundant on the property. The property also provides important habitat for neotropical migratory birds. Another characteristic of the property is the large outcrops of granite scattered throughout the property. These granite outcrops are significant from a geologic and scenic perspective and reflect the past significance of granite to this area and its stone quarries.

“Protecting this property through a conservation easement enhances wildlife habitat and protects water quality”, states Barry Beasley, executive director of the Katawba Valley Land Trust. Lindsay Pettus, land trust president stated, “we are very appreciative of the commitment to conservation shown by the Burlingame and FitzHugh families. Their management of this property demonstrates their ongoing interest in land protection and their conservation ethic.” The Burlingames and FitzHughs added “we are most pleased to continue our work with the Katawba Valley Land Trust to promote conservation activities in our region to preserve in perpetuity the aspects which make this area so unique.”

The second conservation easement protects 193 acres in Kershaw County. This parcel is characterized by farmland and a beautiful bottomland, hardwood forest along Buffalo Creek. The conservation of this property protects traditional agricultural uses of rural property, provides significant wildlife habitat and protects the water quality of Buffalo Creek.

A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and the land trust which places certain restrictions on the future development of the property while protecting the conservation values in perpetuity. Land owners can also realize tax benefits for the value of the donated easement. With these two easements, the Katawba Valley Land Trust, located in Lancaster, South Carolina, has protected over 8100 acres since its formation in 1992.