

KVLT Protects Properties in 2012

The Catawba Valley Land Trust had two successful conservation projects in 2012. The land trust purchased a 228-acre parcel on Cane Creek in Lancaster County, east of Grace Avenue, with approximately two miles of frontage on the creek. The property was purchased from Crescent Resources through two generous grants from the Catawba-Wateree Habitat Enhancement Project and the South Carolina Conservation Bank, respectively. This forested property contains a beautiful mixed hardwood, bottomland forest along Cane Creek, with a number of large hardwoods in this floodplain forest. The rest of the property is primarily a loblolly pine forest. The floodplain forest and associated woodlands provide important habitat for neo-tropical songbirds, as well as ideal breeding habitat for a number of piedmont bird species. One of the most significant wildlife features on the Cane Creek property is a breeding rookery of great blue herons. The rookery is on both sides of the creek with approximately twelve nests. Protecting this property also provides habitat for deer and small mammals, as well as amphibians and reptiles. The conservation of this tract also helps protect water quality in the creek and the Catawba River. Mark Grier, President of the Catawba Valley Land Trust, said, "this acquisition adds over 200 acres to the 350-acre Lancaster Greenway Preserve protected by KVLT, which protects water quality along several creeks in the city of Lancaster. The landtrust is delighted to acquire such an ecologically significant property."

The second land protection project is a conservation easement on 114 acres in Chester County. This parcel contains a tributary of Beaver Dam Creek and has a diverse hardwood forest along the creek. The rest of the property is timberland. The conservation of this property protects traditional forestry practices and provides significant wildlife habitat. "The protection of this property provides good habitat for migratory neo-tropical song birds and helps protect the water quality of Beaver Creek," said KVLT Executive Director, Barry Beasley.