

## **Katawba Valley Land Trust Protects Two Properties in 2013**

The Katawba Valley Land Trust protected two properties in 2013. The land trust added 1.25 acres to its protected properties along the creeks in Lancaster, known as the Lancaster Greenway Preserve. This new 1.25 acre tract is along Gills Creek and is a donation to the land trust. The land trust has over 550 acres along Bear, Gills and Canes Creeks in Lancaster. Protecting these riparian areas along these creeks helps to protect water quality and the aquatic health of these streams and keeps the floodplains from inappropriate development. “We appreciate the conservation ethic demonstrated through this gift to KVLТ and we are delighted to add this tract to the Lancaster Greenway Preserve”, says Mark Grier, the president of the Katawba Valley Land Trust.

The second conservation project is an easement on 147 acres on Beaver Creek in Kershaw County. 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. This property is a mix of pine and hardwood forests, along with open meadows which provides a diversity of habitats for wildlife ranging from traditional game species to wading birds and waterfowl to native and migratory song birds. The easement also helps protect water and the aquatic health of Beaver Creek and the other streams on the property and also provides for traditional land uses such as timber production. Barry Beasley, executive director of the land trust states, “We are pleased to accept this conservation easement and help protect the diversity of conservation values contained on this beautiful property.”

These two properties bring the land trust’s total conservation acreage to over 8600 protected acres. The Katawba Valley Land Trust, a membership-based conservation organization was founded in 1992 by Lindsay Pettus and continues to conserve significant natural and cultural resources in Lancaster County and the surrounding area. The land trust also sponsors an annual speaker series and hosts outings and hikes throughout the year. For more information on the Katawba Valley Land Trust visit our website at [www.kvlt.org](http://www.kvlt.org).