

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PLC Announces First Rockingham County Preserve**

Cecilia Brown of Santa Barbara has given 148 acres in Rockingham County near Belews Lake to Piedmont Land Conservancy. The Conservancy will operate the property as a nature preserve for member outings and for educational and scientific purposes. Plans for future outings are still being finalized by Conservancy staff.

Cecilia Brown inherited the land earlier this year, from her long time partner and Rockingham County native Paul Knight, Jr. At the time, she had no idea where the land was or what it looked like. She visited the land in May and instantly knew she wanted to preserve it. "I took a chance that PLC might have some interest in receiving this property as a donation in furtherance of their mission. Little did I expect that PLC would find the natural resources on this property so worthwhile that they would want to designate this property as a nature preserve," said Cecilia Brown.

The heavily wooded and steeply sloping property provides excellent habitat for a variety of native plants and animals. Dr. Kenneth Bridle, PLC's Stewardship Director, was impressed with the preserve's lack of invasive species and its variety of native wildflowers and ferns. In addition, the property contains nearly 5,000 feet of free-flowing tributaries to the Dan River.

Brown cited her personal environmental commitment as her primary motivation for giving the land to PLC. "I am dismayed and concerned about the unrelenting intrusion of development into our rural lands. Every community is faced with how to preserve these precious resources in the face of developmental pressures. But that we must do because once these lands are gobbled up by subdivisions, we lose their benefits as a resource for future generations."

Kalen Kingsbury, PLC's Associate Director, is thrilled at the opportunities afforded by Ms. Brown's thoughtful action. "This gift allows the Conservancy to begin a unique conservation project in Rockingham County. The generosity and vision of people like Cecilia Brown are crucial to protecting the nature of the Piedmont." The Conservancy's work in Rockingham County to date has focused on the creation of the Haw River and Mayo River State Parks. With Rockingham's wealth of beautiful lands and important waterways, Kingsbury hopes PLC's newest preserve leads to many more conservation projects in the County.

Piedmont Land Conservancy is a grassroots land trust dedicated to permanently protecting important lands to conserve our region's rivers and streams, natural and scenic areas, wildlife habitat, and farmland that make the Piedmont a healthy and vibrant place to live, work and visit for present and future generations. PLC has protected almost 16,000 acres in 135 projects across its nine-county region of Alamance, Caswell, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin counties. To learn more about the Conservancy, and how you can support its efforts to protect farms, rivers, forests, wildlife habitat and urban greenways and parks, visit [www.piedmontland.org](http://www.piedmontland.org) or call (336) 691-0088.

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