

LANDLINES

YOUR CONNECTION TO PIEDMONT LAND CONSERVANCY

Mt. Shepherd in Randolph County Forever Protected

Piedmont Land Conservancy is proud to announce the permanent protection of Mt. Shepherd in Randolph County, home to the Mt. Shepherd Retreat Center. Through a conservation agreement, 274 acres is now forever preserved—including the expansive, forested slopes that make up the county's highest point.

"Partnering with Mt. Shepherd to protect this iconic property makes sense on many levels," says Kevin Redding, PLC's Executive Director. "Many ecological reasons exist to conserve this beautiful landscape, but equally as important is that the property will remain a place for young people to connect with nature."



The view from atop Mt. Shepherd.

Josh Britton, Executive Director of the Center, adds, "Mount Shepherd is thrilled to partner with PLC in preserving some of our most precious resources. For more than 60 years, Camp Mount Shepherd has existed to provide sacred encounters with God through our programming and hospitality. Part of our mission has also included teaching environmental stewardship. This project enables two things that are at the core of our mission. It not only empowers long-term ecological sustainability, but also this easement empowers financially sustainable ministry through its funding. We are thankful for the graciousness and generosity of all those who have been involved."

Mt. Shepherd is unofficially recognized as the northern end of the Uwharrie Mountains, which stretch from Randolph County to Montgomery, Davidson and Stanly Counties, and represent one of the oldest mountain chains in North America. After millions of years of weathering, these once 20,000 foot high peaks have eroded to the small mountains they are today. Mt. Shepherd is one of the highest Uwharrie peaks at an elevation of 1,157 feet, and dominates the skyline as seen from U.S. Highways 64 and 220.

(continued on page 6)

Piedmont Land Conservancy protects our region's natural lands, farms and waters for present and future generations. PLC connects people with nature.