

LAND LINES

YOUR CONNECTION TO PIEDMONT LAND CONSERVANCY

Baldwin Beef Farm Forever Protected

V. Mac Baldwin purchased his first calf when he was 10 years old. His wife Peggy grew up on a cattle farm near Burlington. In 1981, V. Mac and Peggy Baldwin bought a 331-acre run down tobacco farm in Caswell County and created the “homeplace” that anchors their multi-generational family farm operation today. Their son Craig and several grandchildren work on the farm. The farm provides scenic vistas of white Charolais cattle grazing on rolling green hills on NC Highway 86 just a few miles south east of Yanceyville.

Thanks to the patience and persistence of **V. Mac and Peggy Baldwin**, the homeplace, along with additional land they’ve acquired since 1981, will remain farmland forever. On October 31, 2017, V. Mac and Peggy Baldwin signed a conservation agreement to permanently protect 424 acres of **Baldwin Family Farm**. This project has been in the works for several years and would not be possible without the Baldwin’s commitment to farmland preservation.



V. Mac & Peggy Baldwin pictured with PLC staff members Kevin Redding & Kalen Kingsbury.



PLC completed this project with grant funds from the **North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund** and the **US Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Conservation Easement Program**. Additional funding from the **Conservation Trust of North Carolina** helped offset costs that were not covered by the state and federal programs. By the terms of the conservation agreement, the land cannot be subdivided and any future buildings must be located near existing farm structures and used solely for agriculture. These restrictions help secure the agricultural viability of the property, which helps protect a source for local foods for years to come.

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



2017-2018

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From PLC's Executive Director



I grew up working on a farm. My first job was hauling hay for a small farmer down the road. This was in the days when hay bales were rectangles, not the monster round bales of today. It was hot, hard work but I loved it. Sweating in the top of a hay barn on a hot July day for a whopping \$4 per hour. What could beat that?

Maybe this background is what makes me treasure each and every farm PLC is able to protect. I like seeing how each farmer cares for their land, their animals and their community. Our most recent farmland preservation project is no different.

V. Mac and Peggy Baldwin have blazed many trails in the farming community. They are thoughtful and creative people with one of the most recognized brands in the Piedmont. PLC is very proud to have been able to help the Baldwins protect over 400 acres of their farm via a conservation easement.

As supporters of PLC you made this project possible. Thank you for your unwavering support of local land protection.

KD

Forging New Trails at Pilot Mountain



PLC, Friends of Sauratown Mountains and NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund celebrated the new Pilot Creek Trail at Pilot Mountain State Park.

A Nature Note: American Holly

by contributing writer Moni Bates



The Pilgrims landed on the New England coast shortly prior to Christmas in 1620. New vegetation greeted their eyes; some trees reminded them of home. With the deciduous leaves fallen to the forest floor, an evergreen, broad-leaved subcanopy tree was certainly noticeable. This new tree reminded them of English holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, however, the leaves were less shiny. For this reason, the new species was described and assigned the scientific name *Ilex opaca*, American holly.

Historically, English holly was a symbol of Christmas, Easter, and other traditions in England and Europe. The belief that the spiny leaf margins of English holly provided protection from evil spirits led the Druids to wear holly springs during summer and winter solstice rituals. Others describe Christian symbolism based on both the leaves and fruit. The sharp-edged leaves symbolize the crown of thorns worn by Jesus on the cross and the red fruit the blood shed by Jesus. American holly's broad, evergreen leaves and red fruit that persist into the winter inspired pioneers to use branches of holly for Christmas decorations, as many folks still do today.

Note: PLC's honor card for this year features a watercolor image of the American Holly - see page 11.

Connecting People with Nature, Getting Outdoors

Join us this winter/spring for 2nd Saturday Outings — monthly nature outings for all!

January — Scheduled Hikes throughout the month as part of Hike-A-Thon (anyone can join in!)

Saturday, February 10 — Tour Guilford Woods & Underground Railroad Trail at Guilford College, 10am-12pm

Saturday, March 10 — Hike the Walkers Creek Trail in the Uwharrie Mountains, 9am-12pm

Saturday, April 14 — Hike the new Pilot Creek Trail at Pilot Mountain State Park, 10am-12pm

Visit www.piedmontland.org for outings information, and stay tuned to PLC's Facebook.



What will you find in nature this winter and spring? Get outside and find out!



Right to left: Isabelle & Molly Lockwood at Knight Brown Nature Preserve, grasshopper, Haw River State Park spider hike.

Team Work Makes the Dream Work!

PLC would like to extend a huge note of thanks to **V. Mac and Peggy Baldwin** for their generous donation of Baldwin Beef for our first-ever Giving Tuesday event, hosted at **Whole Foods Market** in Greensboro (carriers of Baldwin Beef), with chili cooked up by local chef **Jay Pierce**.

PLC raised about \$3,500 with the help of these community partners and an anonymous donor willing to match our Giving Tuesday donations.

Pictured here is PLC's Executive Director, Kevin Redding, and Development Director, Greg Keener—working hard to serve up good, hot chili.

Thank you to everyone involved!



PLC was thrilled to partner with **88.5 WFDD, Public Radio for the Piedmont** for their fall pledge drive. A special giving day was created, "Milkweed Monday", so listeners could support public radio programming and help stop the decline of wild butterflies, bees and other pollinators. A win for WFDD, PLC and nature!

For each donation WFDD received, PLC pledged to plant milkweed in viable places throughout the region. Milkweed is key to the survival of Monarch butterflies and other pollinator species. We'll be working with our partners at **Mellow Marsh farm** and local community gardens to get all that milkweed planted in the coming months!



Special Note of Thanks to our PLC Donors —

We will gratefully acknowledge all 2017 donors in our next newsletter (early 2018).

While support for the projects you are reading about this month comes from different places, it is the annual generosity of people like you that keeps Piedmont Land Conservancy up and running. We hope you will continue being our partner in this important work by making your annual membership contribution.

Looking for other ways to make a difference with Piedmont Land Conservancy? Here are some suggestions:

- ✧ Buy **PLC gift memberships** this holiday seasons. Skip the mall, pass on the fruitcake, and give the gift of local land protection. We can send you a beautiful PLC card to give or we can send it on your behalf.
- ✧ Sign up for **Hike-A-Thon**, our annual hiking challenge and fundraiser. This year we have prizes and a variety of hikes offered in January. Learn more at piedmontland.org/hike-a-thon.
- ✧ **Share the love:** help spread the word about PLC events, successes and other news via social media. Let your friends know you appreciate conservation work. PLC is on **Facebook** and **Instagram**.
- ✧ And don't forget the **CARS Program**! Check out PLC's partnership with CARS and see if you've got an old vehicle that could use a new home and benefit local land protection at the same time. Visit www.piedmontland.org and click on **Support**.



Worthville Dam in Randolph County



The historic Worthville Dam on the Deep River in Randleman supported one of Randolph County's many bygone textile mills. This sizable and attractive dam, originally constructed in 1880 but replaced in 1920, dominates the view from a newly protected 157-acre, mostly wooded property on both sides of the Deep River. The property is called Worthville Dam after its namesake, and it will become the City of Randleman's largest passive public park, expanding Randleman's Deep River Greenway and providing a critical link in the larger planned Deep River Trail.

Forever protected by a conservation easement, Worthville Dam will be used for walking and mountain biking trails, picnicking, boat

launches, and hopefully someday, organized events on the scenic beach just below the dam.

The property was purchased from the Fentriss family with funding from the **Duke Energy Water Resources Fund** and **N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund**. The Fentriss family's ownership of the land dates back to an original Land Grant in the 1790's, though their ownership possibly predates the 1779 formation of Randolph County.

Dr. J.M. Worth, a former N.C. Governor and Treasurer, originally established the Worth Manufacturing Company immediately upstream from this site in 1880, and the mill continued operation under various entities until it was finally shuttered as a mill in 1976. Like all of the other mill towns in Randolph County, the Deep River was vital to life in Worthville, powering the mill itself and also serving as a critical transportation link between towns along the river and providing the focus of social life and recreation for the village residents and mill workers. A former covered bridge constructed over the dam once connected both sides of the river. Today, a modern bridge and the highway below the dam provide an easier crossing.

The Deep River Trail, once it's complete, will go through the Worthville Dam property, and will eventually be a 15-mile trail connecting Randleman to Ramseur along the river. Faith Rock, another PLC project, is also located along this trail corridor, further downstream in Franklinville.

Thanks to **City of Randleman**, the wooded banks of the Deep River below Worthville Dam will once again be a place for residents to enjoy the river.



Faith Rock Natural Area Officially Opens!

PLC and the Town of Franklinville celebrated the official opening of **Faith Rock Trail and Nature Preserve** in October. The new 3/4 mile loop trail offers scenic views of the Deep River from Faith Rock. The Faith Rock Trail will be part of the planned 15-mile Deep River Trail connecting Randleman to Ramseur in Randolph County. To access the trail, park at Franklinville's Riverside Park on Andrew Hunter Road and take the pedestrian bridge across the river. Enjoy this beautiful natural area!



(continued from page 1)

Dewitt Hardee, Director of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program describes the Baldwin Family Farm project as "an opportunity to ensure this land will continue to be an available and valuable resource for food and fiber production going forward, just as it is now. This is a forward-looking step that will be a great benefit to future generations of farmers and the local community."

You may recognize the name Baldwin Beef from your local **Whole Foods Market**. The Baldwins supply stores throughout Virginia and North Carolina with grass-fed, antibiotic and hormone-free beef raised on the farm. Baldwin Family Farms began direct marketing their beef in 2002 and opened an on-farm beef market in 2003. If you're like many consumers today and want to know where your food comes from, it doesn't get much better than shopping at the farm store. Ever the innovator, from how he feeds and raises his cattle, to how he markets the finished product, V Mac has recently "beefed-up" Baldwin Family Farms' internet sales efforts. **"The new market structure is on-line – especially with millennials – the last thing they want to do is spend time grocery shopping,"** said Baldwin. **"We want Baldwin Beef to be the on-line resource for grass-fed beef for the eastern United States."**



"Helping families like the Baldwins achieve their long-term goals for their land is my favorite part of the job," said PLC Associate Director Kalen Kingsbury. When asked why it was so important to protect their farm, V Mac said **"The last thing my family and I want is to see our beautiful Charolais cattle sold and our pristine grasslands subdivided and covered in houses or condominiums. Thanks to the efforts of PLC, we can rest easier knowing that won't happen."**

Hike-A-Thon 2018 — Get In On the Fun!



Call it a resolution, call it starting the year on the right path.

We invite you to kick off 2018 by getting outside, getting active and getting involved in local conservation efforts.

Sign up, ask friends to sponsor your hike, earn prizes, and get hiking—it's that easy!

Learn more or register at www.piedmontland.org/hike-a-thon.

Thank you to Colonial Pipeline, Great Outdoor Provision Company and Farm to Feet Socks for sponsoring Hike-A-Thon!

Hike-A-Thon Scheduled Hikes—January 2018

- ☞ **First Day Hike/Farm Tour with S'mores: Monday, January 1st, Winston-Salem, Crossnore School, 1-3pm.**
- ☞ **Hike Ridges Mountain trails in Asheboro: Saturday, January 6th, 2-4pm.**
- ☞ **Hike in historic Bethania, Winston-Salem: Sunday, January 7th, 2-4pm.**
- ☞ **Hike at Hanging Rock State Park: Saturday, January 13th, 9am-2pm.**
- ☞ **Martin Luther King Day Hike: Monday, January 15th, Knight Brown Nature Preserve, 10am-2pm.**
- ☞ **Wrap-Up Hike: Saturday, January 27th, Haw River State Park — Great Blue Heron Loop Trail (Iron Ore Access), 10am-12pm.**



PLC staff members Lynne Dardanell and Mindy Mock hiking in Colorado while attending a national land trust conference.



Corporate Sponsor Highlight!

Volunteers from Colonial Pipeline built a new trail through a scenic and tranquil old-growth pine forest at Bur Mil Park, including building a new set of stairs leading up to the trail and refurbishing an old amphitheater.

In addition to sponsoring PLC's Land Jam concert and our annual Hike-A-Thon, this corporate sponsor goes above and beyond!

Thank you, Colonial Pipeline!

Green Reads Nature Book & Film Club

Did you know that PLC and the Kathleen Clay Edwards family library in Guilford County started a nature book and film club?

YOU ARE INVITED!

All sessions are held at PLC-protected Price Park in Guilford County, in the Community Room of the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Library. Everyone is welcome, and copies of books can be picked up from the library. Ask for Melanie Buckingham, Environmental Librarian.

Future Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, December 20, 7-8pm

Film: Environmental TED Talks

Friday, January 26, 12-1pm

Book: *American Wasteland: How America Throws Away Nearly Half of its Food*

Wednesday, February 28, 7-8pm

Film: Climate Stories NC

Coming in Spring & Summer

Devotions - Poetry by Mary Oliver

Our Only World - Ten Essays by Wendell Berry

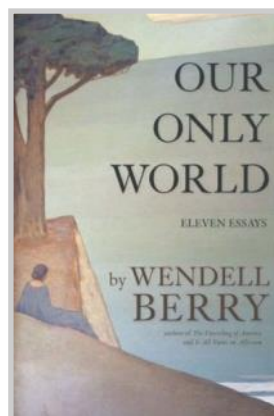
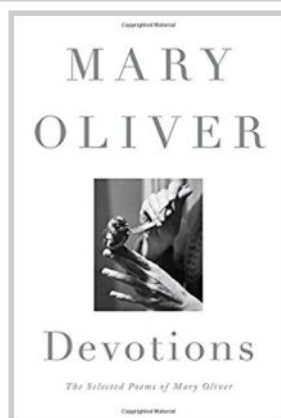
(plus a film about Wendell Berry's life)

Also ... *Secret Life of Bees*, *Small Wonder*, *Take Good Care of the Garden and the Dogs*

Stay tuned for dates!

Check out what's in store!

Future picks for Green Reads ...



The PLC Wish List!



- * Nature-themed books for Library at Knight Brown Nature Preserve
- * Office desks & chairs
 - * Bookshelves
 - * Megaphone
- * Folding machine
 - * Large coolers
- * 8-foot vinyl tablecloths
- * Padded folding chairs
 - * Garden gloves
 - * Dishwasher

Happenings at PLC's Knight Brown Nature Preserve



Simon Oves lead troop members in hauling buckets of soil from one part of the preserve to another.

Local Boy Scout Works Toward William T. Hornaday Award

Simon Oves, an 11-year old Boy Scout, is taking on the ambitious project of earning a William T. Hornaday Award, the highest conservation award in Boy Scouting. The prestigious award requires the scout to complete a conservation project that benefits wildlife, not humans. For his project, Simon has chosen to create a vernal pool at Knight Brown Nature Preserve to benefit breeding habitat for amphibians, including the spotted salamander and frogs.

On December 2, he organized a large workgroup to prepare the site and plant native plants. PLC is proud to partner with Simon and is grateful for his significant contribution!

Thank you, Simon!



Discovering a little nature while working, a troop member shares a baby leopard frog.



Keith Martin with Mayo River State Park helps youngsters identify macro-invertebrates in the Preserve.

Educational School Field Trips at the Knight Brown Nature Preserve

This fall, PLC hosted more than 175 8th grade students from Western Rockingham Middle School at Knight Brown Nature Preserve to learn about water quality, ecology and nature in general while hiking the preserve. Thank you to our amazing educators and volunteers that day!

*Kayla Kohlmann, Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Chad Lange, Nature Freaks*

Keith Martin, Mayo River State Park

Cynthia Nielsen, Guilford County School Garden Network

Lillie Reiter, PLC volunteer

Ivy Rutledge, Guilford Technical Community College

*Dennis Testerman, retired Cabarrus Soil & Water
Conservation Board*

"A Poet's Walk" Trail Underway

PLC continues to work with the Overbey family, friends and volunteers to complete a new trail named "A Poet's Walk" in memory of Tucker Overbey, a beloved son, brother, cousin and friend who tragically and suddenly passed away in 2015.


Look for an opening event in early 2018.



Friends Garden Volunteers, You Are Truly Appreciated!

Piedmont Land Conservancy is very fortunate to have a dedicated group of Friends Volunteers who donate their time and energy each spring and fall to work in the ***Emily H. Allen Wildflower Preserve, Friendship Garden***. Without their help, we couldn't maintain this hidden treasure near Historic Bethabara in Winston-Salem. This six-acre garden is home to a unique collection of over 500 species of native plants. Since this volunteer group started in 2006, they have donated over 5,660 hours. That is equal to over 141 forty-hour work weeks, or almost three years! We express our deepest appreciation to this impressive group!

The following is a list of 2017 Friends Volunteers:

Maymuna Abdulhalim	Jerry Dorsett	Robert Jolly	Brent Rockett
Nicko Acenas	Doris Doub	Cindy Jones	Cindy Scott
Betty Allegrone	Sally Ervin	Gizelle Jones	Jane Stewart
Susan Andrews	Henry Fansler	Elen Knott	Alan Stobbs
Maureen Ballsiepher	David Farrier	Donna Lamonds	Dorothy Stobbs
Steve Barnes	Shirley Ferguson	Bingle Lewis	Karen Stoltz
Bill Bodsford	Sharon Fortner	Sheilah Lombardo	Arlene Edwards Thompson
Becky Brown	Carol Gearhart	Louise Marlowe	Debbie Vrsecky
Emily Bundy	Lisa Gould	Trena McNabb	Maribeth Weinman
Bonnie Cochran	Anne Hester	Cathy Melvin	Rosemary Wheeler
Nita Colvin	Pat Holder	David Mock	Ann Williams
Carolyn Cook	Bethy Jackle	Elizabeth O'Meara	Michelle Williams
Marty Cook	Jane Jackson	Denise Patterson	
Bonnie Crouch	Marie James	Ann Ragan	
Rosemary Dippert	Joseph Johnson	Michelle Reeder	

We also rely on the dedicated volunteers who serve on the Emily Allen Wildflower Preserve Management Committee and express our sincere appreciation (pictured from left to right):

Charles Brummitt (Chair)
 Susan Andrews
 Sheilah Lombardo
 Martha Wood
 Lisa Gould
 PLC Staff: Mindy Mock & Ken Bridle

**Not pictured: Becky Brown, Marty Cook and Betsy Hood*



Give the Gift of Nature This Season



Inside Message:

*A gift has been given
in your honor to
Piedmont Land Conservancy.*

*This gift will protect and preserve
land and wildlife in Piedmont
North Carolina including forests,
rivers, farms, trails and parks.*

New Honor Card for 2017 by PLC Stewardship Director, Ken Bridle —

Purchase a set of four blank cards, or as an honor card with a special gift message pre-printed inside.

Honor gift card with printed message: \$10.00

Blank notecard sets—packs of four: \$10.00

**If you are making a Gift Membership to someone(s) special this holiday season, recipients will receive notification of their gift by handwritten message on one of these notecards.*



Also by Ken Bridle, original watercolor image cards from previous years available again for 2017 (while supplies last). Available as 5x7 or 4x6 with message, or as blank cards and also in sets of four. All are \$10.

Our cardinal cards (a holiday favorite) are still available!

Order cards with printed message inside - \$10.00

Sets of four blank cards - \$10.00 per set





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North Carolina's land trusts preserve land and water quality to safeguard our way of life for future generations. We work in local communities to ensure that lands are voluntarily protected for clean drinking water, recreations, tourism and farms.



Get involved, win prizes, get hiking.

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