



# CONSERVATION VOICES



**CONSERVATION  
TRUST** FOR NORTH  
CAROLINA

**LAND WITH PURPOSE**

SPRING 2020



As I'm writing this letter, our country and world are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are just beginning to understand our new reality. Amidst the uncertainty, I'm reminded of the strength of the people we have the privilege of working alongside from the Parkway to Princeville. Our relationship with the leadership and citizens of Princeville continues to grow as we explore ways in which we can embrace guiding priorities of community + climate + equity for a common goal to build a resilient and just future for its people.

I am heartened by the growth and momentum of our new vision for conservation – with special significance for Eastern North Carolina. I invite you to join me in thinking about how conservation, nature, and community can be a respite to you in this time of uncertainty. Will you take a walk on a greenway, spend extra time with your family members? I hope if nothing else, COVID-19 reminds each of us that we need to enjoy the goodness of nature we have all around us.

Whether you're working on the frontlines of this health crisis, practicing social distancing to keep yourself or loved ones healthy, or contemplating how to provide support to a community in their time of need, I hope this newsletter provides you with hope that, just like our earth, we as members of CTNC's community will remain resilient. Now more than ever, our work to conserve North Carolina's land and water can offer hope in a time we need it most.

Jamilla Hawkins, Board Chair



## A CONSERVATION CELEBRATION 09.27.20

The CTNC board, staff, and community partners have spent the last few months making tremendous progress toward fulfilling our mission of building resilient, just communities from the Parkway to Princeville. We are excited to have the opportunity to share updates with you during our annual Conservation Celebration at Timberlake Earth Sanctuary on Sunday, September 27 from 2-5 p.m.

We hope you'll gather with us in Whitsett, NC where CTNC has worked with the landowner to permanently protect 165 acres through a conservation agreement. We'll enjoy a family-friendly, spring afternoon complete with live music, local food, and self-guided hikes, all nestled among some of the most beautiful surroundings on the banks of Lake MacIntosh. Stay tuned - official invitation and event details will be shared this summer!



## Planning for a Resilient Future

**C**TNC has made a commitment to steward and protect North Carolina's natural lands in perpetuity, meaning the work we do today will have an impact long after each of us is gone. Similarly, many families have made a personal commitment to ensure that CTNC is able to continue critical land conservation by including CTNC in their estate plans.

End-of-life planning gifts all have one thing in common: they ensure that CTNC is able to conserve and protect land from the Parkway to Princeville, and unique and beautiful communities between. We have already received very generous gifts from families who understood how their estate plan could have a long-lasting impact on conservation. Twenty-nine families or individuals have made commitments to include CTNC in their end-of-life plans. We are humbled by the support of our Preservation Society supporters.

There are many ways to join the Preservation Society to leave a lasting legacy for conservation. You may include CTNC in your will, leave the proceeds from an IRA, or create charitable remainder trusts and charitable lead trusts that will ensure our work has an impact long into the future. **Learn more about estate planning and other ways to give at [ctnc.org/invest](https://ctnc.org/invest).**

## Forested Lands Will Protect Clean Water for 1 million North Carolinians

**T**hunder Hill Overlook, a 229-acre tract of land outside Blowing Rock, is now permanently protected from subdivision, development and logging. This is a significant acquisition for CTNC and the communities we serve. With numerous unnamed streams and Martin Branch, one of the primary streams forming the headwaters of the Yadkin River, this acquisition will impact clean drinking water for North Carolinians downstream of the Yadkin River headwaters.

The land not only supports forested habitat for wildlife, it also holds the headwaters of the Yadkin River, a water system that supplies drinking water to nearly one million North Carolinians across 21 counties and 93 municipalities. And as the surrounding towns of Boone and Blowing Rock continue to grow, conserving parcels of this significance is increasingly important to sustaining community resilience in the western part of the state.



This acquisition couldn't be possible without generous support from our community. We extend our gratitude to the sellers, Howard B. Arbuckle III, Corinne Harper Arbuckle Allen, Anne McPherson Harper Bernhardt, Lee Corinne Harper Vason, Mary Gwyn Harper Addison, and Albert F. Shelander, Jr., heir of Betty Banks Harper Shelander who offered a generous price reduction, and significant contributions from private donors. **Learn more at [ctnc.org/thunderhill](https://ctnc.org/thunderhill).**

## Conservation Internships Seed Equity and Inclusion

Each year, our unique service programs inspire young people to explore how conservation can change their life. These opportunities support young leaders of color seeking meaningful ways to contribute their skills in local communities. Soon, a new cohort of the Diversity in Conservation Internship Program will begin working with nonprofits and government agencies statewide.

“Great Smoky Mountains National Park is excited to establish this new partnership with CTNC. We strive to build a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable workforce, and the Internship

Program allows our park to take a major step in that direction. For a park with limited resources and unlimited visitors, the work provided by these emerging professionals is more needed than ever. It’s a small investment that makes a big impact!” – Paul Lathrop, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

CTNC offers a range of service program experiences designed to connect young leaders to the conservation sector while building capacity for our partners. [Learn more at ctnc.org/service](https://ctnc.org/service).

**Interns will serve as an interpreter at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, develop STEM summer camp opportunities for children of promise in the mountains, and provide resources to food-insecure communities in eastern North Carolina.**



## “Floodprint” to Guide Princeville’s Resilient Future

When city and community planners develop strategies to assess and mitigate flood risk, they develop a road-map to rebuild in a way that minimizes the damage to homes and other structures where flooding will inevitably occur again. We’re inspired and honored to continue this journey at the banks of the Tar River.

CTNC is working with community partners to fund the development of a Floodprint for the Town of Princeville by NC State’s Coastal Dynamics Design Lab. According to scientists leading the project, the Floodprint is focused on design and programming strategies that celebrate and build community capacity around cultural and heritage-based tourism.

Dr. Glenda Lawrence Knight added, “The most critical contribution to the Town is the immediate benefits of the floodprint plan that will grant us an opportunity to build a firm foundation with specific

recovery guidance, address and tackle challenges during the research phase, promote collaboration, increase buy in into a shared vision for the future, ignite revitalization and most importantly, generate citizenship morale with recovery resilience.”

Climate resilience is part of our lifeblood, as is community enhancement and the

betterment of people who have been traditionally excluded from the benefits conservation provides.

[Read more about the Floodprint and Princeville’s resilient future at ctnc.org/princevillefuture](https://ctnc.org/princevillefuture).

