



CONSERVATION VOICES



**CONSERVATION
TRUST** FOR NORTH
CAROLINA

LAND WITH PURPOSE

FALL 2019

A New Vision for Conservation

Happy Fall! This may be my favorite time of year to get outside and take a hike or just have coffee on the porch. Since this newsletter will be the last of my tenure as CTNC Board President, I want to express my gratitude for and pride in the work of this amazing organization, and to look ahead to its next chapter.

In February of 2018, CTNC staff and board gathered for a two-day retreat to consider what impact land conservation could have in the coming decades and what part CTNC should play. Themes of climate resilience, community partnership, and race equity emerged. The current strategic plan and mission is the result. **Land With Purpose.** Led by our values, CTNC will be meaningful, relevant to, and resonant with, more and more North Carolinians.

For me, along with conserving places that are so meaningful to past and future generations, the best part of joining an organization like CTNC is the community. Thank you for all you do for this community. We can't do this without the support of our friends like you.

Kelley Russell, Board Chair

A CONSERVATION Celebration

AT GIDEON RIDGE INN

Our CTNC family supports our new vision for conservation. In August, our members and friends gathered at Gideon Ridge Inn for a celebration of all we've accomplished together. Thank you to the CTNC Board of Directors, Gideon Ridge Inn, and all of our Conservation Celebration Sponsors for investing in our work. Without your support, our work is not possible.



How You Can Get Involved

We're so grateful for your continued investment in our work. Without your support, our conservation work is not possible. Your investment enables us to continue our work conserving land along the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway and helps us collaborate with our partners to **build resilient**, just communities. Our vision is only possible with your support. **This new journey begins with you.**

- **Share** our mission and vision with a friend. There is no greater endorsement than sharing our work with your friends and family!
- **Advocate** on conservation issues with your lawmakers.
- **Invest** in our conservation work with a personally meaningful gift to CTNC.



From Diversity to Equity



We must emphasize how racial equity can be seeded throughout our work in order to build resilient, just communities. While land connects us all, it has also historically been used to separate us. Entire communities of people – especially people of color – have been intentionally displaced and excluded. That shared history of inequity means that collectively our conservation work does not benefit all people as we intend it to.

For more than a decade, we have understood this fact and focused on increasing the racial diversity within the conservation sector through the Diversity in Conservation Internship Program. Our work has not only connected many young people of color with a professional conservation network, it has also helped organizations understand their own role in promoting race equity in their culture and practice.

While CTNC is proud of the strides made over the past decade, **our work must expand beyond the scope of one project or program to honor the stories of black, indigenous and other people of color who have felt the loss of access to productive land for living, farming and for preserving their heritage.** We must holistically incorporate equity and inclusion into our entire mission and work.

We envision a more equitable future where everyone shares in the benefits of healthy lands, regardless of race, age, or income. Grow and learn with us at ctnc.org/equityvision.

Climate Solutions Emerge from the Land

Conserving climate resilient land can restore natural protections for entire communities. The effects of climate change and extreme weather events will continue to impact North Carolina from the highest peaks of the Blue Ridge Parkway to the low-lying lands of Princeville and throughout Eastern NC. When entire communities are at risk, we no longer have the luxury of ignoring this simple fact: our climate is changing.

CTNC is calling for more rational and community-led approaches to rebuilding disaster impacted communities in ways that ready its people for future climate impacts where solutions benefit those who have been most impacted by climate catastrophes – communities of color and those with limited economic resources.

Our commitment to delivering climate-resilient conservation strategies remains critical. Many of the special places we've conserved already offer climate solutions by storing carbon, provide places for wildlife to move as temperatures rise, and provide pristine places that attract millions in recreation and tourism dollars annually. And soon, we will acquire another 240 acres of forested land at the headwaters of the Yadkin River that provides a source of clean drinking water to hundreds of thousands of residents. Visit ctnc.org/climatesolutions to learn more about how you can be part of this vision for a better future.



Where Climate + Community + Equity Align

CTNC will collaborate with local leaders and nonprofit partners to create positive change within Princeville, North Carolina. Princeville's land and people have experienced two 100-year floods in the last 17 years. The damage caused, and community members displaced, serve as a reminder of racism and inequality that permeates the heritage of North Carolina land and stretches back to Princeville's founding more than 130 years ago. We must deliver land conservation in ways that honor the past of Princeville while strengthening its future because each time the water rises in Princeville, it meets a courageous group of people that call the land "home."

Together, we can conserve land that restores some of the natural floodplain of the region to help absorb water during future flood events. Through the Common Ground collaborative with funding from Duke Energy Foundation and Z. Smith Reynolds, Conservation Trust will partner with the NC Community Development Initiative and The Conservation Fund to work alongside the Town of Princeville and its people to plan for and ultimately deliver smart land conservation. We promise to work beside and behind our Princeville neighbors with respect, humility and a willingness to learn.

This community-driven initiative is aimed at bringing true restoration and resilience in the face of climate change. Visit ctnc.org/princeville to learn more about our latest collaborative partnership.





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across North Carolina. Will you invest in us?

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