

CONSERVATION



The Newsletter of
The Upper Savannah Land Trust

IN THE LAKELANDS

SERVING EIGHT COUNTIES IN THE WESTERN PIEDMONT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

► SPRING 2008

USLT Approaches 6000 Acre Mark

Upper Savannah Land Trust found 2007 to be a banner year. Six new conservation easements in four different counties were accepted. With these new easements, your land trust now holds 28 easements in eight different counties, with a total of 5,906 acres of protected lands.

This is a remarkable accomplishment for a volunteer organization that was begun only seven years ago. Each

Land Trusts A Huge Success
Across America, an Area Larger Than New England Now Protected

Across the country, it's easy to spot the rush and pour of new houses and shopping centers. But what may be less apparent is a countervailing trend: a surge in the protection of land. According to a new report by the Land Trust Alliance The amount of private land protected from development in the United States reached 37 million acres in 2005, up from 24 million in 2000.

Today, there are 1,667 land trusts in the United States—nearly a third more than existed in 2000—with goals that range from protecting a single historic site to saving entire ecosystems.

The record-breaking pace of protection is good news for biodiversity.

(re-printed with permission from *Nature Conservancy Magazine*: Summer 2007)

easement represents donors with a deep commitment to protecting the natural environment that has made our part of the Piedmont a special place to live.

In Saluda County during 2007, Lizanne and John Melton donated an easement on their property.

After Brad and Pam Thompson received a Conservation Bank grant in October of 2007, they donated two easements to the land trust, one in Saluda County and another adjoining tract in Edgefield County.

In Greenwood County, the 150 year-old Anderson Family Farm was placed under easement with USLT because of the desire of Charlotte Ross and Sara Kummer along with their brother Jim Anderson to perpetuate their family's historical and agricultural traditions.

In Newberry County, the donation of a 44 acre easement by Roxie Derrick now assures the citizens of Little Mountain that their namesake mountain and the surrounding historic areas will enjoy protection.

Along the Saluda River, also in Newberry County, the Territories Land Development Co. protected over 500 acres of outstanding wildlife habitat with an easement. This tract is not far from their earlier easement near Lake Greenwood that protects an active bald eagle nest.

UPPER SAVANNAH LAND TRUST

The mission of the Upper Savannah Land Trust is to encourage and support conservation of natural and scenic lands, farms, forests, waterways, and open spaces in our eight-county area: **Abbeville, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, and Saluda** Counties.

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Conservation
in the Lakelands
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UPPER SAVANNAH



Land Trust

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From the President's Desk . . .

A major break-through for Upper Savannah Land Trust occurred during 2007. For the first time, we now have at least one conservation easement in each of the eight counties in our service area.

We are especially proud of the quality and diversity included within these protected acres—ancestral farms, a geological landmark in Little Mountain, river frontage on the Saluda River, green spaces in or near residential developments as well as broad forests and open lands. See the table at the end of this article for a county-by-county breakdown of acres conserved.

Our focus continues to be a large portion of the western piedmont of our state. While no major metropolitan centers are located in this area, there are many around it that benefit from the clean air and water which is filtered through our region. Rural counties such as Saluda, Newberry, and Edgefield that have traditionally been agrarian now continue to feel increasing pressure from the development of nearby urban areas.

This underscores the need for active conservation efforts from individuals and groups such as our land trust. Both are important components in the balancing act that must occur between the demands of development and the protection of our natural resources. We must continue to educate and encourage good stewardship of our lands and to emphasize the importance of sustaining nature so that it can sustain us.

Roy

USLT Easement Acreages by County

Abbeville	138
Anderson	800
Edgefield	753
Greenwood	2,225
Laurens	898
McCormick	7
Newberry	762
Saluda	323
	5,906

Inspections are a vital part of easements

Peggy Adams and Elyse Benson are seen enjoying the view by a pond during one of their annual inspection visits to conservation easements held by USLT.

All easements must be checked annually to insure that the terms of the easement are being met by the donors.



USLT ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR MAY 13

To be held again at Eichacres Annes on Ninety Six Highway

The Upper Savannah Land Trust is returning to John and Kathryn Eichelberger's horse farm for its annual meeting on May 13.

The 425-acre property, which the owners have dubbed "Eichacres Annex," was placed in a conservation easement with USLT a few years back and contains woodland riding/walking trails and equestrian facilities. The Eichelbergers have 18

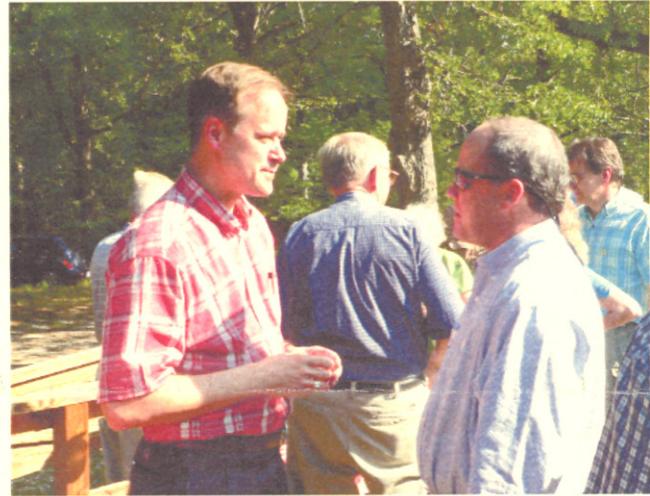
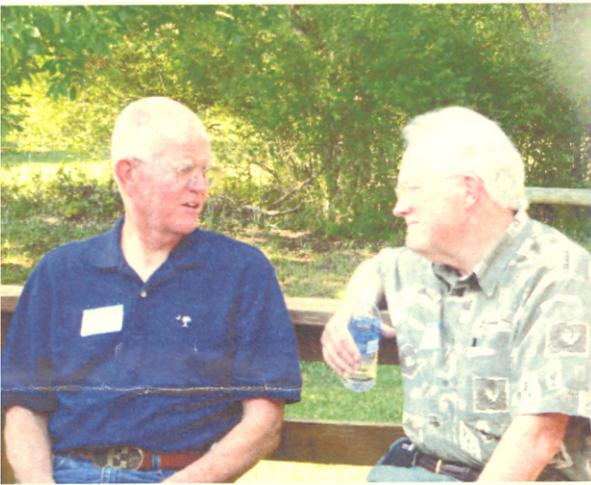
horses on the property, mostly Arabians. They allow some public use of the property for groups as diverse as the Boy Scouts, the Wild Turkey Federation, and fortunately the USLT.

This year's meeting will feature Matt Nespeca of the Nature Conservancy as principal speaker. Beginning at 5:00 p.m., there will be a social hour before the meeting, a

short business session followed by the program, and the evening will end with a picnic style supper.

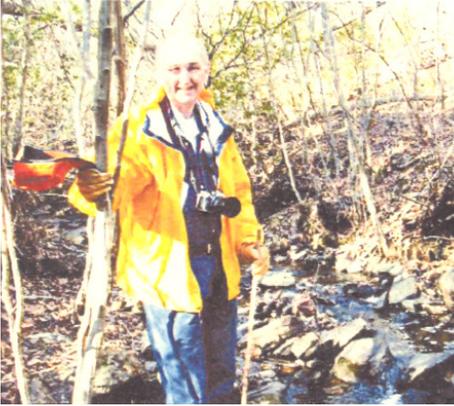
USLT members are urged to attend and bring guests and prospective members. Help us spread the conservation word.

Eichacres Annex is located at 2719 Ninety Six Highway (HWY. 34), east of Greenwood.



Scenes from last year's meeting: John Eichelberger and Patrick Morgan chatting on the deck, USLT President Roy Hemphill discussing last minute details, SCDNR Board Chairman Mike McShane outlining conservation issues with the group, members and guests enjoying a barbecue meal.

Conservation News



Buddy Johnson on Little Mountain

Little Mountain Mayor and USLT Board member Buddy Johnson was instrumental in securing the easement by Roxie Derrick to protect 44 acres of scenic mountain woodlands at Little Mountain.

Derrick and Johnson have a common dream of opening walking trails through the woods. Clemson University has proposed a scenic entrance with restroom and parking facilities.

"It's just something I felt like in my heart I wanted to do," Derrick said. "It's something I could do for our community and our state. It's a unique area; it's so special."

In the photo at left, Mayor Johnson stands by the cascading stream on the Derrick property.

(photo and text courtesy of Lee Gray of the *Newberry Observer*)

We Need Your Support

Upper Savannah Land Trust is a 502 (c)(3) membership organization. It is dedicated to protecting the natural beauty and integrity of our area. **You can become a partner in this effort by joining the Upper Savannah Land Trust in one of the following categories:**

\$25.00 – Individual \$50.00 – Family \$100.00 – Supporter
\$250.00 – Business \$500.00 – Founding Partner \$1,000.00 – Founding Sponsor

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