

CONSERVATION



The Newsletter of
The Upper Savannah Land Trust

IN THE LAKELANDS

SERVING EIGHT COUNTIES IN THE WESTERN PIEDMONT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

▶ SPRING 2013

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Naturalist Rudy Mancke Entertains Audience

Guest speaker Rudy Mancke entertained a lively crowd of some 90 people at the USLT Annual Meeting, March 21, 2013, in a "show and tell" format using objects ranging



Rudy displaying a Corn Snake skin while weaving a story of its value to farmers

from a snake skin to a fossilized mastodon tooth. His personal stories brought home the conservation message.

Mancke pointed out the vital need for people to maintain their connection to the natural world in an increasingly technological society.

"Organizations like yours play a key role in conserving nature for future generations," he said.

Attendees gave Mancke a standing ovation at the conclusion of his talk.

Business Session

In the business session, new board members Elyse Benson, Doug Bell and Hamp Warner were introduced.

Re-elected for another term were board members Bryan Green, Billy Fleming, Patrick Morgan, Hugh Riley and Buddy Johnson.

Nominating Committee chair Roy Hemphill offered the slate of officers for the coming year which were approved by acclamation.

The USLT leadership team for 2013-14 selected at the Annual Meeting are:

Andy Robinson, President
Rossie Corwon, Vice President
Rick Green, Secretary
L. B. Adams, Treasurer

Their terms of office become effective July 1, 2013.

Current President Brad Thompson will become Past President. Wallace Wood will remain as Executive Director of the USLT.

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.

Inside this issue:

President's Desk	2
Board Membership	2
Annual Report	2
Donor Listing	3
Annual Meeting Pictures	3
Conservation News	4

Easements Held by USLT Protect Vital Properties Across the SC Upstate

With the acquisition of more than 1,000 acres through easements from landowners Dallas Ball, Judy and Pascal Brock, and David Greene in 2012, the Upper Savannah Land Trust now conserves 31,503 acres in its service area. Several additional easements are under consideration by the USLT board for 2013.

A county-by-county breakdown is shown on Page 2.

**Conservation
in the Lakelands**

Volume 8, Issue 1

UPPER SAVANNAH



Land Trust

**P. O. Box 918
Greenwood, SC 29648**

Executive Director

Wallace Wood

Officers

Brad Thompson, President
Andy Robinson, Vice-President
Rick Green, Secretary
L. B. Adams, Treasurer
Tim Burke, Past-President

Board Members

Peggy Adams
Tom Brooks
Judy Burns
Russ Burns
Rossie Corwon
Billy Fleming
Bryan Green
Roy Hemphill
Buddy (O.L.) Johnson
Mike Mallon
Patrick Morgan
Hugh Riley
Jimmy Sanders
Charles Schulze
Eric Smith
Frank Wideman

Visit us at our web site:

www.scuslt.com

From the President's Desk . . .

My year as president has gone by fast. The Upper Savannah Land Trust continues to make progress in fulfilling our mission of encouraging and supporting the conservation of natural and scenic lands, farms, forests, waterways and open spaces in our area.

Over the last year we have made improvements in our organization. To insure that all necessary records are maintained, we adopted a records retention policy for documents, both hard and electronic.

We have improved our databases by keeping our easement inventory current and with more information, and by updating our donor/member list monthly. Many email addresses have been obtained so that we can send news to you in a timely manner.

The Upper Savannah Council of

Governments has taken on some of our administrative duties. Rick Green is our liaison with USCOG and also serves as USLT secretary. USCOG gives us a lot of support by providing us with a meeting place and assisting us with record keeping.

Our annual meeting was a great success this year. Thanks go to Bryan Green and his committee which held a fundraiser in conjunction with our annual meeting. Tickets were sold, and a silent auction and raffle for a shotgun were held.

To top it off, our state treasure, Rudy Mancke, was the guest speaker!

Thanks to all who have supported the USLT in the past. We continue to need your support to go forward in fulfilling our mission.

Brad

Annual Report: Moderate Growth in 2012

The USLT conserved more than 1,085 acres in 2012, making it one of the larger land trusts in South Carolina. The USLT now holds conservation easements on **31,503** acres in the western Piedmont. The trust continues to hold an easement in Aiken County in order to accommodate a donor who had other easements held by the USLT within its service area. All other easements are in the service area. The total number of easements held by the USLT increased by 3 to 61 in 2012. A breakdown of the easements is shown below:

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND ACRES BY COUNTY		
County	Number of Easements	Acres
Abbeville	3	722
Aiken	1	342
Anderson	3	940
Edgefield	4	3,292
Greenwood	23	8,799
Laurens	7	2,587
McCormick	6	12,076
Newberry	8	2,021
Saluda	6	724

Membership Donors Supporting USLT Conservation Efforts in 2012-2013

The Upper Savannah Land Trust is a 501 (c)(3) membership organization dedicated to protecting the natural beauty and integrity of our area. We gratefully acknowledge the 2012- 2013 support of these donors:

Savannah/Saluda Society \$3,000 or more

Margaret and L. B. Adams
Davis Family Foundation, Inc.
David Greene
Pascal Brock
J. William Rogers
Clark Rushton

Foundation \$1,500 – \$2,999

Exxon Mobil Foundation

Guardian \$1,000 – \$1,499

Anderson Family Farm
Dallas Ball
Russ and Judy Burns
Capsugel Holdings, US
Duke Energy Foundation
Storey Foundation, Inc.

Sponsor \$500 – \$999

AgSouth Farm Credit
Mickey and Pam Avrett
Tim Burke
County Bank

John and Kathryn Eichelberger
Millen Ellis
Armena Ellis
Robert M. and Martha Erwin, Jr.
Christian Hendricks

Patron \$250 – \$499

Dr. Bryan Green
Rossie Corwon
Gail and Ken Kinard
Charlotte Ross
Brad and Pam Thompson
Thompson Forest Consultants
Town of Little Mountain
Wallace B. Wood, Jr.

Family \$100 – \$249

Bal and Kit Ballentine
Elyse Benson
M. C. (Nikki) Blease
Laurel Blossom
Al and Cynthia Bryan
Joe Cobb
Della Coulter
Ken Driggers
William Duford
Eddy Ellison
Judith and Philip Epps
Elsie Fields
Wayne and Connie Griffis
John and Patricia Harrison
Jo Claire and Harry Hickson

Dave and Shirley Hildebrand
Jenks Inc. Realty
Yates and Sandra Johnson
John and Virginia Kemp
John LeRoy
Bobby and Georgette Livingston
Log Creek Timber, Inc.
Norma and John McAlhany
Wes McAllister
Lizanne and John Melton
Rivers Edge Forest Products
Andy Robinson
Jimmy Sanders
Rick Shealy
Craig Stuckey
Bill and Kristie Warner
Hamp and Jill Warner

Friend \$50 – \$99

Mac and Linda Cobb
Anne Craig
Hilton L. Dodgen, Jr.
Carolyn P. Ehle
John Folk, Jr.
Rick Green
Wade Harrison
Sara A. Kummer
George and Pat McKee
Robert K. and Sharon Phillips
Hugh Riley
Paul Ruelle
W. Virgil Wall, Jr.
John and Anna Welborn

2013 Annual Meeting Pictures



Rudy describing the structure and purpose of a flight feather

Ellen and Rudy Mancke discussing conservation with Wallace and Susan Wood

Barbecue and trimmings served by Carolina Barbecue

Conservation News

The USLT Ponders Accreditation

As the Upper Savannah Land Trust has grown into a major conservation force in the Upstate, so have the complexities of operation grown.

The next step-up as an organization will be to seek accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance.

While earning accreditation is a lengthy and expensive process, there are numerous benefits in terms of securing grants and other recognition. Accreditation also may soon be

necessary in order for a land trust to do business.

Keeping good records is required for a land trust to operate successfully, and a comprehensive record-keeping policy is a cornerstone of the accreditation process.

The USLT board had worked on a detailed records policy since the beginning of 2013, and at the February board meeting, members made the final changes and additions, adopting the new records policy.

Easement Monitoring Completed

Annual monitoring of the 61 easements held by the USLT is complete. This is a major undertaking each year which keeps the USLT and property owners in compliance with the law. Jimmy Sanders and his crew did another excellent job of reviewing the status of all easements.

Conservation easements conserve vital lands while easing tax burdens on donors.

We Need Your Support

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Upper Savannah Land Trust in one of our membership categories. A form may be downloaded from our web site.

Friend (\$50 - \$99) Family (\$100 - \$249) Patron (\$250 - \$499)
Sponsor (\$500 - \$999) Guardian (\$1,000 - \$1,499)
Savannah/Saluda Society (\$3,000 or more)

UPPER
SAVANNAH



Land Trust
P. O. Box 918
Greenwood, SC