



# CONSERVATION IN THE LAKELANDS

SERVING EIGHT COUNTIES IN THE WESTERN PIEDMONT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

► SPRING 2014

## ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### *Patrick McMillan Lauds Conservation by Landowners*



*Patrick McMillan*

## Members Elect Officers and Board for 2014-2015

In the business session of the Annual Meeting, members elected the USLT leadership team for the coming year:

Rossie Corwon, President  
Hamp Warner, Vice President  
Rick Green, Secretary  
L. B. Adams, Treasurer

Their terms of office become effective July 1, 2014.

Current President Andy Robinson will become Past President. Wallace Wood will remain as Executive Director of the USLT.

Dr. Patrick McMillan, Director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden, treated the USLT Annual Meeting to a visual presentation of "Preserving the Essence of South Carolina."

Patrick contrasted the bio-diversity of upstate South Carolina with that of many other special places, showing that we live in a virtual Eden of species, both plant and animal. The question is, Patrick asked, "How do we preserve the special nature of South Carolina with the vast majority of land in private ownership?" According to Patrick, the answer lies in the special relationship between the land and conservation-minded owners. This relationship is exemplified by the many owners who set aside natural areas through easements.

Change is one of the constants that exerts both constraints and opportunities for species. Patrick noted both the current warming of the climate and the long-term changes in climate since the last ice age have pressured the movement, proliferation and extinction of species.

Even in recent centuries, the Piedmont did not always look the way it is today. Patrick pointed out the work of early naturalist Mark Catesby as a baseline by which to judge modern change. Writings by Catesby and others show that Bison and Forest Elk, along with fire spread by Native Americans, kept the Piedmont in an open prairie-like landscape. This refutes the notion that the upstate was all forested when the first Europeans arrived, according to Patrick.

Patrick received a standing ovation from the appreciative crowd.

## 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.

The Upper Savannah Land Trust is a 501 (c) (3) membership organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

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**Conservation  
in the Lakelands**  
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**P. O. Box 918  
Greenwood, SC 29648**

**Executive Director**  
Wallace Wood

#### Officers

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

#### Board Members

Peggy Adams  
Doug Bell  
Elyse Benson  
Judy Burns  
Russ Burns  
Billy Fleming  
Bryan Green  
Buddy (O.L.) Johnson  
Mike Mallon  
Patrick Morgan  
Hugh Riley  
Jimmy Sanders  
Eric Smith  
Hamp Warner  
Frank Wideman

Visit us at our web site:  
**[www.scuslt.com](http://www.scuslt.com)**

## From the President's Desk . . .

It has been a busy year, and, as an organization, we have taken actions to become increasingly stronger for years to come. When I review 2013, I am pleased to note that we accepted 7 new easements totaling 1,980 acres, and 2014 is beginning just as strong.

Our committees are functioning well, allowing the board to meet our yearly and long term goals. In 2013, our Monitoring Committee accomplished the monitoring of all easements in record time. A new Records Review Committee was formed in 2013 to perform internal self-audits of our documentation folders for easements. The Annual Meeting Committee pulled off an exceptional event exceeding all expectations, showcasing our organization and thrilling the attendees with Patrick McMillan's presentation. The completion of an

external third party financial audit paved the way to turn over our accounting responsibilities to the Upper Savannah Council of Governments.

As we look to the future, the board agreed to take two major steps to strengthen the future of our organization. First, the board approved the purchase of insurance to cover each easement in the event legal action is needed to enforce the will of the donor. Second, the board agreed to begin the process of pursuing national accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance, a 2 – 5 year commitment to make the USLT a "best-in-class" organization.

I want to say a sincere THANK YOU to the board for its unwavering support and to the easement donors who make it all possible.

*Andy*

## Annual Report: Moderate Growth in 2013

The USLT received easements on 1,980 acres in 2013, making it another good year in conserving land. The USLT now holds conservation easements on **34,127** 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 7 to 72 in 2013. A breakdown of the easements is shown below:

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND ACRES BY COUNTY		
County	Number of Easements	Acres
Abbeville	4	782
Aiken	1	342
Anderson	5	1,934
Edgefield	4	3,292
Greenwood	24	9,049
Laurens	8	2,587
McCormick	8	12,309
Newberry	9	2,043
Saluda	9	1,789

## Membership Donors Supporting USLT Conservation Efforts in 2013-2014

We gratefully acknowledge the 2013- 2014 support of these donors:

### **Savannah/Saluda Society** **\$3,000 or more**

ABW Limited Partnership  
Margaret and L. B. Adams  
C. E. (Gene) Berry, Jr.  
Davis Family Foundation, Inc.  
Exxon Mobil Foundation  
Generostee Weems Mitigation and Restore, LLC  
Janis and Jimmy Sanders  
Jimmy and Jan Shafe  
Sandy and Wayne Steffen  
Sandra Thomas  
Three Wilsons, LLC

### **Foundation** **\$1,500 – \$2,999**

Anderson Family Farm, LLC

### **Guardian** **\$1,000 – \$1,499**

Judy and Russell Burns  
Capsugel Holdings, US  
S.C. SFI Implementation Committee  
Storey Foundation, Inc.  
R. M. Watson's Sons, inc.

### **Sponsor** **\$500 – \$999**

AgSouth Farm Credit  
Mickey and Pam Avrett III  
Rossie Corwon  
Countybank

Armena Ellis  
Millen Ellis  
Robert M. and Martha Erwin, Jr.  
McDonald Patrick Poston Hemphill & Roper, LLC

Jean and William John Park  
John and Ferol Stroud

### **Patron** **\$250 – \$499**

Bal and Kit Ballentine  
Elyse Benson  
John and Kathryn Eichelberger  
Dr. Bryan Green  
Gail and Ken Kinard  
S.C. Conservation Credit Exchange  
Brad and Pam Thompson  
Thompson Forest Consultants  
Wallace and Susan Wood

### **Family** **\$100 – \$249**

Joyce and Spears Alexander  
M. C. (Nikki) Blease  
Pascal and Judy Brock  
Al and Cynthia Bryan  
Joseph W. Cobb  
Mac and Linda Cobb  
Della Coulter  
Eddy Ellison  
Judith and Philip Epps  
Greenwood Conservation District  
Wayne and Connie Griffis  
Jo Claire and Harry Hickson  
Dave and Shirley Hildebrand  
Buddy Johnson

Yates and Sandra Johnson  
John and Virginia Kemp  
John and Flo LeRoy  
Bobby and Georgette Livingston  
Norma and John McAlhany  
Wes McAllister  
Phil and Dale McClary  
Genette and Michael G. McShane  
Lizanne and John Melton  
Patrick Morgan  
Robert and Sharon Phillips  
Kenny and Nancy Poston  
Rivers Edge Forest Products  
Andy Robinson  
Saluda Ridge Farms, Inc.  
Richard Shealy  
Walter Craig Stuckey

### **Friend** **\$50 – \$99**

Paul and Robin Agnew  
Laurel Blossom  
Anne Craig  
Ken Driggers  
William Dufford  
Bruce Fine  
Billy Fleming  
Rick Green  
Wade Harrison  
G. Walker Moore  
Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation  
Hugh Riley  
J. William Rogers  
Savannah Lakes Village  
W. Virgil Wall, Jr.  
John and Anna Welborn

## Snapshots from the 2014 Annual Meeting



*Board members Frank Wide-man and Elyse Benson discussing business during the social hour.*



*2013 Easement Donors:  
Standing (L to R) Hamp Warner, Dr. Bill Warner, Jimmy Sanders, Fred Suggs, Wayne Steffen, Avery Parrish.  
Seated (L to R): Gene Berry, Ray Parrish*



*Peggy Adams presenting the Long-Term Service Award to retiring board members Russ and Judy Burns.*



# Conservation News

## The USLT Needs 911 Addresses

The Upper Savannah Land Trust needs 911 addresses for all easement properties for insurance purposes. Use the main entrance as the address.

The road name, number address, town and zip code are preferred. Donors with multiple easements should give the 911 address for each easement matched with a tax map number.

Please forward this information to Wallace Wood at [wwd@wctel.net](mailto:wwd@wctel.net) or 452 Price's Mill Road, Plum Branch, SC 29845.

## New Signs for Easements



*Dr. Jeff Dean holds the first easement sign given out to a donor.*

The Upper Savannah Land Trust is providing permanent signs to all easement donors in order to designate conserved lands. Each donor will receive a sign to post at the main entrance to the property.

Additional signs may be purchased from the USLT for posting on other boundaries. Donors should contact Wallace Wood for details at: [wwd@wctel.net](mailto:wwd@wctel.net), or 864-333-2393.

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)**



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