

2024 Board and Staff Biographies

Board:

Welborn Adams – joined 2019

Welborn Adams is the attorney and owner of Tinsley and Adams LLC. He graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1988 and received his law degree from the University of South Carolina in 1992. With twenty-seven years' experience as a dirt lawyer, Welborn has expertise in commercial and residential real estate transactions. He served as the Mayor of Greenwood from 2009-2018 and he is currently serving as commissioner, representing Greenwood County, on the GLEAMNS Community Action Board and as Vice Chairman for Community Initiatives, Inc. Welborn is married with five children, and in his free time he enjoys running, reading and traveling.

Robyn R. Agnew– joined 2019

Robyn is a 1984 graduate of Erskine College, a 1991 graduate of The Citadel, and a 1994 graduate of Auburn University. She spent 25 years in higher education, serving on the faculty at The Citadel, as well as Director of Admissions, Women's Tennis coach, and later Vice President of Student Services at Erskine. She is currently owner of iThrive Life and Career Coaching in Greenwood, working with individual clients, conducting workshops, and facilitating retreats. Robyn and her husband Paul are in the process of relocating from Due West to Maxwell Springs in Greenwood.

Douglas Bell– joined 2013

Douglas Bell is a partner with McDonald Patrick Poston Hemphill & Roper, LLC. He is a 1995 graduate of the University of South Carolina with honors and a 1998 graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law. As an attorney with more than eighteen years of experience in commercial and real estate transactions, nonprofit governance, land use, estate and trust planning and administration, his practice focus provides a complimentary background for his role as a board member.

Rossie L. Corwon– joined 2012

Rossie Corwon has served on the Board since 2012, and served as Board President from 2015 to 2021. She earned a Graduate Degree (Master's in Business Administration) from Texas A&M and also earned a Bachelor of Science with Honor in Agricultural Engineering from Clemson University. She is a SC Registered Professional Engineer. She recently retired from her position as the City/County Engineer for Greenwood, SC. She has also worked with the International Paper Company, Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works, Greenwood Mills, WRS, Inc., a Wal-Mart Development Company, and was the owner and operator of Stormwater Specialists, LLC. She currently resides in Greenwood with her husband Mike and has two sons and 7 grandsons.

Bryan Green– joined 2010

Bryan T. Green grew up in Milton, Florida where he first developed his love of the land by exploring his family's old farm. He went on to college at Mercer University, then medical school at the University of South Alabama where he graduated Alpha Omega Alpha. He did his internal medicine residency there and then a gastroenterology fellowship at Duke University. He began private practice gastroenterology in Greenwood, South Carolina where he fulfilled his life-long dream of owning his own forest land by purchasing a tract of land on the Saluda River. He has permanently protected this tract and several others he was fortunate enough to purchase by placing a conservation easement on them. He remains passionate about land conservation and the preservation of native fauna and flora.

Rick Green– joined 2000

Rick Green works at Upper Savannah Council of Governments and has been involved with Upper Savannah Land Trust activities since the first meetings to discuss the idea. He is a graduate of Wofford College with a Bachelor's Degree in History and a graduate of Clemson University with a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning. He has been employed at Upper Savannah Council of Governments since 1994. A background in planning studies has enabled him to bring a unique perspective to the development of the land trust while also facilitating meetings and providing staff support. This support has evolved into the position of Secretary to the land trust Board of Directors, a position he still holds. He has been able to watch the organization progress from an idea to a concrete organization planning for future growth.

Chuck Gresham– joined 2018

Chuck retired from Clemson University after 33 years' experience in forestry research in South Carolina's lowcountry. He also had Extension responsibilities as well as Masters and PhD graduate students. Although he was located at the Baruch Institute in Georgetown, he taught at Francis Marion University and occasionally on the Clemson campus. Several of his research projects were in conjunction with conservation organizations such as the Audubon Society, U. S. Forest Service and Westvaco Corporation.

Sands Moody (Sandy) Gresham– joined 2016

Sandy is a retired educator and a National Teacher of the Year for Project Learning Tree. She has a lifelong love of the woods and family lands from early hunting, boating and camping with her parents, to later, meeting her husband, Chuck (retired professor of Forestry, Clemson) at South Carolina Conservation Camp in 1965. Sandy has served on the SC Agricultural Extension Service Board, the Georgetown County Extension Council, the Waccamaw Regional Planning Council 2020 Committee, the SC Department of Education Science Curriculum Committee and the Science Textbook Committee. She has served several terms on the SC Project Learning Tree Board. Currently, Sandy devotes time to the McCormick County Forestry Association, the McCormick County Extension Council, and the Board of the Upper Savannah Land Trust on which she served as Vice-President 2019-21 and presently serves as President. Sandy enthusiastically promotes Project Learning Tree to educators and students in western South Carolina and North Carolina, and in eastern Georgia. In their free time, she and Chuck enjoy entertaining at the “family cottage” on beautiful Lake Thurmond.

John Charles Hollingsworth– joined 2020

Charles Hollingsworth and his wife, Kathy, are lifelong residents of McCormick, SC. They have two daughters, Kristy and Leslie, and two grandsons, Jonathan and Chase. Charles graduated from McCormick High School in 1971. While attending Piedmont Technical College, he had an opportunity to manage two shortwood yards for Brunswick Pulp and Paper Company. Charles worked in timber procurement for 46 years with Georgia-Pacific. His experience includes procuring pulpwood, chip-n-saw, and sawtimber for seven Georgia-Pacific facilities in SC and GA. He is an active member of First Bethany Baptist Church. Charles is a member of the Forestry Association of SC, and is Top Logger trained. He is a life-long outdoorsman and supports the conservation and management of land and timber for future generations to have and enjoy.

Herman Keith—joined 2022

Herman is a painter and muralist from Anderson, South Carolina. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Howard University in Washington DC, and while attending college, enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserves where he served for eight years. After working as a graphic artist for Booz-Allen-Hamilton in support of various federal agency national security needs, he received a Master of Arts in Teaching from Lander University in Greenwood S.C. and has served as an art instructor for various institutions in North and South Carolina, Maryland, and Florida. In addition to his teaching career, Herman started, owned, and operated Brushworx Painting Company, specializing in commercial and residential painting contracts. His desire to fuse art and life led to the formation of a company for which he named HAKeth Brushworx. The mission of Brushworx is to “unite art with the community through the creative process,” and to also, “create art that transforms public spaces and individual lives.” In addition to his art, painting, and teaching pursuits, Herman is involved in historic preservation and land management, and enjoys hunting on family land in Bradley SC, not far from where his ancestors were brought to South Carolina from Georgia in the mid-1800s as slaves.

Derek Kinney—joined 2020

Derek Kinney born and raised in Greenwood, SC. He is married to Cindy Kinney and has two children, Ashtyn and Ben. Derek is retired from a lifelong career of 34 years with Greenwood County helping others, working as a Paramedic and serving as the Emergency Services Director, responsible for County Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management. Derek serves as the Chairman of the Friends of the NRA, Greenwood Chapter. He is enjoying his time off to do more hunting, fishing, and catching up with old friends and devote more time to his interests. Since retirement he has more time that allows him to do work in the great outdoors, such as land management, wildlife enhancement, and controlled burns both personal and for clients. Derek’s other hobbies include reading, bible study, politics, clay shooting, serving as a high-school shooting coach, and anything that introduces young people to the outdoors.

Lang Nickles—joined 2022

Lang is a native of Greenwood County, and is Vice-President of W.K. Brown Timber Corporation, a family owned timber dealership based out of Hodges, offering forestry services such as timber management plans, timber harvesting, and reforestation. Lang is a SC Registered Forester, a 1998 forestry graduate of Clemson University, and also serves as Vice-President of Long Cane Logging of Hodges. He and his wife Brantlee have one son, Jase, and attend the Hodges United Methodist Church where Lang serves as Trustee and Financial Chair. His passion for hunting upland birds, and love of his pointers and setters, keeps his remaining free time occupied.

Andrew Robinson– joined 2011

Andrew Robinson is a native of South Carolina. He has served on the USLT Board since 2011. He served as Vice Chair of the Board from 2012-2013 and Chair from 2013 to 2014. He has served as the Board Treasurer from 2015 to present. He is a 4th generation landowner of Pine Lane Farm located in McCormick, SC which is an active cattle and tree farm. He, his wife and daughter have lived on the farm for 18 years. His mission towards conservation is driven by his family's long standing enjoyment of their land and the hopes that it will be there for the same reasons for many generations to come. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Erskine College. He works as a Sr. Buyer/Planner in Procurement for a pharmaceutical company sourcing raw materials and packaging for a US and Mexico facility.

John William (Bill) Rogers, II– joined 2014

Bill Rogers of Abbeville is the retired Director of Pharmacy Services at Self Regional Healthcare in Greenwood, SC. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and Chemistry from Guilford College. He also earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy and Master of Health Services Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina. He is Past President of the MUSC College of Pharmacy Alumni Association and is as an Adjunct Clinical Professor Emeritus at the College of Pharmacy at Presbyterian College and the S.C. College of Pharmacy. Rogers is a long-standing civic volunteer both in community activities and the pharmacy profession in areas such as fund raising, historic preservation, participating in medical missions abroad, volunteering in the arts, and as a public speaker.

James Carl Sanders, Jr. (Jimmy) – joined 2006

Jimmy Sanders & his wife of almost fifty years, have one child and one remarkable grandchild. Jimmy has been involved with the Upper Savannah Land Trust since its inception. He serves as chairman of the Upper Savannah Land Trust monitoring committee. He is a graduate of Berry College. He owns and operates tree farms in three South Carolina counties totaling 525 acres and one of these farms is protected by a conservation easement with Upper Savannah Land Trust. He is retired from the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service. Along with serving on the Upper Savannah Land Trust board, he also serves on numerous environmental organizations and committees, including the Board of the Forestry Association of SC, which he chaired in 2019. He was honored as 2014 South Carolina Tree Farmer of the Year.

Wayne Steffen— joined 2018

Wayne Steffen resides in Pomaria, SC and is a registered forester with 45 years' experience in fiber procurement, harvesting systems and forest management with expertise in best management practices and sustainable forest initiatives. He retired from Boise Cascade as its Eastern Region Log Procurement Manager. Wayne's civic / professional participation includes Sr. / Jr. Warden and Vestry at St Luke's Episcopal Church in Newberry and Church of the Holy Cross in Stateburg, SC and service on the board of the Forestry Association of South Carolina, which he chaired in 2020. He has been recognized during his career for outstanding service in the North Carolina Tree Farm Program and South Carolina Forest Productivity Program. He is a member of NWTF and QDMA. Wayne has a passion for conservation and natural resources, particularly in the area of private property rights and promotion of sound, fundamental forestry practices that are proven to sustain our resources and champion environmental conservation.

J. Bradford Thompson— joined 2009

Brad Thompson is the founder and President of Thompson Forest Consultants, Inc. He is an advisor for landowners and facilitates the management of approximately 100,000 acres of woodlands in South Carolina and Georgia. He is a graduate of Clemson University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Management. He is a member of numerous environmental and real estate organizations including the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, South Carolina Chapter, the Society of American Foresters- Enoree Chapter, the South Carolina Forestry Association, and the South Carolina Forestry Commission. Brad is a registered forester in South Carolina and Georgia and is a licensed real estate broker.

Holly Welch— joined 2021

Holly Welch of Laurens SC is the Environmental Program Manager for the SC Forestry Commission. She joined the Forestry Commission in 2004 and has worked as a Forest Inventory and Analysis Forester, Project Forester, and a BMP Forester. In her current role, Holly oversees and manages the Best Management Practices program statewide in SC and is the point of contact with the SC Forestry Commission for any environmental issues. She also serves on many committees outside of the Commission focusing on water quality, sustainability, and source water protection, including the Southeastern Partnership for Forests and Water. In addition to her expertise in environmentally-conscious forest management, Holly brings a farming perspective to the Board, as co-owner of her family's Crescent Farm in Laurens County, producing USDA certified organically-grown vegetables that are sold to stores and restaurants in SC, NC, and GA.

Tim Williams—joined 2022

Tim is a native of Edgefield County, one of three siblings who own and manage Log Creek Timber in Johnston. Log Creek is an award-winning family-owned business that includes a collection of companies that offers landowners a range of timber harvesting services including logging, trucking, and equipment parts, all of which sprang from a side business started on their father's peach farm in the early 1980s. Tim received a business degree from Presbyterian College, and is part of the Log Creek leadership team along with his brother Reg and sister Martha. Tim oversees daily in-woods operations and manages a team of procurement foresters. In addition to supporting USLT, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Forestry Association of South Carolina.

Staff:

Wade Harrison – Executive Director

Wade Harrison became Executive Director of the Upper Savannah Land Trust in January 2019. He previously worked for The Nature Conservancy, serving as a Project Manager, Director of Land Protection, and Conservation Associate in Georgia, from 2004 to 2020. Wade grew up near Bradley SC, as did four generations of his family before him, many of whom were engaged in farming and forestry. Wade earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in forestry from the University of Georgia and Virginia Tech, and worked in various capacities for Westvaco and MeadWestvaco for 20 years as a researcher, a district forester, and a consultant, before moving to Georgia in 2004 to work for The Nature Conservancy. In recent years, in addition to his conservation work, Wade has been managing and occasionally occupying his family homeplace and nearby timberland in Greenwood and McCormick Counties. In his Upper Savannah Land Trust role, Wade is enjoying a deeper focus on the natural and cultural history of the South Carolina piedmont. In addition to his family retreat in Greenwood County, Wade and his wife Sara Gottlieb have a home in Atlanta and enjoy spending time in both urban and rural situations, enjoying nature, art, history, hiking, paddling, and gardening.

Becky Brown – Assistant Director

Becky Brown became Assistant Director of Upper Savannah Land Trust in August 2024. She previously worked for the SC Department of Natural Resources where she held roles in the Office of External Affairs and the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. Becky grew up just outside of Boston, MA, but has been in SC since 2002. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in wildlife and fisheries biology from Clemson University. Becky raised two children in McCormick and Greenwood counties, where she still resides with her husband, Paul, the McCormick County Library Director. She enjoys spending time outdoors, hiking, gardening, kayaking, and birdwatching. She also loves cooking and photography.

Revised November 2024