

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conservancy's Land Protection Totals Surpass 15,000 Acres

Piedmont Land Conservancy (PLC) is very pleased to announce the protection of its 15,000th acre of protected land. Covering a region that includes Guilford and eight other nearby counties, PLC works to protect the nature of the Piedmont. PLC was formed by a visionary group of concerned local citizens around Kathy Treanor's dining room table. A short eighteen years later, the Conservancy has protected over 15,000 acres and 70 miles of stream banks.

Think of 15,000 acres as 60,000 quarter-acre residential lots or the land needed to build 350 miles of interstate highway or the equivalent of two and a half Hanging Rock State Parks. Think of 70 miles of stream banks as both sides of a beautiful Piedmont river from Summerfield to Asheboro or along one side of a lazy river from Greensboro to Elkin.

That small group of citizens around Kathy's dining room table held visions of

- Clean water in the Deep River flowing through Guilford and Randolph Counties and Surry's pristine Mitchell River supporting trout and mussels on its way to the Yadkin,
- Rich farmland producing local milk, food and fiber from Alamance County's Sutphin Mill community to Randolph County's Liberty-Randleman farmland corridor,
- Important Piedmont flora from Ridges Mountain's upland pools to Schweinitz sunflowers in Piedmont Prairies,
- Valuable historic lands from Bethania to Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, and
- Lands available to the public such as Deep River State Trail and Haw River State Park, to the planned Piedmont Regional Greenway stretching from Winston-Salem to Greensboro.

The projects that pushed the Conservancy's accomplishments over 15,000 acres center on farmland and water.

- Bill and Holly Stevens helped protect the headwaters of the Haw River by donating an easement on 27 beautiful acres near Oak Ridge,
- Lenuel Chamberlain donated an easement on 353 acres of exceptionally fertile farmland in Yadkin County, and
- A family that wishes to remain anonymous donated an easement protecting over 1,200 acres of forested lands and pastures. In their

commitment to conservation, they also protected more than five miles of stream banks.

Many more landowners have chosen to conserve their land in partnership with PLC.

In **Guilford**, PLC's twenty-eight projects include urban and rural farmland, state and city parks. Price Park is one of the Conservancy's signature projects.

"People have asked me why we want to save this land. It is not just for the past, not just to honor Julian and Ethel Clay Price, but because we hope that this land will become what we in Greensboro need – a 'vacant lot' where we can see our imagination to create plays, write poetry, discover nature, sing, be happy and enjoy God's goodness and our fellow man." ~ Kay Edwards

In partnership with the City of Greensboro, PLC acquired a significant portion of the Jefferson-Pilot Club House property in 1999. PLC subsequently transferred the property to the City of Greensboro's Parks and Recreation Department subject to a conservation easement. The easement placed on the property ensures the land will be managed as a natural area park to be enjoyed by the public for years to come.

In 2000, the City replaced the former Jefferson-Pilot Clubhouse with the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library - an environmentally focused library. With the addition of the library to the property, Kay Edward's love of libraries and this special place have been combined forever.

PLC's project list is long and growing longer. Landowners and PLC will continue adding to the 135 projects completed since 1989. Reaching 1,000 acres protected took nine years. It took four more years to reach 10,000 and four more to reach 15,000. Similarly, over the last four years, the Conservancy has closed a third of its 135 projects.

Piedmont Land Conservancy is a grassroots land trust dedicated to permanently protecting important lands to conserve our region's rivers and streams, natural and scenic areas, wildlife habitat, and farm land that make the Piedmont a healthy and vibrant place to live, work and visit for present and future generations. To date, PLC has protected over 15,000 acres in 135 projects across its nine county region of Alamance, Caswell, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin counties. To learn more about the Conservancy, and how you can support its efforts to protect farms, rivers, forests, wildlife habitat and urban greenways and parks, visit www.piedmontland.org or call (336) 691-0088.

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