

## **NEWS RELEASE**

TLC PR# a08-02

January 2, 2008

[www.triangleland.org](http://www.triangleland.org)

### **Conservation partnership on Pickard's Mountain grows: TLC tops 10,000 acres conserved across the Triangle region**

**Bingham Township, Orange County** – A generous act of conservation will enhance the sustainability of one of Orange County's most significant natural areas. Nicholo and Carolyn Sartor donated a conservation easement in late-December 2007 to Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) that protects an additional 10 acres of the Pickard's Mountain Natural Heritage Site.

Combined with several other new conservation projects across the six-county Triangle region, this deal helps push Triangle Land Conservancy's protected land total to more than 10,000 acres. As TLC prepares to celebrate its 25-year anniversary in 2008, it reaches a major conservation milestone. The organization has done so by significantly increasing its pace of conservation. By the year 2000, TLC had conserved 2,000 acres in 17 years. In the last seven years, the group has conserved 8,000 acres to reach the 10,000-acre plateau.

The 10-acre Sartor property surrounds a stream bed teeming with large beech trees and ferns. Forested primarily in mature hardwoods, the property is part of the 600-acre Pickard's Mountain Natural Heritage Site. The largest tract of chestnut oak forest remaining in Orange County cloaks the county's second highest mountain. The headwaters of Cane and Morgan creeks spring from this isolated, 783-foot knob. The mature forest on Pickard's Mountain links the two stream corridors and provides a pathway for wildlife such as wild turkey, bobcat and pileated woodpecker.

Now, 389 contiguous acres of the natural area have been voluntarily conserved by several landowners and conservation agencies. The Pickard's Mountain conservation partners include:

- Bob and Chris Nutter, owners of Maple View Farm, who donated a conservation easement to TLC on 81 acres in 2001. The Nutters' original 107-acre

conservation easement, established in 1995, is on their farmland north of Dairyland Rd, not on Pickard's Mountain.

- Dr. Charles Keith, who in 1999 with his now-late wife, Barbara, donated a conservation easement on 22 acres to TLC. In 2005, Dr. Keith sold a conservation easement on an additional 23 acres to Orange County through the Lands Legacy Program.
- Dr. William Burlingame, who in 2001 donated a "Forever Wild" conservation easement to TLC on 26 acres at the base of Pickard's Mountain along Morgan Creek.
- Tim Toben, who in 2000 donated a conservation easement on 150 acres to the Conservation Trust for North Carolina.
- Everett and Lewis Cheek, who in 2004 sold an agricultural easement on 77 acres of their Lemola Ayrshire Farm to Orange County through the Lands Legacy Program.

The Pickard's Mountain conservation lands are all privately owned and not available for public recreation. The public does benefit tangibly, however, as Pickard's Mountain serves as the backdrop of the scenic rural viewshed along Dairyland Road, and from the front porch of the Maple View Farm Country Store, the wildly popular ice cream shop.

Since 1983, TLC has helped to conserve 1,182 acres in Orange County. These projects include conservation agreements with eleven private landowners conserving 659 acres; ownership of 474 acres on eight properties; and conservation partnerships on projects that have conserved 49 acres.

Triangle Land Conservancy is a private, nonprofit group that conserves important open space—stream corridors, forests, wildlife habitat, farmland and natural areas—to help keep our region a healthy and vibrant place to live and work. TLC's 74 protected sites in Wake, Durham, Orange, Chatham, Johnston, and Lee counties encompass more than 10,462 acres, including several preserves open to visitors year-round. TLC is primarily funded by individual contributions and memberships, plus grants from foundations, state government and corporations.

**###**

For additional comment, contact:

Kevin Brice, TLC President, 833-3662 x105 (work), 302-3616 (cell), [kevin@tlc-nc.org](mailto:kevin@tlc-nc.org)  
Jeff Masten, TLC Director of Conservation Strategies, 833-3662 x103 (work), 621-4661  
(cell), [jeff@tlc-nc.org](mailto:jeff@tlc-nc.org)