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Remnants of the Rice Culture: Agricultural History as Art

Historic Beaufort Foundation welcomes its Open Land Trust friends to "Remnants of the Rice Culture: Agricultural History as Art," a large-format photographic study of the Lowcountry's beloved rice fields by David Shriver Soliday now hung at the Verdier House through March 31, 2017. Almost 50 of Soliday's mostly aerial views reflect the agricultural industry that changed the Coastal South and the landscape and highlight the role of African-American labor and expertise in transforming the native swamplands into a highly engineered hydraulic machine. The images are on infused aluminum sheet metal and illustrate the physical landscape, human capability and intervention, and the rice industry's enduring environmental and social impact. Soliday will lecture on his work at HBF's Dinner & Lecture on Monday, November 14, and three field trips are scheduled in January, February and March to current rice fields, historic rice fields and wildlife management fields. www.historicbeaufort.org for information. The Verdier House is open Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



A Gentle Reminder

Perhaps our membership letter went astray. We know you believe in our mission because you have supported us in the past. Your annual membership is critical to the success of our organization. **PLEASE JOIN TODAY.**

EMAIL REMINDER

Please provide us with your most current contact information including email address. Send to: info@openlandtrust.com



BEAUFORT COUNTY

Open Land Trust

Fall 2016 Newsletter

Open Land Trust's New Home at Crystal Lake Park

The Open Land Trust is excited about moving its offices to a new home at Crystal Lake Park located at 124 Lady's Island Drive. The Park is being developed by Beaufort County as a model for all future County passive parks. It will include a renovated building for offices, a pavilion, visitor's restrooms, parking and a boardwalk leading to the 7 acre Crystal Lake. OLT will occupy three offices and will have access to a large board room.

The office building will serve as a model

for the type of "green building" techniques presently being promoted within Beaufort County. For example, the project will include an advanced remote management system and very high efficiency HVAC units along with LED light fixtures, closed cell insulation in walls and roof instead of fiberglass, and solar panels to capture and transform sunlight into other forms of energy.

The Trust will share the building with Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District.

The presence of Beaufort Conservation District allows USDA-NCRS (National Resources Conservation Service) to provide technical support, cost share programs, and conservation easements for producing landowners for farming, grazing, and forest lands. The Beaufort SWCD also specializes in presenting environmental science programs to children and throughout Beaufort County.

Plan to visit us at Crystal Lake Park in early 2017!



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Broad River



Chechessee River

Land Protection Success Continues

The Beaufort County Open Land Trust renewed its contract with Beaufort County in July 2016 to manage the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program (R&C Program) for the seventh year. For over forty years, the Land Trust's vital mission has been to protect significant ecological and cultural places that define the extraordinary place in which we live. With that guiding mission, and as a community focused land trust, the Open Land Trust continues to make land protection and administering the R&C Program a priority.

The R&C Program began as a response to the tremendous growth in Beaufort County in the late 1990's and has generated \$135 million dollars for land protection. It

continues to be an important mechanism for lessening our footprint on the land, protecting our coastal environment and keeping the land healthy for future generations.

Protecting over 23,000 acres of land, the R&C Program is a critical tool for preserving the health and quality of life of everyone that lives, works, and visits Beaufort County. To

provide just a sample of what this means, the Program has protected: 394 acres of maritime forest habitat for migratory birds; 1,700 acres of working farmland on St. Helena Island; 8,000 acres of forests in the iconic ACE Basin; over 700 acres in the Okatie watershed to

protection from flooding, and preservation of our culture, history, and way of life.

This year's achievements have continued that tremendous success by protecting an additional 322 acres in 2016. The Land Trust accepted a 107-acre easement on the Moody family farm in Burton funded jointly by the R&C Program and the Marine Corps Air Station-Beaufort. In addition, the Land Trust negotiated 4 fee simple purchases, continuing to guard the water quality of the Broad, Chechessee and Okatie Rivers and provide a variety of wildlife habitat.

Finally, the Land Trust negotiated the purchase of the Huddle House by the R&C Program as part of a partnership with the City of Beaufort and Beaufort

Okatie River



prevent further decline; 3,600 acres of farms and forests buffering the Marine Corps Air Station-Beaufort; 25 sites that are habitat for 14 different rare, threatened or endangered species; and 84 archeological sites. Beyond the facts and figures, conserving land means working farmers, availability of local food, clean water, wildlife habitat, local job preservation,

County to form Battery Creek Park on Boundary Street. The Land Trust purchased the United Way building in 2015 as part of this project. Soon, the buildings will be removed to restore the view, provide public access, and create a green buffer along the creek transforming the entrance to the City of Beaufort.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB



The Carolina Bird Club, which is composed of birders from North and South Carolina and members from many other states met here in Beaufort on September 30 and October 1. This year they had the pleasure of visiting Widgeon Point for the first time. There were four groups of birders that went to Widgeon Point, one in the morning and one in the afternoon of each day. Each group was limited to 16 birders. All but one of the groups was at maximum capacity. While an exact list of the sightings at Widgeon Point was not kept, it was well over 40 species of birds. The highlights of the two days were a pair of Bald Eagles over the barn and a lone Roseate Spoonbill on the far side of the pond. A total of 191 different species of birds were seen during the two days of the meeting. There was nothing but praise from the birders for the Open Land Trust when they were told of the history of the land and how close it came to becoming a residential development.



Lisa Lord receives the Open Land Trust Accreditation Award from Tammara Van Ryn, Executive Director of the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission, at the LTA Rally.

The Land Trust Celebrates its Achievement

On behalf of the Beaufort County Open Land Trust, Lisa Lord, Director of Conservation, accepted the award for newly accredited land trusts at The National Land Conservation Conference in October in Minneapolis, MN. The Land Trust Alliance's accreditation program is a quality assurance program that requires land trusts to follow rigorous policies and guidelines

for every aspect of their work. This ensures that land trusts have a solid foundation and sound, ethical practices to make sure they can forever protect the lands they have worked so hard to conserve. To become accredited the Land Trust had to demonstrate strong organizational leadership, perpetual stewardship, and fiscal accountability. The Open Land Trust became

accredited last Spring after many years of hard and dedicated work. To date, over 350 land trusts across the United States are now accredited and more than 15 million lands are held by accredited land trusts. The Beaufort County Open Land Trust is proud to join the ranks of this group of committed land trusts.



Jane Frederick, Michael Frederick and Angie Scharrer of Frederick & Frederick Architects



Muhly Grass in bloom at Factory Creek Park.

Goodbye to Josh

We were sorry to have to say goodbye to Josh Bell in July but we wish him well in his new job as South Coast Project Manager for the Lowcountry Land Trust. Josh worked as the Stewardship Director for OLT for 2 1/2 years and did a great job of monitoring our 83 easements and 42 fee owned properties and managing special projects. Josh is a true "outdoorsman" and has a love of the land in the Lowcountry. He forged invaluable relationships with property owners for the Trust. We are glad that he and his wife, Leah, will be living in the ACE Basin.