



Welcome - CAYLOR ROMINES

Welcome our newest member of the BCOLT team, Caylor Romines! Caylor joined us in June 2019 as the Director of Stewardship. Caylor brings with him experience working for the federal government as well as the private sector in Land, Wildlife and Fisheries Management. Caylor attended the University of Tennessee receiving a Bachelor's and

a Master of Science Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management. As Director of Stewardship Caylor oversees the land stewardship program including management of OLT's fee-owned conservation properties. Caylor and his wife, Brett, have been in the Lowcountry of South Carolina since September 2017 and live in Beaufort.

RURAL AND CRITICAL: *Confederate Ave*

"Preserving this property as a passive park validates each aspect of our mission which includes championing our environment, community and culture. The park will be an extraordinary addition to the community for all to enjoy,"

Carolyn Smith, president of the Alljoy Preservation Commission.

In May, Beaufort County closed on the purchase of a 54.3-acre tract in the Alljoy area, less than 1,000 feet from the May River and near Bluffton's Historic District. The property was acquired for \$1,310,000, or approximately \$24,125 per acre.

Bailey Memorial Park is one of two remaining large-acre tracts in this relatively dense residential area. The undeveloped land contains a mixture of forested uplands and wetlands, providing significant wildlife habitats and natural stormwater filtration and recharge benefits. Although this tract has been a strategic land protection target for the County's Rural & Critical Program since 2006, the property was not available for purchase until 2018.

Beaufort County will manage the property for optimal ecological benefit and will consider future passive recreational opportunities at the site. Purchase of the property represents the County's

continuing commitment to preserving water quality through the Rural & Critical Land Preservation Program. Bailey Memorial Park is located within one mile of previously protected Ulmer Properties I, II, III and IV (887 acres) and provides approximately 30 acres of wetland drain toward the May River.

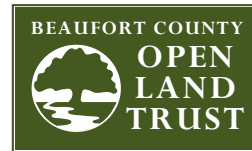
Bailey Memorial Park is named in honor of Raymond Harold Bailey, a World War II veteran, past Director of Public Services for Beaufort County and longtime owner and steward of the property. "From day one our hope was to establish a responsible succession plan for this legacy property," shares Ryan Stefonick, Broker Associate with Collins Group Realty. "Bailey Memorial Park is the culmination of collective efforts by many passionate residents and county leaders to help protect this vital asset. Through cooperation with the Rural & Critical Lands Program, Mr. Bailey's family, our clients, will leave a lasting contribution to the Alljoy area."



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FOLLOW US ON



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 OR RENEW TODAY AT WWW.OPENLANDTRUST.ORG.**

EMAIL REMINDER

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

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The Beaufort County Open Land Trust and the Coastal Conservation League invite you to:

An Afternoon at

Three Sisters Farm



A farm to table event featuring small plates by Chef Brentt Toole, seasonal produce, and local seafood

Sunday, November 17
2 PM to 5 PM
\$75 per person

Event also includes a silent art auction. Local artists include Louis Bruce, Susan Mayfield, Eve Miller, Mary Segars, and Beth Williams.

RSVP by November 1 to Kim Bowlin at
kimb@sccl.org or 843.723.8035



Fall 2019 Newsletter

OUT AND ABOUT...

Allendale Kite Field Trip



Swallow-tailed kite preying on a Junebug mid-flight.



Toward the end of July, members of the Open Land Trust joined OLT Board Member, Dr. Al Segars, on an adventurous trip to Allendale, South Carolina in pursuit of witnessing hundreds of Swallow-tailed kites and Mississippi kites feeding above pastures and agriculture fields. Swallow-tailed kites, like other kites, are atypical birds of prey, as much of their diet consists of insects, which are consumed on the wing. One can often aurally witness this through the “pop” of the insect as the kite consumes its prey. The kites arrive in South Carolina from their wintering grounds in Brazil in late March and begin nesting in mid-April among tall pines and hardwoods, often across extensive areas of forested wetlands. Swallow-tailed kites are famous for their large summer foraging aggregations that the group was able to encounter in July. These aggregations are often in historical fields that welcome kites year after year because of the abundant production of insects related to land use. These foraging aggregations begin breaking up by the end of August as the groups of birds depart for their Brazilian wintering grounds only to leave us longing for more until next year. If you have not been able to experience this wonderful display of nature, you will not want to miss it in the future and we hope that you can join us next year!



Jim Porter looks over his field of 1-year-old planted Loblolly Pine on bedded rows.



LEARNING FROM THE PROS

On October 4th, members of the Open Land Trust Board and staff were invited to tour Bailey Mill Plantation, a 3,200-acre American Forest Foundation Certified Tree Farm. The property is owned and operated by Jim and Pam Porter of Porter Land and Timber Company in Ridgeland, SC. Jim Porter has spent his entire career in the forestry and paper packaging industry and although his wife Pam's background is in Industrial Psychology she has embraced the world of forestry with

open arms! The Porters graciously offered a tour of their property where they invest in the highest quality of southern yellow pine soils and climate in the United States. They focus on planting, growing and harvesting Loblolly Pine, cultivating wildlife and enjoying the Lowcountry plantation lifestyle. Most of the United States forests are privately owned and are key to protecting our air, water, wildlife and outdoor recreation. The Open Land Trust Board and staff toured the property

on various ATVs and UTVs with 17 stops across the property where Jim and Pam talked about timber and property management. Many of the forested stands were located adjacent to stands of different ages or species, making it easy to see the differences in stand composition. Pam and Jim have a true love for their land and their passion and dedication is evident as you drive each of the interior roads, which were all proudly named by each of the Porter's seven grandchildren.

When Student Becomes Teacher



Caylor Romines, our Director of Stewardship, recently hosted a group of senior level Wildlife and Fisheries Science students from the University of Tennessee at a local hunting property to discuss his career path leading up to working for the Beaufort County Open Land Trust. Caylor talked largely about the Open Land Trust and its purpose and mission in the Lowcountry as well as various wildlife management techniques he has used in the area. Students were taught about hunting dogs, various equipment, as well as several wildlife management techniques. Hosts provided the students with a taste of the local cuisine by having a Lowcountry Boil to conclude the evening. Thank you very much to the property owner and property manager for hosting this event.

ONE OF THE LAST GREAT PLACES

The ACE Basin is appropriately described as one of the “Last Great Places” and this spring the Board and staff of the Open Land Trust had the opportunity to explore the ACE Basin by water with the Department of Natural Resources. The day began with a brief presentation at the Michael McKenzie Field Station at Bennett's Point followed by a boat ride on the Edisto River and a wagon

tour of South Fenwick Island. St. Helena Sound is one of the largest undeveloped estuaries on the eastern seaboard surrounded by almost 300,000 acres of protected land. Much of that protection is due to a truly unique conservation partnership initiative called the ACE Basin Task Force that consists of private land owners, federal and state agencies and land trusts. This year the Task Force

celebrates 30 years of successful conservation and collaboration. Spending the day on the water in the heart of the ACE Basin was an important reminder of how great an impact land protection has on our way of life and the responsibility we as a land trust and as members of this community have to continue this important work.



TRIPS

Below is a tentative list of trips for 2020. Please make sure we have your current email address so you don't miss the opportunity to sign up!

FEBRUARY

Rice Culture and Wintering Birds
Location: Bear Island, Donnelley
Wildlife Management Area

MARCH

History and Rice Culture
Location: ACE Basin Wildlife
Refuge

APRIL

ACE Basin Spider Lilly
Kayak Tour, April 27th

MAY

Shorebird Migration
Location: Harbor Island

CONTENT VS. CONTEXT: How does your property compare to the landscape around you?

Birds are a high-profile group of species that often attract a great deal of attention as watchable wildlife. Birds are also important as indicators of habitat conditions and overall health of the environment. Generally, bird communities in the South have been shaped and influenced by humans and the vast land use changes that have taken place. For instance, species associated with old-growth forests have declined with the demise of that habitat, such as the Carolina parakeet and passenger pigeon. These birds became extinct as the region was cleared of timber and remaining wildlife was hunted for commercial markets. Many birds act as an umbrella species, meaning that by managing for that species, you are effectively managing for a wide array of wildlife communities. By stepping back and determining what can benefit from proper

management on your property, one must consider the management on a landscape scale. For wildlife and land conservation planning, it is extremely important to view the condition of the surrounding landscape as well as the property of interest. There are growing concerns about bird population viability in heavily fragmented landscapes due to heavy nest predation and nest parasitism from other birds as shown in the example aerial photo. Connectivity of undeveloped properties that are beneficial to widespread enhancement of wildlife populations is becoming more valuable to many species of concern.



So next time you are out enjoying a Beaufort County Open Land Trust property, other protected property or even your cherished property, take a look at what habitat is surrounding it. This will give you a better understanding of the present wildlife or lack thereof.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

BEAUFORT KAYAK TOURS

A big thank you to Beaufort Kayak Tours for a recent kayak trip for OLT staff members to get an up-close look at Whitehall from the water. Beaufort Kayak tours provides narrated natural and cultural history tours around Beaufort County including the ACE Basin, Hunting Island and the downtown salt marsh of Beaufort. We look forward to collaborating with Jim and Terri to offer some special trips for our members. Make sure to save the date for a special guided trip by BCOLT Board member, Al Segars down the Combahee to see the spider lilies blooming on April 27, 2020.

Photo Caption: Jim and Teri Pohorsky have been visiting the Beaufort area for almost 20 years but in January 2019 they officially became the new owners of Beaufort Kayak Tours and made Beaufort their home.



BAY STREET OUTFITTERS

For over 21 years Bay Street Outfitters has been in the business of outfitting Beaufortians and our visitors for the outdoors. Tony Royal, the store's well known founder and owner understands the importance of protecting our natural resources now and for future generations and we are grateful for his support! Tony was particularly passionate about protecting Whitehall and was a great advocate and supporter of the project. Thank you, Bay Street Outfitters for all you do!