



# Now & Forever

## A Historic Davidson Lands Conservancy Campaign

At its annual meeting of volunteers and donors in January, Davidson Lands Conservancy proudly announced Now & Forever, a three-year campaign with an ambitious \$1,750,000 goal that will help meet the needs of today and sustain the four pillars of its mission for the future.

“We are grateful to our generous donors who have already made gifts and pledges of \$1,200,000 toward the Now & Forever goal, which we believe we will meet and even exceed by December 2025,” said John Griffith, DLC board member and chair of the Now & Forever campaign.

**IT'S SIMPLE:**  
**Conserving  
land today is  
a permanent  
solution to our  
disappearing  
natural world.**

Five years ago, conservation-minded residents and friends made gifts to create DLC's Forever Fund, resources needed to expand the conservation of local lands and natural resources. Since the Forever Fund was established, area landowners have worked closely with DLC to conserve—forever—230 acres of local land. Every \$1 of Forever Fund used for conservation created more than \$10 of conserved land value.

“The Conservancy's work is capital intensive, and Now & Forever is inspiring strong community support, including gifts and pledges from our generous corporate partners,” said Executive Director Dave Cable.

Now & Forever is the final step in the DLC Board's strategic planning effort, first establishing the four conservation pillars and related goals. The successful campaign will provide the resources to meet the capital needs of those pillars.

“The Now & Forever campaign will support and continue the conservation progress we have worked to accomplish since 2018. If we act now, in the present, many more acres of valuable land can be saved, forever,” said Cable. “Resources from Now & Forever will not only allow us to conserve more land, but also to steward and add to our greenways and trails, protect our wildlife habitat and tree canopy, and connect more residents and families to nature.”

“Now is the time for this important push forward.”



To participate in Now & Forever or hear more about our region's truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, please visit [DavidsonLands.org](https://DavidsonLands.org) or call Dave Cable at 704-577-2004.



Davidson Lands Conservancy is a local land trust dedicated to conserving and stewarding land and to promoting a conservation ethic. DLC advances its mission with education and through programs of land conservation, trails and greenways, urban forestry, and preservation of wildlife habitat.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Pam Hay  
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### Our Four Pillars of Success

- **Conserve & Steward Land**
- **Preserve & Enhance Tree Canopy**
- **Expand Greenways & Trails**
- **Preserve Wildlife Habitat**

## DLC LEADERSHIP

# Reflections



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During the pandemic, all of us found our lives and routines drastically altered. Families suffered unbelievable losses. Work, school, even grocery shopping all became a disconnect as we struggled to exist online.

Yet amid these dire conditions, something magical happened to many of us. We spent more time outdoors. Dogs had more walks, people tended their gardens, we planted vegetables

and experienced the joys of getting our hands dirty and our feet muddy. We connected to nature, and for many of us that was the first time in a long while. Some of us found ourselves at Fisher Farm and Abersham Parks, two local gems comprising over 500 acres of trails, woods, streams, and greenways.

These two uniquely beautiful parks drew me to the Davidson Lands Conservancy, to the commitment this organization has made to protect and preserve such land and wildlife habitat. Not a day goes by when I am not thankful to the people of the DLC and its many volunteers for the work we share. The DLC brings its passion to tree planting, stream cleanup, preserving rural land and protecting it from overdevelopment, and educating children and young families about the natural world we share with billions of other animals and insects. All this to support a planet that needs our help desperately.

In this era of global neglect, climate disruption, and weather catastrophes, it is hard to be optimistic. Not so with this organization. Every day is an opportunity to touch this world in a positive way, making real and lasting change.

The energy and passion present in the Davidson Lands Conservancy and its volunteers is a powerful antidote to what ails the world. I am grateful to be part of this passion and the hope it carries.

— Cindy McIntosh, DLC Board of Director

## Thank YOU!

The work of the Davidson Lands Conservancy is only possible because of strong community support, for which we are exceptionally grateful. Through monetary gifts and volunteer time, we have advanced critical conservation work over the last year. Consider making a donation directly from your IRA or consider DLC in your estate plans.



**Run For Green 2022**, the 17th year of the Race, was one of the best ever, despite having to reschedule due to weather. The Conservancy's only annual fundraiser, Run For Green provides critical resources as well as a great opportunity to connect with community. Runners enjoy a certified race course that showcases our beautiful greenways and neighborhoods.

Having grown into one of Davidson's largest community events, the Race takes a village of volunteers and supporters. The 2022 Race title sponsor was Trane Technologies, with leadership support from MSC, River Run Partnership, and Williams. The Conservancy is deeply grateful to both the army of volunteers and the 40 corporate partners who generously supported our signature event.

Run For Green 2023 will be held Saturday, September 30, 2023. Check [DavidsonLands.org](https://DavidsonLands.org) mid-summer to register.

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

### Title Sponsor

- Trane Technologies

### Presenting Sponsors

- MSC Industrial Supply
- River Run Partnership
- Williams

### Silver Level +

- Colonial Pipeline
- Dewberry Engineering

### Leadership

- Bartlett Tree Experts
- Berl's Commercial Supply
- Bragg Financial Advisors
- Charlotte Eye Ear Nose + Throat
- ColeJenest & Stone/Bolton & Menk
- Davidson Wealth Management of Wells Fargo Advisors
- Eaton Hemp
- John Marshall Custom Homes
- Lake Norman Realty
- Lake Norman Publications

- Recover Brands
- Scott Clark Toyota
- Taylor Morrison
- TDS - Media Sponsor
- Total Bond Veterinary Hospital
- TSG Residential
- WDAV

### Supporting

- Better Tomorrow Solar
- Colorful Creative
- Copeland Richards
- Davidson Family Medicine
- Davidson Provision Company
- Davidson Village Inn
- Goldman Sachs
- JJ Wade Agency
- Kimley-Horn
- Main Street Books
- McIntosh Law Group
- Monster Tree Service
- PostNet
- Richards Group
- Summit Coffee
- Welborne White & Schmidt
- Whit's Frozen Custard
- United Sports Solutions

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

### Brent Evans: Central to DLC Success

Davidson Lands Conservancy is thrilled to recognize Brent Evans as our 2022 Volunteer of the Year. Brent joined DLC's board in 2021 after volunteering with Trees Davidson. He has made an extraordinary impact on the Conservancy by contributing across the entire organization: as a board member, member of the executive committee, treasurer, and a member of the Davidson Tree Council. Brent has led tree-planting projects, and with his background in tech and financial services, he is our go-to for our website and social media.

Brent's passion for plants comes honestly. His dad owned wholesale tree nurseries, and son Brent remembers those nursery stops that were part of any family trip. He believes in bringing nature into our lives, especially in a town like Davidson, with its tree canopy, parks, natural spaces on the Davidson College campus, and protected lands.



**"It energizes me to see all the volunteers who share the passion and participate at our events."** —Brent Evans

Executive Director Dave Cable said, "Brent will invariably, and I mean *always*, follow through on whatever he commits to do. He has a wonderful, upbeat attitude and is a great thought partner. DLC is deeply fortunate to have his focus, commitment, and contributions."

## EDUCATION CORNER

It's fun to learn about our natural environment with DLC programming for area children and families



Marcus with his bird feeder during a WOW event

### Continuing Conservation

*Collaborative with Community School of Davidson*  
Monthly workdays with CSD high school students focus on trail maintenance, tree care, and management of invasive plant species to educate students on aspects of environmental stewardship.

### Environmental Enrichment

*Partnership with Ada Jenkins LearnWorks*  
Afterschool environmental science education modules focus on aspects of local ecosystems to foster a love of nature and conservation.

### WOWing Families with Nature

*Eleven Years of Engaging Families with World of Wonder's Nature Outings*  
Monthly family-focused Saturday outings explore everything from wetlands and amphibians to local rocks and minerals to reach children as young as three and connect families to local natural resources.

For more information:  
[davidsonlands.org/dlc-events](https://davidsonlands.org/dlc-events)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Earth Day at the Davidson Town Green

Saturday, April 22, 2023  
10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join us to celebrate our wondrous planet and look for kids' activities, giveaways, and education.

### DLC Spring NatureFest at Roosevelt Wilson Park

Saturday, May 20, 2023  
10 a.m.–noon

Stop by to experience live animals, nature activities, endangered plants, and more.

### Creative Approaches to Land Conservation

Fall 2023 Davidson Learns  
[davidsonlearns.org](https://davidsonlearns.org)

This course explores creative approaches to conservation via case studies in local and regional conservation, watershed protection, urban forestry, and related policy. The course will end with an optional field trip to Redlair Preserve.

## INTERN SPOTLIGHT

### Kennedy Petties, Davidson College '23

Kennedy, a Davidson senior majoring in Environmental Science and Political Science, volunteers with DLC at Ada Jenkins LearnWorks programs, delivering hands-on environmental education to children ages 6 to 11.

#### What drew you to work with DLC?

I'd been focused on policy and global development, putting my environmental passions on hold. I wanted to reconnect to nature and cultivate my conservation ethic, and the DLC mission aligns with my own goals.

#### How does working with Ada Jenkins LearnWorks excite you? What do you enjoy most?

With LearnWorks, I can get back into my role as an environmentalist and reconnect with the community. I love the children at LearnWorks and their enthusiasm for the world. They see life through fresh, eager eyes.

#### Does working with DLC align with your future career goals?

Working with DLC pairs directly with my goal to go into environmental policy. Working with the children and volunteering at DLC events have



helped me stay in touch with the foundations of my love for the environment and keeping it safe for everyone.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

# Polishing Gemstones to ENHANCE HABITAT

A team of experts plans for long-term biodiversity—and enjoyment *By Dave Cable*

Despite its small size, DLC effectively advances local conservation amidst our area's rapid urbanization. Why? Community support and partnerships, including those with Davidson College and the Town.

The Wildlife Enhancement Collaborative, fueled by experts from the Town, Davidson College, county, and community, is dedicated to dramatically improving the wildlife habitat at Fisher Farm and Abersham Parks.

Its vision is to permanently conserve and manage these parks in a way that increases ecological diversity while balancing conservation with human enjoyment and advancing and demonstrating sustainable uses for the land.

The group's desired outcome is a science-based management plan for the parks, developed by assessing biological communities and user needs, improving habitat for biodiversity, and modeling ecological stewardship for the public. Areas of study will include the various bio-zones of the land (upland, forest, riparian), human uses, and restoration of the West Branch.

This long-term endeavor will improve the ecological value of the parks through enhanced stewardship of these true jewels of our community.



Common milkweed,  
*Asclepias syriaca*

## Wildlife Enhancement Collaborative

### CO-CHAIRS

- Pam Hay, DLC Board
- Andy Kane, Conservationist

### COMMITTEE

- Janet Andersen, DLC Board
- Hayden Boyd, Conservationist
- Clint Brooks, Mecklenburg Cty
- Dave Cable, DLC staff
- Cathy Denham, Conservationist
- John Isenhour, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- Angie Grooms, Conservationist
- Brad Johnson, Davidson College
- Chris Matthews, Mecklenburg Cty
- Chris Paradise, Davidson College
- Christ Rogers, Mecklenburg Cty
- Kevin Smith, Davidson College
- Mark Stanback, Ornithologist
- Susana Wadgymar, Davidson College
- Leslie Willis, Town of Davidson

## The Value of WHITE OAKS

The white oak is considered the most important hardwood tree species in the eastern United States, supporting more life forms than any other tree in North America. This oak can live for centuries and produces acorns that nourish more than 100 species of vertebrate animals, including deer, squirrels, foxes, and hogs.

Mature white oaks also develop trunk cavities that can provide habitat and shelter for a variety of species: birds, squirrels, and raccoons year-round, and sometimes even bats in the summer. If you're looking for a tree to plant, the white oak may be the way to go.



A White Oak DLC Treasure Tree  
on the campus of Davidson College

## DLC AWARDED GRANT FOR EDUCATION

Awarded by Southern Conservation Partners, the \$2,500 grant will advance our youth education offerings.

**"We honor DLC for its stellar performance and initiatives in engaging and educating youth on the wonders of nature."**

—Chuck Roe, SCP President

# A Neighborhood POLLINATOR GARDEN

Allow the ecosystem to grow authentically—and save time and money

*By Catherine Edmonson, Intern, Davidson College Class of '23*



© SHELLY LEWIS

The Woodlands at Davidson, an environmental gem, was the first certified Wildlife Friendly Development in North Carolina. Peaceful trails, a butterfly meadow, and an HOA clause requiring 65 percent of yards be in native plants all contribute to an abundance of wildlife, connecting neighbors with nature.

Butterfly meadows like this one aid in the growth of over 85 percent of our food-and fiber-producing crops. But their numbers are dangerously dwindling. When non-native plants began to overrun this butterfly meadow, a neighborhood committee revitalized the garden and committed to maintain the nature-focused features at The Woodlands.

Wildlife-friendly landscapes often don't match our usual idea of neighborhood landscapes, with neatly manicured fescue lawns and carefully shaped non-native shrubs and trees. Though pleasing to the eye, such landscapes provide little environmental value for animals and wildlife and cause harm from mower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and pollution from fertilizers and pesticides. Maintaining a pollinator garden can sound daunting, but the main point is to allow

the ecosystem to grow authentically, helping it along by removing invasive plants—less work and money than maintaining a yard.

Pollinator gardens are ecosystems of biodiversity that benefit both flowering plants and thousands of species of pollinators native to North Carolina. The tall grasses and brush also provide food and shelter for birds and other small animals, otherwise left exposed to predators in closely shorn yards. Native pollinator plants at The Woodlands include asters, black-eyed Susans, blazing stars, coneflowers, daisies, piedmont azaleas, sunflowers, and many others.

Members from Woodlands Butterfly Meadow Committee say they were drawn to this neighborhood because they felt connected to nature when visiting. Meadows resident Rachel Long chose it “because the neighborhood shows a respect for nature that others do not.” She can wake in the morning and take a walk through the nature trails, “watching the mesmerizing bees bumble through their pollination routine.”

After Gitanjali Mathur watched a deer give birth in her backyard, the doe returned year after year with her fawns, almost as if Gitanjali's yard was a sanctuary for her.

DLC, Rachel, and Gitanjali all agree that the most important part about this work is to spread the word and encourage other communities that environmental endeavors like a pollinator garden are also possible for them. Woodlands serves as an example and a growing knowledge base from which other communities can learn. We do not need large swaths of space—even a small section of a yard can have huge impacts on wildlife.

## We need your **HELP!**

Committed to motivating our community, DLC is ready to assist local neighborhoods that choose to implement pollinator gardens of their own.

## BOOK REVIEW

# The Arbornaut

A LIFE DISCOVERING THE EIGHTH CONTINENT  
IN THE TREES ABOVE US, BY MEG LOWMAN

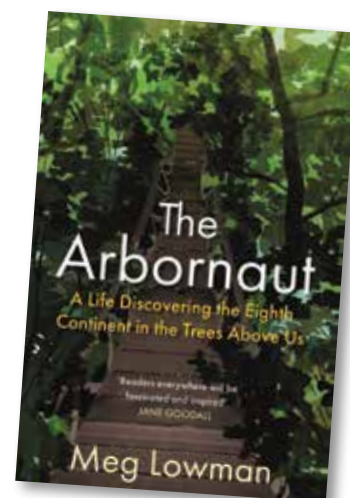
By Jan Blodgett

Lowman, now known as “Canopy Meg” and recognized globally as a pioneer and innovator in the field of tree canopy studies, tells a compelling story. Her writing is clear, engaging, and open, offering a ringside view into the history of tree science. She blends tales of arduous field work, hard-won scientific advances, the perils of academic and museum politics—including the challenges of being a woman and single parent in a male-dominated field—with the joys of documenting the amazing worlds thriving above our heads.

In addition to promoting *The Arbornaut*, Lowman is focused on Mission Green, a bold endeavor to promote global tree conservation, sustainable economic opportunity for local indigenous people, and continuous research and education. The goal is to stop global

deforestation and protect our planet’s biodiversity.

After a change in her responsibilities at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in 2013, Lowman accepted a role at the California Academy of Sciences. While North Carolina readers may wish Lowman’s time here had ended differently, there is nothing to regret in being caught up in her story of resilience, creativity, and passion for making the worlds of tree canopies accessible to millions of people through educational programs and tree-top walkways. Her book joins Suzanne Simard’s *Finding the Mother Tree* as an important addition to any natural-science library.



Dave Cable (left) calls his friend, Frank Chester, a “conservation hero.”

## UPDATE Land Conservation

Land conservation is our highest priority at DLC. While the process of protecting land can be slow and is never steady, we are encouraged by recent advances. Our goal is to conserve an additional 650 acres by the end of 2025, and we have a lot of lures in the water.

800 acres are in early stages and are aspirational in nature.

Most recently, DLC finalized the second phase of conserving the Chester Farm, consisting of 92 acres of fields and woods, with extensive frontage along the Rocky River. The project was possible because of the profound generosity of Frank A. Chester, whose mostly donated permanent-conservation easement prohibits any development on the land. A high-impact grant from the N.C. Attorney General’s Environmental Enhancement Grant program and funds from generous donors to DLC’s Forever Fund helped make Chester Farm possible.

DLC’s active pipeline includes six land-conservation projects totaling about 750 acres. These projects are in various stages of development, and several remain speculative, given their complexity and required capital. An additional 10 land projects covering more than

This phase of conserving the Chester Farm increases the previously conserved 117 acres to a total of 209 acres—of permanently protecting water quality, prime agricultural land, wildlife habitat, and forests.

# DAVIDSON LANDS CONSERVANCY



P.O. Box 1952  
Davidson, NC 28036

TY CRYAN

## Outdoors, Serving Others

DLC student board member Ty Cryan, Davidson Class of 2024, traveled abroad to Cambodia in the fall. Sitting down in the Alvarez College Union, he reflected on how his time in Cambodia and work at DLC have affected him.

**"No matter where you go in the world, conservation is about improving people's lives."**

Intending to major in environmental studies, Ty became involved with DLC as a freshman through a fellow classmate and former student member of the DLC Board. DLC seemed a perfect fit, aligning with his interests in urban ecology and environments.

Officially joining the DLC Board in summer 2021, Ty's most meaningful moments began when pandemic-time Zoom meetings gave way to in-person relationships with other DLC Board members. In addition to advocating for conservation on campus and coordinating interns, he led the important process of creating an official DEI statement.

While in Cambodia, Ty learned that the focus of conservation efforts depends on a community's needs and resources. While there were many differences between conservation in Cambodia and conservation



in Davidson, he considered this lesson, saying, "No matter where you go in the world, conservation is about improving people's lives."

After working to further the DLC mission and experiencing the needs in Cambodia, Ty hopes to have a career that allows him to "be outdoors and serve others."