



Key acquisitions, bold new initiatives and a new leader propel the Beaufort County Open Land Trust into its Fifth Decade.

Anyone who's ever admired the view from the bluff of the Beaufort River on Bay Street owes the Land Trust a great big "thanks." Forty-one years ago the seeds of the Trust were sewn among the stately live oaks as a trio of Beaufortonians formed an alliance to thwart a plan to develop the property.

In 1971 John Trask, Jr., Marguerite Broz and Betty Waskiewicz pooled their resources and borrowed an additional five thousand dollars to preserve the view and the Open Land Trust took root. In the more than four decades since the Open Land Trust has preserved much more than the occasional vista with nearly 20,000 acres of protected land in Beaufort County.

Lemon Island, the Bluffton Oyster Factory and Frank Lloyd Wright's treasured southern masterpiece, Auldbrass Plantation, are all part of these efforts. In 2010 one of the major

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Written by Mark Shaffer
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acquisitions included The Green in Beaufort's historic Old Point. The property is practically a character in Pat Conroy's novel, *The Great Santini* and the film version features the actual location. Conroy was a key player in the preservation effort.



2011 saw 4600 acres protected from development including Coosaw Plantation, Orange Grove Plantation and historic Penn Center Farm. The Trust also acquired four parcels along Factory Creek at the base of the Woods Memorial Bridge that will eventually become a waterfront park in partnership with the city and county. The Trust recently held its 41st annual luncheon at historic Penn Center, the first for Executive Director Patty Kennedy since taking the reigns from Anne Bluntzer last September. A day later we sat down in her office.

THE INTERVIEW

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the first of the 100,000 acres of land that the Trust has acquired in the last 10 years. The Trust is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to protecting the land and the people who live on it. The Trust has a long history of working with local communities to protect their land and their way of life. The Trust is currently working on a number of projects, including the acquisition of land and the development of conservation plans. The Trust is also working to educate the public about the importance of land conservation and the benefits of working with the Trust. The Trust is a proud member of the National Conservation Lands Association and the National System of Public Lands. The Trust is committed to working with the public to protect the land and the people who live on it.



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