



Open Land Trust of Beaufort County

905 Charles Street
Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

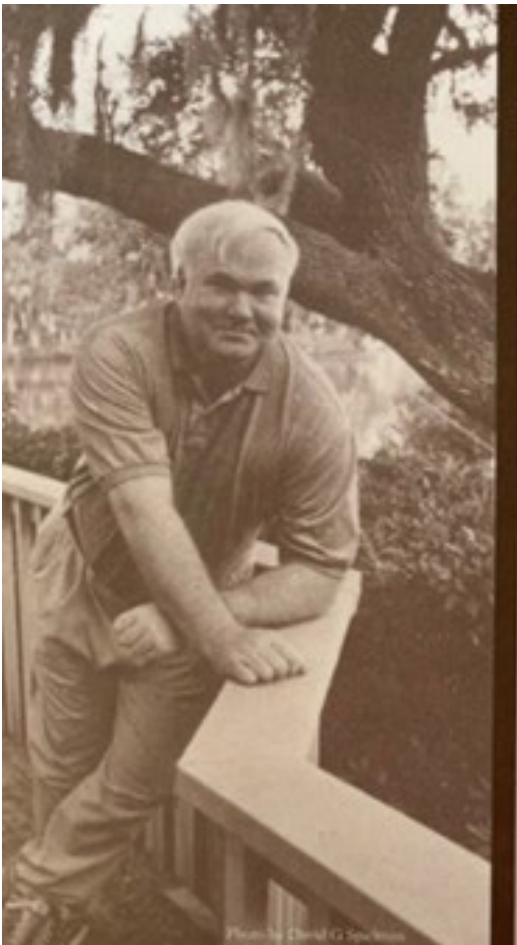
843-521-2175



Dwayne Buffington/Gazette

Original members of the Beaufort County Open Land Trust celebrate the group's 20th birthday with cake. From left: Betty Waskiewicz, John Trask, Jr., Marguerite Broz.

(l to r) Original Members Betty Waskiewicz, John Trask, Jr., and Marguerite Broz, celebrating Open Land Trust's 20th Birthday and First Conservation Easement.



*Pat Conroy
and
Beaufort County Open Land Trust
Celebrate Literature and the Lowcountry*

Beaufort County Open Land Trust is honored to invite you to an evening lecture with local resident and literary great, Pat Conroy, as he joins our effort to preserve the Lowcountry landscape that has inspired his beloved works.

*Saturday, February 27, 2010
6:00 p.m.*

USCB Performing Arts Center
801 Carteret Street

Cocktail Reception

Immediately following on "The Green"
located at King & Pinckney Streets

*Tickets: \$150

Includes an original essay by Mr. Conroy about the Lowcountry.

Please visit www.openlandtrust.com for more details.
Tickets now available online, or call (843) 521-2175.

** All proceeds from this event will directly support the purchase of "THE GREEN."*

Pat Conroy and Literature and the Low Country to Benefit the Open Land Trust.



Spring Island, South Carolina



The Bluff Beaufort, South Carolina



Coosaw Cotton Field on St Helena Island



The Meeting of Marsh and Land in the Low Country

Design Workshop, Inc.
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February 12, 2024

Medal of Excellence Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Honors and Awards Committee,

As South Carolina's first land trust, the Open Land Trust of Beaufort County has conserved a vast acreage in the Low Country, principally in the watershed of Port Royal Sound, one of the richest ecosystems in America. Since its founding in 1971, the Open Land Trust has protected 32,278 acres of land and 175 properties in seven counties through land acquisition and the use of conservation easements.

Protecting first the Bluff in Beaufort, South Carolina, the OLT demonstrated the value of conservation efforts in protecting scenic views. The protection of the Bellamy Curve property followed, and the organization was on its way. From this initial concern of protecting viewsheds, the Open Land Trust's mission has grown to address significant ecological and cultural places that define the natural landscape while contributing to the health and spirit of the extraordinary Low Country region. This includes lands critical to water quality and fish and wildlife habitat conservation, as well as agricultural lands, cultural landscapes, canopied roadways, and the rural character of communities. Today it stands at the forefront of the challenge of addressing the impacts of marsh migration and sea level rise due to climate change.

The Open Land Trust also addresses issues of equity by collaborating with local communities, residents of which are descendants of Freedmen to protect their cultural landscapes and agricultural lands essential to their livelihoods and heritage. Their efforts with the Gullah population and heirs property of St. Helena Island are but one example of this work.

Begun as a grass roots organization, the Open Land Trust raised money a variety of creative ways including tours of historic homes and an annual luncheon featuring "hot chicken salad" from the organization's Sea Island Seasons, a cookbook now in its seventh edition which has sold 75,000 copies benefiting the work of the OLT!

Today the Open Land Trust partners with the South Carolina Land Trust Network and ACE Basin working group to spread its influence and knowledge to a broader audience and region. As manager of Beaufort County's bond program for land conservation, the Open Land Trust was a key sponsor and collaborator in development of the Beaufort County Open Land Plan which won an ASLA Honor Award in Analysis and Planning in 2022.

With 11,000 acres of land in the pipeline for protection, the impact of work of the Open Land Trust will benefit generations of not only South Carolinians but all Americans for generations to come. For fifty-three years of tireless land protection efforts in the Low Country of South Carolina I heartily nominate the Open Land Trust of Beaufort, South Carolina for the ASLA Medal of Excellence.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurt Culbertson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kurt Culbertson

Principal/Chair Emeritus

Design Workshop

Chaffin/Light

February 12, 2024

Medal of Excellence Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Honors and Awards Committee,

Following graduate school at the University of Virginia in 1969, I began my career with the Sea Pines company on Hilton Head Island in Beaufort County, South Carolina. My mentor, Charles Fraser, hired Hideo -Sasaki of Boston to prepare the master plan for the new Harbour Town community he envisioned. From that experience, I learned the importance of landscape architecture and of sensitive integrating new development with the natural environment. These lessons---and my involvement with the Trust for Public Land and the Urban Land Institute---translated to the plan for my own project Spring Island, a conservation-based community. Spring Island was developed in collaboration with Robert Marvin, recipient of the ASLA Medal.

In the fifty-five years, since I began working on Hilton Head I have seen the phenomenal growth in the Low Country of South Carolina. This growth has brought new jobs and prosperity to our region but also threatens the scenic and historic character of Beaufort County and environmental quality of our treasured Port Royal Sound. In parallel with the development of the region, I have been fortunate to follow and support the work of the Beaufort County Open Lands Trust. As the first land trust in our state, the OLT is a pioneering organization and the inspiration for similar organizations around South Carolina and the coastal South.

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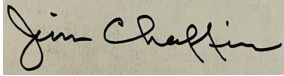
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Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature reads "Jim Chaffin" in a cursive, flowing script.

James Chaffin

Principal, Chaffin/Light Associates

Honorary ASLA



804 Meeting Street
Suite 103
Charleston, SC 29403
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Designing Solutions Together

February 14, 2024

Medal of Excellence Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Honors and Awards Committee,

I am writing in support of the Beaufort County Open Land Trust (OLT) to be a recipient of the ASLA Medal of Excellence. The OLT is South Carolina's first and oldest land trust and has conserved a vast acreage in the lowcountry, principally in the watershed of Port Royal Sound, one of the richest ecosystems in America. The OLT was founded in 1971 and joined the Land Trust Alliance in 1990. Over the course of its history, so far, it has protected over 30,000 acres of land through either land acquisition or easements. They do this incredible work with only four full-time employees and a board of twelve involved citizens.

I live in Charleston, SC, less than 70 miles from Beaufort, SC. Both are part of what is known as the "lowcountry." This is an area typified by black water rivers, coastal plains, sand dunes, expansive salt marshes, forested wetlands, and vast forests of longleaf, loblolly, and slash pine, live oak, cabbage palmetto, southern red cedar, and magnolia. It is a beautiful area, but it is also threatened by insensitive and rapid growth and development and the effects of climate change. Preserving large tracts of natural areas is important to serve as buffers and "sponges" in the region, and of course for their natural beauty.

Beaufort County Open Land Trust (OLT) is an accredited land trust, which is a huge commitment and a significant effort. Accreditation means Beaufort County Open Land Trust meets national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Beaufort County Open Land Trust has demonstrated to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission its commitment to excellence.

I am a former Board Member of the East Cooper Land Trust (ECLT is now part of the Lowcountry Land Trust), as well as former member of their Advisory Committee and Chair of their Land Protection Committee. I was also active with the Land Trust Alliance. While I was a board member, ECLT went through the accreditation process for the first time, and I saw first-hand the commitment this entails.

OLT is an important resource in the lowcountry, and they have served as an example to the other ten land trusts in South Carolina. OLT has led the way! They are very deserving of this honor from ASLA.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Eubanks".

William T. Eubanks, FASLA, PLA, LEED AP
Director, Planning + Landscape Architecture



WOOD+PARTNERS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LAND PLANNING

February 15, 2024

Medal of Excellence Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Honors and Awards Committee,

As a longtime resident and practicing Landscape Architect and Land Planner in the Lowcountry of South Carolina, I am writing to support the nomination of the Beaufort County Open Land Trust (OLT) for ASLA's Medal of Excellence. This incredible organization recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and boasts an exceptional portfolio of tracts that accentuate the region's cultural heritage, historical significance, and ecological magnitude.

OLT "conserves many types of lands including iconic vistas providing windows to the rivers and marsh; parks and greenspace that form the foundation of community; working farms that define the region's rural and cultural heritage; and large properties that play host to exceptional hunting or timbering operations. The Land Trust recognizes that land speaks to us in different ways, and tailors conservation efforts to honor the resources and the landowner's vision".

As a former Board Member of the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program, I can personally attest to the value, significance, and positive impacts the OLT has had on land preservation across the Lowcountry and the region. We are blessed to have this incredible organization in place and see the many benefits from the good work done by this organization. The Open Land Trust is very deserving of this recognition and award through ASLA.

Thank you,

Mark L Baker, PLA, ASLA
President
Wood+Partners



(l to r) The Open Land Trust Team: Kristin Williams, Executive Director; Ashley Rhodes, Director of Development; Caylor Romines, Director of Stewardship; Kate Shaefer, Director of Land Protection; Haley Romeo, Outreach and Administrative Coordinator.

BEAUFORT COUNTY OPEN LAND TRUST

CONSERVATION EASEMENT LANDOWNER HANDBOOK



Beaufort County Open Land Trust Conservation Easement Landowner Handbook



Why Land Protection Matters to Beaufort Region

WWW.OPENLANDTRUST.ORG

Environmental Education Efforts Why Land Protection Matters to the Beaufort Region