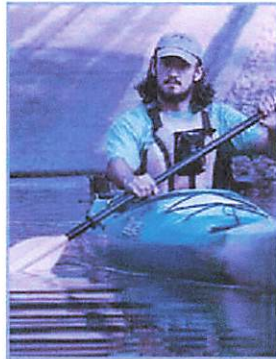




## Triangle's rivers let canoers get a good paddling



The Herald-Sun/Christine T. Nguyen  
Banks Dixon of Frog Hollow Outdoors kayaks on the Eno River.

BY ROB SHAPARD : [The Herald-Sun](#)  
Aug 16, 2005 : 9:04 pm ET

DURHAM -- Banks Dixon is no whitewater snob.

As long as there's enough water to keep one of his canoes or kayaks afloat for a few hours, he's willing to paddle pretty much any body of water. A languid, summertime river that seems to have no current, a narrow creek with overhanging trees and vines or a calm lake mined with submerged trees -- they're all a chance to be outdoors and move through the world via a different means of transit.

Dixon, 31, is a Durham native who's been exploring the natural world in Durham, Orange and the surrounding counties since he was a kid.

He's come to a belief he feels strongly enough about to base his career on: It may not have the wild torrents that often flow in the mountains or out West, but the Piedmont is rich with opportunities for canoeing and kayaking.

"There's a lot more paddling in the area than I think most people realize," he said. "It's definitely graced with an amazing amount of locations. It's worth taking extra time to discover."

Dixon started his own outfitting service a couple of years back called Frog Hollow, running paddling trips in the area, renting equipment and giving lessons.

For a recent three-hour outing with Dixon, the access point was a gravel road at the edge of the Treyburn business park, past a sign that read, "Road Subject to Flooding" -- actually a good sign when you're in search of water. An early-morning fog quickly burned off and gave way to August heat that seemed after a while like it would boil water, which was the color of iced tea in some places and split-pea soup in one of the small tributaries.

Dixon headed down the Eno, which was at a dry-weather low and covered in parts by a layer of green-yellow pollen. The Flat River soon appeared to the left, joining up with the Eno like a highway on-ramp.

At that point, the waterway technically becomes the Neuse River, although many people consider all that area as simply a backwater of Falls Lake, Dixon said. From there, the two-boat group paddled through five more turns in the river and reached the lake, which was dotted with white egrets.

Along the way, several great blue herons stalked minnows in the muddy flats of small coves, and flew off when approached. Cicadas buzzed in the trees, and annoyed kingfishers gave their staccato squawks. Two beavers tried to scare the boats away from their lodge on the southern bank, and on the way back, a green heron crisscrossed the river ahead of the boats.

A fisherman went by in an aluminum boat, with a 25-horsepower motor and a cooler strapped to the bow, sending out small waves that rocked the canoe and kayak.

"There's your whitewater for the day," Dixon joked, not long before the boat ramp came back into view.

Although he appreciates such a flat-water experience, Dixon isn't immune to wanting some rapids to test his skills with the kayak.

The Eno has stretches that can meet that need when the water is up, and Dixon also mentioned a mile-long "gorge section" on the Little River just above the reservoir in Durham, which runs strongly after heavy rains.

The Haw River also provides some faster-moving water during rainy seasons, as it cuts through Chatham County on the way to Jordan Lake. The Haw attracts quite a few experienced paddlers to sections like Gabriel's Bend and Moose Jaw Falls. But it also draws people with more bravado than knowledge, and rescue crews have had to pluck several paddlers from the river over the years.

"You get someone with granddad's old aluminum [canoe] deciding they want to get out and brave the river," said Dixon. "The trick is that you don't want to get out on a river when it's up at these massive flood stages. You've got to be very careful about not getting out there and doing something beyond your abilities."

Joe Jacob is another avid paddler who built his work around his love for being outside and on the water. A New Orleans native, Jacob moved to Chapel Hill in 1982 and then down to Chatham, where he started the Rock Rest Adventures outfitting service a few years later.

Jacob, 59, also spent two decades working for The Nature Conservancy. About three years ago, he sold his Chatham business to Get Outdoors, and now he spends the summer months in Alaska, leading canoeing and sea-kayaking trips with his new venture, Alaska Personal Journeys.

He spoke this week from Clam Gulch, Alaska. He said the natural beauty he sees in North Carolina remains important to him as well.

"For me, the Haw River was a real treat, because I grew up in New Orleans," he said. "The only time you would get a rapid was after a hurricane, and the interstate got flooded and the water was flowing over the rooftops of cars."

Even with the growth in the Triangle, people can still get a sense of wilderness spending time on the Eno, Haw and Deep and other local waterways, Jacob said. With his old guide company in Chatham, Jacob asked his customers to do an evaluation at the end of their canoeing trips.

"What I got from those was that people were just trying to de-stress," he said. "There's an insanity that comes with civilization, and people just need to get away from that sometimes."

"There is just a sort of peacefulness that comes from being around water."



◇ A few of Banks Dixon's favorite paddles

The Eno River between the Pleasant Green and West Point access points: has both flat-water stretches and some class I and II rapids when the water is up; also sense of history from old mill sites.

The Flat River north of Lake Michie, from State Forest Road to Wilkins Road at the lake: has a Class III section before the lake; also the spot where Dixon first saw a bobcat in the wild.

The Beaver Dam section of Falls Lake: a nice flat-water area where no gas-powered motors are allowed.

The "Three Rivers" area, where the Eno and Flat rivers flow together to form the Neuse and enter Falls Lake: diversity of water types, with the rivers, tiny creeks and lake.

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The Deep River along the border of Chatham and Lee counties: flows past areas like the old Endor Iron Furnace and McIver Landing, has a strong sense of history.

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The Haw River in Chatham: some class I and II rapids between Chicken Bridge Road and U.S. 15-501, then some more challenging rapids from U.S. 15-501 down to Jordan Lake, through sections such as Gabriel's Bend and Moose Jaw Falls; not for beginners when the water is up.

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The Cape Fear River, from Buckhorn Road in Chatham south of Harris Lake, to Lillington in Harnett County: goes past Raven Rock State Park, and includes some camping possibilities along this stretch; Dixon also highlights campsites and Jordan and Falls lakes, especially in the fall.

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## Chapel Hill Herald (NC)

December 13, 2000

### County negotiates easement Farmer nearly ready to sell a conservation easement of 70 acres

*ROB SHAPARD* [chh@herald-sun.com](mailto:chh@herald-sun.com); 732-6397

HILLSBOROUGH - Although farming is no longer his livelihood, Victor Walters, at age 92, is just as likely to be outside riding his tractor or walking his fields as he is inside the house.

He spent Tuesday morning on his banged-up, red International Farmall 140, turning soil in the garden next to his home on High Rock Road, about five miles northeast of Mebane. "He loves work," said his wife, Lucille Walters, rolling her eyes and smiling.

In part because of decades of hard work improving his farm, Walters doesn't want to sell his property and see it covered up with new homes. But he also sees a point down the road, maybe in a year or so, when he and his wife are going to need more money.

Walters said he and his wife want to stay at home. But to do so, Lucille Walters needs a home-care worker to help her deal with several ailments. And that kind of care can be expensive, certainly more expensive than Social Security can cover.

A third factor Walters is balancing is his desire to pass along land to his three children. To strike the balance between preserving his land and generating income, Walters is near an agreement to sell a **conservation easement** on 70 acres of his property to the Orange County government.

The county's Environment and Resource **Conservation** Department has been working with Walters on the possible **easement**, and department Director Dave Stancil estimates it will cost the county about \$215,000.

The Orange County Commissioners hope to win a grant from the state Farmland Preservation Trust Fund to cover half the cost, while the county would provide about \$108,000 in matching funds.

The General Assembly allocated about \$1.5 million this year for the Farmland Preservation fund, through the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

The nonprofit **Conservation** Trust for North Carolina administers the fund through an agreement with the Department of Agriculture.

The Walters **easement** would be the first purchased by Orange County, and it would serve as a pilot project for the county's Lands Legacy program, Stancil said.

"We're very hopeful this will be the first of a series of **conservation** easements," he said. The commissioners approved Lands Legacy earlier this year, with a goal of identifying lands for possible parks and open-space protection. Officials have emphasized the program is strictly voluntary.

Walters has signed a letter of intent with the county - one of the steps required in the Farmland Preservation application process.

The parties still have to negotiate final terms in the deal, but the **easement** likely would allow agriculture uses to continue on the 70 acres, while uses like residential development would be prohibited, in perpetuity, Stancil said.



In such **easement** agreements, the landowner keeps ownership and can sell the property, but the **easement** restrictions remain with the property.

Walters said it's his understanding that up to three dwelling units would be allowed on the 70-acre tract as part of the agreement.

The tract includes open fields and woodlands, and it slopes from High Rock Road down to a farm pond that Walters built in the 1950s.

The 70 acres is part of Walters' 113-acre farm. His son, Carl Walters, a former dairy farmer for nearly three decades, raises beef cattle and uses the 70 acres partly as pastureland.

Carl and Elizabeth Walters live on an adjacent farm, and Victor Walters' two daughters have property nearby as well.

Walters said Carl and Elizabeth Walters have worked with the county a great deal on the possible **conservation easement**. Elizabeth Walters is a longtime member of the Orange County Agricultural Preservation Board.

The 70 acres, plus about 200 acres on Carl and Elizabeth Walters' farm, are listed in the county's Voluntary Agricultural District program.

As for Victor Walters, he was born in Orange County near the Caldwell community, and he bought the High Rock Road property nearly 60 years ago, after he and Lucille were married.

He's raised crops from tobacco to corn to barley, as well as beef cattle. He sold off his last head of cattle about 10 years ago.

In 1953, Walters was named the county's **Conservation** Farmer of the Year, for efforts like controlling erosion on his farm.

A good deal of open farmland remains in the general vicinity of the Walters property, although residential growth clearly is there as well.

According to the county's grant application, permits were approved for 26 new single-family dwellings within one mile of the property in the last three years.

And if you extend the distance from the farm to one to two miles, the number of permits is higher than 200 in the last three years. A development with 300 units is proposed for property three miles from the Walters farm, according to the application.

The plan is for the Orange Soil and Water **Conservation** District to eventually take over administration of the Walters **easement**.

In the first official transaction in the Lands Legacy program this year, the county purchased a 63-acre wooded tract west of Hillsborough, formerly part of Duke Forest.

The county currently is working on plans for the "McGowan Creek Preserve" on that property, which would have limited public access.

Orange County received a \$143,000 grant from the state Clean Water Management Trust Fund to buy the property, and the county paid another \$137,000.

As the county was working toward approving Lands Legacy, it also agreed to buy a 391-acre site in partnership with Durham County.

The property is on both sides of the county line along Guess Road, and the counties now are working together on plans for the "Little River Regional Park" on the property.

The counties received two state grants totaling about \$677,000 for purchasing that property. The Triangle Land Conservancy and the Eno River Association are raising another \$170,000 for the purchase, while Orange and Durham are chipping in \$88,000 and \$163,000, respectively.

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# Home from the war - Chapel Hill teen returns grateful to have survived Iraq 'rain of steel'

*July 13, 2003 Publication: Chapel Hill Herald (NC) Page: 1 Word Count: 1686*

CHAPEL HILL -- In many ways, David Carroll Jr. seems like a typical American teen-ager trying to make the most of his summer.

He's been to the beach, and he's got his cherished GMC Jimmy in the carport at his parents' home in Chapel Hill, with the doors open so he can wire in a new set of oversized stereo speakers. He's wearing shorts and a T-shirt and he keeps his cell phone within quick reach. He's going up to Pennsylvania this week to see a girl he met recently.

But not long ago Carroll, 19, was in a strange and dangerous country, doubting he'd ever see his family again, wondering if a bullet, shard of metal or cloud of poisonous gas would kill him. He says now there were numerous opportunities for him to die, when machine gun rounds cut a path in the nearby dirt or mortar shells exploded near him and his buddies.

The day he remembers most clearly is March 23, a Sunday, when Carroll was one "grunt" among hundreds of U.S. Marines approaching the city of Nasiriya, in southern Iraq, in a long line of troop carriers, tanks and other military vehicles.

Carroll had to get out of his armored troop carrier that day, into what he described as a scene of "all-out war."

Carroll was an infantry private, and he'd been a Marine for only 10 months or so before being sent from Camp Lejeune in eastern North Carolina to Kuwait and then into Iraq, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He joined the Marines last year after leaving Chapel Hill High School early and earning his high school equivalency diploma.

His father, David Carroll Sr., grew up in Carrboro and graduated from Chapel Hill High in 1980. The Marine's grandmother, Joan Carroll, lives in Carr-boro, and his grandfather lives on Emerald Isle, not far from Camp Lejeune.

David Carroll Sr., now a manager at The Home Depot in Durham, joined the U.S. Navy after high school, and he ended up being shipped to the Persian Gulf in 1990 after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait.

The elder Carroll was a rescue swimmer and machine-gunner on a Navy helicopter escorting ships in the Gulf. He was there for about six months, coming back to the United States in early 1991 while the air attack on Iraqi forces was under way, in advance of the ground attack.

Both the father and son say now that they believe the United States and its allies should have "finished the job" in 1991 instead of stopping short of Baghdad. But the reality was that, in March, the younger Carroll was in Iraq, with the United States again squaring off against Saddam. He was in Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

They'd gone from North Carolina to the Persian Gulf by ship. The infantrymen were crowded into too-small quarters and spent the weeks exercising, sleeping and taking classes on the culture and military they would encounter in Iraq. They landed in Kuwait in February, went to Camp Shoup in northern Kuwait and finally entered Iraq when the United States and Britain launched the invasion in March.

Carroll remembers his battalion moving out around 7 a.m., on what he thinks was March 19. They had packed up and slept that night in their "tracks," or amphibious

assault vehicles, which Marines also call AAVs. For several weeks in Kuwait, they had been through frequent gas-attack drills, and Carroll said he and others started to feel the drills were a stupid, inconvenient waste of time.

But their perspective changed the first day of the invasion, when Iraq fired missiles at allied forces and Carroll's commanders sounded a gas-attack alert.

"I saw a lot of people get really, really scared," Carroll said Thursday. "You can't fight back at gas. I was really worried we were going to get gassed. That was the only thing I was scared of."

The gas attack didn't come. Carroll said that, by that time, he was ready to get on with it and put his training into action against a real enemy.

Carroll and his contingent spent the first few days covering the 130 miles to Nasiriya.

The aim of the coalition forces initially was not to start a fight in that city, but to secure key bridges there over the Euphrates River on the route to Baghdad, according to media reports on the Iraqi war.

Carroll said the word was that they probably wouldn't see any problems in Nasiriya. But as the Marines neared the outskirts of the city, they could hear radio reports of clashes between Iraqis and other Marine and U.S. Army units.

On the city's outskirts, the first time Carroll got out of his vehicle, he saw and heard American planes and helicopters attacking, and tanks and artillery firing.

"I was like, 'Oh my God, this is the real thing right here,' and we weren't even in the city yet," he said.

The companies in Carroll's battalion eventually were sent in separate directions with the aim of securing the bridges. He remembers about 10 hours of fighting that day, as his company tried to link up with Marines on the other side of the city.

One company in his battalion passed through a stretch of road that became known as "ambush alley," and an Iraqi rocket-propelled grenade hit one AAV. The initial reports



were that 10 Marines died in that incident.

Although no one was killed in Carroll's company, 15 Marines from the 1st Battalion died in the fighting in Nasiriya, according to a military report. Carroll said two of his friends were among those killed.

He said he remembers countless times when bullets plinked off nearby armored vehicles or zipped by his head, when they easily could have hit him. He remembers about three days of "steel rain" after that first day.

News accounts of the fighting in Nasiriya included reports from Marines that Iraqis used civilians, including women and children, as shields, and reports that a number of civilians were killed as the line between enemy combatants and civilians became blurred.

After being in Nasiriya for about 11/2 weeks, Carroll's battalion moved toward Baghdad, passing through a number of cities and encountering more random attacks by Iraqis, but nothing like in Nasiriya. He saw countless miles of desert, then noticeable improvements in the houses and landscape as they got closer to Baghdad.

They slept in the AAVs or dug in in some of the cities, and patrolled at night. They stopped south of Baghdad, and started heading back south again in April. They held an emotional memorial service in Nasiriya on one of the bridges.

Asked whether he killed anyone in combat, Carroll said that he had. But he declined to give any details, saying he did what he had to do in that situation. It's not something he wants to dwell on or brag about.

The Marines later flew to Kuwait from a base in Iraq, then boarded a ship in May for the trip home. They sailed through the Straits of Gibraltar, stopped in Spain, then spent two weeks crossing the Atlantic before reaching the North Carolina coast in June.

As they rode on buses back to Camp Lejeune, people lined the road, carrying flags and waving. A huge gathering greeted them once they reached the base.

Carroll said he's glad to be home, largely because he knew how worried his family was

during the war. He joined the Marines for four years, but he plans to pursue college and a civilian career after finishing his hitch.

Carroll said he believes the United States and Britain did the right thing in going into Iraq. He encountered some Iraqi citizens who didn't want the Americans there, and some who seemed extraordinarily glad that they were there.

"It needed to be done," he said. "[Saddam] is out of power, and I don't think he'll be coming back into power. It should have been done back when my dad was there. I support what we did very strongly."

The elder Carroll said he's just been enjoying little things, like helping his son install the car stereo speakers or going with him to the mall. He said that he and his wife Julie both have talked to David Jr. to see how he's feeling about his experiences in Iraq.

"I can see he's grown and matured into a man with an experience of something that's pretty profound, and I can see how that has impacted him," Julie Carroll said. "But I can also see the 19-year-old David Jr. who's the same teenager he was when he left, hanging with his friends, going to parties."

She added, "A little part of me was worried he would come back and that part of him wouldn't be there."

David Carroll Sr. said his son seems to be handling things well, although he's expressed some guilt about the death and destruction the Marines were a part of in Nasiriya and elsewhere. "I told him it's kill or be killed," David Sr. said. "I told him to not feel guilty, that he was doing his job, that I would have done the same thing if I was there. They had a dirty job to do, and they did it well."

"We're real proud of him for what he's done, and just thankful to God," he continued. "We prayed every day for his safety, and wrote him all the time and thought of him all the time. Lots of people were praying for him. It means a lot to us."

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# Family finds country still falling short of King's dream

*January 18, 2000 Publication: Chapel Hill Herald (NC) Page: 10 Word Count: 810*

HILLSBOROUGH - A mother, daughter and granddaughter, with 30 years between each generation, were testament Monday to the progress this country has made in race relations and the hurdles that remain.

While Mary Jones, 87, was at home, preparing to attend a funeral, her daughter Doris Cannady-Davis, 57, and granddaughter Rhonda Cannady Long, 27, marched through downtown Hillsborough in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

In the chilly morning air, they walked with 100 or so others up Union Street for a brief prayer at Mt. Bright Baptist Church.

A leader asked the group to pray for those who are still oppressed, that they might find courage and determination to demand freedom. He asked them, as King had once asked, to remember that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

After the prayer, as the group moved on to the next stop, Cannady-Davis and Long paused to talk about King's legacy. In Long's eyes, King was urging everyone, black and white, to genuinely care about others' well-being, to educate oneself and to be tolerant.

She said the country is still falling short of that dream.

"America is supposed to be this great melting pot, but it seems like we're becoming more and more stand-offish," she said. "We're still not embracing diversity."

"And we're forgetting about love," her mother added. "We need to really love one another, regardless of what race, nationality or whatever."

Cannady-Davis said she believes King wanted the fostering of love and tolerance to start in the home. She said those were the kinds of values that have guided her own family.

Her mother is at the heart of that family. Later Monday, at Jones' home in eastern Orange County, her daughter and granddaughter described Jones as a precious inspiration, in her hard work and faith throughout life.

Jones grew up in Eno Township, just across the road from her current home. After starting a family, she looked after that family while also cleaning houses and doing dry-cleaning. Her husband worked nearby for a tobacco company.

She remembered Monday discrimination in the form of separate restrooms and water fountains and the fact that the one-room school she attended through seventh-grade was much smaller than the school for white children.

"It didn't bother us because we didn't know any better," Jones said. "Or, we expected it, I'd say."

For her daughter, things were the same, but also very different.

Cannady-Davis went to the former segregated Central High School in Hillsborough where A.L. Stanback was principal. She remembered the separate restroom facilities and having to ride in the back of the Trailways bus that she and friends would take into Durham.

At the same time, Cannady-Davis said she grew up playing with white children around

Eno Township with no thought of race. She graduated high school in 1960 and was living in New Jersey as the civil rights movement gained momentum.

In 1963, she went to Washington, D.C., to hear King speak. She could hear the words of the "I have a dream" speech but couldn't see King because the Mall was so crowded.

"I think that he was really a chosen one," she said. "I haven't witnessed another minister on his level. He was one of a kind. I've heard a lot of ministers, but I don't think anyone could touch him."

Her daughter added, "He definitely was a chosen one, because we're still talking about him today."

Losing King in 1968 felt like losing a member of her family, Cannady-Davis said.

"I didn't want to believe it," she said. "At first, it felt hopeless, but as the shock wore off, I felt that we as a whole could carry on his dream, although I felt it would be a hard struggle. And it still is."

As her mother put it, "Yes, we have come a long way, and we have a long way to go."

Long, the third generation, was about 5 years old when King was killed. She's lived most of her life without the kind of blatant, legalized discrimination that her mother and grandmother experienced.

Still, she said she encountered racism in more subtle forms, such as sometimes being overlooked in the classroom at Orange High School. She conceded that she went into St. Andrews Presbyterian College with some racist feelings of her own toward white people.

She confronted those feelings, and two years later her best friend there was a white woman.

Long said she was forced to reconsider stereotypes when students at St. Andrews didn't conform to those stereotypes. She is now doing her master's in human development and family studies at N.C. Central.



Long urges others to make a similar personal change and also not to forget the sacrifices of previous generations.

"Our generation just takes for granted that we're going to be able to have a say," she said, "and that's not necessarily so."

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# Kuenzlers preserving farm's natural beauty - Agreement will guarantee that the animals and plants ex-UNC prof loved will have a lasting home

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CARRBORO - Former UNC professor Edward Kuenzler dreamed about permanently protecting his farm west of Carrboro, and his family has helped complete that dream after Kuenzler died unexpectedly last fall.

Kuenzler, a biology professor who seemingly knew every bug, bird and plant on his farm, had worked for several years with the Triangle Land Conservancy on setting up a conservation easement for the property. Since he and his wife Jutta purchased the land in 1965, Kuenzler had studied the land in detail and identified more than 300 species of animals and plants that called the place home.

Kuenzler also had worked in recent years on plans for restoring an area of wetlands that had been converted for agricultural use many decades ago.

But he died in September while on vacation in Alaska. Jutta Kuenzler said Tuesday

that her husband died in his sleep, apparently from a heart attack. He was 71 years old.

The couple had moved from Massachusetts to Orange County after Edward Kuenzler got a teaching position at UNC, and they fell in love with the farm off Old Greensboro Highway, just west of Mt. Collins Road down a long, gravel driveway. They bought two tracts totaling about 154 acres, with woods, pastures, a creek, a pond and abundant wildlife.

Jutta Kuenzler, 67, grew up in Berlin and always lived in apartment buildings, so she loved being in the country and exploring the farm with her husband.

She said Tuesday that she and her husband did everything together, and that it's hard at times for her to walk the property without him.

But Tuesday was a day of celebration for Jutta Kuenzler and her daughter Doreen, who grew up roaming the farm and hiding out in favorite spots, like the sand bar in Collins Creek. They toured the farm with several dozen visitors and talked about the conservation easement they finalized with the TLC three months after Edward Kuenzler's death.

They also visited the wetlands site in the southern corner of the property, where several agencies have completed the restoration project that Edward Kuenzler envisioned.

The easement agreement essentially says that the Kuenzlers or anyone else who owns the property in the future won't be able to do things like turn it into a residential subdivision. It says the family can replace the existing home or add up to 4,000 square feet, and add buildings next to the house such as a garage, said Jeff Masten with the TLC.

But the family or any future owners can't build any additional homes, and they can't harvest the timber on the property. They can continue agricultural uses like cutting hay within a couple of areas designated for those uses.

For donating the easement, the Kuenzlers are eligible for tax breaks from both the state and federal governments. On the federal level, the break is in the form of a deduction, and at the state level, it's a tax credit, Masten said.

The tax breaks are based on a calculation of the land's value if it was developed according to current zoning, versus the land's value with the conservation easement attached to it. In other words, it's a way of calculating what the Kuenzlers gave up financially by agreeing to the easement.

The family also will benefit from a federal program in doing the wetlands restoration. Biologist Matt Flint, with the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service, described the project, on about 15 acres that now hold several shallow ponds that filled with water a couple days after they were created. The idea was to try to re-establish the water flow and vegetation that was there before that land was turned into a field.

The service's Wetlands Reserve Program has restored and protected about 20,000 acres in North Carolina, Flint said.

In the Kuenzlers' case, the NRCS worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the wetlands restoration, and agencies such as the county's Soil and Water Conservation District also assisted.

By agreeing to have the land used for the restoration and to a permanent easement on the wetlands, the Kuenzlers received a payment of about \$61,000 through the Wetlands Reserve Program, said Brent Bogue, with the NRCS in Orange County.

The program also provided about \$20,000 to help pay for the restoration, including plantings, grading and other work, he said.

Doreen Kuenzler, 33, said the wetlands restoration and easements are exactly as her father wanted, and she said she feels that he knows things turned out well. She said she and her brother have no regrets about not having the option to develop the farm someday.

"I really believe firmly in what my parents have done here," Doreen Kuenzler said. "I'm just thrilled the land will always stay this way.

"I would hate to see this land split up," she said. "This is my home. This is where I grew up. It's safe. I love it just like this."

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# Reservoirs nearly full, but lessons of '02 drought linger

*June 9, 2004 Publication: Herald-Sun, The (Durham, NC) Page: A1 Word Count: 2017*

It was around this time two years ago when Larry Trollinger watched the pastures turn brown and crunchy on his western Orange County farm.

The natural springs dried up, and the farm pond shrank to a stagnant, smelly mud puddle.

As the parched summer of 2002 unfolded, Trollinger had to sell about 80 head of beef cattle out of his herd of 100 during the worst drought he experienced in five decades of living and farming on Dairyland Road west of Carrboro.

"That was a bad year," the 56-year old Trollinger remembers. "[The cows] had nothing to eat and nothing to drink. If it had stayed like that, I don't know where we would have been."

When it comes to water, people sometimes take so much for granted, he said. "You cut on the spigot and you've got water."

To make sure customers always get flowing water -- and not hissing air -- when they turn on the spigot, officials in Durham and Orange counties have one eye on future water sources, from abandoned quarries and Jordan Lake to better conservation of



existing supplies.

Their other eye is on current water levels. And they say the news there is good, heading into the official start of summer -- and dry season -- in two weeks.

#### Healthy reservoir levels

May was unusually hot, and many lawns and fields around Durham and Orange counties already have a brown tinge.

The rainfall total so far this year is about 5 inches below normal in the Triangle, as measured at Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

But going into the hot months, there's a key difference between 2004 and 2002: Local reservoirs are full or nearly full, recharged to healthy levels over the past year and a half, utility officials say.

Two years ago, when summer temperatures settled in and water use began to climb, the reservoirs already had been depleted by drought going back to 2001 and earlier. Utilities didn't start the year with a full tank.

Labor Day weekend 2002 saw a soaking rain, and wet weather continued into October. State officials declared the drought over in May 2003.

Since then, about 43 inches of rainfall have been measured at RDU -- only about half an inch short of the normal total for that time period, said Ryan Boyles, associate climatologist in the State Climate Office at N.C. State University.

Water-supply watchers like Terry Rolan, director of the city of Durham's Environmental Resources Department, clearly haven't forgotten the worries of the drought. But they like where things stand at the moment.

"I wouldn't anticipate a problem this year, given where we are starting from," said Rolan, whose department oversees the city water system. "If we were to have another summer like we did [in 2002], we would manage it well for this year. It's when we have multiple years in a row that really creates a problem for us."

This year, Durham's reservoirs at Lake Michie and on the Little River are only about 19 1/2 inches shy of full. Likewise, the Cane Creek and University Lake reservoirs operated by the Orange Water and Sewer Authority are full or nearly full.

And two reservoirs in northern Orange are near their peaks -- the town of Hillsborough's reservoir on the west fork of the Eno River and Orange County's Lake Orange on the Eno's east fork.

As of Tuesday, University Lake near Carrboro is full, and Cane Creek Reservoir on N.C. 54 West is about 18 inches below full. By comparison, Cane Creek dropped to nearly 200 inches below full during the drought of 2002, and University Lake approached 60 inches below full.

"We have plenty of water for this year," OWASA Director Ed Kerwin said. "[But] if it's dry this year, customer demand is high, the stream flow runs below average to the two lakes and they don't refill over this winter, then we could be facing a situation much as we faced in 2002."

When dry weather begins, it's not always clear it will become a drought, he said. "It's something we'll watch very closely."

#### Hot summer forecast

There are signs this summer's temperatures will be higher than normal, said Boyles in the State Climate Office. Whether it will be wetter or drier than normal is an open question, he said.

"We really don't know what to expect out of this summer," he said. "Even if we have a somewhat dry summer, we really don't expect to have the widespread drought like we saw a couple of years ago."

Charlotte already is seeing moderate drought conditions. Things are worse in South Carolina. But Boyles said that, for now, there are no major concerns in North Carolina.

People in the climate-monitoring business got more attention than usual during the

2002 drought, as residents watched their lawns wither, owners of pressure-washing firms and nurseries worried about their livelihoods and officials thought about the unthinkable -- running out of water.

Utilities weren't close to using their last drops, but were close enough for discomfort.

In the early fall of 2002, OWASA was just a few days away from buying up to 1 million gallons of water per day from Chatham County. Then the rains came.

Over several weeks in the summer and early fall of 2002, Durham bought a total of about 145 million gallons of water from Cary, which gets its water from Jordan Lake.

Durham also took the relatively rare step of pumping water from the Eno River to supplement its supply. The city tapped the Eno for several weeks in the spring and for a couple of days in July, for a total of about 258 million gallons, said Vicki Westbrook, conservation coordinator in Rolan's office.

The Eno played an even more critical role in central Orange, where Hillsborough, the county, the Orange-Alamance Water System, Piedmont Minerals and the state all are parties to an agreement that spells out how much water can be pulled from the river.

As the Eno water flow decreases, so does the amount of water that Hillsborough, Orange-Alamance and Piedmont Minerals can withdraw.

That involves raw water. Another issue is restricting how customers can use the water once it's been treated and piped to them.

#### Restricting water use

For customers of Hillsborough and the Orange-Alamance system, the restrictions are tied to the level of Lake Orange, which in the past was the county's sole reservoir on the Eno.

As the drought worsened in 2002, Lake Orange, which covers about 175 acres north of Hillsborough, reached historic lows. Restrictions for Hillsborough and Orange-Alamance customers reached the most serious stages ever.

But Hillsborough officials had some comfort in the presence of the town's reservoir near Cedar Grove, which became the second reservoir on the Eno about four years ago. The reservoir didn't allow Hillsborough to avoid imposing use restrictions during the drought. But it did mean the town didn't have to buy treated water from another utility.

In fact, the town was able to sell some water to the Orange-Alamance system, which also had to turn to other neighboring utilities for additional water.

As the flow of water fell, the stream of announcements rose about new water-use restrictions, especially for customers in Orange County.

At the peak of the drought late that summer, it was illegal for customers of Hillsborough, OWASA and Orange-Alamance to use system water for any outside purposes, from watering grass and vegetable gardens to washing cars and sidewalks.

Durham's restrictions didn't go as far, but the city did reach the third stage of its water conservation ordinance. It calls for "moderate mandatory conservation" and limits watering of lawns and gardens to two days per week during specific hours.

"If we had gone much higher in our conservation ordinance, we would have begun to impact the livelihood of our citizens," Rolan said. "We try to balance the risk on the one hand, and the impact on the other."

The goal, he said, was to make the supply last as long as possible.

"We were concerned about the revenue impacts [from lost water-use fees], but utility managers don't stay in their job long if they run out of water," Rolan said.

In Hillsborough, town officials hope to change guidelines for water-use restrictions that would take into account the new reservoir, giving customers longer before the most serious restrictions kick in.

Town and Orange officials recently discussed the issue, and the Town Board may act on the changes on Monday.

"It will allow our customers to use more water, since we've got ample supply now," Town Engineer Kenny Keel said. "It makes more sense for us to [base restrictions] on the total volume of water we have, rather than basing it just on Lake Orange."

In the aftermath of the 2002 drought, OWASA pushed for ordinance changes that call for year-round water conservation. Chapel Hill, Carrboro and county officials approved them last summer.

A key provision is that residents who use OWASA water now are limited to spray irrigation three days per week and up to 1 inch per week, throughout the year.

OWASA leaders say they promoted the year-round measures to conserve supply and to remind people that water is a precious resource even without a drought.

The authority also is pursuing an agreement with UNC in which the university would use treated water from OWASA's wastewater plant for some of its campus needs.

The authority figures it may be able to reduce use of drinkable water by 10 percent to 15 percent through the project with UNC, Kerwin said.

### Enlarging the supply

Looking to future water supplies, OWASA now owns the right to turn a rock quarry on N.C. 54 into a new reservoir, after American Stone stops its mining operation there in 2030.

The capacity will depend on how much rock the mining company removes by that time. But OWASA projects that the quarry eventually could hold about 3 billion gallons.

University Lake holds 500 million gallons, Cane Creek holds 3 billion gallons, and OWASA has another quarry reservoir off N.C. 54 that holds up to 200 million gallons.

In addition, the authority has a future allotment of 5 million gallons of water a day from Jordan Lake. But accessing that water would be expensive, and OWASA believes it can avoid that step, Kerwin said.

Durham is staking part of its water-supply future on another quarry, a hole in the ground in northern Durham that officials figure could someday store up to 1.9 billion gallons.

The City Council agreed earlier this year to buy the quarry off Denfield Street, which likely would take at least two years to turn into a reservoir.

Meanwhile, Lake Michie can hold about 3.6 billion gallons and Little River Reservoir 4.2 billion gallons.

Durham also has an allocation of 10 million gallons of water a day from Jordan Lake. But for now it has to buy Jordan water from either Cary or Chatham County.

Hillsborough designed its reservoir to allow for a second phase, which would boost the reservoir's capacity to about 1.7 billion gallons. But the town continues to whittle away at its mountain of debt from the first phase, and Keel said an expansion is likely at least five to 10 years away.

"As a community, I think there is an overall greater awareness of how serious a drought can be, and how seriously people need to take conservation measures and be prepared to do more," OWASA's Kerwin said. "I don't think it's if we're in the next bad drought. I think it's when."

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# After years of hibernation, an artist reawakens - 59- year-old Karol Tucker graduated from college with a fine arts degree, but she shelved her talent for decades

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HILLSBOROUGH - The late-bloomers of the world can take heart in the story of Karol Tucker, a 59-year-old artist whose works are on display in Hillsborough this month.

She grew up in the Toledo, Ohio, area and married Tom Tucker, a high school classmate with whom she'd also gone to college at Bowling Green State University.

Tucker loved to draw, and she earned a fine arts degree at Bowling Green, but she didn't really see a long-term career in art.

After teaching art at the elementary and high school level for five years, Tucker turned her focus to raising her daughters, Toni and Carrie.

The family moved to Durham around 1973, where Tom Tucker started an optometry practice. Karol Tucker worked part time in her husband's office for the next 20 years or so.

For the most part, she put aside her interest in art during those years, although she sometimes did charcoal drawings as Christmas presents.

But in 1994, the Tuckers sold the optometry practice. Karol Tucker had officially retired, and she decided to knock the rust off her art supplies.

She took a drawing class at the Durham Arts Council, "with a certain amount of anxiety," she said.

Her anxiety gave way to excitement over rediscovering her love of working with charcoal, pastels and watercolors. She came out of the class feeling that she still had some talent for art.

Six years later, Tucker's pieces have been in several exhibits and juried shows, including a national juried show in Goldsboro this year, where she won an honorable mention.

She has sold dozens of pieces, with \$260 the highest price tag. Her exhibit at the Orange County Historical Museum this month is her second solo exhibit of 2000, and she has another solo exhibit scheduled in October at the Hope Valley Country Club in Durham.

Tucker reads, takes classes and attends workshops to improve her skills, which are evident in the drawings and paintings on display in Hillsborough.

She doesn't spend a lot of time worrying about the years when art was not a big part of her life.

"I do regret all those years I didn't do anything [artistically]," Tucker said. "But that's behind me. That's history.

"There's plenty of time," she said.

Tucker has focused on portraiture for the past year or so. She charges \$100 for a portrait done in charcoal, or \$250 for a pastel or watercolor portrait.

Tucker said she's not quite sure what it is that people like about portraits, as opposed to a professional photograph of one of their family members. Perhaps it's some artistic quality that they feel a photograph lacks, she said.

When she's working on a portrait, Tucker tries to get some sense of her subjects' thoughts and feelings at the time, and to express them in the portrait.

"I want to capture the human spirit," Tucker said. "I look at people, and I think people are made in the image of God."

Tucker has some watercolor landscape scenes at the museum as well.

A painting of Amish children riding a wagon mounded with hay is based on a scene Tucker once photographed in Wooster, Ohio, an area with a sizeable Amish population.

Tucker said there is a lot she admires about the Amish lifestyle, although it's not necessarily the lifestyle for her.

"I like their faith and commitment to the Lord," she said. "They're not just talking the talk. They're walking the walk."

Tucker's exhibit will be in the upstairs gallery at the Orange County Historical Museum through July 31. The museum is at the corner of North Churton and West Tryon streets, and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

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