

# The Love Creek Team Took a *Walk on the Wild Side* at Angola Neck Nature Preserve

left: Laura Hill, right: Ed Perry

After exploring Love Creek by kayak last summer, the Love Creek Team met for a walk at the Angola Neck Nature Preserve to see one of the Inland Bays' rarest habitats, a sea-level fen, and learn about a re-forestation project underway at the Preserve.

Sally Boswell, Education and Outreach Coordinator and Project Manager of the Your Creek project and Rob Line, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager at DNREC led the walk. Fourteen team members and CIB staff gathered at a meeting point off Camp Arrowhead Road on a warm afternoon in late April.

Elaine and Ed Perry, whose father donated much of the Perry Tract of Angola Neck Preserve, live adjacent to the Preserve and lent stories to the adventure. Local farmer, Laura Hill and upstream neighbor, Steve Britz were there, as well as three neighbors from across the creek at Mulberry Landing, Love Creek Team Leader Susie Ball of Arnell Creek and eight other members of the Team attended.

After introductions, the team crossed the road to a field formally farmed in small grain, soybeans and corn.

---

**Last fall, with the help of volunteers, the CIB planted 4,200 native trees and shrubs in this five plus acre field, the first phase of a re-forestation project to improve wildlife habitat and enhance water quality.**

---

Today, they are just rows of seedling, but when they mature, the shortleaf pine, willow oak, southern red oak, persimmon, American plum, northern bayberry, and viburnum will create a forested corridor from Love Creek to other wetland areas further inland. Many species of neo-tropical migratory songbirds will benefit from the mixed hardwood and pine forest community in this old farm field.

Re-forestation of croplands is one remediation strategy to decrease the amount of fertilizer flowing into our creeks and bays. The nutrients in fertilizer cause a cascade of problems for the Inland Bays. The nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizer promote algae growth which can cloud the water, preventing sunlight from reaching the bottom where it is needed by bay grasses. The loss of bay grass eliminates important nursery areas and shelter for finfish and shellfish.

The Love Creek Team, a group of local residents who live on and around Love Creek will be sharing the 'State of Love Creek' report and their experiences on and around the Creek with homeowners associations, civic groups, churches and other organizations beginning this summer. To schedule a speaker for your meeting contact Sally Boswell at [outreach@inlandbays.org](mailto:outreach@inlandbays.org). To learn more about Love Creek and the work of the team go to [inlandbays.org/projects-issues/love-creek](http://inlandbays.org/projects-issues/love-creek).



**JUST LAUNCHED!** The Love Creek Blog! *On and Around Love Creek...making friends for Love Creek.* Blogger in chief is Dr. Steve Britz who lives and paddles on Love Creek. Check out all his findings and photos from last summer...and read his latest posts. [inlandbays.org/CIBblog](http://inlandbays.org/CIBblog)