Derb Carter Named Director of SELC’s NC/SC Office

SELCLC gladly announces Derb Carter as the director of our North Carolina/South Carolina Office in Chapel Hill. Derb has served as interim director since last fall, along with his continued role as leader of SELC’s Coast and Wetlands Project. SELC is proud to have an office director of Derb’s caliber. Formerly the director of the National Wildlife Federation’s southeastern office in Raleigh, he joined SELC in 1989. Due to the consistently impressive results SELC has achieved through his work, Derb received the National Wetlands Award in 2000 and was named North Carolina Conservationist of the Year in 2004. He graduated in 1975 with honors in biology from the University of North Carolina and in 1980 from the University of Oregon Law School.

Why I Do What I Do: David Carr, SELC’s National Forest Project Leader

Growing up on my grandfather’s farm in Albemarle County, Virginia, I spent my days playing in our creek, fishing in local ponds, and hunting quail and dove on the 400 acres I called home. As I grew older and explored more places around the country—in search of the next river to navigate or hike to take—I developed a greater appreciation for my home region: its diversity of landscapes from the mountains through the piedmont to the coast, and the close connection between the land and forests and the streams they supported.

During visits home from college at Princeton, I started to notice that things were changing in my community. Family farms were being converted to subdivisions, and the special places I took for granted were in jeopardy. I felt pulled toward a career that would enable me to preserve the things I loved about the South, and decided that law school would put me on the right course.

With a UVA law degree and three years of lawyering under my belt, in 1986 I joined Rick Middleton as the first hired attorney at SELC. I’ve been here ever since. I am proud to have helped this organization grow from a two-man shop to a regional powerhouse with 35 attorneys.

What has kept me at SELC for 20 years is the level of professionalism SELC brings to the conservation effort and the creative yet no-nonsense approach we take to achieve our goals. I’m also grateful for the opportunity to shape the environmental legacy I will leave to my children. I’m reminded of this every day when I step outside my front door and catch a glimpse of Three Ridges, part of a 10,500-acre wilderness area SELC helped establish.

David Carr and his son Will enjoy
turkey hunting in the George Washington National Forest.