



## UNION COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT CANE CREEK PARK

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### News Release

## Boy Scout Conducts Conservation Project at Cane Creek Park

**August 21, 2013, Monroe, NC** — Phillip Thrash, a Boy Scout in Troop 55 in Charlotte, has been overseeing an owl conservation project at Cane Creek Park since February. The project was initiated by Phillip with the ambition of earning the Hornaday Award in Scouting for achievement in conservation.

To receive the Hornaday Award, a scout must complete four significant environmental management projects that make substantial contributions to conservation during a three-year period. In the past 80 years, just approximately 1,110 scouts have received this prestigious award. The award is only given to scouts who have demonstrated a substantial commitment of time and energy, and who have learned the meaning of conservation/environmental ethic.

The Cane Creek Park project consists of the constructing, mounting and monitoring of 15 owl boxes for the next two years. The purpose of this project is to create safe homes for owls to live, mate and raise their owlets during the months of February and March when owls lay eggs. The houses remain up and will be used by owls year-round. Some of the houses get used by other animals, especially squirrels, which use them to nest.

When monitoring the boxes in July, Phillip found four houses occupied by owls. He was able to determine this by owl fuzz and feathers, along with some hatched eggs. Phillip will continue to monitor the boxes periodically and document the findings.

Phillip is the son of Dana and David Thrash of Charlotte.

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