

## **Missing 40**

### **Driving Directions:**

**From the Saluda Library drive 3.1 miles on Main Street to 176 toward Tryon. Turn Right on Pearson Falls Road. Go 1.8 miles to a small pull off on right. There is small sign and stairs at the Trailhead to the Missing 40. When you leave, continue 1.7 miles on Pearson Falls Road toward Saluda. You will come out on Main Street at Wildflower Bakery.**

### **Hiking Directions:**

**Descend stairs and cross creek to trail toward the left. Follow markers. This will be a 1-mile loop hike. There are two water crossings so prepare to get wet. Water shoes are recommended.**

### **Educational Information:**

**The Missing Forty is a treasured hike in the local Saluda area. It is a unique find. The story of the Missing 40 began in the 1930's. Nancy Barnett's father bought what he thought was 70 acres. It turned out it was really 30 acres instead of 70. They had been looking for the other 40 acres for many years.**

**A logger bought the land in the 1960's for the valuable timber. After the trees were harvested the land was abandoned. The logger later deeded it to the town of Tryon to avoid paying taxes.**

**The mystery was solved in 2010. The Tryon Garden Club offered \$1000 to the City of Tryon to purchase the Missing 40 acres adjacent to Pearson Falls. The City of Tryon decided to lease the land to the Saluda Community Land Trust. SCLT volunteers constructed the mile-long loop in 2011 and has been in use ever since. Local residents enjoy the beauty of this preserved acreage that could have been the Lost 40.**