



Nation Ford News

The Newsletter of Nation Ford Land Trust

February, 2000

Fort Mill One of the Best Communities in the World

It's official. Fort Mill is one of the best places in the world to live. Mark Madden, Director of the Anne Springs Close Greenway, submitted Fort Mill for the prestigious Nations In Bloom international award in 1999. The competition recognizes environmental excellence and superior quality of life in places around the world. Mark received a letter in early October stating that Fort Mill had been invited to compete in the finals in Hamamatsu, Japan in February of this year. Fort Mill was the only U. S. town in its population category that made it to the finals! This competition brings global exposure for Fort Mill because Nations In Bloom is considered the "green Oscars" and is the only competition of its kind endorsed by the United Nations.

A committee of local Fort Mill business people was formed and, under Mark's direction, a 10 minute video and 20 minute slide presentation were put together on the unique programs, places, and people that make Fort Mill so special. Mark, along with Angie McCrae of Springs Foundation, were chosen by the committee to make the trip to Japan to represent Fort Mill on February 11, 2000. Heritage management, enhancement of the landscape, environmentally sensitive practices, community involvement, and planning for the future were the five categories to be addressed. The final presentation highlighted visionary concepts such as Clear Springs, the Catawba River Corridor Plan, the Anne Springs Close Greenway, York County Forever, and others. "The work of Nation Ford Land Trust and the Catawba River Task Force is a high point in the submission. These entities are at the forefront of preserving what is special about Fort Mill." Madden says.

The competition is now behind us, and although Fort Mill did not win this coveted award, the community is still a winner for making it to the finals of this international contest. In Fort Mill's category, Castlecove, Ireland, a town of just 160 people, won. The "dying village" which had more than 17,000 residents a century ago, also won an overall award for community involvement. And we're very proud of our neighbor, Mecklenburg County, who competed and won in their size category!

We congratulate Mark, Angie and everyone who worked on this project for a job well done for Fort Mill! And what's ahead? Why Nations In Bloom 2000 of course!

Duke Power Supports Efforts to Protect Rocky Shoals Spider Lily

The Catawba Valley Land Trust announced in January that it has received a gift of \$5,000 from Duke Power to be used in efforts to protect the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily in the Landsford area of the Catawba River. The funds are to be used for research and educational efforts to protect this important plant.

The Rocky Shoals Spider Lily is a rare aquatic plant which grows exclusively in shoals areas of rivers in the Piedmont of the Southeast. The lily is currently being studied by federal agencies for possible listing as a threatened species.



Board of Directors

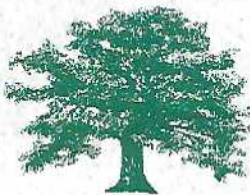
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Mission Statement

The Nation Ford Land Trust is dedicated to the preservation of open spaces, natural beauty, and the scenic heritage of the York County area. Preserving these qualities will ensure that as our home grows, it retains the qualities that have made it a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

York County Forever

York County Forever, the York County Council and Harry Dalton have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the property owned by the Daltons on the Broad River in western York County. The 1,647-acre tract was purchased by the Daltons about four years ago and has been extensively improved since that time. The renovations include replanting hardwoods, planting forage for deer, turkeys and the like and building a 6-acre lake. The property includes approximately one mile of river frontage. There is currently no public access to the river in York County. The purchase price of \$1.6 million over a period of 10 years is quite a bargain for York County. The property has been appraised at \$3.3 million inclusive of timber rights. The Daltons' generosity will have a positive impact on the quality of life for many future generations in York County.

This is the second Memorandum of Understanding for York County Forever. The first, Henry's Knob, is currently undergoing a Phase II Environmental Study as required by the agreement.

The commission plans to hold another public hearing to update the list of potential properties. The date has not yet been determined.

Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Prints for Sale

Sales of the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily prints have been excellent. This photo was taken at Landsford Shoals of the Catawba River, South Carolina during a full moon in May 1999. The Rocky Shoals Spider Lily (*Hymenocallis coronaria*) is a rare plant which inhabits shoals in Piedmont rivers in the Southeast. The population at Landsford is believed to be the largest in the world.



"Rocky Shoals Spider Lily - Full Flower Moon"

The print measures 22" by 28", and is numbered and signed by Ted Borg, South Carolina nature photographer. The cost is \$100, including shipping, and can be ordered from either Nation Ford Land Trust at (803) 547-8140 or Katawba Valley Land Trust at (803) 285-9455. The purchase price also includes a one-year membership in either Nation Ford Land Trust or Katawba Valley Land Trust.



From the Chairman

The York County Forever Commission is making excellent progress as it works to accomplish its conservation goals. One of the most significant acquisitions will be that of the Dalton Ranch property. This 1,647 acres of land is located in the southwestern part of York County on Broad River.

Nation Ford Land Trust will play a key role in this acquisition in that a condition will be that the Land Trust will be asked to hold a conservation easement. This will ensure that the land is protected in perpetuity. This is a role that the Land Trust envisioned when the original concept of York County Forever was presented to the York County Council by the Land Trust and the Palmetto Conservation Foundation.

Murray White

The acquisition of the Dalton Ranch will mean that in every corner of York County, there will be a major tract of land that will remain green as we become more and more urban. Kings Mountain in the Northwest, Anne Springs Close Greenway in the Northeast, Historic Brattonsville in the Southeast and now Dalton Ranch in the Southwest. There is no doubt that future generations will be thankful for this farsighted conservation activity. It is also important that we thank Harry Dalton, for without his unselfish attitude and his far-reaching vision, this would not be possible!

Upcoming Events

- March 1 *Historic Brattonsville
Opens for the season*
- March 11 *Revolutionary Living History
Historic Brattonsville
10 am - 4 pm*
- March 21 *Handcrafted Blue Bird Homes
Museum of York County
7 - 9 pm*
- March 25 *Children's Day on the Farm
Historic Brattonsville
10 am - 4 pm*
- April 8 *Wool to Weave: Sheepshearing Day
Historic Brattonsville
10 am - 4 pm*
- April 22 *Earth Day
Anne Springs Close Greenway
10 am - 4 pm*

Greenway Receives \$65,000 Grant

The Anne Springs Close Greenway has received a \$65,000 grant from the National Recreational Trails program in cooperation with the SC Trails Program and the Federal Highway Administration. The SC PRT administers the grant. The money will be used to accomplish two trail improvement projects. The first project will be to create informational trailhead stations that will direct visitors to the trails and other features of the 2,000-acre park-like nature preserve. The trailhead stations will be located at strategic spots around the Greenway so that visitors can search maps, take brochures, and read informational panels that will enhance their experiences.

The second project involves the historic Nation Ford Road where it crosses Steele Creek near the Dairy Barn. Over time, this area of the road has suffered severe erosion. The project, to be undertaken by the Greenway this summer, will restore the area to its former beauty. Working in conjunction with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service advisors, the Greenway will install a product called cabled concrete. The open celled concrete forms are interlaced with stainless steel cable and installed below grade. After filling the open cells with soil and seed, the road will blend beautifully with the landscape once again and the sub-grade cabled concrete product would offer increased strength while remaining undetectable.

As we continue our efforts to preserve our unique heritage, innovative partnerships like the one the Greenway has forged with the USDA and SC PRT can help accomplish our goals.

A very special "Thank You" to Franklin Printers in Pineville for sponsoring our newsletter!

Partner with Nation Ford Land Trust

Nation Ford Land Trust is a partnership among those citizens interested in preserving the natural and cultural integrity of York and its surrounding counties. To accomplish the types of projects described in this newsletter, we need the support of people like you who want to ensure that we pass on the good things about this community to our children.

Take a moment to join Nation Ford Land Trust at the highest membership level possible for you and your family. We promise in return that we will continue to work towards conservation in an effective, business-like manner.

Yes, I want to join renew my membership with Nation Ford Land Trust. Please accept my 2000 membership at this level:

\$25 individual

\$50 family

\$100 business

I want to help conservation in the York County area. Please let me know how I can become involved.

Name _____ Telephone (____) _____

Address _____

Please mail to: Nation Ford Land Trust, P. O. Box 431, Fort Mill, SC 29716

Nation Ford Land Trust is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Contributions to Nation Ford Land Trust are deductible to the extent allowable by law.

You CAN make a difference!

Nation Ford Land Trust

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