



OUR HERITAGE
is Our Most Precious Resource

Fall 2020 Newsletter

NFLT and the Stuck Family Partner again, this time for the largest Conservation Easement in NFLT's history.

"This is 2020's conservation project of the year, says Steve Hamilton of Nation Ford Land Trust. Steve is referring to the easement Bob and Debbie Stuck placed on 2,700 acres of Flying King Ranch outside York. This easement, added to the 1,100 acres previously protected by the Stucks, is the foundation of NFLT's York Greenbelt.

Flying King Ranch is a former dairy farm that is now is for agriculture and forestry operations. People who know York recognize Flying King from the large historic dairy barns aligning Highway 321. They pose a southern scenic entranceway to York and highlight the community as a nice place to live. It is fair to say that Flying King Ranch is one of the landmarks of Western York County.

Jeanne Ferguson from the Nation Ford Land Trust Board says Bob and Debbie are special people to York County. "Their commitment to conservation has been a central part of Nation Ford's success since our founding. Over the years they have placed 3,850 under easement. This places them among South Carolina's most important conservationists."

The transaction was made possible through funding of the South Carolina Conservation Bank and York County Forever. The transaction closed in June after a lengthy negotiation.

"I don't know of any transaction more significant in conservation over the past several years than the Flying King Ranch easement, says Steve Hamilton. This scale of landscape and wildlife protection is an extraordinary achievement for a local land trust like Nation Ford. Given that the property is in such a fast-growing area, it is easy to name Flying King the conservation project of the year in South Carolina.

Nation Ford Land Trusts is proud of their partnership with Bob and Debbie Stuck. Please join us in sending our heartfelt appreciation to this Leading Couple of Conservation.



Fun Fact: Part of the movie "The Patriot" was filmed on this property!

Covid-19 Doesn't Stop Protection of Nanny's Mountain viewshed

Dorsey Patrick was committed to preserving her 24 acres in the shadow of Nannys Mountain. It just took a couple of extra months because of the global pandemic. "We had to delay the closing on this significant conservation easement", says Steve Hamilton, Executive Director of Nation Ford Land Trust. "But Dorsey hung in there and we were able to safely execute the easement in her driveway." "Thank you, Dorsey, for being dedicated!"

"I wanted to see the area protected", says Dorsey, a Lake Wylie resident. "I was in a position to help keep this area scenic and promote ecotourism and I jumped in." Plans for a 5-acre Dog Park will be part of this conservation easement.

Nannys Mountain has been a special piece of York County dating back to the American Revolutionary War when iron was mined from the mountain to produce cannons, weapons and other goods. Some historians believe Nanny's Mountain was a stop for runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad.

These days Nanny's Mountain offers opportunity for hikers and wildlife enthusiasts. Privately owned for many years, today Nanny's is maintained by York County Parks.

"Dorsey's easement is an important step in creating our open space district in this part of York County, says Allison Love of the York County Council. "It protects the viewshed of the Mountain." "Dorsey is a hero for stepping up."

Our Conservation Partners Our Conservation Easement Program is made possible with support from **York County Forever** and the **S.C. Conservation Bank**.

York County Forever just approved a request for assistance to landowners pursuing an easement totaling \$91,175 in our Broad River Focus area. The South Carolina Conservation Bank approved a grant of \$330,000 to further the same project. These two programs help the conservation world run smoothly. Make sure you show your support. We really love these programs.

New Board Members come "on-board" NFLT added three new board members. York County Council Member Allison Love, Real-estate agent Lee Whitley and Patrick White, former Fort Mill School Board chairman. We look forward to the experience and insight these new members will bring to the board.

Support Nation Ford Land Trust

NFLT is going through an exciting period of growth. We are on track to add close to 5,000 acres to our portfolio this year alone. We need your help. Consider becoming a member and become a partner in protecting York County's most important resource, our heritage. For more information, or to make a donation, visit www.nationfordlandtrust.org.