



NATION FORD LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

Volume II Spring 2014

Preserving the open spaces, natural beauty, and scenic heritage of

York County, South Carolina

www.nationfordlandtrust.org



An Update from Chairman Murray White

For a number of years the Nation Ford Land Trust had a successful relationship with the York County Forever Commission. However, over the past several years there has been a decline in support for the Commission by the York County Council. This has had a negative impact on the land trust's ability to acquire conservation easements from willing landowners, as well as participate in the acquisition of properties with high conservation value.

To compensate for this decline in funds, the Nation Ford Land Trust will be launching a capital campaign to raise \$150,000 for its Preservation Fund. These funds will be used to help offset the costs to private landowners associated with placing easements on their property. These expenses include legal fees for drafting the easement document, a survey of the property which will be included in the easement, a baseline documentation report which establishes the property's conservation values, and an appraisal. Landowners must also contribute to a Stewardship Fund for the yearly monitoring of their conservation easements into perpetuity, and a Legal Defense Fund which ensures the land trust will be able to resolve any legal issues associated with the conservation easement. Funds from the capital campaign will also be used by the land trust to continue partnering with other organizations in the acquisition of property with significant ecological, historical, scenic, and recreational values.

I would encourage everyone to consider supporting us in our capital campaign. This will enable the Nation Ford Land Trust to ensure that we have a greener future.

Catawba River Kayak Trip June 25, 2014 4 p.m.

The Rock Hill Parks and Recreation Department will lead a kayak trip for Nation Ford Land Trust members from the Lake Wylie Dam to the Rock Hill Outdoor Center at Riverwalk on Wednesday, June 25, 2014. This section of the Catawba River is 3.5 miles of slow-moving water with two small Class I rapids, and a paddle time of 2 to 3 hours depending on water levels, weather, and other factors. The cost of the trip is \$25 per person, which includes kayak, paddle, lifejacket, and shuttle. **This trip is limited to 15 participants. Please contact Janet Steele at janet@nationfordlandtrust.org or call the Nation Ford Land Trust office at 547-8140 to reserve your spot.**

Save the Date! Thursday, September 25, 2014

The Nation Ford Land Trust will be celebrating its 25th anniversary at the Brakefield Event Center at Riverwalk in Rock Hill on Thursday, September 25, 2014. The Catawba River will provide a beautiful backdrop for the event, which will begin with dinner. Nation Ford Land Trust board members, past and present, will be honored, and the latest fundraising project for the land trust will be unveiled. Through generous contributions from Williams and Fudge and Comporium Communications, the board has commissioned an original painting by nationally known historical artist Dan Nance. The painting will depict the Battle of Huck's Defeat, which occurred at Historic Brattonsville on land which the land trust was instrumental in protecting. The program for the evening will also include a look back at the accomplishments of the land trust over the last 25 years, and a look forward to the board's vision of the land trust's future role in land conservation in York County. Our campaign to raise money for our Preservation Fund will also be introduced.

A series of outings to highlight the land trust's conservation projects will be scheduled leading up to our anniversary event. Please continue to check the website for details on these outings and to reserve your spot.

Mission

To preserve the open spaces, natural beauty, and scenic heritage of the York County, South Carolina area.

Board

Bernard Ackerman – Treasurer
Will Close - Secretary
Jeanne Ferguson
Steve Hamilton
John Hiott - Chair-Elect
Wil Hunter
Hiram Hutchison
Perry Johnston
Barry Mack, Jr. - Vice-Chair
Kathy Pender
Jetter Pittman
Jim Triplett
Murray White, Jr. - Chair

Staff

Jeff Updike - Executive Director
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Janet Steele - Dir. of Conservation & Development
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Beth Chuck - Nation Ford Greenway Coordinator
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Nation Ford Land Trust Executive Director

Jeff Updike

Fort Mill History Museum Exhibit Opens *Shifting Ground: A History of Land Use in Fort Mill*

A new exhibit at the Fort Mill History Museum which was sponsored by the Nation Ford Land Trust opened on April 16th, with a reception hosted by the museum on April 17th. The exhibit follows the history of how people have shaped Fort Mill's landscape from pre-settlement natural prairies to farms established by its first settlers, and eventually to subdivisions and greenways. Along with a collection of historical objects on display, *Shifting Ground* features five original art panels created by art students from Fort Mill and Nation Ford High School which interpret each of the major periods of land use in Fort Mill. Additional student artwork inspired by this exhibit is on display in the Samuel Elliott White Room for a limited time to celebrate the opening of *Shifting Ground*.

The exhibit also highlights the positive impact that Nation Ford Land Trust has had on York County's landscape by championing the preservation of sites of high conservation value, natural beauty, and ecological, scenic, and historical significance through a variety of land conservation practices.

Please plan a visit to the exhibit, which will run through July 2014. Information on museum hours, admission, and other events is available at the Fort Mill History Museum website <http://www.fortmillhistorymuseum.org/>.



Nation Ford Land Trust Chair Murray White donated a variety of antique farm tools and implements to the display.

Nation Ford Land Trust board member Wil Hunter, owner of Cleveland Lumber Company in Shelby, NC, donated an oak display case to the exhibit.



The Nation Ford Land Trust display focuses on several of its most unique projects that have been completed since its founding in 1989.

Membership

Membership renewals for 2014 will be mailed in June of this year to ensure an up-to-date mailing list of members for our 25th anniversary event in September.



Scout Completes Trail to Earn Eagle Scout Award



Nation Ford Greenway Project Coordinator
Beth Chuck

Adam Pehowski of Fort Mill planned and coordinated efforts to complete a reroute for a section of the Nation Ford Greenway trail and earn the

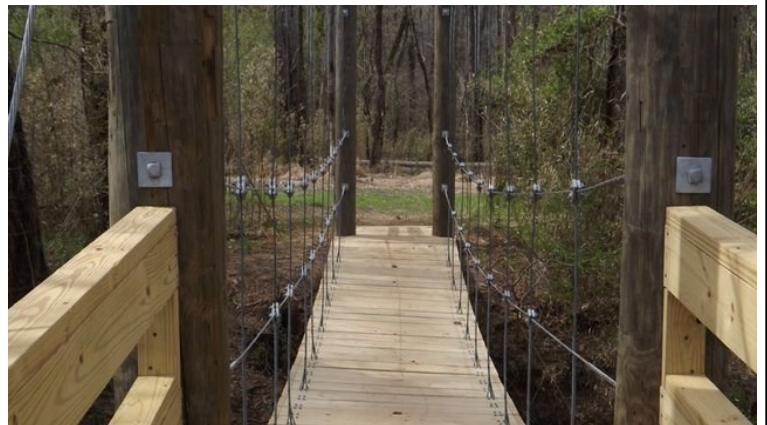
coveted Eagle Scout Award, the highest award in Scouting. An Eagle Scout Service Project must benefit an organization other than the Boy Scouts of America, such as any religious institution, school or community. The project is the final culmination of years of dedicated service by a scout, and demonstrates the leadership training he has acquired through his time in the Scouting program.

Adam is in the eleventh grade at Fort Mill High School, and is a member of Troop 219 at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church of Fort Mill. Adam spent many hours flagging the trail, completing the necessary paperwork, putting together an approved plan and managing other scouts that joined him in constructing the trail in one day. The residents of Fort Mill are lucky to have Adam and the other scouts finish the trail, which is part of the 15-county Carolina Thread Trail of SC and NC.

The newly constructed trail section is from the suspension bridge to the existing trail which runs north behind Fallbrook and Regal Manor. Although the trail section isn't very long, it was a challenge to clear, with years of trash, scrub bushes and fallen trees that were cut and then moved to allow for the trail to be constructed. The natural surface trail is the final phase that connects the neighborhoods of Springfield and Regal Manor. The trail difficulty is rated moderate, and is mostly level terrain that runs along the Sugar Creek for 3.5 miles.

The NFG does not receive any funding from a government agency. Please join the Friends of the Nation Ford Greenway and volunteer to help us continue making the Nation Ford Greenway a wonderful trail for our community and visitors. Instrumental to the trail's success will be The Friends of the Nation Ford Greenway. To become a Friend contact the Nation Ford Land Trust, www.nationfordlandtrust.org, for membership information. Contact us at GreenwayTrails@comporium.net or Outdoors@nationfordgreenway.com. Visit the Nation Ford Greenway on Facebook and 'Like' us and at our website www.nationfordgreenway.com We welcome your comments. Come out and enjoy nature on the Nation Ford Greenway.

General Information - The Nation Ford Greenway is supported by the generous donations of individuals, businesses, and foundations that share our vision of offering an outdoor experience with nature. The trails are open to the public at no charge from sunrise to sunset. If you pack it in, then please pack it out and take care of the trail. No bathroom or trash facilities. No motorized vehicles are allowed, and all dogs must remain leashed for the safety of other visitors and animals.



Top Left - Adam demonstrated the tools to the other volunteers before work began.

Top Right - The new suspension bridge

Bottom Left - Before the trail construction

Bottom Right - The completed trail



Thank you Adam and Troop 219



Nation Ford Land Trust
Director of
Conservation &
Development
Janet Steele

Partnerships

Nation Ford Land Trust representatives attended the dedication event on April 22nd of a 282-acre tract purchased by York County in August of last year. The property, which is located on North Burris Road in western York County, adjoins the 357 acre Kirsh Wildlife Management Area and will be managed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources as an extension of the Kirsh property. Through the donations made to the Nation Ford Land Trust from memberships and other generous private and corporate contributions, the land trust was able to partner with the York County Sportsmen's Committee and the National Wild Turkey Federation to assist York County with the purchase of the property. Negotiations for the purchase necessitated that the county allow the seller to retain timber rights for pine timber harvests for 15 years. The \$20,000 contributed by the NFLT allowed the county to purchase and retain 40 acres of hardwoods on the property, along with 17 acres of creek buffers.

Representatives from the York County Planning Department, the York County Forever Commission, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the South Carolina Forestry Commission, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the York County Sportsmen's Committee were also present at the dedication. Members of these organizations, along with NFLT chair Murray White, were given the opportunity to speak, and each stressed the importance of these groups continuing to work as partners in the land conservation efforts within York County.

(Left to Right) Board members Steve Hamilton and Hiram Hutchison joined Janet Steele, Murray White, and NFLT chair-elect John Hiott for the dedication event.

