



NATION FORD LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

Volume III Fall 2014

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

York County, South Carolina

www.nationfordlandtrust.org

An Update from Chairman John Hiott



Murray White (right) introduced new Nation Ford Land Trust chairman John Hiott at the 25th Anniversary Event.

As I get my feet on the ground as the new chairman of the Nation Ford Land Trust, I continue to be amazed at how smoothly Murray White seemed to operate and get things done as our past chairman. I do know that he could not have done the task without the help of our staff. Jeff Updike, Janet Steele and Beth Chuck are very professional and have the expertise to monitor and grow our programs.

We continue our task in conservation. We recently added a new easement and are working on several more that will close in the next several months. We are negotiating with a landowner for another section of trail that will bring us closer to a continuous trail system along the Catawba River in the Fort Mill area below the Lake Wylie dam. We also continue to work with other organizations in acquiring land for public use.

In closing, we continue to seek funds to make our work possible. We are always looking for ways to increase our funding, whether it is new grant writing opportunities or contributions from you. We encourage you to consider supporting us by joining our organization or working as a volunteer. This will enable us to provide you a greener future.



*The Nation Ford Land Trust Board
thanks Founders Federal Credit Union
for its generous support of
the 25th Anniversary Celebration*

Nation Ford Land Trust - 25 Year Sponsors



Will Close Harry and Becca Dalton Tracy and Jeanne Ferguson
Robert and Kathy Pender Murray and Joyce White



Mission

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

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Nation Ford Land Trust
Executive Director

Jeff Updike

25th Anniversary Celebration September 25, 2014 Brakefield Event Center, Rock Hill



(Above) Joyce White and daughter Susan Oppel joined Janet Steele in welcoming guests.



(Right) There was a wonderful turnout of 200 guests for the event, which included corporate and private sponsors, members, and easement donors.



(Above) Former U.S. Representative John Spratt shared childhood memories of growing up in York County and days spent on the banks of the Catawba River. He also noted the role the Nation Ford Land Trust has played in land conservation in York County for the past 25 years.

Thank you Billy Smith of RAW Shots for donating photography services for the anniversary event.

(Right) The social included an oyster roast overlooking the Catawba River, and was followed by a Southern Harvest Supper Buffet.



(Above) Murray White, who chaired the Nation Ford Land Trust since its founding in 1989, highlighted the land trust's accomplishments and introduced the evening's speakers.

(Below) Tom Okel, Executive Director of the Catawba Lands Conservancy, addressed the challenges land trusts throughout the region are facing from rapid urbanization. He encouraged guests to become active members of their local land trust. Tom also focused on the need for land trusts to move beyond traditional land conservation practices and become advocates for smart growth.



"Battle of Huck's Defeat" Unveiled

The Nation Ford Land Trust unveiled its latest fundraising project at the 25th Anniversary Event. Historical Artist Dan Nance was commissioned to paint the Battle of Huck's Defeat, which occurred at Historic Brattonsville adjacent to property the land trust was instrumental in protecting. Eight giclée on canvas of the painting were raffled off at the event. Prints of the painting are available at www.nationfordlandtrust.org/store.



Dan Nance (above) shared his love for history and how it has influenced his painting.



Jan and David Angel, guests of Harry Dalton (above left), won 2 of the canvases.

Murray White presented one of the canvases to Bryant Barnes (below right), President and CEO of Comporium, for Comporium's assistance in commissioning the painting.



Peggy and Gary Williams (above left) and their children David Williams and Alice Davis accepted the original painting on behalf of Williams and Fudge. Williams and Fudge was the lead sponsor for the project.



Partnerships

The Nation Ford Land Trust sponsored a second Eagle Scout Project in 2014. Eagle Candidate Austin Cutler is a senior in high school, and is a member of Troop 219 at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church of Fort Mill. Austin's project was to conduct the yearly monitoring of a population of the endangered Schweinitz's sunflower (*Helianthus schweinitzii*). This plant, which has been listed as endangered since 1991, was once found throughout the Piedmont of both Carolinas when much of the region was in prairies. It now occurs in small remnant populations in a few counties of North and South Carolina.

Austin began work on his project in May by reestablishing the monitoring quadrants on the 11.25-acre site, attaching metal conduit sprayed with high visibility paint to existing t-posts. Since the site is located under a Duke Energy transmission line, the higher visibility pipes and paint will help Duke maintenance crews avoid mowing over the quadrant markers. Austin then returned with a group of fellow scouts, leaders and parents in October to conduct the monitoring counts. By providing annual reports of the number of plants on the site, the Nation Ford Land Trust is assisting the US Fish and Wildlife Service with determining the recovery of these remnant populations of the plant in the Piedmont of South Carolina.



Nation Ford Land Trust
Director of
Conservation &
Development
Janet Steele



Austin (below left) demonstrated to fellow scouts how to identify the plant.



(Above) Janet Steele and her son Will, a Troop 219 Eagle Scout, helped Austin and his parents attach the painted conduit to the posts.



Nation Ford Land Trust Launches Capital Campaign

At its 25th Anniversary Celebration, the Nation Ford Land Trust launched 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, and for the land trust to continue partnering with other organizations in the acquisition of property with significant ecological, historical, scenic, and recreational values. To donate to the Nation Ford Land Trust or to become a member, please visit our website at www.nationfordlandtrust.org.



Nation Ford
Greenway Project
Coordinator
Beth Chuck

The Nation Ford Greenway receives no public funding to construct and maintain its trails. 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. To become a Friend, contact the Nation Ford Land Trust for membership information www.nationfordlandtrust.org or email 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.