



# Nation Ford Land Trust Newsletter

Preserving the open spaces, natural beauty and scenic heritage of York County, South Carolina

Volume V

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## A Message from Chairman John Hiott

The Nation Ford Land Trust is pleased to announce that Brittnay Brown has been named our new Executive Director of the land trust. Brittnay is a 2016 graduate of Winthrop University in environmental biology. Brittnay served the land trust as a student intern her senior year at Winthrop, and during that time, developed a good understanding of the work of the land trust. We are looking forward to her service. She has already immersed herself in her work and has great plans to further the mission of the land trust and the conservation of land in York County and its environs.

At the end of August, Janet Steele left the land trust to become the Director of Landowner Outreach, Forestry Education and Programs for the Forestry Association of South Carolina. During her tenure as Executive Director, Janet did an excellent job of furthering the mission of the land trust through her work with conservation easements, trail easements, public outreach, and fund raising. She will be missed and we wish her well in her new endeavors.

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## NFLT Accepts Easement Near McConnells Highway

Spratt and Sandra Hagler White have signed a 166 acre conservation easement near McConnells Highway in southern York County. The original 51 acres were purchased in the 1960's by Sandra's parents, Walter and Jeanette McElhaney Hagler, and passed down to Sandra during the 1980's. Over the years, Spratt and Sandra added to the initial 51 acres when the opportunity was available. A small portion of the property is currently leased to farmers where cotton, corn, soy or milo is grown. The rest of the property is covered in open fields and natural hardwood forests.

York County Forever provided the funding for this easement which lies in close proximity to the Chappell Farm and Historic Bratonsville. Both, Spratt and Sandra felt the need to protect their naturally beautiful and scenic property from possible development so the land can be enjoyed in its inherent state.



Picture taken on the White property displaying the beautiful hardwood forests and connecting fields.

Left to right: Ken Driggers, Spratt White, Sandra White and Executive Director of NFLT Brittney Brown



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Grant for Pollinator Garden

A few years ago, NFLT received a grant that provided funds to construct a pollinator garden at Banks Trail Middle School. The project has taken some time to move forward during the past few years but progress is being made. The grant is funding a 4,000 sq ft pollinator garden consisting of butterfly milkweed, white wild indigo, New England aster, sweet grass and several other native species. The grant has already provided a walking path for students to utilize from the library to an outdoor learning area. Rose Anne Keller, a teacher at Banks Trail Middle School, has headed the pollinator garden project for the past four years and will finally see the completed garden in Spring 2017. NFLT and U.S. FW plan to work with Rose Anne and school staff to organize an educational session with students about the need for pollinators and emphasizing the importance of native plant species.

In order to complete the garden by Spring 2017, we need volunteers to help spread mulch and top soil! If you are interested please contact Brittney Brown at 803-547-8140 or [Brittney@nationfordlandtrust.org](mailto:Brittney@nationfordlandtrust.org).

## Anticipated Easement with Rare “Blackjack” Soil

Steve Boyd is in the final stages to sign an easement with NFLT. The anticipated easement consists of 1000 acres on three separate neighboring properties in Chester County. This property possess a unique soil type referred to as Blackjack. This rare soil is considered threatened by the United States Natural Resource Conservation Service . “Blackjack” soils are known for their agricultural productivity and have the highest moisture holding capacity of any soil type found in South Carolina.

The funding for this easement will be provided by the South Carolina Conservation Land Bank. Steve Boyd also made a \$700,000 donation to the easement.

## 10th Anniversary of the Nation Ford Greenway

On July 26th 2007, the Nation Ford Greenway opened its first trailhead at A.O. Jones Boulevard in Fort Mill. Anne Springs Close led the first hike on this two mile trail segment. Over the years, the trail has grown in length, gained a suspension bridge and worked with local community members and organizations. The NFG has been and continues to be committed to its mission to connect the Carolinas.

The NFG will be holding a 10th anniversary celebration in July 2017. Please refer to our Summer Newsletter or our website ([www.nationfordgreenway.com](http://www.nationfordgreenway.com)) for more details about the NFG 10th anniversary.



### Mission

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

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### Staff

Brittnay Brown-Executive Director  
 Brittnay@nationfordlandtrust.org

### Mailing Address

Post Office Box 431  
 Fort Mill, SC 29716-0431  
[www.nationfordlandtrust.org](http://www.nationfordlandtrust.org)

### Office

210 Tom Hall Street  
 Fort Mill, SC 29715  
 Phone (803) 547-8140

The Nation Ford Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1989. The board of directors is a dedicated group of volunteers who support the land trust’s mission and seek opportunities to further its land conservation efforts.



## ***Nation Ford Land Trust Membership***

Nation Ford Land Trust depends on people who aspire to see the beauty of York County remain forever. The members of NFLT help to keep our mission moving forward. The United Nations reports that both the populations of Charlotte and Raleigh will “increase by 71% from 2010 to 2030,” (U.N. 2014). It is our responsibility, as a suburb of Charlotte, to protect and preserve the natural beauty of the Carolinas. We continue to look for opportunities to partner with the York County Forever Commission on conservation easements, as well as land purchases to provide public access. Your membership helps fund projects for both private and public use.

To donate to the Nation Ford Land Trust or to become a member please visit our website at [www.nationfordlandtrust.org](http://www.nationfordlandtrust.org).

## **NFLT Receives PRT Grant**

In Fall of 2016, NFLT accepted a \$100,000 grant from the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department (PRT). This PRT grant and the grant NFLT received from the Carolina Thread Trail (CTT) last year will be used to construct a 2 mile trail along the Catawba River. This trail will become a part of the CTT's North-South spine, a planned 140 mile continuous trail stretching from Statesville, NC to Great Falls, SC. The completion of this 2 mile segment is projected for the summer of 2018.

