

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Meet our newest Chairman, Steve Hamilton
- New conservation easements
- ASCG the future home of NFLT
- The Race for Greenspace
- Catawba Trail construction is underway
- New Website for 2018
- Support Sustainability in our community

Nation Ford Land Trust

VOLUME VI

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Meet Our Newest Board Members

Dan Love has lived in York County all his life and even attended Winthrop College in 1990 graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. He has been with BNA CPAs and Advisors since 1988. Dan is married with two sons ages 20 and 13. In his free time Dan enjoys Clemson sports, running, and golfing. He has served on the Board of the United Way of York County for six years-4 years as treasurer. Furthermore, he is a lifelong member and current elder of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Clover. Dan has volunteered for NFLT since its founding in 1989. In July 2017, Dan began his first official two year term on the NFLT Board of Directors.

Dr. Janice Chism is a professor of Biology and Anthropology at Winthrop University. Janice spent much of her childhood in the outdoors camping, hiking, and traveling. Her mother, the late Yvonne Barker, set the example for conservation work when she was the instrumental piece in preserving a vital wetland in northern San Francisco from development. Today, the site is a National Wildlife Refuge and a Tidal Restoration Area.

Dr. Chism received her BS in anthropology and her Ph.D in biological anthropology at UC Berkley. She spent several years studying patas monkeys in

Ghana and Kenya. Janice and her family moved from California to York County, SC in 1989. Since her time began at Winthrop in 1992, Janice began studying the red uacari monkeys and saki monkeys.

Nick Wimmer is the executive director and co-founder of Camp Canaan. Nick and his wife Tiffany have four children.

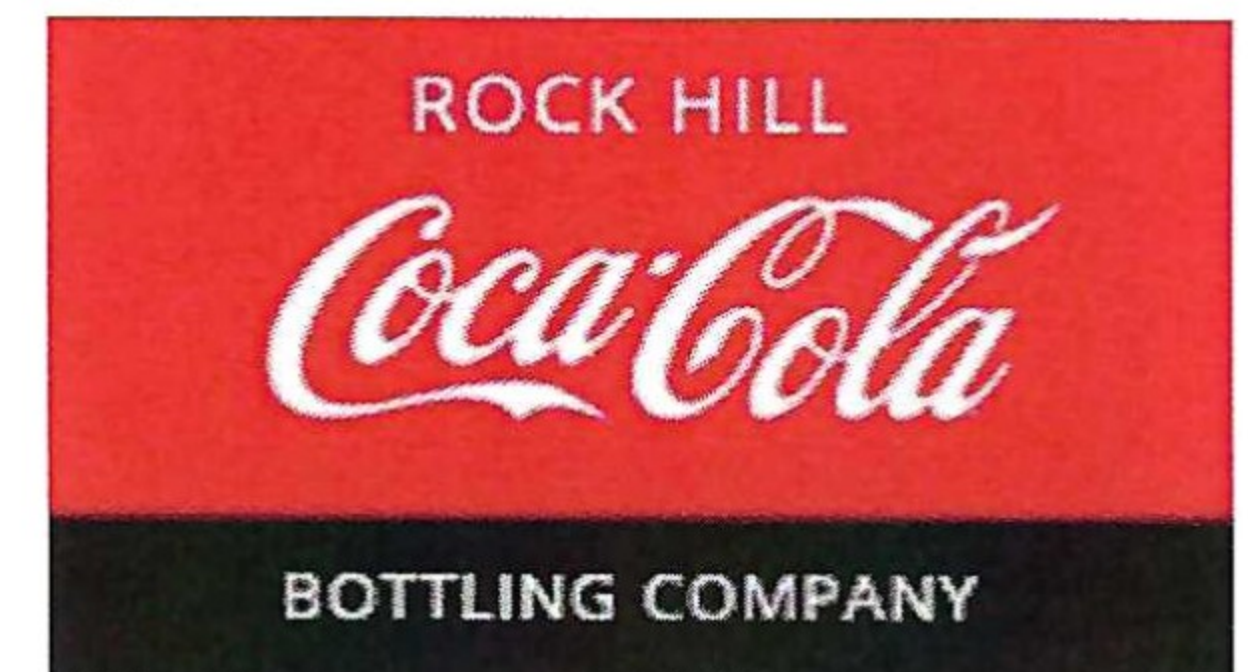
We are grateful for Dan, Dr. Chism, and Nick for their interest and commitment to the NFLT board. Furthermore, we are eager to witness the influence each new member will have on NFLT.

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Welcoming Our New Chairman

After two wonderful years, John Hiott has stepped down as the NFLT Chairman. During John's time as Chairman he surpassed expectations and worked hard to see the land trust grow and thrive. John was a pleasure to work with and we are grateful for the time and energy he put in during his term. NFLT is fortunate that John is still on the board as he has proven to be a vital member of the land trust.

Steve Hamilton is

our newest chairman. Steve has lived in York County since 1979. He graduated Pennsylvania State University with a BS in Environmental Resource Management. Steve served on the Tega Cay City Council for several years then was elected Mayor of Tega Cay for 8 years. He has dedicated years of service to numerous organizations such as: York County Forever Commission, Catawba River Corridor Committee, Lake Wylie Water Watch, and

the Tri-County Wastewater Study. Steve enjoys sailing, snow skiing, and scuba diving. He is married and has two adult children. Steve has been a member of the NFLT board for 17 years and we know he will perpetuate the succession of outstanding Chairmen in this organization.

Below is a photo of tires removed from Sugar Creek during our September 16th clean-up.

Three New Conservation Easements Underway

York County Counsel and York County Forever have voted to place a 248 tract into a conservation easement. The property is located down the road from Historic Bratonsville and is owned by York County native, Pat Williamson. This tract is in close proximity to several other conservation easements in McConnells.

Our second easement underway is a 30 acre property in Union Co. in North Carolina. We have been asked by Catawba Lands Conservancy to hold the conservation easement on the donated property.

Furthermore, we are working with Crescent Communities to secure a 15 acre easement off of Allison Creek Rd.



Small Organization, Big Impact

2019 will be NFLT's 30th anniversary and to date NFLT protects 11,279.78 acres! Our grasp extends beyond York County, we have easements on properties in Beaufort, Chester, Lancaster, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties. NFLT is actively looking for opportunities to preserve our scenic heritage and improve the ecological health of our region.

During the last year, our ED, Brittnay Brown, noticed hundreds of tires in Sugar Creek. The Fort Mill Times wrote on this story a couple of times

now and with their community reach we received overwhelming support from the community. There were local businesses willing to donate food and drinks, people willing to lend their tools and equipment and partner organizations supporting the clean-up. Although we had to cancel three of the five clean-ups due to weather, we have removed 135 tires from Sugar Creek. We would like to thank York County Waste and Recycling for their help with tire disposal. Also, we would like to thank the 7th and 8th grade students of Co-

menius School for Creative Leadership for their hard work. These students removed 64 tires in just a couple of hours! There are several hundred more tires to remove and we are planning our next clean-up for May 12th. Please add us on Facebook to receive updates about our volunteering opportunities. Sugar Creek receives majority of the runoff from Charlotte and Fort Mill so even a little rain can cause the creek to rise six feet or more. We need volunteers and funding! Please help any way you can.

An Exciting Year Ahead

NFLT is elated to announce the first annual RACE FOR GREENSPACE. We will be hosting a 5K at the Piedmont Medical Center Trail in Fall 2018. The Race for Greenspace allows us to reach out to the community and promote healthy living, sustainable natural resource practices, and the necessity for balance between development and greenspace. All proceeds for the Race for Greenspace will go to NFLT in order to fund our conservation goals for our Region. Please spread the word and check the

NFLT website for details and sign up information.

We will be unveiling our new website this Spring! With the help of our sponsor, InConcert Web Solutions, we are upgrading and redesigning our webpage. The new website will give us the ability to update our information with ease and become more user friendly.

In other news, we are working with the City of Rock Hill on an archaeological dig at our Civil

War Battery site. NFLT owns the .3 acre battery site that was donated in 1999. This site was a civil war battery for the protection of the railroad trestle across the Catawba River. This site is the highest point along this portion of the river, with an elevation of 550 feet. The dugout area where the battery was located is still visible today, however, to preserve the site we keep it closed off to the public.

Newest Nation Ford Greenway Segment on Catawba

We have officially begun construction on a 2.3 mile trail that will run from the York County Culture and Heritage Museum property (north of I-77) in Masons Bend and extend through the Scott Family property and continue under Hwy 21 to the existing Piedmont Medical Center Trail at Riverwalk. This trail

has proven to be more challenging than anticipated, however, we are grateful for the South Carolina PRT and Carolina Thread Trail for their help and funding. This will also become the newest addition to the CTT and will create over seven miles of continuous trail. The trail follows under I-77 and

under Hwy 21 and provides hikers and bikers with an overlook of the Catawba River. We are hopeful that the trail will open by mid Spring 2018.

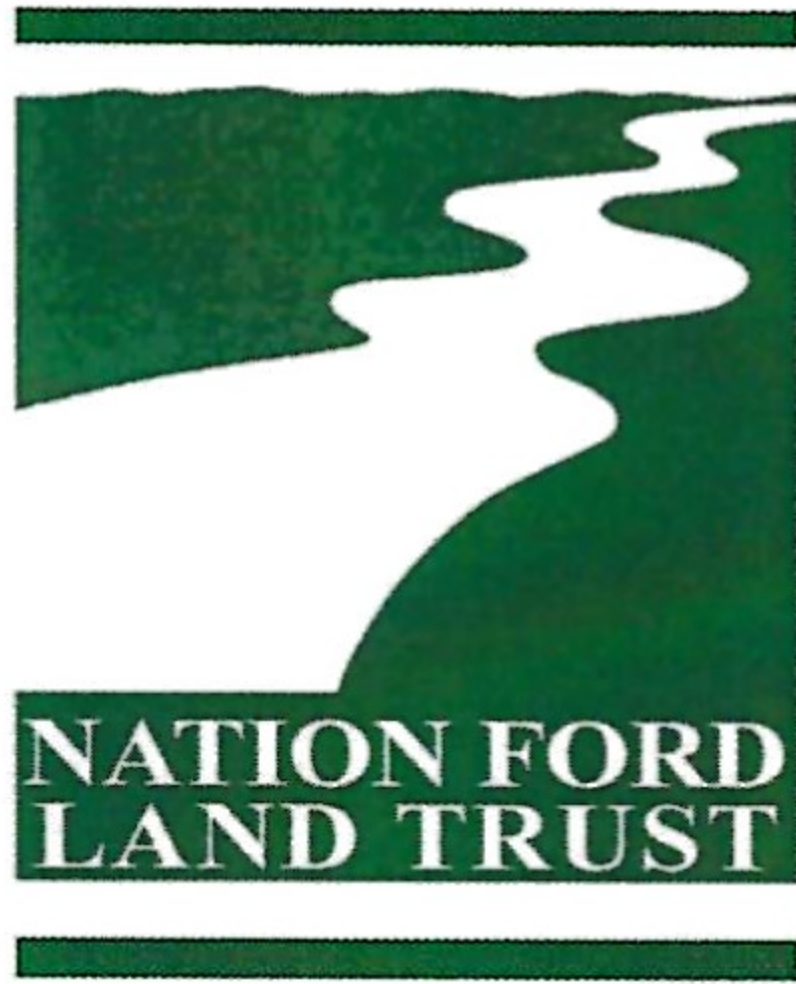
NFLT Office is Moving Again

After our office building on Tom Hall Street was purchased by the City of Fort Mill, we moved to the York County Regional Chamber building in downtown Rock Hill. The move has proven difficult since our Tom Hall Street office was home for many years, however, we are grateful that the YCRC

offered us an incredible opportunity and location. As much as we love our current location, we will be moving again in mid 2018. The Anne Springs Close Greenway is constructing a new office building and reserving a space for NFLT. Our board members feel that Fort Mill has always been the home of NFLT.

We are excited to relocate to the greenway where NFLT will be surrounded by protected greenspace in the heart of the most developed portion of York County.





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Bernie Ackerman

Janice Chism

Jeanne Ferguson

John Hiott-Past Chair

Wil Hunter

Perry Johnston

Kathy Pender

Jetter Pittman

Jim Triplett

Murray White

Nick Wimmer

The Catawba Nuclear Neighbors are working hard to preserve a 348 acre property on Lake Wylie adjacent to the Nuclear Power plant. The large tract is currently owned by Duke Energy who is currently looking to sell the land. With the support of our local community, we hope to preserve at least a portion of this property for community recreational use. Duke Energy, an occasional sponsor to NFLT, is considering a greenspace option but, we need community support. If you want more information please contact Don Clarke at catawbanucneighbors@aol.com or Brittnay Brown at Brittnay@nationfordlandtrust.org

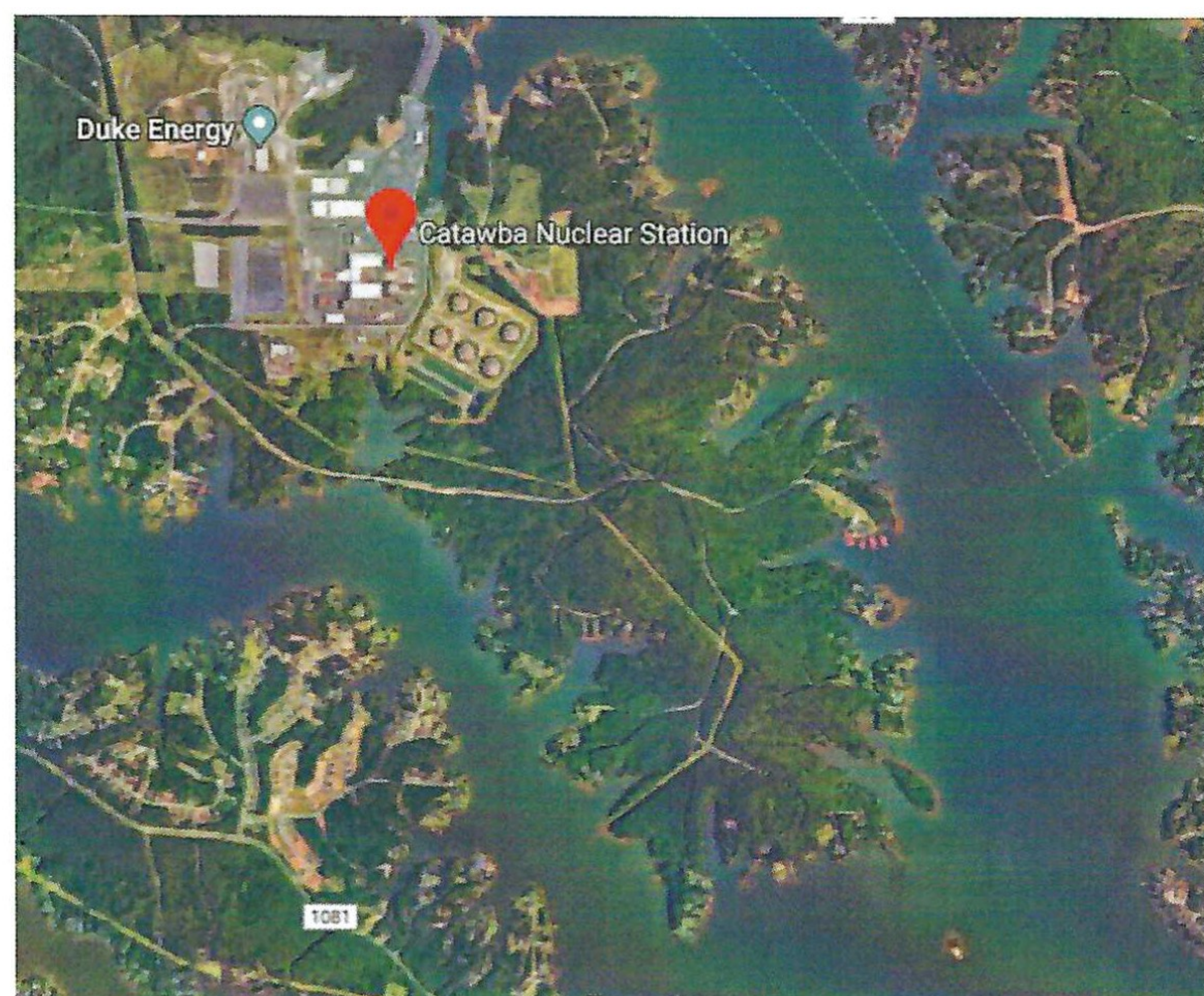


Photo courtesy of Google Maps