

Tar Heel Trails

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation



James B. Hunt, Jr.
Governor

Jonathan B. Howes
Secretary

Fall 1994

Volume 6 Number 3

Trails Committee Holds Quarterly Meeting

ASHEVILLE - The North Carolina Trails Committee conducted their second quarterly meeting on August 12 at the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources' Regional Office in Asheville.

Chairman Dean Coleman opened the meeting and welcomed the Trails Committee members, division staff and guest, Dr. Doris Bixby Hammett with the Balsam Highlands Task Force.

Phil McKnelly, director of the Division of Parks and Recreation thanked the North Carolina Trails Committee members for their support and help in getting Senate Bill 733 passed. The General Assembly intends to fund the bill at a level equal to the amount of resources generated by the excise tax increase of 1991. This amount is estimated to be around \$13 million which could mean \$10 million for the Park Fund and \$3 million for the Natural Heritage Trust Fund. For this fiscal year, \$1 million was appropriated to the Park Fund. McKnelly stated, "Even though the amount dedicated to parks was less than hoped for, a major victory was accomplished just by the bill's passage."

Phil McKnelly updated the North Carolina Trails Committee on their recommendation to increase the Adopt-A-Trail Grant Program from \$35,000 to \$100,000 annually. McKnelly stated that this \$65,000 increase was included in the Division of Parks and Recreation's expansion budget request but that other Division priorities would most likely be funded.

Chairman Dean Coleman told the North Carolina Trails Committee members that the "Greenways Advisory Panel's Report to the Governor" had been approved by the Secretary of the Department of Environ-

ment, Health, and Natural Resources and Governor James B. Hunt. Coleman stated that he was very pleased that this report had been printed and distributed to 1,600 people across North Carolina. This report defines greenways, recommends ways that state government can assist with the planning of and development of greenways, provides guidance for local communities that want to create greenways and identifies some funding sources for greenways. Dean Coleman served as Chairman of the Greenways Advisory Panel during the drafting of the report.

The North Carolina Trails Committee reviewed and approved the text for the North Carolina Trails System Guide and proposed changes to the guide map and approved the draft Annual Report of the North Carolina

Trails System for Fiscal Year 1993-1994.

Darrell McBane informed the North Carolina Trails Committee on a division initiative to request the North Carolina Department of Transportation fund the development of the North Carolina Trails, Rivers and Greenways Plan. The Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources has requested \$385,000 of ISTEA enhancement funds to develop this plan.

Members of the North Carolina Trails Committee attended the dedication ceremony for the Old Bald to Bear Pen Gap segment of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on August 13, 1994. The Secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources designated this trail as a component of the North Carolina Trails System in July 1994.



TRAILS TALK - Members of the North Carolina Trails Committee conduct business at the DEHNR regional office in Asheville.

Trails of Thought

Dear Fellow Trail Enthusiasts:

Our director, Phil McKnelly, often talks about "moments in time." As I remember it, he says things will happen when it's your moment in time. You can plan well, work hard and sell your programs and goals to the public, but if it is not your moment in time, things just don't seem to happen.

I have carefully observed and studied Phil McKnelly as he and others have informed the public about how the state parks system has been neglected over the years. Many hours of work were spent identifying and prioritizing the needs within the state parks system. These facts were delivered to the public in speeches, newspapers and on television. Yet, nothing happened. Work continued to spread the word. Coalitions were developed to support funding for the state parks system. Still, nothing happened.

In 1992 and 1993, I began to hear statements from Phil McKnelly like, "I believe that the state parks system's moment in time is near." Was he ever right! In 1993, voters approved the State Parks Bond referendum and in 1994, the General Assembly created the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. It was the state parks system's moment in time.

Yes, I know, some of you see where I'm going with this already. When will the State Trails Program's "moment in time" come??? We have planned well, worked hard and sold our program goals. We have coalitions of people from across the state, yet nothing happens.

Around May of this year, I began to proclaim that the State Trails Program's moment in time was near. We were talking greenways, river trails, rails-to-trails and overland trails like never before. We requested additional staff to support these growing trail movements and additional funding for the Adopt-A-Trail Program. What happened? These items made the list but were unlikely to be funded within the next two fiscal years. It was not the State Trails Program's moment in time.

Well, after cussing and fussing for a while about the plight of the State Trails Program, I began to take some solace in the fact that State Trails Program initiatives made the division's long session budget request. This budget request was reviewed by department staff who agreed to the need for additional staff and money for the program. Just not enough money to go around.

As the careful understudy of Phil McKnelly, I have realized that patience, persistence and timing are everything. As supporters of trails, we must continue to refine our plans and goals for the State Trails Program. Trails must become as important to the decision makers as were state parks during the last two years. To accomplish this task, we must continue to refine what state government can do to promote the planning, development and management of trails. We must continue to encourage our local officials to consider and plan for trails as an integral part of their parks and recreation programs. We must define and agree upon what we want. Do we want a system of state managed trails to serve as the backbone for the state trails system? Do we need to think about and plan for regional recreational authorities to manage regional trail connectors to this state managed backbone for the state trails system? What do we need to do to encourage local governments to plan, construct and manage local trails?

I believe that when all trail supporters can answer these questions in a unanimous voice, that the State Trails Program's "moment in time" will be here.

Sincerely,
Darrell
Darrell L. McBane

Trails Program Loses Regional Trails Specialist Position

In order to balance the state budget, the General Assembly reduced the staffing level of state government and eliminated vacant positions. The Central Piedmont Trails Specialist position, located in the Raleigh office, was abolished.

Thomas Schroeder, the Central Piedmont Trails Specialist, resigned from this position on March 25, 1994, to accept another work opportunity. During this same period of time, John Shaffner, Western Piedmont Trails Specialist, stated that he would be resigning his position in June to accept work in Colorado. A decision was made to wait for John Shaffner's resignation and advertise for both positions at once. Interviews were complete and the Division of Parks and Recreation had forwarded their recommendations to the office of State Personnel in July. On July 29, 1994, the Division of Parks and Recreation received the news that one position had been eliminated.

Timson Employed As Central Region Trails Specialist

The Division of Parks and Recreation and the State Trails staff are pleased to announce that Beth Timson is employed as the Central Region Trails Specialist.

Beth is a recent graduate from North Carolina State University with a masters degree in Landscape Architecture. Around the office, she is called Doctor or Professor Beth Timson because she possesses a Ph.D. in English and has taught English at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. A good backup degree for working in the Raleigh office.

Beth was working with The Conservation Fund in Chapel Hill on plans for the Center for the Sounds in Tyrrell County. The state was able to lure her away through talk of statewide greenways, rivers and overland trails.

Beth will work with local, state and federal agencies and volunteer trail organizations in 34 counties in the central region of the state. She will also work closely with the Greenways Advisory Panel to promote the greenways movement statewide.

The Division of Parks and Recreation and the State Trails staff are very pleased that she accepted our offer.

Division Realigns Trail Regions

In late July, the Division of Parks and Recreation received word that the Central Piedmont Regional Trails Specialist Position was abolished as a result of actions taken late in the short session of the General Assembly. The General Assembly eliminated a number of vacant state positions in order to balance the state budget. Due to the loss of this Regional Trails Specialist position, the Division of Parks and Recreation needed to reassign the counties of the state into three regions to be served by the remaining specialists.

The State Trails Program staff met to

discuss a proposed list of counties that divide the state as equally as possible and distributes the state parks and recreation areas within the three regions as equally as possible. On August 12, this recommendation was presented to the North Carolina Trails Committee for their consideration.

On September 26, 1994, Phil McKnelly gave final approval for the three new regions. The regions are: 1) the Mountain Region served by Dwayne Stutzman out of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources (DEHNR) Asheville Regional Office in Asheville; 2) the Central

Region, served by Beth Timson out of the Division of Parks and Recreation's Yorkshire Office in Raleigh; and 3) the Coastal Region, served by Tom Potter out of the Division's East District Office at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park in Seven Springs.

The Western Piedmont Regional Trails Specialist's office in the DEHNR Winston-Salem Regional Office has been closed.

The following chart provides you with the addresses and telephone numbers of the State Trails Program staff as well as an alphabetized listing of counties in each Regional Trails Specialist's area.

STATE TRAILS PROGRAM STAFF North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation

State Trails Coordinator
12700 Bayleaf Church Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27614
(919) 846-9991

MOUNTAIN REGION
DEHNR Regional Office
59 Woodfin Street
Asheville, NC 28802
(704) 251-6208
FAX: (704) 251-6452

CENTRAL REGION
Yorkshire Center
12700 Bayleaf Church Road
Raleigh, NC 27614
(919) 846-9991
FAX: (919) 870-6843

COASTAL REGION
Cliffs of the Neuse State Park
345-B Park Entrance Road
Seven Springs, NC 28578
(919) 778-9488
FAX: (919) 778-9589

COUNTIES

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Alexander | McDowell | Alamance | Person | Beaufort | Martin |
| Alleghany | Mitchell | Anson | Randolph | Bertie | New Hanover |
| Ashe | Polk | Cabarrus | Richmond | Bladen | Onslow |
| Avery | Rowan | Caswell | Rockingham | Brunswick | Pamlico |
| Buncombe | Rutherford | Chatham | Scotland | Camden | Pasquotank |
| Burke | Swain | Davidson | Stanley | Carteret | Pender |
| Caldwell | Transylvania | Durham | Stokes | Chowan | Perquimans |
| Catawba | Watauga | Forsyth | Surry | Columbus | Pitt |
| Cherokee | Wilkes | Franklin | Union | Craven | Robeson |
| Clay | Yancey | Granville | Vance | Cumberland | Sampson |
| Cleveland | | Guilford | Warren | Currituck | Tyrrell |
| Davie | | Halifax | Wake | Dare | Washington |
| Gaston | | Harnett | Yadkin | Duplin | Wayne |
| Graham | | Hoke | | Edgecombe | Wilson |
| Haywood | | Lee | | Gates | |
| Henderson | | Mecklenburg | | Green | |
| Iredell | | Montgomery | | Hertford | |
| Jackson | | Moore | | Hyde | |
| Lincoln | | Nash | | Johnston | |
| Macon | | Northampton | | Jones | |
| Madison | | Orange | | Lenoir | |

The State Trails Program staff is available to assist local, state and federal government agencies and non-profit/volunteer trail organizations who desire to plan, develop, construct and manage trails for the citizens of North Carolina. Contact your Regional Trails Specialist at the address or telephone number listed above.

DEHNR Requests Funds For Trails, Rivers & Greenways Plan

RALEIGH - In early August, Jonathan Howes, Secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources requested that the North Carolina Department of Transportation fund the development of the North Carolina Trails, Rivers and Greenways Plan.

The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transportation Authority's Final Rule for Statewide Planning require, as an element of the Statewide Transportation Plan, a plan for trails which is appropriately interconnected with other modes of transportation.

The Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources' North Carolina Trails System Plan is approximately eighteen-years-old and does not begin to offer the level of detail suggested by the Final Rules.

The Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources has offered its expertise in the field of recreational trails planning and hands-on management of the planning process. All planning activities will be coordinated with the Department of Transportation's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program and the Rail Division to assure effi-

cency and effectiveness since there are conditions under which trails will serve both transportation and recreation functions.

The Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources has proposed a five-step planning process for the development of the North Carolina Trails, Rivers and Greenways Plan. This five-step planning process includes:

1. An inventory of all existing trails and greenways within each county and city across the state.
2. The trail information collected during the inventory process will be computerized using a database and scale comparable with the Department of Transportation's systems. This database can then be used for planning, updating the trail inventory and creating needed trail maps and guides.
3. An assessment of the trail information will be undertaken to determine the current status of trails in North Carolina, identify trails as primarily transportation or recreational in value, and to identify the effect of trail and greenway plans on current and future transportation plans.
4. Public workshops will be held in each of the 14 highway divisions to solicit public

input on the public's desire for trails and greenways within the area and potential connections to surrounding areas.

5. Drafting of the North Carolina Trails, Rivers and Greenways Plan will begin after the inventory and public workshops are complete. One statewide public workshop will be held to solicit public input on the conceptual North Carolina Trails, Rivers and Greenways Plan.

The Secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources has not received any response to this request from the Department of Transportation at this time.

Say It Ain't So!

McBane Typical?

By Beth Timson

Central Region Trails Specialist

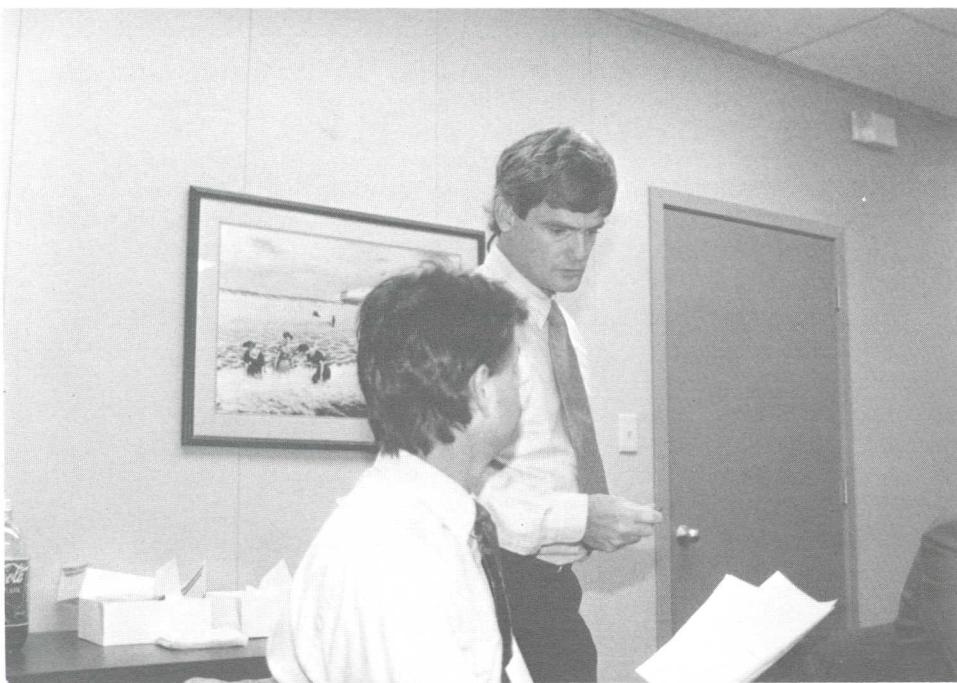
North Carolina State University professor Roger Moore has recently published a survey of State Trail Programs under the aegis of the National Association of State Trail Administrators. Included in his report is a section which profiles the typical state trail administrator.

How does North Carolina's own State Trails Coordinator Darrell McBane fit the profile? Very closely, in fact.

The typical administrator of a state trails program has held the job for 6.5 years; November, 1994, will make 6.5 years in the job for Darrell. He and 71% of the persons in this position are male. And like most other state trails administrators, Darrell McBane has a degree in parks and recreation.

The average age of a state trails administrator is 43; Darrell will only mutter that he's "not quite there yet." And yes, like most of the persons who hold similar positions in other states, Darrell has had experience in several trails jobs before taking on the one he now has.

All of these statistics may mean that Darrell McBane is a typical state trails administrator—but those of us who have the privilege of knowing North Carolina's State Trails Coordinator Darrell McBane know that he is anything but average!



TYPICALLY SPEAKING - Typical State Trails Coordinator Darrell McBane (right) in not-so-typical dress talks typical trails talk with Coastal Region Trails Specialist Tom Potter. As of this printing, no determination has been made as to the typicalness of the North Carolina regional trails specialists.

\$35 Million Parks Bond Projects Approved

General Assembly Establishes Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

By Margaret Blair Hassell
Public Information Officer

RALEIGH - In one of its final actions of the short session, state legislators passed a bill creating a consistent source of funds for parks and recreation in North Carolina. The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, will provide money for capital improvements, repairs, renovations and land acquisition in state and local parks.

Hailing the bill as the most important piece of legislation in the history of the North Carolina state parks system, DEHNR Secretary Jonathan Howes said, "This is a red letter day for parks and recreation in North Carolina. The General Assembly has recognized the importance of our natural resources to our economy and to our quality of life. Our historically neglected state parks can finally look ahead to a brighter future."

In Senate Bill 733, legislators stated it was their intent to dedicate an amount equal to 75% of the state's \$13 million share of the deed transfer tax to the trust fund in an annual appropriation. This year's trust fund appropriation is one million dollars.

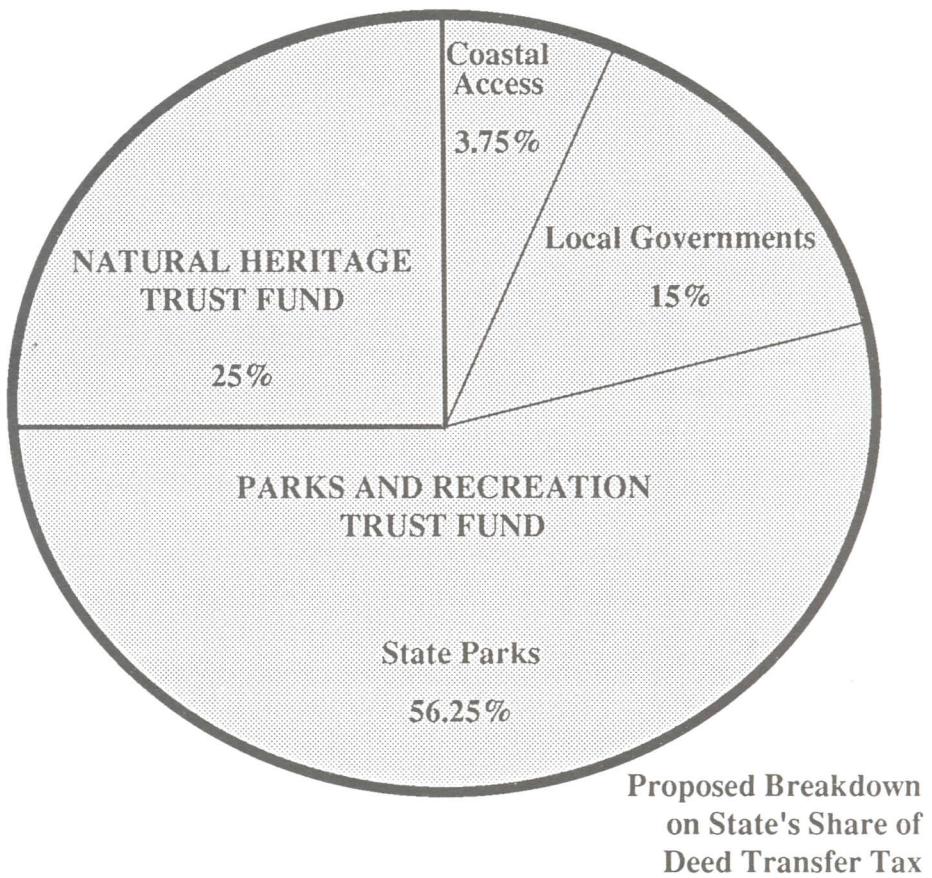
Of the funds allocated to the Parks and Recreation Fund, 75% will go to the state parks system to fund a \$200 million backlog of needs. Twenty percent will provide matching grants to local governments for local parks and recreation purposes. The remaining 5% will go to the Coastal and Estuarine Water Beach Access Program.

In addition to creating the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the bill changes the

name of the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund to the Natural Heritage Trust Fund. In the legislation, lawmakers stated it was their intent to increase the heritage trust fund's share of the deed transfer tax from 15% to 25%.

Lawmakers also approved a spending plan for the \$35 million worth of bonds approved by voters last November. The division is working on a bond sale schedule

with the state treasurer. Construction projects or land purchases will occur in almost every park in the system. Four hundred thousand dollars of the bonds will be dedicated to trail work. Completion of the projects should take four years.



Proposed Breakdown
on State's Share of
Deed Transfer Tax

Trails Committee To Review 39 Adopt-A-Trail Grant Applications

The Adopt-A-Trail Grant Program awards funds to interested trails groups for such pursuits as placing trail markers, trail building, designing of brochures, production of informational videos on trails and the continual maintenance of trails throughout North Carolina.

This year, the Division of Parks and Recreation has received 39 applications totaling \$151,762 in requests for the \$35,000 available in the 1994-95 Adopt-A-Trail grant awards program. The trails committee will be reviewing these applications at their November meeting in Wilmington.

In February of 1994, Governor James B. Hunt Jr. announced the 27 recipients of the 1993-1994 Adopt-A-Trail Grant Program awards.

Regional Trail Plans Included In State Parks Systemwide Plan

The 1987 State Parks Act mandates that the Division of Parks and Recreation prepare a systemwide plan for the North Carolina State Parks System every five years. Preparation of the plan includes holding a series of public meetings.

In December of 1993, the draft "Systemwide Plan for the North Carolina State Parks System" was completed by the

planning and development section and forwarded for management review. The plan was approved earlier this year.

Included in the systemwide plan is a section titled "Trail Expansion Beyond System Borders." This section identifies four regional trail plans which can be accomplished primarily on public lands and includes a strategy for long distance hiking

trails, river/canoe trails, rails-to-trails, and greenways.

A copy of the system wide plan may be obtained by writing the planning and development section at Division of Parks and Recreation, 12700 Bayleaf Church Road, Raleigh, NC 27614 or by calling Bayard Alcorn at (919) 846-9991.

Regional Trail Plans

- **Long Distance Hiking Trails:** A 325-mile section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, from Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Stone Mountain State Park, roughly parallel the Appalachian Trail, can be completed using public lands. To date, over 221 miles of this trail have been constructed and are maintained by volunteer trail organizations.
- **River/Canoe Trail:** The Cape Fear River Trail (Lee County to Southport), a 200-mile river/canoe trail, can be completed by developing river access areas on public lands. Completion will require a cooperative effort between eight counties, six municipalities, the Division of Parks and Recreation, the Wildlife Resources Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and trail volunteers. It will follow a historic shipping route used to ferry supplies from Wilmington to Fayetteville.
- **Rails-to-Trails:** The American Tobacco Trail (Durham to Bonsal) is a 23-mile proposed rails-to-trails conversion that encourages the revitalization of an inactive Norfolk-Southern rail line. The railroad right-of-way would be converted into a trail for bicycling, walking, horseback riding, and similar non-motorized uses. The rail-trail could connect the Jordan Lake State Recreation Area to the developing greenway system in Durham county and the city of Durham. Completion will require a cooperative effort between the counties of Wake, Chatham, and Durham, the city of Durham, the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, the Wildlife Resources commission, potentially the towns of Cary and Apex, and volunteer trail organizations. To date, the N.C. Department of Transportation has offered to purchase sections of the railroad right-of-way in the city of Durham and Wake County.
- **Greenways:** The South Shore Falls Lake Trail (Northeast Durham county to the Falls Lake Dam) is a 40-mile hiking trail that can be completed on lands owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and leased by the state of North Carolina for development and management purposes. Completion will require a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Division of Parks and Recreation, the Wildlife Resources Commission, and volunteer trail organizations. The Secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources has designated 20 miles of this trail as a component of the North Carolina Trails System.

GREENways

Hunt Shows Support for Greenways

RALEIGH - Executive Order No. 58, signed by Governor Jim Hunt on July 14, 1994, is a strong statement of support for greenways in North Carolina.

The order recognizes the work that has already been done in local greenways programs across the state and cites the clear benefits of greenways to the public. However, as the order also observes, state support for local programs has been "unfocused" since greenways projects typically cross jurisdictional boundaries; opportunities exist for state agencies to become more responsive to local governments.

The order states its basic policy clearly:

"It shall be the policy of the State to make every reasonable effort to anticipate and otherwise accommodate local government requests related to the development of greenway systems." It recommends implementing institutional solutions to greenways issues, rather than waiting to deal with each local issue on a case-by-case basis as it arises.

Several state agencies are directed to take specific actions. The State Property Office and the Department of Transportation are to "work with local governments to integrate local greenways with State lands...in a manner that is compatible with the func-

tion and management of the property." The Dept. of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources is directed to "continue the leadership role it began with the establishment of the North Carolina Greenways Advisory Panel." The order also gives DEHNR responsibility for developing statewide educational information about greenways.

A copy of this Executive Order was mailed with the "Greenways Advisory Panel's Report to the Governor" this spring to 1600 local government authorities across the state. Together they form a strong base for an exponential increase in greenways activity in North Carolina.

Greenways Report Makes An Impact Across North Carolina

By Beth Timson
Regional Trails Specialist

"This report is great! How can we get more copies for our planning board?" That message has been coming in to the Raleigh trails office more and more frequently these days. The long-awaited "Greenways Advisory Panel's Report to the Governor" was issued in May, and 1600 copies were sent to local government authorities across the state. The response has been positive and energetic.

The report is the product of a 12-member Greenways Advisory Panel, appointed by Secretary Bill Cobey in January, 1991. The panel worked for two years, collecting information from technical advisors and state agencies on everything from acquisition of land to zoning regulations—not skipping all the topics in between. They added their own considerable professional expertise to bring this information into a readable, workable manuscript.

The report is a compilation of good ideas on what needs to be done at the state level to make greenways easier for local governments and how those local governments can go about designing and funding their own greenways programs. For instance, the section on recommendations for state government includes a section on "buffers." It notes that each agency of state government

which regulates water quality has different standards and methodologies for determining buffer width, and suggests creation of "a single, logical, and scientifically defensible methodology for determining the appropriate width of required buffers." This section also includes a list of specific state statutes that could be fine tuned with minor amendments to make the laws more greenways-friendly.

The section for local communities is the outline of a how-to-do-it primer on greenways. It covers comprehensive planning, public participation, design, development, and management. Some recommendations are visionary: "Describe the benefits that a greenway system would provide for the public." Some are intensely practical: "Start right away."

Of major interest for greenways planners is the section on funding. It identifies specific governmental agencies which administer money and describes the goal that each agency is authorized to help a community achieve. Mentioned are the obvious sources, such as ISTEA money, as well as some surprising ones, such as Housing and Urban Development and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The report concludes with an appendix which is still in rough form, since it consists mostly of notes from the various technical

advisors who spoke to the panel. Rough or not, the information can be invaluable for finding the necessary resource people to address some specific local issue, such as trail erosion or a profile of the typical greenways user.

To Get Your Copy

If you haven't gotten a copy of the Greenways Report yet, and you're thinking of greenways in your community, get one from DEHNR. A limited number are available for \$6.50.

To obtain a copy, write:
Bill Flournoy
Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs Office
PO Box 27687,
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687.
Or call (919) 715-4191.

If you already have a report, read it again. This document will be the catalyst for a lot of greenways activity around the state in the future.

More on GREENways on pages 8 & 9.

The Greenways Panel Is Dead... Long Live the Greenways Panel

With the publication in May 1994, of the "North Carolina Greenways Advisory Panel's Report to the Governor," the work of the first greenways panel was officially completed. That panel had been authorized by Governor James Martin and appointed by DEHNR Secretary William Cobey in 1991. The initial impetus for such a panel came from the 1990 Greenways Conference, which had suggested a study of ways that state government could help local governments expedite greenways programs.

That first panel was chaired by Dean Coleman, Trails Committee Chairman and Director of the Alamance County Parks and Recreation Department. He was joined on the committee by 11 members: Bill Flournoy, Division of Planning and Assessment; Sheron Morgan, Department of Administration; Judy Hunt, Winston-Salem Planning Department; Bill Ross of the law firm Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey, and Leonard; Bob Mosher, Raleigh Planning Department; Curtis Yates of the DOT Bicycle Program; Mark Sullivan, DOT Rails Program; Sue Schwartz, Greensboro Planning Department; Nancy Brunnemer, Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation; MaryAnne Moore, Knightdale City Council; and Chuck Flink of Greenways, Inc.

This group met through 1991 and 1992, collected vast quantities of data, and developed goals and strategies for presenting this information in a concise, readable report. The completed report wound its way through the layers of state government, and in February 1994, the new Secretary of DEHNR, Jonathan Howes, was able to announce the imminent public release of the report.

The panel had done its assigned task superbly, but as a group they felt that more work needed to be done and urged the Secretary to appoint a second Greenways Panel to continue the job. Some of the goals drafted by the original panel had not been accomplished, and the recommendations in the report needed to be developed more fully if they were to help local governments. There was also the unanswered question of what sort of group would continue to support greenways interests at the state level.

In August 1994, Secretary Howes authorized the Greenways Advisory Panel to continue its work, praising the published report's "overall excellence" and the need to insure "broad implementation of the report's

recommendations." He charged the new panel with four general tasks: (1) support and assistance with creating a statewide Trails and Greenways Plan, (2) development of promotional tools for greenways, (3) development of a greenways action package to help local communities in their planning process, and (4) identification of funding sources for greenways projects.

The new panel is made up of some of the members from the original panel with some new members who will help the group carry out those charges. Sue Schwartz agreed to chair the new Greenways Advisory Panel, and original members Dean Coleman, Bill Flournoy, Judy Hunt, Bill Ross, Curtis Yates, Nancy Brunnemer, MaryAnne Moore, and

Chuck Flink agreed to serve again.

Joining them will be Rodney Swink, Division of Community Assistance; Berry Williams, Division of Emergency Management; Rene Gledhill-Early, Division of Archives and History; David Little, Division of Travel and Tourism; Roger Hart, Office of State Planning; Roger Moore, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department of N.C. State; Julian Prosser, Director of Raleigh's Community Development Program; and Page Crutcher of The Conservation Fund. The new appointees bring great experience in the promotion and marketing of greenways and in community economic development, as well as representing a cross-section of agencies involved in greenways planning.

What Is A Greenway?

When the Greenways Advisory Panel was created in January, 1991, the first task of the panel was to define greenways. The panel members decided upon the following definition: A greenway is linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley or ridgeline, or manmade overland feature such as abandoned railroad rights-of-way, canal scenic road or other route. They may be located within urban and rural areas, and provide public access to the unique, scenic, and natural lands and waters of North Carolina.

To further define the full scope and function of greenways, the panel provided the following additional clarifications to the description: "Greenways may protect the essential functions of natural eco-systems by preserving the land, water, and habitat of these systems. As an environmental land management and environmental education tool, greenways: conserve native trees and vegetation; allow critical floodplain land to remain open; provide areas for management of urban stormwater; protect sensitive wetlands; maintain natural filtering abilities of creeks and streams to improve water quality; provide secure nesting and breeding areas for wildlife; and filter pollutants from our air.

Continuous greenways can provide

opportunities for alternative transportation that does not pollute. They also link people with natural and community resources such as schools, parks, retail and commercial areas, nature reserves, places of employment, cultural features, and historic sites. Greenways function as buffers between conflicting land uses for physical separation and noise abatement.

Greenways can provide opportunities for recreation, offering an essential link with the outdoors. They do not discriminate and appeal to all age groups, both sexes, and all nationalities. They improve the quality of life within communities and serve as a source of pride for all people who are associated with their development. Greenways maintain the ambiance and close-knit feeling of small town America - restoring "main street" - by providing residents of local neighborhoods with places for strolling, social interaction, and family outings.

Greenways offer new generations of North Carolinians an opportunity to enjoy and learn from the resources that their parents and grandparents experienced - the stream, the forest, the open meadow. They are a place of peace and quiet - a place to explore, learn, renew, and enjoy the company of others. They are a natural landscape from which personal strength can be drawn."

New Greenways Advisory Panel Meets

RALEIGH - When DEHNR Secretary Jonathan Howes asked 17 people to serve on the second Greenways Advisory Panel (GAP), he knew he was asking them to undertake a major project. The first 12-member panel had worked two years and produced a report on greenways that is garnering praise around the state. Then, before they disbanded, they told the Secretary that they knew their work was not complete. They asked to be reauthorized, with new members and a new charge.

The second panel, with its continuing and new members, met for the first time on September 20, 1994, at the Rolling View Community Center on Falls Lake. It was a crisp autumn day, and the lake sparkled outside the windows, but the group stayed focused on the tasks which the Secretary had given them. They had been asked to find ways to (1) support and assist in creating a statewide Trails and Greenways plan, (2) develop marketing and promotional tools for greenways, (3) develop an action package for local governments to use in planning, and (4) identify funding sources for greenways.

Group members decided that subcommittees of 3 or 4 persons would be best for getting into specifics on each of these charges. Each person present took on one or more of the jobs depending on what she or he felt best qualified to do. Several of the new panel members have expertise in community economic assistance, so the marketing and local action package committees have significant experience backing them up. Creating a statewide plan attracted subcommittee members who have been involved with greenways in North Carolina since the concept was invented. Finding funding, as usual, was nobody's first choice, but several members admitted to being very creative at finding financial support for projects and agreed to do the work.

One issue that was *not* a charge from the Secretary evolved from the discussion of these other ideas to take center stage. Even if this panel manages to complete the Herculean tasks set out for it, what is next? What body will keep the program moving ahead? Who in five years, or ten years, will respond to questions from local governments or the legislature or the Secretary of DEHNR? What group will monitor greenways interests at the state level in future years?

The original panel had suggested the

appointment of a North Carolina Greenways Commission, but this second panel wanted to know exactly how that might work. Would it be appointed by the DEHNR Secretary, or would it be statutory, similar to the Environmental Management Commission? Is a commission necessary, or can some state personnel take over its functions? Where would such a commission be located within the state government structure, since greenways overlap so many agency jurisdictions?

The GAP members decided that answering these questions is crucial to their mission, since they see their work as forming a transition between the first GAP and whatever new group takes on the responsibility for greenways. As one member ob-

served, "We want the new group to be able to hit the ground running. The structures and the authority and the particular responsibilities should be clear for them when they get going."

An ad hoc subcommittee, made up of some former and some new members, decided to take on this question and try to bring some written recommendations back to the full GAP's next meeting on October 25.

This reincarnation of the GAP promises to be as exciting as the initial one. The energy and enthusiasm at this first meeting was high, and the members are ready to settle into the job. Whatever direction this group decides to take, greenways planning is in good hands.

Swift Creek Recycled Greenway Dedicated On Earth Day

CARY - The award-winning Swift Creek Recycled Greenway, the nation's first greenway to be constructed entirely from products of recycling, was dedicated on Earth Day at Ritter Community Park. The greenway is the first comprehensive endeavor that reuses recycled materials in the environment that recycling seeks to protect. Environmentally friendly construction practices and materials, that provide a resource for educating the public on how to close the recycling loop, were used in the construction of the mile-long greenway.

The Swift Creek Recycled Greenway was initiated as a joint venture between the Town of Cary and Greenways Incorporated, an environmental planning and landscape architecture firm specializing in greenway planning nationwide.

The venture blossomed into an innovative public-private partnership involving 23 businesses and five government agencies. Most of the recycled products used in the project were manufactured and donated or substantially discounted by state and local businesses. In-kind service contributions were made by project partners as well.

The Swift Creek Recycled Greenway was selected as a statewide winner of the 1992 Take Pride In America award. Presenting the award, Governor Jim Hunt commended the Town and Greenways, Inc. for their work to promote wise use and stewardship of North Carolina's public resources.

A community of more than 60,000, Cary has set national records for its volunteer recycling participation. With a current average participation rate topping 99%, Cary has more than doubled the 45% national standard participation rate.

Public education is a vital component of the Swift Creek Recycled Greenway. Educational signage throughout the trail, constructed from recycled materials, raises citizen awareness for the need to recycle waste and to divert these materials from the solid waste stream. The Swift Creek Recycled Greenway emphasizes closing the recycling loop by collecting waste, manufacturing waste into beneficial products, and utilizing recycled materials in manufacture.

The Cary greenways program was initiated in 1976 to help preserve pristine open space threatened by rapid development, to provide a recreational resource for Cary citizens, and to contribute to the quality of life in the community.

The Swift Creek Recycled Greenway sets a new standard for using recycled products, by implementing innovative public/private partnerships for the benefit of the community, incorporating environmentally friendly construction practices, and educating the public about recycling.

Communities interested in the project may obtain more information by contacting Tim Brown in the Cary planning and development office at (919) 469-4086.

Trail Blazers

While they're not exactly sworn enemies, mountain bikers and park supervisors are often a mutually destructing lot. The rangers frequently dog mountain bikers for tearing up trails; the bikers often return the favor by riding against the rules.

But not at Lake Crabtree County Park, where cooperation between the two groups has yielded not only the best legal single-track mountain biking trail in the Triangle, but also plans for a second loop trail. Construction is already underway.

You can thank members of the N.C. Fats mountain biking club for the trails and the goodwill that has won over park officials. Even after building the loop, they continued to work weekends correcting erosion and encouraging responsible riding.

"The experiment has been working out extremely well," says Wake County Parks landscape architect Robert Hinson. "The mountain bikers have proven that volunteers with a specific purpose and some direction

can provide a trail we all can use."

The deal park officials offered the club last year was simple: Build and maintain a trail for mountain bikes, and you can ride all you want.

Knowing a good thing when they heard it, club members spent last winter and spring completing the first loop, a 2.5-mile trail accessible across the main park road from the first parking lot you come to after entering the park. Traveling over rolling land that creates a moderately challenging ride, the trail has attracted hundreds of Triangle bikers looking for a single-track fix since its opening this summer.

The new trail should complement the existing one, says N.C. Fats' Katy Weatherly. The planned 3-mile loop will have more challenging stretches than the first, she said. It will connect with the existing trail, and will run through land to the north and west of the current loop.

Club members are looking for volun-

teer trail builders, so if you've enjoyed the existing trail, you can show your appreciation by helping to build the second one.

Work sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. until noon Sunday and every Sunday thereafter until the trail is complete. Tools will be provided; no special expertise is necessary.

The park can be reached off Aviation Parkway just south of Interstate 40. For work sessions, club members and volunteers should meet at the maintenance shed (enter the park on the main road and take the first left).

And just to prove that they're not all work and no play, N.C. Fats will host a group ride after each trail-building session.

For more information, call the N.C. Fats hotline at 781-2030 to connect with a voice mail system, and press 8 to get a list of menu options.

This story by Grant Parsons is reprinted from the News & Observer.

Howes Designates Tanawha Trail As Component Of NC Trails System

RALEIGH - Jonathan Howes, Secretary of the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources has designated the 13-mile Tanawha Trail, a section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, as a component of the North Carolina State Trails System. This section of trail is located in Avery and Watauga counties and was constructed on Blue Ridge Parkway property.

The designation comes with the completion of the final .25 mile segment between the Stack Rock and Beacon Heights areas. The final leg of this spectacular trail was completed by the NC Division of Forest Resources' B.R.I.D.G.E. work crew. The work consisted of creating a tread through an extremely difficult "rock garden" below the parkway near its intersection with US 221. The resulting trail utilizes the rock to create an extremely stable tread.

With the designation of this 13-mile trail, hikers will now be able to travel from the bottom of Linville Gorge to Blowing Rock, a distance of over 70 miles through both US Forest Service and Blue Ridge Parkway lands.

Trails Committee Membership

The following is a list of the current North Carolina Trails Committee members, their trail interests, region represented and their term expiration dates.

| Name | Trail Interest | Region | Term Expires |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Chairman Dean Coleman Graham, N.C. | Greenways | Piedmont | 01/01/96 |
| Allen deHart Louisburg, N.C. | Hiking | Piedmont | 01/01/96 |
| J. Clark Hipp Wilmington, N.C. | Canoeing | Coast | 01/01/98 |
| Anne Ayala Morganton, N.C. | Equestrian | Mountain | 01/01/98 |
| Mike Price Pilot Mountain N.C. | Mountain Bicycling | Mountain | 01/01/98 |
| Jennifer L. Toole Cary, N.C. | Greenways | Member At Large | 01/01/98 |
| Allen Poole Manteo, N.C. | Hiking | Coast | 01/01/95 |

Of interest along the trail is the Linville Viaduct and Visitor Center with its 800 foot paved accessible trail which leads to the foot of the Viaduct. The dramatic Rough Ridge area with its spectacular views of the sur-

rounding mountains and forests and the beautifully crafted foot bridges over a number of cascading streams and stairs and walkways over steep rocky areas. The trail travels varied terrain from open fields to forests.

Mourningstar Nature Refuge Opens Trails

WILLIAMSTON - Gail L. Roberson, eastern North Carolina author, columnist, and naturalist, has recently opened her private nature refuge and its trail system to the public. The refuge has five trails; three of which are open now with the final two to open in the months ahead. Access is free to visitors of all ages from kindergarten through senior citizens. A golf cart provides access to trails for the disabled.

Appointments are preferred for tours guided by Ms. Roberson, the naturalist-in-residence, but extensive self-guided notebooks are available for those who wish to walk the trails on their own. The self-guide provides educational information about each

natural object of interest on trails, or special exhibits placed along them. All information is documented from at least three sources, and is illustrated in the notebook guide, which must be left at the refuge.

The trails are short and easily accessible, close to the home of the naturalist, do not involve going into deep woods and are perfect for those who wish to escape the hectic pace for an hour. While most of the refuge is off limits to visitors and maintained in its natural wild state for use by the naturalist in writing and documentation of nature studies, approximately eight acres, through which the trails wind, is open to visitors. Appointments to visit the refuge should be

made in advance, and visitors are not allowed entry unless the naturalist is at home at the time; her house is surrounded on three sides by the refuge. The refuge is open every day through all four seasons for one person up to small groups of no more than 15. No camping is allowed. The refuge and its programs are funded entirely by Ms. Roberson, except for an occasional small personal donation.

Ms. Roberson has been working with local nature clubs who may visit the refuge free of charge and receive two, 4-page newsletters each month from the refuge. The trails are maintained by Ms. Roberson, who does most of the physical work herself as her writing schedule allows. In addition, she is struggling to arrange the construction of a

Accessible Trail at Umstead

Umstead State Park has long had parking and picnic facilities usable by people of all ability levels. But getting from a picnic table to the shore of Big Lake involved nearly a half-mile of steps, an impossible trip for some. Now, thanks to the hard work of several groups using money from a National Recreational Trails Fund grant, a trail to Big Lake has been opened which is fully accessible.

Different people share the credit for the trail. Parks and Recreation's Facilities Maintenance Coordinator Sue Intemann has been chief grant-writer and coordinator for the effort. Planning and design help came from PATTERNS, Inc. (Promoting Awareness Through The Environmental Recreational Network Systems), an organization of disabled and non-disabled volunteers. Supplying the labor has been the Durham Service Corps, a group of young adults who work learning a skill half of the day and go to school to complete their high school degrees the other half.

The trail starts from a small parking lot, off a spur road from the US70 park entrance. Then it winds around the western shore of Big Lake and ends at the canoe launch area. Paving the trail and the parking lot has taken most of the grant money, but future plans for the trail include a pier and an accessible boat launch, as well as some enhancement plantings with species native to Umstead Park. An accessible camp site is also in the works for this park.

For information on other accessible trails, call the Division of Travel and Tourism's toll-free number—1-800-847-4862—and ask for a free copy of *ACCESS*,

North Carolina. This book, produced by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, is a vacation and travel guide for persons with disabilities.

Trails Program Publishes 93/94 Annual Report

RALEIGH - The Secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources is required by the North Carolina Trails System Act to submit an annual report to the governor and the General Assembly on trail activities undertaken by the department.

The State Trails Coordinator has completed the final draft and the report has been reviewed and approved by the North Carolina Trails Committee and division management.

This report provides the reader with a historic overview of the program, its goals and objectives, accomplishments and future goals of the State Trails Program. Of special importance to the Trails Committee and the State Trail Program staff, are the accomplishments of fiscal year 1993-1994. The annual report lists these major accomplishments in chronological order.

For a copy of the annual report, contact Darrell McBane at Division of Parks and Recreation, 12700 Bayleaf Church Road, Raleigh, NC 27614, telephone (919) 846-9991. Or contact your regional trails specialist.

Please see Mourningstar on page 16

Division of Parks and Recreation

MISSION STATEMENT

The North Carolina state parks system exists for the enjoyment, education, health and inspiration of all our citizens and visitors.

The mission of the state parks system is to conserve and protect representative examples of the natural beauty, ecological features and recreational resources of statewide significance; to provide outdoor recreational opportunities in a safe and healthy environment; and to provide environmental education opportunities that promote stewardship of the state's natural heritage.

From The Mountains...

Trails Day Activity Held At Nantahala Forest

On Saturday, June 4th, the Wayah Ranger District of the Nantahala National Forest hosted a National Trails Day celebration at Albert Mountain Firetower on the Appalachian Trail south of Franklin. The purpose of the event was to join other Forest Service districts across the country in honoring the many years of volunteer trails work accomplished on the National Forest. "These volunteers make an invaluable contribution to the recreation resources of this area and without this effort, the Forest Service would not be able to offer such a quality trails experience to the public," said Wayah District Ranger Mike Wilkins. Sixty-five to seventy volunteers participated in the event which included members of the Nantahala Hiking Club, the North Carolina Bartram Trail Society, local Boy Scout units and the Appalachian Trail Conference. Awards were given to the volunteers, with special recognition for those with over 1000 hours of volunteer service. At the same event, the firetowers located at Albert Mountain and Cowee Bald were formally dedicated as National Historic Fire Lookouts.

The Race Is On!

North Carolina Represented At South Carolina Trails Meeting

The South Carolina Statewide Trails Advisory Committee held its first field trip with its meeting on the Ann Close Greenway in Fort Mill, South Carolina. The Committee is sponsored by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation and is developing plans for a long distance hiking trail across South Carolina.

Tom Potter was invited to make a presentation on the North Carolina Trails System. Potter informed the committee of our efforts to develop the Mountains-to-Sea Trail and other trails across North Carolina. The group recently held a statewide meeting to announce the route of the Palmetto Trail.

The group also offered a friendly challenge to complete its trail before North Carolina completes the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.



AWARD-WINNING VOLUNTEERS - Members of the Nantahala Hiking Club received awards for their work on the Appalachian Trail.

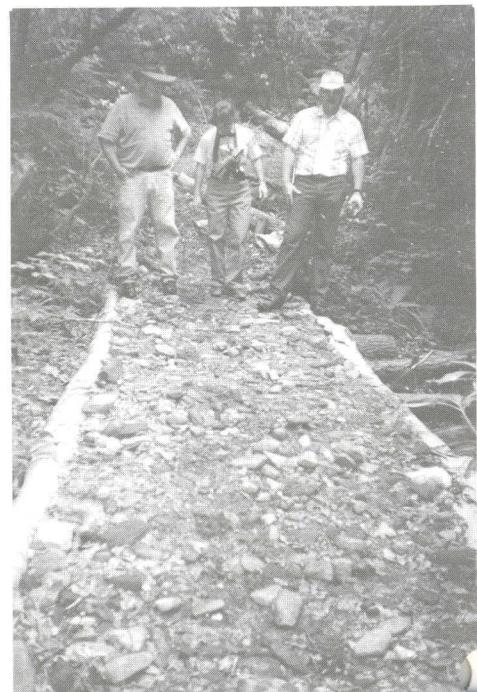
Pisgah Trail Blazers Upgrade Trails For Horse Use

Starting in June, 1993, and culminating with a dedication ceremony on July 31, 1994 the Pisgah Trailblazers spent over one year upgrading five miles of the existing Horse Cove Gap and Squirrel Gap Trails near Brevard. The work consisted of upgrading the trails from USFS foot/mountain bike to foot/mountain bike/equestrian trail standards. The work connects the Cantrell Creek, Horse Cove Gap and Squirrel Gap Trails from the intersection of the Cantrell Creek Trail on the South Mills River Trail back to the intersection of the Squirrel Gap Trail at Wolf Ford on the South Mills River Trail. This creates a new 22 mile loop for equestrian users over Horse Cove Gap and Squirrel Gap.

The work involved rerouting two short sections of the Squirrel Gap Trail to avoid wetland areas, re-working eight stream crossings, installation of two culverts and turnpiking the culverts as well as turnpiking at two other stream crossings to stabilize the trail tread, widening the tread, trimming brush and tree limbs, removing trees and installing cribbing and grade dips to prevent erosion of the tread.

While these trails are now open to horses, they also remain open for foot and mountain bike use. Horse use is allowed on the Squirrel Gap Trail from its intersection with the

Horse Cove Gap Trail and its intersection with the South Mills River Trail at Wolf Ford. The remainder of the Squirrel Gap Trail still remains closed to horses.



TRYOUT - Tom Thomas (left), Sue Elderken, and Ron Quellen (right) inspect the stream crossing at Squirrel Gap.

Carolina Mountain Club Member Honored

Roberts Receives U.S. Forest Service Volunteer Award

Richard "Dick" Roberts of Brevard was selected as the 1994 Retiree Volunteer of the Year, and as such received the "Retiree Volunteer Service Award" from U.S. Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas. This prestigious award is given each year to the one retired volunteer working on National Forest lands in the entire United States who best exemplifies the word "Volunteer".

Dick retired from the Ecusta Paper Company, where he was a Senior Systems Analyst, in 1981. He is 74 years old and has been a volunteer for the Carolina Mountain Club on the Pisgah Ranger District, Pisgah National Forest since 1982. That year he assisted the Carolina Mountain Club in establishing a formal "Volunteer Agreement" with the US Forest Service which has been in force continuously to the present time. He works an average of three days each week throughout the year. He has worked in all aspects of trail design, construction and maintenance. As a Carolina Mountain Club Work Crew Leader, he regularly supervises an average of 18 volunteers each week.

Over the past 13 years, Dick has been directly responsible for over 70 miles of new trail development or construction, and the construction of 62 trail structures, including bridges and shelters. This work has an estimated benefit to the US Forest Service of over \$500,000 in facilities alone.

In 1989 Dick received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Chief of the Forest Service for contributing over 10,000 hours of volunteer service.

Dick's leadership and expertise has substantially improved the quality of the trails on the Pisgah District and has helped sustain the District's reputation of high quality and well maintained trails. Some projects he has completed include:

- With his work crews, regularly completing over 50 miles of routine trail maintenance each year, including maintenance of the Art Loeb National Recreation Trail;

- Worked closely with the Pisgah District Trails Specialist in order to design and construct 6 miles of trail through extremely difficult, high elevation terrain. This section necessitated constructing a 27 foot long bridge over a river and the installation of 16 small footbridges;

- Has scouted and flagged an additional seven miles of trail which will complete the

above mentioned high elevation trail. When complete will form a loop trail connecting the Mountains-to-Sea Trail between the Shining Rock Wilderness Area and the Mt. Pisgah area.

- Assisted in the construction of five trail shelters, both on the Pisgah District and on the Appalachian Trail.

Dick has been responsible for supervising over 350,000 hours of volunteer labor in the areas of trail layout, construction and maintenance. This effort has benefitted the Pisgah District with over \$2,000,000 worth of manpower in the District's trails program in addition to the \$500,000 in facilities mentioned earlier.

Balsam-Highlands Task Force Dedicates Section of M-T-S Trail

After a brisk and foggy 1.3 mile hike from the Blue Ridge Parkway's Bear Pen Gap Parking Overlook to Wet Camp Gap, partially cloudy skies and peek-a-boo views of the surrounding mountains and forests greeted 49 individuals and three very surprised backpack campers who were camped for the night on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail at Wet Camp Gap.

The Saturday, August 13, 1994 dedication of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail was called to order by Dr. Doris Hammett, Chair, Balsam-Highlands Task Force. The newly opened 13 mile portion of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail is on the Nantahala National Forest's Highlands Ranger District.

Chad Boniface, Recreation Staff for the Highlands Ranger District welcomed the

participants to the District and to the dedication. Dr. Phil McKnelly spoke on the background and the future of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Melinda McWilliams, Trails Specialist for the National Forest in North Carolina, spoke on the 16+ year history of this particular section of the trail. Both McKnelly and McWilliams spoke to the partnership between the Mountains-to-Sea Trail Task Forces, the NC Division of Parks and Recreation's Trails Program and the US Forest Service.

Allen de Hart, North Carolina Trails Committee member and past Chair of the Committee presented remarks on behalf of the present NCTC Chairman R. Dean Coleman, who was unable to attend the ceremony.



HAPPY HIKERS - Trails committee members, parks and recreation staff, and guests relax after a hike on the newly-opened portion of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. The 13-mile segment of trail is on the Nantahala National Forest Highlands Ranger District.

...To The Coast

Apex Railbanking Efforts Foiled

Efforts to complete North Carolina's first 8d railbanking have failed in Apex. CSX Transportation notified the Interstate Commerce Commission on August 14, 1992 of its intention to abandon the 5.5 mile railroad corridor between Apex and Holly Springs. Tom Potter, trails specialist was informed of CSX's anticipated abandonment in late June of 1992. Potter held his first meeting with Apex and Holly Springs officials in early July to educate them on the railbanking process. Town officials were very interested in preserving the corridor for future industrial development. Plans were made for a city council meeting in Apex, which Potter made a presentation on railbanking and the benefits of preserving the corridor. In the beginning the city was interested in saving the corridor intact with the tracks in place to provide rail service to its industrial park. Potter explained to them the only way left to preserve the corridor was to railbank it under the National Trails Act. After this first City Council Meeting the council instructed David Roland, city planner to begin the railbanking procedure.

This corridor offered economic development and recreational potential for the small towns of Apex and Holly Springs. The corridor lay only a few miles east of the proposed American Tobacco Trail and could be connected by a greenway along Beaver Creek. This would allow a connection from Holly Springs to Jordan Lake and the City of Durham.

Potter helped Mr. Roland complete all the necessary forms to invoke the Public Use Condition and the Interim Trail Use Request. Potter coordinated Apex's railbanking efforts with the Interstate Commerce Commission to ensure the requests were filed at the proper time. By letter dated August 28, 1992 to the Interstate Commerce Commission, CSX states that it has not determined its needs for this part of the line and right-of-way and otherwise offers no objection to this request. In light of CSX's apparent willingness to negotiate, an Notice of Interim Trail Use was issued on December 10, 1992.

This action allowed the town and CSX Transportation a 180-day period to negotiate a railbanking agreement. Apex made several attempts to negotiate the railbanking agreement with CSX, but was unable to receive a response from CSX.

During the past few months the city council began to question its efforts for railbanking. At this time an effort was made to educate more citizens on the benefits of railbanking the corridor. Al Capehart, with North Carolina Rail-Trails, Inc. attended several civic meetings and informed the attendants the importance of railbanking railroad corridors and their conversion to interim trail and alternative transportation use. These citizens encouraged the city council to continue efforts to railbank the corridor.

Finally after several attempts CSX began to respond. As negotiations continued, CSX offered the town the railroad corridor in exchange for closing two at street grade crossings within the town limits on another

rail corridor owned by CSX. Attempting to separate the two issues, the city attempted to negotiate the railbanking of the 5.5 mile corridor separately from the other issue. As the negotiation continued, CSX offered to give the town of Apex the railroad trestle across US Highway 1 east of town without any of the additional corridor. At this point negotiations have ceased since the railroad trestle alone has no real benefit to the town.

Other correspondence from CSX Transportation officials indicate that the railroad company was not interested in railbanking the corridor and corporate officials had decided to abandon the corridor before the first 180-day negotiation period was granted.

Bridge Building at Neusiok Trail

Gene Huntsman of the Carteret County Wildlife Club called on eastern North Carolina trail volunteers to build a bridge across Cahoogue Creek, on the Neusiok Trail in the Croatan National Forest.

The U.S. Forest Service offered the club a matching grant to build the bridge. The wildlife club would furnish the manpower and the Forest Service would provide building materials. But there was another problem to be solved. The materials would have to be delivered to the site, which was several hundred feet from the nearest road.

The U.S. Marine Corps at Cherry Point agreed to deliver the building materials, and this spring the forest was filled with the sound of a helicopter carrying bundles of lumber. With the targets marked by large aluminum foil x's the Marines placed the bundles on the marks on the ground.

The volunteers' first task was to disassemble the bundles and sort them according to their need. Approximately 26 volunteers placed pilings in the miry muck that had been a hiker's nightmare. After several crossings, the muck would not support a person carrying a 16 foot 4x4, so the group made a temporary bridge to support people carrying the 4x4's for pilings to support the bridge.

Chainsaws and hammers could soon be heard as volunteers began to transform the lumber into a bridge. By mid-morning pilings and support beams had been put in place and crews were driving nails into the decking materials.

The Carteret wildlife club is renowned for involving fine dining with its outings. True to form, by 11:30 Sue Huntsman enchanted workers as the fragrance of grilled sirloin tips permeated the forest.

After lunch, the sound of hammers could again be heard. The youngest volunteer, age 12, carried nails to the nailing crews. Throughout the day safety was stressed and no one was injured, except for the pride of one volunteer who stepped on an un-nailed deck board and quickly found herself laying in the muck among the cypress knees.

By mid-afternoon the two dry banks of the swamp had been bridged by an eye pleasing S-shaped bridge winding through the palmetto and low brush. The bridge is approximately 150 feet long.

The Neusiok Trail has a 20 year history of cooperative efforts between the Wildlife Club, US Forest Service, Wildlife Resources Commission, Division of Forest Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Marines from Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune, Weyerhaeuser as well as the Sierra Club, Boy Scout groups and other volunteers.

By the end of the project, everyone was feeling satisfied of a job well done and were making plans for another bridge building day this fall for two additional bridges.

The Carteret County Wildlife Club exemplifies the volunteer effort that occurs across North Carolina and makes our trail system a possibility.

Albemarle Region Dedicates Canoe Trail

Approximately 30 miles of the Albemarle Regional Canoe Trail system have been signed using staff and volunteers. Volunteers have donated approximately 165 hours to this project. On July 29, a dedication ceremony was held at the Edenton Crape Myrtle Festival for the two canoe trails near Edenton. Dr. Philip McKnelly, Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation was one of the key note speakers.

"The northeastern part of North Carolina is blessed with an abundance of slow-moving streams and rivers. These waterways offer a variety of outing experiences," said McKnelly.

The Albemarle Region Canoe Trail System is made up of 29 individual streams with a total mileage of nearly 200 miles. Their lengths vary from two miles to nearly twenty miles. These trails offers the canoeist a short half hour excursion or an overnight stay with primitive camping. This system also provides economic opportunities for this region of the state. Opportunities will exist for camping facilities, canoe rental and livery services and lodging and dining facilities. This type of economic development is very "green" as it does not impose a threat to the environment.

The project was awarded a \$5,000 Adopt-A-Trail Grant to purchase the signs for the trails. These signs will mark the access areas and the trails at one-mile intervals and as needed to show the exact route.

This project has been a cooperative effort of ten counties, all of which have adopted resolutions supporting the adoption of their streams as local trails. The Division of Parks

and Recreation staff has assisted the Resource and Conservation Coordinator in mapping the trails and developing the plan for the system. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service has provided technical assistance in developing the regional map and brochure for the system. Citizen volunteers have assisted by lending their boats for mapping and signing the streams. These projects typify partnerships that can provide recreation and economic development opportunities.

The ten counties involved include Chowan, Gates, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Tyrrell, Washington and Hyde Counties. Other agencies involved include Merchants Millpond State Park, Pettigrew State Park, Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Chowan/Edenton Parks and Recreation, Elizabeth City/Pasquotank Parks and Recreation, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and several private boat ramps and fishing centers.

The Queen Ann Creek and Pembroke Creek, dedicated at the festival are located adjacent to the Edenton Waterfront. These trails are designated as local trails and will be part of the North Carolina Trails System. This system is composed of state park trails, designated trails, state scenic trails and local trails.

Following the dedication, division staff and local citizens took the maiden voyage along the two mile Queen Anne Creek Canoe Trail.

ALBEMARLE REGION CANOE TRAIL SYSTEM



NC Rail-Trails Receives Grant

The NC Rural Economic Development Center has awarded NC Rail-Trails a \$45,000 grant to develop off-road facilities for hiking, bicycling, saddle riding and other compatible use on two abandoned railroad rights-of-way. The groups will work with local communities to encourage tourism and develop a marketing program for the facilities.

The two grant projects are: extending the Virginia Creeper Trail into Ashe County; and a 30-mile trail that will cross Pender County. The grants offer a mechanism to develop employment opportunities, community improvements and greater visibility for rural counties.

The Ashe County plan is to convert the rail corridor in stages as leases are obtained south of the state line. The railroad corridor was abandoned and the property reverted to the adjacent property owners in 1977. The line extended south to Husk, Lansing and West Jefferson at that time.

The Pender County project stretches from Castle Hayne on the Cape Fear River to Wallace on the Duplin County line. The railroad corridor passes through Rocky Point, Burgaw, Watha and Willard. The corridor is part of the historic Wilmington & Weldon, one of the state's first railroads. CSX ceased service there in the mid 1980s, but still owns the corridor. They plan to donate the Pender County section to the state. The NC Dept. of Transportation can then lease the corridor to the county or a land trust for interim trail use.

Jacksonville Greenway Efforts Continue

Efforts to railbank the five-mile railroad corridor between Jacksonville and Kellum continue. The city council changed after the last election and efforts to railbank the corridor have met with resistance from the new city council. The Trails and Greenways Commission has continued to educate the council on the benefits of trails and greenways to keep railbanking efforts on track. Adjacent landowners have asked to receive this property once abandonment occurs. The landowners agreed to grant the city a 25-foot easement along the corridor if they would not railbank the corridor. Several weeks ago the city council instructed the City Manager and Attorney to secure these

easements. These efforts stalled and the issue was brought back to the city council, who agreed to hold a workshop to allow the commission to explain the importance of the corridor as well as hear from landowners.

The Trails and Greenways Commission asked Tom Potter to make a presentation explaining the importance of railroad corridor preservation and their conversion to interim trail use. After several hours of discussion the city council voted to give the adjacent landowners until September 1, 1994 to grant the easements to the city or the city would continue its railbanking efforts. Approximately 25 landowners must agree to grant the city the easement for the greenway.

Mourningstar...continued from page 11

visitor center-museum and a small non-denominational chapel in the woods, and an observation tower near the central feeding station.

Mourningstar takes its name in honor of Ms. Roberson's Indian ancestor, Fair Mourningstar, of the Cherokee nation, who taught living in harmony with Mother Earth. As Ms. Roberson has continued this valuable lesson through her programs at the refuge that encourage the age-old Indian customs of using without abusing and how to look, learn and leave alone. Her programs do not conflict with hunting, though the refuge is posted for the protection of visitors on the trails. There are already 80 nature clubs under the refuge educational programs that encourage recycling and cleaning up the planet. Rest benches are provided along trails, binoculars and magnifying glasses loaned, walking sticks are available too.

Over 80 species of birds have been documented on the refuge, which is only 10 miles from the Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge. Trail signs draw attention to points of interest, trees and plants identified and much more. The refuge is located in Griffins Township, Martin County, in Williamston, just three miles off Highway 17 South. The state highway department has erected signs to guide visitors to the refuge from Highway 17. Call Gail L. Roberson at (919) 792-7788 or write to her at 1967 Meadow Branch Road, Williamston, N.C. 27892 for more information or to schedule a visit.

DEHNR MISSION STATEMENT

To promote, protect and conserve the environment, health, and natural resources of North Carolina and its citizens through responsible stewardship and excellence in public service.

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