

Tar Heel Trails

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation

James G. Martin
Governor



William W. Cobey, Jr.
Secretary

March 1989

Volume I Number 2

Governor Proclaims May As Trails Month

RALEIGH — Gov. Jim Martin has proclaimed May as Trails Month in North Carolina.

"The trails, urban trails and greenways which traverse our outdoors are an integral part of the recreation system in North Carolina," Martin said in the proclamation.

Citizen involvement in the planning, construction and maintenance of trails in North Carolina is increasing, supported by the North Carolina Trails Association, the North Carolina Trails Committee, several state and federal agencies, and trails task forces.

Their unified purpose is to develop a system of trails from the mountains to the ocean and to expand the opportunities to enjoy regional trails in between.

"The expansion of the state system of trails and greenways offers an excellent opportunity for all North Carolinians to be exposed to the natural heritage of our state," Martin said.

"It is indeed appropriate, therefore, that all citizens become involved in the development of trails within our state borders."

The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation and other groups have scheduled trails activities throughout the month.

State of North Carolina



JAMES G. MARTIN
GOVERNOR

TRAILS MONTH

1989

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

North Carolina is blessed with a variety of unexcelled natural splendors and recreational opportunities. Our citizens have therefore developed a deep appreciation for the outdoors, and, in turn, enjoy recreational pursuits of all types.

Citizen involvement in the planning, construction, and maintenance of trails in North Carolina is increasing, supported by the North Carolina Trails Association, several state and federal agencies, and trails task forces. Their unified purpose is to develop a system of trails from the mountains to the ocean, and to expand the opportunities to enjoy regional trails.

The expansion of the state system of trails offers an opportunity for all North Carolinians to be exposed to the natural heritage of our state and to be in touch with nature firsthand. It is indeed appropriate, therefore, that all citizens become involved in the development of trails within our state borders.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES G. MARTIN, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 1989, as "Trails Month" in North Carolina, and urge our citizens to become involved in the development of trails and to become aware of them as a valuable recreation resource.



James G. Martin
JAMES G. MARTIN

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of January in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twelfth.

North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development

Arch Nichols: Trails Volunteer Extraordinaire

Dwayne Stutzman

Trails Specialist - Mountain Region

"Arch Nichols died Wednesday, and for the good of the environment we'd better come up with another like him, and quickly, too," stated Bob Terrell in the Asheville Citizen-Times on Sunday, Feb. 5, 1989.

David Startzell, executive director of the Appalachian Trail Conference, said, "Arch Nichols was a tireless leader of the Appalachian Trail project in the South for five decades. From its earliest days, he located and relocated the Trail in North Carolina, set a standard for maintaining it

that no one has equaled, fought for its protection with his voice and his typewriter and served nearly 40 years on the Appalachian Trail Conference Board of Managers -- longer than any other person. He will be profoundly missed by the A.T. community."

Henry Arch Nichols, was an Asheville native and civic leader. A noted raconteur (a teller of anecdotes), he was the oldest member of the Carolina Mountain Club, joining in 1939 (He was made a honorary life member).

Arch was a driving force behind the

Appalachian Trail Club (A.T.C.) in North Carolina (again, he was made a honorary life member). He was responsible for recruiting such leaders as the Reverend Rufus Morgan into the A.T. membership and helped organize the Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers, the group responsible for the acquisition of the Max Patch Bald section of the Appalachian Trail.

Nichols worked in the UNC-Asheville Botanical Gardens, and a corner of the Gardens were named for him and his wife, Zeffie. He was a member on the first Appalachian National Scenic Trail Advisory Council.

As early as 1973, while serving on the Shining Rock Wilderness to Mt. Mitchell Scenic Trail Study, he stated his idea of building a trail from Shining Rock Wilderness to Roan Mountain via Mt. Mitchell: Out of this study group grew the seeds of the N. C. Mountains-To-Sea Trail.

Nichols was the "driving force" behind the South Pisgah Task Force, the group responsible for the Mountains-To-Sea Trail from Highway # 215, where it crosses the Blue Ridge Parkway between Canton and Rosman, to just east of Mt. Mitchell (approximately 120 miles distant). He had a dream, and that dream was to see the Mountains-To-Sea Trail reach Mt. Mitchell.

While he didn't live to see his dream fulfilled -- today one may go to Balsam Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway, (just north of Craggy Gardens) and almost "smell" the forests of Mt. Mitchell -- only four short miles away. How many can come that close to achieving a dream?

On May 7, 1989, Arch Nichols will be honored once more. On that day the ceremony to dedicate the section of Mountains-To-Sea Trail from the French Broad River to Craggy Gardens will be held. Arch Nichols' name will not be forgotten: the Trail will be named in his honor. A plaque will be placed along the path near the Blue Ridge Parkway's Folk Art Center. It will honor Arch Nichols' dream of a trail from Mt. Pisgah to Mt. Mitchell.

The plaque will also tell hikers that Arch Nichols passed there on the way to his dream.

Trails of Thought

Dear Fellow Trail Enthusiasts:

Take a hike.

As many of you know, May is Trails Month. May is when we celebrate our most valuable resource in North Carolina: our state trails. Also, May is when we dedicate new trails, remember those who have been important to our trails in the past and award grants to dedicated task forces which will enable them to build even more trails in our state. May is when we show our appreciation for the trails we already have. And May is a time for us to go out on our trails and just have fun.

Fun is what we've got lots of this May. Enclosed in this newsletter is our calendar. It lists - day by day - every hike, canoe trip, horse ride and bike trip, dedication and celebration we have planned for this special month. The leaders of each trip, the place from where each trip departs, and the time each trip begins is also listed.

Education is an important part of our trips this May. You can learn about wild-flowers, insects, birds and wildlife. You'll get a glimpse of our state's history; learn what it takes to build a trail and maintain one; learn why greenways are so important to the growth of our cities or why our rivers and lakes are worth saving and how we can save them. You can even visit a "hands on" center which is solely dedicated to teaching all about our environment: our air, water and land.

These outings will visit many of our state parks. You'll see "first hand" the treasure our parks are to North Carolina. You'll understand what it takes to operate them and why as citizens it's so important we give our parks the support they deserve.

So take a hike this May. Or ride a horse, peddle a bike, or paddle a canoe down one of our rivers.

But most important, just have fun.

Sincerely,

Darrell

Darrell McBane

Martin Announces Adopt-A-Trail Grants

RALEIGH — Gov. Jim Martin has announced the award of \$21,010 to 29 applicants in the state's Adopt-A-Trail Program.

Under the Adopt-A-Trail Program, interested groups are authorized to "adopt-a-trail" for such purposes as placing trail markers, trail building and blazing.

These funds will help to bring good hiking opportunities closer to home for our citizens.

The North Carolina Trails Committee recommended the 29 requests totaling \$21,010 be funded as part of the state's Adopt-A-Trail Program.

The committee reviewed the applications at a meeting February 3 in Raleigh.

NCTC's recommendations were forwarded to William W. Cobey, secretary of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, for his approval. Cobey approved the recommendations March 1.

The trails committee advises the secretary of NRCD on local, state, federal and private management of trails and greenways in North Carolina.

In other business, the trails staff presented a draft System Dedication Criteria Guidelines and Trails Standards, which deals with designation procedures and construction standards for state trails.

Staff also presented a proposed final routing of the Mountains-to-the-Sea Trail.

"The former is significant in that it outlines a step-by-step process, complete with timetables and responsibilities, for consideration of trails nominated for inclusion in the state trails system," Darrell McBane, state trails coordinator, said.

"The latter is very important to us, because, for the first time, we can progress beyond the very large planning coordinator that has been used to show the mountains-to-the-Sea route to a detailed county road map level routing that can be used to work with cities, counties and trails task forces in the most difficult process of lining up rights-of-way."

McBane presented a preliminary calendar of events for May, which has been proclaimed as Trails Month by Gov. Martin.

Activities include hikes in state parks and hikes, horseback rides and canoe trips on designated trail segments.

Meanwhile, Ed Gavin of NRCD's Office of Legal Affairs presented a report on a liability brochure and Mary Meletiou of the N.C. Department of Transportation outlined DOT's bicycle program.

Allen de Hart, chairman of the trails committee, asked committee members to

consider recommending some activities for the celebration of Mount Mitchell State Park's 75th anniversary in 1990.

Also attending the meeting were regional trails specialists Tom Potter, John Shaffner, Megan Harden and Dwayne Stutzman.

1989 Adopt-A-Trail Grant Recipients

Sauratown Trails Association - Tools to build the Mountains-to-the Sea Trail from Stone Mountain to Oilot Mountain, \$750.

Central Blue Ridge Task Force - To develop and print an international brochure on trail from U.S. 221 and N.C. 80 and Blue Ridge Parkway, \$175.

Roanoke Valley Outdoor Sports Club (Roanoke Rapids) - For trail construction on Old Roanoke Navigation Canal, \$690.

Northwest Mountains Trail Task Force - For Mountains-to-the-Sea Trail link for Price Park and Doughton Park, for trail markers and bandanas, \$745.

~~Carolina~~ Cardinal Mountain Club - Art Loeb National Recreation Trail, design and purchase trail signs indicating trail is maintained by ~~Cardinal~~ Mountain Club, \$750.

~~Carolina~~ Sauratown Trails Association - Develop information brochure of Camp Sertoma and Stokes County, \$750.

Ashe County Parks and Recreation Department - Markers and trash containers for Ashe County Park Trail, \$400.

Greenway of High Point Task Force - For trail construction from McCain Park to Farris Avenue, \$750.

Swain County/Bryson City Parks and Recreation Department - Trail construction to link existing trails at Bryson Island Park, \$750.

Sauratown Trails Association - Tools and supplies to construct trail at Camp Sertoma, \$750.

Balsam Highlands Task Force - Tools and videotape program on trails, \$750.

Henderson County Environmental and Outing Club - Marking and mapping existing trails, \$750.

Dan River Trail Subcommittee - Design and build metal bores for registration and information pilot, \$750.

Boy Scouts of America - Drain valve and seed grounds around Little Walden Pond, \$750.

Sandhills Greenway Committee - Trail construction, markers and brochure, \$750.

Macon Middle School - Trail construction in city of Franklin, \$750.

Emerald Isle Recreation Advisory Committee - Trail construction on Reed Drive and Coast Guard Road, \$750.

Dan River Trail Subcommittee - Develop information brochure, \$750.

Triangle Land Conservancy - Future Neuse River Greenway land negotiations, \$750.

Senior Girl Scout Troop 437 - Replace sound system at Little Walden Natural Trail for visually impaired. Located at Tanglewood Park, Clemmons, N.C., \$750.

Wake Audubon Society - Interpretive signs for Item Lock Bluff Natural Area, \$750.

Triangle Greenways Council - Future Neuse River Greenway land negotiations, \$750.

North Carolina Trails Association - Publish North Carolina trail directory, \$750.

Natural Science Center of Greensboro - Trail brochures, interpretive signs, water bars and benches, \$750.

Durant Trails Homeowners Association - Greenway connector from Durant Trails Recreation Center to Durant Park, \$750.

Weblos Scouts of Park 934 - Restore Old Potato House at Tanglewood Park, Winston-Salem, \$750.

City of High Point Parks and Recreation Department - Identification signs on greenway, \$750.

North Carolina Trails Association - Underwrite travel expense for speakers at the staff annual symposium, \$500.

Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department - Expand existing nature trail, \$750.

Nichols Trail Designation Set For May

Dwayne Stutzman

Trails Specialist - Mountain Region

The 31-mile section of the Arch Nichols Trail, which is a segment of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail, will be dedicated May 7, 1989. The dedication will take place at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville at 2:30 p.m.

This new section of the Mountains-To-Sea trail has been constructed under the supervision of the South Pisgah Task Force. It runs from the French Broad River, west of Asheville, to Bear Pen Gap in the Craggy Gardens Picnic Area.

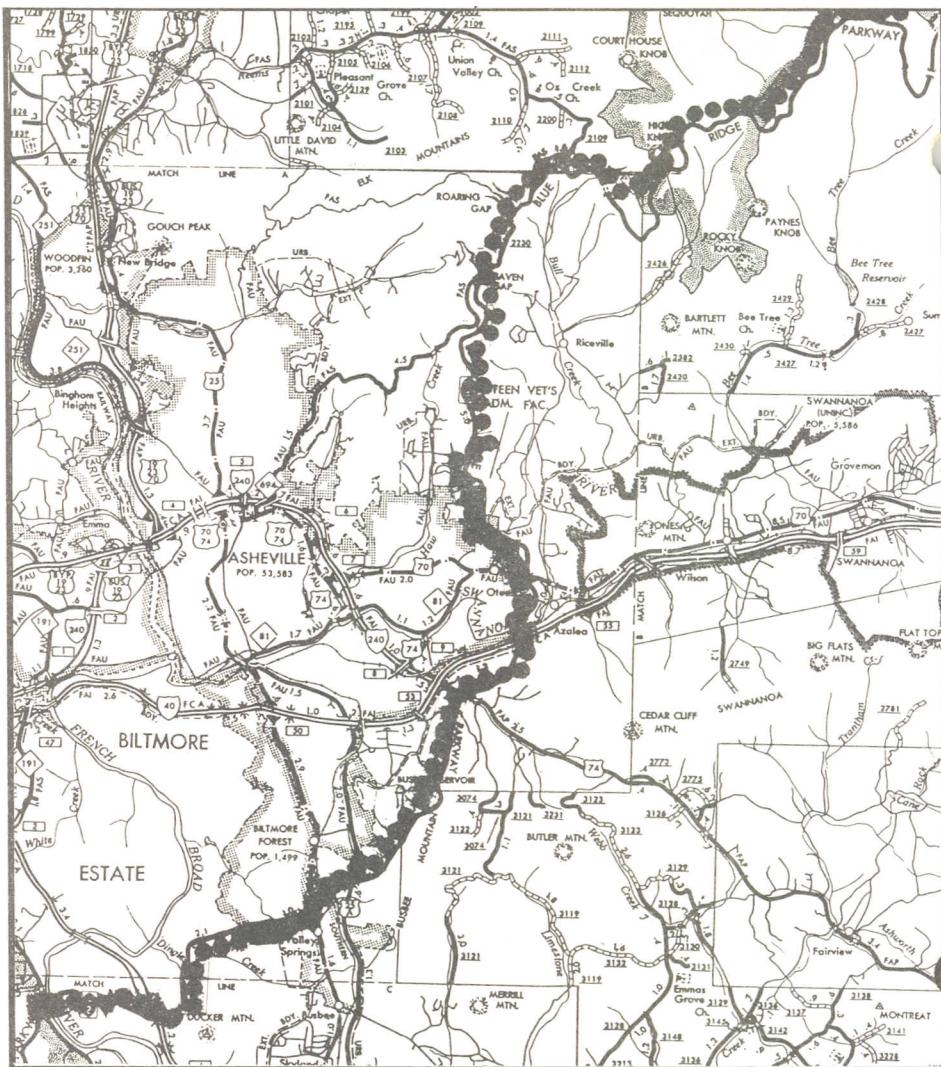
The Trail is named after long-time Carolina Mountain Club member, Arch Nichols, a dedicated trails advocate and volunteer.

The trail section starts at the end of the Shut-in Trail at the French Broad River crossing of the Blue Ridge Parkway (Milepost 393.4). It follows the Parkway (on alternating sides) as it passes the urban area of Asheville. Along the way one passes the Biltmore Estate, then crosses I-26, U.S. 25, U.S. 25-A and U.S. 70 on elevated bridges of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The trail also crosses I-40, using 50 steps and a large culvert. It continues across the Swannanoa River toward the Folk Art Center along the Blue Ridge Parkway, then crosses the Parkway at Craven Gap, and continues on to Bull Gap. The trail then climbs, using portions of the Old Rattlesnake Lodge Carriage Road, at last passing the historic ruins of Rattlesnake Lodge.

Leaving the Lodge, the trail continues its climb via the historic Mt. Mitchell Trail, over Rich Knob, Wolfden Knob and Lane Pinnacle. Then descending to the Blue Ridge Parkway at Potato Field Gap, the trail ascends the Parkway once more toward its destination at the Craggy Gardens picnic area.

Spectacular views, historic ruins, the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, the Folk Art Center and views of the Biltmore Estate, plus its closeness to the Asheville area make this segment of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail a favorite among many. Truly, it is a trail of which Arch Nichols would be proud.



The Arch Nichols Trail

McElroy Blazes Trails For Youngsters Of Today And Tomorrow

When Lynwood McElroy was 7-years-old, he would disappear for hours at a time into the wooded mountains around his family home in Haywood County.

Some 60 years later, McElroy still enjoys rambling through the woods. Only now, the 70-year-old is blazing trails for 7-year-olds of today and the future.

The Waynesville man has helped build 15 miles of trail through Haywood County since joining the Balsam-Highlands Task Force five years ago.

For the past several years, he's coordinated the group's trail construction that, combined with 14 other task forces, will form a 750-mile route from North Carolina's mountains to its coast.

"I've always been an outdoors-type

person," McElroy said. "It just fell right into my line of thinking."

His work earned McElroy the Louise Chatfield Outstanding Individual Award from the North Carolina Trails Committee, an advisory board to the secretary of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

The NCTC awarded its group award to the Balsam Highlands Task Force, the Haywood-Jackson County volunteer group that faces some of the most difficult trail work along the 750-mile path to the sea.

"The part we are working on in Haywood County is probably the roughest part," McElroy said. "You would sometimes have to move the same rock a dozen times."

Woods Mountain Trail To Be Dedicated In May



Dwayne Stutzman

Trails Specialist - Mountain Region

The 13.2-mile Woods Mountain Trail, a section of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail, will be dedicated on May 6, 1989. The dedication will take place at the U. S. Forest Service's Woodlawn Work Center - five miles north of U.S. 80 on Highway 221. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m.

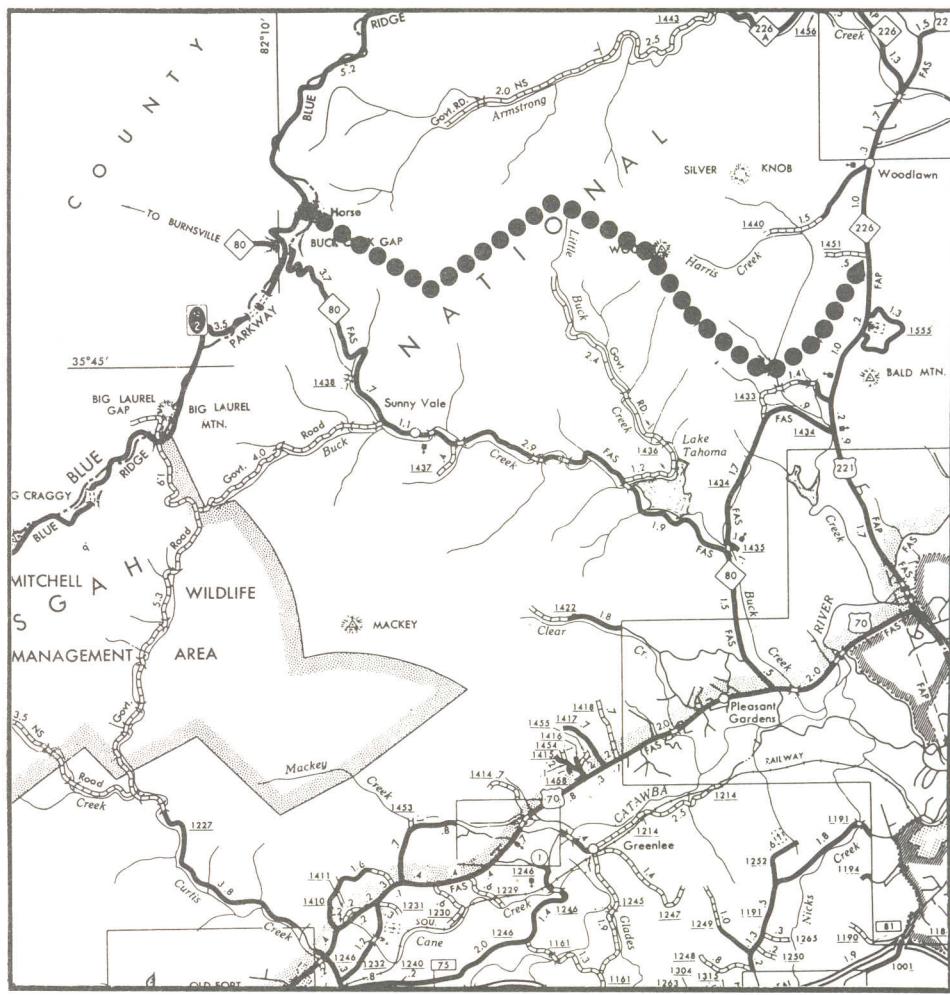
This new section of the Mountains-To-Sea trail has been constructed under the supervision of the Central Blue Ridge Task Force. The trail runs from Buck Creek Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway, to U.S. Highway 221 -- five miles north of Marion.

The section begins at the Buck Creek Gap Overlook Parking Area (Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 334.1) at the junction of N.C. 80 and the Blue Ridge Parkway. It leaves the Parkway and follows an old road which parallels the Parkway to the east. At approximately seven-tenths of a mile in, (Hazelnut Gap) the trail turns right onto the Woods Mountain Trail (FOREST SERVICE TRAIL # 218). It follows this steep ridge top, displaying views along the way of Table Rock, Hawksbill, Mt. Mitchell, Green Knob and Armstrong Valley.

At approximately six miles, the trail turns right once more leaving the Woods Mountain Trail and continues to the Old Woods Mountain lookout tower. The remains of the old tower can still be seen at the summit (it is 1/4 mile to the summit from here).

The trail then follows an old Forest Service road (FR 104) along the crest of Betsy Ridge. It continues along the ridge and connects with a gated Forest Service road. At approximately 3/4 mile, the trail leaves the road to the right and crosses Toms Creek before ascending Grassy Knob on old logging roads. Once more turning off to the right, (just before the Woodlawn Fitness Trail at U.S. Forest Service Woodlawn Work Center), the trail descends to U.S. Highway 221 just south of the Woodlawn Rest Area.

Terrific views of the Parkway -- and to the east, the western ridge of Linville Gorge Wilderness and Dobson Knob -- make this a walk to be enjoyed by all. Be prepared however, for moderately steep climbs on some sections of this trail.



Woods Mountain Trail

Trails Staff To Conduct Photo Contest

The state trails staff will conduct a photo contest in conjunction with May as Trails Month.

There is no better way to promote our volunteers and trails than through pictures. As it so aptly says in our state parks: leave only footsteps, take only pictures. We plan on seeing you and your camera at the activities.

Photos will be judged in two categories; trails scenics involving people and natural trail scenics. One winner will be selected in each category. Photos must be black and white prints.

All pictures must be taken during a trail activity in May.

Members of the North Carolina Trails Committee will serve as judges and all submitted photographs become property of the state and may be used in future issues of this newsletter.

The winning photos will be published in the September newsletter.

Submit photos to Darrell McBane, State Trails Coordinator, 12700 Bayleaf Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27614.

Entries must be received by June 30, 1989.

Submit photos with a description of where they were taken and names of people shown.

Progress Made In Forming Task Force

By Tom Potter
Trails Specialist

Progress is being made in forming a trails task force in the Kinston - New Bern area. As a result of three newspaper articles published in local newspapers, I have received a number of requests for more information on our trails program. Most have expressed an interest in trail construction and maintenance projects.

I will be meeting soon with the planning staff of the Croatan National Forest to discuss trail routing possibilities through the forest. At that time, we will be able to get these "inquirers" involved.

WORK CONTINUES ON RIVER TRAIL

The work of establishing a canoe trail on the Cape Fear River continues. We have been working with the N.C. Forest Service at Bladen Lakes to establish a canoe access site.

The access has been approved, and we are now planning for its construction.

Thanks to Harry Layman, Tom Rhyne, Jr. and Claude Hood for their cooperation on this project.

A private landowner has agreed to donate some land along the Cape Fear River

for yet another access site. Robert Mazur and his staff at the Bladen County Recreation Department have agreed to maintain the access site.

We are now trying to develop a plan to maintain a one mile road which leads into the access site. One plan we're considering with the Wildlife Resources Commission is to use this access for a wildlife boat ramp. All suggestions are appreciated.

Three counties have passed resolutions supporting state designation for the Cape Fear River Trail. They are Lee, Bladen and Cumberland Counties. We still need resolutions from New Hanover, Brunswick, Pender, Columbus and Harnett Counties to complete our trail.

OTHER RIVERS

I've talked with many people across Eastern North Carolina about canoe trails. There seems to be a lot of interest in this type of project, i.e. the Neuse, the Tar-Pamlico, the Trent, the Waccamaw, the Black and the White Oak Rivers.

Hopefully, these represent our river trails of the future.

RIVER TRAIL A REALITY

The Neusiok Trail has become a reality thanks to the efforts of the Carteret

County Wildlife Club. They have worked with the Croatan National Forest and the Weyerhaeuser Company to plan and construct this trail. It has not been an easy task.

However, thanks to the club's work and dedication, a 20-mile river trail which passes through stands of pine, hardwood timber, and unique areas of Pocosin, (a swamp found in upland coastal regions) now exists.

TRACT SOUGHT FOR PROTECTION

The Wildlife Club and the Croatan National Forest hope to add to the forest a tract of land which is owned by Weyerhaeuser International. A developer is attempting to purchase the tract to then exchange for National Forest land.

The move however, has been stalled by EPA permit restrictions. The Wildlife Club and the National Forest are working together to solve the issue and thus protect the Weyerhaeuser tract.

Outings Planned For Coastal Region

As most of us already know, May is Trails Month. In celebration of the event, the Coastal Region has many outings planned. Some include hikes in state parks, county parks, the Croatan National Forest, and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

There will be canoe trips on the Neuse, Lumber and Black Rivers. Also, bicycle tours of Emerald Isle, Edenton, Goldsboro, Wilmington and Greenville are planned. There are planned trail activities close to almost every resident in Eastern Northern Carolina.

I hope many will take advantage of these outings in May. It's an important month to trails, and we need to support the efforts of these trip "Organizers and leaders." Oh, and by the way, "Organizers and Leaders" -- THANKS from us at the Division of Parks Recreation.

More details about the trips and who to contact are in the calendar which is included in this newsletter.

For questions call Tom Potter at (919) 778-9488.

Rails-to-Trails Task Force Pursued For State

The Rails-To-Trails movement is gaining ground in North Carolina. There has been wide-spread interest in forming a state Rails-To-Trails Conservancy chapter.

Al Capehart, Vonda Frantz and I, Tom Potter, have discussed plans for such a chapter.

We held a meeting to form a steering committee Feb. 25, 1989, at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Falls Lake Office.

Abandoned rail corridors offer a unique opportunity for trail use. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary James Harrington is proposing that these corridors be preserved for future transportation needs. If they can be preserved, trail use is a possibility.

Gov. Jim Martin has appointed a cabinet level committee to study ways to save these corridors.

Also, the National Rails-To-Trails Conservancy was scheduled to sponsor a one-

day seminar for public officials in Raleigh March 16, 1989.

For more information on the seminar and on the Rails-To-Trails Program, contact Tom Potter, Route 2, Box 50, Seven Springs, N.C. 28578, (919) 778-9488.

Wildfires Pose A Constant Threat

As you enjoy the outdoors, I hope you will remember to be safe with fires. The spring months offer the most potential for wildfires. Often accompanied by strong, gusty winds and low humidity, spring's warm days can be hazardous as well as green and radiant and "new."

So have fun this spring, but be cautious during those critical months, and help save our woodlands from wildfires.

Tom Potter

Lake Is Center Of Trail Activities For Two Groups

Megan Harden
Trails Specialist

Jordan Lake, located in Chatham County, is becoming a "hotbed" of trail activities for two groups. A flood control project of the Corps of Engineers, the lake will be encircled by both bridle and hiking trails.

The Central Carolina Horsemen Association is constructing a 4.5-mile bridle trail along the lake which begins at the parking area below the dam. This marks the first project the group has undertaken since its incorporation in May 1988.

The group plans to build more trails along the lake by May, the month the state celebrates Trails Month. In celebration of Trails Month, the group is planning trail rides.

Under the direction of Dee Dee Curry, a Pittsboro scout troop is building the Weaver Creek Trail along the shore of the Lake.

The group has just "flagged" another 1.2-mile section of trail which is ready for clearing. The section will be a continuation of the Weaver Creek Trail.

Besides hikes and trail rides to celebrate Trails Month, the two groups also plan to hold a trails "open house." They hope many trail enthusiasts will attend.

LAND CONSERVANCY PRESERVING CORRIDOR ALONG RIVER

The Triangle Land Conservancy is working to preserve a corridor along the Neuse River. The corridor will run along a 20-mile section of the river which flows through Wake County.

Already designated for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail by the state's trails program, the section could provide hiking and canoe trails as well as canoe launch areas.

The Conservancy will contact over 300 Wake County residents who own land along the river, to detail the benefits of donating parts of their land for conservation easements. The benefits range from tax advantages to upgrading the owner's "higher ground" land values.

For more information on the project, contact Bill Flournoy, at (919) 733-6376 (w), or (919) 828-8322 (h).

ACQUIRING VOLUNTEERS

The Triangle Greenways Council has found different avenues for acquiring volunteers. On the sections of trail they're presently building, the council is using youthful offenders obtained from the Juvenile Restitution Program of Wake County.

Another source of volunteers to tap in your county is the Community Service Program. Community Service, an alternative to serving "active time," is imposed by the court, and a way the offender may serve instead of the state.

Community Service, just as the Juvenile Restitution Program, is coordinated through the court system.

Volunteers can also be drawn from college fraternities, scout troops, or businesses wanting to "polish" their public image. In fact, any organization which has a community service function may be happy to provide work hours on trail construction and maintenance.

Often, tapping this source is as simple as contacting the organization and discussing your project with them.

Yet another resource for volunteers is through a local college with environmental study programs. The professor will often encourage students to enter volunteer programs for extra credit.

Such study programs include landscape architecture, parks and recreation courses, physical education courses in hiking or backpacking, soil conservation and forestry.

The Triangle Greenways Council continues to use volunteers whenever possible to build trail. In January, the Corps of Engineers, which administers the land around Jordan Lake, approved a new two-mile section along the lake. It was joined by three state agencies, the Department of Cultural Resources, the Division of Wildlife Resources, and Natural Resources and Community Development.

Volunteers will make up a large part of the agencies' work force.

Workdays are scheduled each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Work crews will form at the Division of Parks and Recreation's Yorkshire Center. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Chris Bracknell at (919) 755-6643.

Trails Association On The Move

By Ed Kelly
Neuse Trails Association Task Force

The Neuse Trails Association (NTA) has been averaging between 60 and 90 hours per month on trail construction in Waynesborough State Park.

They have just completed a one-mile section from the center of the park to the northwest boundary at the mouth of the Neuse River. This section is a part of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail.

Two overlooks, located on high banks along the trail have been cleared for picnicking and fishing. The NTA is seeking donations of picnic tables for the two sites.

The next project of the NTA is to construct a wire bridge across the Little River, and to continue the new trail section westward to the Bentonville Battleground. Five miles of this trail have been constructed at the Boy Scout Tuscarara Reservation.

Also, the club is overseeing the construction of a Tuscarora Indian interpretive area in the park. Built along the new trail, the area will have an Indian "long house," a "summer house," a cooking area and a ceremonial area which will be surrounded by a stockade fence.

The area will be on the highest bank of the Neuse River Trail, and only a seven minute walk from the main parking lot. The interpretive area is a joint Boy Scout and Eagle Scout service project.

The NTA plans to celebrate Trails Month with a canoe trip on the Neuse River from Waynesborough to Seven Springs. The trip will be May 6.

Due to the eastern climate, the trip will end our trail activities until September. The NTA meets every Saturday morning from September until May, and has to its credit over 800 work hours.

Bikeway Planning Committee Receives Grant

By John Shaffner
Trails Specialist

The Winston-Salem Bikeway Planning Committee will use a \$3,500 grant to continue the Silas Creek Loop, a demonstration project currently nearing completion.

Received from federal highway funds through the Department of Transportation, the grant is expected to be used largely for signs along the route.

The 13-mile route is the first of 20 similar routes presently on "the planning board." Others will be completed as funds permit. The long-term goal of the Planning Committee is to have designated routes criss-cross Forsyth County.

TWO GREENWAYS IN WINSTON-SALEM'S FUTURE

Two greenway trails loom in Winston-Salem's future and are in different stages of development.

The final master plan for the Bethabara Trail has been approved and adopted by the City's Board of Aldermen. Construction is expected to start in the fiscal year 1989. The proposed trail will begin at Loehman's Plaza on Reynolda Road and run to Historic Bethabara Park. It will then pass through Wake Forest University and end at Polo Park, also located on Reynolda Road.

Construction on the second trail, the Salem Creek Trail, is expected to be completed by this summer. The 4.5-mile pilot project begins at the north side of The Market Place Mall on Peters Creek Parkway, and will connect to the existing Salem lake Trail.

Also, a bridge, which will complete the loop around Salem Lake will be built across the Lowrey Creek arm of the lake. Now, the trail can only be completed by crossing a railroad trestle which runs parallel to Interstate 40.

NORTH CAROLINA TO HOST FIRST ORIENTEERING MEET

North Carolina will host the first orienteering meet at William B. Umstead State Park May 13 and 14. The Backwoods Orienteering Club will be in charge of the meet.

Anyone interested in participating may call Joseph Huberman of Raleigh, at (919) 828-6068.

TWO TASK FORCES FORMED

Two new task forces have been formed in Stokes and Rockingham Counties.

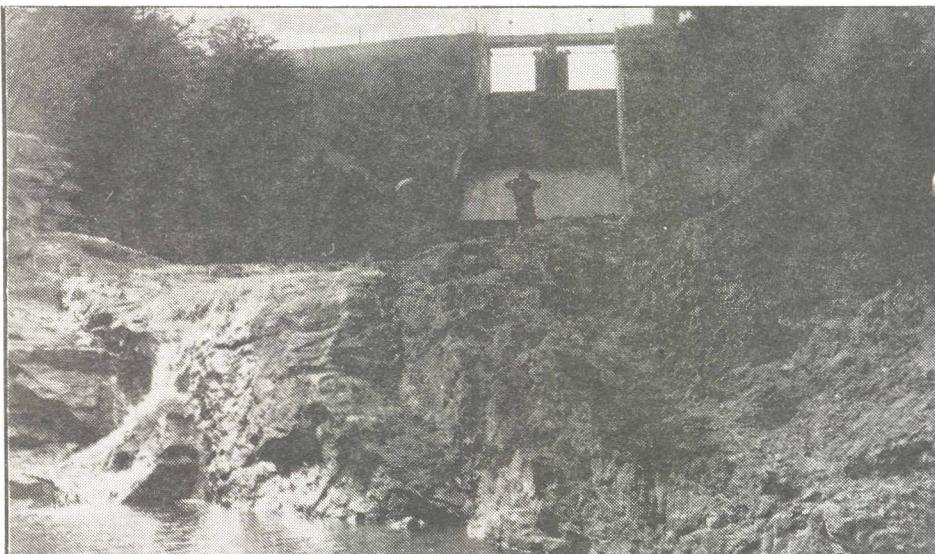
In Stokes, The Danbury to Pine Hall Task Force will bring the N.C. Mountains-To-Sea Trail from the town of Danbury, in eastern Stokes County, to Pine Hall, which is on the line between Stokes and Rockingham Counties.

The Rockingham County Horse Association will take the Mountains-To-Sea Trail southeast, around Bewlews lake and into Guilford County at Stokesdale.

So WELCOME to both task forces. We look forward to working with them on the trail.

SERVICE OUTING HELD IN STATE PARK

Twelve members of the Foothills Group



INSPECTION - R.M. Collins and John Shaffner study possible trail locations around Belews Lake in Stokes and Rockingham counties.

Lake Trail Construction Continues In Guilford County

By Alan Myrick
Guilford County

The Lake Townsend Trail above Greensboro is steadily growing along the south shore of Lake Townsend. The Two links totaling 3.5 miles have been built by the Piedmont Plateau Group of the Sierra Club. The trail will link up to the existing Lake Brandt and Reedy Fork Creek Trails.

Both trails are a part of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail, a 700-mile multi-use trail,

of the Sierra Club conducted a trail maintenance service outing on the Indian Creek Trail in Hanging Rock State Park.

The group performed the usual pruning and clipping of roots and branches which helps preserve the corridor of the trail. Also, chain saws were used to cut away the "dead fall" of large trees which had covered parts of this northern section of the trail.

After having lunch at an overlook, the group assembled at the Dan River Access entrance of the trail and built a foot bridge across Indian Creek.

Volunteers such as the Foothills groups are important in maintaining the trails of our state parks. Because of their efforts, our state parks may be enjoyed by all.

So to the members of the Foothills Group, our warmest THANKS.

which when completed will run from Clingmans Dome, in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park to Jockey's Ridge State Park, on the coast.

There are now more than 25 miles of hiking trails around the Greensboro watershed.

For more information on trails in Guilford County, contact Rick Bolling at Greensboro's Natural Science Center, (919) 288-3769.

Davis Outlines Ambitious Trails Program

The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation has established an aggressive work program for state trails, according to Dr. William W. Davis, Division director.

"We are undertaking work in three major areas: administration, public relations and policy development," Davis said at a meeting of the North Carolina Trails Association Jan. 28 in Raleigh.

Subtasks within the administration area include developing a state trails inventory and working toward staff specialization in greenways and rails-to-trails; trail construction; building and maintaining volunteer groups and legal concerns.

Administrative goal also include improving task force relationships by supporting existing groups, reactivating interested groups and establishing new groups; preparing guidelines; inspecting already-designated state trail and consulting on construction of trails in Hanging Rock, William B. Umstead and Stone Mountain state parks.

Public relations tasks include publishing a quarterly newsletter; conducting a trails construction workshop; producing a trails system map, an annual trails report and a state trails audio-visual presentation and conducting May as Trails Month.

Policy development activities include administering the Adopt-A-Trail Program; producing a brochure on trails liability law; assisting the Department of Transportation in the Rails-to-Trails program, and working with DOT on the bicycle and bridge replacement program.

"This is quite an ambitious program," Davis said. "Working with the North Carolina Trails Committee, we expect that we can accomplish it, and by doing so, promote the values of the state trails program even further."

The Division is dedicated to the trails program, Davis told NCTA members.

"The Division is committed to striving for excellence in its delivery of services to you, the task forces, local and county government, and all other interested trail users and providers," he said. "More and more, we will become involved in the issues of rails-to-trails conversions, greenway development, land-use zoning, acquiring rights-of-way across privately owned lands and other urban issues.

"Yet, we can never forget that the goal of more and better trail on the ground only will come about when people - volunteers - working with mattocks and shovels are encouraged and supported."

Greenways Company Awarded Design Contract

Greenways Incorporated, which is owned by Chuck Flink was awarded the concept and design contract for the Piedmont Center portion of the Guilford County Bicentennial Trail.

The entire trail will be funded by \$1.2 million of a \$12 million dollar Parks and Greenway bond referendum. The trail will run from a Guilford Courthouse National Military Park on Old Battleground Road, through the High Point Environmental Center to the High Point City Lake Park. The trail will be designated for both hiking and bicycles.



NCTA - David Drexel addresses fellow members of the North Carolina Trails Association at a meeting in Raleigh

Governor's Budget Includes Money For Trails

Gov. Jim Martin's proposed budget for the 1989-91 biennium includes more than \$23 million in new spending for the North Carolina state park system.

The governor has proposed \$20 million in capital improvements.

Martin's proposed budget also includes \$1,272,131 in budget expansion items, including \$42,000 for producing brochures for each state park unit.

The expansion funds include support funds for the four regional trails specialist positions created by the 1987 General Assembly and \$35,000 for each year of the biennium for Adopt-A-Trail grants.

Twelve Appointed To Guilford County Parks And Recreation Commission

**By Kathy Treanor
Guilford County**

Twelve people from Guilford County have been appointed to the County's newly created Parks and Recreation Commission. Two, Bill Ross and Kathy Treanor, were appointed co-chairmen by the Guilford County Commissioners.

The commission will review the county's role in recreation, i.e. how county parks will function, how land is to be acquired and maintained — then make recommendations to the County Commissioners.

A master plan for future parks and greenways will be a priority of the commission.

May Is Trails Month

The following trails events have been scheduled in May to celebrate Trails Month. May has also been proclaimed "Bike Month" in North Carolina. For more information on Bike Month, contact: N.C. Bicycle Program, P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, N.C. 27611 or (919) 733-2804.

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BIKE

Edenton Bike Tour - Contact Keith Zimmerman, (919) 482-8820.

Two-hour Bike and Safety and Maintenance Program - Emerald Isle, contact Steve Osborne, (919) 354-3424.

CANOE

Lower Lumber River Trip - Meet at the UCB parking lot, Fair Bluffs. Leave at noon. Contact David Scott, (919) 649-7581.

Upper Lumber River Trip - Section from Railroad 1412 to Wildlife access on U.S. 401, Waygram (Scotland County). Meet at 8 a.m. at Roses Riverbirch shopping center, U.S. 1 Spring Lane exit in Sanford. 12-canoe limit. Call before May 1. Supply own canoe and equipment. If no water, will canoe Cape Fear River. Contact Jo and Larry Wright, (919) 776-0298.

HIKE

Cape Hatteras National Seashore - Buxton Woods, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring lunch, insect repellent and binoculars. Meet at Hatteras Island Visitor Center. Contact Craig Shelton, (919) 995-4474.

Jones Lake State Park Spring Wildflower Hike - Meet in parking lot at 11 a.m. Contact park staff, (919) 588-4550.

Roan Mountain Overnight Hike - Contact Linda Anderson, (919) 924-9129.

Hanging Rock State Park - Upper Cascade Falls. Contact park staff, (919) 593-8480.

Stone Mountain State Park Wildflower Hike - Meet at 10 a.m. Contact park staff, (919) 957-8185.

Duke Forest - "A Preview Walk on the Sam Wiley Trail." Meet at 2 p.m. at Duke Forest gate 12 on N.C. 751 near the power line crossing just south of the intersection with U.S. 70. Sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 440 and the Triangle Greenways Council. Contact Dewey Lawson, (919) 688-3249.

Eno River State Park - Hike on the Eno. Meet at the park office at 2 p.m. Contact park staff, (919) 383-1686.

OTHER

Catch the Scouting Spirit - Jordan Lake State Recreation Area, 8:30 a.m. to noon. Rehabilitation work on nature trails. Registration forms required by April 12. Contact Mike Seigh, (919) 362-0586, Route 2, Box 159, Apex, N.C. 27502.

Jockey's Ridge State Park - Dedication of Trail.

Woods Mountain Trail Dedication - Central Blue Ridge Task Force section of the Mountains-to-the-Sea Trail at 10:30 a.m. at U.S. Forest Service Woodlawn Work Center, Woodlawn, N.C., five miles north of Marion on U.S. 221. Contact Bob Benner, (704) 437-8688.

7 HIKE

Hanging Rock State Park - Cooks Wall Trail. Contact John Shaffner, (919) 761-2351.

Duke Power State Park - Meet at 2 p.m. for park trail hike. Contact park staff, (704) 528-6350.

South Mountains State Park - Meet at park office at 2 p.m. for 2.5-mile hike. Contact park staff (704) 433-4772.

Spring Wildflower Hike - Merchants Millpond State Park. Meet at 2 p.m. at canoe rental. Contact Dennis Helms (919) 357-1191.

Wildflower Hike - Raven Rock State Park. Meet at 2 p.m. in the main parking lot. Contact park staff (919) 893-4888.

Appreciate The Trails, Hike The New Pine Island Trails - Weymouth Woods State Nature Preserve. Contact park staff (919) 692-2167.

Cave Trek - Mount Jefferson State Park. Meet at 2 p.m. at the Wagoner road office. Recommend rain gear and hiking boots. Contact park staff (919) 246-9653.

OTHER

South Pisgah Task Force
Arch Nichols Trail Dedication - ~~Central Blue Ridge~~ Section of the Mountains-to-the-Sea Trail. 2:30 p.m. at the Folk Art Center, Blue Ridge Parkway at Oteen. Contact John Hillyer, (704) 298-0723.

12 HIKE

Winston-Salem Greenway Hike - From Market Place Mall to Broad Street. Meet at 10 a.m. Contact Judy Hunt, (919) 727-2087.

13 BIKE

Emerald Isle Beach Course - Contact Steve Osborne (919) 354-3424.

Historic Edenton Bike Tour - Contact Keith Zimmerman, (919) 482-8820.

Silas Creek Loop - Winston-Salem. Contact Judy Wallace, (919) 768-3339.

HIKE

Spring Bird Hike - Merchants Millpond State Park. Meet at canoe rental area at 8:30 a.m. Contact Dennis Helms (919) 357-1191.

Blue Ridge To Stone Mountain Via Louise Chatfield Trail - Sponsored by the Sierra Club. Meet at 8 a.m. at Thruway Shopping Center, Winston-Salem.

Bird Walk - Mount Jefferson State Park. Meet at 2 p.m. at Wagoner Road office. Bring binoculars.

OTHER

Dan River Beautification Day Clean Up - Sponsored by city of Danbury; from Hover Whitt to Moratock Park. Contact Jay Kinney (919) 593-8165.

Lee County, Boy Scout Work Day
Buckhorn Trail - Lee County, Boy Scout Work Day. Meet at 9 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, Steel Street, Sanford. Contact Ron Huber, (919) 776-8451.

A Message From The NCTC Chairman...

The North Carolina Trails Committee began its 17th year with a meeting in the Archdale Building in Raleigh Feb. 3. There was a lengthy agenda, but prior printed reports and a streamlined schedule enabled the committee to move swiftly and cover a wide range of topics.

During the morning session, the committee was honored to have Assistant Secretary Nancy Temple of NRCD in attendance.

An addition to the agenda was to create a category of standard reports. Within this was the report from the Division of Parks and Recreation Director Wes Davis, and from trail organizations. (Reports from the trail organizations were from the Triangle Greenway Council, the N.C. Chapter of the Bartram Trail Society and the N.C. Trails Association.)

Some of the areas covered in the meeting were: state budget reports; committee handbook; trails system dedication guidelines and standards; Mountains-to-Sea (MST) routing; reports on "May is Trails Month;" reports on trail liability and safety brochure; Department of Transportation Bicycle Program; reports on trails for state designation; Adopt-A-Trail grant proposals, and a report on efforts by the committee to assist Parks and Recreation for the state parks' 75th anniversary in 1990.

The chairman appointed a number of subcommittees to supervise the committee's work. The include committee handbook: Allen de Hart, David Mallett and John Hillyer; trail system guidelines; Ed Kelly, Willie Taylor and Dean Coleman; planning committee for the April 7-8 meeting in Croatan National Forest:

Ed Kelly and Allen de Hart; committee for designation of the Central Blue Ridge Task Force Trail May 6-7: David Mallett and John Hillyer; Sertoma and Sauratown Trail Association Celebration May 27-28: Willie Taylor and R.M. Collins.

Advisory material and reports to Dr. Davis and Secretary Bill Cobey include Rails-to-Trails Program; response to the 10th National Trails Council Symposium; Adopt-a-Trails Program for the next biennium; MST routing; quarterly Trails Committee meetings and quarterly reports on status of local governments and the trails programs (as specified in the State Trails System Act).

Although the Trails Committee is an advisory committee and its recommendations to the secretary may or may not be accepted, it is important that members of the trail community bring matters of concern and interest to the committee or to Dr. Davis.

If you desire more information on the committee's function and its work, please write to me or Darrell McBane, state trails coordinator.

Allen de Hart

The North Carolina Trails Committee
is scheduled to meet
April 7-8 at the

Croatan National Forest Office outside of New Bern.

All those interested
are invited to attend.

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