

Tar Heel Trails

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation

James G. Martin
Governor



William W. Cobey, Jr.
Secretary

January 1990

Volume 2 Number 1

Trails Committee Reviews Plans For 1990

By Don Reuter
Public Information Officer

RALEIGH - The main focus of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation's Trail Program in 1990 is to work toward the completion of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, according to State Trails Coordinator Darrell McBane.

"The priorities of the state trails program are the Mountains-to-Sea Trail including feeder and tie trails, trails within the state park system and to provide consulting services to local governments and interested trail groups," McBane told members of the North Carolina Trails Committee at their meeting Nov. 3 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resource Management Center at Falls Lake.

McBane identified several other projects including the maintenance of a statewide trails inventory, the continued development of staff specialization and expertise and the continued emphasis on securing task force support.

In addition, the trails staff plans to conduct an inter-agency meeting on state trails; to develop guidelines for signs and private property trail use; to conduct routine inspections for all previously dedicated trail segments; to supervise construction of trails at Hanging Rock, William B. Umstead and Stone Mountain state parks, and administer the Adopt-A-Trail Program. The committee voted to approve the work plan.

In other business, the committee reviewed the trails budget request for fiscal year 1989-90 and the 1989-90 Adopt-A-Trail grant criteria and time line. The Division has made \$25,000 available for the grants.

Committee member David Mallett outlined an equestrian trails brochure which will include all publicly owned trails in North Carolina.

Committee member John Hillyer said work on the Mountains-to-Sea section in the Mount Mitchell area had been delayed due to closings on the Blue Ridge Parkway for tunnel repair.

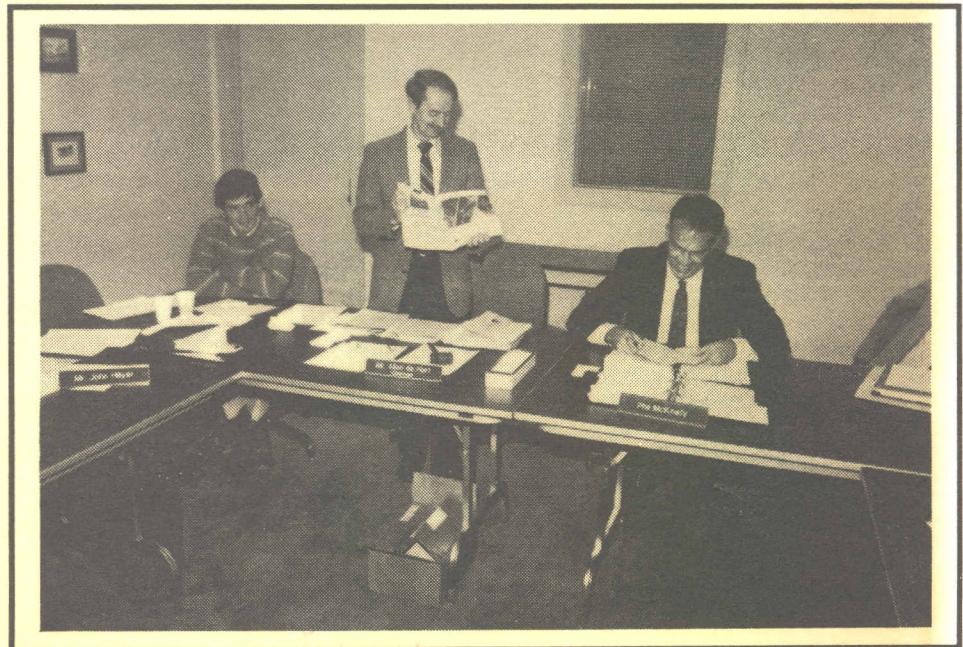
Meanwhile, McBane gave a report on the status of past Adopt-A-Trail grants, and staff members told the committee they were drafting guidelines for accepting private property for trail use.

Suzanne Riley, president of the North

Carolina Trails Association, gave a report on recommendations and resolutions approved by the association at its annual meeting at Camp Sertoma in Stokes County in September.

Dr. Lynn Muchmore, assistant secretary for natural resources, spoke to committee members about the new organization of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources and the role of the committee within the Department.

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



MEETING - Allen de Hart, chairman of the North Carolina Trails Committee, displays trails literature while Dr. Phil McKnelly, Division director, right, and Darrell McBane, state trails coordinator, left, look on.

North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources

A Message From The NCTC Chairman

In 1989, the North Carolina Trails Committee conducted four meetings. The first was held Feb. 3 in Raleigh to examine the proposed Mountains-to-Sea Trail routing and plan of action by the Division of Parks and Recreation staff.

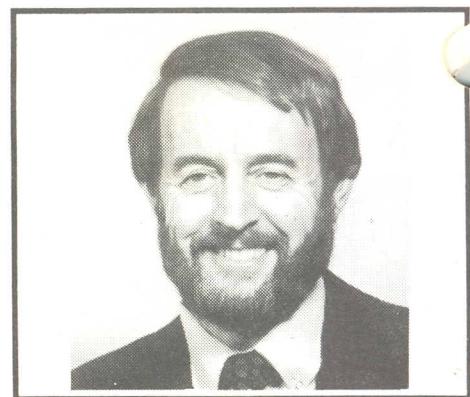
The second meeting was held April 7-8 in New Bern to hear reports on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail through the Croatan National Forest by Bob and Mary Simpson, Bill Coleman and Tony Rich.

The third meeting was held July 15 in Wilkesboro to hear reports on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail north of Price Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway by Fess Green, Greg Wilson and Mike Steele.

The fourth and final meeting of 1989

was held Nov. 3 in Raleigh. The committee heard reports from new Division of Parks and Recreation Director Phil McKnelly; Lynn Muchmore, assistant secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, and Suzanne Riley, president of the North Carolina Trails Association. Another report was given by Bill Flournoy.

In retrospect for the year, the NCTC made major changes in its operation and recommended numerous projects and procedures to EHNR for the advancement of the state's trail system. The committee streamlined its meetings with the use of parliamentary procedure, written reports, subcommittee research, advance preparations and



Allen de Hart

member contact between meetings. Additionally, it made a significant change by holding all meetings in public facilities.

Two of the meetings were held in communities where the NCTC had not previously met - New Bern and Wilkesboro. At both locations, the second day of the meeting included long hikes on proposed Mountains-to-Sea Trail routes by two or more members of the committee.

Members have also been involved in 1989 in writing articles on the MST for local, regional and national publications. Other members have met with local and state government officials about liability, parks and recreation, easements and volunteer groups.

Committee members have taken groups and state officials of EHNR and its Division of Parks and Recreation on equestrian and canoe trails, worked on trails for handicapped individuals and met with public and private representatives on railroad abandonment and urban greenways.

As an advisory committee, some recommendations have been presented to EHNR, and others are in the process. Examples of the committee's work include Woods Mountain Trail and Arch Nichols Trail dedications in May and Secretary Cobey's approval of North Carolina Trail System Guidelines and North Carolina Trails Committee on July 13.

The committee also recommended Adopt-A-Trail grants; Mountains-to-Sea Trail routing (approved by Secretary Cobey on April 5); passage of legislative bills on railroad abandonment; private property lease agreement negotiation; the presentation of Governor's Award to an outstanding individual or group each year; a proposal to include the Mountains-to-Sea Trail route on highway maps and an equestrian directory.

Trails Of Thought

Dear Fellow Trails Enthusiasts:

For this issue of the "Tar Heel Trails" newsletter, the Trails of Thought corner will focus on your North Carolina Trails Committee.

The North Carolina Trails Committee you ask? The answer to this question may be simple to those of you who have a history of involvement with our trails, but to those of you who are relative newcomers to this movement, it is a most appropriate question.

The North Carolina Trails Committee was created with the passage of the North Carolina Trails System Act of 1973. The North Carolina Trails Committee serves as an advisory committee to the secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources.

The Committee consists of seven members appointed by the secretary of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources for four-year staggered terms. The committee members represent various areas of the state and as many user groups as possible. The committee advises the secretary on all matters directly or indirectly pertaining to trails.

The act stipulates that the committee shall be composed of two members from the mountains, two members from the Piedmont, two members from the coastal plain, and one at-large member. In addition, the composition of the committee should be a representative cross-section of the trail users in North Carolina.

One of the most important tasks for the North Carolina Trails Committee is to maintain effective communication with the trail interest groups, organizations and local governments across the state. The North Carolina Trails Committee represents the goals and needs of these interest groups, organizations and local governments to the secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources. The reverse side of this task is to communicate the Department trail policy and programs to the users.

The North Carolina Trails Committee is appointed to represent the volunteer trails groups across the state. The North Carolina Trails Committee acts upon requests from the volunteers, reviews and recommends policy to the secretary and communicates the final policy from the Department to the volunteers in the field.

The Division of Parks and Recreation's trails staff works cooperatively with the North Carolina Trails Committee and also serves as your contact to the Department and to the Division. The North Carolina Trails Committee and the Division's trails staff are here to serve you as you continue to develop and maintain trails in North Carolina. I hope this article will help clarify the role of the North Carolina Trails Committee.

Sincerely,

Darrell

Darrell McBane
State Trails Coordinator

Rails-to-Trails Program Generates Local Activity

By Tom Potter
Trails Specialist

The Rails-to-Trails Program has been the object of a flurry of activity in recent weeks. The interest in rail-trail conversions is increasing all over the state.

Groups actively involved in rail-trail conversions include Caswell County, Durham and Greensboro, and Lincoln County and Catawba County.

Each proposed abandonment has its own unique problems to be resolved. Some of the common concerns include ownership of the right-of-way (the railroad or the adjoining landowner), the type of ownership (fee simple or easement), and who has authority to accept or acquire the corridor?

Presently, only those corridors that offer future transportation potential are being considered for acquisition by the state because the Department of Transportation is the state agency with authority to acquire the abandoned corridors.

Liability is the major issue for the adjoining landowners is liability. They are concerned about who is held accountable if someone using the trail is injured or adjoining property is vandalized.

These concerns are not only germane to rail-trail conversions but also to the statewide trails program.

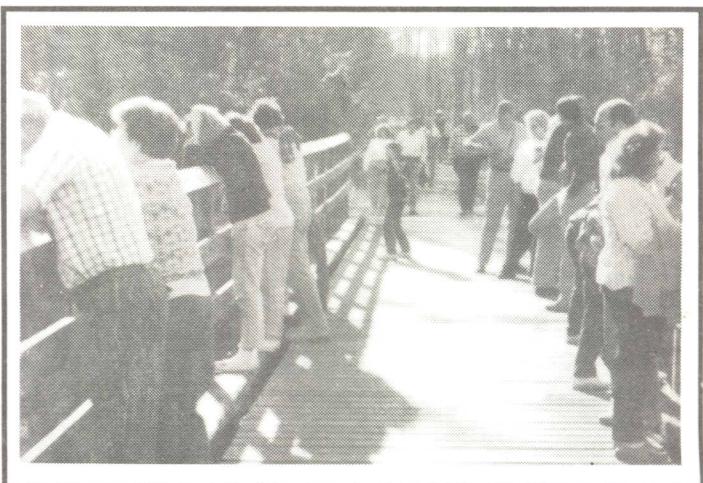
Many of these problems have to be resolved, but that is not stopping local trail interest groups from pursuing their goals.

The Caswell County group, known officially as the Dan River Association, is holding meetings, contacting individual landowners and asking permission to use the abandoned corridor for trail use and planning a spring event to publicize its project.

The group consists of about 30 people from Caswell County in North Carolina and Halifax and Pittsylvania counties in Virginia.

The group from Lincolnton sponsored a free trip to the New River State Trail near Galax, Va., on Nov. 12. Approximately 75 people made the trip which included people interested in learning more about rails-to-trails, landowners and business people.

The staff at New River State Trail provided a video and slide presentation, guided hikes on the trail and gave an overall summary of how the rail corridor was converted to trail use.



TOUR - Members of a group from Lincolnton visit the New River State Trail in Galax, Va., to learn more about rail-trail conversions.

(Photo by Tom Potter)

Statewide interest is spreading and, hopefully, the day when North Carolina can claim its first rail-to-trail conversion is in the not-too-distant future.

Meanwhile, North Carolina Rails-to-Trails held its quarterly state meeting in Durham Nov. 18.

Members present were from Lincolnton, the Dan River Trails Association, Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro and Goldsboro. Representatives from each group gave an update on their project, discussing their plans for trail conversion and some of the problems they are facing.

A committee was appointed and was scheduled to meet Dec. 9 in Greensboro to develop legislative proposals for rail-trail conversions.

The next quarterly state meeting will be held Feb. 17, 1990 at 10 a.m. at the Public Library in Yanceyville.

If you would like more information on Rails-to-Trails or would like to become involved with North Carolina Rails-to-Trails, contact Tom Potter, Regional Trails Specialist, Cliffs of the Neuse State Park, Route 2, Box 50, Seven Springs, N.C. 28578 or call (919) 778-9488.

Adopt-A-Trail Grants

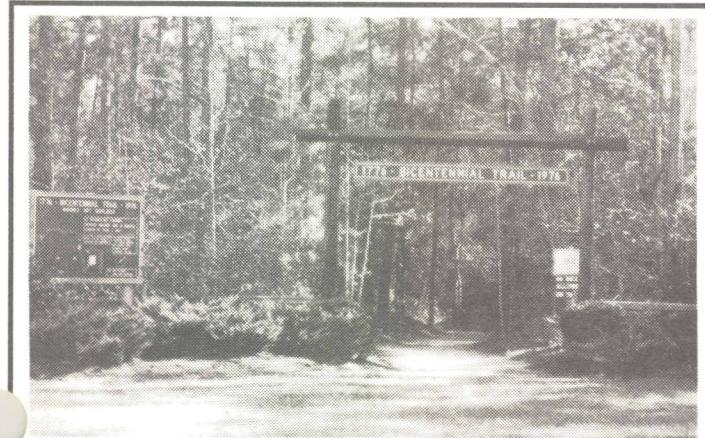
Several Adopt-A-Trail projects have been completed in eastern North Carolina. Adopt-A-Trail grants are available to any group wanting to work on trails.

The grants can be used for anything associated with trails, including tools and equipment, building materials, signs and brochures.

Onslow County Parks and Recreation has completed 520 feet of trail with its Adopt-A-Trail grant. The section completes a trail that was begun a few years ago. The trail is 4-feet wide with a pea gravel base. Fence sections were installed to direct visitors onto the trail and away from access roads to maintenance areas. Plant identification signs were also added to identify local plant varieties.

"This section of trail complements our existing trail system to make it more enjoyable for our park visitors," said Mac Sligh, director of the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department.

(See Coastal Region, Page 7)



ADOPT-A-TRAIL - Money provided through the Adopt-A-Trail Program was used to complete a section of this trail in Onslow County.

(Photo by Tom Potter)

Wake County Recognizes Trails Volunteer

By Megan Harden
Trails Specialist

The Wake County Board of Commissioners held its Volunteer Recognition Reception Nov. 13. Awards were presented to four outstanding individuals, while the other nominated volunteers received certificates of appreciation.

Ed Warner, task force leader for the Falls Lake Capital City Club trail section, was honored with a nomination.

Through Warner's initiative and enthusiasm, the Rotary Club elected to assume responsibility for a 10-mile Mountains-to-Sea Trail segment.

On his own accord, Warner assumed responsibility for this project. Most of the work has been done by him. He flagged the trail route for initial approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources. He then scheduled and organized the work days.

It is only through dedicated volunteers like Warner that the dream of a Mountain-to-Sea Trail will come to fruition.

Backpacker Magazine

The Mountains-to-Sea Trail is the subject of an article in the December issue of "Backpacker" magazine. It is featured under the "New Trails" column on page 70.

The author of the article is Allen de Hart, chairman of the North Carolina Trails Committee.

de Hart has presented a great summary of the history of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Also included is a description of the three long sections that are completed (two are located in the mountains and one along the Atlantic seashore).

The article has tripled the amount of information requests the Division is receiving. It seems like hikers from every state in the union has written. If this is any indication, the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, when completed, will draw many out-of-state visitors.

Durham County

A new task force has been established for the Durham County section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Several brainstorming sessions were held in September and October with interested individuals and groups.

Enough interest was shown to formally organize and declare the official existence of the Eno River Task Force.

The designed trail corridor follows the Eno River as it flows through Durham County. The northern end of the trail segment will connect to the Falls Lake Mountains-to-Sea segment. This is where the task force has elected to begin trail construction. This area was selected due to land being in public ownership (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) and the availability of funding for materials from the Corps.

A small scouting group of seven members, armed with topographical maps, set out Nov. 4 to begin trail layout. The deer hunting season will delay the next on site work day. A trail construction workshop is also being planned.

The task force plans to represent all groups interested in establishing trails in the area. Contacts have been established with the Eno River Association; city of Durham; Headwaters Chapter, Sierra Club; Eno River State Park; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Boy Scouts and Triangle Greenways.

The Eno River Task Force welcomes anyone interested in participating. For more information, contact Joyce Smith, task force leader, at (919) 733-2850 or contact District Trails Specialist Megan Harden at (919) 846-9991.

Wake County

Many in the trail community will miss Annette Liggette who worked for Wake County as its greenway planner. She has left the position to pursue graduate studies at North Carolina State University.

Wake County has reclassified her position to that of landscape architect and hired Nanci Bateman in November. Her job will consist of five program areas, including greenways/trails, geographic information survey, park planning/landscape architecture, marketing/administration and land acquisition.

Bateman came to Wake County from the South Carolina state park system where she was a park planner for over three years. Anyone desiring information may reach her at (919) 856-6670 or P.O. Box 550, Wake County Office Building, Raleigh, N.C. 27602.

Apex/Raleigh/Cary

Big plans are afoot for trails in the Raleigh, Apex and Cary area. A meeting was held Oct. 26 to discuss regional planning and cooperation.

Representatives from the cities of Apex, Cary and Raleigh were brought together for the first time. Also in attendance were representatives from Wake County, William B. Umstead State Park, Raleigh-Durham Airport and the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

The main topic of discussion was the feasibility of connecting some established greenways and park trails. It was decided that this inter-agency project could and would be done. One area was selected as the pilot project. The potential for constructing loop trails off of a major linear trail was also discussed.

The primary project entails connecting a Cary greenway segment to a Raleigh greenway segment. The connector trail will cross lands managed by Wake County (Crabtree Lake Regional Park), North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation (William B. Umstead State Park), and the Raleigh-Durham Airport.

(See Eastern Piedmont ..., Page 7)



CONSTRUCTION - Work continues on the Cary segment of a proposed greenway to connect Apex, Raleigh and Cary. (Photo by Megan Harden)

NCTA Conducts 11th Annual Conference

by John Shaffner
Trails Specialist

The 11th Annual Conference of the North Carolina Trails Association was held at Camp Sertoma in Stokes County Sept. 23-24, 1989. The event was hosted by the Sauratown Trails Association.

The hotel and cabins of Camp Sertoma provided lodging for the conference, and horseback rides were provided for the kids by R.M. Collins and other members of the Sauratown Trails Association.

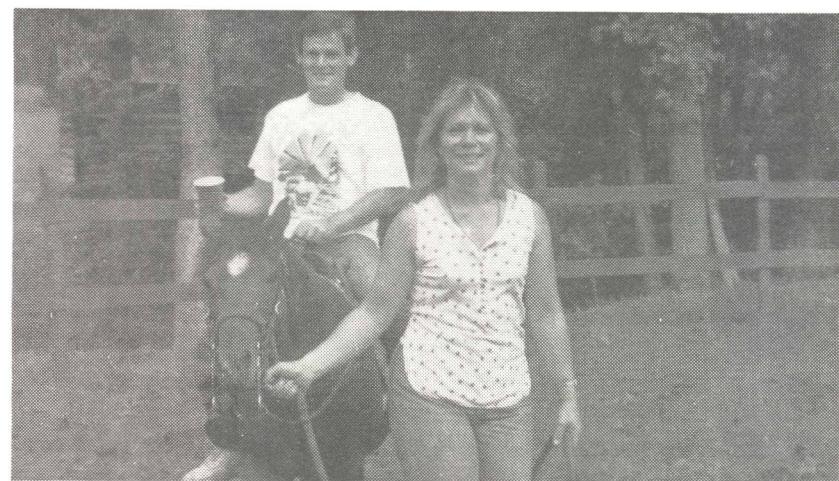
The conference's keynote speakers were Sen. Betsy Cochrane of Davie County and Rep. Dave Diamont of Surry County. Both gave the Trails Association some excellent information on lobbying their legislators.

Mark Sullivan of the N.C. Department of Transportation spoke to the association on current Rails-to-Trail issues. The rest of the day was devoted to such speakers as Tony Mebane (bicycles) and Steve Mobley (equestrian).

Other topics discussed were multi-use trails and trail ethics.

Frank McNutt and Bill Chatfield presented the NCTA awards at the annual banquet. The Louise Chatfield Outstanding Individual Award was presented to R.M. Collins of Surry County.

The Outstanding Group Award went to the Sauratown Trails Association. Special citations were presented to Sen. Cochrane, Rep. Diamont, Greg Wilson of the Central Piedmont Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Piedmont Plateau Chapter of the Sierra Club.



PONY RIDE - Darrell McBane, state trails coordinator, gets a pony ride from Emily Grogan, president of the Sauratown Trails Association, during the NCTA meeting in December. (Photo by John Shaffner)

On Sept. 24, Allen de Hart of the North Carolina Trails Committee gave the association a report on the committee's objectives for 1990.

Outgoing president, David Drexel, ended the conference by turning over the gavel to the new president, Suzanne Riley.

During the conference, seven resolutions were passed and various committees were formed to study multi-use trails, ethics, Rails-to-Trails proposals and by-law reviews.

In September 1990, the 12th Annual NCTA Conference will be hosted by Fess Green and the Northwest Mountain Task Force.

Winston-Salem The Winston-Salem Bikeway Planning

Committee met in September to introduce its new transportation planning staff.

Greg Errett introduced Mr. Larry Allen, who is the Winston-Salem City/County Planning Board's principal planner for transportation. Allen will oversee the staff's work on bikeway planning.

Errett also introduced Loretta Barren, recently hired by the City-County Planning Board as a new transportation planner. He announced that she will be working with him on the committee's bikeway planning efforts. Errett said the City-County Planning Board was trying to hire an additional planner.

On Nov. 5, the Bikeway Planning Committee drove eight designated bike routes, which comprise the Winston-Salem - Forsyth County bikeway plan, prior to preparing the final maps on the routes. A van was provided for the trip.

Dan River Trail

Evelyn Banks of Rockingham County has agreed to lease an access site for the Dan River Trail at the Harrington Highway Bridge.

The site, when developed, will include a gravel road from the Harrington Highway to a parking area under the Duke Power power line. The road will be on an existing state right-of-way, and steps will be built to accommodate boaters on the river.

The access site will provide a much-needed break between the Eden Bridge Street site and the Settles Bridge access site.

(See *Western Piedmont ...*, Page 6)



AWARD RECIPIENTS - The NCTA presented awards at its annual meeting at Camp Sertoma. Shown above are: (front row) David Drexel, Greg Wilson, Emily Grogan, Alan Myrick; (second row) R.M. Collins, Willie Taylor and Suzanne Riley. (Photo by John Shaffner)

Canoe Trail Plan Receives Policy Board Approval

By Dwayne Stutzman
Trails Specialist

Plans for a canoe trail between Lake James State Park and Hickory on the Catawba River advanced when the Western Piedmont Council of Government's Policy Board approved a proposal to request state trail status for the proposed 57-mile canoe trail.

There are 13 access sites and two portages planned for the canoe trail. Proposed access sites are located at Lake James State Park, Canal Bridge, Linville Dam, Powell House Road, Watermill Road, Independence, N.C. 18, Huffman Bridge, Castle Bridge, Connelly Creek, Tater Hole, Rhodiss Dam and Glen Hilton Park.

"The canoe trail will enhance the awareness of the importance of the Catawba River," said Catawba County Commissioner Robert E. Hibbits, chairman of the River Study Committee.

South Mountains State Park

A new 200-foot multiple span bridge crossing the Jacobs Fork River on the High Schools Falls Trail at South Mountains State Park officially opened Nov. 17.

Utilizing labor supplied by a federal Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) program out of the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission, Park Superintendent Walter Gravely has constructed an aesthetically pleasing and functional bridge.

The bridge alleviates a potentially dangerous river crossing on this 1.5-mile trail. The trail leads to the 70-foot High Schools Falls, the most popular destination in this southern Burke County state park.

Central Blue Ridge Task Force

Bob Benner, coordinator of the Central Blue Ridge Task Force, has announced that a map and brochure is available on the newly dedicated Woods Mountain Trail section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail in McDowell County.

The brochure, printed with monies from a N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation Trails Program's Adopt-A-Trail grant, is available from Benner at (704) 438-6000.

Designed not only for trail information, the brochure also solicits involvement in the further construction and continued maintenance of the Central Blue Ridge Task Force's section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

Banner Elk

In a letter from Mayor David L. Tate, the town of Banner Elk has requested assistance from the staff of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation's Trail Program.

The Town Council recently passed a resolution calling for the development of a greenway and trail in the town and has appointed Carl Clawson of Edge of the World Outfitters as the town's representative to work with the Division in the development of this plan.

Balsam-Highlands Task Force

Utilizing an Adopt-A-Trail grant from

the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation's Trail Program, the Balsam-Highlands Task Force has developed an eight-minute videotape which it plans to use to present its trail construction and maintenance activities to interested groups.

The video has been shown numerous times and has given the task force a fine medium with which to "get the word out" to those in the area about the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

Anyone interested may contact Balsam-Highlands Task Force Coordinator Doris Hammett at (704) 456-3392 or Trails Supervisor Lynwood McElroy at (704) 456-4456.



HUGO DAMAGE - Stone Mountain State Park, shown above, was one of nine state parks damaged by Hurricane Hugo. N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation personnel have been cleaning up debris since the storm hit in September. (Photo by John Shaffner)

Western Piedmont ...

(Continued from Page 5)

Organizers are seeking at least a 25-year lease with an option to renew at the end of the lease period, or a donation from the estate.

Yadkin River Trail

On Nov. 14, John Shaffner, regional trails specialist, canoed a part of the Yadkin River Trail from the Bob Pate Memorial Access in Yadkin County to the Tanglewood Access in Forsyth County.

The purpose of the trip was to video the Larco Sand Dredging Operation at work on that section of the river. The Division of Parks and Recreation is studying the opera-

tion to determine what impact, both aesthetic and ecological, the operation has on the river trail.

Larco has filed an application with the Division of Land Resources for a permit to operate another sand dredge just above the Donnaha access site on Highway 67.

Larco's property line is approximately 1,400 feet above the access site and the dredge operation would be located another 300 feet from that property line.

The Division of Land Resources is evaluating the application to be sure that impacts on the river, including recreation, are minimal before granting the permit.

Trails Staff Addresses Liability Issues

Since the development of the North Carolina Trails System Plan and the Mountains-to-Sea Trail plan, the question has always been, "How can trail be built and maintained across private property owners property?"

EHNR Makes \$25,000 Available For Adopt-A-Trail Grants

For Fiscal Year 1989-1990, the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources will provide \$25,000 in Adopt-A-Trail grant funds.

This years cycle will differ from the past two grant cycles in that there is no maximum grant amount set for any one project except for the stated \$25,000. For this reason, each of the groups or agencies applying for the grant funds should take extra care in the preparation of applications.

Each applicant should present the application in sections or stages and place the appropriate dollar amount needed to complete each section or stage. This will enable the application to be considered for total requested funding or partial funding depending upon the applications received.

Eastern Piedmont ...

(Continued from Page 4)

The Raleigh segment consists of a 6-mile natural woodlands trail with a terminus in William B. Umstead. From there, the trail will continue through the above stated lands.

At the link with the Cary greenway, the trail surface will change to asphalt. The Cary segment is a 3-mile multi-use asphalt trail.

When completed, the trail will be approximately 11.5 miles. Crabtree Lake Regional Park and William B. Umstead State Park will offer the trail users many recreational activities. Trail users will be able to picnic, fish, rent a rowboat and explore other side trails.

Work has begun on the initial route flagging. Representatives from Cary and Wake County are working with the Central District Trails Specialist on this facet. Once route is flagged, approval is required from the managing land agencies. Construction and maintenance will be done by volunteers.

Following this question has been, "Who has responsibility for liability if a private property owner does permit the trail to cross his/her land?"

The last question is, "How do we as volunteer citizens, deal with the private

property owner?"

The trails staff of the Division of Parks and Recreation is in the process of developing guidelines that will address these questions. This is the most difficult area that the trails staff has attempted to address to date.

The questions were partially addressed by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1987 when General Statute 113A-95, Article 6 was approved titled, "Liability to users of the Trails System."

This General Statute states that a landowner, lessee, occupant or other person's in control of land who, without compensation allows another person to hike or use the land for recreational purposes as established under this act and when the trail is designated as a state trail, the landowner, lessee, occupant or other person in control of the land owes the user the same duty of care owed a trespasser.

The guideline will address how the state of North Carolina will accept interest in private property for the North Carolina Trails System and who is responsible for liability.

Completion of these draft guidelines is expected in 1990 and will be presented to the North Carolina Trails Committee for review. The next step will be for the secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources to review these guidelines for possible approval. Stay tuned.

Coastal Region ...

(Continued from Page 3)

This year's grant is a continuation of the program in Onslow County. Previous Adopt-A-Trail grants have been used for a public beach access, two other nature and exercise trails and a bicycle trail from Jacksonville to Hammocks Beach State Park.

Bladen County Parks and Recreation has constructed a 1.5-mile hiking trail with its Adopt-A-Trail grant. The trail is located in a county park that offers many types of recreation.

"This trail enhances the total experience for the park visitor," said Robert Mazur, county recreation director.

The new interpretive trail identifies many species of flora and fauna in a natural habitat. The trail consists of many bridges over streams and identification signs along the trail.

McKnelly Is Named As Division Director

RALEIGH - Dr. Phil McKnelly has been named as director of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

In announcing the appointment, William W. Cobey Jr., secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, said, "I am pleased that we have someone of Dr. McKnelly's caliber in the Division to take it forward from here.

"We are looking forward to the Division being able to build on the progress which has been made over the past few years."

McKnelly, 45, joined the Division in 1985 as superintendent of state parks and was promoted to deputy director in 1986.

He has been the acting director since Dr. William W. Davis resigned on Oct. 13.

"The North Carolina state parks system has a strong foundation and organization," McKnelly said. "I am looking forward to the challenge of managing this agency as it continues to grow and develop in meeting the parks and recreation needs of this state."

Prior to joining the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, McKnelly was head of recreation and environmental education at the Tennessee Valley Authority's Land Between the Lakes at Golden Pond, Ky., for six years. He served as an associate professor in the Department of Recreation Resource Administration at North Carolina State University from 1973-79.

Originally from Little Rock, Ark., McKnelly earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Arkansas. He received his doctorate in recreation and resource development from Texas A & M University.

McKnelly and his wife, Susan, have two children and live in Raleigh.

Contact

Your Regional Trails Specialist
For More Information About
Adopt-A-Trail
Grant Applications

600 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$210 or \$0.35 per copy

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