

# Tar Heel Trails

REC'D DIV. OF  
EDUCATION  
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North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation

James B. Hunt, Jr.  
Governor



Jonathan B. Howes  
Secretary

April 1993

Volume 5 Number 2

## Governor Proclaims May As "Trails Month"

RALEIGH - Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. has proclaimed May as "Trails Month" in North Carolina.

"North Carolina is blessed with a variety of unique natural resources and recreational opportunities," Hunt said in the proclamation. "Our citizens have therefore developed a deep appreciation for the outdoors, enjoying recreational pursuits of all types.

"The many trails that cross our state are an integral part of the recreation system in North Carolina and promote the public's enjoyment of remote areas of our state."

State trails vary in length from less than five miles to 130 miles and range from rugged paths along rambling rivers to greenways and abandoned railroad rights-of-way. These trails serve hikers, bicyclists, canoeists and equestrians.

In all sizes, in all locations and for all people, our state trails provide the opportunity for an enriching experience in the outdoors.

"Citizen involvement in the planning, construction and maintenance of trails in North Carolina is increasing through the support of the North Carolina Trails Committee, several local, state and federal agencies and trails' task forces," the proclamation said.

These groups are working to develop a  
(See Trails Month ...., Page 2)

*State of North Carolina*



JAMES B. HUNT, JR.  
GOVERNOR

TRAILS MONTH

1993

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

North Carolina is blessed with a variety of unique natural resources and recreational opportunities. Our citizens have therefore developed a deep appreciation for the outdoors, enjoying recreational pursuits of all types.

The many trails that cross our state are an integral part of the recreation system in North Carolina and promote the public's enjoyment of remote areas of our state. North Carolina trails vary in length from less than five miles to 130 miles and range from rugged paths along rambling rivers to greenways and abandoned railroad rights-of-way. These trails serve hikers, bicyclists, canoeists and equestrians.

Citizen involvement in the planning, construction and maintenance of trails in North Carolina is increasing through the support of the North Carolina Trails Committee, several local, state and federal agencies and trails' task forces. These groups are working to develop a system of trails from the mountains to the ocean and to expand opportunities to enjoy regional trails in between.

The expansion of the state system of trails offers an opportunity for all North Carolinians to enjoy the natural heritage of our state and to experience nature firsthand, with the added bonus of improving their physical fitness. It is appropriate, therefore, that citizens become involved in the development of trails within our state borders.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES B. HUNT JR., Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 1993, as "Trails Month" in North Carolina, and urge our citizens to become involved in trail development and to become aware of their potential as a valuable recreational resource.



*James B. Hunt Jr.*

JAMES B. HUNT JR.

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 eighth day of March in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources

## *Trails of Thought*

Dear Fellow Trail Enthusiasts:

I have a brother-in-law who has a degree in industrial engineering. One thing that I have learned from him, is the phrase "Misdirected Effort." This phrase is used to describe unnecessary steps or procedures commonly used by an employee or organization while working on a project. I find this phrase beneficial to my job as state trails coordinator.

I commonly raise a little sand around the office over the amount of paperwork that is required to administer, promote, direct and guide the state trails program. Let me give you an example of the work that is before the trails program staff:

- Program development and administration of North Carolina's National Recreational Trails Fund Program.
- Administration of the Adopt-A-Trail Grant Program.
- The development of a Mountain Bicycle Policy for the Division based upon our two year pilot mountain bicycle trail project.
- Working with the Falls-Jordan Trails Task Force trying to determine the future of trails on both Falls and Jordan lake reservoirs.
- Ushering a bill to modify the 1973 State Trails System Act to bring this law into compliance with the 1987 State Parks Act.
- Interviewing prospective applicants for the Central Piedmont Regional trails specialist position.
- Working with the N.C. Department of Transportation on a memorandum of understanding on the preservation and use of abandoned or soon to be abandoned rail corridors for trail use.
- Development of a trails guide which will indicate on a map where designated sections of the North Carolina trails system are and where more detailed information can be obtained.
- Development of standardized sign system guidelines for designated state trails.
- Development of trail construction standards for non-motorized trails beyond the present minimum construction and maintenance standards.
- The writing of the annual report on the North Carolina trails system which is presented to the governor and the General Assembly.

If, at some point in the future, should the amount of paperwork directly result in a proportional number of miles of trail being constructed on the ground, or should recycled governmental paperwork become a good environmentally safe source for surfacing trails, then the state of North Carolina should soon have one mile of trail for every 1,000 population as referenced in the Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan.

Then, I realize that all the reports, program proposals, guidelines, staff directives, and legislative proposals are not, as I referenced earlier, a "Misdirected Effort." Our work is essential and provides a solid foundation for the North Carolina Trails System. Our mission is clear. We are building a legacy of trails for the future. Although, I sometimes complain, I am proud to be a part of this continually growing and evolving State Trails Program.

As always, thank you for your dedication and work as we continue to build, maintain and manage trails that will, some day, be a system of trails that will criss cross our entire state.

Sincerely,

*Darrell*

Darrell McBane

## *Governor Reappoints McKnelly As Division Director*

RALEIGH - Gov. Jim Hunt has reappointed Dr. Philip K. McKnelly as director of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

McKnnelly, who has served as director since 1989, has been with the division since 1985.

He joined the division as superintendent of state parks and was named as deputy director in 1986.

McKnnelly served as chief of programs and facilities at Land Between the Lakes in Golden Pond, Ky., from 1979-1985.

## *Reuter Accepts Position With DEM*

By Darrell McBane  
State Trails Coordinator

Don Reuter, the Division of Parks and Recreation's Public Information Officer and the person responsible for putting together the Tar Heel Trails newsletter, has accepted new employment as the public information officer for the Division of Environmental Management.

I wish to express my appreciation for all that Don has done to help promote the North Carolina Trails Program and to thank him especially for his excellent work on the Tar Heel Trails newsletter.

Good luck Don as you begin on your new path.

## *Trails Month ...*

*(Continued from Page 1)*

system of trails from the mountains to the ocean and to expand opportunities to enjoy regional trails in between.

"The expansion of the state system of trails offers an opportunity for all North Carolinians to enjoy the natural heritage of our state and to experience nature firsthand, with the added bonus of improving their physical fitness.

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

The Division of Parks and Recreation's trails staff is planning a series of activities to celebrate trails month.

# National Recreational Trails Fund Program Update

By Darrell McBane  
State Trails Coordinator

As was reported in the February edition of the Tar Heel Trails newsletter, the state has received \$173,174 from the National Recreational Trails Fund Act of 1991.

The "Policy, Procedures and Implementation Manual for the Administration and Distribution of the National Recreational Trails Funding Program," is being reviewed by division management and the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources.

The draft manual has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration.

North Carolina will seek applications from local, state and federal agencies. Volunteer trail organizations are encouraged to work cooperatively with local, state and federal governmental agencies as the NRTFP grants applications are developed.

The goal of DEHNR is not to exclude non-profit organizations and local trail volunteer groups from the NRTFP, but is to foster cooperative efforts between these groups and governmental units for long-term management of trails.

Management of trails includes construction, maintenance, rehabilitation, monitoring and enforcement activities.

The division hopes to have the manual and application forms to the governmental units by April 30, 1993.

Applications for grant funds will be reviewed by the North Carolina Trails Committee and recommendations will be forwarded to the EHNR secretary and the FHWA for final approval.

Because the NRTF Program is a federal grant project, the application form will not be as simple to complete as the familiar Adopt-A-Trail Grant application. We encourage units of government, who want to apply for NRTF money, to begin work now. Prepare design and engineering costs, direct labor costs, special service purchase contracts such as masons, plumbers, electricians etc., your rental equipment contracts, materials to be purchased and equipment to be purchased.

All applications must comply with the National Environmental Protection Act and the North Carolina Environmental Policies

For this reason, we suggest that you begin to collect needed topographical maps, land use maps and description of the vegeta-

tion present throughout the proposed project area.

Also required is information on whether there are any known significant historic or archaeological resources in the project area.

Beginning now will save time when the application and manual arrive.

If you have any questions, please contact either your regional trails specialist or the state trails coordinator.

## DEHNR Financial Management Plan

### Management of Fund - By Use Category

The State of North Carolina has received notification from FHWA, that the state will receive \$173,174 for fiscal year 1993 through the National Recreational Trails Fund Program. DEHNR shall allocate this year's apportionment as follows:

- o 7 percent for administrative support costs
- o 5 percent for environmental protection and safety education programs

The balance of the annual apportionment shall be allocated as follows:

- o 30 percent for non-motorized trail purposes
- o 30 percent for motorized trail purposes
- o 40 percent for both non-motorized and motorized trail use with preference given to the greatest number of compatible uses and innovative recreational corridor sharing

### Percentage of Allotments by Categories

To assure fair distribution of North Carolina's NRTFP funds, the annual apportionment shall be allocated as follows:

Agency	Purposes	Percent
DEHNR - DPR	Administration	7 percent
DEHNR - DPR	Environmental Protection and Safety Education Programs	<u>5 percent</u>
	Sub Total	12 percent
	Balance for Projects	<u>88 percent</u>
	Total	100 percent

### Categories

Federal Agencies 30 percent  
National Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, other federal agencies

State Agencies 30 percent  
N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, N.C. Division of Forestry, other state agencies

Local Government Agencies 40 percent  
Cities and counties

TOTAL 100 percent

### Actual Dollar Allotments by Categories

Total grant award to North Carolina: \$173,174.00

7 percent administration \$12,122.18

5 percent protection & education \$8,658.70

Total grant funds available for fiscal year \$152,393.12

Federal 30 percent share \$45,717.94

State 30 percent share \$45,717.94

Local government 40 percent share \$60,957.24

# *Report On The Falls-Jordan Trails Task Force*

By Darrell McBane  
State Trails Coordinator

Effective April 1, 1992, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) prohibited horseback riding, including all equine species, Falls and Jordan lake lands managed by the WRC.

Word of this equestrian prohibition spread throughout North Carolina equestrian organizations. Within a short time, the calls, letters and petitions, protesting this prohibition, began to inundate the WRC office.

In response to the equestrian outcry, the WRC, on August 26, 1992, approved for public hearing a rule modification which would allow horseback riding on all Sundays and on all days during March, June, July, and August at the Falls and Jordan Lakes projects.

As a part of this motion, the WRC requested that the secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources (EHN) establish a working group that included representatives of various horse user groups as well as representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), WRC and the Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR).

In December of 1992, the secretary of EHN sent 21 invitations to representatives of equestrian, mountain bicycle, hiker and hunter users and the representatives of the COE, the WRC and the DPR.

All 21 people agreed to serve on the Falls-Jordan Trails Task Force. The names of the task force members and their areas or representations were listed in the February edition of the Tar Heel Trails newsletter.

The task force's mission was two-fold. First was to forward a recommendation of support or denial of the WRC's proposed rule modification.

The second was to develop management options that would accommodate as many uses as possible on Falls and Jordan Lake properties without compromising safety, environmental quality, or the legal mandates governing the WRC, the DPR or the COE on trails on Fall and Jordan Lake project lands.

The following information was forwarded, by letter, to Charles Fullwood, executive director of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Feb. 16, 1993.

The content of the letter is reprinted for your information.

**Subject: Report to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission from the Falls - Jordan Trails Task Force Regarding the Equestrian Prohibition Rule and the Proposed Rule Modification Now Being Considered by the Wildlife Resources Commission**

On Aug. 26, 1992, the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) approved for public hearing a modification of the existing horseback prohibition rule now in effect for WRC managed properties at Falls and Jordan Lakes projects.

As a part of this motion, the Commission requested that William W. Cobey Jr., secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources (EHN) establish a working group to include various horse user groups as well as state and federal agencies holding land leased on these two projects to discuss this issue further.

On Dec. 3, 1992, the EHN secretary forwarded letters to 21 people requesting their participation in the Falls-Jordan Lake Trails Task Force. All 21 people accepted. A list of task force members names, addresses and agency or group represented, is enclosed.

The Falls-Jordan Trails Task Force held its first meeting Jan. 27, 1993, and has met for over seven hours attempting to reach a consensus of opinion on what recommendation to forward to the WRC. Our goal was to have a recommendation for consideration by the WRC prior to the March 3, 1993, scheduled meeting.

All task force members agree that trails are needed on the Falls and Jordan Lakes projects. Equestrian and bicycle trails are referenced in the project master plans but no money was appropriated by Congress to fund the construction of master planned trails.

On Jan. 27, 1993, the task force worked diligently to reach a specific recommendation for WRC consideration but were unable to reach consensus. The task force lacked the following information:

- The exact location of trails used by equestrians on WRC managed property;
- approved trail construction and maintenance standards for equestrian and mountain bicycle trails on COE project lands; and,
- there is no represented agency capable of assuming trail management responsibility because of either legal or financial constraints.

Based upon this lack of information, the task force voted unanimously on the following motions:

1) The Falls-Jordan Task Force has no recommendation for consideration by the WRC for the March 3, 1993, scheduled meeting. We suggest that more time is needed to study the following:

- location of trails used by equestrians;
- proper planning of trails to serve equestrians, mountain bicyclists and hikers;
- standards for trail construction and maintenance on project lands; and,
- identify a trail management agency with needed support staff and money for proper trail construction and maintenance and management.

2) Two smaller task forces would be appointed by the task force chairman to study the issues listed in motion #1:

- one task force for Falls Lake; and
- a second task force for Jordan Lake.

These two smaller task forces will report back to the full Falls-Jordan Trails Task Force before a final report is submitted to the WRC.

Although the task force was unable to reach consensus on a recommendation that would address the long term location and management of trails on Falls and Jordan Lakes project lands, other facts were acknowledged by the task force.

These are as follows:

- COE rules and regulations must be enforced by the WRC and the DPR;
- COE rules and regulations prohibit unauthorized structures, which includes trails, unless authorized by the district engineer and managed by an agency of the state of North Carolina.
- Equestrian and bicycle trails are unauthorized structures on the Falls and Jordan Lakes projects.
- The WRC is prohibited by statute from expending program funds for activities other than fish and wildlife conservation.
- The DPR is statutorily responsible for the State Trails Program.
- The DPR prohibits equestrian and bicycle trails except on designated trails. Designation, as an equestrian and/or bicycle trail, is approved by DPR management. DPR can only manage trails on lands allocated to the DPR.
- The DPR does not have available resources, staff, trail construction and/or trail maintenance funds, at this time to adequately manage new trails that are authorized by the COE district engineer.
- The equestrian and mountain bicyclist representatives on the task force agreed to using only trails authorized as structures by the COE district engineer.

Since the WRC cannot be responsible for the management of trails on WRC managed properties and due to the fact that DPR does not have appropriate available resources or authority to manage trails on WRC managed properties, DPR offered the task force members the opportunity to consider a pilot trail project at the New Hope Overlook site at Jordan Lake for equestrians, mountain bicyclists and hikers.

DPR will assume management of New Hope Overlook area in the near future. DPR also offered the possibility of a similar pilot trail project at Falls Lake on DPR managed property. No location was determined.

*(See WRC Letter ..., Page 6)*

# Hunt Announces Adopt-A-Trail Grants

RALEIGH - Gov. Jim Hunt has announced the distribution of \$35,000 to 30 recipients in North Carolina'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.

The grants provide support to volunteer groups for projects, such as building boardwalks and bridges, repairing existing trails and printing informational brochures for trail

users. These funds help to bring safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities closer to home for our citizens.

The Division of Parks and Recreation in the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources administers the grants.

## 1992-1993 ADOPT-A-TRAIL GRANT RECIPIENTS

Alamance/Burlington Bicycle Club (Alamance) - Money for siting, survey, ecological assessment and trail design for a pedestrian/bicycle trail, \$1,200.

Big Ivy Trail Blazers (Buncombe) - Tools and materials for maintenance of horse trails in the Pisgah National Forest, \$700.

Riverlink Inc. (Buncombe) - Tools and materials for trail construction along the French Broad River, \$2,000.

Burke County Environmental Affairs Board (Burke) - Acquisition of property needed for canoe access to complete an important section of the Catawba River Trail, \$2,000.

Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council (Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington) - Canoe access point signs and stream markers for canoe trail system, \$5,000.

Pittsboro Jaycees (Chatham) - Bridge materials to complete trail around Old Town Reservoir, \$2,000.

Eastern National Park and Monument Association (Dare) - Trail markers and entry signs on Buxton Woods section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, \$220.

Outer Banks Audubon Society (Dare) - Signs for canoe trail on Milltail Creek, \$2,000.

R.N. Harris Elementary School (Durham) - For tools, lumber, and hardware for new nature trail, \$250.

Greencroft Gardens (Franklin) - Bridge construction material to complete handicapped accessible trail, \$1,550.

Isothermal Planning and Development Commission (Gaston) - Fund JTPA work crews for maintenance of trails in Crowders Mountain State Park, \$3,100.

Carolina Mountain Club (Haywood) - Sign material for a new trail along the Blue Ridge Parkway, \$750.

Haywood Trail Riders Inc. (Haywood) - Bridge decking and hardware to reconstruct bridges on horse trails in the Pisgah National Forest, \$950.

Balsam-Highlands Task Force (Haywood, Jackson) - Tools for maintaining sections of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, \$90.

Nantahala Hiking Club (Macon) - Shelter roof repair along the Appalachian Trail, \$1,000.

Friends of Hammocks and Bear Island (Onslow) - Interpretive signs for the trail on Bear Island, \$775.

Association for the Preservation of the Eno River Valley, Inc. (Orange) - Publication of trail brochures along the Eno River, \$1,000.

Orange County Schools (Orange) - Construction materials and tools for new nature trail, \$250.

Foothills Equestrian Nature Center (Polk) - Grading and gravel to upgrade existing nature trail, \$470.

North Carolina Rail-Trails (Statewide) - Publication of Little Toot newsletter, \$928.

Mrs. William Gunnell, Park Volunteer, (Stokes) - Printing of informational trail brochures for Hanging Rock State Park, \$500.

Northwest Environmental and Historical Preservation Committee (Stokes) - Tools and materials to maintain Hanging Rock State Park trails, \$500.

Sauratown Trails Association (Stokes) - Tools and trail materials to maintain Camp Sertoma horse trails, \$3,000.

French Broad River Foundation (Transylvania) - Construct and install a river access sign on the French Broad River, \$400.

Pisgah Trail Blazers (Transylvania) - Tools for maintenance of horse trails in the Pisgah National Forest, \$1,000.

North Carolina FATS Mountain Bike Club (Wake) - Bridge materials and gravel to improve a multi-use trail in William B. Umstead State Park, \$1,000.

Triangle Greenways Council (Wake) - New trail brochure for Falls Lake Trail, \$1,000.

Boy Scouts of America (Washington) - Sand, rock, exhibit case and interpretive display for trail in Pettigrew State Park, \$1,152.

Arthur Morgan School (Yancey) - Loppers, paint, and signs for maintenance of trails in the Pisgah National Forest, \$145.

Boy Scout Troop No. 7 (Yancey) - Signs and Paint to remark Colberts Ridge Trail in the Pisgah National Forest, \$70.

Grand Total  
\$35,000

# North Carolina Trails Committee Nominations

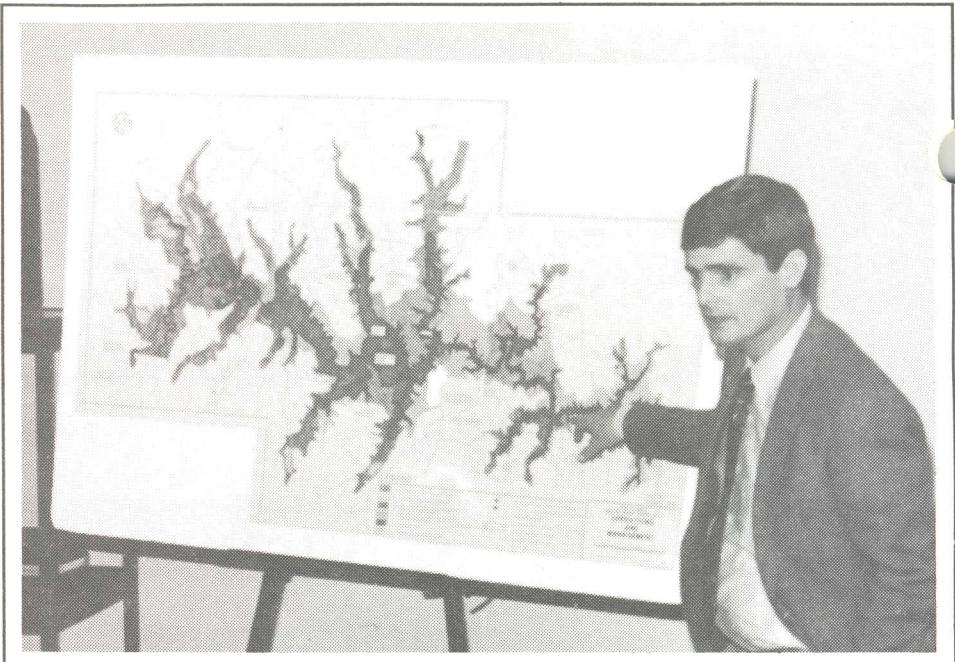
On Jan. 1, 1994, the terms of four North Carolina Trails Committee members terms will expire. The Division of Parks and Recreation is seeking nominations that will be submitted to the secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources for possible appointment to a four-year term as members of the committee.

In order for the State of North Carolina to remain eligible for the National Recreational Trails Fund Act money, there must be a motorized trail user representative on the North Carolina Trails Committee prior to 1995.

Please take this opportunity to discuss the committee openings among your groups and organizations and submit your nominations to the state trails coordinator before July 1, 1993.

The North Carolina Trails System Act created the North Carolina Trails Committee, a seven-member citizens advisory panel. The committee is appointed by the secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources and serves to advise the secretary on those matters relating to trails.

The committee represents all trails inter-



NCTC MEETING - State Trails Coordinator Darrell McBane discusses Falls and Jordan Lake issues with the North Carolina Trails Committee during a meeting March 19 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Management Center on Falls Lake. The committee also discussed the National Recreation Trails Fund and the Adopt-A-Trail Grant report.

est groups as much as possible as well as three geographic regions of the state.

The North Carolina Trails Committee's responsibilities are:

- to advise the secretary on matters pertaining to trails;
- to promote trail development among local governments;
- to assist in formulation of trail plans;
- to review all applications for state trail designation;

- to review Adopt-A-Trail Grant applications; and

- to review National Recreational Trails Fund Program applications.

## WRC Letter ...

(Continued from Page 4)

DPR will assume management responsibility for these pilot trail projects, will work through a memorandum of understanding with the trail groups for proper construction and maintenance of these pilot trails, and will work with the COE to have these trails approved by the district engineer as authorized structures.

This will include a provision that groups will work with DPR to determine appropriate levels of funding needed for proper trail management and assist DPR in assessing sources for this needed funding.

Trail user representatives on the task force will consider DPR's offer to consider pilot trail projects on Falls and Jordan Lakes projects. This idea, and others, will be considered by the smaller Falls and Jordan Lakes task forces to be appointed as noted in Motion #2.

The trail user representatives wanted the WRC to reinstate the use of trails used by equestrians prior to the WRC prohibition, while the two smaller task forces address the concerns listed in Motion #1. After much discussion, it was determined that this compromise would cause the WRC to be in violation of the lease agreement between the Department of the Army and the state of North Carolina.

The opportunity to help resolve the issue of trail use on the Falls and Jordan Lakes lands owned by the COE and managed by the WRC is appreciated. We hope that you will be receptive to future task force recommendations as we continue to seek a resolution that will provide additional trail use opportunities at the Falls and Jordan Lakes projects.

## 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
Ed Kelly Dudley, N.C.	Canoeing	Coast	01/01/94
Bob Benner Morganton, N.C.	Canoeing	Mountain	01/01/94
R.M. Collins Pilot Mountain N.C.	Equestrian	Piedmont	01/01/94
David Mallett Asheville, N.C.	Equestrian	Piedmont	01/01/94
Allen Poole Manteo, N.C.	Hiking	Coast	01/01/95
Allen deHart Louisburg, N.C.	Hiking	Coast	01/01/96
Dean Coleman Graham, N.C.	Greenways	Piedmont	01/01/96

# First National Trails Day Planned For June 5

Tom Potter  
Trails Specialist

WASHINGTON, D.C. - More than 1,000 trail clubs, conservation organizations and public land managers across the United States will host millions of Americans at events staged to observe the nation's first National Trails Day.

Timed to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, the June 5, 1993, celebrations also will introduce a plan to establish a nationwide network of trails, crisscrossing the country like the interstate highway system. The project will be lead by the American Hiking Society, a national advocacy and educational organization for trail users and trail issues.

To support National Trails Day, thousands of grassroots trail groups will host

events ranging from nature hike for children, organized trail maintenance projects, fundraising walk-a-thons, educational workshops and barbecues on urban pathways.

Hundreds of outdoor retailers are joining the National Trail Day festivities by forming partnerships with trail clubs. Retailers will help the groups with promotions and planning, laying the groundwork for future collaboration on a number of trails issues.

Municipal and state park authorities and federal land management agencies are participating by collaborating with trail clubs and, in some cases, sponsoring NTD events.

Trails are playing an increasingly important role in community infrastructure, providing space for recreation, health and fitness and community-based activities. Trails through developed areas also play a

crucial role in preserving wildlife habitat, providing linear open space or "greenways."

Several steps must be taken by participating organizations if the day is to be successful.

They are as follows:

- Decide to hold an event;

- Link that event to a goal, such as completing trail construction, getting funding for maintenance or purchasing a right-of-way. Link the event to the Trails for All Americans vision.

- Assess who must be reached to achieve long-range goals: policy makers, commerce groups, property owners who oppose trails.

- Assess who must be a part of the effort to make it successful over the long run - which coalitions to build inside and outside the trails community to reach people who must be reached.

- Define short-term victory for the National Trail Day event, whether it's an invitation to address a landowners group or just to get a few volunteers.

- Plan a winning event with your group's goals in mind. Trails will be completed and new ones blazed when the trails community convinces everyone else of the role trails can play in reaching the goals of every other interest vying for scarce resources.

Here are a few groups that should be included:

Public health organizations - Simply having more places to walk, run and ride encourages us to practice the kind of preventive medicine that can improve public health and help bring health care costs down.

Community action organizations - The problem with many communities is that there is no sense of community and trails bring people into contact with one another.

Transportation organizations - The line between transportation and recreation is getting thinner and thinner and the problems of moving people from place to place are getting larger and larger.

## Trails For All Americans

Trails for All Americans is a grassroots undertaking with national implications - local trails forming a national network.

Raising awareness about one trail or segment contributes to winning a national network. National Trails Day will help raise awareness of trails as an important issue in the minds of people who have not yet joined the trails community.

February 20, 1993

## GREENWAYS

INCORPORATED

Community Planning  
Landscape Architecture  
Environmental Design

### National Trails Day 1993

Dear Fellow Trails Enthusiast:

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Chuck Flink and I have agreed to serve as the state coordinator for National Trails Day. Please find enclosed some information that describes National Trails Day and how you or your organization can become involved in 1993.

National Trails Day is being coordinated throughout the United States by the American Hiking Society. Laura Howard and David Lillard are two full-time national coordinators who may be able to help you with specific questions about National Trails Day. Their toll free number is 1-800-972-8608.

Here in North Carolina, we have several groups that have expressed a preliminary interest in sponsoring events for National Trails Day. The North Carolina Greenways Advisory Panel will be asking Governor Hunt to make an official declaration that June 5, 1993 be named North Carolina Trails Day. Joining with other state-wide and local groups, organizations and agencies, we hope to see events sponsored state-wide that will encourage North Carolinians to take stock of our current trails system, and support programs, activities, policies and strategies that are necessary to improve trail systems at the local, regional and state level.

We would like to know what activity you have planned for National Trails Day. Please write to me, or fax me a letter that describes your organization and event. If you choose to call and speak with me directly, you might find it difficult to catch me due to my hectic schedule. Please feel free to discuss your plans and event ideas with the staff of Greenways Incorporated -- Terri, Jen, David and Inga will be glad to provide you with the assistance you need.

Best wishes to you and your organization and happy trails!

Sincerely,  
  
Charles A. Flink, ASLA  
North Carolina Coordinator  
National Trails Day

121 Edinburgh South, Suite 107  
MacGregor Park  
Cary, North Carolina 27511  
(919) 380-0127

# Park Initiates Trail Volunteer Program

By John Shaffner  
Trails Specialist

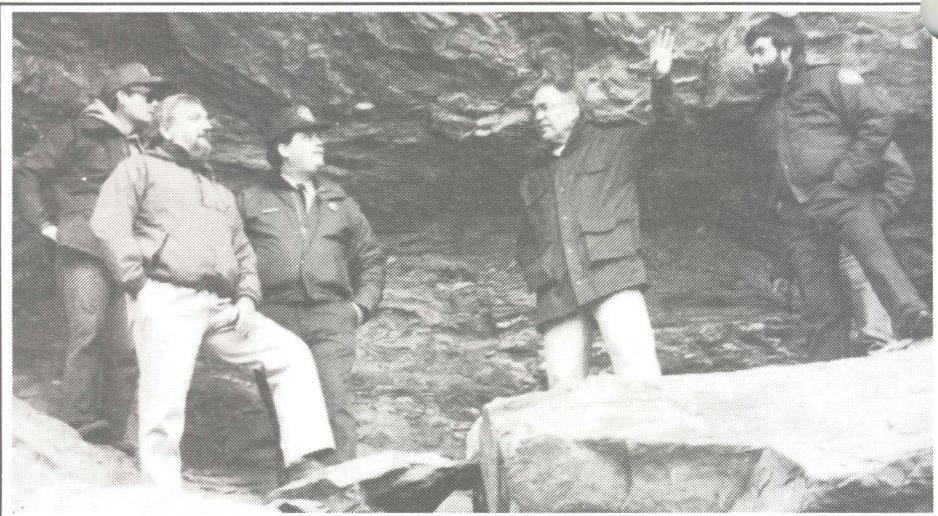
The volunteer rolls at Hanging Rock State Park are growing. A new Adopt-A-Trail program conceived by Superintendent Tommy Wagoner is off to a good start.

Similar to the well-known Adopt-A-Highway Program, the Adopt-A-Trail Program (different from the Adopt-A-Trail Grant Program) has the potential to be a trendsetter. With almost 20 miles of trail at Hanging Rock and only six staff members, the volunteer program should be a boon for the park.

Wagoner recognized the need for volunteer help in the park and has kept logs of all the groups through group camping and other activities.

He mailed about 70 letters asking individuals and groups to adopt "one mile" on trail of their choice, selected on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The groups or individuals must commit in writing to a twice-a-year, two-year hitch. They will begin by furnishing supervised,



**STAFF VISIT** - Division of Parks and Recreation management visit Hanging Rock State Park as a follow-up to the park's General Management Plan study of trails. (From left to right) State Trails Coordinator Darrell McBane; Tom Wells, deputy director; Lewis Ledford, West District superintendent; Phil McKnelly, division director, and park staff member Ken McGrady lend their expertise to solving important issues at three major park sites: Lower Cascade Falls, Hidden and Window Falls and Hanging Rock Trail. The visit will help determine the best procedure for managing these sensitive areas.

light trail maintenance, such as trimming and trash pickup. Later, volunteers may in-

stall water bars or perform other maintenance tasks as needed.

Each group or individual will be recognized for adopting a segment of trail in fashion determined by the park superintendent.

In addition to learning some useful secrets of trail maintenance, each volunteer will benefit by contributing to their favorite park trail in a system that is underfunded. The park will benefit as well. Hopefully, this first-hand experience for volunteers will yield valuable insight into a few of the realities of sound park management.

We hope this program will catch on at other parks and among many groups. Since the parks in North Carolina belong to all of us, this volunteer program at Hanging Rock offers a chance for everyone to have a real stake in the care and maintenance of their own property.

Interested? Contact Tommy Wagoner, park superintendent, Hanging Rock State Park, P.O. Box 186, Danbury, N.C. 27016 or call (919) 593-8480.

## Solitude In National Parks

Visiting a national park this summer? Chances are you're seeking solitude or a backcountry experience. Listed on this page is a "crowds" rating of nine national parks reprinted from *American Hiker* magazine. Hope the information is useful in planning your trip.

(See *Western Piedmont ...*, Page 10)

### **Backcountry Gridlock: National Park Favorites in 1991**

In 1991 virtually the same number of hikers and other adventurers availed themselves of backcountry campsites at both Olympic National Park and Great Smokies National Park. At each, just over 77,000 overnight visits to remote sites were recorded by the parks, according to a statistical abstract released earlier this year.

Does that mean that the odds of finding solitude are about even? Hardly. Olympic National Park is nearly twice as large as the Smokies, offering more hidden places to lose oneself in the backcountry. By way of comparison, only half as many camped in the backcountry at Shenandoah National Park—about 39,000—but with fewer than 200,000 acres in the park's jurisdiction, hikers needed to be a bit more crafty to lose the crowds.

Where to go for an easy escape to the backcountry? Once again, *American Hiker* has fished in the statistical pool to find out where the backcountry crowds are—and aren't. And again, the standings among the nine parks we follow remain largely unchanged. (One note: this year we dropped Grand Canyon and the North Cascades due to new counting methods that sharply skewed the figures.) The most congested park remains Shenandoah National Park, with 20 backcountry overnights per 100 acres; the least crowded is massive Yellowstone, with about one-tenth as many campers per acre of wilds.

The figures on the chart below are calculated by dividing the number of campers by the park acreage, giving a rough sense of the solitude that might be found within. Bear in mind, however, that all the acreage in the world won't compensate for a lack of trails, which provides hikers access to the backcountry.

SHENANDOAH	*****
SEQUOIA	*****
YOSEMITE	*****
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	*****
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS	*****
GRAND TETONS	*****
OLYMPIC	*****
GLACIER	***
YELLOWSTONE	**

\* = one backcountry overnight stay per 100 acres in 1991

## Task Force Report - Mountain Region

# New MTS Trail Section To Be Dedicated June 4

 **Dwayne Stutzman**  
Trails Specialist

The Carolina Mountain Club, in conjunction with the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service, will dedicate a new 8-mile section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on June 4 at 11 a.m. at the Blue Ridge Parkway's Craggy Gardens Picnic Area, north of Asheville.

As portions of the trail run on extremely steep side slopes in areas of heavy rock, the construction of one section necessitated the building of hundreds of feet of rock cribbed trail through thick rhododendron and laurel to avoid areas on Craggy Pinnacle considered habitat for rare and endangered plant species.

One section of trail has been over four years in the building, requiring a total of 79 days. The average work crew size was 10 individuals and the average length of trail built per day was 210 feet.

A total of 5,610 hours went into this one 3.15-mile portion of the new trail alone, with the entire section requiring six years to complete.

This new section of the MTS, which is approximately 8 miles long, will connect with the existing Arch Nichols section Craggy Gardens Picnic Area and will be included as a portion of the Arch Nichols Trail on its way to Mount Mitchell.

### **Haywood County Prints Trail Map**

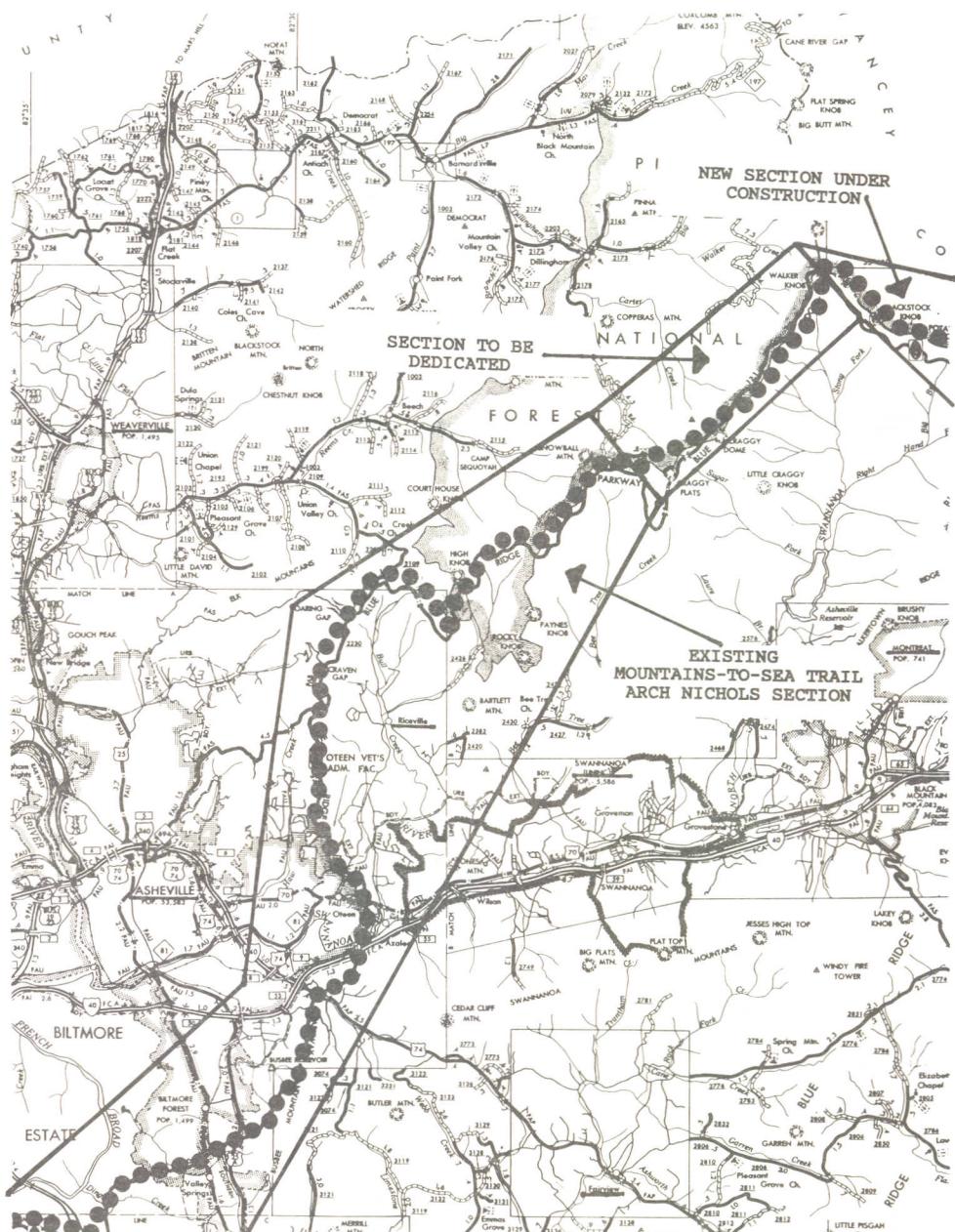
The Balsam-Highlands Task Force has spent the past year-and-a-half developing a revised Haywood County Trails Map.

The map, which will replace one originally printed in 1976, will detail 45 separate trails for hikers, equestrians, canoeists/kayakers, crosscountry skiers, mountain bikers and road bike users.

Graphics for the trail map were developed by the N.C. Division of Community Assistance utilizing a Geographic Information System. The narrative was written by a committee comprised of trail users brought together by the Balsam-Highlands Task Force.

The map is being funded by the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce and the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation's Adopt-A-Trail grant program.

The map is expected to be available in April.



**NEW MTS TRAIL SEGMENT** - The Carolina Mountain Club, in conjunction with the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service, will dedicate this new 8-mile section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on June 4 at 11 a.m. at the Blue Ridge Parkway's Craggy Gardens Picnic Area, north of Asheville.

## Western Piedmont ...

(Continued from Page 8)

### Scout To Build Trail In Rockingham

Brian Burnett of Rockingham County will build a one-mile trail behind the Rockingham County Government Center in Wentworth as an Eagle Scout project. His plan calls for the trail to "dip a couple of times" and cross a stream or two. Conscious of the erosion it may cause, Bryan asked for assistance from the trail staff to determine possible alternative routes.

Eagle Scout projects are important to the trail program because they provide a good source of future volunteers. Scouts also have a strong motivation to see a job through no matter how long it takes. Above all, they want the job done right.

### Greenways In Other States

("Statewide Greenways Program Begins in Florida," from *Common Ground*, April 1993)

Gov. Lawton Chiles has appointed a greenway commission in Florida. By executive order, the commission, head by Lt. Gov. Buddy McKay, will help create "a linked network of greenways across the state." Nathaniel P. Reed, former assistant secretary of the Interior, will serve as vice chairman.

Commission members include secretaries of four departments of state government, the director of the Florida Game and Fish Commission, representatives from Florida's five water management districts, legislators and a county commissioner.

At least half of the more than 30 board members (its final size

has yet to be set) are being drawn from a broad range of statewide conservation and trail interests. Business interests are also well represented.

The commission will assess greenway activities across the state; develop a state framework for supporting local greenway initiatives; solicit public comment on greenway issues, and recommend actions and alternatives for assembling a statewide greenways network.

The governor has also asked the commission to initiate formal recognition of 150 state, regional or local greenways by 1995, the 150th anniversary of Florida's statehood.

"Florida Greenways," a joint project of 1,000 Friends of Florida and The Conservation Fund will provide technical assistance to the commission. Funding has come from the John D. and Catherine T. McArthur Foundation.

"Our grant is an extension of an idea we embraced last year when we asked The Conservation Fund to apply greenways principles in designing a strategy to help guide use of our 52,000 acres in and around the Loxahatchee River corridor," Adele Simmons, president of the foundation, said.

### Massachusetts Launches Grant Program

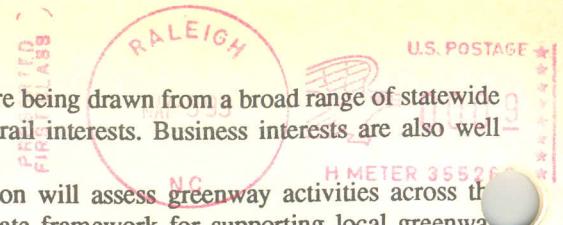
Massachusetts is launching a greenways grants program through a partnership between the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the Massachusetts Greenways Council.

Grants will range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. DEM Greenways planner Gail J. Swett has application guidelines at (617) 727-3160.

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Public Information Office  
N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 27687  
Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7687

DR PHILIP MCKNELLY 441  
DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION  
512 N SALISBURY STREET  
RALEIGH NC 27611



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