

Tar Heel Trails

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation

James G. Martin
Governor



William W. Cobey, Jr.
Secretary

July 1990

Volume 2 Number 3

Governor Martin Announces 1990 Adopt-A-Trail Grant Recipients

By Don Reuter
Public Information Officer

RALEIGH - Gov. Jim Martin has announced the award of \$25,000 to 29 applicants in North Carolina's Adopt-A-Trail Program.

The North Carolina Trails Committee had recommended the applicants at a meeting in Raleigh March 30.

The recommendations were then forwarded to William W. Cobey Jr., secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, for approval.

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

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

The trails committee also approved three trails designation applications during the meeting. The three trails _ the Neusiok Trail, Dan River Trail and Northwest Mountains Task Force Section _ were designated during May.

In other business, the committee reviewed and approved the North Carolina Trails System annual report. The report will be presented to Gov. Jim Martin and the General Assembly.

"The future of the Division of Parks and Recreation's trails program is bright indeed," the report said. "The pivotal developments

of 1987-88 and 1988-89 have brought the trails program to an important threshold.

"However, if as mandated in the North Carolina Trails System Act of 1973, the North Carolina trails system is to continue to expand in order to meet the growing needs of the public, the program will need further financial and legislative support from the governor and the General Assembly."

See a list of Adopt-A-Trail
Recipients on Page 7

Secretary Cobey Appoints Benner As NCTC Chairman

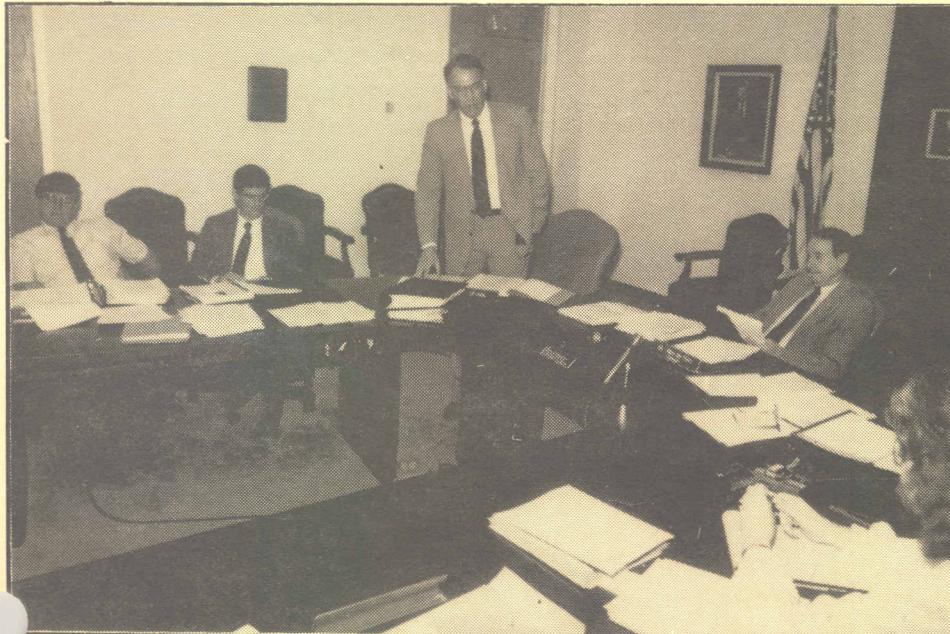
RALEIGH - William W. Cobey Jr., secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, has announced the appointment of Bob Benner of Morganton as chairman of the North Carolina Trails Committee for the 1990 calendar year.

Benner, chairman of the Central Blue Ridge Task Force for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, succeeds Allen de Hart of Louisburg as chairman of the committee.

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

Benner, a canoeing enthusiast, is the author of a book, titled Carolina Whitewater: A Canoeist's Guide to the Western Carolinas. He is also co-author of A Paddler's Guide to Eastern Carolina with Tom McCloud.

(See Benner ..., Page 4)



TRAILS COMMITTEE - Dr. Phil McKnelly, standing, addresses members of the North Carolina Trails Committee at a meeting in Raleigh March 30. The committee recommended applicants for Adopt-A-Trail grants during the meeting.

North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources

A Message From The NCTC Chairman

We're sitting in the campground at Pilot Mountain State Park on the evening before the Trails Construction and Maintenance Workshop pondering over some of the current issues facing the trails community.

We'd like to share them with you. As we see it, three of the more pressing issues are:

1) A resolution to the private land issues, especially in relation to landowner liability. Until a solution can be found, we are going to have a segmented trails system instead of the continuous route we all see as the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Hopefully, the recently appointed Trails Acquisition Task Force addressing this problem will find a

remedy for this perplexing situation in the near future. We see this as our top priority in order for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail progress.

Trails Of Thought

Dear Fellow Trails Enthusiasts:

The May Trails Month Celebration in North Carolina is a time proclaimed by Gov. Martin when we celebrate the development and maintenance of trails across the state.

It is a time when the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, the Division of Parks and Recreation and the North Carolina Trails Committee extend our appreciation to the volunteers across the state for their hard work and dedication in making the dream of a statewide system of trails a reality.

The Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources and the Division of Parks and Recreation wish to take this opportunity to thank every individual who has promoted, planned, constructed and/or maintained trails in the state. The trails program in this state is developing because of your dedication.

In honor and recognition for your work, William W. Cobey Jr., secretary of EHNR, has designated three new trails into the North Carolina trails system.

The Dan River Trail, a 67.3-mile canoe trail was designated as a state trail during a dedication ceremony May 12. The ceremony was sponsored by the Friends of the Dan and Mayo River Committee and was attended by more than 100 people.

The Neusiok Trail, a 20-mile hiking trail and a section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail was designated as a state trail during a dedication ceremony May 19. The ceremony was sponsored by the Carteret County Wildlife Club and was attended by more than 25 people.

The 12.8-mile section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail from Price Memorial Park to the town of Blowing Rock in Watauga County was designated as a state trail during a dedication ceremony May 26. The ceremony was sponsored by the Northwest Mountains Task Force and was well attended.

These three designations represent only a small part of the trail development and maintenance taking place across North Carolina. Many cities and counties are developing greenway plans and building trails in their local areas.

The Division of Parks and Recreation is actively reconstructing trails within state parks to bring these trails up to standard.

The National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service are working cooperatively with the state and the local volunteers to locate, construct and maintain trails on lands under their management.

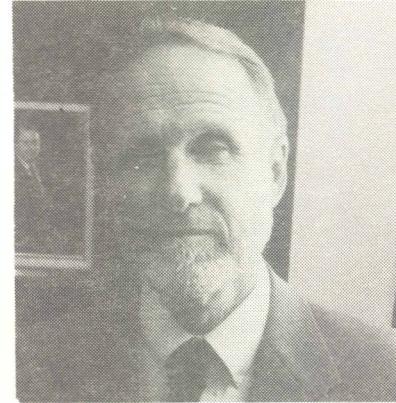
All of this work is in accordance with the 1973 Trails Act which mandates the state of North Carolina to provide new and better trails for our citizens and visitors.

Again, we thank you for your direction and dedication to making the North Carolina trails system a reality.

Sincerely,

Darrell

Darrell McBane



Bob Benner

2) To reach a reasonable policy for use of mountain bikes on public lands, especially within our state parks. The bikes are becoming more and more popular and pressure to use such lands is going to grow accordingly. Certainly there are service roads and/or old logging roads that lend themselves toward such use, but, on the other hand, there are trails that haven't been constructed to hold up under such traffic, and, therefore, must be closed to such use. The question appears to be whether or not we can provide for bike usage while simultaneously protecting the resource.

3) To find an avenue for greater understanding, cooperation and communication between multi-purpose trail users. We see conflicts between hikers and bikers, bikers and equestrians, and equestrians and hikers. Many of us have experienced such confrontations. As trail mileage shrinks and trail use grows, we are going to see more multi-use routes. Perhaps, there is no solution to be found here for each of us carries with us different expectations when we hit the trail, and meeting someone "different" may interfere with fulfilling those expectations.

We realize there are no simple solutions to such problems, but, hopefully, we can find a more immediate resolution to the private land issue. The biking policy will evolve over a period of time. There is no easy answer to the multiple-use trail situation because, after all, we are mere humans.

The issues are here, and there are but few of them. They will require our united efforts to find some reasonable solutions.

Bob Benner

Neusiok Trail Dedication Highlights Trails Month

Tom Potter
Trails Specialist

Another successful "May is Trails Month" is behind us.

By publicizing the many trail activities each year during May, we can help bring recognition to the many volunteers across our state.

The true purpose of the celebration is to recognize those who have given of themselves to create something the citizens and visitors to North Carolina can enjoy.

North Carolina's trails program is a prime example of what can happen when private citizens and government interact and cooperate to develop something that many people can enjoy. These trails would not be possible if not for the many volunteers committed to the purpose.

The involvement of trail task forces provides the impetus to construct and maintain trails across North Carolina. Each year, the amount of dedicated trails increases because of the involvement of the trail volunteers.

The Neusiok Trail dedication was the highlight of the trails celebration in eastern North Carolina. The trail, which is a component of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, meanders through the Croatan National Forest.

The trail crosses the Croatan from the Neuse River to the Newport River. A section of the trail also crosses some property owned by Weyerhaeuser Co. Even though this section was not dedicated, it remains an integral part of the trail. It is through the cooperation of the Weyerhaeuser Co. that this trail exists.

The Neusiok Trail traverses many different types of plant communities and exposes the users to many different animal species.

The trail begins at Pinecliff Recreation Area and follows the Neuse River. Along the Neuse River, the hiker can traverse salt marshes and sandy beaches. Upon leaving the immediate area of the river, the hiker encounters hardwood flats and ridges.



UNVEILING - Billy Freeman, president of the Carteret County Wildlife Club, left, Dr. Phil McKnelly, director of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, center, and Steve Fitch, deputy supervisor, National Forests in North Carolina, unveil the sign dedicating the Neusiok Trail as a component of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail during a ceremony May 19.

Continuing to the Newport River, the hikers cross many acres of cypress-palmetto swamps, longleaf pine ridges and pocosins. The point of arrival at the Newport River is only five miles from the Atlantic Ocean.

Along the journey, hikers are exposed to many different species of wildlife, such as the southern bald eagle, alligator, red-cockaded woodpecker, squirrel, otter, white-tailed deer, black bear and wild turkey.

Trail users should look out for copperheads and cottonmouth, canebrake and diamond-back rattlesnakes and water moccasons.

Because of the location of the trail and the surrounding areas, the best time to hike the trail is during the cooler seasons of the year. This gives hikers some place to enjoy when the conditions in the western part of the state are too severe.

See a special poem about the Neusiok Trail on Page 8

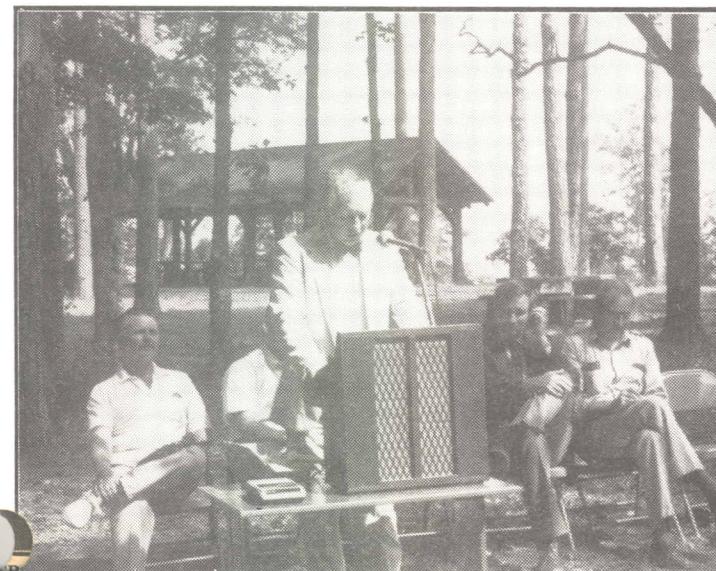
The Neusiok Trail was dedicated during ceremonies held May 19. The principal speakers for the event were Steve Fitch, deputy supervisor, National Forests in North Carolina, and Dr. Phil McKnelly, director of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. Approximately 25 people attended the ceremony.

Gene Huntsman, a member of the Carteret County Wildlife Club, provided a brief history on the trail. Huntsman spoke about the time about 20 years ago when a young Paul Kelly approached him seeking information on hiking opportunities in the area.

Huntsman told Kelly the only places he knew were on logging roads in the Croatan. Huntsman later contacted Edgar Gersuski, district ranger for the Croatan. With the cooperation of Bob Wiggins, district forester for Weyerhaeuser, the three began to plot the route of the trail from the Neuse River to the Newport River.

With the easy part completed, members of the Carteret County

(See Coastal Region ..., Page 9)



A BRIEF HISTORY - Gene Huntsman, a member of the Carteret County Wildlife Club, provides background information on the Neusiok Trail during dedication ceremonies May 19 in the Croatan National Forest.

City Of Cary Dedicates Greenways and Parks

By Smith Rogers
Trails Specialist

The city of Cary is in the process of developing a greenway system. Tim Brown of the Cary Planning Department is the city's greenway planner.

Cary dedicated several greenways and parks on April 28 in conjunction with the National Celebration of the Outdoors.

North Carolina's Take Pride In America Program Announces 1990 Awards Schedule

North Carolina's Take Pride in America Program has announced the 1990 TPIA awards program schedule.

The fourth annual awards program is open to any individual and public and private sector groups which have contributed exemplary efforts to the increased wise use of North Carolina's public lands and waters.

Activities nominated must have occurred during the current or previous year and all applications must be submitted on a 1990 application form.

Applications will be judged by a Blue Ribbon Panel of Judges chaired by William W. Cobey Jr., secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources.

All nominees will be honored at a special ceremony in Raleigh next year. Our state's winners will be submitted to the national TPIA awards program.

Entries will be judged based on five criteria:

- Demonstrated need for the activity;
- Effectiveness of methods used;
- Effect of activity on natural and cultural resources;
- Effect on public awareness, and
- Amount and variety of volunteer participation.

Applications are available by contacting your TPIA county coordinator, or: John C. Poole, State Coordinator, Take Pride in America, N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7687 or by calling (919) 733-7795.

Completed application forms are being accepted and must be received by the state TPIA coordinator by Nov. 2, 1990, to be considered.

Become a part of North Carolina's winning TPIA tradition by getting involved

One such dedication was the second section of the Black Creek Greenway. The city added one mile, making the total greenway two-and-a-half miles in length. The greenway runs along the shore of Lake Crabtree and provides greenway access to Lake Crabtree Park.

Another proposed one-mile section will link with Maynard Road. Eventually, the

greenway will run into William B. Umstead State Park and connect with Company Mill Trail. Along with tremendous support from Wake County, this greenway was made possible in part through a generous donation from the Wake County Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Maynard Oaks Greenway was re-dedicated as the Robert Hinshaw Greenway. Robert Hinshaw retired last year after 14 years of public service as a councilman. This dedicated public servant was instrumental in establishing the Cary greenway system. The Robert Hinshaw Greenway extends for 0.7 miles.

The Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve was also dedicated. This area encompasses a rare stand of hemlocks as well as other unique vegetation.

Over two miles of trails and five scenic overlooks are included in the preserve. Designed by Alice Whitney, a landscape architect with the Cary Department of Parks and Recreation, this system gives the visitor an opportunity to view the unique plants found at Hemlock Bluffs.

The town of Cary is to be commended for the fine job it has done in providing quality greenways and trails for everyone to enjoy.

Benner ...

(continued from Page 1)

Benner is an instructor at Western Piedmont Community College in the Physical Education Department.

"I'm honored by the appointment and consider it a challenging undertaking, especially at this time as far as the budget is concerned," Benner said.

Private land issues remain an important area for the trails community, according to Benner.

"As I see it, the main problem we face at this time, aside from money of course, is the problem of private land issues such as land owner liability," he said.

"One of the things I'd like to see us pursue is encouraging the newly appointed trails acquisition task force to continue pursuing the resolution of this particular issue."

Cobey also reappointed three members of the committee to four-year terms.

The reappointed members include Ed Kelly of Goldsboro, R.M. Collins of Pilot Mountain and David Mallett of Asheville.

Cobey, Local Officials Dedicate Dan River Trail

John Shaffner
Regional Trails Specialist

DANBURY - After five years of hard work and painstaking coordination between the private sector, corporations and state and local agencies, the effort has finally paid off in the dedication and state designation of the Dan River Trail.

The ceremony was held May 12 at Moratock Park. The festivities included a preliminary "fun float," in which a number of the guests participated, and a river cleanup conducted by a Stokes County scout troop.

The dedication/designation ceremony was attended by approximately 100 people, including state and local officials, the representatives of corporations involved in the trail and river supporters.

Secretary of Environment, Health and Natural Resources William W. Cobey, Jr. said in his key note speech that the trail is an important part of the efforts to preserve the state's natural beauty and make those resources available to more people.

"This trail dedication," he said, "marks the progress that is being made to create a trail system that will extend from the mountains to the ocean."

Floyd Rich, president of the Friends of the Dan and Mayo Rivers, said that he has looked forward to this event for a long time.

"This trail represents a community investment in the future of the river," Rich



AWARD PRESENTATION - EHNR Secretary Cobey presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Floyd Rich, president of Friends of the Dan and Mayo Rivers, during dedication ceremonies May 12.

said. "This river deserves good stewardship from each of us."

The idea to build a canoe trail on the Dan River was conceived in 1985. The Rockingham/Stokes Water Resources Committee appointed the Dan River Trail Subcommittee to study the potential for developing the Trail following the completion of the Yadkin River Trail in the same year.

The trail represents the collective effort of state and local governments, corporations and private land owners.

Today, spanning both Stokes and Rockingham counties, the Dan River Trail in-

cludes 10 river access sites. There are five sites in each county, a river distance of 73 miles. More access sites are planned.

"The objective is to add one access site every five miles or so," Rich said, "or the distance the average canoeist can paddle in one day."

Hanging Rock Hike

Approximately 23 people gathered for a May is Trails Month nature hike in Hanging Rock State Park May 19.

Drawn perhaps by Chief Ranger Jaye Dow and her pet corn snake, the group of seniors, parents, kids, and a girl scout troop hiked with Regional Trails Specialist John Shaffner along the new Hanging Rock Trail to the summit.

Though the orchids were past their prime, the group still found many wild geraniums and fire pinks in bloom. The group sampled the taste of Wintergreen, and staff demonstrated how the leaf of the sourwood tree can quench one's thirst.

Hikers sniffed the fragrant wild ginger and examined the difference between solomons-seal and false solomons-seal.

Also, the group was interested in trees and staff was frequently asked to identify some of the vast variety that live and grow on the slopes of the park.

Once on the Hanging Rock summit, many of the group relaxed against the rock to enjoy the warm sunshine, have lunch or marvel at the clear view of the cities of Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point.

(See Eastern Region ..., Page 10)



RIBBON CUTTING - Local officials join William W. Cobey, secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, in a ribbon cutting dedicating the Dan River Trail. From left to right: Madison Mayor J.P. Carter, Rockingham County Commissioner James Collins, Stokes County Commissioner Willis Overby, Secretary Cobey, Stokes County Commissioner Banner Shelton, Rockingham/Stokes Water Resources Commission Chairman Bob Futrell and Floyd Rich cut the ribbon to open the trail.

MST Section Links Price Memorial Park To Blowing Rock

By Dwayne Stutzman
Trails Specialist

BLOWING ROCK - About 75 people attended the dedication of a section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail during May is Trails Month activities.

The ceremony was held at Blowing Rock's Memorial Park May 26.

The 12.8-mile section connects Price Memorial Park with the town of Blowing Rock via the Cone Manor on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Dr. Fess Green of the Northwest Mountains Task Force presided as master of ceremonies.

Thomas R. Wells, deputy director of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, represented the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources and outlined the development of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent Gary Everhardt represented the National Park Service and spoke about the cooperation needed to develop a trail of this magnitude.

North Carolina Trails Committee Chairman Bob Benner praised the volunteers for their selfless dedication.

Wells recognized the many volunteers and organizations that worked on the trail by presenting them with certificates of appre-



TRAIL DEDICATION - Volunteer leaders, local officials and state and federal park system representatives combine their efforts to cut a ribbon dedicating a section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail May 26. From left to right: Greg Wilson, president of the Northwest Mountains Task Force; Hayden C. Pitts, mayor of Blowing Rock; Gary Everhardt, superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway; Tom Wells, deputy director of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation; Fess Green, past president of the Northwest Mountains Task Force, and Gene Redmon, district ranger, Blue Ridge Parkway.

ciation from the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources.

Carolina Mountain Club

State and national officials gathered to recognize the efforts of Carolina Mountain Club volunteers who helped construct the new Roaring Fork Shelter on the Appala-

chian Trail near Max Patch Mountain in Madison County.

The 31 club members volunteered approximately 1,850 hours of their time for the project.

The Carolina Mountain Club, along with U.S. Rep. James McClure Clark, National Forests in North Carolina Supervisor Bjorn Dahl and members of his staff, and members of the Appalachian Trail Conference Board of Managers and staff participated in the shelter dedication ceremonies June 9.

Also recognized was a group of ladies who go by the name of the "Mountain Marchin' Mamas."

The group donated about \$1,4000 to buy materials necessary to construct the shelter.

The ladies are all avid hikers and walk a section of the Appalachian Trail each year.

Pisgah National Forest

The Pisgah District of the Pisgah National Forest is developing a new strategy for trails management on the district.

Don Palmer, recreation planner for the district, has put together a guide for the new strategy. It is available for review at the ranger station at Pisgah Forest near Brevard.

(See Mountain Region..., Page 8)



TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP - Bob Proudman, left, trails maintenance coordinator for the Appalachian Trail Conference, offers tips on design, construction and maintenance during a workshop held at Pilot Mountain State Park June 2-3. See story on Page 11.

1990 Adopt-A-Trail Grant Recipients

These groups received Adopt-A-Trail grants for the following projects:

Patterns Inc. - Trail for the handicapped at Lake James State Park in Burke and McDowell counties. (\$1,250)

Earthstar Education Center - Self-guiding nature trail, materials and signs at Nantahala River Gorge. (\$1,600)

Project Soar - Nature trail construction at Smoky Mountain Elementary School, Jackson County. (\$500)

Carolina Mountain Club - Trail construction equipment for work in Pisgah National Forest. (\$700)

French Broad River Foundation (2 grants) - Slide show about the French Broad River, (\$200) and signs for canoe access sites, Transylvania County. (\$400)

Balsam Highland Task Force - Tools for trail work in the Pisgah National Forest. (\$257)

Camp Broadstone - Footbridge for trail, Valle Crucis. (\$358.67)

Central Blue Ridge Task Force - Tools for trail maintenance, Avery, Burke and McDowell counties. (\$243.70)

Mountain Retreat Association - Trail construction, re-routing, Montreat. (\$500)

Sierra Club - Tools and materials for erosion control and maintenance in Avery and Watauga counties. (\$1,360)

Sertoma 4-H Trails Task Force - Tools, materials for trails in Stokes County. (\$3,000)

Boy Scouts (2 grants) - Signs and drainage for a trail in McAlpine Greenway Park, Mecklenburg County, (\$1,000) and erosion control, footbridge and boardwalk, Eno River State Park. (\$1,000)

Foothills Nature Science Society - Trail development, Elkin. (\$1,500)

Greensboro Parks and Recreation (2 grants) - Trail construction, maintenance, (\$500) and trail construction for the blind. (\$500)

Franklin County Nature Preserve - Trails construction, signs and map and brochure printing. (\$800)

Deep River Park Association - Brochures, Chatham County. (\$500)

Rocky Mount Saddle Club - Bridle trail construction, Medoc Mountain State Park. (\$1,000)

Triangle Land Conservancy - Bridge materials, signs, trail markers and tool purchases, Chatham County. (\$700)

Occoneechee Mountain Park Committee - Trail construction, Hillsborough. (\$600)

Friends of Nags Head Woods - Bridge construction, signs, Kill Devil Hills. (\$730)

Neuse Trails Association - Greenway construction, maintenance and maps Goldsboro. (\$1,000)

National Park Service - Rehabilitate section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, Dare County. (\$1,600.63)

N.C. Aquarium Society - Trail construction, Manteo. (\$1,000)

Creswell Ruritans - Purchase screening materials, Pettigrew State Park. (\$700)

Junior Friends of Jockeys Ridge - Materials for walkway, Jockey's Ridge State Park. (\$1,000)

Onslow County Parks and Recreation - Materials for nature boardwalk. (\$500)

Division of Parks And Recreation Planning Staff Reviews Natural And Scenic Rivers System

The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation's Planning and Assessment Section has completed a review of the state's natural and scenic rivers system.

The resulting report, "An Assessment of the North Carolina Natural and Scenic Rivers System," analyzes the existing rivers system, draws conclusions, and identifies the essential components of successful programs in other states.

North Carolina's Natural and Scenic Rivers Act was passed by the 1971 General Assembly to preserve and protect outstanding free-flowing rivers, their water quality, and their adjacent lands for the benefit of present and future generations.

Only four river segments have been designated into the system over its 19 years: the Linville, New Horsepasture and Lumber rivers.

The designation of a river segment primarily affords protection of the free-flowing condition of the water. Therefore, without state land acquisition, the natural and scenic conditions of the river corridor remain unprotected.

Appropriations to achieve this protection have been inadequate.

For these and other reasons, the natural and scenic rivers system has clearly failed to establish the "rational balance between the conduct of man and the preservation of the natural beauty along the many rivers of the state" called for in the act.

"An Assessment of the North Carolina Natural and Scenic Rivers System" focuses on ways to improve the system. It recommends that existing natural and scenic rivers should be protected by appropriating funds or taking other steps to protect riparian lands; by strengthening the act's consistency provision which would require other state agencies to act to protect designated rivers, and by encouraging local authorities to provide appropriate land-use controls.

The assessment recognizes the primary means of protecting designated river corridors under the existing system is through land acquisition.

It also recognizes that appropriations for such purposes have been minimal and are likely to remain inadequate, and that few other states rely primarily on land acquisition.

Other suggestions made in the assessment include: working more effectively with landowners and the public; allocating adequate resources to the rivers program; improving government cooperation, and identifying and establishing riverine protection priorities through completion of a statewide rivers inventory.

"An Assessment of the North Carolina Natural and Scenic Rivers System" was presented at the last meeting of the State Parks and Recreation Areas Study Commission, where it was the subject of much interest.

The study commission has requested that the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources submit specific recommendations for draft legislation that would improve the program.

The report was completed in the hope that it would stimulate discussion and interest in the river system which would lead to much-needed improvements. Limited copies of the report are available by contacting the Planning and Assessment Section.

Neusiok Trail

By Todd Shearon

The Neusiok Trail

*Scenic passage through time
And nature*

It leads and we follow

*It may not know its route in deep water
But it holds excitement*

*From the rivers of Neuse and Newport
Indian history*

Pocosin palms and pines on a low ridge

*Cypress knees are the swamps natural footbridge
Remote, mossy and dense*

The trail is like wild grapes

Sweet, pure, raw nature

Osprey, bear and snakes

Orchids and sundews with tupelo and titi

Visual pleasures

*Like old wine it becomes more priceless with age
With new seasons*

New colors, new life, new personality

For its natural

Timeless reasons.

Mountain Region ...

(continued from page 6)

The guide proposes changes in how the Forest Service will manage trails and other types of recreation which occur outside developed recreation use areas.

The changes dealing with trails include an increase in trail miles from 320 to 488; new trail development will emphasize short day hiking trails of one to three miles; and closed roads abandoned railroad grades, and some hiking trails will be open to horseback riders and mountain bikers.

The other changes deal mainly with roadside camping.

"We want the public to be aware of these changes and support them," District Ranger Art Rowe said.

This is the first district to institute this planning process, but all districts in North Carolina are scheduled to develop plans of this nature in the future.

Coastal Region ...

(continued from Page 3)

Wildlife Club dug in to do battle with the plant and animal life in the Croatan. After many hours of blood, sweat and tears, they began making progress through the pocosins.

After many long, hard hours, the 20-mile trail was finally completed.

With the lush growing season of eastern North Carolina, the club members now spend many hours each year keeping the trail open.

After the inspiring history lesson, the dedication ceremony continued with remarks from Steve Fitch.

Fitch talked of the involvement of the national forest in the state trails program and the efforts of volunteer groups across North Carolina who are developing and maintaining trails.

Dr. McKnelly stressed the Division of Parks and Recreation's appreciation for the group's efforts in creating and maintaining the trail.

After speaking to the group, Dr. McKnelly presented certificates of appreciation to the Carteret County Wildlife Club, the Croatan National Forest, Bob Wiggins with Weyerhaeuser Co., Edgar Gersuski, past district ranger of the Croatan National Forest.

Thanks go to the wildlife club for creating the trail and hosting the dedication ceremony.

As with many of the trails across the state, the Neusiok Trail represents the cooperation of private citizens, local industry, state and federal government.

Trail Celebrations

Other "May is Trails Month" activities in eastern North Carolina included hikes in Pettigrew, Hammocks Beach, Merchants Millpond, Cliffs of the Neuse, Carolina Beach and Goose Creek state parks.

Other hikes were held at Bladen County Park, Croatan National Forest and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Bikers were involved in the trails celebration also. Organized rides were held weekly in Edenton by the Fitness Center Cycling Club and in Elizabeth City by the River City Cycling Club.

Rails-to-Trails

North Carolina Rails-Trails, in cooperation with the Division of Parks and Recreation, organized a weekend outing to New River State Trail near Galax, Va., May 26.

About 15 trail enthusiasts met at the Shot Tower Historic Site. The group was met by Scott Flinkinger, superintendent of the trail, who discussed the trail conversion and presented a slide program to the group.

After the program, bike riders, hikers, joggers and bird watchers enjoyed the trail.

The trail was donated to the state of Virginia by Norfolk-Southern Railroad.

When completed, the trail will traverse 57 miles along the New River. The trail has two tunnels, 31 trestles and three major bridges.

The trestles and bridges are being converted to trail use. The trail is supported by two friends groups which have provided much of the labor in decking the bridges while the state has provided the materials and technical assistance.

Two landowners along the trail are claiming revisionary rights for the corridor along their property. The state is negotiating with the

landowners to resolve this issue.

Hopefully, one day there will be a rail-trail conversion in North Carolina that can be spotlighted. Progress is being made in solving the problems associated with converting abandoned railroad corridors to trails.

Recently, a meeting was held in Raleigh to discuss some of those problems.

Those participating were Dr. Phil McKnelly; James Hallsey, chief of operations for the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation; Darrell McBane, state trails coordinator; Tom Potter, regional trails specialist, and Larry Sams and Mark Sullivan representing the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Plans were made for future meetings to resolve the problems affecting rail-trail conversions in North Carolina.

Jacksonville Trail

The trails committee appointed by the Jacksonville City Council has been busy preparing a plan for presentation to the council in the near future.

Trails staff have been meeting regularly with the group to help devise a trail plan.

The trail route has been proposed, and Potter met with several committee members May 16 to hike and inventory the proposed trail. The trail, when completed, will be about four miles in length.

As proposed, the trail will begin on the New River and follow an abandoned railroad corridor which has been acquired by the city.

The first part of the trail passes through downtown Jacksonville, passing several businesses, churches and an elementary school.

The trail then passes through an established neighborhood and continues to a large shopping center.

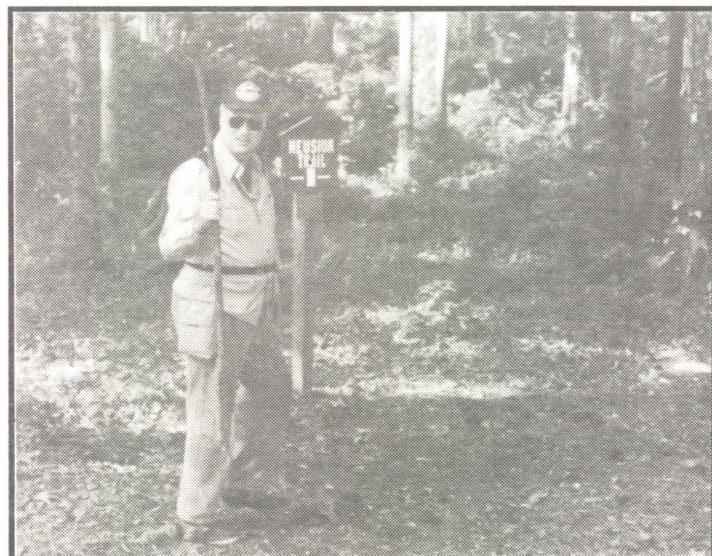
After passing the shopping center, the trail passes through another residential area and then crosses Highway 24 to a wooded area owned by Camp Lejeune.

The trail then follows Highway 24, through the woods past the Beirut Memorial through another residential area past two city parks to the beginning.

The loop trail has access at several different points.

Not only will this trail provide a recreational resource, but also a safe place for many who ride their bicycles to work or school.

The committee will be drafting a proposal with several options to present to the city council.



A LENGTHY HIKE - Trails Committee Member David Drexel sets out to hike the entire 20 miles of the newly dedicated Neusiok Trail.

Western Piedmont ...

Winston-Salem Greenway Conference

(continued from page 5)

State Trails Coordinator Darrell McBane gave a pair of programs on volunteerism at the Winston-Salem Greenway Conference May 18.

The first program was on "Volunteer Power." McBane shared his presentation with North Carolina Trails Committee member R. M. Collins.

Collins, an equestrian enthusiast, showed a video on the accomplishments of volunteer power at Camp Sertoma in Stokes County.

Camp Sertoma is owned by 4-H of N.C. State University.

It was leased to the Sauratown Trails Association, a volunteer organization of which Collins is president.

The group agreed to maintain the camp in exchange for being allowed to build horse trails on the property.

McBane talked about the citizen task forces which have volunteered their time in building the North Carolina trail system. The trail system is expected to link western North Carolina with the Outer Banks.

"Volunteers are crucial for getting trails built in our state," McBane said. "The state hasn't the budget to build trails and must depend on volunteers. We couldn't do it without them."

The citizen task forces furnish the manpower to build trails and the state furnishes them with staff support.

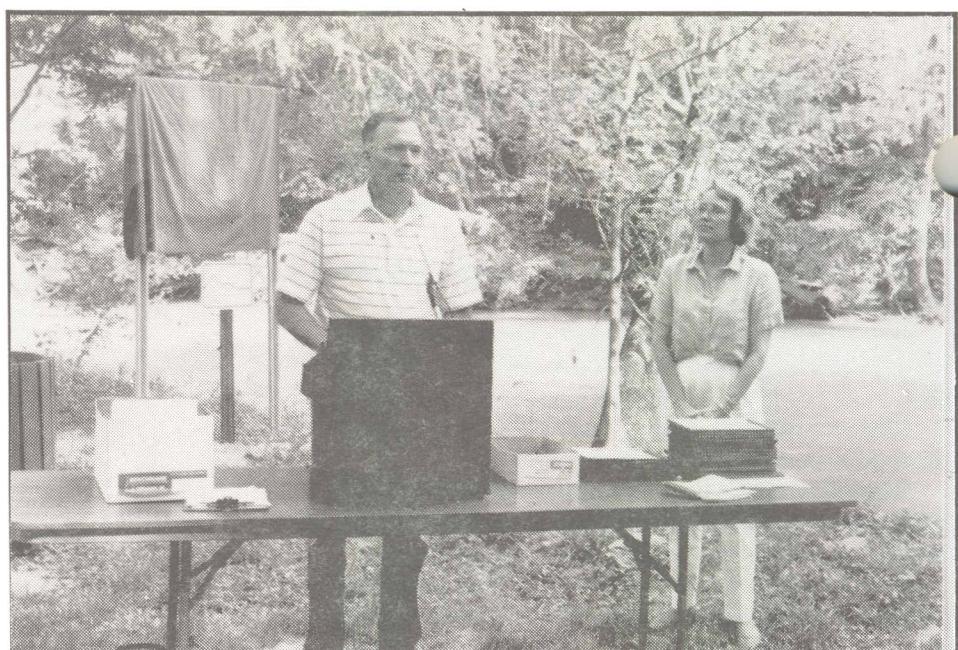
Staff support comes from four trail specialists located across the state and McBane, who is located in Raleigh.

McBane's second session was on "Funding For The Volunteer Groups." Funding to the groups comes from Adopt-A-Trail grants, which are administered by the state trails program.

He explained that the trails program has \$35,000 dollars a year to spread among the groups.

"The funds are allotted for volunteers, volunteer projects and local governments with no volunteer support - in that order," McBane said.

In other business, attendees at the conference passed a resolution requesting that Gov. Martin appoint a panel "to investigate how the greenway concept can be better incorporated into state laws and programs."



DEDICATION CEREMONY - Dr. Phil McKnelly, director of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, addresses guests at a ceremony at Moratock Park in Danbury May 12 to dedicate the Dan River Trail. Margaret Plemons Foster, manager of the EHNR Regional Office in Winston-Salem, looks on.

Elkin Nature Society

The Nature Science Society of Elkin has been awarded an Adopt-A-Trail grant from the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation's state trails program.

The grant will be used to help develop a local historical trail, which runs along Big Elkin Creek.

Besides constructing the trail, Debbie Carson of the society hopes to use part of the money to develop the historical points of the trail. She considers these important in Elkin's history and should be preserved for the citizens.

She has seen historical remnants all along the trail including the remains of an old shoe factory and an iron forge.

Placing historical markers at these sites is one option that might be considered, she said.

"The trail leads from the Elkin Municipal Park to a point near Carter Falls," says Ed Burchin, Elkin town manager.

"Though it's (the trail) just in the preliminary planning stages now, the grant will enable us to continue work to develop the entire trail."

He agrees with Carson's assessment on the trail's historical significance.

"You may not realize it," he said, "but some of the area's first mills and factories were built along that creek."

The trail might have other uses as well, for instance, as a trout fishing site.

Joe Mikey, a biologist with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, thinks Big

Elkin Creek has the potential to sustain a small trout population.

"Maybe not a self-producing trout population," he said, "but one maintained through stocking might work with a limited catch regulation or as a fish-for-fun stream (where all the fish are caught and released).

The grant will help to develop the trail, not solely as a town project, but one that is planned as a cooperative effort among the town, the Nature Society, the state and, potentially, other interested parties.

Sauratown Trails Association

At the regular meeting of the Sauratown Trails Association April 7, Veterinarian Dr. Earl Sheppard warned of a equine disease, Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA).

"It's incurable" he said.

The disease is carried by horse flies and is most dangerous in the summer when the flies are most abundant. "And we may have a bumper crop this year," Dr. Sheppard continued.

Dr. Sheppard showed a video on the disease. There is a test for the disease.

Horses must be tested before they cross state lines.

Many states may confiscate horses (particularly Tennessee and Florida) if proof of the test cannot be produced.

Again, there is no cure for the disease, according to Dr. Sheppard.

Horses that test positive for the disease must be immediately isolated and destroyed.

ATC Konnarock Crews Slated To Return To North Carolina

The Appalachian Trails Conference's Konnarock Volunteer Trail Crew Program will again come to North Carolina to work on the Appalachian Trail, assisting the AT maintaining clubs in their continuing maintenance and construction of the Appalachian Trail and its related facilities.

The crews, which work over the weekend from Thursday to Monday on projects selected by the clubs, are made up of volunteers from all over the United States and even some foreign countries.

Last year's crew attracted 80 volunteers who were joined by 130 club members. They worked a total of approximately 8,500 hours.

Anyone interested in participating in the program should contact ATC Field Representative Morgan Sommerville c/o U.S. Forest Service, P.O.Box 2750, Asheville, NC 28802, phone 704-254-3708.

Trails Enthusiasts Gather For Construction And Maintenance Workshop

Representatives from state and federal agencies and members of various trail related support groups gathered at a trails construction and maintenance workshop June 2-3.

About 40 individuals from the North Carolina state park system, U.S. Forest Service, Mountains-to-Sea task forces, the Sierra Club, Carolina Mountain Club, Georgia Appalachian Trail Club and Job Training Partnership Act attended the meeting at Pilot Mountain State Park in Pinnacle.

The two-day session was led by Bob Proudman, trails maintenance coordinator for the Appalachian Trail Conference out of Harpers Ferry, W.Va., and Morgan Sommerville, ATC field representative for Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee from Asheville.

The workshop concentrated on developing skills in the area of design, construction and maintenance. Portions of three trails in the park were rehabilitated using the techniques learned.

Appalachian Trail Conference Konnarock Volunteer Trail Crew Program Schedule

June 28-July 2

Nantahala Hiking Club - Relocation near Wesser

Carolina Mountain Club - Rock work near Hot Springs

July 5-9

Carolina Mountain Club - Rock work near Hot Springs

July 12-16

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club - Erosion control in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

July 19-23

Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy - Balds clearing on Roan Mountain

July 26-30

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club - Erosion control in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy - Balds clearing on Roan Mountain
Carolina Mountain Club - Rock work near Hot Springs

August 2-6

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club - Relocation near Cheoah Bald

August 9-13

Carolina Mountain Club - Rock work near Hot Springs
Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy - Balds clearing on Roan Mountain

August 16-20

Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy - Balds clearing on Roan Mountain

A Special Word Of Thanks

TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS
who worked diligently to plan and conduct
activities throughout the May is Trails Month
celebration.

Without your assistance, many of the
special events, hikes, bike tours and work-
shops would not have been possible. Thank
you, once again!



WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS - Trails enthusiasts take time out to pose for a group picture at Pilot Mountain State Park in Pinnacle. About 40 individuals attended the trail construction and maintenance workshop June 2-3. Participants developed skills in design, maintenance and construction.

600 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$317.39 or \$0.53 per copy

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