

# Tar Heel Trails

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation

James B. Hunt, Jr.  
Governor



Jonathan B. Howes  
Secretary

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## NRTF Includes \$173,174 For North Carolina Trails

The state of North Carolina will receive \$173,174 from the National Recreational Trails Funding Program which was included in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

As reported in earlier editions of the "Tar Heel Trails" newsletter, the National Recreational Trails Funding Program, also titled "Symms National Trails Act of 1991," authorized a limitation on obligations of \$30 million per year from fiscal year 1992 through fiscal year 1997.

However, the Congress did not appropriate any funds for fiscal year 1992.

The fiscal year 1993 Department of Transportation Appropriations Act provides \$7.5 million for the Trails Program.

The Symms National Recreational Trails Act of 1991 requires that the \$7.5 million appropriation be allocated to the state's trails programs by formula:

- o 50 percent shall be allocated equally among eligible states.
- o 50 percent shall be allocated among states in proportion to the amount of non-highway recreational fuel use in eligible states during the preceding year.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) received data on estimated non-highway recreational fuel use from 39 states, but the responses were estimates and covered only a part of the information required.

The FHWA determined it would use information received from the International Snowmobile Industry Association, the Motorcycle Industry Council and information registered four-wheel drive vehicles from the R.L. Polk and Co. to estimate the non-highway fuel use for the states.

Based upon this information, the state

of North Carolina will receive \$173,174 for fiscal year 1992-93.

Because the \$7.5 million is a budgeted line item in the federal DOT budget, North Carolina's share of this money must be obligated by September 30.

The division has drafted a Policy, Procedures and Implementation Manual for the Administration and Distribution of the National Recreational Trails Funding Program.

This draft manual has been reviewed by division management and the North Carolina Trails Committee. The manual will need further approval from the secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources (EHN) and the FHWA before submission to federal, state and local

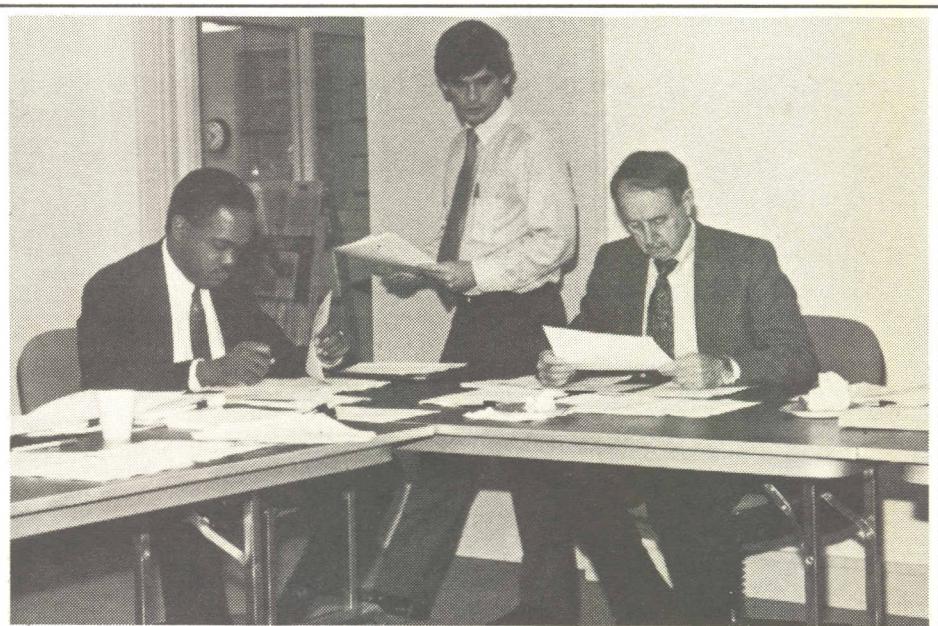
governmental units.

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

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

Grant award letters should be sent to awarded applicants by July 1, 1993.

The available grant funds are considered encumbered when there is an executed project agreement between the division and the project applicant. Contact your regional trails specialist or the state trails coordinator for additional information.



TRAILS DISCUSSION - State Trails Coordinator Darrell McBane, standing, outlines the National Recreation Trails Funding Program for the North Carolina Trails Committee during a meeting Jan. 8 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Management Center at Falls Lake. See related story on Page 4.

North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources

# **DOT, EHNR Enter Rail-Trail Agreement**

On Jan. 7, 1993, the secretaries of the N.C. Department of Transportation and the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources signed the an inter-agency agreement for cooperation on rail corridor preservation and rail-trail establishment.

This agreement covers five primary areas including, coordination and planning, leasing of rail corridor for recreational or alternative transportation use, policy commitments related to returning to rail use, the role of DOT and the role of EHNR.

The agreement states DOT and EHNR shall coordinate rail corridor preservation efforts in order that the list of proposed corridor acquisition projects might reflect the needs of local governmental units for

rail-trail conversion projects.

According to the agreement, DOT will lease to EHNR inactive rail corridors owned by DOT for sublease to a local government unit and that EHNR will lease inactive rail corridors from DOT only if a local governmental unit has agreed to the total management of the corridor, in writing, prior to the execution of the lease.

In addition, DOT and EHNR agreed that DOT shall compensate a local government unit for recreational trail investment should the corridor return to exclusive rail use except to the extent that DOT funds have financed trail development.

The amount of compensation shall be determined on a time-based pro-rated compensation scale approved by all parties in-

volved and shall be included in each specific lease and sublease agreement.

With the availability of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Funds and the National Recreational Trails Funds, the division hopes the work of many rail-trail advocates will become a reality.

## **Smith Raynor Accepts North District I&E Post**

Smith Raynor, former trails specialist for the central piedmont region, has been named as the North District interpretation and education specialist the Division of Parks and Recreation.

She had served as central piedmont regional trails specialist since March 1990.

Smith also served as the greenways specialist and was deeply involved with the Greenways Advisory Panel, established by the governor to study and make recommendations on how state government could better cooperate with local units of government to encourage the development and management of greenway systems.

Although she has not left the Division of Parks and Recreation, the trails staff will miss her contagious enthusiasm, and her ability to get the job done.

Thanks for all you have done for the State Trails Program and good luck in your new role.

## **1992-1993 Adopt-A-Trail Recommendations**

On Jan. 8, 1993, the North Carolina Trails Committee reviewed 65 applications totaling \$211,865 in requests.

After careful deliberation, the committee recommended that 30 applicants receive the available \$35,000 in Adopt-A-Trail funds.

After the secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources reviews and approves the list of applicants, letters will be forwarded notifying applicants of their grant award.

The division anticipates the grant checks to be available in March.

## *Trails of Thought*

### **Dear Fellow Trail Enthusiasts:**

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the "Tar Heel Trails" newsletter. This issue is filled with interesting articles describing recent activities of the North Carolina Trails Committee and division management. Also included are quarterly reports from the four regional trails specialist.

I am very proud of the information contained in the newsletter, especially the last four issues. The State Trails Program is on the move and this newsletter is the best way I know of to keep you informed of our progress.

Speaking of the trails program being on the move, we are excited to report that the Symms Act of 1991 has provided the state with \$173,174 for trails. Add to this figure the \$35,000 Adopt-A-Trail Grant Program and we have over \$200,000 to award to trail project applicants across North Carolina. I am excited to see this level of funding for trails in our state. Let's make this money work for us as we build, maintain and manage trails.

Keep up the good work. All of our efforts now seem to be paying off. As always, we will keep you informed of our progress and decisions.

Sincerely

*Darrell*

Darrell McBane

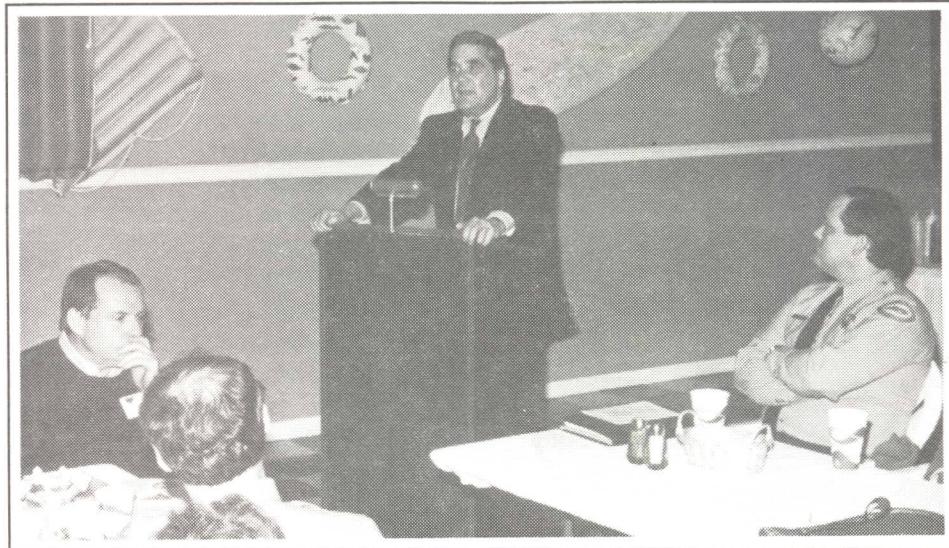
# Hunt Appoints Howes To EHNR Post

RALEIGH - Gov. Jim Hunt has appointed Jonathan Howes, a regional planning professor at the University of North Carolina and former mayor of Chapel Hill, as secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources.

"Our state needs to do a better job of protecting our resources by managing our growth more wisely," Hunt said in announcing the appointment Dec. 15. "Jonathan Howes' expertise in regional land-use planning, growth management and environmental planning can help us achieve that balance."

"Jonathan not only brings academic and research perspective to state government, he brings leadership skills honed in the state's most environmentally progressive town. I will look to him to build partnerships with local governments, to build a comprehensive plan for our state's growth and to build consensus in environmental debates."

Prior to his appointment, Howes, 55, served as the head of UNC-Chapel Hill's Center for Urban and Regional Studies and conducted extensive research in coastal development, land conservation and hazardous waste management issues. As mayor of Chapel Hill from 1987 to 1991 and a long-time town council member, Howes pushed to institute a city-county planning program designed to preserve Chapel Hill's rural buffers and protect its watersheds.



Jonathan B. Howes

Howes has served on the Triangle J Council of Governments - including a stint as chairman - since 1975, heading efforts to set up a water quality monitoring assessment program and to establish the Triangle Land Conservancy, which preserves open space in the Triangle.

He has also served as president of the N.C. League of Municipalities and the National Association of Regional Councils, and he is a charter member of the Triangle Transit Authority. Hunt praised Howes' work in regional planning. "In the 1990s, environmental protection must go hand-in-hand with economic development," Hunt said. "Growth management and planning is key. Unless we plan for growth — instead of reacting to it — we will not be able to protect our natural resources. I think Jonathan Howes can help us meet that challenge."

Hunt has also appointed Steven J. Levitas, director of the N.C. Environmental Defense Fund (NCEDF), as the department's deputy director.

Levitias, 38, has directed NCEDF since founding the office in 1987. EDF's emphasis in North Carolina has been on water quality and wetlands, pollution prevention and solid waste management, air quality and groundwater protection.

The EDF, a national New York-based non-profit organization with over 200,000 members, links science, economics and law to create innovative economically viable solutions to today's problems.

The Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, which includes 3,950 workers, enforces water and air pollution regulations, plans coastal development, administers the state zoo, oversees marine fisheries, operates the state parks and forests, protects the public from infectious diseases, makes sure water is drinkable and performs autopsies.

Hunt has called for expanding environmental technologies and markets for recycled products, along with better enforcement of environmental regulation, better balance on environmental boards and higher funding priority for state parks.

## Division Announces Operations Reorganization

By Jim Hallsey  
Chief of Operations

After considerable study of the near-term and long-term organizational needs of the North Carolina state parks system, the Division of Parks and Recreation has made a minor change in the organizational structure of the Operations Section.

The district reorganization consists of a minor realignment of the four operational districts to achieve a better balance in the

supervisory control at the district level.

The three U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, which comprised the Reservoir District, have been realigned in association with other park operating units.

The new district alignment is illustrated below.

This action affords major career advancement opportunities for existing staff and represents an effective distribution of responsibility in the Operations Section.

**EAST DISTRICT  
(CLIFF PHILLIPS)**  
Cliffs of the Neuse  
Waynesborough  
Fort Macon  
Goose Creek  
Hammocks Beach  
Jockey's Ridge  
Merchants Millpond  
Tigrew

**SOUTH DISTRICT  
(SCOTT DAUGHERTY)**  
Carolina Beach  
Fort Fisher  
Jones Lake  
Jordan Lake  
Morrow Mountain  
Boone's Cave  
Raven Rock  
Singletary Lake  
Lake Waccamaw  
Weymouth Woods

**NORTH DISTRICT  
(SUSAN TILLOTSON)**  
Eno River  
Falls Lake  
Hanging Rock  
Kerr Lake  
Medoc Mountain  
Pilot Mountain  
William B. Umstead

**WEST DISTRICT  
(LEWIS LEDFORD)**  
Crowders Mountain  
Duke Power  
Lake James  
Mount Jefferson  
New River  
Mount Mitchell  
South Mountains  
Stone Mountain

# Secretary Appoints Task Force

The secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources sent letters inviting 21 people to serve on the Falls - Jordan Trails Task Force.

The list of names and organizations are listed in the adjoining table. The problem statement developed for this task force is: There are limited recreational lands and funds available to accommodate the variety of visitor uses and to provide resource protection measures which result in user conflicts and natural resource degradation.

The task force's mission is to develop a scheme to minimize user conflicts and resource degradation. The Division anticipates that the first meeting of the Falls-Jordan Task Force will be late January 1993.

## Correction

The article titled "State Trails Staff Initiates Talks To Address Equestrian Needs," printed in the October 1992 edition of the "Tar Heel Trails" newsletter contained an error.

The incorrect statement was that on August 26, 1992, the Wildlife Resources Commission had voted unanimously to relax the prohibition rule to allow equestrian use of trails during non-hunting seasons and on Sundays. The statement should have read that on August 26, 1992, the Wildlife Resources Commission voted unanimously to approve a public hearing to consider modifications to their existing horseback riding rule as it relates to Falls and Jordan Lake property managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

As part of this motion, the Wildlife Resources Commission also requested that the secretary of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources establish a working group to include the various user groups as well as the state and federal agencies holding land leases on these two projects to discuss this issue further.

On Oct. 20, 1992, this public hearing was held. Numerous equestrians, hunters and mountain bicyclists were present. No decision has been made to date on the motion to relax the prohibition rule on horses on Falls and Jordan lake property managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

# Trails Committee Recommends Adopt-A-Trail Grants

By Don Reuter  
Public Information Officer

WAKE FOREST - The North Carolina Trails Committee has recommended 30 requests totaling \$35,000 be funded as part of the state's Adopt-A-Trail Program.

The committee reviewed the applications at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Management Center on Falls Lake Jan. 8.

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

The funds will help to bring good hiking, biking and horseback riding opportunities closer to home for our citizens.

The NCTC's recommendations have been forwarded to Jonathan B. Howes, secretary of the N.C. Department of Environ-

ment, Health, and Natural Resources, for his approval.

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

In other business, the committee recommended approval of a draft policy, procedures and implementation manual for the administration, application and distribution of the National Recreational Trails Funding Program.

The state of North Carolina has been allocated \$173,174 by the Federal Highway Administration through the National Recreational Trails Funding Program, a component of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991 (ISTEA).

ISTEA created a new National Recrea-

## Falls- Jordan Trails Task Force

### North Carolina Horse Interest

Rebecca Scheiter, Falls Lake Equestrian Task Force  
Jean Enderle, Member, North Carolina Horse Council  
Ann Davis, Jordan Lake Equestrian Task Force

### Mountain Bicycle Representation

Bill Miller, North Carolina Fat Tires Association  
John Poucher, Vice President of North Carolina Fat Tires Association

### North Carolina Hunting Interest

Frank Barick, Neuse Chapter of Quail Unlimited  
James C. Stephenson, Sportsman's Alliance  
Charles Overton, North Carolina Wild Turkey Federation

### Volunteer Hiking Interest

Larkin Kirkman, Triangle Greenways Council

### Department of Agriculture

Glen Petty, Manager, James Hunt Horse Complex

### Corps of Engineers

Dan Keir, Landscape Architect  
Joe Tanner, Resource Manager Falls Lake Office  
John Young, Resource Manager Jordan Lake Office

### Wildlife Resources Commission

Grady Barnes, Section Manager  
Harland Hall, Regional Supervisor Biologist  
Isaac Harrold, Management Biologist for Falls and Jordan Lakes

### Division of Parks and Recreation

David Kellam, Superintendent, Falls Lake State Recreation Area  
Randy Hersey, Representative of Falls Lake Advisory Committee  
Mike Seigh, Superintendent, Jordan Lake State Recreation Area  
Lester Hains, Representative of Jordan Lake Advisory Committee  
Darrell McBane, State Trails Coordinator

tional Trails Trust Fund which provides for the transfer of federal gas taxes paid on non-highway recreation fuel used in off-highway vehicles and in back country camping.

Fuel tax moneys will be transferred from the Highway Trust Fund into the new fund for trails improvement and maintenance under the NRTA program. The program is authorized to be funded at \$30 million per year over a six-year period.

However, no money was made available in the Fiscal Year 1991-92 budget. In 1992-93, \$7.5 million was appropriated from the federal Department of Transportation budget. The \$173,174 amount represents North Carolina's share of the 1992-93 appropriation.

The seven-member trails committee will  
(See NCTC ..., Page 7)

# Jacksonville Develops Greenways and Trails Master Plan

By Tom Potter  
Trails Specialist

The city of Jacksonville hired Greenways Inc., a landscape architecture firm in Cary, to conduct a three-day planning meeting to develop a greenways and trails master plan for the city.

The participants in the gathering included members of the Trails and Greenways Commission, local city and county officials and other citizens interested in developing trails and greenways for the city. The trails staff also participated.

The primary goal and purpose was to examine the entire city of Jacksonville and its extra-territorial jurisdiction and to define community resources, opportunities, constraints and objectives for creating a city-wide greenway master plan.

The event involved all the participants who discussed what the master plan for the trails and greenways should be. The first task of the group was to define what a greenway should be. After much discussion and involvement from the group, it was determined that greenways for Jacksonville would be:

- sheltered/protected environments that are away from development;
- path through the woods along meandering creeks, streams
- linear parks
- preservation of nature
- buffers for riparian and between competing land uses
- connectedness-linkage
- classroom extensions
- alterative transportation
- cultural common denominator.

After defining what a greenway would be, the group then identified those who would be responsible for developing the greenways.

Next, the group worked to determine the major issues and concerns of developing a greenways system for the city of Jacksonville. The issues included:

- Environment
- Transportation
- Recreation
- Health and Fitness
- Management
- Fiscal Considerations
- Safety and Security
- Education
- Beautification

The afternoon was spent touring potential greenway location sites around the town. Many different environments exist within the city limits of Jacksonville. The variety offers much potential for developing a greenways system for Jacksonville. After the issues and concerns had been identified, the participants worked to determine the goals for a city-wide greenway system. The group identified seven separate goals for the greenway system. These goals were:

- Link the community together both physically and spiritually,
- Beautify the community through conservation and enhancement of natural resources,
- Establish a viable alternative transportation system and breakdown the barriers to bicycle and pedestrian linkage,
- Educate users and the public about greenways - especially multi-users and bikers. Market the greenway to the community,
- Improve the quality of the life - enhance the physical and cultural aspects of the community,
- Develop a model greenway program and system,
- The master plan must be achievable - not a "paper tiger."

The second day was spent identifying those corridors in which greenways could be developed. Many different corridors were identified on maps of the city. The group participants were divided into smaller groups to study each of the identified corridors and develop plans for those corridors.

The third day was spent identifying the best choices for a greenway. The groups presented cases for their corridors and voted for the most workable plan. The group then discussed means for developing this corridor into a greenway and developed a plan for this and the other corridors identified. On the evening of the third day Greenways Inc. made a presentation to a special city council meeting. The council was very receptive of the master plan and will consider the plan in upcoming city council meetings.

Approximately 25 citizens participated in developing the master plan. The meeting was very successful and the master plan for greenways and trails for Jacksonville was developed with the involvement of those interested in the trails and greenways program for Jacksonville.

## Counties Adopt Canoe Trail Resolutions

Ten northeastern counties have adopted resolutions supporting the development of canoe trails. These counties include Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington.

In these counties 25 different streams have been identified consisting of 200 miles of canoe trails. This project has the potential of becoming a major tourist attraction for this part of the state. The next step in making this project a reality is to identify funding possibilities for the project.

Approximately \$18,000 is needed to sign the canoe trails and develop and publish a brochure for the trails. The brochures will consist of a regional map with general information about the canoe trails and individual county brochures with more detailed information.

## ICC Grants Public Use Conditions

The Interstate Commerce Commission has granted public use conditions and interim trail use requests for proposed-to-be-abandoned railroad corridors in New Hanover and Wake counties. Both of these corridors are operated by CSX Transportation.

The public use condition and interim trail use requests grants a 180-day period for the local governments to negotiate a rail-banking agreement with CSX Transportation.

New Hanover County is developing a formal proposal of acquisition to be sent to CSX Transportation. The county is very supportive of this project and hopes to sign a rail-banking agreement with CSX in the near future. The town of Apex is developing a formal offer as well for the corridor which lies between Apex and Holly Springs.

## Adopt-A-Trail Requests

Requests for the 1993 Adopt-A-Trail grants amounted to over \$52,000 for the eastern region. A total of 11 requests were submitted by agencies and volunteer groups.

The requests were for assistance in developing interpretive trails and construction in state parks, canoe and handicapped accessible trails on national wildlife refuges, trail construction in county parks, trails in national battlefields, and rail-trail projects.

## **Staff Makes Presentation At Greenways Conference**

By Smith Rogers Raynor  
Trails Specialist

Smith Rogers Raynor, central region trail specialist, made a presentation at the Fifth Annual Greenways Conference about the content and status of Greenways Advisory Panel's report.

The first draft of the report is completed and has been presented to the secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources for review. Meanwhile, the city of Cary is investigating the feasibility of a greenway connector from the town into William B. Umstead State Park in Raleigh. The project is still under consideration.

### **School Interest**

The regional trails specialist presented a program to 75 fourth to sixth graders at A.L. Stanback Elementary School about trails,

their history, design considerations and construction. The trails staff assisted the school during the visit by flagging a nature trail through a wooded area. R.N. Harris School in Durham is planning a nature trail throughout its campus. The central region trails specialist spoke to the school's teachers about the value of nature trails for environmental education and later flagged the initial route for the trail.

The Rotary Club in Research Triangle Park is developing a nature trail on a piece of wooded property in RTP. The primary users will be the students of a nearby middle school.

### **GMP Trails Evaluation**

The trails staff has evaluated all of the trails within Medoc Mountain State Park for its general management plan. The trails were evaluated for tread condition, safety and interest. In addition, future trail development was considered.

## **Task Force Report - Western Piedmont**

## **Bicentennial Trek Planned On Dan River Trail**

By John Shaffner  
Trails Specialist

In recognition of the Danville Bicentennial Celebration in May, a few avid canoeists are planning to paddle the entire Dan River from Keebler Valley to Milton, N.C., a distance of about 120 miles.

The group is seeking other paddlers who may want to participate, either on the whole trip or just part.

The paddlers will begin their historic trek from Keebler Valley May 14. Keebler Valley is just inside the Virginia state line in northern Stokes County. Paddling south, the canoeists will pass each of the five existing designated canoe access sites in Stokes County. They will continue north through Rockingham County and arrive in Danville, Va., by May 22, just in time for the bicentennial celebration.

After the bicentennial gala, the group will continue on to Milton, N.C., finishing its float by May 23.

Though participation in the complete trip is limited to 12 canoeists (accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis), other paddlers are sought for shorter sections of the river, joining the group at access sites along the way. A brochure explaining the details is being printed.

For additional information about the bicentennial trek, contact Joe Gibson at (919) 234-8556 or Forrest Altman at (919) 766-5841.

### **State Park Volunteer**

With financial resources at a premium in North Carolina, partnership with the pri-

vate sector is important to the health of our state parks system. In return, healthy parks add to the quality of life in our communities.

An example of this relationship exists between Hanging Rock State Park and Shirley Gunnell of Danville, Va. In return for the satisfaction she gets from park trails, Mrs. Gunnell has given something back, A Guide to Hiking Trails. This publication is a practical and interesting guide to the trails of Hanging Rock State Park.

The guide is designed to help the visitor become familiar with the park's hiking trails, beyond the map and brochure published by the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. In addition to a map, Mrs. Gunnell furnishes a detailed description of each park trail \_ from the geologic to the historic \_ covering such information as why a stream may appear "rusty" to how to tell the difference between mountain laurel and rhododendron to what a "knife-edge ridge" is.

Mrs. Gunnell recently retired from A-Pac Virginia, a Danville paving company where she wrote and edited the firm's newsletter. Instead of settling into an easy and well-deserved retirement, she has written, edited and printed the trail guide at her own expense since 1989.

The guide provides a valuable service to the park, one which the staff and many park users sincerely appreciate.

Mrs. Gunnell stands as an example of the importance of volunteerism, a commodity crucial to all our parks across the state.

### **Dan River Trail**

Regional Trails Specialist John Shaff-

ner recently presented a slide show on the Dan River Trail to the Rockingham County Economic Board.

Why would an economic development board want to know about a river trail? Simple. River trails are good for business.

Rockingham County, in an attempt to isolate resources of sound economic development, gave credence to the concept that river trails are money makers.

They may not, in themselves, be money makers, but they possess an ability to generate business. Tourism is an important commodity in a county's budget. It promotes growth and prosperity.

Rivers promote growth and tourism through canoe rental companies, rafting companies and the support of other public recreation needs - all of which help form still other companies and businesses.

Rivers are also important sources of water. The trails create an awareness of the river around which users may rally and express their interest in protecting it.

### **Bits and Pieces**

In follow-up to the Pilot Mountain State Park general management plan, the trails staff met with Marshall Ellis with the division's resource management staff to discuss plans for the park's river section.

The main concern is safety. Sight distance at road crossings and on the park road, trail erosion that may cause injuries to both horse and rider and other concerns were discussed.

The number one priority for the river

(See Western Piedmont ..., Page 7)

# Volunteers Log Over 35,000 Hours On Western Trails

Dwayne Stutzman  
Rails Specialist

1992 was a banner year for trail volunteers in the western part of the state. Twenty-four groups worked 35,416 hours on the Appalachian, Mountains-to-Sea, Bartram and various other trails in the region.

Leading the list was the Carolina Mountain Club with over 15,000 hours. See the accompanying list detailing the groups and their efforts.

## Canton Walking Trail

The town of Canton's new Pigeon River Scenic Trail is open. Started in April 1991 as a gleam in a few individual's eyes, the 0.6-mile, eight-foot-wide gravel trail skirts the Pigeon River from Canton Memorial Stadium, continues past the Canton Recreational Park and, by connecting with a sidewalk along Penland Street, allows the user to walk a 1-mile loop.

Plans call for the trail to tie into a proposed park in downtown Canton. Also in the plans are canoe access, fishing opportunities, historical plaques and biological study areas for students.

## Mountain Bike Trail Guide

Off The Beaten Path - A Guide to Mountain Biking in Western North Carolina: Volume II: Pisgah National Forest by Jim Parham was recently released.

Parham's first book, Off The Beaten Path - A Guide to Mountain Biking in Western North Carolina, described trails in the Nantahala National Forest. His new book describes trails in the Pisgah National Forest.

Broken into categories of "Easiest," "More Difficult," and "Most Difficult," the

## Western Piedmont ...

(Continued from Page 6)

section is to establish a safe horse trail to the Yadkin River. Plans for trail improvements are being formulated.

Plans for clearing the Yadkin River are still on go. The section through Iredell County was choked off by Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and has not been open since. The N.C. Wildlife Commission has agreed to use its work crews to open the river in early 1993.

This section of the Yadkin has the potential for becoming a fine river trail and the Iredell Rotary Club has expressed interest in supporting the project.

book describes over 240 miles of trails (called single track by mountain bikers), closed logging roads and gravel roads which can be utilized by mountain bikers in their pursuit of this relatively new sport.

Parham has written this trail guide in conjunction with the Pisgah Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service. He has purposely left out a few trails which are bordering on

over-use and has noted those trails which are open on a seasonal basis.

He also gives much credit to the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club for its program of working closely with the U.S. Forest Service to designate suitable trails for use by mountain bikes.

The book is available at local outdoor/bicycle shops.

## Volunteer Contributions to Western North Carolina Trails

Macon County Horse Association/Franklin	268
Bartram Trail Society	370
Southern 4-WD Association	2,000
Western NC Saddle Club	300
Blue Ridge Bicycle Club	563
Haywood Knolls (Hikers)	1,137
Pisgah Trail Blazers (Horse)	23
Pisgah Hikers	1,580
Brevard College	42
Outward Bound	360
National Wildlife Federation	
Teen Adventure Program	288
Boy Scout Troop No. 8	216
Boy Scout Troop No. 811/Old Fort	32
Boy Scout Troop No. 7/Pinehurst	142
Arthur Morgan School/Burnsville	120
Mars Hill College/Bonner Scholars	230
Mars Hill Scholars	792
Haywood Trail Riders	300
Balsam-Highlands Task	
Force/Mountains-to-Sea Trail	1,403
Central Blue Ridge Task	
Force/Mountains-to-Sea Trail	883
Carolina Mountain Club	15,764
Smoky Mountains Hiking Club	3,566
Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club	3,634
Nantahala Hiking Club	1,343
Various Individuals	60

*This effort by volunteers on trails in western North Carolina is equal to 17 persons working full-time for a full year.*

## NCTC ...

(Continued from Page 4)

serve as the advisory board for the NRTA.

According to the proposed guidelines reviewed by the NCTC, local, state and federal government agencies will be eligible for grants with an 80-20 match system. For example, if the governmental unit's application indicates a request of \$30,000, the governmental unit would receive 80 percent of the project costs or a total of \$24,000.

The manual has been forward to the

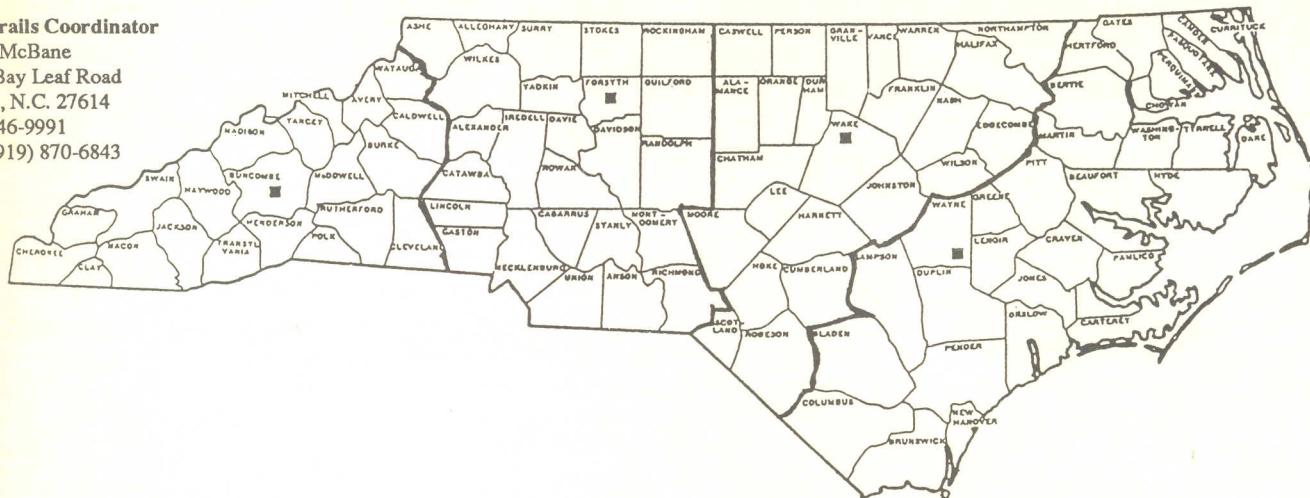
EHNR secretary for review.

The committee also reviewed estimates for the cost of awards to recognize the efforts of volunteers, the composition of a task force appointed to review trails issues at Jordan and Falls Lake and the status of the North Carolina trails system map/brochure.

The committee scheduled its next meeting for March 19 at 10 a.m. at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Management Center at Falls Lake.

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