

# Tar Heel Trails

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation

James G. Martin  
Governor

William W. Cobey, Jr.  
Secretary



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## NCTC Recommends Sign Standards Proposal

By Don Reuter  
Public Information Officer

MANTEO - A proposed set of state park trail system sign standards are geared to provide visitors with needed information and make accurate trail brochures available, according to Trails Specialist Dwayne Stutzman.

Stutzman presented four alternative systems to members of the North Carolina Trails Committee during a meeting Sept. 13-14 at Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

The proposals first identified the type of signs needed and the suggested location for the sign. The committee recommended a proposal which calls for maps at each major trail head and wood posts at each minor trail junction with names printed on a decal. The committee's recommendation will be forwarded to William W. Cobey Jr., secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources.

## Cobey Appoints Poole To Trails Committee

RALEIGH — William W. Cobey Jr., secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, has announced the appointment of Allen Poole of Manteo as a member of the North Carolina Trails Committee.

Poole, a member of the town of Manteo Recreation Committee since 1987, will serve a four-year term as the coastal representative to the committee.

Poole, a hiking enthusiast, has served as a trip coordinator for the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association, and he has

(See Poole ..., Page 5)

The trails committee advises the secretary of EHNR on state, local, federal and private management of trails and greenways in North Carolina. The committee's newest member, Allen Poole of Manteo, participated in his first meeting Sept. 13.

In other business, State Trails Coordinator Darrell McBane outlined the trails program work plan for 1991-92.

The plan includes standard recurring tasks such as participating in general management plans for state parks; providing technical assistance to volunteers and units of government; the state's Adopt-A-Trail grant program, May is Trails Month activities and annual trail inspections.

The plan also includes special assignments such as trail design guidelines for state parks, Rails-to-Trails program guidelines, river trail guidelines and the North

Carolina Trails System Annual Report.

McBane also outlined the application and awards cycle of the Adopt-A-Trail program. The trails committee recommended approval of the application and proposed timeline.

Dr. Phil McKnelly, director of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, discussed new initiatives for the state parks system, while Carter Thompson, the Division's administrative assistant, gave a report on the results of the 1991 General Assembly.

On Sept. 14, members of the committee hiked a section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on Bodie Island and visited the boardwalk at Jockey's Ridge State Park. Both projects were funded partially by Adopt-A-Trail grants. Some committee members and trails staff also hiked a trail in the Nags Head Woods Nature Preserve.



NCTC MEETING - Members of the North Carolina Trails Committee and N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation staff prepare for a hike on a Mountains-To-Sea Trail section on Bodie Island.

North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources

## *Trails of Thought*

Dear Fellow Trails Enthusiasts:

I have often listened to Louise Chatfield and other trail volunteers talk about building trail one foot at a time. This statement is used when describing their efforts whether they are planning, constructing or maintaining trails.

I must confess that during my three years as state trails coordinator, the task of coordinating hiking trails, equestrian trails, greenways, rail-trails and river trails fostered in my mind the concept that I should be capable of peering into the future for celestial answers for all trail related questions. This mental state carried me far away from the teachings of my mentor, Louise Chatfield, and her one-foot-at-a-time theory.

During the past fiscal year, I have taken the opportunity to re-address the North Carolina Trails Program by trying to use the one-step-at-a-time theory. With the assistance of the Trails Acquisition Task Force, we have re-examined the 1973 State Trails Act, its composition, requirements and conditions.

The 1973 State Trails Act has served us well during the past 19 years and through this act the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources has designated a total of 734.3 miles of trail. Of this trail mileage, only 188.6 miles of trail are located within state parks and recreation areas and the remaining 545.7 miles have been developed by trail volunteers and local governments primarily on public property.

This one-step-at-a-time approach has caused me to concentrate on two primary issues for the next fiscal year. The first is how to successfully address the concerns of private property owners regarding trail development on their property and second to clarify what the Division of Parks and Recreation can do regarding the development of a state system of trails.

The concern of the private property owners remains a challenging issue. Private property owners want to be protected from liability concerns and want to know who will be responsible should damage occur to their property. In our dealings with private property owners, many want to assist us by offering the use of their property, but they want concrete answers to these two questions.

I am happy to report that the North Carolina General Assembly helped us take one step forward when lawmakers ratified a revision to G.S. 113A-95 Trails Use Liability. This revision provides additional protection to not only landowners but to persons who construct, maintain or cause to be constructed or maintained trails who do not receive compensation for the use of their trail.

We should all be pleased this revision was approved by the General Assembly and thank each member for their support and assistance. This is truly a step forward.

The state budget shortfall has heightened my awareness as to what the Division of Parks and Recreation can and can't do regarding the development of a state system of trails. At present the trails staff can assist with planning and technical assistance, but we are limited when it comes to purchasing, constructing, maintaining and managing trails outside the boundaries of state parks.

We must continue to keep our eyes on the future while keeping our feet and minds stay on the ground. During the coming fiscal year, we will attempt to address some of these long standing questions. I have been in this position long enough to understand that celestial answers are possible if we continue to work at the problems one foot at a time.

As always, thank you for all the work that you do and for your support of a state system of trails.

Sincerely,

*Darrell*

Darrell McBane

## Rail-Trail Benefits: Meeting The Needs Of A Changing Nation

By Tom Potter  
Trails Specialist

By the year 2000 more than 80 percent of the nation's population will reside in urban areas.

The growing number of two-career couples, single-parent families, the physical and economic limits to mobility, and changes in available leisure time already influence recreation options and restrict the ability of more and more Americans to travel to distant park and recreation facilities.

Close-to-home opportunities are a priority. Existing streets, sidewalks, and parks, available minutes from home, are the starting points for local recreation.

Public demand for high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities is soaring. According to a National Geographic poll conducted for the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors, 27 percent of all Americans participate in day hikes, 35 percent in bird-watching and nature study, 42 percent in running and jogging, 46 percent in bicycling, 51 percent in fishing, and 81 percent in walking for pleasure.

Rail-trails have multiple values and their benefits reach far beyond recreation. Rail-trails can enrich the quality of life for individuals, make communities more liveable, and protect, nurture, and showcase America's grandeur by traversing areas of natural beauty, distinctive geography, historic significance, and ecological diversity.

Rail-trails are important for the nation's health, economy, resource protection and education.

Awareness of health and physical fitness continues to change and grow. A 1986 Market Opinion Research survey found that fitness and health were two reasons that people cited most for engaging in outdoor activities.

The most popular activity continues to be walking.

The availability of safe opportunities for exercise and fitness is critical in every community. Local rail-trails can provide such opportunities and accommodate a variety of users and activities. Walking, bicycling, jogging, and other aerobic activities can all be accomplished on rail-trails.

Rail-trails indirectly affect people's health by contributing to the quality of the air and water. Natural rail-trail corridors preserve trees and vegetation that refresh the

air and filter runoff flowing into rivers and streams.

An organized rail-trail system is a desirable amenity and can contribute to the economic vitality of a community. A rail-trail can guide both visitors and residents through diverse neighborhoods, past interesting shops, enticing restaurants, and many other businesses.

Rail-trails can attract businesses as well as tourists and residents. Rail-trails are important amenities that have time and again increased the property values of adjacent homes and businesses.

Real estate values of the homes near Seattle's 12-mile Burke-Gilman Trail are higher due to the trails appeal.

Advertisements for homes along northern Virginia's Washington and Old Dominion trail frequently mention the trail's proximity and easy access it provides to other facilities in the automobile-choked region.

Iowa's 26-mile Heritage Trail has brought thousands of visitors to Graf, Iowa - population 100. In response to the needs of trail users, local businesses have expanded. One businessman built a campground and a restaurant, serving 3,500 trails users in his first year of expanded operation.

The 32-mile Elroy-Sparta Park Trail winds through five west-central Wisconsin communities. Established in 1965 with the purchase of a \$1,200 right-of-way, a study of the trail 23 years later documents its significant economic benefits.

In 1988, an estimated 50,000 people used the trail - 49 percent from out of state - and an estimated \$1.2 million was received in trail-related revenue. Restaurants, bike and equipment stores, and transportation and tourist information services have all flourished in meeting the demands of trail users.

The trail has also brought increased revenue to the state park which collects user fees for use of its facilities. Plans for a future hostel raise additional possibilities for trail-related revenue and added conveniences for the trail's many users. Rail-trails provide an opportunity for states to work together for mutual benefit. Revenues generated from rail-trail related recreation and sports activities provide substantial income.

Additional rail-trails have the potential to maximize economic benefits for all states. Recreational facilities located within a rea-

sonable proximity to each other create a greater draw than an isolated facility.

Rail-trails protect unique or endangered natural resources by providing designated areas for users and removing people from critical areas needing protection.

Local rail-trail corridors can be used for buffers between land uses, separating commercial and residential areas. They can be used to define areas where growth is planned or to protect unique environmental areas.

While rail-trails encourage resource protection, they also use first-hand experience to educate citizens about the importance of the natural environment. This experience can vary from a formal course to a leisurely afternoon walk. Rail-trails, used by environmental classes from preschool through college, help develop a conservation ethic.

Rail-trail systems provide an alternative transportation system at the local metropolitan level. Rail-trails can connect homes with schools, offices and shopping areas. They can be designed as much for transportation as for recreation and allow people to appreciate the outdoors while reducing air and noise pollution and energy consumption.

The broad community of rail-trail uses include: hikers, horseback riders, bicyclists, cross-country skiers, backpackers, wheelchair users and physically challenged persons, conservationists, fitness enthusiasts, snowmobilers, walkers, off highway vehicle users, educators, dog sledders, fishing enthusiasts, hunters, canoeists and kayakers, tourists, senior citizens, utility companies, federal, state and local land managers, sporting goods manufacturers, state trail managers, running and jogging, snow-shoeing, skateboarding, roller skating, birdwatching, horse-drawn wagons and sleighs, strollers interpretation of natural and cultural features, and service providers.

Rail-trails reveal the character of the American landscape: parks, wildlife refuges, deserts, alpine areas, wetlands, and forests.

Other benefits include: natural interpretation, soil erosion control, shoreline conservation, wildlife habitat protection and migration routes, bird flyways, rare and native plant protection, historic and cultural preservation, firebreaks, community revitalization/beautification, quality recreational

(See Coastal Region ..., Page 7)

# COE Allocates \$100,000 For Falls Lake Trail

By Smith Rogers  
Trails Specialist

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, creators of Falls, Jordan and Kerr lakes, has allocated over \$100,000 to assist in the development of the Falls Lake Trail.

After considering various options, officials determined that bridge construction for the remaining length of the trail represented the best use of the funds.

As a result of this decision, Regional Trails Specialist Smith Rogers, Falls Lake Superintendent Ed Farr and Corps Ranger Carol Banaitas are spending a minimum of one day each week surveying the proposed route for bridge sites.

Every effort will be made to minimize the number of bridges needed. So far, the proposed bridges range in length from 8 feet to 100 feet.

When completed, the Falls Lake segment of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail will extend from the Falls Lake dam west to the Eno River in Durham County. The proposed length is about 40 miles.

## Greenways Advisory Panel

The Greenways Advisory Panel is continuing to work toward its goal of developing a report for the governor detailing methods to promote greenways statewide.

They have broadened their goals to include producing both a technical report for state agencies and an "action packet" for local communities.

The technical report will detail how the particular mission statement of the specific agency dovetails with promoting greenways development. It will include specific information regarding the benefits of greenways, as well as methods to establish and promote greenways.

The "action packet" is being designed to develop and nurture enthusiasm for greenways at the local level. It will also include information about the types of technical assistance and funding available through state agencies.

Every effort is being made to involve all of the state agencies which could impact or benefit from greenway development.

These efforts have included a survey and inviting representatives from various agencies to speak during the monthly meetings. The Greenways Advisory Panel had an impressive 94 percent return rate on its survey of attitudes toward and roles in greenway development by state agencies.

Most of the agencies surveyed have had little or no experience with greenways. This is rather interesting considering that more than 40 communities in North Carolina have some form of greenway program or have expressed an interest in developing a program - the most in any state in the nation.

Respondents said the greenway concept complements many different activities of the various agencies.

The activities benefiting the most from greenways were environmental concerns such as wetland and watershed protection, and recreation.

They also found that greenways would satisfy several different permit requirements, including floodplain management and watershed protection.

In addition to surveying state agencies the Greenways Advisory Panel has had the opportunity to hear first hand the ways in which the missions of various agencies could complement greenway development.

Most of the agency representatives have agreed that a framework would be extremely helpful in directing and focusing the efforts of state agencies.

Agencies making presentations to the panel include the water quality and instruction grants sections of the Division of Environmental Management, Wildlife Resources Commission, Recreation Resources Services and the Department of Cultural Resources.

Both the panel members and the state agencies gain valuable information from these presentations. The Department of Transportation will be making presentations about its various programs at the next meeting of the Greenways Advisory Panel.

Smith Rogers, regional trails specialist in the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, provides staff support to the panel.

Any questions regarding the Greenways Advisory Panel should be directed to her at the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, 12700 Bay Leaf Church Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27614-9633, (919) 846-9991.

## Division Of Parks And Recreation Announces 1991-92 Adopt-A-Trail Grant Program

The Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources and the Division of Parks and Recreation are pleased to announce that the 1991-92 Adopt-A-Trail Grant Applications are in the mail. EHNR has been authorized to award grants totalling \$35,000 to selected projects during the 1991-92 fiscal year.

There is no maximum grant award per project for the 1991-92 funding cycle. Each proposal will be considered on the basis of the criteria and categories listed in the application. Funds may be awarded for an entire project or for certain segments of the project.

It is important to remember that there is only \$35,000 to be awarded.

In fiscal year 1990-91, The Department of EHNR awarded the total \$35,000 to 26 groups across North Carolina. These grants have enabled interested groups to promote trail development across the state.

If you have not received an Adopt-A-Trail Grant application prior to receiving this newsletter, please contact your regional trails specialist and an application will be forwarded to you. The regional trails specialists will also be available to assist you in developing the application.

### Adopt-A-Trail Application Cycle

Sept. 13	NCTC review of the Adopt-A-Trail grant package
Sept. 30	Brochure/Application mailed to public
Oct. 30	Applications due to State Trails Coordinator
November	NCTC review and make recommendations
December	Submit recommendations to Secretary of EHNR for approval and award of grant funds

# Officials Plan To Build Trails At Tanglewood Park

 John Shaffner  
Trails Specialist

Officials at Tanglewood Park in western Forsyth County are planning to build new trails in the park, according to Tanglewood's Naturalist Beth Beeler.

Along with the construction of new trails, plans include lengthening and refurbishing existing ones.

Ms. Beeler discussed plans for the park during a meeting Sept. 3. John Shaffner, trails specialist for the Western Piedmont region, offered state trails staff assistance in the planning and building phases as well as help in recruiting volunteers.

The Clemmons Jaycees and other volunteers have already started contributing to the project but more assistance is needed, Ms. Beeler said. The trails will be used for nature study, walking and access to help people enjoy the park.

Tanglewood officials are also planning to build new two-mile to three-mile bike trails. The trails will run through the woods and along the Yadkin River. The bike trails proposal came in response to the increasing popularity of mountain biking in North Carolina.

## Dan River Trail

Duke Power Co. has installed a portage at the Dan River Stream Station in Rockingham County. The portage consists of exit steps, a portage trail of about 600 feet and an entrance back onto the river.

The power company is working out maintenance responsibilities with the Dan River Stream Station. Maintenance will involve mowing, weeding and cleaning the steps after flooding.

Also, negotiations are under way for a new access site at Draper Bridge on State Road 700 in Rockingham County. The portage and the new site will add approximately 7 to 10 miles to the 100-mile state-designated trail.

## Crowders Mountain Climbing

A new permit system for climbers has taken effect at Crowders Mountain State Park. The system will aid park staff in keeping track of who is on the mountain and at what time. The "free" sign-up system allows staff to study how much climbing is occurring in the park so plans can be made to meet the needs of this recreation constituency.

Climbing is an important part of the recreation profile at Crowders Mountain State Park. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte uses the park to teach climbing, a regular part of its curriculum. Many climbing clubs, drawn by the varied levels of difficulty the cliffs at Crowders offer, also use the park.

As a natural consequence, however, impact to these climbing areas is high. Erosion and "trampling" are the most visible results of this use. The park's new permitting system is also designed to help staff measure this impact on these areas and plan for access trails to climbs which will keep impact at a minimum.

Because of the impacts and the threat to a rare species of bear oak, ground juniper, several species of rare ferns and limited use, climbing on Kings Pinnacle at Crowders

Mountain State Park has been closed.

## Stone Mountain Service Outing

The Foothills Sierra Club held another service outing at Stone Mountain State Park. Diana Smith, Janyth Moses, John Sherden, Jeff Cummings, Tom Macon and Molly Digging held the outing on Sept. 14.

Led by Park Superintendent Jim Billings, the group mulched the Stone Mountain Falls Trail from the junction of the Lower/Middle Falls trails to Stone Mountain Falls.

Members of the group related no problems except the frequent bombardment of yellow jackets. Undaunted, the group finished its work.

The service outings are part of a regular semi-annual commitment the club has made to the park through Adopt-A-Trail and Adopt-A-Park grants.

## North Carolina Trails Program Announces Fiscal Year 1991-92 Work Plan

The trails staff has proposed the following work plan for fiscal year 1991-92 to division management and the North Carolina Trails Committee.

The NCTC recommended approval of the work plan during its September 13 meeting in Manteo, N.C.

The work plan is divided into two categories, standard reoccurring tasks and special assignments. Standard reoccurring tasks are tasks that staff perform on a regular basis. Special assignments are tasks that are assigned by management to be addressed by staff during a specific period of time.

## Poole ...

(Continued from Page 1)

worked as a volunteer with the Appalachian Trail Conference's Konnarock Trail Crew in southwest Virginia.

Poole, a horticulturist, is the chairman of the Friends of Roanoke Island board of directors. He has served on the board of directors for the local conservation/land trust organizations since 1988.

In 1990, Poole served as chairman of the Dare County Earth Day Committee which organized the local Earth Day 20th anniversary. Held at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, the event attracted about 3,000 people.

### Work Plan

#### STANDARD TASKS

- General Management Plans for State Parks
- Provide technical assistance and support to volunteers, local, state and federal units of government
- Adopt-A-Trail Grant Program
- Tar Heel Trails Newsletter
- May Trails Month Activities
- Annual Trails Inspections

#### SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

- Greenways Advisory Panel - Smith Rogers
- Rails-To-Trails Program Guidelines - Tom Potter
- Trail Design Guidelines for State Parks - Dwayne Stutzman
- River Trails Program Guidelines - John Shaffner
- North Carolina Trails System Annual Report - Darrell McBane

## **Officials Join ATC In Dedicating Lover's Leap Relocation**

**By Dwayne Stutzman  
Trails Specialist**

More than 60 people gathered on the banks of the French Broad River at the Nantahala Outdoor Center Aug. 23 to dedicate the Lover's Leap Relocation on the Appalachian Trail.

U.S. Forest Service French Broad District Ranger Kimberly Brandel served as master of ceremonies for the event.

Participants included Sara Davis, the Appalachian Trail Conference's (ATC) Southern Regional vice chairman; Bill Keesee, Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) president; staff from the offices of U.S. Sen. Terry Sanford and U.S. Rep. Charles Taylor; Bjorn Dahl, supervisor for National Forests in North Carolina; Ann Orr, Asheville regional manager for the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources; Hot Springs' Mayor-elect Larry Huntsinger, numerous CMC volunteer trail maintainers and local Hot Springs citizens and business leaders. They looked on as Jim Horsley of Richardson, Texas, a three-year

veteran of the Appalachian Trail Konnarock Trail Volunteer Crew, cut the ribbon opening the relocation. Horsley worked seven weeks on the project.

Tom Blue from the Nantahala Outdoor Center and Dwayne Stutzman, Western Regional trails specialist with the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, assisted in the ceremony.

Blue represented the outdoor center, which donated an easement to the U.S. Forest Service for the AT over its property to allow the trail to be moved to its new location.

The new location eliminates a quarter-mile road walk and removes the AT from an area which will be near a major road project, thereby allowing the AT to retain its semi-primitive nature.

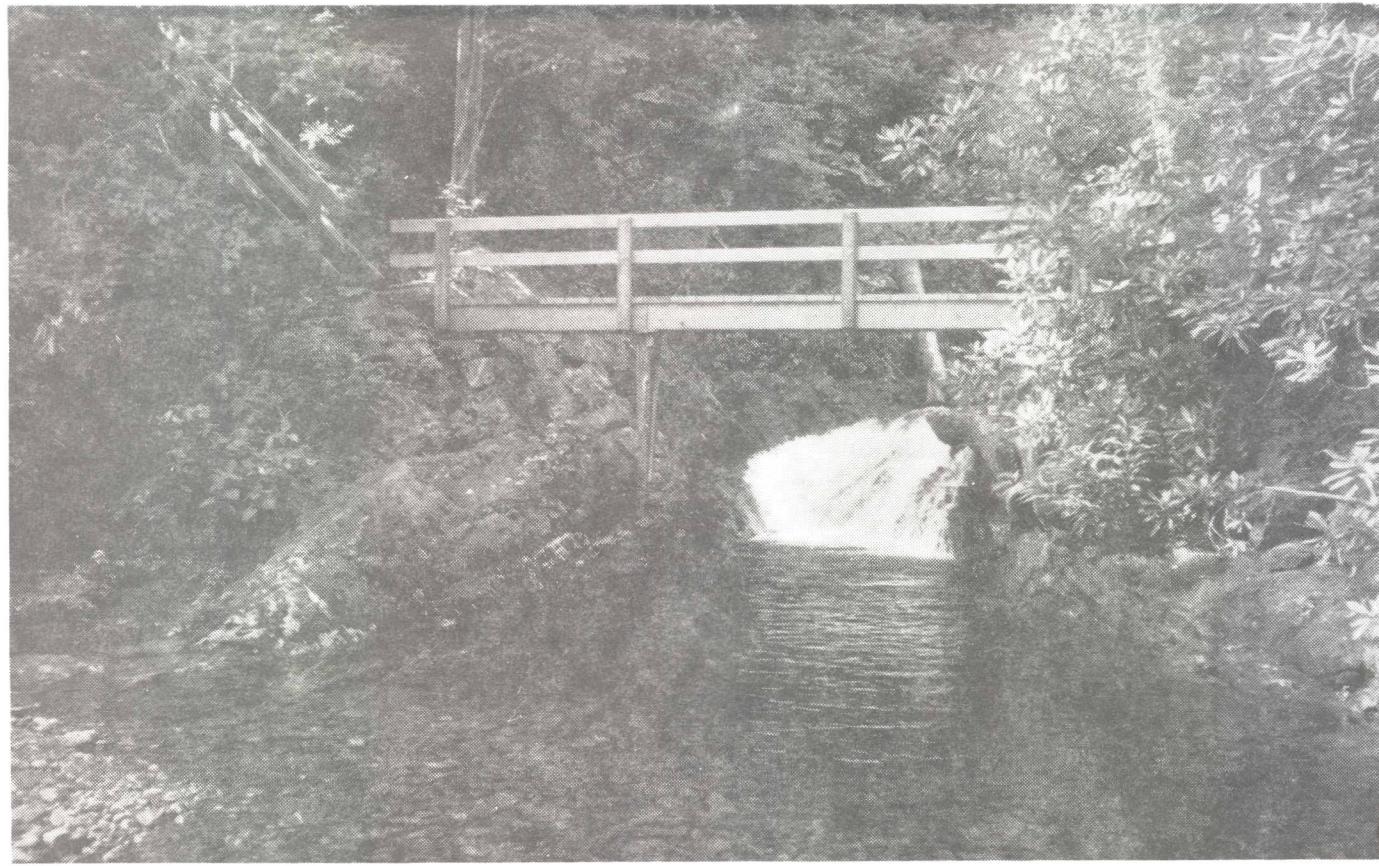
Stutzman participated in the ceremony in recognition of his technical assistance to the ATC, CMC and the Forest Service in cutting a 120-foot section of trail, utilizing gasoline jackhammers across a nearly vertical rock face 250 feet above the river.

The half-mile relocation at Lover's Leap took four years to complete. It required 11 weeks of construction over that four-year period by 154 volunteers, including 65 CMC members. These volunteers amassed 3,941 work hours on one of the most technical pieces of rock construction work ever attempted by the ATC.

### **Art Loeb Trail Connector**

The Carolina Mountain Club has received permission from the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service to construct a connector trail between the Art Loeb Trail and the Buck Springs Trail near Mount Pisgah. The permission comes as a response to mounting use of the Art Loeb Trail in the Shining Rock Wilderness and the Graveyard Field area. The club was also interested in finding a high elevation route for the portion of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail through its area of responsibility. The connector will begin before the MTS on the Loeb enters the Shining Rock Wilderness Area.

*(See Mountain Region ..., Page 7)*



**ART LOEB TRAIL CONNECTOR** - Carolina Mountain Club members carried materials for this bridge over a quarter of a mile into the site on the Big East Fork of the Pigeon River. The two-span, 35-foot long structure is a section of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail in Pisgah National Forest.

# Trails Staff Contributes In GMP Initiative

The number one priority for the Division of Parks and Recreation for fiscal year 1991-92 is the development of General Management Plans for state parks and recreation areas. These General Management Plans are a requirement of the State Parks Act of 1987.

## Coastal Region ...

(Continued from Page 3)

opportunities, accessibility to open space, preservation of open space in urban areas, alternative non-motorized transportation routes, access to natural areas by persons with physical limitations, and preservation of linear corridors for future public uses.

### N.C. Rail-Trails Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for North Carolina Rail-Trails was held in Chapel Hill Sept. 6-7. The Friday night program consisted of reports from rail-trail projects from around the state, followed by a program and video by the New Hope Valley Railroad Company. The group is made up of volunteers who maintain and operate a six-mile railroad in Chatham County.

Tony Revey, North Carolina Rail-Trails historian presented a slide program on the history the railroad system in North Carolina. His program traced the progress and decline of the railroad system in North Carolina from the early days of the industry to the present time. The Saturday session included a panel discussion with Jim Gulick, Attorney General's Office; Scott Saylor, attorney for North Carolina Railroad Corp., and Lyman Cooper of CSX Railroad Corp.

This session proved to be most informative as many ideas and concerns were addressed concerning railroad corridor preservation.

During the morning session, Al Capehart of North Carolina Rail-Trails Inc. presented the organization's Golden Spike Award to the North Carolina Railroad Corp. for its assistance in helping pass legislation that will promote the preservation of abandoned railroad corridors in North Carolina. Scott Saylor accepted the award on behalf of North Carolina Railroad Corp. After lunch, the group enjoyed hiking part of the Libba Cotton Bikeway which connects Carrboro with Chapel Hill and is built beside an operating railroad track system. The bikeway is used by thousands of walkers, joggers as well as bicyclists each year.

### Rail-Trail Meeting In Shelby

A meeting was held recently to discuss the possibility of creating a rail-trail from Shelby to Marion. The meeting was sponsored by the Sierra Club with over 60 people in attendance. Those in attendance were supportive of the rail-trail and plans were made begin developing a plan to make the trail a reality. Several local government officials participated in the meeting and expressed support for the trail.

### NTA Coordinates Big Sweep in Wayne County

The Neuse Trails Association coordinated the Big Sweep Campaign in Wayne County. Over 50 volunteers participated in picking up trash along the Mountains-to-Sea Trail along Stoney Creek. Volunteers collected over 60 bags of trash. The NTA is making plans for another busy year of trail construction and maintenance. The group plans to cross Little River with a suspension bridge and head west toward Johnson County. The next several miles will be on property owned by the state at Cherry Hospital and the Department of Agriculture.

The trails staff will be involved in park GMP's by inspecting all trails within the parks and recreation areas. The trails staff will consider trail and bridge conditions, needed relocations and develop a cost for these trail needs to be included in future budget requests.

New trail needs will also be considered.

The trails staff has participated in the GMP process at the following parks and recreation areas: William B. Umstead State Park, Morrow Mountain State Park, Boone's Cave State Park, Crowders Mountain State Park, Jockey's Ridge State Park, and Stone Mountain State Park.

The GMP trail reports indicate a need for considerable funding and dedicated staff time to relocate or reconstruct miles of trail in state parks and recreation areas.

Detailed trail information is now available to support needed trail repairs for future budget requests.

## Mountain Region ...

(Continued From Page 6)

The new trail will connect with the Art Loeb Trail at approximately 6,000 feet in elevation and will never drop below 3,800 feet as it travels over its projected 12-mile length. It will traverse the northern reaches of the Graveyard Fields area, passing through portions of that area not normally visited by hikers, crossing the Blue Ridge Parkway at Bridges Camp Gap, up to Firescale Knob and on to the Mount Pisgah Inn area.

The trail will require approximately 13 bridges, with some up to 37 feet in multiple spans. The material for the bridges and helicopter transportation costs to ferry portions of the bridge material into the remote sites were provided jointly by the U.S. Forest Service and an Adopt-A-Trail grant given to the Carolina Mountain Club by the state of North Carolina.

Money for special tools needed for the bridge construction was made possible through an additional Adopt-A-Trail grant to the club from the state.

One of the bridges, which is itself a two-span, 35-foot long structure, required that club members carry the material over a quarter mile into the site on the Big East Fork of the Pigeon River at a beautiful waterfall known locally as "Skinny Dip Falls."

### Asheville Greenway

The city of Asheville Parks and Recreation Department has broken ground on a new city park to be developed at the confluence of the Swannanoa and French Broad rivers.

The new park will be Asheville's first effort to begin development of the proposed river greenway as envisioned in a design proposed by River Links.

River Links is a citizen-based, private non-profit organization established to promote development of the French Broad River and its tributaries as an urban greenway system.

The 20-acre property on the river was donated by Carolina Power & Light Co. and will be used primarily as a passive park area with trails and river access.

Plans call for development of a loop trail system utilizing both this property and land controlled by the Metropolitan Sewage District on the opposite side of the French Broad River. The trail would be available for pedestrians and bicyclists.

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