

The Greenway News



The Yadkin River Greenway Council Newsletter

2004—"EXPANDING THE GREENWAY"

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Greetings from the President's Chair –

A big thank you to all who have supported, worked for, and enjoyed the Greenway this year. What a year we have had. We continue to construct greenway, plan greenway, and receive funding for greenway.

I feel especially proud to announce the funding for Phase 2, Segment II of our Greenway. This segment stretches nearly 2 miles from the rear of Wilkes Telecommunications to the rear of the YMCA. The State of North Carolina has issued a \$275,000 funding program for this project. We are currently developing our routing with planners and working with generous landowners to secure the necessary easements. More news will follow in the coming months regarding this phase.

We are nearing the completion of Phase 1, Segment III into Wilkesboro. Your beautiful bridge sits astride the mighty Yadkin River, and the greenway into Wilkesboro is nearing completion. Paving is to occur in spring '05. Your construction committee deferred this action until it is certain the greenway is stabilized, and erosion will not be a future issue. Once done, Phase 1 is complete.

Please, when you see Wilkesboro town employees, thank them for their generous work. The town board, manager, and employees have supported our greenway with their time, manpower and equipment, at minimal expense to our operation.

From where I sit, I have so many people and organizations to thank; it would be difficult to address them all. I must begin with our donors and Friends of the Greenway. These generous people, corporations, and organizations provide your greenway the funding that allows for our continued success, giving the administrative dollars to seek grants, and pay for our matching part to these grants. Your local city and county governments have played instrumental parts in our success by their endorsements, encouragement, and dollars. Your board works in harmony for the good of all in this community to ensure our greenway is the standard by which others are measured.

Our future is bright, and our community is adding quality of life assets that we all can utilize and enjoy. Thank you again and the best of the New Year to you and yours!.....
Dick Sloop.

GREENWAY COUNCIL ADDS NEW MEMBERS

During 2004 Steve Mathis and Mike Kerhoulas were welcomed as new members on the Yadkin River Greenway Council.

They joined the Council consisting of: Dick Sloop, President & Chairman, Carolyn Frazier-Pardue, Vice President, Gary Cogdill, Treasurer, Keith Johnston, Secretary, and other Council members: Gary Blevins, Dr. Tom Frazer, John Gygas,

Gary Johnson, Becky Lakey, Carl McCann, Freida Matthews, Sheree Sloop, Steve Steele, Frank Taracido, and Roy Williams. Executive Director is Bill Clifton..

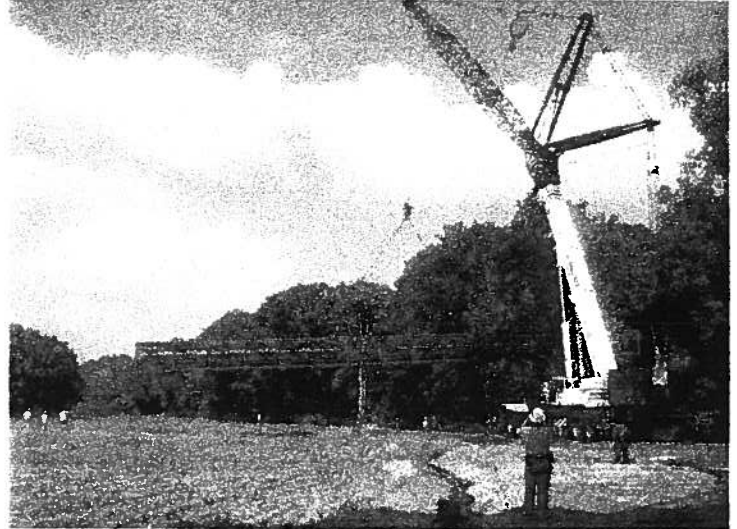
Steve is in agriculture and, along with his family, farms significant acreage in Wilkes County. Mike is owner and proprietor of the Sign Factory located in Melody Square in North Wilkesboro.

WILKESBORO "CARRIAGE TRAIL" NEARS COMPLETION

In early 2004 work resumed on the construction of the Phase I, Segment 3 trail after obtaining a "no-rise" certification from FEMA for the installation of the new bridge across the Yadkin River. The "no-rise" certification was received in February after which time work commenced with the final grading of the Segment 3 trail. In March the basic trail was graveled with the help of Vulcan Materials' donation of 250 tons of gravel. The soil testing for the new abutments on the south side of the proposed bridge was completed during this period. During the months of April and May, work on the construction of retaining walls and stabilization of trail banks took place with the new abutments for the proposed bridge being completed in June.

On June 24, 2004 D.L.B, Inc, of Hillsville, VA installed the new bridge structure and the bridge construction was completed in July. Construction of the ramp on the north side of the bridge began in the month of July and continued through the month of August and the beginning of September. Simultaneously, work continued on the Segment 3 trail with the installation of catch basins, final grading and drainage ditches performed by the Town of Wilkesboro. In the month of October the new bridge access ramp was paved and installation of guardrails for the ramp was completed by the end of November 2004.

The Phase I, Segment 3 trail received official Over Mountain Victory National Historic Trail certification on December 3. Final slope stabilization and additional retaining wall construction is scheduled to be put in place in the spring of 2005, with paving of the Segment 3 trail anticipated for the spring of 2005 as well.



In September of 2004 preliminary planning for Phase II, Segment 2 began. The Phase II, Segment 2 trail is proposed to begin at a new trailhead near the confluence of Moravian Creek and the Yadkin River and will extend approximately two miles to the new YMCA (Becky's Park) trailhead. A contract for \$275,000 funding from NCDOT has been signed by Wilkes County, which will assist in funding for the construction of the proposed Phase II, Segment 2 trail. In October Isom Associates, PA presented a preliminary layout for the new Phase II, Segment 2 trail, and work is currently underway in obtaining the necessary easements to finalize the routing for this new segment.

The Yadkin River Greenway Council is continuing with efforts to obtain easement intents for a trail extension to Smoot Park in North Wilkesboro and is working with the Town of North Wilkesboro to prepare a grant application to the North Carolina Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) to help fund this phase of the Greenway..

We are planning for the year 2005, to complete the Phase I, Segment 3 trail in early spring. We are also proceeding with the procurement of easements for the Phase II, Segment 2 trail and hope to commence construction on this segment later in 2005.....Frank Taracido, Construction Committee Chair.

GRANTS CONTINUE TO MOVE US AHEAD

Attainment of grants to fund expansion of the greenway continues to be a priority of the Yadkin River Greenway Council. During the past year we applied for and were approved for a \$4,000 NCDENR "Adopt-a-Trail" grant that will be used for trail head amenities such as bike rack, trash receptacles, mailbox, signage, landscaping, and parking area at the Tyson Trailhead in Wilkesboro behind the Captain Robert Cleveland Home. We were also approved for a \$25,000 NCDENR Recreational Trails Program grant to help fund completion of this trail segment behind the Cleveland Home to the new pedestrian bridge across the Yadkin River.

In partnership with the County of Wilkes, we were awarded a \$275,000 "Moving Ahead" funding program from NC DOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Division that will enable us to plan and construct a segment of Phase 2 of the greenway from Moravian Creek in Wilkesboro through River's Edge Park up to the Wilkes Family YMCA.

We continue to work on the \$74,000 Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant for "Easement Acquisition & Riparian Buffer Restoration" from Moravian Creek to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. This past year conservation easement intents were obtained on 16 properties and 15,000 trees were planted along the Yadkin River. We also received a \$5,000 grant from the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail to complete the "Loop Trail" behind Becky's Park.

Additional grant opportunities are being pursued. One we will be seeking is from North Carolina Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) to expand the greenway in North Wilkesboro from Mid-Town Market to Smoot Park.

The \$946,000 of grant monies that have been obtained along with the \$723,000 of gifts from individual donors has permitted us to build our beautiful greenway and to begin construction of Phase 2 in 2005. ..Bill Clifton, Executive Director

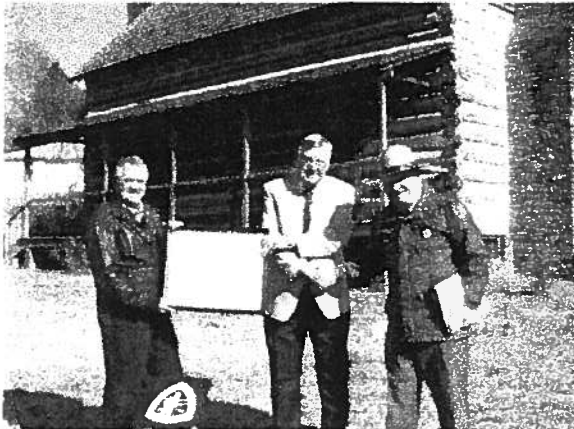
SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR GREENWAY EVENTS

Our primary special events for 2004 were the second Annual "Turtle Regatta" on June 5 and our First Annual Yadkin River Greenway Golf Tournament on September 30.

We had 600 more turtles in 2004 for a total of 1488 that were adopted. First place prize was a bicycle donated by Cook's Inc. Other prizes were Tyson Gift Certificates, Wellness Center Gift Certificate, and yard power tools from Lowe's Home Improvement. Five of the seven prizes were won by youth. Also on June 5 the YRGC featured a booth at the Wilkes Arts & Heritage Festival where we sold turtle adoptions, T-shirts, and William Vance Nichol's Greenway prints.

The Golf tournament at Oakwoods Country Club on September 30 had 84 golfers, 35 hole sponsors, cap, meal & "hole-in-one" sponsors, good weather, a fine catered meal, great prizes, and outstanding fellowshipa huge success !

The third annual "Walk-for-Will" was held June 12 and raised \$1200. The total raised to date is \$8,823 versus a goal of \$10,000.



Halloween's "Trail-of-Treats" held on the greenway and sponsored by the North Wilkesboro Police Department attracted about 15,000 participants. We passed out over 6,000 pieces of candy at the Greenway tent. This was the second year and with such great community response it looks like it will become an annual event.

On December 3, National Park Service Superintendent Paul Carson certified the new trail segment extending from behind the Captain Robert Cleveland home in Wilkesboro to the new Yadkin River pedestrian bridge. Twenty attended the ceremony including representatives from the Town of Wilkesboro, Wilkes County Commission, Wilkes Heritage Museum, W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, and the Yadkin River Greenway Council. This is the fourth segment of the greenway that has been certified as part of the Overmountain Victory

National Historic TrailCarolyn Frazier-Pardue, Chair Special Events

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

The Volunteer Coordination Committee had another great year in 2004. We are blessed with the numbers of volunteers from our community who want to see the Yadkin River Greenway continue to be a beautiful and safe environment while improving the health of the people of this county. Some of the very note worthy contributions made to the greenway by different organizations and people of this area in the past year include trash receptacles by the Wilkes Career Education Center's VICA Club installed at the four trail heads.

We are thankful for the many volunteer hours and donations made by the Eagle Scouts. In February Jacob Byrd and members of Troop 340 planted 500 trees along the greenway. Two Boy Scouts from Troop 335 have requested Eagle Scout projects. Mark Stone will build and install 3 benches along the new Carriage Trail and Jordan Mathis will landscape the area near the new bridge ramp.

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail donated a bulletin board that has been installed near the Coffee Tavern. We very much appreciate the OVT's continued support and certification of the Yadkin River Greenway.

The Recognition Wall has been a wonderful addition to the greenway. This year we were pleased to add nine new nameplates to the wall.... Ken & Laura Welborn, Anne & Dwight Pardue, Dr. Joseph H. & Patricia W. Johnson, Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail – National Park Service, AdvantageWest – North Carolina, Wilkes Career Education Center – VICA Club, Vulcan Materials Company, and Scouts Jacob Byrd and Leila McInnis. These wonderful volunteers and generous donors are keeping our greenway growing and thriving.

Unfortunately we had some vandalism along the greenway. Red paint was sprayed on benches, historic markers, the pathway, and the Reddies River bridge marker. Thank you to the Wilkes County Parks & Recreation Dept. for their efforts in the cleanup of this destruction.

With the continued expansion of the Yadkin River Greenway, the Council Members will need even more dedicated volunteers to help with our growth and recreation opportunities on the newly constructed trails. If you or your organization are interested in volunteering for a project for the betterment of the greenway, please contact the Yadkin River greenway office at 651-8967Freida Matthews, Chair Volunteer Coordination Committee 838-4938.

FUND RAISERS KEEP US A FLOAT

The Yadkin River Greenway fund raising efforts in 2004 focused on acquiring monies to meet our budget needs for the administration of the Greenway office including grant writing, committee coordination, promotions, communications, and conducting events.

We rely a lot on financial support from the County of Wilkes, the Town of Wilkesboro, and the Town of North Wilkesboro, along with a donation from the Wilkes Tourism Development Authority, to meet nearly one-half of our operating expenses.

For the remainder of our operations funding we must have fund raisers conducted by our Council members and Friends of the Greenway. In 2004 these projects consisted of our "Friends of the Greenway" campaign that raised \$6,305, the second annual Turtle Regatta held June 5 that raised \$6,049, our first annual Greenway Golf Tournament held September 30 at Oakwoods Country Club that netted \$7,181, and participation in the November 20 & 21 Gardner Glass Products "After Market Factory Sale" from which we realized a donation of \$2,600.

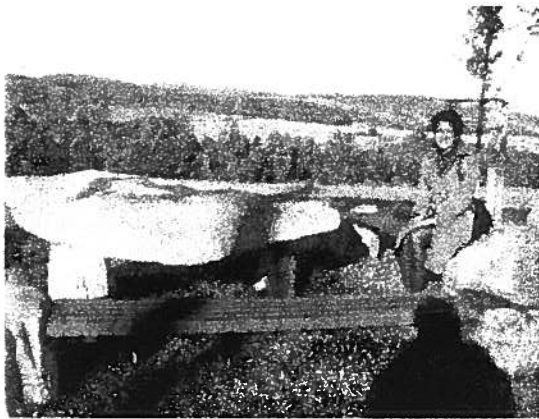
In addition to these fund raising projects, we again sold Greenway T-Shirts that brought in \$240. We also sold William Vance Nichols' "Greenway" prints taking in \$649 in 2004 bringing us into the "black" with total project sales of \$2,680 for a profit of \$176. Knowing you are interested, we still have T-shirts for sale at \$7 each and plenty of Nichols "Greenway" prints at \$50 each.

During 2004, \$127,980 was added to our "Restrictive Capital" account from receipt of individual pledge payments, gifts, and grant reimbursements. for construction the Greenway. Thank you for your participating in these Greenway fund raising events and for your gifts that help keep the dream of the Yadkin River Greenway from W. Kerr Scott Reservoir to Smoot Park a reality.....Chair Fund Raising, Keith Johnston

GREENWAY IDEAS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC

In 1989, Czechoslovakia was transformed by the fall of Communism. Led by revolutionaries from the drama field like Vaclav Havel, the country experienced the Velvet Revolution. Subsequently, different ethnic and political groups agreed to divide the country (the Velvet Divorce) into The Czech Republic and Slovakia. The former ended up with lands that contained the old iron curtain, a ribbon of land several miles wide along the Austrian border. During the Communist era, entry into these border areas was not permitted so development was largely non-existent. Immediately after the Velvet Revolution, progressive Czech people began to partner with Western organizations to preserve the natural and cultural heritage.

The USA's Hudson River Valley Greenway was one involved group (<http://www.hudsongreenway.state.ny.us/>). To make a long story short, efforts to establish the Vienna-Prague Greenway soon began in the Czech Republic (<http://www.pragueviennagreenways.org/>). Today it is a cooperative organization that benefits business, non-profit groups, and communities. The economic payoff for the southern Czech Republic is now a reality.



Greenway stone and wood facility is located exactly where Nagel painted a beautiful modern landscape

Ecotourists who arrive in the southeastern Czech town of Breclaw might be met by Tomas Leskovjan, owner of Palava Tours who provides a package that includes bicycles, canoes, lodging, maps, guide books, a cell phone, and logistical support. He also encourages ecotourists to meet representatives of local nonprofit groups involved in greenway-related community development projects. For example, in the town of Mikulov, The Society for the Preservation of Jewish Culture, composed completely of secular and Christian volunteers, seeks to preserve and restore the buildings, cemetery and monuments that remain after all Jewish citizens were killed or "removed" by the Nazis and the Communists.

A second community group in the tiny village of Kostelni Myslova (pop. 68) calls itself the Phoenix Society. It seeks to resurrect the story of Frantisek Moric Nagel, a twentieth century artist who was arrested by the Gestapo. The group has provided some beautiful landscaping along a self-guided tour of Nagel's neighborhood (see picture) and plans to rehabilitate the

artist's home and farm.

Finally, in the village of Kojakovice, the community has transformed an old school building into a museum that documents the history of this rural area from feudal times all the way to the 19th and 20th centuries when 80% of the local population emigrated to the USA. The community has used proceeds from the museum to create a park with some wonderful playground equipment

There are many other Czech Greenway success stories. Hotels, restaurants, museums, environmental organizations, baroque palaces, canoe and horse liveries, etc. are all involved and are reaping the benefits. There are many tours focused on such activities as art, music, wine, Czech food, hiking, canoeing, and biking. Ecotours also include an economic benefit to community organizations involved in Czech Greenways. Typically 15% of the cost of the trip goes to a non-profit. The ecotourist often can choose which groups will benefit at the end of the trip.

Are these good ideas for the Wilkes County? Think about it: Could the future bring Czech and other tourists to ride bikes up the Yadkin River Greenway from Tanglewood? Will they stop at wineries, B&Bs, and country stores along the way? Will they float back down the river in canoes? Will they also explore the Overmountain Victory Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway? On a rainy day will they enjoy the Wilkes County Heritage Museum, the Wilkes Art Gallery, and the latest Wilkes Play-makers production?

How many businesses, organizations, and people in Wilkes County could benefit? Should YRGC start partnerships with local travel agencies, businesses, and other local non-profits? With our community's desire to attract more tourists, YRGC could play a key role in coordinating a cooperative ecotourism project. Someday we could see lots of YRGC partnership decals in quite a few public places in Wilkes.....Dr. Tom Frazer, Council Member & Past Chairman

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Council Newsletter

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Yadkin River Greenway Council
P. O. Box 191
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

Phone: 336-651-8967
Fax: 336-838-3628
Email: yrgreenway@pcshome.net



"FRIENDS OF THE GREENWAY" GROWS

"Friends of the Yadkin River Greenway" has completed its second year as a "grass roots" support organization. Friends of the Greenway added 32 new members during 2004 and now totals 121 who have joined. Of these, 52 have renewed their membership during the past year and we hope all will renew during 2005.



Total contributions to "Friends of the Greenway" now total \$17,570. These donations go along way towards covering the administration expenses to run the Yadkin River Greenway Council, thus enabling us to fulfill our mission

of developing a greenway system in our community.

Annual membership is open to all people and, by being a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization, membership dues are tax deductible to the extent possible.

We offer opportunities to our members to volunteer time on specific greenway events and projects, helping in the greenway office, and contacting prospective new members. This newsletter and other communications will keep our members informed of Greenway activities.

In January, based on membership anniversary date, we will begin contacting each "Friend of the Greenway" to renew their membership and to continue their support of the greenway. Regular memberships are: \$20 for individuals, \$40 for families, \$12 for youth, \$100 for businesses, and \$50 for organizations. Also to be recognized as a "Trailblazer", categories are: \$100 for Daniel Boone, \$250 for Sir Walter Raleigh, \$500 for Henry Hudson, and \$1000 for Lewis and Clark.

Thanks again for your continuing support .
If any questions...Phone: 651-8967. Bill Clifton,
Executive Director