

The Greenway News



The Yadkin River Greenway Council Newsletter

The Greenway... To Build And Preserve

2019 THE YEAR IN REVIEW
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A Message from the President

It may be a stretch...but I like to use the analogy of the 2019 completion of the new RED/GREEN Greenway Connector to the opening of the first Transcontinental Railroad which occurred at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory, in 1869!

The event culminates over 15 years of efforts by Council members, both past and present, and emphasizes landowners generosity, cooperation and support of this lasting endeavor.

Thanks to the financial support of the community. 2019 was yet another great year for Greenway fund raising programs.

In addition, generous funding by various corporate and governmental entities allowed the Greenway to continue to expand and help meet the recreational and physical fitness needs of the visitors to and citizens of Wilkes County.

The Council would like to thank our partners in interest, the Towns of Wilkesboro, North Wilkesboro and Wilkes County. They continue to do the heavy lifting on the day to day maintenance and sustain its growth and development. We thank them for their continued support and protection of this valuable asset.

As always, I look forward to seeing **YOU** on the greenway!

Charlie White

Greenway Program Helps Bluebirds



Bluebirds And Their Homes Along The Greenway

If you've been on the Yadkin River Greenway lately, you've probably noticed some of our newly painted and very colorful Bluebird boxes! This new program is all part of an effort to restore habitat for one of America's favorite backyard and garden bird species, Eastern Bluebirds!

Bluebirds can be found in open country with patchy vegetation and large trees or nest boxes. Meadows, old fields, golf courses, parks and greenways are often good places to see Bluebirds. Bluebirds typically sit in the open on power lines or along fences, with an alert, vertical posture. When they drop to the ground after an insect, they make a show of it, with fluttering wings and a fairly slow approach, followed by a quick return to their perch.

Bluebirds are great to capture in your binoculars. The males are a brilliant royal blue on the back and head, and warm red-brown on the breast. Blue tinges in the wings and tail give the grayer females an elegant look. Bluebirds are 16–21 centimeters long, spans 25–32 centimeters across the wings, and weigh 27–34 grams. Bluebirds require a cavity such as an abandoned woodpecker hole, old fence post or dead snag to provide a nest.

In the 20th Century Bluebird habit suffered as old fence posts were being replaced by metal fence posts. In addition, dead tree snags which were once common on small wood lots, farms and residential communities became much less common due to clearing and modern landscaping. As a result, Bluebird numbers began to decline. However, in more recent times, people across the country have stepped up and starting providing habitat by installing Bluebird nesting boxes. Locally, in Wilkes County, volunteer enthusiasts and members of the Greenway Council have responded by helping our colorful Bluebird feathered friends!

Now you can also contribute to the nesting success of Bluebirds. For more information on our Bluebird Box Program, see page nine in this newsletter!

RG Absher
Executive Director

Yadkin River Greenway Council Endowment Fund Update

In 2019, the Greenway Council established a long term gifting program that many *Friends of the Greenway* have expressed an interest in over the years. We are pleased to report that the endowment has achieved its initial funding goal and continues to grow!

The endowment will be administered by local members of the Wilkes Community Foundation (WCF) once the Councils work is done and the greenway has been completed. Briefly, the WCF is a part of the North Carolina Community Foundation and the funds that accrue over the years will be disbursed on an established percentage basis, when needs arise.

Below is an excerpt from the document that describes how the Endowment is designed to operate:

(4) Purposes. The Agency Endowment shall be devoted to the support of the Yadkin River Greenway Council, Inc. and its use shall be restricted as follows: for the expansion, construction and preservation of the Yadkin River Greenway.

Should the Yadkin River Greenway Council, Inc. cease to exist, donor recommends that this Endowment become a Non-Donor-Advised Field of Interest Endowment devoted to the expansion, construction and preservation of the Yadkin River Greenway, as advised by the Wilkes County Community Foundation, an advisory board of the Foundation with preference given to the County of Wilkes, North Carolina, the town of Wilkesboro, NC, and the town of North Wilkesboro, NC.

Should the time come when this charitable use, in the sole judgment of the Foundation's Board of Directors, has become unnecessary, undesirable, impracticable, incapable of fulfillment, or inconsistent with the charitable needs of the community served by the Foundation, the Agency Endowment shall be redirected to the most similar cause as can be determined by the Foundation's Board of Directors. If a donation to the Yadkin River Greenway Council Endowment interests you, you may find the following helpful in your planning process.

PLANNED GIVING

You can direct charitable giving through your estate plan to the Yadkin River Greenway Endowment Administrator, The Wilkes County Community Foundation. We can help you realize your goals, achieve tax advantages and leave a growing legacy for generations to come. This is philanthropy that is amazingly accessible and will have a major, lasting impact on your community.

Several options are available for planned gifts to be directed to the Yadkin River Greenway Council Endowment. Planned gifts can provide important tax savings and other benefits while allowing an individual to leave a permanent, growing legacy. Giving options vary, depending on whether one wants to give now or in the future. These can include:

Bequest: Naming the Yadkin River Greenway Council Endowment in a will or trust is a popular way to support the greenway. A charitable bequest can be made to add to an existing fund and one can designate a specific amount, a percentage of an estate or what remains after other bequests are fulfilled. Benefits can include significant estate tax savings. They are easy and revocable if circumstances change.

(Endowment Continued)

Retained life estate: Real Estate can be deeded to charity, allowing one to save taxes now with a current deduction and enjoy the property for the rest of one's life. Through our managing partner, the North Carolina Community Foundation we can help transform a property's value into a legacy to benefit the community and meet charitable intents, while allowing the realization of financial and tax benefits. Proceeds from the eventual sale of the real estate will help leave a legacy and carry out ones charitable intentions.

Life insurance: If ones need for life insurance has decreased, transforming a policy into a gift can help meet philanthropic goals and realize income tax savings, estate tax advantages and extend ones charitable reach with a low annual cost. Transferring ownership of a cash value policy to the Yadkin River Greenway Endowment may allow one to receive a tax deduction based on its current value.

Retirement plans: If you find that the assets that have been set aside for retirement in an IRA or other qualified plan exceed ones needs, then the election to name the Yadkin River Greenway Council Endowment as the beneficiary may be an option. Retirement assets can be the ideal way to meet philanthropic goals because they're heavily taxed if left to heirs, but tax-free if designated for charity.

About the North Carolina Community Foundation: The NCCF is the single statewide community foundation serving North Carolina and has made \$161 million in grants since its inception in 1988. With more than \$284 million in assets, NCCF sustains 1,300 endowments established to provide long-term support of a broad range of community needs, nonprofit organizations, institutions and scholarships. The NCCF partners with a network of affiliate foundations to provide local resource allocation and community assistance across the state. An important component of NCCF's mission is to ensure that rural philanthropy has a voice at local, regional and national levels.

Interested donors may contact: Megan Lynch Ellis, Development Officer,
at: mellis@nccommunityfoundation.org or 828-355-4306. Or, contact the Yadkin River Greenway for more information.

Attorneys may contact: Mary Morgan, philanthropy counsel, at mmorgan@nccommunityfoundation.org or 919-256-6909.

To make an estate gift: Give to your attorney the following language to insert into your will:

"I give, devise and bequeath to the North Carolina Community Foundation, Inc., a qualified 501-c-3 charitable organization, ___% of my residual estate [or a specific \$ amount] to be directed to The Yadkin River Greenway Council Endowment Fund."

Please make checks payable to the:

NCCF / Yadkin River Greenway Council Endowment Fund

NC Community Foundation

3737 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 460

Raleigh, NC 27612

The Yadkin River Greenway "Sponsor a Bluebird Box"

The Yadkin River Greenway *Sponsor a Bluebirds Box* is up and running along the Greenway. Specially made, colorful bird boxes are going up at strategic places along the Greenway. These bird homes are available to sponsor annually. Each one has the name of the sponsor, and are available for adoption on a yearly basis.

We now have over 25 boxes on the sponsored boxes installed. You can easily spot them as you walk or enjoy the greenway.

Long term, we hope to have a more formal bluebird monitoring program in place, looking at bird counts, egg counts, fledging success, etc. For now, let's get some more boxes up and enjoy our home grown bluebird trail! (a huge shout out to all the boys scouts who have helped with bluebird boxes!)

If you would like to sponsor a box, the annual sponsorship is \$100 and the boxes can be sponsored by contacting the greenway office at 336-651-8967.



Graham Wyche, Fundraising Chair, YRGC

Greenway Is Part Of National And State Trail Systems!

The Yadkin River Greenway is now part of two major trail systems that pass through Wilkes County. These systems are The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and the Overmountain Victory North Carolina State Trail. These two trail systems overlap and follow the Yadkin River Greenway along the north bank of the Yadkin River as it passes through Wilkes County and the towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro. The Greenway is essentially both a National Park and State Park! Both trail systems honor the role and route of the patriot militia took as they mustered to fight the Battle of Kings Mountain in 1780. This battle proved to be pivotal in the Revolutionary War.

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) stretches roughly 330 miles from its southern terminus in South Carolina through North Carolina and into Tennessee and Virginia, and follows the paths that the historic "Overmountain Men" took to the Battle of Kings Mountain. The OVNHT was created in 1980 after a bill introduced by NC Congressman James T. Broyhill was signed into law by then President Jimmy Carter. The bill was signed on the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain. The Overmountain Victory Trail is administered by the National Park Service.

The Overmountain Victory State Trail was approved in July 2019 in legislation that passed the NC General Assembly and signed by Governor Roy Cooper. The state trail will follow the 225 miles of the planned route of the National Historic Trail that passes through our state. The Division of Parks and Recreation will work with the National Park Service sponsors on the development of the trail.

The pair of overlapping trail systems is good news for the Yadkin River Greenway as additional grant opportunities will hopefully become available through the NC State Parks Recreational and Trails Grant Program. Several successful grants have already been secured through the National Park Foundation and the National Park Service. These grants have greatly assisted in funding such projects as the Memorial Park to Mulberry Fields Connector as well as other greenway construction projects such as historical kiosks and parking areas.



The National Park Service funds educational history programs for area students along the greenway each fall during the Annual March to Kings Mountain.



The National Park Service continues to fund many greenway projects such as the installation of historical kiosks. The above kiosk tells about the campaign by the Overmountain Men to the historic Battle of Kings Mountain during the American Revolutionary War. At left is one of many Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail markers found along the greenway.

ADOPT-A-TRAIL — Help Keep Our Greenway Green And Clean.

“Green is the prime color of the world, and that from which its loveliness arises.”

Pedro Calderrion de la Barco

Spring is everywhere – as the old adage goes “Spring has Sprung” and the fun on the Greenway has just begun.

After a long hard winter, a walk or run on the Yadkin River Greenway trails is a welcoming site to see Spring’s beautiful wildflowers, wonderful and exciting wildlife and nature at its best.

With Spring arising, we would like to say thank you to our amazing and dedicated Adopt-A-Trail volunteers who year after year stay the course and continue to be out and about on our Greenway trails keeping the landscaped areas and corridors maintained, beautiful, and environmentally safe for all to enjoy.

The Yadkin River Greenway Council is pleased to recognize the following committed volunteers:

--Bill Clifton, one of our long time council members, continues to give of his time by being one of our Trail Masters. He patrols parts of our different trails and reports the areas where maintenance is needed.

--Sonny Church landscaped and maintains an area at the confluence of the Yadkin and Reddies Rivers in memory of his father and mother – Vernon and Rachel Church.

--Dr. Craig Bennett, one of our council members, is aboard with our Adopt-A-Trail program. He meets a great need by replacing doggie bags, painting bollards and reporting locks and keys that are missing from the bollards.

--Tyson Inc. employees under the leadership of Jim Brown always do an excellent job grooming and trimming shrubs in the landscaped section near the Tyson Trailhead and the area near Pardue Crossing.

--Dan Day, a new Yadkin River Greenway Council member, cares for and preserves a space around a tree and a plaque near the confluence of the Reddies and Yadkin Rivers in memory of his mother, Pat McNeil Day.



The Master Gardeners, are shown above in the photo picking up trash on the Greenway at the Reddies River Trailhead retaining wall. Thanks to all who pitch in to help beautify the Greenway!

--Master Gardeners under the leadership of Diane Stephens, Lanny Stephens and Fay Kennedy, frequently check the landscaped space near the Reddies River Trailhead for maintenance needs. Again, this year the group in coordination with the North Wilkesboro maintenance crew, trimmed and cut large grasses to assure better growth this Spring. The gardeners also help maintain the area around the Recognition Wall.

--Lynn and William Clark, two of our devoted and faithful Adopt-A-Trail members, are frequently cleaning up trash along the Greenway trails while exercising and walking their dog. Their caring and passion helps to assure that our Greenway is safe, pleasant and enjoyable for all our users.

--Jule Hubbard maintains the access facility on the Mulberry section near Pardue Crossing. The access steps were constructed by his son, Miles, as an Eagle Scout project.

--Keith Howell, father of Eagle Scout William Howell, faithfully continues to groom a flower bed and landscaped section along the Jefferson Turnpike Trail.

(Volunteers Continued Page 7)

(Volunteers continued from page 6)



Wilkes District Boy Scouts have contributed a lot of volunteer work on the Yadkin River Greenway! These projects have included participating in cleanup events and Eagle Scout projects.

(Above and Below): Eagle Scout Projects on the Greenway have included installing bluebird boxes and constructing benches and picnic tables.



With the retirement of Bill Hanlin – we now have a new Wilkes County Extension Agent (Horticulture). Our new Extension Agent is Elina Snyder who is very interested in the Greenway and is already involved in helping to get the blueberry bushes near the confluence of the rivers pruned and in good shape. During the cold winter months Elina met with Freida Matthews and Charlie White to educate them on how to take better care of our blueberry bushes. With better care and attention, the blueberry bushes will produce and bear more berries.

Volunteers are needed even more today as our Greenway grows and matures. Volunteers are needed to adopt sections of the trails to plan and design new landscaped areas and adopt some of the older sections of the trails to weed, and mulch, plant new flowers and shrub beds.

Volunteers are also needed to repair and clean benches, picnic tables, signs and birdhouses. Volunteers are vital to keeping our greenways maintained and preserved.

We would like to thank our county and our two towns for being partners in protecting and preserving our Greenway, “A world class facility.” The Wilkes County crew and our two town crews mow grass regularly and remove downed trees, cut brush, trim along river banks, repair sink holes, fences, cables, bollards and remove rock slides.

The Yadkin River Greenway Council welcomes and encourages future Eagle and Gold Scouts to use the Greenway for their projects. The Greenway has greatly benefited and is very appreciative for the many scout projects.

People and groups interested in adopting sections of the Greenway can contact Freida Matthews at 336-838-4938 or RG Absher at 336-651-8967.

By Freida Matthews
Yadkin River Green Volunteer
Coordination Chairperson

Get Your Personalized Yadkin River Greenway Print!

The Yadkin River Greenway is turning 20 years old! As part of our celebration of this milestone date, we asked local artist William Nichols to create a scene from our Greenway. Can you identify where this artwork was painted?

We are currently taking pre-print orders of this appealing image. Mr. Nichols has offered, for those who wish, to customize your print. He will happily add to your print, images of your family, dog, anything you'd like. What a delightful gift idea, to include your favorite people and pets enjoying the Greenway. Custom work will be a separate arrangement with the artist.

All copies will be autographed by the artist, numbered, and capped at 250 copies. Print copies are 18 x 24, on archival paper, using pigmented inks, and should be good for 200 years – long enough. Prints are \$100. Contact the Yadkin River Greenway office at YRGreenway@PCShome.net, or call 336-651-8967 to place your order.

See you on the Greenway!!!

Graham Wyche, Fundraising Chairman

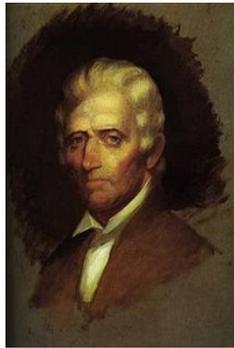


The above print is by William Nichols. The renowned artist painted the work showing the Yadkin River Greenway in spring time along with one of our recently installed customized Bluebird nesting boxes along with a nesting Bluebird perched atop the Bluebird box!

The Boone Trail Highway Marker Program Has A Rich History

When you're out and about exploring the sights along the greenway and in the two Towns that it connects...you will invariably come across the Boone Trail Arrowhead Monument.

The monument, located near the Brushy Mountain Smokehouse and Creamery Restaurant at the intersection of Wilkesboro Boulevard and Independence Avenue, honors America's pioneer hero Daniel Boone. It was originally placed in front of the Forester's Nu-Way Service Station in 1928, but was moved a few hundred feet to its present location several years ago when the street was widened.



These photos include a portrait of Daniel Boone and the Boone Trail Marker in North Wilkesboro.

Boone lived in North Carolina for 21 of his remarkable 86 years before moving on to Kentucky. From his home on the Uper Yadkin River in May 1769, Daniel Boone rode off with five other men on his first excursion through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky. That portal through the barrier mountains became America's first "gateway to the West." Indeed, Daniel Boone enjoyed a legacy throughout northwest North Carolina of sufficient notoriety that over 110 years ago his life and heritage were commemorated here by two groups—really, two competing groups—during the early 20th century. Together these earnest commemorators left us their own legacy—"in bronze and stone." And, during the 200 years since his death in 1820, a number of people have made sure that others knew about his significance to America's story.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) were the first, marking Daniel Boone's trail from 1913-15 by placing 50 cast iron tablets across 400 miles from North Carolina to Kentucky and, to the pride of all North Carolinians, this historic DAR project sprang from Lucy Patterson of Winston-Salem, for whom Patterson Avenue is named.

On the heels of the DAR's commemorative work, a similar effort began under the leadership of Joseph "Hamp" Hampton Rich. Rich, was born in 1874 and reared in Davie County on land where the Boones had lived. He had a lifelong passion for Boone. But, while the DAR had sought to commemorate the life of Daniel Boone, Rich sought to use the pioneer's reputation and notoriety as a way to encourage the building of better roads for 20th century America. In fact, North Carolina DAR state regent Kate Bitting Reynolds had suggested as much to Rich during the DAR's commemorative work.

So, in 1913, Rich established the Boone Trail Highway and Memorial Association. His organization's chief purpose was to raise awareness of the need for better roads in North Carolina, especially into the western reaches of the state and the mountain counties. Rich also wanted to educate the public about the history and heritage of the pioneer era and promote patriotism.

Rich erected markers cast with an image in relief of Alonzo Chapel's illustration of Boone and his hunting dog. To add a bit of patriotic fervor to the enterprise, every plaque included some steel from the USS Maine, which sunk in Havana Harbor under suspicious circumstances in 1898. While the cause of the sinking is still unsolved, many blamed Spain, and the Spanish-American War soon followed.

Rich was a prolific commemorator over the next 25 years, erecting an estimated 358 plaques. Gary Marshall, author of "Rich Man: Daniel Boone" and the authority on Rich's markers, says only about 100 still exist.

Rich's passion for better roads was not limited to just his Boone commemorations. He also created the Boy's Road Patrol, which the General Assembly authorized in 1915. With the motto, "A Boy on Every Mile," the young men in rural communities were tasked with dragging the unpaved roads using mules or tractors to fill in the ruts and opening the ditches with plows to keep the rural roads passable in all kinds of weather.

Responsibility for the Road Patrol was moved to the Board of Education in 1925, and 12 years later the patrol was extended to non-rural schools. As the use of heavy equipment for maintenance began in the 1930s, the volunteers then were tasked with promoting and practicing traffic and pedestrian safety: "Drive where you look and look where you are driving," Rich's publications encouraged.

That's still good advice today from a Davie County man of a century ago who cared about North Carolina's roads and promoting our region's history.

Credit for portions of this articles information is given to Randell Jones, Special Correspondent, November 26, 2013, Winston Salem Journal article. Randell is the author of six books, including "In the Footsteps of Daniel Boone" and "Trailing Daniel Boone — DAR marking Daniel Boone's Trail, 1912-1915." See www.danielboonefootsteps.com. Also, readers are invited to visit The North Carolina Daniel Boone Heritage Trail at NCDanielBooneTrail.org

Fundraisers And Annual Contributions Help Grow The Greenway

In just 19 years, the Yadkin River Greenway has gone from blueprints to footprints to approximately 9 miles of greenway. The Greenway provides easy access to the beauty of the land along the rivers that flow through the center of our community and connect our parks and neighborhoods. Today we have new sections in the construction and planning phases.

Our community is fortunate to have many local citizens whose generosity helped build the extensive Greenway system we have today. Local contributions not only pay for construction costs, they also help us win grants! Significant public support is a major requirement of the grant application process. Over half the money raised to build our current Greenway system has come from grant sources outside our community. Over half the money spent, to date, on Yadkin River Greenway construction has come from grants.

Your contributions to the Greenway organization helps pay for this function, which has enabled us to more than double the amount of new construction projects the Council has been able to fund and construct.

Your donation keeps our Greenway system growing. You can choose one of three ways to direct your contributions.

1. You can specify 100% of your contribution is to be spent on construction of new Greenway segments.
2. You can give an unrestricted contribution to the Greenway that enables us to plan new sections and to find and secure grants to pay for new construction. Become a member of the Friends of the Greenway with your annual gifts, or send us a contribution. Any funds received in excess of our operations expenses can be used for construction.
3. You can support Greenway fundraisers that help fund the administration and operations of the Greenway organization. Our fundraisers include:
 - The Turtle Regatta Drop Dunk and Draw Event is held in October at the Mulberry Fields Trailhead. Although the turtles onced raced down the Reddies River, The new event format is safer and is not dependent on the water levels of the Reddies River to run the event. Become a Turtle Regatta sponsor, by “adopting” a turtle for \$5. The first turtles drawn from the holding tank, are awarded various prizes. The Turtle Regatta is scheduled for during this year’s Trail of Treats day along the Yadkin River Greenway. Stay tuned for the details!
 - The Greenway Benefit Golf Tournament is held annually in at Oakwoods Country Club. Although the 2020 Golf Tournament was cancelled due to the Coronavirus, we plan to resume the event in 2021.
 - Bluebox Box Program—You can sponsor a Blue Bird Box for \$100.00 which will be placed on the greenway

All event sponsors are recognized at the event and in news releases in our community! Thanks to all who donate, volunteer and work to help grow our Greenway system!!! *The Yadkin River Greenway Council is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and donations are tax deductible.*



Regatta Turtle



Drawing the Winner!!!



**2019 Golf Tournament Participants
At Oakwoods Country Club**

**For more information on our fundraisers,
Contact the Greenway office at 336-651-8967**

Our Friends, Contributors And Sponsors

Members of Friends of the Yadkin River Greenway

(A – C) Fern Absher, Jim and Rose Andrews, Wayne and Zedena Barker, Harvey and Ginger Barlow, Leo and Ila Baugham, Wayne and Zedena Barker, Bob & Carol Black, Gary D. Blevins, Bill and Sharon Benson, Carolyn Brookshire Pardue, Mike and Dianna Bullock, Karen and Harold Bumgarner, Edwin Canter, Phil and Cecilia Carlson, Carson Foundation, Kin and Vicki Church, William and Lynn Clark, Bill and Karen Clifton, Anne Clifton, Sonny and Piper Church, Mrs. George Collins, Howard and Brenda Colvard, Rick and Trish Cook, Cubic Inc., Ed and Ramona Curtis.

(D - K) Lois Ann Doss, Stan and Susan Dudek, Allen and Audrey Dyer, Ginger Edmiston and Bobby Johnson, Camille Eller, Claudia Eller Tolbey, Mike Eller, Kim and Claude Faw, Chuck Forester, Rayanne Francis, Martha Glass, Russell and Lorraine Golds, Ruth Graham, Fred and Jean Graf, Ted and Jacquelyn Hall, Bill and Ruth Harris, Vaughn and Francis Hayes, Lee Herring, Leonard G. Herring Family Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Hicks III, James M. Huffman, Rebecca Hubbard, Alison Huskey, Charles and Janet Jackson, Scott Jessee and Laura Yaines, Gary and Madelene Johnson, Keith and Amanda Johnston, Rob and Patsy Jones, Petro Kulynych Family Foundation I, Petro Kulynych Family Foundation II.

(L - P) Arnold and Becky Lakey, Gerald and Linda Lankford, Dean and Susan Ledbetter, Pete and Wilma Lovette, Carroll Lowe, Pete Mann, Richard and Dot Marlow, John and Freida Matthews, Pam and Drew Mayberry, Carl McCann, Ed and Alison McCormick, David and Connie McNeil, Mike and Donna McNeil, Tim Murphy, Andrew and Pam Mayberry, Martha Nichols, Sandra and John Oliver, Russel Pearson, Lisa Pardee, Marilyn Payne, Carolyn Frazier-Pardue, Ned and Betty Pierce.

(R - Z) Nancy Ricketts, Bill and Hedy Ryerson, Chuck and Belinda Smithey, Gordon Smoak, Jim and Luci Smoak, Mary Spears, Larry and Diane Stone, Stone Foundation, Steve and Kay Steele, Laura Stroud, Sam Stroud, Tina Taracido, FW and Martha Townes, Jim Sturdivant, David Wiles, Charlie and Mary White, Betsy Welborn, Graham and Teresa Wyche, Fran and Tim York, Randall Zirkle.

Walker Level Members (\$100-\$499) Fern Absher, Harvey and Ginger Barlow, Kin and Vicki Church, William and Lynn Clark, Bill and Karen Clifton, Mrs. George B. Collins, Rick and Trish Cook, Cubic Incorporated, Allen and Audrey Dyer, Ginger Edmiston and Bobby Johnson, Camille Eller, Kim and Claude Faw, Caroline Brookshire Pardue, Chuck Forester, Russell and Lorraine Golds, Jacquelyn and Ted Hall, Bill and Ruth Harris, Vaughn and Frances Hayes, James Huffman, Robert Joines, Gary and Madeline Johnson, Patsey Jones, Keith and Amanda Johnston, Arnold and Becky Lakey, Dr. Henry C. Landon, Pam and Drew Mayberry, David and Connie McNeil, Martha Nichols, Lisa Pardee, Ned and Betty Pierce, Chuck and Belinda Smithey, Jim and Luci Smoak, Daine and Lanny Stephens, Stone Foundation, Alvin and Shirley Sturdivant, and William Watts.

Hiker Level Members (\$500-\$1499): Phil and Cecilia Carlson, Leonard G. Herring Family Foundation, James Huffman, Mike and Donna McNeil, Steve and Kay Steele, Laura Stroud, and Graham Wyche.

Recognition Wall Donors

Jogger (\$1,500 to \$2,999) total contributions: John & Fran Bond, Margaret & Thomas McMahan, Brenda & Carl Page, Jack Anderson, Kimberly & Brian Peace, Betty & Clarence Benton, Wilkes Journal-Patriot, Vicki & Bob Taylor, (continued)

(Jogger Level Continued) Mary Iva & Jim Gray, Wilkesboro Down Town Merchants, Dariel Rathmell, Mary & Bill Marlow, Betty Reinhardt, Stephen J. Wessels, Dot & Richard Marlow, Donna and Mike McNeil, The North Wilkesboro Rotary Club, Wilma and Pete Lovette, Beverly & Gaither Keener, Martha, Charlotte, William & “B” Towns, Northwestern Bank, Kiwanis Club of North Wilkesboro, Frances & Bill Casey, Blue Ridge Engineering, Mary Lee Culler, Kim and Claude Faw, Mark and Patricia Pegram, Ed & Patricia Sturdivant, Dr. & Mrs. John Bennett, Dr. & Mrs. Brad Shinaman, Autumn Nichols, Vicki & John Barker, Michelle & John Pontzer, Dr. David Sargent & Dr. Barry Ellis, Paul & Joyce Anderson, Meadows Mills, Inc., June & Bob Hege, David & Lisa Factor, Dr. Joseph H. Johnson, Patricia W. Johnson, Wanda & David Henson, Steve & Ann Palmer, Carol Stone, ECMD, Inc., Women’s Service League of Wilkes, Wilkes Community Foundation, Kodak, Mildred R. Turner, Vicki & Jeff Gray, Dr. Joseph H. Johnson & Patricia Johnson, Claude and Kim Faw and Bill and Ruth Harris, Ed Greene.

Pathfinder (\$3,000 to \$4,999) total contributions: Hall Petroleum Co., Inc., Heather & Tim Murphy, Lisa & Perry Jennings, Karolen & Tom Bowman, Camille Lovette Eller, First Union Bank, John E. Gygax, Ken and Laura Welborn, Cooks Inc., Pat McNeill Day, Pete Mann, Nancy & Bob Ricketts, Mr. & Mrs. C.O. Lovette, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Wooten, Ray Stroud, RMC Metromont Materials, Kim & Jug Shumate, Ina Parker, Kathy & Craig Bennett, Duncan Electric Corporation, Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Curl, William M. Duncan, Sr., Abby, Andrew, Jan & Dennis Huggins, Ned and Betty Pierce, Mary & Ed Spears, Advantage West-North Carolina, Gardner Glass Products, Greg Stikeleather, Charlie & Mary White.

Explorer (\$5,000 to \$9,999) total contributions: Randell K. Hayes, Shirley and Alvin Sturdivant, Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home, First Citizens Bank, Freida and John Matthews, Mark and Teresa Church, Frances and Vaughn Hayes, Joe and Lu Ann Love, Vulcan Materials, BBT, Luci and Jim Smoak, In Honor of Rose S. Andrews, Yadkin Valley Bank, Bruce and Vicki Church, Lena R. Lovette, Duke Energy Company, Wilkes Community Foundation, American Drew and La-Z-Boy Co., Wachovia Foundation, Carolyn and Billy Bare, Kin and Vicki Church, Carolina Realty, Inc. Joyce and Nick Cirillo, Chuck Forrester.

Trailblazers (\$10,000 and up) total contributions: Carson Foundation, Duke Energy, Jane & David Kim, Rusty & Duane Smith, Becky & Arnold Lakey, Pam & Lee Herring, Judy & JC Faw, Children of Rachel N. & Vernon S. Church, Larry & Diane Stone, Wilkesboro TDA, Lanny & Diane Stephens, The Jim Shumate Family, Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, National Park Service, Rose & Leonard Herring, David and Connie McNeill, Tyson Foods, Thomas Frazier, MD., Keith & Amanda Johnston, Lorene & Robert Joines, Sandy, Matthew & Jim Faw, Petro Kulynych Family Foundation, I and II, Cubic Inc., Willis Bryant, Debbie & “Mule” Ferguson, NC DENR, Tammy & Cam Finley, Friends of Bran Goad, NC Department of Transportation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Lowes’s Charitable and Educational Foundation, Kay & Steve Steele, Dwight & Anne Pardue, Brushy Mountain Water Co., Gwyn F. “Duck” Vannoy, NC Water Resources, NC State Parks. Wilkes Health Foundation, Ellen Foster Estate.

How to Attain Recognition Wall Status

Once you become a Friend of the Greenway, your contributions are continually tabulated. As you make additional contributions, you will progress through the donation membership levels. Once your combined contributions reach \$1,500, your contributions will be recognized as a “Jogger” and your name will be engraved on a bronze plate and placed on the recognition wall!

See the Sponsorship and Friends Levels on the Back of this newsletter!!

If you have questions about becoming a Friend of the Greenway, call our office at: 336-651-8967 or visit our web page at:

www.yadkinrivergreenway.com

Photos Of The Greenway! Courtesy Of Betty Owens

These outstanding photographs were taken by Betty Owens. For more of Betty photos, be sure and check out our Facebook page!! We encourage you to take photos and share them with the Greenway.



American Bald Eagle



Great Egret



Cardinal



American Robin



Mallard

From birds and mammals to reptiles and amphibians, the Yadkin River Greenway is teeming with wildlife, stunning scenery and new discoveries! Come out and enjoy the Yadkin River Greenway!!!

Don't forget to bring your camera or camera phone!!



White Tailed Deer

Photos Of The Greenway! Courtesy Of Lynn Clark

These outstanding photographs were taken by William and Lynn Clark. For more of their photos, check our Facebook page!! On the Greenway, a surprise awaits you. Get out and enjoy the scenic Yadkin River Greenway.



Pileated Woodpecker



A Foggy Morning



Great Blue Heron



A Morning View



A Quite Walk



A Summer Day

The Memorial Park To Mulberry Fields Connector Becomes Reality



The most significant construction event for 2019 was the installation of an 85 foot pedestrian bridge across a drainage ditch which occurred during August. The bridge installation completes the connectors construction except for the final paving which is scheduled for 2020.

The bridge's completion now allows for unimpeded travel from West Park Medical to Smoot Park.... a total of distance of 2.139 miles!

Other construction elements included:

- ◆ The installation of signage...including the new sections **911** designation as the **RED/GREEN Connector**.
- ◆ Installation of post and cable railings along various areas of the segment.
- ◆ Construction of fencing and continuing erosion control measures.
- ◆ The completion of easement obligations to landowners along the projects route.

The Memorial Park To Mulberry Fields Connector Becomes Reality (continued)



Shown are various phases of bridge construction along the Memorial Park to Mulberry Fields Connector of the Yadkin River Greenway.



Memorial Park to Mulberry Fields Connector bridge completion!!!!

**The Yadkin River Greenway
Council Newsletter**

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

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



Become A Friend Of The Greenway!

The **Friends of the Greenway** campaign has completed another year as a “grass roots” support organization. Friends of the Greenway added 16 new members during 2019 for a grand total of 312 past or present members! Of these, many members renewed their membership during the past year. We hope all will renew during 2020!

Friends of the Greenway contributions, over the past 17 years, now total \$198,256.00! These donations go a long way towards covering the administration expenses of the Yadkin River Greenway Council. This enables the Council to fulfill its mission of developing a greenway system in our community. Annual membership is open to all. And, since the Council is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization, membership dues are usually tax deductible.

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, hopefully, keep our members informed of Greenway activities.

Each January, or based on membership anniversary date, we will begin contacting each Friend of the Greenway to consider the renewal of 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 civic organizations.

Also, if you would like to be recognized as a **Friend of the Greenway**, the donation categories are:

Walker: \$100 to \$249
Hiker: \$250 to \$1,499
Jogger: \$1,500 to \$2,999
Pathfinder: \$3,000 to \$4,999
Explorer: \$5,000 to \$9,999
Trailblazer: \$10,000 and up

Once you become a Friend of the Greenway, your contributions are constantly tabulated. As you make additional contributions, you will progress through the donation ranks of membership levels mentioned above. Once you ultimately reach the combined contribution level of \$1,500, your contributions will be recognized as a **Jogger** and a bronze recognition name plate will be installed on the Greenways Recognition Wall for all to see!

Thanks again for your continuing support! If you have any questions, please call the Greenway office at: 336-651-896.

RG Absher, Executive Director

www.yadkinrivergreenway.com
