

# The Greenway News



## The Yadkin River Greenway Council Newsletter

### THE GREENWAY... A YEAR OF EXPANSION!

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**A view of The Yadkin River Greenway  
On the new Smoot to Memorial Section!!**

I would like to thank, and compliment, our board and committee chairpersons for their tireless service and hard work. Their reports will detail those efforts shortly.

The board thanks you for your support and invites you to join us in the fun and excitement of this great enterprise.

As a ***Friend of the Greenway*** and recipient of this newsletter, I invite you to join us at any of our regular monthly meetings and share with us your ideas for

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

Charlie White, President  
Yadkin River Greenway Council

## GREENWAY 2011 CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

2011 has brought about a significant level of construction activity for the Yadkin River Greenway. The most significant project undertaken during 2011 has been Phase III, Segment 1 (Smoot Park/Memorial Park) portion of the Yadkin River Greenway. In 2010, the Town of North Wilkesboro and the Yadkin River Greenway were awarded a matching grant of \$197,400.00 from the NC Department of Water Resources for construction of this segment. Subsequently, this spring of 2011 the Town of North Wilkesboro and Yadkin River Greenway received an additional grant from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation for an additional \$197,400.00. This PARTF grant was also a matching award. As a result, the two (2) grants met the requirements of the matching funding and provided the Yadkin River Greenway and the Town of North Wilkesboro with a total of \$394,800 for the construction of the Smoot Park to Memorial Park segment. After procuring all of the necessary engineering design and permitting, the Yadkin River Greenway in conjunction with the Town of North Wilkesboro was able to commence construction of this segment in July of 2011. The majority of this segment is now complete as of the end of 2011. Some minor signage work and miscellaneous items are remaining. The addition of the 1.2 mile segment between Smoot Park and Memorial Park is another beautiful addition to our overall Greenway system.



Newly paved section near Smoot Park. Paving was carried out by Carl Rose and Sons Paving

A second Greenway project that has been under construction during the year 2011 is Phase V, Segments 1 and 2. This portion of the Greenway starts at Moravian Creek Trailhead and extends along the Yadkin River and Moravian Creek to the bridge at Highway 268. Segment 1 portion of this project is basically complete. This Segment 1 extends from the Moravian Creek Trailhead along the Yadkin River and then turns to continue along Moravian Creek to the end of the property of the Town of Wilkesboro. Segment 2 is partly under construction; however, we are still in the process of finalizing the easements on two (2) properties that will allow us to complete this segment. The proposed easements have been agreed to by the owners of the properties, and it is just a matter of getting our paperwork completed before the easements are finalized. We anticipate having the additional two (2) easements in hand in time to restart the construction on Phase V, Segment 2 in the spring of 2012. As previously reported, the Phase V, Segments 1 and 2 project is being funded by several grants that were procured by the Yadkin River Greenway, including grants from Lowe's Companies, NC Department of Transportation and others.

In last year's construction highlights, we had included information relative to a proposed fishing pier that is to be constructed near Pardue Crossing at the Yadkin River. While not much progress has been made over the past year regarding that construction, the NC Fish and Wildlife Commission is still planning for the construction of this pier. The NC Fish and Wildlife Commission actually had to perform a redesign of the structure to better adapt the pier to the conditions found on site. We now anticipate that the NC Fish and Wildlife Commission will return in the spring of 2012 to proceed with the construction of the fishing pier. As previously reported, the Yadkin River Greenway and waiting for this pier to be constructed before constructing the new Parking area that will provide for handicap accessible parking for the pier.

In 2012, the Yadkin River Greenway will be pressing forward with procurement of easements for future segments. We are currently working with land owners along the south side of the Yadkin River between the Lowe's Trailhead at Cub Creek. The plans are to begin preliminary design for this new segment in 2012. As soon as easements are in hand, we will be working on procuring grants for construction of this segment.

We are continuing to evaluate new routing options of the Yadkin River Greenway in an effort identify possible easements that can be secured in the near future. We are looking forward to 2012 to complete ongoing construction of the Yadkin River Greenway segments, as well as the planning of future segments. We look forward to the continued support of all of the "Friends of the Greenway" during the months ahead as we continue our journey in the expansion of the Yadkin River Greenway.

*By Frank Taracido, Construction Chair*

## NEW KIOSKS INSTALLED ALONG GREENWAY

If you been on the Yadkin River Greenway recently, you've probably noticed one of the new kiosks which shared information about the Greenway. These signs represent a higher standard of sign quality and raise the bench mark for information along the Yadkin River Greenway. People like checking out a map when they arrive at a trail head and enjoy seeing where they are in respect to area. The maps help folks find the trail starting point and study the relation to roads, points of interests and features along the greenway.

Another aspect to the newly designed kiosks, is that they tell a little more about the area. For example a Kiosk at Jefferson Turnpike tells about the history of the historic flume and the Giant Lumber Company. Early in the 20th Century, a flume carried a large volume of lumber to form the northern part of Wilkes County to North Wilkesboro to be carried out by rail. This led Wilkes County to be an important leader in the timber industry and helped Wilkes survive the tough years of the Great Depression.

A kiosk at the trail head near the Coffee Tavern/recognition wall along the greenway, tells about the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. The "OVNHT" passes through Wilkes along the Yadkin River Greenway and honors the route of the Overmountain militia who passed along the Yadkin River in 1780 to a patriot victory at the Battle of Kings Mountain which helped win our nations freedom.

RG Absher, Executive Director



**Kiosk near the Coffee Tavern Trailhead  
Installed by Sign Factory Direct**

## Volunteers Do Matter!!!

Yes, volunteers matter! Your time and energy have made it possible to keep the greenway corridors vibrant and flourishing from the Reddies River Trailhead to the Recognition wall at the wellness Center Trailhead, and from Becky's Park to the Moravian Creek Trailhead at River's Edge. The Yakin River Greenway Council has been very fortunate to have these devoted community volunteers. The Master Gardner's Club under the leadership of Bill Hanlin, NC Cooperative Extension Service, and Diane Stephens, Club President, are the keepers of the Reddies River Trailhead landscape area. The Master Gardeners inspect the landscaping monthly and periodically conduct work days throughout the year. Jim Brown, with Tyson Inc. and a new member of the volunteer team, leads a group from Tyson to maintain and groom the trail from the Tyson Trailhead to Pardue Crossing.

Others who volunteer to maintain various sections include John Battle, who covers the area from Pardue Crossing to the former Coffee Tavern, Ginger and Harvey Barlow, who maintains the area near the landscaping around the old Coffee Tavern parking lot, and Jennifer and Arthur Lankford and sons, who groom the area around the Recognition Wall. In addition, Joyce Wiles performs weed control at the Blueberry Garden and Sonny Church also performs weed control at the confluence of the Yadkin and Reddies River. Also, Charlie White performs weed control near at Pardue Crossing bridge and Freida Mathews conducts weed control around the River's Edge and East Coast Millworks Trailhead. Bill and Karen Clifton planted 100 Daffodil bulbs near the Jefferson Turnpike Trailhead. These flowers should beautiful by spring-time.

New members joining the Adopt-A-Trail group are Jule Hubbard and Boy Scout Troup 336. Troop 336 will police the canoe launch ramp near Pardue Crossing and the section From the Reddies Trail Head to the confluence. Thanks to William and Lynn Clark for cleaning up the greenway routinely while walking their dogs or exercising on the greenway. And a special thanks to Karen Denny and Laurie Austen, who volunteered during our special events this year.

Boy Scout Miles Hubbard successfully earned his Eagle Scout rank by building a canoe launch ramp near Pardue Crossing. In addition, Boy Scout Corey Winkler is working on his Eagle Scout project and will install 3 benches and 3 picnic tables on the greenway. (continued page 4)



**Eagle Scout Miles Hubbard stands by the  
newly constructed canoe launch!**

(“Volunteers Matter,” continued from page 3)

With the encouragement of Laura Welborn, Smart Start worked with YRGC to install a wonderful activity station for Children. “Born Learning” is a series of learning activities that adults can participate along with children in an interactive outdoor environment. Such activities as family story telling, hopscotch, and bird watching make up the various stations along the greenway near the Wilkes YMCA.

If it were not for these volunteers it would be more difficult to kept the greenway trail areas open and in a pristine condition. With our impending expansion of the greenway, the YRGC can use additional volunteers. If you or your organization are interested in volunteering for a project, please contact the YRGC office at 336-651-8967 or Freida Matthews at 336-838-4938.

Freida Mathews, YRGC Community Volunteer  
Coordination Committee, Community Chair



Panned View of Smoot to Memorial By Charlie White

## Greenway Memorials Serve as a Lasting Gift

Ever consider leaving a memorial in the name of a relative or close friend or giving a gift in honor of? Non-Profit organizations often use this opportunity as a way to allow people to give to a favorite cause. Throughout the years since the Yadkin River Greenway has grown in support and added sections of greenway trail, a significant and important part of the funding has come through memorial and honorary gifts. One reason that folks like to give in memory or in honor of an individual is that they feel the gift will have a lasting benefit to the community. Yet another reason is that the memorial is often given in memory of those who loved the Yadkin River Greenway.

Certain levels of memorials and honorariums also qualify for naming opportunities on the recognition wall our on mileage markers located along the greenway. If you are interested in setting up a memorial, you can contact our office at 336-651-8967.



The Yadkin River Greenway Recognition Wall

### Below are several of the memorials that we offer:

- For donations of \$1,500 to \$2,500, we install a bronze nameplate on the “Jogger” the Recognition Wall Plaque.
- For donations between \$2,500 to \$4,999, we install a bronze nameplate on the “Pathfinder” Recognition Wall Plaque and offer a tree planting with nameplate.
- For donations between \$5,000 to \$9,999, we install a bronze nameplate on the “Explorer” Recognition Wall Plaque and offer a tree planting with nameplate.
- For donations of \$10,000 and up, we install a distance marker made of Georgia Blue Granite (24” wide x 10” deep x 16” high). In addition, we also install a bronze nameplate on the “Trailblazer” Recognition Wall Plaque and offer a tree planting with nameplate.

**The following is a list of named memorials during the last five years:** Gabe Taracido, Luci Hamby Blevins, Willis H. Bryant, Kathleen B. Chappell, Pat McNeil Day, Jean Dupree, Jim Hutchins, Alice Ingram, Dale Gambill, Dorilda Lister, Betty Reinhardt, Dr. Carter Shelley, Charles E. Summers Sr., Nancy Garwood Triplett, Don Story Sr. and Douglas Walker

**Given In Honor the last five years:** Anne & Dwight Pardue, James N. Andrews Family, Kulynych Family, and the Leonard G. Herring Family

**Note:** Many additional gifts have been given “In Honor Of” or “In Memory Of” since the beginning of the Yadkin River Greenway.  
By: RG Absher, Executive Director

## PARTNERSHIPS ARE A KEY TO GREENWAY SUCCESS

Almost every phase of Greenway management and operations involves partnerships. Without Partnerships, the Yadkin River Greenway would not be where it is today. For example our newest construction project, a 1.2 mile stretch from Smoot to Memorial Park in downtown North Wilkesboro, involved partnerships. The Town of North Wilkesboro served as the sponsor and fiscal agent for the construction project. North Wilkesboro obtained two grants (a \$197,400 grant from NC Division of Water Resources and an additional matching grant of \$197,400 known as the PARTF Grant) to build a greenway segment from Memorial to Smoot Park in North Wilkesboro. Then Wilkes County provided in kind labor for the construction project. Wilkes County Landfill Supervisor, Phil Green then worked closely with the Yadkin River Greenway Construction Committee to carry out the work. The partnership was so successful that the project was completed about one month ahead of schedule in early December, 2011.

The Yadkin River Greenway's maintenance and operations are carried out as a result of a 3 way partnership with Wilkes County, North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro. The beautifully manicured landscaping is a result of excellent partnerships with organizations like the Master Gardeners, Tyson Inc. employees, Boy Scouts of America, and private individuals who volunteer on the greenway. Also, the many people and agencies who have given in-kind donations are our partners! Agency partners include the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, The US Army Corps of Engineers, The Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor, The Wilkes Tourism Development, NC Adopt-A-Trail, Wilkes Community Foundation, Wilkes Community College, the NC Department of Transportation, and the NC Recreational Trails Program. Then there are partnerships made up of the adjacent landowners who have generously provided easements to make the Yadkin River Greenway possible. Indeed the greenway would be but a dream if it wasn't for the wonderful partnerships throughout the entire greenway community. The greenway success is due in large part because of the willingness and ability of the people of Wilkes to work together in partnership.

RG Absher, Executive Director

## WHO NEEDS A SUBWAY?

Years ago I had a roommate named Butch Tsatis, who is now a professor at NC State. As college freshmen we were from two very different worlds: he from New York City and I from Wilkesboro. Butch couldn't understand why I was so fascinated with the subways of Boston. "Doesn't Wilkesboro have a subway?" he asked, assuming that every town had one.

People sometimes take for granted the unique assets that distinguish their community. While Wilkes County doesn't have a subway and never will, we do have the Yadkin River Greenway, a wonderful linear park that has few equals in North Carolina. I would rather have a greenway than a subway, hands down.

It is safe to say that far fewer communities can boast of having a greenway than those who cannot. While there is no comprehensive database of statistics about all greenways in the US or even in NC, it is possible to compile an approximate summary of greenway development in our state from various internet sources (a detailed list is available at the YRGC office upon request):

| NC Region         | No. of Communities with Greenways | Mileage within Region |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Coastal           | 6                                 | 25.7                  |
| Research Triangle | 9                                 | 152.4                 |
| Piedmont Triad    | 5                                 | 80.4                  |
| Charlotte Area    | 13                                | 61.3                  |
| Piedmont other    | 8                                 | 44.6                  |
| Mountains         | 9                                 | 50.4                  |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>50</b>                         | <b>Total 414.8</b>    |

Those achievements are impressive considering that most of this greenway development occurred within just the last ten years. While this may seem like a lot of progress, consider that North Carolina is about 500 miles wide, so these greenways if placed end to end would not even span the state once. Greenway development in NC is still at a relatively early stage.

Locally the Yadkin River Greenway has 7.4 miles of completed greenway, most of which is paved. Of the 10 miles originally proposed to be constructed along the river between Kerr Scott Dam and Smoot Park, about 6 miles has been completed. The remaining un-built 4 miles of the proposed riverside route could be completed relatively easily if needed easements could be obtained.

The potential exists for at least 5 additional miles of future greenway in the Wilkesboros to connect key parts of the community to the main YRG route along the river and add variety through loop trails. This does not include any of the proposed upstream and downstream extensions along the Yadkin to create the 129-mile long Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor. As always, there is no shortage of vision or future possibilities for the Yadkin River Greenway. The YRG Council looks forward to working with all citizens of Wilkes County to build a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Sam Stroud, Member, YRGC

## ***Fundraising Is a Celebration of the Yadkin River Greenway!!***

Our fundraising events this year not only provided funding for the administration and operation of the Yadkin River Greenway organization, they also provided an opportunity for Greenway users and supporters to get together in common celebration of the Greenway system our community has created and see the progress we have made this year.

Our 9th annual Turtle Regatta was held the third Saturday in May. Over 1,000 toy turtles were adopted and floated down the Reddies River at "crawl speed" (which is appropriate for a turtle). A large variety of prizes were awarded, with first place being a bicycle donated by Cook's. The event raised nearly \$9,000 for the Greenway.



**Gearing up for the Regatta!!!**



**A smiling four player team pauses during our 2011 Golf Tournament**

Thursday September 22 was the date of our 8th annual Yadkin River Greenway Benefit Golf Tournament, held at Oakwoods Country Club. Participants enjoyed a great round of golf on what turned out to be a beautiful day. Thanks to participants and generous sponsorships from local businesses and individuals, we raised \$5,000 for the Greenway.

Our Friends of the Greenway donation program raised over \$8,000 so far this year through annual donations of both small and large gifts. You can become a Friend of the Greenway as well. Just contact us by phone or email and we'll give you the information to join. The ever-growing Greenway system belongs to all of us in Wilkes. Thanks to all who supported our Greenway efforts this year.

By: Keith Johnston, Fund Raising Chair and R. G. Absher, Executive Director



**Lee Bentley Fires Away!!**

## ***GREENWAY COUNCIL CONTINUES STRONG***

At year end 2011, the Yadkin River Greenway Council membership consists of Charles White, President & Chairman, Carolyn Frazier-Pardue, Vice President, Gary Cogdill, Treasurer, Susan Buchanan, Lisa Laufenberg, Secretary, and other Council members: Lee Bentley, Vicki Church, Bill Clifton, Darrell Groves, Gary Johnson, Keith Johnston, Freida Matthews, Carl McCann, Chuck Smithey, Steve Steele, Sam Stroud, Frank Taracido, and Roy Williams, and the Executive Director is RG Absher. We thank these individuals for their service and participation in the success of the Yadkin River Greenway.

Look us up on the internet [www.yadkinrivergreenway.com](http://www.yadkinrivergreenway.com) and to learn more "About Us", when the YRGC meets (always 4th Tuesday of the month), dates of events, etc. Web-site contains details about our annual events and our meetings.

## THE RIVER WALK FEATURES HISTORY, NATURE

Ever wonder what the Yadkin River near the present day Yadkin River Greenway might have looked like 250 years. Was the area wild and remote? Who were the pioneers, and what were the historical highlights? What kind of native plants can be found, and what are some of the interesting wildlife that one can see along the River? These are some of the questions that are answered on the "River Walk," a new activity conducted along the greenway this past year.

RG Absher, Executive Director of the Yadkin River Greenway, happens to also be a naturalist and historian from his years of working at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. "I enjoy doing the River Walk. It's an opportunity for people to connect to the great outdoors along the greenway," says Absher who led several periodic walks during the past season.

During a River Walk, this history of Daniel Boone and Christopher Gist in Wilkes are discussed. Absher says that Daniel Boone had 3 home sites along the Yadkin River just a few miles upstream of the present day Wilkesboros. In addition, Boone launched his famous campaign to explore Kentucky from his home along the Yadkin in the Ferguson Community. Absher said, "Boone was a fearless frontiersman and had the spirit of exploration which carried over ultimately to the settlement of the American west." Christopher Gist was also an important early settler along the Yadkin. His claim to fame is that he saved the life of George Washington on several occasions when serving as his guide in the Ohio Valley during the French and Indian War. Absher says that Gist rescued Washington from the hands of an enemy tomahawk and on another occasion rescued Washington after a fall from a boat into the icy waters of the Ohio.

Other history told during the River Walk includes native Americans in Wilkes, The Overmountain Victory Trail, Stoneman's Raid and the 1940 flood. Absher pointed out on one river walk, "This location was 12 feet under water during the 1940 flood."

In addition to history, the River Walk includes information on wildlife and wild plants which grow along the river. Absher says, "Bring your cameras on the River Walk, you never know what you might see." The Greenway will plan several walks during the coming year and will announce them in the local press.

### VULCAN MATERIALS DONATES GRAVEL FOR SMOOT TO MEMORAIL SECTION

Recently Vulcan Materials, Mid-east Division, donated 250 tons of crusher run stone for the construction of the 1.2 mile stretch from Smoot to Memorial Park. The stone, valued at over \$3700, formed the paving base for the project which was completed late in 2011. Vulcan will receive recognition in the form of a mileage marker which will be installed prior to the completed sections opening and dedication in the spring of 2012. Vulcan has been a supporter of the Greenway for over a decade. RG Absher, executive director of the Yadkin River Greenway said that "The donation will greatly assist the greenway by stretching the dollars spent on the construction of the Smoot to Memorial Project. Our partnership with Vulcan has been key to our success throughout the Years."

*About Vulcan Materials:* Vulcan's Mideast Division is a leading pro-



**Executive Director RG Absher Presents Darrell Groves of Vulcan Materials with a Letter of Acknowledgement for a donation of 250 tons of gravel for the construction the Smoot to Memorial Section of the Yadkin River Greenway.**

ducer of aggregates in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and eastern South Carolina. The division operates over 100 crushing, sales facilities and ready-mix plants and employs approximately 1600 people. Vulcan Materials Company, a member of the S&P 500 index, is the nation's largest producer of construction aggregates, a major producer of asphalt mix and concrete and a leading producer of cement in Florida. For more information about Vulcan visit [www.vulcanmaterials.com](http://www.vulcanmaterials.com)

## ***SMOOT TO MEMOIRAL BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION IN PHASES!!***



Concrete footings and rebar are installed

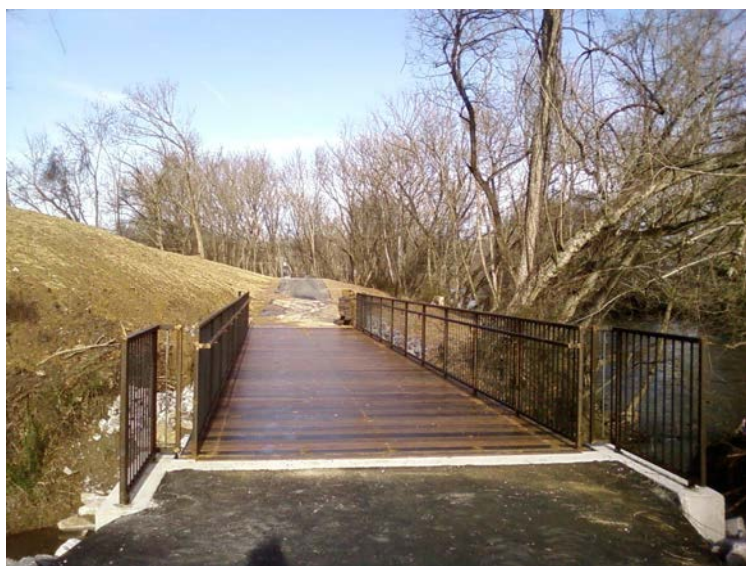


A crane is used to install the support beams

The new bridge shown at right in photo is ready for the flooring - installation of Ipe Wood, also called Paulope, Ironwood, or Brazilian Walnut Wood (visible in below photo)



The new bridge was installed by two local firms. Glasco Enterprises of Moravian Falls installed the concrete foundation and flooring and The Welding Company of Wilkesboro installed the steel bridge frame.



***The newly completed bridge on the Smoot To Memorial Park Section Yadkin River Greenway !!!***

# GREENWAY MAPS

## Greenway Overview Photo with Trail Overlay & Access Points



## NEW - Smoot to Memorial Park Greenway Section - 2.2 miles



**The Yadkin River Greenway  
Council Newsletter**

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## ***“FRIENDS OF THE GREENWAY” NEEDS YOU !***

“Friends of the Yadkin River Greenway” has completed its 8th year as a “grass roots” support organization. “Friends of the Greenway” added 12 new members during 2011 and now totals 254 who have joined. Of these, 87 have renewed their membership during the past year and we hope all will renew during 2011.

Contributions since the past 8 years to “Friends of the Greenway” now total \$85,265. 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 civic 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: 336-651-896.  
RG Absher, Executive Director



**A Greenway Moment at the Regatta!!!**

**Left To Right: Freida Mathews, Charlie White, and  
Dwight and Anne Pardue**