

The Greenway News



The Yadkin River Greenway Council Newsletter

GREENWAY SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Wilkesboro "Carriage Trail" 2
is complete

Special Events: 3
Public Lands Day

Progress through 3
cooperation

Thank you to our 4
volunteers and donors

Fund Raisers keep us 5
afloat

Grants help build our 5
Greenway

"Friends of the Greenway" 6
grows

Greetings from the President's Chair --

The Yadkin River Greenway is moving forward with the addition of another beautiful new bridge at Fish Dam Creek up Highway 268 West. Easements and right of ways are being acquired from Landowners who are giving continued support to the dream of a Greenway stretching from W. Kerr Scott Reservoir to Smoot Park in North Wilkesboro.

Friends of the Greenway are coming on board daily as more and more citizens want to be a part of this dream. This past October thousands of children dressed in fun costumes celebrated Halloween in a safe environment on the Yadkin River Greenway Trail meandering by the mighty Yadkin and Reddies Rivers. Event after event are taking place on the Greenway; Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church Groups, Civic Groups, and the list goes on. Supporting the Greenway is a win-win for everyone.

As we continue to make progress we will continue to need the help of each and every Wilkes County Citizen who in any way can assist in finalizing the Greenway.

If we want our children to come back to Wilkes County, we have to realize that projects such as the Greenway make Wilkes a better place to live. We have to pull together to make this happen. Community support is our guarantee of success.

If you, as a land owner, are asked to grant an easement or give a right of way to make the dream of the Greenway a reality, please be willing to do your part. Remember you are not giving the land, you are only giving the right to use a small portion of the land .. AND there are tax benefits available to you.

It is an honor to sit as Chair of the Yadkin River Greenway Council and to have the opportunity to give something back to our wonderful community. May we please count on you when we ask for help in this very worthy project? What better way to show your loved ones that you care about them and the community they live in.

Carolyn Frazier-Pardue
President - Yadkin River Greenway Council .

GREENWAY COUNCIL ADDS NEW MEMBERS

During 2005 Charles White and Vicki Church were welcomed as new members on the Yadkin River Greenway Council.

They joined the Council consisting of: Carolyn Frazier-Pardue, President & Chairman, Carl McCann, Vice President, Gary Cogdill, Treasurer, Dick Sloop, Secretary, and other Council members: Gary Blevins, Dr. Tom Frazer, John Gyga, Gary Johnson, Keith Johnston, Mike Kerhoulas, Becky Lakey,

Steve Mathis, Freida Matthews, Steve Steele, Frank Taracido, and Roy Williams. Executive Director is Bill Clifton..

Charles is retired from Lowe's Home Improvement and lives in Hays. He enjoys golf, hiking, and aviation. Vicki lives in Wilkesboro, is a homemaker and is involved in many community and church activities. Many thanks to outgoing Council member Sheree Sloop for her service and hard work..

WILKESBORO "CARRIAGE TRAIL" IS COMPLETE

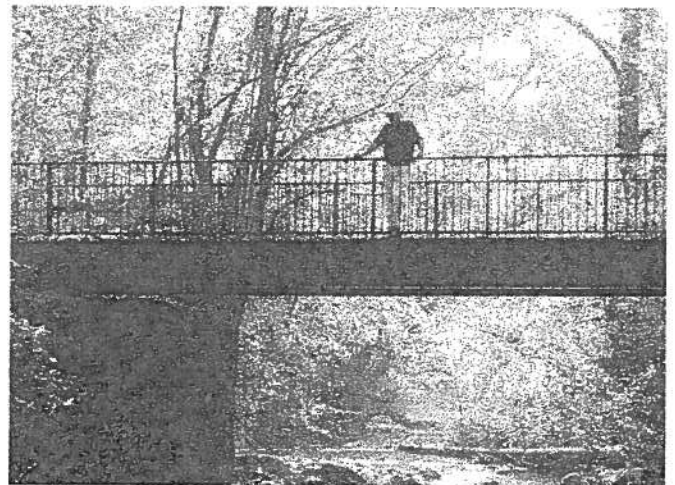
During 2005, the Greenway completed Phase 1/Segment 3 (the "Carriage Trail") connecting North Wilkesboro with Wilkesboro via Tyson Trailhead near the Captain Cleveland Home. The Carriage Trail segment included the construction of a new bridge across the Yadkin River, access bridge ramps on the North Wilkesboro side, the construction of approximately ¼ mile of new Greenway trail and the construction of the Tyson Trailhead in Wilkesboro. The Town of Wilkesboro passed a resolution to include the Carriage Trail as part of the Wilkesboro Park system in July 2005.



In 2005, the planning and design of Phase 2/Segment 2 was basically completed. Isom Associates, P.A. and Cubic Engineering, P.A. completed engineering plans for the trail segment which includes a pedestrian bridge spanning 55'-0" across a drainage stream in the River's Edge Park area. The easement intents for Phase 2/Segment 2 have been completed and work is currently underway in the procurement of signed easements prior to commencement of construction.

The plans for this section were submitted to NCDOT for review in November and approval is expected sometime in December. The Yadkin River Greenway has been working in conjunction with the County of Wilkes to obtain a "No-Rise" Certificate for Compliance with FEMA flood plain regulations. Construction is anticipated to begin at the beginning of 2006, and completion is expected in late spring/early summer of 2006.

In partnership with the US Army Corp of Engineers, the Yadkin River Greenway has begun the design and construction of Phase 2/Segment 4 (Fish Dam Creek). This segment extends from the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir to Browns Ford Road and includes a pedestrian bridge 55'-0" in length that crosses the Fish Dam Creek. This bridge was completed in late September and was dedicated October 8th, National Public Lands Day. A temporary trail from the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir lower parking lot to the Fish Dam Creek Bridge was constructed during the National Public Lands Day and will be improved when the trail is completely extended to Browns Ford Road. We are currently working on procurement of easements that will permit us to extend the Greenway from the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir to the Browns Ford Road Bridge.



We have begun the work necessary to generate preliminary design for Phase 2/Segment 3 (Browns Ford Road to the YMCA) this year. Procurement of easement intents, final design and final easements are slated for 2006.

Preliminary planning continues on Phase 3 (Reddies River to Smoot Park) of the Yadkin River Greenway. The Town of North Wilkesboro passed a resolution in April supporting the project of this segment of the Greenway. A preliminary survey of the proposed path has been completed and we are currently in the process of procuring easement commitments from landowners. We are also working with the Town of North Wilkesboro Planning Department and High Country Council of Government for preparation of a PARTF Grant Application to assist in funding this segment.

Much has been accomplished in 2005 to further the Yadkin River Greenway. Much more remains to be done in continuing to grow the "Greenway".....Frank Taracido, Construction Committee Chair.

SPECIAL EVENTS: PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Yadkin River Greenway Council members and Friends of the Greenway participated in National Public Lands Day at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir on Saturday, October 8. They were part of the 200 volunteers helping with trail construction, landscaping, and trash pick-up. Following the work session there was a dedication for the new segment of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and the newly built Greenway pedestrian bridge over Fish Dam Creek.

Speakers at the dedication were U.S Representative Virginia Foxx, Colonel John Pullian, head of the Wilmington District of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, National Park Service Superintendent Paul Carson for the Overmountain Victory Trail, and Dick Sloop, past Chairman of the Yadkin River Greenway Council.



NPS Supt. Paul Carson, U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx, and Colonel John Pullian, A.C.O.E.

The third annual Halloween "Fun Walk" on October 29 attracted an estimated 18,000 people who enjoyed a safe "Trick-or-Treat" experience.

PROGRESS THROUGH COOPERATION

First of all, as your past president, I want to thank you all for your support and guidance over the last two and one-half years. The efforts of our friends, benefactors, and supporters have shown that the Greenway continues to make dynamic progress within the county and is a wonderful example of the cooperation between landowners, business, and government.

Recapping the period January 2003 to July 2005, your Greenway finished Phase I into Wilkesboro. What a beautiful addition it is. Plans are in hand for Phase II, the YMCA/River's Edge Park portion. We are awaiting approval of the plans, and construction is expected to start soon. Phase III, the Smoot Park addition, is in the planning phase with the city of North Wilkesboro taking the lead in the grant application. With the cooperation of landowners and the Army Corps of Engineers, we now have a segment of Greenway that may soon connect with Phase II. Your Greenway has been designated as a portion of the Overmountain Victory Trail of the National Park System; quite a distinction.

During this period, your Greenway raised \$297,000 from public support and grants and gained approval of 15 grants totaling \$685,000. Your fund raising efforts include the Friends of the Greenway, the Turtle Regatta, Greenway Charity golf tournaments, Halloween Trail of Treats, Greenway Prints, and Gardner Glass Products Factory Sales. All this helps with our recognition and exposure.

All this would not have occurred were it not for the diligence and effort of your executive director, Bill Clifton. Tireless and persistent, the credit is all his. Thanks, Bill, for keeping the board and me headed in the right direction.

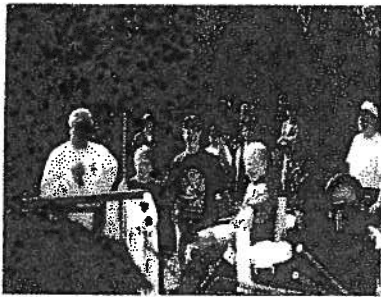
It has indeed been my pleasure to have served as the chair of your Greenway. I, like the Greenway, have experienced personal growth in my involvement with the citizens, directors, landowners, businesses, civic organizations, governments, and anyone else who wants to talk about greenway. I can think of no better park or facility that can impact a community like a greenway. I applaud all who use it and I am proud of the fact that the community has embraced it so well and the citizens have taken such pride in it.

Our future is bright, and our goals are in sight. Thank you all, and may the blessings of a peaceful new year be yours.

Dick Sloop, Past Chairman & President

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

The Volunteer Coordination Committee has been very active in 2005. The Eagle Scout projects continue to be a great resource of volunteer hours for keeping the Greenway a wonderful place to be for recreational purposes. Jordan Mathis's scout project this year was landscaping an area near the Yadkin River bridge ramp, which added beauty



to the Greenway trail. Mark Stone completed and installed three new benches along the Carriage Trail. The benches give the Greenway a more restful and peaceful look while enjoying various activities in the park.

Two Council members who continue to do many hours of Volunteer work on the trail are Gary Blevins and Frank Taracido. Thanks to Gary for the cleanup and landscaping around the trailheads and Frank for repairs and odd jobs that keeps the Greenway looking good.

Our Recognition Wall is a place of beauty and interest. Six new nameplates have been ordered and installed on the wall in 2005. Thank you to the following entities for their support: Gardner Glass Products, RMC Metromont Materials, Mark Stone, Jordan Mathis, Rose N. Andrews, and the Wilkesboro Tourism Development Authority. Also a new twenty-

four inch bronze medallion has been installed on the upper end of the wall.

A memorial was given in memory of Don Williams, Jr. A granite mileage marker has been installed at the Tyson Trail head in Wilkesboro. This is a much appreciated gift from Pam & Lee Herring and family. Two plaques have been ordered in memory of Ray Stroud and are to be installed on the Old Carriage Trail retaining wall. The plaques will read "Ray's Way"



On Earth Day April 22, twenty volunteers from Tyson Foods, Inc. landscaped the Tyson/Wilkesboro Trail Head with numerous plants and trees and mulch. Also added to the trailhead area are a bike rack, trashcan receptacle, water fountain, and a beautiful new rock wall. All this has added much beauty to the Greenway.



Maintenance plays a major part in keeping the Greenway trail a pleasant recreational park for all the participants to enjoy. The County of Wilkes Parks and Recreation Department continues to do a great job mowing plus fixing the side of the stone trail, staking up trees, repairing major erosion at the Reddies River Bridge, putting stone at the benches and historic markers, installing "Keep Right" signs, and Loop Trail clean-up.

We are thankful for the many volunteer hours and donations from people and groups in our community including: The North Wilkesboro First United Methodist Church Youth for a trash clean-up along the Greenway. Camp E-Ma-Etu who helped with the Turtle Regatta. Chief Nicki Hamby of the North Wilkesboro Fire Department who got the old abandoned bus near the CVS/Reddies Trailhead removed, Lowe's Home Improvement for printing 3000 new Greenway brochures, "Friends of the Greenway" for signing up for the Food Lion "Shop & Share" program to benefit the Greenway, and Randy Zirkle for making a video of the 2005 Turtle Regatta that he shared with the Greenway Council.

The Yadkin River Greenway Council appreciates all the volunteers who have participated in so many ways to help continue to improve the greenway trail. If you or your organization are interested in volunteering for a project for the betterment of the greenway, please contact the Yadkin River Greenway Council office at 651-8967 or Freida Matthews - Chair Volunteer Coordination Committee 838-4938

FUND RAISERS KEEP US AFLOAT

The Yadkin River Greenway fund raising efforts in 2005 were directed to 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 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 2005 these projects consisted of our "Friends of the Greenway" campaign that raised \$8,005, the third annual Turtle Regatta held June 4 that raised \$9,076, and our second annual Greenway Charity Golf Tournament held September 23 at Oakwoods Country Club that netted \$9,004.



There were 1712 turtles in the Regatta with 6 prizes going to kids including the first place prize of a bicycle from Cook's won by Michael Orosco. The golf tournament had excellent participation with 83 players and 53 hole sponsors.

In addition to these fund raising projects, we sold Greenway T-Shirts and William Vance Nichols' "Greenway" prints. Knowing you are interested, we have Greenway T-shirts for sale at \$10 each, sweatshirts at \$15 each and plenty of Nichols' "Greenway" prints at \$50 each.

Thank you for 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.

GRANTS HELP BUILD OUR GREENWAY

We continue our pursuit of capital grants so that future greenway segments can be built. During 2005 we were approved for a \$235,000 financial assistance grant from North Carolina Department of Natural Resources Division of Water Resources to construct the 1.2 mile Phase 2 Segment 3 of the Greenway from behind the Wilkes Family YMCA to Brown's Ford Road including a proposed 155 ft. pedestrian bridge across the Yadkin River.

Grant funding to help construct Phase 2 Segment 4 from W. Kerr Scott Reservoir to Brown's Ford Road including a 55 ft. pedestrian bridge across Fish Dam Creek was obtained. \$18,000 is from the National Park Service/Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and \$45,000 from the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program.

We received two grants from Wilkesboro Tourism Development Authority in 2005; \$2000 towards Greenway promotion and operations and \$5,000 to help construct a 55 ft. pedestrian bridge in Lowe's Rivers Edge Park as part of Phase 2 Segment 2 from Moravian Creek to the YMCA. Also a \$250 grant was received from the North Carolina Community Foundation to help fund the Wilkesboro/Tyson Trail Head.

\$2,000 was granted by Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation to help with the Yadkin River Greenway Charitable Golf Tournament. Grant applications to the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area and the Bikes Belong Coalition are out waiting approval.

The \$74,000 Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant for "Easement Acquisition and Riparian Buffer Restoration" from Moravian Creek to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir is nearing completion and will close out in March 2006. Since 1999, \$1,2309,000 in grants to build our greenway have been obtained. Currently \$410,000 in grant requests area waiting approval. These grants coupled with the generous donations from private citizens are how the Greenway becomes a reality.

**The Yadkin River Greenway
Council Newsletter**

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Meade Mailing
N. Wilkesboro, NC
Permit No. 30

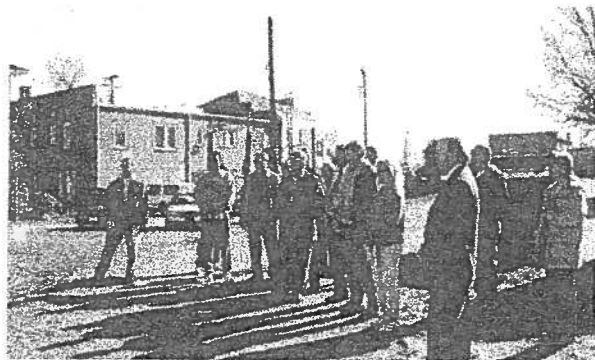
Yadkin River Greenway Council
P. O. Box 191
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
Your Address Line 4

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 third year as a "grass roots" support organization. Friends of the Greenway added 27 new members during 2005 and now totals 148 who have joined. Of these, 58 have renewed their membership during the past year and we hope all will renew during 2006.



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