

# The Greenway News



## The Yadkin River Greenway Council Newsletter

### GREENWAY SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Greenway at Rivers  
Edge Park is Underway 2

Special Events:  
Greenway Day 3

Thank You to Our  
Volunteers and Donors 4

Grants Help Build Our  
Greenway 5

Fund Raisers Build the  
Dream 6

Greenway Council Adds  
New Members 7

Why Those Gaps in the  
Greenway 7

"Friends of the Green-  
way" Needs You ! 8

#### Greetings from the President's Chair –

Once again it is with great pride, appreciation and thankfulness that the Yadkin River Greenway celebrates another year of success in the year 2006.

Throughout 2006 easements have been acquired from the Town of Wilkesboro, East Coast Millwork Distributors, the County of Wilkes, the Wilkes Family YMCA, the Simon Lawrance Family, and the Bruce, Mark & Kin Church families. These easements are vital to the growth and completion of the Greenway. We also achieved a partnership agreement with W. Kerr Scott Reservoir.

Fund raising events including the Annual Turtle Regatta, the Annual Greenway Golf Tournament held at Oakwoods Country Club, Tyson Foods Chicken Sale, fund raising for "Ray's Way", "Walk for Will", and the Leatherwood Run were successful events because of numerous volunteers and the community at large.

The "Friends of the Greenway" membership continues to grow as we invite everyone who has not become a Friend of the Greenway to join and become a supporter of the Greenway. Call the Greenway office at 651-8967 for details.

As we enter into the new year of 2007 we sincerely hope that when you are called upon to grant an easement for the Greenway you will see the Big Picture and know that by granting an easement you are becoming a part of Wilkes County History.

When you are asked to volunteer your time you will understand that without volunteers there would be no Greenway. When you are asked to make a monetary donation, you will agree that a small donation from many means a large donation for the Greenway and it begins with YOU... And finally, to always remember that "The only value of a Life is its content ---For Others"...

Serving as Chair of the Greenway in 2005 and 2006 is an honor. It is one of the best organizations I have ever been associated with. I will continue to support the Greenway in every way that I can because I see the wonderful gift it has given to Wilkes County.

May we count on you to help us meet the challenge of a Greenway reaching from Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir to Smoot Park in North Wilkesboro and beyond? Thank You.

Carolyn Frazier-Pardue  
President Yadkin River Greenway Council

## GREENWAY AT RIVERS EDGE PARK IS UNDERWAY

In 2006, the main focus of construction activities was concentrated on Phase II, Segment 2 (River's Edge Park). We procured easements from the Town of Wilkesboro, ECMD, and the Wilkes Family YMCA. The engineering plans were completed for this segment, and the FEMA study was completed providing the "No Rise Certificate" for this portion of the Greenway. We still have not acquired an easement for extending the trail to Moravian Creek. As a result, we were able to work out an alternate plan with NCDOT to construct Segment 2 in two (2)



phases. Segment 2A extends from the YMCA to the east end of the old runway on River's Edge Park. Segment 2B extends from the east end of the runway to the Town of Wilkesboro property near Moravian Creek. Construction began on September 5, 2006 for Segment 2A. The basic greenway trail is now in place and paved. Also the abutments for a bridge in this segment have been completed. We expect the erection of the bridge to take place sometime in January of 2007. The County of Wilkes, acting as the general contractor on this segment of the greenway, is continuing work on finish grading and side slopes, as well as the installation of the rock dust side trail.

Negotiations continue in an effort to procure the easement through the needed property. As soon as that easement is on hand, construction will begin on Segment 2B. Segment 2A of River's Edge Trail is scheduled to be completed by early spring of 2007.

The Phase II, Segment 4 (Fish Dam Creek) portion of the trail extends from the lower parking lot at the U.S. Corps of Engineers property and ends on the west side of Brown's Ford Road. The easement from Church & Church was procured in June and negotiations continue on the final easement needed for this segment.

The County of Wilkes has graded the trail from the Fish Dam Creek Bridge to the boundary of the last easement needed. We hope to complete the trail surface construction for this portion of Segment 4 in the weeks ahead.

Phase II, Segment 3, (Brown's Ford Road to YMCA) is currently under preliminary study. We have a \$235,000. grant from the NC Division of Water Resources for this part of the trail. However, we have not been able to procure any easements on this segment. We will need easement intents signed before detail design can begin. Efforts continue to procure these easements.

Efforts to procure easements for Phase III (Smoot Park to Lowe's Trailhead near Cornerstone Church) continued this past year. We did procure one easement for the Lawrance property. We have divided Phase III into two segments. Segment 1 will be from Smoot Park to Memorial Park, and Segment 2 will be from Memorial Park to the Lowe's Trailhead. We are currently concentrating on the Smoot Park to Memorial Park segment for which we need two more easements in order to finalize design and begin construction. Segment 2 of Phase III is under study and several obstacles will have to be overcome before we can finalize design for this portion of the greenway.

In conjunction with the Town of North Wilkesboro, the Yadkin River Greenway Council has agreed to pursue including the Old Jefferson Turnpike along the Reddies River into the Yadkin River Greenway. A draft resolution has been presented to the Town of North Wilkesboro Commissioners for consideration, which would incorporate this trail into the Yadkin River Greenway.

Talks have been ongoing with the NC Wildlife Commission for the installation of a fishing pier along the Yadkin River trail near the Pardue Crossing. Design issues are being addressed, and we expect construction of the pier sometime in 2007. Much was accomplished in 2006, and 2007 will create many significant additions to "Your Greenway".

Frank Taracido....Construction Chair.

## SPECIAL EVENTS: GREENWAY DAY

On Saturday, May 13 the Yadkin River Greenway Council held “Greenway Day” at the Tyson Trail Head in Wilkesboro to dedicate our new Carriage Trail and Bridge Crossing behind the Captain Robert Cleveland log home. The Carriage Trail was dedicated in memory of Ray Stroud and named “Ray’s Way” and the new ramp and the pedestrian bridge across the Yadkin River was named “Pardue Crossing” in honor of Dwight and Anne Pardue.

The Event featured a music stage with entertainment by R.G. Absher’s Extra Measure, and Teen Idol winners, food by Brushy Mountain Smokehouse, “Walk for Hospice” in memory of Samuel Dowell, face painting, street chalk art, and booth displays by 16 local non-profit agencies. Golf cart tours were also given. Following the dedication, music, and street fair, the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Turtle Regatta was held.



Speakers at the dedication were Carolyn Frazier-Pardue, President of the YRGC, Mayor Norman Call of Wilkesboro, Arnold Lakey, NCDOT Board Member, the Hon. John Garwood , NC State Senator, and Dick Sloop, past President of the YRGC. Below is the speech by Dick Sloop which well represents the Greenway’s recent success and our plans for the future.

“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.



**Past President Dick Sloop Speaks at Greenway Day,**

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 will start soon, I expect. 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 \$280,000 in Capital Funds and gained approval of 15 grants totaling \$678,000. Your fund raising efforts include the Friends of the Greenway, the Turtle Regatta, Charity Golf Tournaments, Halloween Trail of Treats, Greenway

Prints, and Gardner Glass Products Factory Sales. All this helps with our recognition and exposure.

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 YRGC President....May 13, 2006

# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

Thank you to our volunteers and donors. Our volunteers and donors continue to play a very vital and important part in keeping our greenway trail an attractive and safe place to be while improving our minds and bodies. On a monthly basis the community and its caring people are actively involved in keeping our greenway system moving ahead.

In February 2006 "Ray's Way" plaques were installed on the wall along the "Old Carriage Trail" in Wilkesboro. These plaques were provided by Sam and Laura Stroud in memory of their father Ray Stroud, whose vision



Don Sr., Kathy & David Williams, Sam & Laura Stroud, Anne & Dwight Pardue at "Carriage Trail"

and tireless efforts helped make the Greenway a reality. In March, a plaque was installed in honor of Dwight and Anne Pardue for their generosity and support in helping build the Greenway bridge and ramp to connect the Wilkesboros.

Late last year a granite mileage marker was placed near the Tyson Trailhead in memory of Don Williams, Jr.

Tyson "Earth Day" on Saturday, April 22 had twenty-five Tyson employees "making a difference". The group assembled at the Tyson Trailhead in Wilkesboro for the second year and landscaped the areas around the trailhead and the Pardue Crossing ramp.



With \$1,000 worth of materials they dug, hauled and spread mulch, planted trees and shrubs. We thank the Tyson employees for their hard labor and their caring.

In the months of March and October the youth of the First United Methodist Church of North Wilkesboro performed a much needed task of trash pickup, and in June the Camp Eckerd youth groomed the trail area.

In September a very important meeting with the Towns and County was held on the Inter-governmental Agreement to increase the security within the greenway area. We are awaiting a new draft that will define law enforcement responsibilities.

American-Chinese chestnut trees were planted near the Pardue Crossing in the early part of October. These two trees were donated by John Matthews and planted by Bill Casey and John.



We did not have any Eagle scout projects completed this year, but we do have a couple of pending candidates for 2007. John Palmer and William Buchanan. Trey Walsh completed his Eagle Project that enhanced the Tyson Trailhead by landscaping the area around the Old Cleveland House in Wilkesboro.

What would we do without the continued support of our county and towns? The Wilkes County Parks and Recreation Department painted handrails, and repaired the side of our rock dust trail along with mowing and doing the routine maintenance. The Town of North Wilkesboro repaired a sinkhole near the Reddies River Trailhead. The Town of Wilkesboro removed fallen trees, repaired cracks in the asphalt, and helped with cleanup of trash left by vagrants near the confluence of the rivers.

Many thanks to the SignFactory Direct for upgrading the information and direction signs with a fresh coat of paint.

A granite mileage marker was installed near Pardue Crossing in memory of Willis H. Bryant by his family and friends who worked tirelessly for several years to complete this project. We are blessed to continuously have donor nameplates added to our Recognition Wall. These names are added yearly either through monetary gifts, volunteer hours or in-kind donations. This year we were fortunate to add two new nameplates to our beautiful wall: Ed & Patricia Sturdivant and the Women's Service League of Wilkes.

We would be remiss not to remember and thank some of our biggest donors, the landowners who have granted us easements on land to build this linear park in these foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Thank you to all our citizens who use the Yadkin River Greenway and especially to the Yadkin River Greenway staff and council members who oversee and volunteer hours of their everyday to this great economic and tourist addition to Wilkes County. The Yadkin River Greenway Council appreciates all those citizens who willingly give of their time and energy to make the completion of the greenway a reality.



The greatest need for volunteers at this time is to help tend and care for the landscaped sections along the greenway trails. There are many opportunities for projects at our new Rivers Edge and Fish Dam Creek 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 Council office at 651-8967 or Chairperson of the Volunteer Coordination Committee, Freida Matthews 838-4938.

Freida Matthews, Volunteer Coordination Chair

## GRANTS HELP BUILD OUR GREENWAY

We continue to make progress in obtaining grants to construct greenway. In support of the \$275,000 grant previously awarded by the North Carolina Dept. of Transportation for Phase 2 of the Greenway (from The Wilkes Family YMCA through Lowe's Rivers Edge Park to Moravian Creek), we obtained in 2006 a \$25,000 grant from Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation, a \$25,000 grant from Tyson Foods, Inc, a \$40,000 grant from the NC DENR Recreational Trails Program, \$2,375 from AdvantageWest of North Carolina, and \$500 each from Wilkes Community Foundation and the Womens Service League of Wilkes.

We were able to have the \$235,000 grant awarded in 2005 from NC DENR Division of Water Resources extended through June 2007 and will most likely request further extensions as we strive to gain easements up the north side of the Yadkin River from the YMCA to Browns Ford Road.

The grant from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund for Easement Acquisition and Riparian Buffers was completed in May 2006 and closed out with \$50,200 expended and reimbursed. We are currently seeking a grant from the NC Division of Wildlife Resources Commission to build a fishing pier along the Yadkin River between the Reddies River and the Wellness Center.

Since 1999 the Yadkin River Greenway Council has obtained \$1,320,000 in grants

## FUND RAISERS BUILD THE DREAM

In order to meet our budget needs for administration of the Greenway office, we conducted a number of fund raising activities in 2006. We held the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Turtle Regatta on Saturday, May 13 as part of Greenway Day. 1837 toy turtles were released off the D Street Bridge and floated down the Reddies River to the finish line at the Greenway pedestrian bridge at its mouth. The “winners” were declared by judges Charlie Sink and Hank Perkins. First place prize was a bicycle from Cooks, Inc. won by Mary Francis Archibald. The Turtle Regatta netted \$8,063.

On Thursday, September 21 the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Yadkin River Greenway Charity Golf Tournament was held at Oakwoods Country Club with 69 golfers participating. Hole sponsors numbered 56 and the event netted \$6,000.

Our “Friends of the Greenway” effort was again



Co-chairs Gary Cogdill and Keith Johnston brief golfers

Park.



successful in 2006 raising \$9,040. We conducted a “Chicken Sale” on Saturday, December 9 selling nearly 1000 whole frozen marinated chickens from Tyson Foods, Inc. and raised \$1,850 after expenses.

Other fund raising activities in 2006 included budget allocations from the County of Wilkes and Town of Wilkesboro totaling \$9,500, \$590 for “Ray’s Way”, \$1,035 for “Walk for Will”, \$250 from Leatherwoods October Run, and \$2,249 sales tax refund from NC Dept. of Revenue along with some capital donations from private individuals.

We are continually grateful to all you who participated in these fund raising activities that help us build our dream of a greenway from W. Kerr Scott Reservoir to Smoot

## GREENWAY COUNCIL ADDS NEW MEMBERS

*During 2006 Shelmar Blackburn, Lisa Laufenberg, and Sam Stroud 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, Vicki Church,, Secretary, and other Council members: Gary Blevins, Dr. Tom Frazer, John Gyax, Gary Johnson, Keith Johnston, Mike Kerhoulas, Becky Lakey, Steve Mathis, Freida Matthews, Steve Steele, Frank Taracido, Charles White, and Roy Williams. Executive Director is Bill Clifton..*

*Many thanks to outgoing Council member Dick Sloop for his service and hard work. as President & Chair of the YRGC for 3 years and as Secretary for one year and member for five years. Dick was instrumental in developing the future plans for the Greenway.*

## WHY THOSE GAPS IN THE GREENWAY ?

### Why is the Greenway being built in pieces?

Simply put, it is impossible to afford to build the entire Greenway at one time. Even if money were not a constraint, it would exceed our capacity to plan and manage projects. Consider the fact that US Hwy. 421 was built and improved in phases over the years.

### Why is Phase Two (west of Wilkesboro) disconnected from Phase One?

In both phases we have been blessed with several generous landowners who have given easements to the Greenway to enable construction. Unfortunately, not all of them are situated next to each other. The Yadkin River Greenway Council will build new segments whenever the opportunity presents itself, as long as it is consistent with the long-range plan to create a continuous Greenway all the way from Kerr Scott Dam in the west to Smoot Park in the east.

### Isn't there a risk that there will be gaps that can never be completed?

There is some risk, but the YRGC is talking with landowners in the "gap" areas and we hope that we can reach agreement with them. It is clear that the only way the Greenway can expand is through the cooperation of landowners along the Yadkin River.

### Why not just buy the land to fill in the gaps?

The YRGC has never paid for land, cannot afford to pay for land, and besides, the land may not be for sale. However, there are tax benefits for landowners who do grant easements, certain conservation benefits in farmland areas, and the great satisfaction a landowner gets from creating a wonderful legacy for future generations.

### What good is a Greenway that has gaps in it?

It is not ideal, but as an interim arrangement it is satisfactory. We are required by government agency grantors to create a vehicle-accessible "trailhead" at either end of each segment that is constructed. This is a small parking area for public convenience, and users of the existing parts of the Greenway in the Wilkesboros are very familiar with accessing the Greenway in this

manner. We anticipate that some trailheads may be removed when the gaps are filled in, if they are no longer needed.

### What can the general public do to promote Greenway expansion?

People can join the Friends of the Greenway for a small annual contribution. They will receive an attractive decal which they should put on their windshield to show their support and to encourage others to do the same. Larger donations from individuals or groups are welcome and may qualify for special recognition, e.g., granite trail markers or Recognition Wall nameplate in honor of someone or in memory of a departed family member. People can participate in YRGC fundraising efforts such as the annual Turtle Regatta, our golf tournament each September, and special events like this past May's Greenway Day.



They can lobby various levels of government to continue and increase their support for the Greenway. We do not recommend that people pester landowners in the "gap" areas, some who have already agreed to cooperate. However, if you happen to be a "gap" landowner, the YRCG hopes you will work with us to find a mutually beneficial way to achieve the vision of a continuous Greenway along the Yadkin River.

By Sam Stroud...Greenway Council Member

**The Yadkin River Greenway  
Council Newsletter**

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](mailto:yrgreenway@pcshome.net)



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

“Friends of the Yadkin River Greenway” has completed its fourth year as a “grass roots” support organization. Friends of the Greenway added 23 new members during 2006 and now totals 173 who have joined. Of these, 66 have renewed their membership during the past year and we hope all will renew during 2007.



Contributions for the past 4 years to “Friends of the Greenway” now total \$35,660. These donations go along way towards covering the administration expenses to run the Yad-

kin 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