

The Greenway News



The Yadkin River Greenway Council Newsletter

The Greenway... To Build And Maintain!

A Message from the President

I am pleased to report that 2014 was yet another **GREAT!** year of growth and expansion of the treasure that is the Yadkin River Greenway.

Construction completion of the newest **Lowe's Trailhead to Cub Creek** segment represents the newest addition to the "string of pearls" that comprises the present greenway network.

Thanks to the generous financial support of the community, Friends of the Greenway, corporate and governmental entities, the Greenway continues to expand and provide recreational opportunities and serve the 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 for their continued support, protection and maintenance of this valuable asset. Their efforts continue to promote and sustain its growth and development.

I would also like to thank the Wilkes County Chamber of Commerce for their support in presenting the Greenway in their publications and promoting this great asset. I'm confident, you will agree, that the Greenway helps differentiate and define our County as a truly great place to work and live!

As always, I would like to thank our Council members for their efforts and support and congratulate them on their continued success.



The Yadkin River in Winter!! Photo by Betty Owens, Friend of the Greenway

Several other exciting expansion projects are both on the drawing board and in the works! I look forward to sharing their details with you in the very near future!

Since its inception back in 1992, the Greenway has grown to over 7.5 miles in length consisting of seven unconnected sections. I am pleased to announce that plans for the connection of four of those sections are presently under way. The Council looks forward to sharing those plans with you when all details and easements have been finalized.

Several other exciting expansion projects are both on the drawing board and in the works! I look forward to sharing the details with you in the very near future!

To summarize my prediction of the future of the Greenway, I must borrow a lyric from the singer song writer, Huey Lewis: **The future's so bright, I gotta wear shades!** As always, I look forward to seeing **YOU!** on the Greenway!

Charlie White

**2014 THE YEAR IN REVIEW
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Wayside Exhibit Dedicated By National Park Service

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Smoot Park on September 26, marking the installation of a wayside exhibit which was provided by the National Park Service. The exhibit explains the history of the modern day Smoot Park as a historic site along the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) in Wilkes County.

Smoot Park was the 18th Century Encampment site of the Overmountain Men on September 28, 1780 during their historic march to the battle of Kings Mountain. The Battle of Kings Mountain resulted in a Patriot victory and is considered among military historians as the turning point in the American Revolutionary War.

The Smoot Park encampment site consisted of about 350 American militia under the combined commands of Major Joseph Winston of Surry County and Colonel Benjamin Cleveland of Wilkes County. These forces numbered about a 4th of the total militia troops at the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Mayor, Robert Johnson, welcomed everyone to the event. RG Absher, Executive Director, of the Yadkin River Greenway Council provided a few historic footnotes and applauded the partnership between the Yadkin River Greenway Council and the National Park Service is working together to provide walking sections of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail along the greenway in Wilkes County.

Linda Check, Executive Director, Wilkes Chamber of Commerce led the participants in a ribbon cutting ceremony which officially dedicated the Smoot Park Wayside exhibit.

Paul Carson, Superintendent of the OVNHT, spoke about the history of the Smoot Park encampment. In addition, Paul likewise commended the Yadkin River Greenway for their support in working together on greenway projects throughout the years.



Paul Carson of the National Park Service and Council Member Gary Cogdill unveil the wayside exhibit as members of the Wilkes Chamber Tourism Committee, Yadkin River Greenway Council and other guests look on.

Greenway 2014 Construction Highlights

The most significant construction activity in 2014 involved construction completion of the new Yadkin River Greenway segment from Lowe's Trailhead (at Cornerstone Church) to the confluence of the Yadkin River and Cub Creek. The project started in 2013 and, due to weather issues, was not able to be completed during that calendar year.

During the spring of 2014, favorable weather conditions allowed construction to resume and pavement installation was completed. Afterwards, final dress-up and miscellaneous construction details were completed and all necessary signage was installed.

Also, part of the work on this section included the clearing and rough grading of a future greenway segment from the confluence of Cub Creek to the vicinity of the Wilkesboro Main Street (Old Business HWY 421) bridge.

The Lowe's Trailhead to Cub Creek, \$175,000.00 segment, funding was made possible largely in part to grants from:

- \$75,000.00 from the North Carolina Recreation Trails Program (RTP)
- \$50,000.00 from the North Carolina Department of Transportation

The balance of project costs were covered from funds provided by greenway donors and the "Friends of the Greenway" support group.

Also, during 2014, work continued on the acquisition of easements along Moravian Creek in anticipation of the completion of a greenway connector from the Moravian Creek Trailhead to Wilkes Community College. A major portion of this connector was recently completed by the Town of Wilkesboro with the construction of a greenway "underpass" at the NC Highway 268 Bridge. The Council is currently working to obtain the easements necessary to complete this segment and to raise the necessary funds to complete its construction to Wilkes Community College. As to that effort, the Greenway Council has already received grants from the Lowe's Charitable & Educational Foundation, Wilkes Tourism Development Association (WTDA), the Kulynych Foundations and other funding sources which will be applied to the completion of this segment.

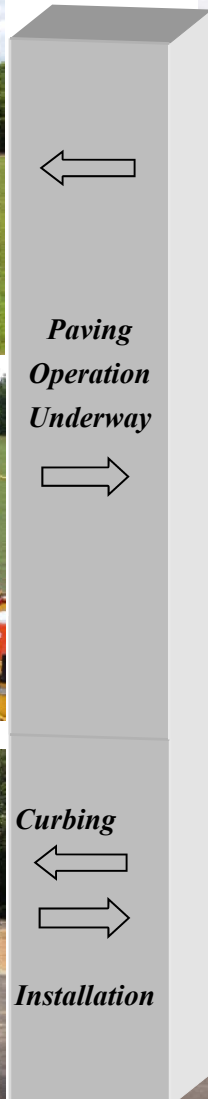
Looking forward to 2015, the Council will continue its work to connect the existing Smoot to Memorial Park greenway section to the "Mulberry Fields" section at the confluence of the Reddies and Yadkin Rivers. Plans are currently underway to procure easements and prepare the necessary design documents for this proposed greenway expansion. Fundraising efforts are also slated for 2015.

Frank Taracido, Construction Chairman

Lowe's Trailhead (At Cornerstone Church) To Cub Creek Expansion

You may recall that last year's *Greenway News* edition chronicled the construction commencement of the Greenway's newest Lowe's Trailhead (at Cornerstone Church) to Cub Creek segment.

This past spring (June) the paving of this segment was completed. Additional finishing touches are nearing completion and the section will soon be ready for official inclusion into the Greenway system.



Lowes Trailhead (at Cornerstone Church) to Cub Creek Rough Grading to Business 421 Bridge (Wilkesboro Main St.)

If you have visited the area, you may have noted that the clearing and rough grading work has extended this future greenway segment to the Cub Creek, Wilkesboro Main Street, bridge. The Council hopes to complete this segment at some time in the near future when funds become available. Till then, feel free to enjoy this “primitive” segment until construction completion efforts resume.



Volunteers Help the Greenway *GO AND GROW!*

The Greenway Council, together with the help of many of our citizens, the towns and county governments, have made great strides in accomplishing our goal of creating one of the premier greenway systems in the State.

Over the years, it has become apparent to the Greenway Council just how important it is to have a community support based volunteer program. Volunteers help keep our greenway system beautiful, safe and a pleasant experience for the citizens of and visitors to Wilkes County. The Greenway provides a wonderful facility to enjoy while walking, running, biking, or just socializing!

Volunteers continue to join the greenways “Adopt-A-Trail” program by keeping our landscaped areas well groomed. They assist with weed control, spreading mulch, trimming trees and bushes and cleaning up trash. All these efforts are a vital part of perpetuating the greenways enjoyment.

Many different groups and individuals have volunteered and continue to groom and maintain their adopted areas. Some examples are:

- * Jim Brown, with Tyson Foods, Inc., leads a group of Tyson employees in maintaining and grooming the greenway section from the Wilkesboro Tyson Trailhead along Ray’s Way to Pardue Crossing and the landscaped area below the crossing.
- * The American-Chinese Chestnut trees, which are planted near Pardue Crossing, are weeded and mulched by John Mathews.
- * Dan Day continues to groom and maintain an area around a tree which has been placed in memory of his mother.
- * Sonny Church dedicates his efforts to maintain an area along the greenway at the confluence of the Yadkin and Reddies Rivers that was created and dedicated to the memory of his mother and father.
- * Jule Hubbard maintains the canoe access facility on the Mulberry Fields 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, continues to groom a flower bed and landscaped area along the Jefferson Turnpike greenway section.

(Volunteers continued from page 4)

- * Renee and Allen Winkler have agreed to preserve and groom areas around picnic tables and benches along the Smoot to Memorial Parks greenway section as well as the Jefferson Turnpike. The picnic tables and park benches were constructed and installed by their son, Corey, who successfully earned his Eagle Scout rank by completing this project.
- * Freida Matthews and Charles White used weed control methods to groom the area around the recognition wall.
- * The Master Gardeners, under the leadership of Bill Hanlin and Diane Stephens and in cooperation with the Town of North Wilkesboro’s maintenance crew, worked together to keep some of the greenway sections beautifully landscaped and preserved. Also, the Master Gardeners recently agreed to maintain an area around the recognition wall as well as to continue to groom and plant new flowers and other greenery at the Reddies River Trailhead.
- * Over the past years, the North Wilkesboro maintenance crew has delivered and assisted in spreading mulch once or twice a year along various sections of the greenway.

As always, a special thanks to William and Lynn Clark who routinely clean up trash along the greenway while exercising and walking their dog, Max!

David Wiles and Graham Wyche, two new council members, have recently joined the “Adopt-A-Trail” program. They have volunteered to groom the blueberry bushes adjacent to the confluence of the rivers.

Our community is also fortunate to have Scout troops and Eagle Scout candidates who provide construction project enhancements along our greenway system. Recent examples of these are:

- * Peter Gray: recently completed his Eagle Scout project by constructing a set of river access steps on the Reddies River Greenway section.
- * Daniel Shinaman: completed his Eagle Scout project by installing duck boxes on both the Smoot to Memorial Parks and the Jefferson Turnpike greenway sections.



**Eagle Scout, Daniel Shinaman’s,
Wood Duck Boxes Installation Project**

**Eagle Scout, Peter Gray’s, Fishing Access Steps
Installation Project**

Also, Scouts Ethan Swofford and Nathan Eggers are currently in the process of making plans to earn their Eagle Scout badges. Their Eagle Scout Service project proposals are to build observation decks along various greenway sections. Ethan has chosen a location on the greenway from Smoot to Memorial Parks and Nathan will construct his observation deck along the Reddies near the confluence of the Yadkin and the Reddies Rivers. Maintenance crews from the towns have been exceptionally responsive in making sure that all greenway sections are well maintained and safe for our greenway users and are frequently called upon to cut and remove fallen trees and from time to time to clear the greenway of rocks and other debris.

With the continued expansion of the greenway, the Council will need even more dedicated volunteers to aid in our growth and create new recreational opportunities. If you or your organization is interested in volunteering, please contact the Yadkin River Greenway office at 336-651-8967 or Freida Mathews at 336-838-4938.

Frieda Matthews, YRGC Volunteer Coordination Committee Chairperson

NC Wildlife Resources Commission Provides Better Fishing Access Along the Reddies River



Steps located below the Hwy 421 Business Bridge along the Reddies.



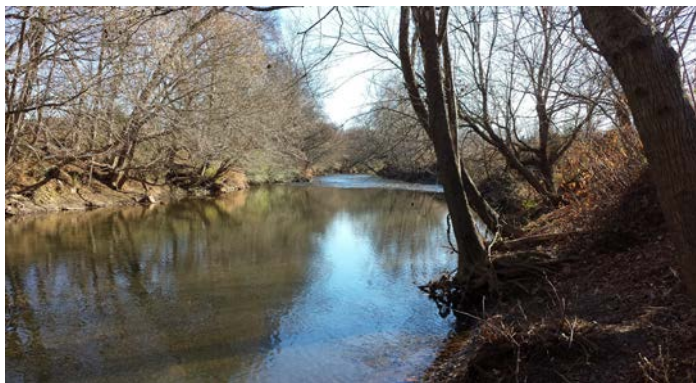
Set of double steps located near mid-point of the Reddies section along the greenway.

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission dramatically increased and improved fishing access to the Reddies River during 2014.

According to the Commission, the Reddies delayed harvest stocking program was one of the States most underutilized stocking programs due to poor accessibility.

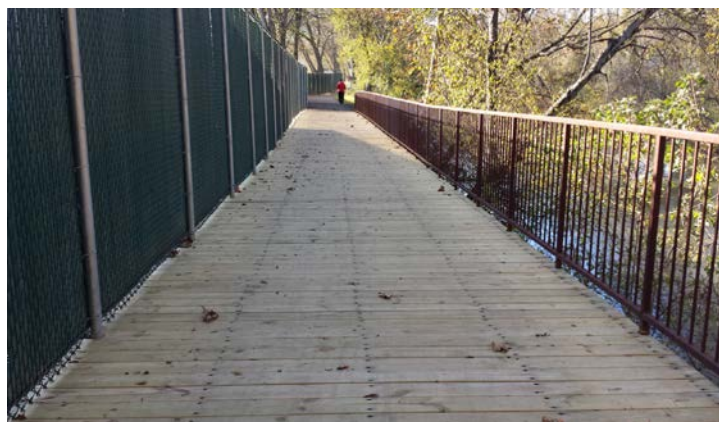
All sets of steps are strategically located in the proximity of river “riffles” which provide the best habitat for the fish population.

Thanks to the completion of these access facilities, anglers of all ages are continuing to increase the use of this valuable Wilkes County urban fishing asset.



Downstream view of the Reddies from the lower set of double steps.

Wilkesboro Resurfaces River’s Edge Viaduct



The Yadkin River Greenway Council would like to thank the Wilkesboro Maintenance division for their recent completion of the resurfacing of the Lowe’s Rivers Edge viaduct.

This was a much needed upgrade. The original deck surface, which was installed in 2008, was deteriorating rapidly.

This is yet another example of the excellent partnership between the Towns and County in preserving and protecting this valuable asset.

Why the Yadkin River Greenway is Unique, and a Call to Action

Every year worthwhile organizations are accomplishing important goals in Wilkes County. Not to diminish any other group or its efforts, but I would like to point out some important differences that make the Yadkin River Greenway unique among not-for-profit organizations.

First, the Greenway is a tangible long-term asset, not just a current concept. It will almost certainly serve future generations beyond our own.

Second, it serves a very broad segment of our community, not limited to any particular age or socioeconomic groups. No membership is required; it is free to all who choose to use it. Geographically spanning both Wilkesboros as well as the county, the Greenway promotes collaboration among all levels of government.

Third, the YRG enhances public health in a proactive way. It is much more cost-effective to spend time improving your personal physical condition on the Greenway rather than neglecting it and paying for remedial health care later.

Fourth, the Yadkin River Greenway attracts visitors and economic activity to our community. In this regard Wilkes County is ahead of many others, which gives us a competitive advantage.

Fifth, unlike many other civic causes, the Greenway does not consume a great deal of operating cash that must be replenished each year. The majority of funds raised for the YRG are invested in capital improvements and expansion. Over the past two decades many talented and dedicated volunteers have worked to build the YRG. They have included some generous benefactors who have helped raise funds, as well as people who have been willing to work hard for results without much recognition.

Bill Clifton, who has made enormous contributions to the Greenway during years of service as our Executive Director and now as a board member, raised the issue early in 2014 that the YRGC needs to bring in energetic new members to replace those who move on. Fortunately two such new members have been elected to the Yadkin River Greenway Council in 2014. Graham Wyche, a retired investment advisor who has been active in several local civic causes, has assumed responsibility for coordinating YRG special events, e.g., the Turtle Regatta fundraiser held each May. Dr. Craig Bennett, a successful orthopedist and brother of YRG co-founder Dr. Larry Bennett, also a veteran of other worthy not-for-profit boards, joined the YRGC in November.

If you are a passionate fan of the Greenway and have time and energy to devote to it, please attend a meeting of our board to learn more about our plans and how you may be able to help. The meeting schedule is posted on the YRG home page www.yadkinrivergreenway.com/. Thank you very much for your consideration and your future support.

Sam Stroud, YRGC Board Member

Wilkes TDA Grant Awarded To Yadkin River Greenway



Left to right: Mike Inscore, RG Absher, Clara Royal, Allison Phillips, Linda Cheek and Sam Stroud

In June, the Wilkesboro Tourism Development Authority (WTDA) presented the Yadkin River Greenway Council a \$9,000.00 matching grant challenge. The grant successfully matched as a result of various Council fundraising efforts!

The grant funds will be applied to the construction of a planned greenway extension and connector segment to Wilkes Community College (WCC) from the existing Moravian Creek Trailhead.

It is anticipated that it will also provide a safer pedestrian and bicycle route from Lowe's River Edge Park to the WCC campus for MerleFest attendees AND increase the greenways length by approximately .4 miles.

Once completed, the new greenway segments will connect WCC, along Lowes's River Edge Park greenway section, to Wilkes YMCA. Since the extension will also connect to the existing WCC trail system, it will effectively extend the greenway system by an additional .7 miles!!!

The Council thanks the WTDA for their support!!

How Your Contribution Helps The Greenway Expand

In just fourteen years, the Yadkin River Greenway has gone from blueprints of empty land to footprints on miles of greenway. 7.5 miles of Greenway give everyone easy access to the beauty of the land along the rivers that flow through the center of our community and the greenway helps 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.

Our Council employs an Executive Director who actively seeks sizeable grants from many sources that provides the majority of funding for the construction of new Greenway sections. We're pleased to say that we have been very successful in qualifying for grants over the previous years. 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. Each dollar you give helps the Council receive many more from grant sources.

Your donation keeps our Greenway system growing. You can choose one of three ways to direct how your contribution is to be utilized:

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, is held annually in May along the Reddies River section. Become a Turtle Regatta sponsor, by "adopting" a turtle for \$5. The first turtles that reach the finish line are awarded various prizes.
 - The Greenway Benefit Golf Tournament is held annually in September at Oakwoods Country Club. Sign up for a fun round of golf or be an event sponsor.
 - 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.

By Keith Johnston, Fundraising Chair and R. G. Absher, Executive Director



Charlie welcomes golfers!



A golfer tees off



Gearing up for the Regatta!!!

The Greenway Council

The 2014 Yadkin River Greenway Council members were: Charles White, President & Chairman, Carolyn Frazier-Pardue, Vice President, Gary Cogdill, Treasurer, Susan Buchanan, Secretary. Other Council members are: Dr. Craig Bennett, Lee Bentley, Vicki Church, Bill Clifton, Darrell Groves, Gary Johnson, Keith Johnston, Freida Matthews, Carl McCann, Chuck Smithey, Steve Steele, Sam Stroud, Frank Taracido, David Wiles, Roy Williams and Graham Wyche. 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 at: www.yadkinrivergreenway.com to learn more about us! We're also now on **Facebook!** Check us out!

Schedule of 2015 Yadkin River Greenway Meetings: February 24, March 24, April 21, May 26, June 23, (June meeting is also our annual meeting), July 29, August 25, September 22, October 27, November 24, (No meetings are held in December due to Christmas holidays). Meeting times are typically at Noon at the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Room. Any changes on our meeting dates, times and locations will be announced on the above web-site.

Greenway Photos

These outstanding photographs were taken by Betty Owens and can also be found on our Facebook page!!

We encourage you to take photos and share them with the Greenway.

You can email them to: yrgreenway@pcshome.net and we look forward to seeing and sharing them!!



White Tailed Deer



Great Blue Heron



A Hawk's view!!



Gray Squirrel



Roosting Vultures

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!!!



Greenway bike ride!

Bridges Of The Greenway

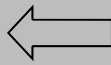
2015 marks the 10th anniversary of the installation of the Fish Dam Creek Bridge at W. Kerr Scott reservoir by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

To learn more about its construction and installation and relive the Fish Dam Creek sections dedication as documented by the Wilkes Journal Patriot, visit the Greenway's website at www.yadkinrivergreenway.com, click on the **Photos** tab and then click on both the **Construction Slideshows** and **Greenway In The News** tabs.

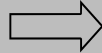
Below are some photo highlights of the installation and construction:



Bridge steel frame components delivered to W. Kerr Stott Dam for assembly



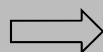
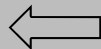
Bridge frame moved to Fish Dam Creek



Bridge steel frame is set in place



Fish Dam Creek Bridge Installation Completed



Our Friends, Contributors And Sponsors

Members of Friends of the Yadkin River Greenway

(A–C) Calvin and Azile Anderson, 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, Karen and Harold Bumgarner, Phil and Cecilia Carlson, Kin and Vicki Church, William and Lynn Clark, Bill and Karen Clifton, Anne Clifton, Kin and Vicki Church, 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, Allen and Audrey Dyer, Ginger Edmiston and Bobby Johnson, Camille Eller, Claudia Eller Tolbey, Mike Eller, Kim and Claude Faw, Buddy Forester, Chuck Forester, Russell and Loraine Golds, Ruth Graham, Fred and Jean Graf, Ted and Jacquelyn Hall, Bill and Ruth Harris, John and Peggy Harwell, 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, Gary and Madelene Johnson, Keith and Amanda Johnston, 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 and Linda McCann, David and Connie McNeil, Mike and Donna McNeil, Brenda B. Moore, Phyliss and Dave Moulton, Tim Murphy, Sandra and John Oliver, Lisa Pardee, Carolyn Frazier-Pardue, Ned and Betty Pierce

(R–Z) Dusty, Lynne and D. Rhodes, Chuck and Belinda Smithey, Gordon Smoak, Jim and Luci Smoak, Mary Spears, Larry and Diane Stone, Stone Foundation, Steve and Kay Steele, Sam Stroud, Alvin Sturdivant, Frank Taracido, FW and Martha Townes, Jim Sturdivant, Glinda and Franklin Triplett, William and Karen Watts, David Wiles, Charlie and Mary White, Lane Wood, Graham Wyche, Fran and Tim York, Randall Zirkle

Walker Level Members (\$100-\$499)

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Hiker Level Members (\$500-\$1499) Phil and Cecilia Carlson, Claude and Kim Faw, Lee Herring, Leonard G. Herring Family Foundation, Mike and Donna McNeil, Steve and Kay Steele, Graham Wyche

Recognition Wall Donors

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

(Jogger Level Continued) Mary Iva & Jim Gray, Wilkesboro Down Town Merchants, Dariel Rathmell, Mary & Bill Marlow, Betty Reinhardt, Stephen J. Wessels, Dot & Richard Marlow, 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 & 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, Charlie & Mary White, 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

Pathfinder (\$3,000 to \$4,999) 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, Connie & David McNeill, Kay & Steve Steele, 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 Hugins, Mary & Ed Spears, Advantage West-North Carolina, Gardner Glass Products, Greg Stikeleather.

Explorer (\$5,000 to \$9,999) Randell K. Hayes, Sirley & Alvin Sturdivant, Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home, First Citizens Bank, Freida & John Matthews, Mark & Teresa Church, Frances & Vaughn Hayes, Vulcan Materials, BB&T, Luci & Jim Smoak, Rose S. Andrews, Yadkin Valley Bank, Burce & Vicki Church, Lena R. Lovette, Duke Energy Company, Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, National Park Service, Wilkes Community Foundation, American Drew & La-Z-Boy Co. Wachovia Foundation, Carolyn & Billy Bare, Kin & Vicki Church, Carolina Realty, Inc. Joyce & Nick Cirillo, Chuck Forrester

Trailblazers (\$10,000 and up) 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, Rose & Leonard Herring, 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 Hoyl 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, Dwight & Anne Pardue, Brushy Mountain Water Co., Gwyn F. “Duck” Vannoy

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

**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 14 new members during 2014 for a grand total of 261 members! Of these, 104 renewed their membership during the past year. We hope all will renew during 2015!

Friends of the Greenway contributions, over the past 10 years, now total \$109,015.00! 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
Hiker: \$250-\$500
Jogger: \$1,500-\$2,999
Pathfinder: \$3,000.00 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