

Ripples from the Roanoke

A publication from Roanoke River Partners

"The mission of Roanoke River Partners is to preserve, enhance and promote the natural, cultural and historic identity and integrity of the Roanoke River region through tourism and other environmentally sustainable activities which encourage economic development and social justice."

March 2009



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Paddle Days 2009 Features the Cashie River

This year's Paddle Days on Saturday, April 18th will offer fun things to do for all ages. The event will be headquartered at the Roanoke/Cashie River Center in Windsor, NC, and will focus on the Cashie River. The \$25 registration fee includes snacks, lunch, t-shirt, safety boats and lots of entertainment.



Ready to embark at Paddle Days 2008.

The Bertie/Windsor Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Windsor are sponsoring "A Spring Spectacular" festival with numerous events for children, paddlers and non-paddlers to enjoy throughout the day.

The tentative schedule includes a car show and Windsor Farmer's Market with local home-grown items for sale (8 a.m. to noon), Humane Society Dog Walk (10 a.m. to noon), Lawn and Garden Show and live music at the Roanoke-Cashie River Center (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), and Street Dance and Fireworks in downtown Windsor (6 to 9 p.m.)

This year's Paddle Days will feature three routes:

Route A: Hoggard's Mill – This leisurely route will have paddlers leaving the River Center and

heading north on the Cashie to Hoggard's Mill Bridge and back. This is a great trip for children as it takes you through downtown Windsor.

Approx. 3 hours with lunch at the River Center upon your return.

Route B: Johnson's Mill – This route is more strenuous and will have paddlers taking the out and back trip on the Cashie River to Johnson's Mill. **Approx. 4-5 hours with lunch at the River Center upon your return.**

Route C: Sans Souci or beyond – this route is for the Iron Men paddlers and the campers. Paddlers can paddle out to Sans Souci (**approx. 16 miles**) and paddle back (this is for the Iron Men!) OR they may arrange transportation back from Sans Souci to the River Center (we will help with this as needed) OR paddlers/campers may continue on through the thoroughfare to the various camping platforms – Otter, Bear Run, Cow Creek, Cypress Cathedral, Three Sisters. Those intending to camp might wish to consider doing the Johnson's Mill trip then driving from the River Center to Gardner's Creek for the short run out to Beaver Lodge or Barred Owl. Camping reservations must be made separately at

www.roanokeriverpartners.org.

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More Than 120 Paddlers Rambled on the Roanoke

The best recap of RRP's first annual Roanoke River Ramble from Weldon to Halifax on Nov. 1 would be to share some of the many comments we received afterwards:

- You guys did a great job planning the event today. Everyone I talked to had a great time. I just wanted to say thanks to you and all of the people that made today's event so great.
- Thank you for the wonderful event on the river. Everyone did a great job with the organization and did I mention those Methodist Church women and the food!
- These events only keep getting better and better. I have paddled the Upper



Roanoke and the lower Roanoke and each one was more fun than the other. I've platform camped twice and it is the most wonderful way of experiencing the river. Thank you and your staff for all you do to make these events happen.

- Fantastic! That was the best paddle I have ever done! Really liked the current! You all really had it

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This Beautiful Canoe Could Be Yours...

Can you believe it? This beautiful canoe is, once again, looking for a home. You may remember that at our 2008 Paddle Days event, this beauty was awarded to Dana Ellis, a Windsor resident. Well, we couldn't be more grateful or pleased to announce that Dana has very graciously given this canoe back to RRP to be used to raise additional funds for our organization. What a great guy! Thanks Dana!



Can't you just imagine paddling down the Roanoke River on this beautiful canoe? Well, in exchange for your \$5.00 donation, you can receive a ticket that could be the lucky one. This drawing, sponsored by Roanoke River Partners, will run from now until the Roanoke Ramble in November when the lucky recipient will be announced. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to continue RRP's work to develop recreational and economic opportunities along the Roanoke River. The canoe, as you can see, is truly spectacular and would be a prized possession for anyone who loves the outdoors. If you would like to purchase a ticket, you can contact any RRP board member (listed on our newsletter) or call one of our RRP numbers at 252-798-3920 or 252-792-0070. Good luck!



Special thanks to David Hodges, Lee Cooper & Tom Potter for completing Tusca Landing platform in Halifax.

Weather Woes Don't Dampen Galie Event

On Sunday, January 25, the Roanoke River Partners and the Partnership for the Sounds hosted an event at the Roanoke/Cashie River Center featuring Carl Galie, a photographer and author from Winston Salem, NC.



Even though there was bad weather that day, we had a great turnout. Carl gave an interesting program on his new book, *175 Paces*. This book reveals the amazing and fascinating sights of nature through his photography. He talked about many different aspects of his book; such as where he shot his photos, which was right out the back door of a local author's cabin in Bertie County.

After Carl's presentation, the audience was given the opportunity to purchase signed copies of this latest book, along with his first publication *Vision Quest: A Photographic Journey through the Lower Roanoke Region* (profits from this book continue to benefit RRP).

Also at the program RRP sold raffle tickets for the drawing of their canoe that will be raffled off in November and the Roanoke/Cashie River Center brought in large sum of donations.

RRP Receives Statewide Recognition

Roanoke River Partners was recently presented the 2008 Outstanding Supporting Organization Award from the NC Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils. Mid-East RC&D, a member of this statewide network, has been an active partner with RRP since its inception and because of this successful on-going relationship nominated RRP for this award.

Organized in the mid 1990s by a group of grassroots leaders, RRP has delivered programs to support sustainable economic development and regional heritage opportunities for the five Tier I counties along the lower Roanoke River. Most notably, RRP has developed some of the first camping platforms in eastern NC to promote water-based ecotourism. To date, paddlers and outdoor enthusiasts from across the country, as well as a host of other countries, come to this region to experience the unique Roanoke River Paddle Trail and the 13 camping platforms that RRP has developed



Pictured on the right: Carol Shields, RRP Executive Board Member, receives 2008 Outstanding Supporting Organization Award from Marshall Stevenson, VP of NC Association for Resource Conservation & Development Councils.

in partnership with organizations like Mid-East RC&D.

Mid-East currently serves as an Advisory Board Member and works cooperatively with RRP to seek community development grants. This partnership recently resulted in securing a Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation Preservation Fund to restore a circa 1913 Rosenswald School in Hamilton, NC. This former African-American school, located at a mid-point along the Roanoke River Paddle Trail, will eventually serve as an economic engine in this small, rural community.

For more information about RRP, call 252-798-3920 or go to roanokeriverpartners.org.

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All paddlers/campers taking this route need to make sure that the event planners are aware of their plans, so we don't think you got swallowed up by a big bear! **Lunch will be packaged so you can take it with you.**

Early registration is highly encouraged. Registration forms and liability waiver forms may be downloaded at www.roanokeriverpartners.org. On the day of the event, registration begins at 7:30 at the Roanoke/Cashie River Center with staggered take-offs.

Sponsors include Roanoke River Partners, Roanoke Paddle Club, Roanoke/Cashie River Center, MidEast RC&D, NC Paddle Trails Association, the Bertie County/Windsor Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Windsor.

For additional information and questions, please contact Lucia Peel at 252/792-0070.

Getting to Know Our Roanoke River Ramblers

Board Member: David Schwartz, Greenville



Dave Schwartz is one of the most kind-hearted, talented individuals that was ever put on this good Earth. The great thing about Dave is that he values this good Earth and is a happy caretaker.

Dave is a research scientist with a bio-tech company in Greenville, but his passions lie with the outdoors and with music. Dave plays Classical and Bluegrass bass. Dave has been an accomplished classical cellist since 1984. Dave later attended

Wake Forest University on a music scholarship and has performed with many classical quartets and orchestras.

Talent runs in Dave's family, originally from Appleton, Wisconsin, as his parents—Dr. Charles Schwartz is a retired ECU music professor, and mother Jill is a cellist. His brother plays both bass & guitar, and his sister is a concert master violinist who teaches in Georgia.

Dave performs with the lovely and equally talented banjo player, Kim Terpening. Together, they are ChamberGrass, and they perform around the state to very contented audiences. Dave is a pretty darned good singer as well. Next time you see him, ask to hear "Mississippi Squirrel!"

Speaking of squirrels, Dave loves all creatures great and small and is protective of their environment. To that end, he regularly volunteers to do water sampling of area creeks, ponds, streams and rivers with the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation.

When not working, playing music or volunteering, Dave can be found walking. He loves to walk and renews his spirit and energy by spending time by himself communing with nature. Also a reader, Dave enjoys good books with a penchant for those by Jimmy Carter. He also gets laughs from funny movies!

RRP loves our dearest Dave! Hats off to you!

Volunteer: Lucia Peel Powe, Durham



Lucia Hutchinson Peel Powe lived in Williamston for thirty years, married to Judge Junie Peel, who served on the North Carolina Superior Court bench for twenty-two years. She reared four daughters, Lucia Claire of Williamston, Sarah Margaret ("Mimi") Peel Roughton of Durham, Sydney Eldridge Peel Woodside of Knoxville, Tennessee and Elizabeth Chase Peel of Hillsborough.

Lucia Hutchinson was teaching Romper Room on WNCT-TV in Greenville when she met attorney Junie Peel, and he soon convinced her not to move back to Georgia to accept Romper Room's Atlanta offer but to marry him and move to Williamston. She never looked back.

After Judge Peel's death in 1984, Lucia wrote a book called *Roanoke Rock Muddle* in honor of her husband's love of the river, Martin County and eastern North Carolina. She continues to donate the proceeds from the book to Roanoke River Partners. Over the last several years, she has donated her time and energy promoting RRP through book readings and as a fundraising advisor.

Today, Lucia is married to E. K. Powe III of Durham, also an attorney. Interestingly enough, her husbands had been opponents on the football field at Virginia prep schools, undergraduate and law school classmates at UNC-Chapel Hill and fellow legislators in the North Carolina General Assembly. Mr. Powe has three daughters, Louise Powe Kelly of Salt Lake City, Utah, Katherine Powe Dauchert of Durham and Josephine Powe McGuire of Malibu, California. Together, Lucia and EK enjoy ten grandchildren.

Her book is still available from Lucia Peel at Haughton Hall B&B in Williamston (www.haughtonhallnc.com) and proceeds still benefit Roanoke River Partners. Thanks Lucia!

Mid-East RC&D Fish Fry/Sponsor Appreciation & Environmental Education Day



Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Moratoc Park, Williamston, NC

5:00 p.m. Steamed Oysters

6:00 p.m. Supper

7:00 p.m. Program featuring

Carl Galie, Roanoke River/outdoor photographer, & ECU Sustainable Tourism Dept. to discuss regional tourism efforts

Significant Progress Made at Hamilton Rosenwald

Renovation work on the Hamilton Rosenwald School has begun in earnest. Glenn Chase of Washington used a bush hog to clean the grounds and then set up scaffolding to begin removing the old roof in preparation for putting down the new tin roof!



The southwest end of the building has been replaced and, with the new roofing, the interior of the building will be completely protected. We are looking for photographs, so we can replace the entrances as historically correct as possible. Tentative plans are underway for a volunteer cleanup day later in the Spring to clear out the interior!

We are still seeking individuals who attended this or any other NC Rosenwald School to begin compiling oral histories so if you know anyone, please have them contact Lucia Peel at 252/792-0070.

RRP Gets into the Spirit

On Sunday, January 4th, over 75 RRP members and friends met at Haughton Hall B&B in Williamston to celebrate the successes of 2008!



We launched the new canoe raffle, talked about the great success of Roanoke Ramble in Halifax back in November and the upcoming Paddle Days on April 18th!

Several people joined the Partners for the first time and many renewed their membership. It was a wonderful way to end 2008 and kick-off 2009!

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going on, great organization and participation! Let's do it again and assume you will order up the same weather!

- We really enjoyed our weekend in Halifax. All of it was wonderful from the paddle, to the lunch, to the supper, to the ghost walk, to the camping. Thank you so much for your hospitality and a really fun weekend, and we hope to see you again next year! We may be back before then too!
- Just wanted to drop you a line to say that we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves this weekend. What a great event! You guys did an awesome job! It couldn't have been any better! Our paddle to Tillery was great! It got really cold at night but I fought it off with a lot of layering of clothes. I just didn't want to get out of my sleeping bag in the morning! The fire warmed us up though! Anyway, thanks for such a great event, and I can't wait to do it again soon!
- My bride and I had a wonderful time at the Ramble. I think it was a huge success! We will participate next year if you plan to do it again. The most impressive thing about the event was how few dollars it cost to pull it off. My hat is off to you.
- Just a quick note to say thank you for all the hard work you all put into the river ramble. We had a great time & are planning the trip again for April. When the flier comes out for the next one, we will put it at the PX on the base (Camp Lejeune) to get the word out. Get ready for the Marines to visit. Again, thanks for the great planning & friendly people. We will be back! Also, we are interested in joining RRP.



Thanks to all the volunteers and paddlers who made this event possible. **Mark your calendars for our 2009 Roanoke River Ramble on Saturday, November 7!**

www.roanokeriverpartners.org
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