



In This Issue:

- **From Our Director**
- **RRP in the News!**
- **Trail Update**
- **Donate/Renew Support**
- **Hamilton Rosenwald School prints**
- **Social Media links**



From Our Director

As I sit down to write this last message as director--I am flooded with emotion. After being associated with RRP for over fifteen years—I will complete my official tenure at the end of November.

There is so much to say—mostly, I want to express my appreciation to

all those who have supported the rural development that **Roanoke River Partners** have been engaged in for over two decades (since 1997).

If there is one thing I have learned over these past fifteen years, it is that people are our greatest resource-- both those who partner with us to connect visitors to the great natural and cultural assets of our region-- and those who come to experience our abundant assets.

When I think about what comes next for **Roanoke River Partners**, I see a bright future that includes—our board and a host of regional partners and supporters— all working together to bring favor to our rural communities. I predict their collective efforts will contribute to the economic recovery our region is seeking in the coming year. I also see heaps more folks coming to make great memories exploring our river and river communities with their friends and family!

As for me, I plan is to return to being a volunteer with Roanoke River Partners-- which is how I got involved in the first place. I plan to continue to build support for the renovation of our **Hamilton Rosenwald School** to become the **Rosenwald River Center** and for the development of our **Roanoke River Underground Railroad Trail**. These projects continue to hold a special place in my heart.

As I step down, I am thinking there are good things ahead for us all-- more outdoor adventures; more opportunities to collaborate; and more creative

solutions to the challenges we face. Let's join forces to make a difference!
[My sincere thanks for all the ways you already do!](#)

Renewing your support and/or making an on-line contribution is one way to ensure **RRP** and our **Roanoke River Paddle Trail** continue to play a vital role in providing remarkable outdoor adventures and much needed economic promise here along the **Roanoke**. Click [here](#) to donate!

Please know how very grateful we are for all the ways you support our trail and our work!

RRP in the News!

Over the past few months that life has been interrupted with the impacts of Covid-- it has been comforting to know that our RRP brand-- which represents a unique outdoor adventure-- is alive and well. We are grateful that our phones have been ringing with folks interested in coming where they could be outdoors while practicing social distancing.



We have also been thankful to get calls from writers and filmmakers who wanted to come to learn more about RRP, our trail and our camping platforms. In case you missed these stories, we wanted to share the links to a couple of them here where you can click on the links and see them at your convenience. We have no doubt that this media will go a long way in sharing our story and drawing visitors to our region in months and years to come!

**This photo of our Barred Owl platform was taken by writer/photographer Ashley Stimpson- Sept. 2020-- Thanks for the great article in BRO Ashley!*

[Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine—Dec. 2020](#)

[NC Weekend on UNC-TV—Oct. 2020](#)

Reminder about Gardner's Creek access

We continue to remind paddlers that the private access at Gardner's Creek (which has been used for years) is no longer available for paddlers and campers to use. With recent changes in property ownership in combination with the high water levels the past three seasons-- we are working with the property owners to redirect paddlers and campers to the Astoria Landing NC Wildlife Access at Jamesville, just down river from Gardner's Creek. You can find our [updated map](#) on our website.

[Ready to renew your membership ... or maybe join for](#)

[the first time? That's GREAT News!!! We can use YOUR support now more than ever!](#)

Your generous contributions make it possible to develop and promote our unique natural and cultural assets as sustainable economic development for the Roanoke River Region. To join or renew on-line, click [here](#) -- or print our [membership form](#) and mail it with your check.

If you have recently renewed your membership --
WE Are So Grateful for Your Support!

[Thank you!](#)

We are very thankful for all the partnerships that make it possible for us to work with our river communities to develop and promote the outdoor adventures, cultural heritage and small town charm found here along the Roanoke.

We greatly appreciate your interest and your support of Northeastern NC! And we sure hope that you are making plans to gather your friends and family to paddle, camp and explore our ROANOKE River Region in 2021. The past year has shown us that this is a place where you can come to get close to nature, even while social distancing. We're hoping you will book a reservation to come make some memories real soon!

Forever grateful,
Carol J. Shields,
Director
Roanoke River Partners, Inc.

*As we continue to build support to renovate the 100 year-old Hamilton Rosenwald School to serve as a river center-- one of the ways we are raising funds is by awarding donors who contribute \$100 or more-- a print of this beautiful watercolor (pictured on the right) by local artist, **Mike Bennett**. You can donate to this project by



mailing your check earmarked for **The Hamilton Rosenwald School** and made payable to--
Roanoke River Partners-- PO Box 488, Windsor, NC 27983.

Roanoke River Partners | 252.792.3790 | [Email our director](#)
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