



RR UGRR Trail COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS SUMMARY

2019-2020

Events held as part of an educational initiative to raise awareness of the Roanoke River as a recognized site of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program.

03/22/2019 Event #1 Finding Freedom/Halifax County Cooperative Ext Bldg, Halifax

This all-day event included a light breakfast and a hot, southern-style lunch. Hosted by the NC African American Heritage Commission, Historic Halifax State Historic Site, and Roanoke River Partners in partnership with Historic Hope Foundation, Museum of the Albemarle, Conservation Trust for NC, Halifax County Tourism, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. There were twenty fantastic speakers on topics of the UGRR, and many educators were in the audience. 100 attendees.

Event Feedback:

- *"This symposium is one of the most beneficial professional development experiences I have attended. It is well-organized and professionally presented. I appreciate the wide range of topics related to the UGRR and the culture and lives of the people who lived it. Thank you for your efforts in presenting a very worthwhile event that has opened a new journey of knowledge for me."*
- *"As a newcomer to the south and specifically to North Carolina, I found the session so enlightening and informative. I look forward to being participatory in this effort and continuing my education on this important topic."*
- *"Very informative program. I learned a lot, things I had never heard before. More of this information needs to be included in our school curricula."*
- *"Great day of sharing histories, stories, and networking. Enjoyed Mr. Jerome Bias' presentation on enslaved cooks and bringing history to life. Claire Heckel provided some great info on online resources for schools and programming."*

07/18/2019 Event #2 Scotland Neck Senior Center, Scotland Neck

This two-hour evening program included a hot, southern-style dinner. Hosted by the Scotland Neck Senior Center in partnership with Historic Halifax State Historic Site, Halifax County Libraries, Roanoke River Partners, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to Carol and Rose delivering their program on the Roanoke River UGRR Trail, speakers included Carl Burke of Historic Halifax Site and Brenda Mills of Halifax County Libraries. 36 attendees.



Event Feedback:

- *I learned very interesting information about Harriet Tubman. I also learned about the tours that are done in Halifax. Keep up the great work, I really enjoyed this information session.*
- *(I learned) That UGRR History is so close to home and so accessible. Such great work! Such dedication. Good information, reflective of hard work. Such a wonderful, informative program.*

09/19/2019 Event #3 Tillery Community Center, Tillery, NC

This two-hour lunch event included a hot, southern-style lunch. Hosted by the Tillery Community Center in partnership with Halifax County Libraries, Concerned Citizens of Tillery, Roanoke River Partners and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to Carol and Rose delivering their program on the Roanoke River UGRR Trail, Brenda (Mills) Faithful of Halifax County Public Libraries spoke again on local resources. 30 attendees.

Event Feedback:

- *(I learned) The possibilities for partnerships in the county. Please continue to share information with the community. There are lots of Black Family reunions in the area during the year; maybe the Visitors Center could share those with your organization.*
- *(I learned) The connection to the River.*

10/05/2019 Event #4 Somerset Place State Historic Site, Creswell, NC

The Somerset Place Foundation created this all day event with several guided tours and demonstrations on antebellum life plus a lunch of light sandwiches and chips. Worked in partnership with Hope Plantation, Washington County and Roanoke River Partners. Carol presented an hour-long program on the Roanoke River UGRR Trail and staffed an exhibit for the day. While no written comments were collected, many favorable verbal responses were received, and some expressing that they were not aware of the local UGRR history prior to attending this event. 35 attendees.

10/17/2019 Event #5 Martin Country Library, Williamston, NC

This three-hour evening program included a southern-style barbeque dinner. Hosted by the Martin County Historical Society, in partnership with Martin County Library, Daughters of the American Revolution, Roanoke River Partners, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Carol and Rose delivered their program on the RR UGRR Trail. 55 attendees.

Event Feedback:

- *Just beginning to know about the Roanoke River being a part of the UGRR. Good presentation.*
- *The reading of Moses book intro was interesting. Suggestion: Would like to have more info on history of UGRR in Martin and surrounding counties.*



02/01/2020 Event #6 Hope Plantation, Roanoke-Chowan Heritage Center, Windsor, NC

This two-hour morning program included a continental breakfast. Hosted by the Historic Hope Foundation, in partnership with NC African American Heritage Commission, Roanoke River Partners, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Carol and Rose presented an hour-long program on the Roanoke River UGRR Trail, after which Angela Thorpe of the NCAAHC did an hour-long presentation about female African American author Hannah Crafts and the book she penned during antebellum times, called "The Bondwoman's Narrative." 72 attendees.

Event Feedback:

- *I really love the ideas that you are coming up with. Thank you for doing so much to preserve African American culture for our children.*
- *Awesome information – so thankful to learn that the river is being protected and that the UGRR existed and is being promoted.*
- *Very informative! Lots of resources to share. Interesting to learn more about women of the UGRR and the book list.*

02/15/2020 Event #7 Vernon James Center, Plymouth, NC

This hour-long program included light sandwiches, veggies, and chips, and was hosted by the Alliance for Greater Eastern North Carolina – WC in partnership with Roanoke River Partners and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Many booths from various local organizations provided the opportunity to see beautiful crafts and artwork. Carol and Rose presented their program on the Roanoke River UGRR Trail, which was followed by the Alliance showing of the new movie "Harriet." 50 attendees.

Event Feedback:

- *Everything was excellent and so needed, especially to our younger generation as well as our seniors.*
- *Great initiative that allows African Americans to understand their place in history in NC and along the Roanoke River!*

Learn more at:

www.roanokeriverpartners.org

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