



Official Newsletter of the Roanoke River Partners



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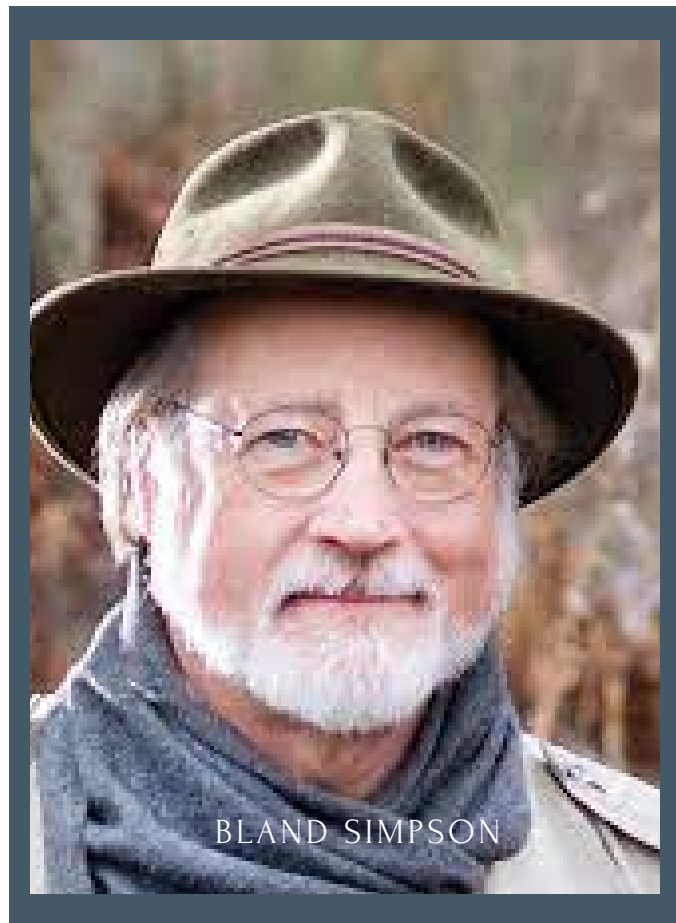
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Ripples from the Roanoke

Bland Simpson, noted author, musician, playwright, UNC professor, and so much more, recently wrote in *Our State* magazine that “[t]he mighty Roanoke River—coursing, curving, and bringing along most of the water that fills the enormous Albemarle-Pamlico sounds’ lagoon and estuary—really is our Amazon.” Realizing that this wild, beautiful river was a potential tourist attraction running through five eastern NC counties – Washington, Martin, Bertie, Halifax, Northampton -- a group of locals formed the Roanoke River Partners (RRP) back in 1996 to create eco-tourism projects and encourage related small business development.

As a result, the Roanoke River Paddle Trail with 20+ campsites was developed, the Roanoke River Mayors Association was formed, paddling events have been held all along the river and a Rosenwald school has been purchased and is being preserved and renovated into a multipurpose historic site.



Who are the Roanoke River Partners?

Meet our current Chair, **Charlotte Griffin**, Mayor of Bear Grass in Martin County and community action dynamo. Charlotte is a native of Martin County. “My family has been here for more than 200 years. The Roanoke River has always been a part of my life. My family has a long history of hunting and fishing along and on the Roanoke River and I have eaten many meals courtesy of the river’s bounty. My ties to the RRP are a natural extension of this as well as a profound understanding of the uniqueness of the Roanoke River’s historical significance, unparalleled natural resources and profound beauty.”

Charlotte became associated with RRP around 2010 when the Roanoke River Mayors’ Association officially was formed and she joined the RRP Board as a Mayor representative. A part of the Mayors’ Association mission was to support and partner with RRP to create and sustain eco and cultural heritage tourism to bring economic benefit to the region, instill local pride and preserve the region’s natural beauty and resources. Her favorite RRP experience was the 25th year celebration, “because it was a testament to the commitment and perseverance of the individuals who envisioned the need to identify and preserve the Roanoke’s unique ecosystem, natural resources, and history while at the same time promoting these assets to act as an economic driver for the entire Roanoke River region as well as for the towns that inhabit the region.”



Invaluable Volunteers

RRP would like to thank longtime volunteers **Heber Coltrain** and **Joe Huff** and introduce you to our newest volunteer, **Richard Tarr**. While Heber and Joe are locals, Richard is a new part-time resident of the Cashie River region and uses his new jetski to inspect the platforms. Together this crew is routinely repairing and maintaining the platforms along the paddle trail. They trim branches, add river trail markers, repair water and storm damage, replace brooms and are adding cleats to the platforms for ease in safely tying up boats. As you can imagine, we could not keep our platforms operational without the work these men do. We also welcome notice from our paddlers of damage along the trail that needs our attention!



Spring Paddle Update & Membership Social

We hoped to announce a date for the Spring Paddle but have learned that the creeks have not yet been cleared from downed trees, limbs and debris. As soon as progress is made, we will announce a date for the Spring Paddle and a social event the night before.



Website & Reservation Status

Thanks for your patience as we deal with upgrading and improving our website. Our paddle trail is open. Just follow directions at www.roanokeriverpartners.org. We plan to transition to a new reservation system linked to our old website shortly.

In Memoriam

Longtime RRP board member, **Bill Smith**, passed away earlier this fall. He was a good man and volunteered at numerous paddling events sharing his river stories with our visitors. We miss him!



Special Thanks



Special thanks to the **Town of Windsor** for the use of their boat over the summer for platform maintenance and the Board of Directors for their tireless efforts keeping RRP on track while we proceed temporarily without an Executive Director.

Want to Join Roanoke River Partners?

To join RRP, please check out our
Website: www.roanokeriverpartners.org
Call: 252/792-3790
Email: contact@roanokeriverpartners.org.
LIKE us on **FACEBOOK**
[Roanoke River Partners](#)



Thank You

With deep appreciation, Roanoke River Partners would like to thank **Carol Shields** for the personal dedication, energy and effort she put forth as Executive Director from 7/1/2013-11/30/2020. We wish her the very best as she spends more time taking care of her family. She now serves the board in an advisory capacity.

