



## RIVER PARTNERS NEWS

In November 2021, the Roanoke River was authorized by the NC Legislature as the 12<sup>th</sup> State Trail in North Carolina. We are currently working to gain approval by NC State Trails as part of the application designation process.

Be on the lookout for upcoming signage that will feature the Roanoke River State Trail (RRST) blaze at Roanoke River region boat access areas to mark the RRST.



Charlotte Griffin, Representative Michael Wray and Brent Lubbock

As the nonprofit partner of the RRST, Roanoke River Partners, Inc. is in the process of receiving funding of \$500,000 from the Department of Cultural and Natural Resources as part of the \$29.25 million allocated towards trail funding by the General Assembly. We plan to use half (\$250,000) for camping platform renovations, and half (\$250,000) for renovations to the Hamilton Rosenwald School.

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The newly named Roanoke River State (RRST) extends from Roanoke Rapids to the Albemarle Sound and includes six counties.



2023 is the "Year of the Trail" as designated by The NC General. This statewide campaign will showcase and promote trails: hiking, biking, paddling, and equestrian trails to encourage healthy living. Outdoor recreation is a \$28 billion industry in our state.

see: <https://greattrainsnc.com/>

To celebrate, mark your calendar for three upcoming events in the Roanoke Region:

- Morotoc Park Paddle Day & Festival – Williamston, NC Saturday, April 1, 2023
- NC Black Bear Festival – Plymouth, NC Saturday, June 3, 2023
- Halifax County – Fall 2023 – details forthcoming

# Platform Camping News



Out with the OLD: Hauling away the old decking.



After a day's work cutting out roots to get the boat between the platform. Richard Tarr & Heber Coltrain.



In with the NEW: The Beaver Tail Platform has been fully re-decked. Thanks to Earl Hoggard's Repair Service along with volunteers: Heber Coltrain, Jeff Horton, Richard Tarr, Joe Huff, Russell Jinnette and Bob Fedak.



The new Odom boat access (Northampton County) is now open in Jackson, NC.



In July, Roanoke River Partners, Inc. purchased a used (IT'S NEW TO US!) boat, a 21' Coastal Skiff to help us with our river work.



# Rosenwald News



We are continuing to search for **funds** to complete the Rosenwald school for use as a multipurpose historic site. **This circa-1920 school will be the headquarters for the newly designated Roanoke River State Trail and Roanoke River Partners, Inc.**

The completed river center will also serve as a **community center for the Town of Hamilton**, a depository for Roanoke River history and riverine science exhibits; Roanoke River Underground Railroad history and artifacts exhibits which feature the Roanoke River as a part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom; and an authentic Rosenwald School setting with associated historic artifacts, printed materials, and oral histories. Incorporating both indoor/outdoor gathering space, our completed river/community center will facilitate regional events.

**Cost Estimates:** (recent price increases are making our efforts more challenging)

Renovation cost of the building:	\$998,347
Cost for parking area, camp site and trail:	<u>\$258,232</u>
Total project cost: Remaining	\$1,256,579

**Funding Status:**

Amount spent in Phase 1 for roof, new windows:	\$115,115
Funds on hand in RRP bank for project:	\$120,000
State Trails money - incoming	<u>\$250,000</u>
Total funding available for Phase 2:	\$370,000
Funds needed to begin Phase 2 (would enable use of building):	\$693,952
Funds needed to begin Phase 3:	\$562,627

## Job Opening

### Want to Join Roanoke River Partners?

Please check our Website:  
[www.roanokeriverpartners.org](http://www.roanokeriverpartners.org)

Call: 252/792-3790  
Email: [contact@roanokeriverpartners.org](mailto:contact@roanokeriverpartners.org).  
See our Membership Form attached

Roanoke River Partners, Inc. is considering hiring a Regional Coordinator in 2023. If you have interest, please email resume to [contact@roanokeriverpartner.org](mailto:contact@roanokeriverpartner.org).

The Regional Coordinator is responsible for implementing the organization's mission, goals, and objectives as set forth in the strategic plan developed by the RRP Board of Directors. The Regional Coordinator will promote and market RRP as a gateway to this culturally and economically diverse, rural region by maintaining a strong regional network of collaborators, including grassroots organizations, eco- and cultural-heritage tourism businesses and interests, rural communities in the region, government leaders and community development entities. The Regional Coordinator will report to the Chair of the RRP Board of Directors and will have responsibility for the organization's consistent achievement of its mission and financial objectives.

# DID YOU KNOW?

## The Roanoke River

- Longest River in North Carolina (410miles)
- Drains 9,680 square miles (6,195,200 acres)
- The Roanoke River moves more water than any other river in North Carolina
- Average Flow: 7,802 cubic feet per second
- Supports 214 Bird Species
- The Roanoke River Basin is the largest intact bottomland forest east of the Mississippi River
- Between the NC Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, NC Wildlife Resources Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service there are more than 93,000 acres of floodplain forest permanently protected below the Roanoke Rapids Dam.



Rapids In Weldon, NC



Roanoke River Delta in Plymouth

### ***RRP Board Members***

**Brent Lubbock, Chair**, Halifax County  
**Chase Conner, Vice Chair**, Martin County  
**Jean Richter, Secretary / Treasurer**, Bertie County  
**Dock Boone**, Northampton County  
**Charlotte Griffin**, Martin County  
**Phil Hodges**, Martin County  
**Joe Huff**, Bertie County  
**Jerry M. McCrary**, Martin County  
**Lucia C. Peel**, Martin County  
**Curtis Potter**, Washington County  
**Sheila Powell**, Mecklenburg County  
**Bruce Tyler**, Halifax County  
**Christina Wells**, Halifax County  
**Cathy Wilson**, Bertie County  
**Martha Thompson**, Emeritus Member, Bertie County

**Advisory Board Members**  
**Crystal Baity**, Pitt County  
**Steve Biggs**, Bertie County  
**Tom Harrison**, Washington County  
**David M. Head**, NC Division of Parks and Recreation  
**Jeff Horton**, Wake County  
**Aaron J. McCall**, The Nature Conservancy  
**Lori Medlin**, Halifax County  
**Victoria Newcombe**, Northampton County  
**Bailey Phelps**, Martin County  
**Smith Raynor**, State Trails Planner  
**David (Dave) C. Schwartz**, Pitt County  
**Carol J. Shields**, Halifax County

### **Staff**

**Anne C. Lunsford**, Paddle & Financial Coordinator



Hello, I am Brent Lubbock, the current Chair of the Roanoke River Partners; a position I took starting in January 2022 after serving as the Vice Chair. The Roanoke River Partners is a wonderful non-profit to be able to work with, since we impact such a large section of northeastern North Carolina while helping people access and support the communities along the Roanoke River. The volunteers that support the organization - from donations to clerical work, to construction - is one of the most amazing group of individuals with which to collaborate. I have always appreciated the Roanoke River, but truly gained an understanding of its impact as the Director of Operations at Sylvan Heights Bird Park. When the park started back in 2006, I was told the biggest attraction around was the river. It was here before us, it is here now, and it will be around when we are gone!



# Roanoke River Partners, Inc.

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252-792-3790  
[contact@roanokeriverpartners.org](mailto:contact@roanokeriverpartners.org)

## **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Thank you for your interest in Roanoke River Partners (RRP). Through our development and operation of the Roanoke River Paddle Trail and our partnership with small towns along the Roanoke River Region, our organization is furthering its mission of encouraging sustainable economic development in our region through eco-tourism. Would you like to support our actions?

As a member of the Roanoke River Partners at any level, you'll receive our newsletter and periodic invitations to events such as membership socials.

Complete this form & mail with your check made payable to: **Roanoke River Partners** to the above address.

If you prefer, you may pay for your membership online by visiting [www.roanokeriverpartners.org](http://www.roanokeriverpartners.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select one of the following membership levels (please check one):**

*\*For your convenience, you can find the date of your most recent renewal on your address label!*

\_\_\_ **MEMBER.....\$35.00**

\_\_\_ **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP.....\$50.00**

\_\_\_ **SMALL BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION.....\$100.00**

\_\_\_ **COMMUNITY PARTNER.....\$250.00**

\_\_\_ **CORPORATE/TDA TOURISM PARTNER.....\$500.00**

\_\_\_ **FRIEND OF THE ROANOKE.....\$1,000.00**

\_\_\_ **Special Donation for ROSENWALD River Center Project .....\$**

**ROANOKE RIVER TOWN Memberships \*Also available with fees based on population**

**Looking for a unique gift for the outdoor adventurer on your list?**

Why not consider a **Roanoke River Partners Gift Certificate** starting at **\$25** dollars?

--- **\$25** for 2 campers for one night; **\$50** for 2 campers for two nights; etc.

Email us at [contact@roanokeriverpartners.org](mailto:contact@roanokeriverpartners.org) for more info!

**Got an old boat, car or truck that you would like to donate and get the tax deduction?**

Your tax-deductible donation to RRP of an item that you are no longer using could be a win/win.