

# Roanoke River Partners, Inc.

Post Office Box 488, Windsor, North Carolina 27983-0488  
252-792-3790  
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.

# Roanoke River Partners, Inc | Roanoke River State Trail Fall Newsletter | November 2023



## Rosenwald Update



The Roanoke River Partners, Inc. has been set on "GO" in 2023 to begin renovations of the circa 1920 Hamilton Rosenwald School for use as the headquarters for the Roanoke River Partners, Inc., and the Roanoke River State Trail and as a multipurpose event site. During late fall 2022 and early 2023, RRP received a \$100,000 Cannon Foundation Grant and we along with Martin County were notified of approval for a \$550,000 Community Development Block Grant earmarked for this project. An additional \$200,000 in the NC Budget, passed in Fall 2023 will provide additional funds towards this project. The cumbersome process for the CBDG grant required an environmental review which has just been approved. Next step is RFP, Request for Proposal to solicit bids from qualified contractors. We are closer to our goals as work can be done in phases based on funds available. We are thankful for Town of Bear Grass Mayor Charlotte Griffin who has spent countless hours this year moving this project forward. We proudly announce that she received the Governor's Service Award in May 2023 for the many volunteer hours she contributes to the region.

## Accesses Designated

In 2023, fifteen Roanoke regional accesses were approved with applications being signed by Sec. Reid Wilson to be fully part of the Roanoke River State Trail. This fall Roanoke River State Trail (RRST) signs have been posted on the approved boating accesses and on the RRP camping platforms that have had renovations completed. After taking the summer off, construction work began again at the end of October to work on additional camping site repairs.



RRST sign added at Odom Access



Bertie Beach – New public beach and access on the Chowan River (with campsites coming soon), 243 Bal Gra Rd, Merry Hill, NC



Bring your friends to paddle the Roanoke River State Trail!



Reality Ministries Group from Durham enjoying a river trip!



State Trail Logos are now displayed on the platforms!



Conine Campsite – Renovated!



We are appreciative of Mr. Heber Coltrain's efforts of rescuing a deserted 14' Alumacraft jon boat which is now owned by and in use by RRP. This boat joins our 21' Coastal Skiff for maintenance work.

## Year of the Trail

**The Roanoke River** was recently authorized as the 12<sup>th</sup> State Trail in North Carolina by the N.C. General Assembly. This statewide campaign promotes trails: hiking, biking, paddling, and equestrian trails to encourage healthy living.

<https://greattrailsnc.com/>

In **2024** North Carolina will continue to be **The Great Trails State!** Enjoy Your Trails Today!



## Lucia Claire Peel

We mourn the loss of longtime RRP board member and former board chair, Lucia Claire Peel, who passed away in May. Lucia was dedicated to moving the vision of RRP forward with her love for the paddle trail, and she often helped paddlers with canoes, shuttles, and lodging at her B&B. She was instrumental in managing the construction of Phase 1 renovations of the Rosenwald School which added roof and windows to secure the building from weather as well as so much more. No words can fully capture what Lucia meant to RRP. She was truly the heart and soul of the organization and did everything out of love for the Roanoke River and eastern NC. Lucia Peel was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine this spring.

Lucia's mother, Lucia Peel Powe also passed away this year. Lucia Powe, another longtime supporter, gave tirelessly to RRP. She donated proceeds from her two books, Roanoke Rock Muddle and The Osprey's View to our organization. Both will be greatly missed!

**Memory Plaques Are Up** - A memorial plaque has been added to the walkway between Beaver Lodge and Beaver Tail platforms in loving memory of Lucia Claire Peel. A second memorial plaque has been added to Conine Platform in memory of Lucia Peel Powe. These two plaques join the Barred Owl Roost memorial plaque in memory of Carolyn Roberson who ran Roberson's Marina for many years and interacted with numerous campers in the early years.



## Did you know?

"The Roanoke River is one of The Nature Conservancy's oldest and largest conservation sites. TNC has protected more than 95,000 acres on the river, including 1,758 acres this year."

- 833 acres on the south side of the Roanoke in Halifax County
- 925 acres on the north side of the Roanoke in Northampton County

(TNC Magazine - 2023)

## Publicity

Roanoke River region recently featured:

- 1) Trail Segment - PBS - "Ten to Try"  
<https://video.pbsnc.org/video/trails-stjcrb/>
- 2) Raleigh Magazine - June 2023
- 3) Regional Newspapers - September and October 2023 - article series - Read on RRP Facebook page.

## Membership

- **We invite you to join Roanoke River Partners and Become a MEMBER today!**
- We could use your help for the regional development of our 5 year plan!
- **Five year plan:** <https://trails.nc.gov/state-trails/roanoke-river-state-trail>
- **To join RRP click on Membership at [www.roanokeriverpartners.org](http://www.roanokeriverpartners.org)**
- **Or contact us! LIKE us on FACEBOOK**

### Regional Events:

#### Bertie County

- Candlelight Tour at Hope - Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, 6-9 pm
- Christmas at Hope - Sunday, December 3, 2023, 1-5 pm

#### Chowan County

- December 2nd - Christmas/Tree Lighting/Flotilla
- December 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> - 42<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Candlelight Tour
- December 9<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Parade
- April 26 + 27 - Easels In The Garden Tour
- April 26 - Boogie on Broad
- June 5-9 - Major League Fishing. Edenton, NC.

[www.visitedenton.com/MLF](http://www.visitedenton.com/MLF)

#### Martin County:

- Martin County 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will take place on March 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- On March 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a formal event; March 16<sup>th</sup> at Moratoc Park for "Made in Martin" style festival.

#### Washington County:

- NC Bear Festival, June 1, 2024 – Plymouth

Be on the lookout for other regional events on the Roanoke River Partners, Inc. Facebook Page!

## RRP Board Members

Dock Boone, Northampton County  
Chase Conner, Martin County  
Charlotte Griffin, Martin County  
Brent Lubbock, Halifax County  
Phil Hodges, Martin County  
Joe Huff, Bertie County  
Jerry M. McCrary, Martin County  
Curtis Potter, Washington County  
Sheila Powell, Mecklenburg County  
Jean Richter, Bertie County  
Bruce Tyler, Halifax County  
Cathy Wilson, Bertie County  
Connor Winstead, Halifax County  
Martha Thompson, Emeritus Member, Bertie County  
Crystal Baily, Advisory Member, Pitt County  
Steve Biggs, Advisory Member, Martin County  
Brian Chappell, Advisory Member, Chowan County  
Tom Harrison, Advisory Member, Washington County  
David M. Head, Advisory Member, Wake County  
Jeff Horton, Advisory Member, Wake County  
Aaron J. McCall, Advisory Member, Dare County  
Lori Medlin, Advisory Member, Halifax County  
Erienne Mizell, Advisory Member, Chowan County  
Victoria Newcombe, Advisory Member, Northampton County  
Bailey Phelps, Advisory Member, Martin County  
Smith Raynor, Advisory Member, Wake County  
David (Dave) C. Schwartz, Advisory Member, Pitt County  
Carol J. Shields, Advisory Member, Halifax County

### Staff

Anne C. Lunsford, Paddle & Financial Coordinator

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