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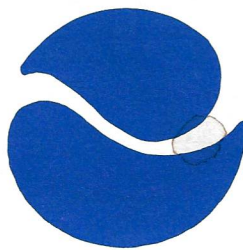
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"A
river
is more than
an amenity,
it is
a
treasure."
Justice Wm. O. Douglas



THE GREENWAY NEWS

Feasting, Festivities, and Fine Weather: 1985 Friends of the River Party

by Dr. Judith Wray, Board Member

The bright green walls and big glass pyramid of the Denver Children's Museum shone in the warm sun on September 8th, as approximately one hundred friends of the Greenway arrived to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the efforts to reclaim the Platte, and to honor this year's FRIENDS OF THE RIVER. Inside the Museum festive red, yellow, and blue chairs matched the brilliance of the Gates-Crescent Park lawns outside, and lively jazz, ragtime, and classical melodies performed by pianist Hank Troy and violinist Becky Burchfield kept the guests in a festive mood as they chatted, feasted on the tasty buffet, wandered through exhibits in the Museum, or strolled across the rolling landscape of the park.

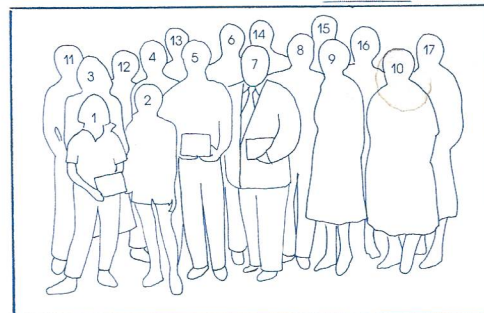
Chairman Joe Shoemaker called everyone outside at 5:00 p.m. for the Award Ceremony and began to cite the impressive contributions of the six winners of the 1985 FRIENDS OF THE RIVER AWARDS. Accepting the beautifully engraved plaques exclaiming their accomplishment were the Denver Waldorf School, represented by faculty member Karen Baker, and students Daniela Torrez and Douglas Martin; Merle Grimes, former Trail Ranger Supervisor and longtime volunteer advisor on botanic and other environmental matters; Richard Gooding, Chairman of the Board of the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Denver; Tom McCarron, General Manager of Premium Beverages; Jack Unitt with the U.S. Army



Corps of Engineers; and Gary Lacy, longtime volunteer advisor on boating safety and boatchute construction matters.

Special guest speaker Ron Holliday, Director of Colorado State Parks and Outdoor Recreation, touched the hearts and minds of everyone with his tribute to the Platte, and indeed all rivers.

As the sun sank and the music stopped, as the last bites of cherry cobbler were savored and final congratulations were paid to each winner, everyone agreed that Denver's Platte River Greenway hiker-biker trail, the rushing Platte, the beautiful Riverside parks, and the Children's Museum, have all helped make Denver one of the finest cities in the country in which to live, work, and play.

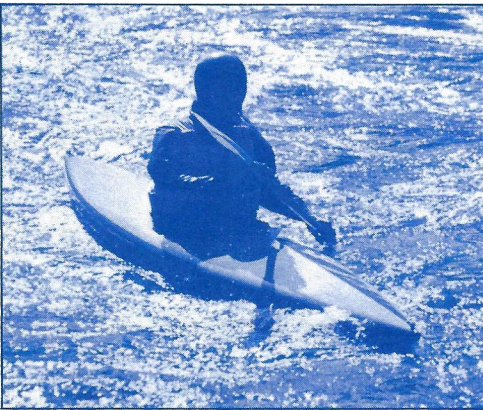


1985 Friend of the River Award winners and Greenway Foundation Board Members and staff. 1. Daniela Torrez and 2. Douglas Martin from Denver Waldorf School. Award winners 3. Karen Baker (Denver Waldorf School), 4. Gary Lacy, 5. Merle Grimes, 6. Richard Gooding of Pepsi Cola Bottling Co. of Denver, 7. Jack Unitt, and Board Members 8. Philip Milstein, 9. Judith Wray, and 10. Edna Doyle. 11. Jeff Shoemaker, Greenway Foundation Director, and Board Members 12. Joe Shoemaker, 13. Steve Metcalf, 14. Bill Avery, 15. Bill DeGroot, 16. Glenda Lyle, and 17. Carol Gossard. (not shown — Tom McCarron of Premium Beverages).

1985 Great Relay Race Celebrates a Revitalized River "Twenty Years After the Flood"!



After receiving over a century of abuse, the South Platte fought back in 1965.



Paddling down a debris free River, 20 years later!

Fortunately for this kayaking participant in the 1985 Great Relay Race, there was an absence of the floating bridge sections, seen in this reminder of the 1965 flood, as he paddled his way down the South Platte on June 16th. Celebrating 20 years of improvements since this terrible disaster was the focus of this year's Race, and more than 1000 athletes participated in the annual benefit for the Platte River Greenway Foundation.

The addition of a fourth course along Bear Creek was just one of the highlights of the Race, along with "Superstar" Gary Lacy reclaiming first prize on the South Section with an amazing time of 2:13:20. This year's event raised over \$4000 for ongoing efforts of the Greenway Foundation, and allowed participants and spectators yet another opportunity to enjoy this unique \$14 million amenity.

Everyone enjoyed the festivities at Confluence Park, finish line for all four courses, including the fabulous sounds of the Queen City Jazz Band, and of course plenty of food and drink. After all teams and individuals had finished, Race Organizer Joan Mason presented the top finishers with their awards. The top three teams and *all* finishing "Superstars" were given a specially designed medal, provided courtesy of Premium Beverages. Winners included:

South Section:

- 1st — Denton, Harper, Marshall — 2:18:21
- 2nd — Friends of Washington Park — 2:18:25

- 3rd — Cherry Hills Farm Athletic Club — 2:19:36

Superstars: Gary Lacy — 2:13:20

Rick Tice — 4:08:32 (Rick sacrificed his competitive time to help a group of boaters in trouble!)

Bear Creek Section:

- 1st — Denver Water Dept. — 1:16:30

- 2nd — Athletes Against Hunger — 1:26:34

- 3rd — Davis, Graham, and Stubbs — 1:32:34

Superstars: Tom Lacy — 1:25:26

Jim Culligan — 1:37:44

North Section:

- 1st — A Team — 2:39:00

- 2nd — Littleton Fire Dept. — 2:47:08

- 3rd — Thistle Mudslide — 2:53:33

Superstars: Bill & Janet Bellis — 4:31:07

Cherry Creek Section:

- 1st — Washington Park Hackers — 1:32:53

- 2nd — Luffbusters — 1:37:01

- 3rd — Cruising Consulting — 1:51:22

Superstars: Leroy Archuleta — 1:50:38

Robert O'Donnell — 2:00:26

Walter Alison — 2:09:56

Jeff Shoemaker — 2:39:07

This nationally known event was made possible through the generosity of a host of very special sponsors including newcomers, the Colorado Lottery and Options, Inc., and old friends Premium Beverages and KBPI/KNUS. Of course a percentage of every participant's entry fee also went towards the proceeds for the Greenway Foundation's efforts.

Many thanks to all those involved in making this, the 6th Annual Great Relay Race, a resounding success. Next year's Race is already being planned. Tentative dates are June 15th or 22nd, and four race courses will again be traversed as boaters, runners, skaters, wheelchairs, and walkers will make their way to Confluence Park to celebrate a River that is once again a place of enjoyment and pride for all of Denver. For more information about the 1986 Great Relay Race, contact the Mason Consulting Group at (303) 753-9077.

1985 — A Year of Continued Improvement, Protection, and Promotion

by Jeff Shoemaker, Executive Director

The Platte River Greenway, one of Denver's newest and most unique assets, has now entered an exciting second decade. Over eleven years ago, efforts began to renovate this "nothing of a river" into the nationally recognized Platte River Greenway, now the home of a 10.5 mile hiker-biker trail, acres of Riverside parks, and a clean River that is boatable for kayak, canoe, and white-water raft enthusiasts.

1985 has seen an emphasis towards promoting and protecting this special asset as well as making plans and efforts for further physical improvements in the months ahead. The best addition to the Greenway this year has been our first full time Trail Ranger. Due to the ever increasing usage of the Greenway, as well as the existence of numerous amenities needing regular attention, the Board of Directors felt the time and need had arisen for someone to keep an "eye on the River" on a year round basis.

For the last eleven months, this demanding job was handled very capably by Mr. Brad Hueske. After a hard working summer on the Greenway, Brad was offered and accepted a position on the Fire Department in Farmington, New Mexico. Brad will be missed, but is given our best wishes and appreciation for his quality work during the past year.

After a lengthy and involved interview process, Mr. Chris Korba was selected as our New Trail Ranger Supervisor. Chris is a graduate of C.S.U., receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture. Chris has an extensive background in landscaping, sprinkler installation and repair, and has several years of experience supervising maintenance and repair crews.

Because of the new full time Trail Ranger program, we had the most successful summer Trail Ranger Crew to date, and have been able to keep up with the many maintenance responsibilities connected with this \$14 million amenity. Chris will con-

tinue to work closely with the various Denver Parks Crews, and will also continue to maintain regular usage of weekend D.U.I. crews to help with litter removal, trail sweeping, etc.

The benefits of having someone on the Greenway year round are already very evident as one travels up and down the Greenway. Chris encourages all of you to stop him with any suggestions and hopefully compliments the next time you see him traveling along the hiker-biker trail.

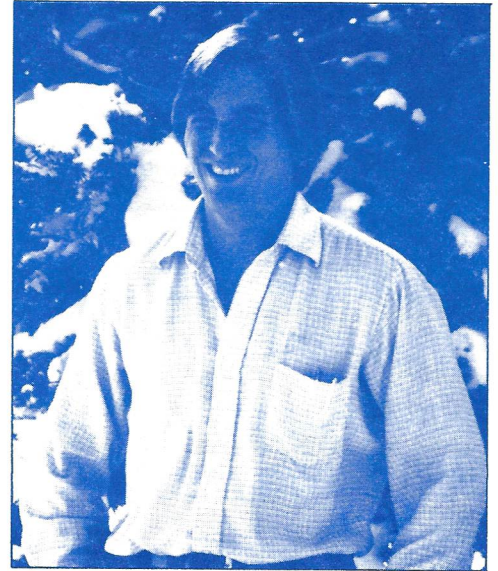
The summer months brought a bevy of special events on the Greenway including the 1985 Great Relay Race, "20 Years After the Flood". This year's Race included the largest number of participants to date, as well as \$4000 of support for our efforts. (For more on the Race, see the related article on p.2.)

The 1985 "Concerts on the Green" series hosted over 5000 music lovers, all enjoying top quality jazz, gospel, and country-western favorites. A very special "Thank You" goes out to all the sponsors who made the series possible including:

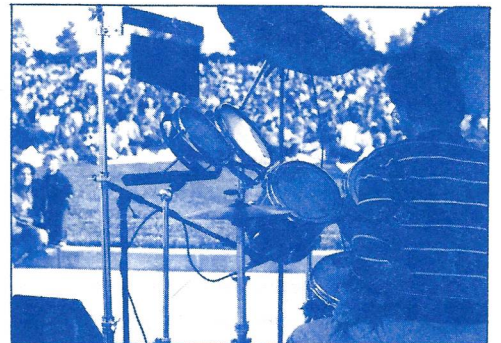
- 1) First Colorado Bank and Trust
- 2) Mile High Land Associates
- 3) Riverside Baptist Church
- 4) KCNC — Channel 4
- 5) Rocky Mountain News
- 6) KADX — f.m. jazz radio
- 7) KBRQ — a.m. & f.m. country radio

A special note of appreciation is also given to *Eddie Bauer's*, a local sporting goods and sportswear outlet for using our "Concert on the Green" promotional plastic bag in lieu of their own. This greatly helped us get out "the word" about the times, dates, and groups involved with this quality, free concert series.

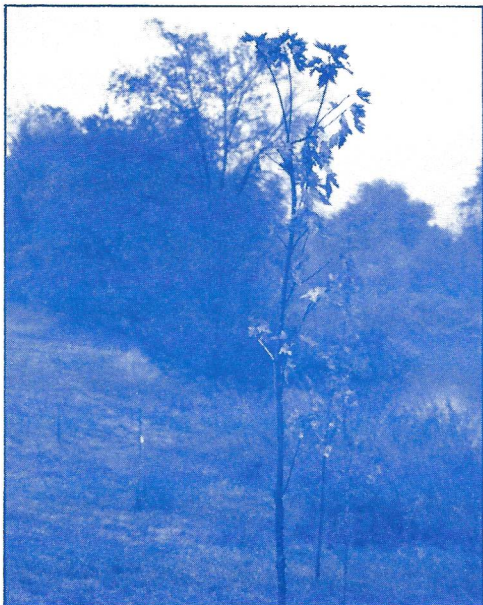
Through the support of the Denver Area Council-Boy Scouts of America, and the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation, plans to further renovate Habitat Park into a Cub Scout Daycamp facility are well underway. This former landfill dumpsite, located near Alameda Ave. and



Mr. Chris Korba, Trail Ranger Supervisor



Images, our Jazz Concert entertainment, delighted the crowd at our June 26th "Concert on the Green".



One of 50 new trees planted along the Greenway this summer, courtesy of Options, Inc.

Santa Fe Boulevard, will house a meeting and storage facility, and a new parking lot at the south end of the park. Over the next several years, additional improvements will include trees and shrubs, a possible fishing and boat dock, and much more.

Young Scouts between the ages of 8-11 will be able to have a variety of outdoor experiences right in the heart of Denver. The cooperative agreement between the City and County of Denver, and the Denver Area Council-Boy Scouts of America, is in the final stages, with a timetable calling for the construction of the Program Shelter and parking lot to take place during 1986. For further information on this exciting improvement, contact Mr. David McFarland, Denver Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, at 455-5522.

Habitat Park is also the proud owner of 50 new shade trees. Located in several locations throughout the park, this generous and beautiful addition to the Greenway is courtesy of Options, Inc., formerly U.F.M. Services, in celebration of 20 years of offering a variety of services to the needy in the Denver metropolitan area. This gift, valued at over \$5000, is greatly appreciated and will be enjoyed by the thousands of Greenway users for many years to come.

Progress is very evident at Overland Pond Educational Park. Thanks to the continued efforts and support of both the Colorado Federation of Garden

Clubs, Inc., and the Parks and Recreation Dept. of Denver, several improvements to this former gravel mining site have already begun.

As stated in our last edition of the Greenway News, the park will receive additional landscaping via the planting of native groups of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses, representative of the plains, floodplain, foothills, montane, and sub-alpine ecological zones. Children and adults alike will learn about the diversity of Colorado's plant life in this unique Riverside park.

Several aspects of preparing the park for the addition of hundreds of new trees, shrubs and wildflowers, have been completed or are underway, including:

- 1) Soil preparation via tilling and fertilization
- 2) Final grading, landscaping, and clean-up
- 3) Nature trail grading, with a follow up covering of reddish sandstone gravel, which will be wheelchair accessible.
- 4) Additional grass seeding, occurring in mid-November.

C.F.G.C. continues to progress with their fundraising campaign to raise the needed funds for an irrigation system, trees, and shrubs, and hopes to see the park well on its way to completion by spring of 1986.

A plan is available upon request to those interested in helping develop Overland Pond Educational Park. Write to: Mrs. Stella Marker, 12660 East 2nd Ave., Aurora, Colorado 80011.

The Greenway Study Unit continues to grow both in support and usage. Every elementary school principal has received an edition of our curriculum guide, "Various Approaches to Studying the Platte River Greenway", along with copies of endorsement letters from the D.P.S. administration as well as a number of teachers who have utilized this unique addition to the elementary school curriculum.

Since the beginning of the '85-'86 school year, several elementary schools from throughout the metro

Progress continues at Overland Pond Educational Park.



area have taken part in this classroom and field trip experience, learning about the importance of the Platte River to the past, present, and future of Denver. For information on how to receive more details on this exciting concept, contact the Greenway Foundation office.

Funds for several physical improvements to the Greenway are currently being solicited. First on our priority list has been to match the \$100,000 challenge Grant from the Gates Foundation with an additional \$85,000. \$10,000 of this has been committed from the Quick Foundation, provided the remaining \$75,000 be raised by December 1st of this year, which is also the deadline from the Gates Foundation. We are confident this will occur and the collective funds will allow us to eliminate the flooding of the hiker-biker trail that occurs each spring and summer at four underpasses. This will be accomplished via the construction of retaining walls between the hiker-biker trail and the edge of the River, as well as raising the trail several inches at various locations.

The boardwalk section of the trail between 8th and 13th Ave. is in need of repairs and with sufficient financial support (\$250,000), this eleven year old structure will be replaced with a concrete path and metal railing counterpart.

Finally, the last obstacle to a portage-free boatable River is at Florida Ave., and we continue to work to obtain the remaining \$125,000 needed to construct a boatchute that would eliminate the current unsightly and dangerous rubble dam.

In the meantime, thanks to the support of our valued Greenway Foundation members, we have been able to accomplish the following over the course of the year:

- The 1985 Greenway Trail Rangers, each riding over 25 miles daily, have kept this \$14 million amenity in top-notch condition. These five college age individuals were in addition to our new full time Trail Ranger Supervisor, mentioned earlier in this article.



Lighting repairs, fence building, tree trimming, litter removal, bike repair, first-aid and C.P.R. certification, and assistance at all our special events are just a few of the tasks these five valuable summer employees have accomplished.

- Additional signage, flower gardens, trees, chicken wire to "protect" the trees, and more have been added all along the Greenway.

- Initial support has been received for the construction of the Florida Ave. boatchute from a number of corporate and individual donors.

Our membership roster is up by 20% this year, and these individuals, corporations, companies, etc. are the key to any successes we've been able to achieve. To those of you who have supported the Greenway this year, I offer the thanks of the thousands of daily users of this special facility, and encourage you to share this newsletter with a friend, neighbor, or business acquaintance, inviting them to become a part of the Greenway "family" as well.

The goals and objectives for 1986 are being discussed now. Your suggestions on how the Greenway can improve even further are, as always, requested and welcome. In the meantime, take advantage soon of a nice weekend afternoon, and bring family and friends down to the banks of a River celebrating over a decade of restoration and revival. The Platte truly is *your* River, and is also "The Only River in Town"! On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Platte River Greenway Foundation, thank you for your continued support, and best wishes for a joyous Holiday Season and a successful New Year.

Students took a well deserved break during one of this year's field trips along the Greenway, the final aspect of the Greenway Study Unit.

Making the Platte a People Place Depends on You!

- 1) \$30.00 – Annual Membership for you or a friend. Included in the membership is a Membership Card entitling you to:
 - All copies of this newsletter printed in 1985.
 - Notice of upcoming special events held along the Greenway during 1985.
 - 20% discount on food and spirits for up to 4 persons at Zang's Brewing Co. (offer applies to any one evening, anytime during 1985).
 - All *new* members will receive a copy of our book, "Returning the Platte to the People".
- 2) \$50.00 – Commemorating Member – have a tree planted in the name of a friend or loved one (Also includes all privileges of an Annual Member).
- 3) \$250.00 – Corporate Member — includes a limited edition print by well known artist William Condit entitled "Season along the Platte." All prints are signed and numbered by the artist (Also includes all Privileges of an Annual Member).

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