



GREENWAY *CURRENT*

Volume 22, Spring, 2003

Greenway Preservation Trust

Protecting Our River's Future

By Barbara Gibson, Special Events Coordinator



Photo courtesy of Bettinger Photography

Joe Shoemaker, Chairman (left) and Jeff Shoemaker, Executive Director (right) congratulate Scott Tucker as the Greenway Foundation's 2002 Friend of the River Award recipient.

On November 6, 2002, the Greenway Foundation hosted the 4th Annual "Friend of the River" Award Dinner, sponsored by Camp, Dresser & McKee. This fundraising event is a benefit for the Greenway Preservation Trust and a night of recognition for individuals who have made significant contributions to the revitalization of the South Platte River Greenway.

The 2002 Friend of the River Award was presented to L. Scott Tucker. Scott has a long association with the waterways of the Denver region. He has held his present position as the Executive Director of the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District since early 1972, less than three years after the

establishment of the District. The District is an independent form of local government set up by State law to offer one service; drainage and flood control. In addition to its flood control mission, its enabling legislation allows the District to help local governments with recreational and park facilities within drainageways, the largest being the South Platte.

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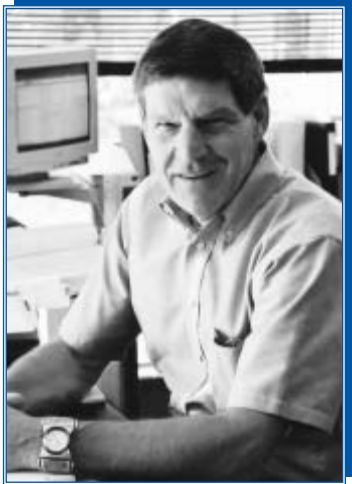


Photo courtesy of Barbara Gibson

L. Scott Tucker

In 1979, Scott was instrumental in working with Joe Shoemaker, District Chairman Wally Toevs and District Vice-Chair Cathy Reynolds to obtain State approval for a mill levy for maintenance of drainage facilities as well as recreational and park facilities within the drainage district. In 1986, Scott worked with District Board Chairman Cathy Reynolds, Joe Shoemaker and other Board members to obtain legislative approval for a mill levy dedicated to the South Platte River (SPR) which has enabled the District to establish a long term SPR program. Of all the many Friends of the River, Scott Tucker's leadership of the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District stands out for recognizing the great importance of the future care of the South Platte River Greenway system.

Scott received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Nebraska and his M.S. from the University of Arizona. For three years after his graduation, he worked with the American Society of Civil Engineers Urban Water Resources Research Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1970, he came west to work in the Urban Water Resources Research Program at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. His professional career includes an active participation in the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Public Works Association, National Association of Urban Flood Management Agencies, the Water Pollution Control Federation, Metro Wastewater Reclamation District and the EPA Federal Advisory Committee on Phase II Stormwater Sources.

Scott's interest in the outdoors extends to the mountains where he enjoys skiing and hiking with his wife Shirleen and children Chris and Amy. He has climbed thirty seven 14,000 ft. peaks in Colorado and also has been an active contributor to the skiing community as a member of the Loveland Ski Patrol since 1983. Scott's special love of the outdoors took another course in 1993 when he became an active and very successful competitive bicycle racer. He has won the Colorado State Road Race Championship twice and is an eight time winner of the Colorado State Time Trial

Championship in his age category. He was National Champion in the 40K time trial at the Masters National Championships in 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 and is a current National Record Holder in the 40K Time Trial for two age categories.



Photo courtesy of Bettinger Photography

Jeff Shoemaker (right) presents the SPREE School of the Year Award to Dori Bornt, 5th Grade Teacher and James Kullhem, Principal of Grant Ranch School.

Thanks to the support and generosity of over 260 guests and donors, and with the continued support of our corporate sponsor, Camp, Dresser and McKee, this year's Award Dinner raised over \$30,000 for the Greenway Preservation Trust. The Trust was created in 1998 to provide a permanent endowment for the Greenway Foundation and the programs/projects it oversees to protect and preserve the South Platte River and its adjoining tributaries. Over \$3 Million of donations and pledges have been secured to date. These endeavors include our Youth Education and Youth Employment programs, our free summertime Cultural and Volunteer Events, and ongoing Environmental and Recreational Enhancements to our urban waterways.

The South Platte River is truly Denver's legacy. It is the site of the founding of the city as well as many of the first settlements in the Rocky Mountain region. An early source of pride for the area, the River became a wasteland of refuse, rejected by the growing metropolitan region. Through the determined efforts of the Greenway Foundation and its many supporters, the River has been reborn to become one of the premier recreation and natural areas along the Front Range. By investing in the Greenway Preservation Trust, our Greatest Natural Resource will continue to be preserved and protected for generations to come.

Greenway Preservation Trust Supporters

January 1, 1999 – May 1, 2003

\$1,000,000 +

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\$100,000 - \$1,000,000

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Rocky Wiley
Thomas Williams
Steve Wilson
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George and Billie Yates
Mickey Zeppelin

Venice On The Creek

A New Image For An Old Friend
By Jolon Clark, Manager, Venice On The Creek

On a warm summer evening, a cool breeze blows across the Cherry Creek. The sun sets over the Rocky Mountains, silhouetting hundred-year-old railroad bridges in orange and red on the calm water. A flat-bottomed boat glides across, sending ripples through the reflection. As the boat sails along Denver's birthplace, darkness starts to fall. A lantern lights the way on the front of the boat, and two oil lamps create a romantic ambiance for the passengers as they continue their journey into Denver's past. This can only be one place... Venice on the Creek in Downtown Denver.

One thing that all of Denver's early residents knew was that the Cherry Creek was unboatable 363 days out of the year. The other two days out of the year, Cherry Creek was a one-way white water adventure of rain runoff. For the eighth summer, we are doing what these early settlers thought impossible. With a system of custom made dams and locks, we have turned the Cherry Creek into a one-of-a-kind amenity.

Our sleek English punts resemble the gondolas of Venice, and Venice on the Creek brings together the best of Italy and the best of England to create something that is uniquely Denver. The approximate 2 mile stretch of water that Venice on the Creek inhabits boasts the only boat locks in Colorado, the only punts in the United States, and one of the most intimate urban boating experiences in the world. Our boats are designed to hold no more than six adults, and on the weekends, you and your sweetheart get an entire boat to yourselves for no extra charge.

For the first time this summer, we are opening for night rides with romance as the focus. The boats will be equipped with a lantern leading the way on the front of the boat, and candle like lighting in the seating area. These rides will start at dusk and run until 10:00 p.m. any night of the week, but only by reservation. As always, passengers are free to bring a picnic and a bottle of wine for the ride. We are also teaming up with some downtown restaurants to provide food and drinks to those who would like to be truly pampered.



Photo courtesy of Dick Bettinger

Passengers enjoy a relaxing punt ride along Cherry Creek in LoDo.

The 2003 season marks the beginning of our eighth summer of operation. Things have changed quite a bit over the years. We have fully expanded from one lock to four, from running three boats to six, from fighting the rain to praying for it, and from a small crew of five to employing over 15 college and high school aged young adults. This year we have even changed our name to better reflect the feel and excitement of our boat rides.

Venice on the Creek has transformed a section of once dirty and abused urban drainage into a unique, relaxing, once in a lifetime experience. Call now to come see how we are transforming downtown Denver.

Our season opens Sunday June 1st and runs through Sunday August 24th. For information and reservations call us at 303-893-0750 or check us out on the web at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

Venice On The Creek



*Coupon Valid for
\$1.00 off a
non-discounted ticket.
(Tip Not Included)*

Ticket Office: Creekfront Plaza
Larimer & Speer 303.893.0750

Cultural and Community Events-2003

By Barbara Gibson, Special Events Coordinator



Photo courtesy of Barbara Gibson

The Confluence Concert Series will return this summer for its 6th season.

The summer of 2002 was another great success for the Greenway Foundation's Confluence Concerts series in July and the "NIMBY" Fest Riversweep volunteer clean-up on the South Platte River in September. Great weather and wonderful participants made both events the most successful to date.

Confluence Concerts

2002 was the 5th consecutive year of the Confluence Concerts. This signature event of the Greenway Foundation continues to attract a growing audience for warm summer evenings along the South Platte River. The evenings provided great entertainment from the best in local entertainment featuring The Kool Kats, The Fab Four, Joe Friday and Just the Facts, and Toast.

Radio station KOOL105 of Infinity Broadcasting continued their longstanding support of the event with pre-concert advertising and on-air broadcasting for each of the concerts. Thank you to our corporate sponsors; **Anheuser Busch, Heritage Bank, and Kentwood City Properties.** Many thanks to these local business sponsors who, along with support from the **Greenway Preservation Trust** and the **S.C.F.D.**, help support these free community concerts.

Once again in July 2003, Confluence Park will be the celebration site for the **6th Annual Confluence Concerts**, the Greenway Foundation's free summer concerts series. In 2003, we'll be holding the event on Thursday evenings in July beginning at 6:30 with an array of "Oldies" played by local Denver performers.

The Schedule Includes:

July 3rd - The Kool Kats
July 10th - 17th Avenue All Stars
July 17th - Toast
July 24th - Orangu-Tones

Along with Media Sponsor **Kool 105** we are very pleased to have **Heritage Bank** and **Anheuser Busch** return as Donating Sponsors for the series, along with support from a number of other sponsors including **Riverfront Park**, the **Greenway Preservation Trust** and the **S.C.F.D.**

Come to the Confluence and wind down from the work-a-day world, and get ready for the weekend. Make an evening of it with a punt ride on Cherry Creek's Venice on the Creek (refer to page 5). Food and beverages will be available (sorry - no coolers allowed at the concert site), with concession proceeds benefiting the Greenway Preservation Trust. Sunsets and cool summer nights will be ready to add to the evening.

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Photo courtesy of Marc Alston

Scores of Greenway enthusiasts help make our River cleaner by participating in the annual “NIMBY” Fest Riversweep

NIMBY Fest Riversweep

The weather for the 2002 “NIMBY”Fest Riversweep cleanup couldn’t have been better for the hundreds of volunteers who turned out to pick up the trash and treasures along the South Platte River Greenway. It was the 10th year for this volunteer event and everyone still managed to find enough to fill up a huge industrial dumpster with almost 50 cubic yards of river refuse.

Once again we were helped through the efforts of numerous organizations up and down the South Platte River. Events sponsors **1st Bank, Galyan’s, Republic Financial Corporation, Riverfront Park, the Mayor’s office of Art Culture and Film** and the **S.C.F.D.** all pitched in to help support the volunteers in their efforts. The parks departments of the **City and County of Denver, Adams County**, and the cities of **Brighton, Englewood, Thornton, and Commerce City** participated with volunteers from the **Rocky Mountain Canoe Club, Denver Water, UDFCD, COJ, Metro Wastewater** and others in the 25-mile long effort to beautify the River. Part of the American’s Rivers’ National Rivers Cleanup Week, the Greenway Foundation is Denver’s host to this great stewardship event. Special thanks go to Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and BFI who helped haul away all the trash. Special thanks also go to the food and beverage sponsors: Pudge Brothers Pizza, Zangs, Spaghetti Factory, Odwalla Beverage, Krispy Kreme Donuts and Starbucks.

A very special thanks goes to Lesley Roper and Tiffany Moehring from Denver’s Parks and Recreation Dept. for their efforts in making this year’s event such a resounding success. We couldn’t have done it without them!

On September 27th, 2003, the Greenway Foundation will host the 11th annual South Platte River Clean-Up - “NIMBY” fest (not-in my backyard). Partnering with the Greenway Foundation are the Parks Departments from Denver, South Suburban and Adams County, the Cities of Brighton, Commerce City and Englewood and numerous participating and supporting organizations including the EPA, Rocky Mountain Canoe Club, Metro Wastewater, BFI, River Reach Youth Initiative, REI, Ocean Journey, Children’s Museum, and Platte Valley Trolley.



Photo courtesy of Marc Alston

Volunteers prepare to help clean up the “Only River in Town”.

To pre-register, go to the Greenway Foundation website for a submission form. Fax the completed registration to your chosen participating organization at the number provided on the website. Forms will also be available at metro area REI locations and participating parks departments.

The Greenway Foundation is proud to host these special events with the help from our many partners and the local community. These events support the Foundation’s mission to provide cultural, educational, and recreational programs and events along our Urban Waterways that promote the ongoing preservation and enhancement of our Greatest Natural Resources.

For more information and updates about the Greenway Foundation’s upcoming Special Events for 2003, visit our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

Youth Education

Grant Ranch School- Newest SPREE School Partner By Dori Borndt Grant Ranch School

Before we even opened Grant Ranch School, we knew we wanted to be part of the SPREE program. The fun and experiential field trips motivate the children to investigate Colorado river habitats. Each trip correlates to grade level goals and state standards. Carl Crookham's (the SPREE Program Coordinator) unlimited energy and enthusiasm creates an environment where everyone is a learner, from the youngest child to the parents and grandparents who chaperone for the day. In addition, "Mr. C." provides fantastic teacher training opportunities that make even Saturday classes enjoyable.



Photo courtesy of Dori Borndt

Students enjoy a visit to Ruby Hill Park and the view of the South Platte River.

At Grant Ranch we have established a SPREE curriculum that spans ECE to 8th grade. Each grade level has a unique opportunity to visit the South Platte River Greenway, exploring the magnificent influence that it has on life in Denver. The first grade science unit revolves around water. Their trip is the culminating activity that clearly illustrates the ecosystem and its relationship to water. Fifth graders connect with U.S. history as they explore the Civil War grave sites at Riverside Cemetery. Students create stone rubbings while their guide brings to life personal stories of the people that lived during this difficult time.

SPREE has become an integral part of the Grant Ranch program. As a right of passage to celebrate each coming school year, students eagerly anticipate their trip with Mr. C.

*Linda Mitchell & Dori Borndt
1st and 5th grade teachers
Grant Ranch School*

The fourth grade SPREE excursion is a perfect fit for our study of Colorado. The Grant/Frontier Park visit is an eyes-on, hands-on lesson about early Colorado miners and settlers. Carl Crookham captivates the children with his stories, starting with the opening Native American legend of the "Secret of the Hidden Stars", to the tales of the difficulties experienced by miners and settlers, to the identification of the evergreens, and even to singing and dancing around the mulberry tree. To top the day off, the students all get to try their skills in panning for gold in the South Platte River. The excursion is a learning opportunity that the children (and the adults!) love and never forget.

*Judy Card
4th grade teacher, Grant Ranch School*



Photo courtesy of Dori Borndt

S.P.R.E.E. Coordinator Carl Crookham instructs modern day prospectors on the art of gold panning.

The middle school students and teachers have been working with Mr. C and the SPREE programs for the last two years. We have worked with SPREE and Carl for two years now. SPREE is a wonderful opportunity for our students to explore their city and state. As part of SPREE, we have taken students to downtown Denver, the Denver's Museum of Nature and Science and to Waterton Canyon to explore the dam. Every trip allows the students to learn more of what Colorado has to offer in terms of natural resources and history. These trips add an understanding that cannot be taught in a classroom. SPREE is an invaluable resource to teachers and students.

*Joann Eickman & Dave Melchior
Grant Ranch School Middle School Teachers*

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Photo courtesy of Dori Born

A visit inside the log cabin at Grant-Frontier Park helps give an understanding of the hardships of pioneer life along the River.

I think our SPREE trip was very educational. I liked seeing all of the nature, and I especially liked learning about the river and its habitats.

Brandon Neff, Grant Ranch School, 5th Grade



Photo courtesy of Dori Born

Gold panning in the river near Grant-Frontier Park is always a highlight of a SPREE trip.

This field trip to Riverside Cemetery was a great experience filled with fun and learning.

Anna Phung, Grant Ranch School, 5th Grade

I learned that Riverside was one of the first cemeteries in Colorado. We saw a fox and found a skull of an animal that lived by the riverbank.

Krystle Weitze, Grant Ranch School, 5th Grade

We learned that there are over 900 veterans buried at Riverside from the Civil War, WWI and WWII. Thanks to those veterans we have freedom today.

Salomon Sanchez, Grant Ranch School, 5th Grade



Photo courtesy of Dori Born

Fascinating stories about the early citizens of Denver during the walking tour at Riverside Cemetery.

I enjoyed seeing the wildlife at the River. We saw fox, geese, and all kinds of birds.

Jacob Carlson, Grant Ranch School, 5th Grade

I really appreciate what the SPREE sponsors do for our school. It was a blast doing headstone rubbings at Riverside Cemetery.

Sarah Chavez, Grant Ranch School, 5th Grade

The co-founder of the Pony Express and Denver's first clown are buried at there. I thought that it was interesting that people of every race have a spot at Riverside. It was a great trip, but I missed Mr. Crookham and his fantastic facts.

Caleb Pratt, Grant Ranch School, 5th Grade

Enhancements Continue at Confluence Park!

By Dean Pearson, Architerra Group



Photo courtesy of The Architerra Group

A complete renovation of Shoemaker Plaza has made the area more safe and enjoyable for the many user groups that visit this popular amenity.

Shoemaker Plaza

The Architerra Group has worked closely with the Greenway Foundation, the City and County of Denver, and Hallmark (General Contractor) to complete some long awaited improvements to Confluence Park in June 2002. The project included renovations to Shoemaker Plaza and a pedestrian promenade above the channel wall where the trolley tracks were located. Porous concrete pavers were installed which will filter stormwater runoff and create an interesting paving pattern that recalls the railroad use of this corridor. With the new REI flagship store adjacent to this project, many pedestrians have already been enjoying these new improvements.



Photo courtesy of The Architerra Group

Improvements above Shoemaker Plaza, adjacent to REI, help add to the unique beauty of Confluence Park.

Substation Site Improvements

Moving the existing Xcel Energy Substation at the Confluence of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek has been the subject of conversation for many years. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Bar Chadwick from the City and County of Denver, Pete West from Xcel Energy and a number of other dedicated individuals, this relocation is becoming a reality.

The Architerra Group worked closely with the Greenway Foundation, the City and County of Denver, Xcel Energy, the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, members of the Mayor's South Platte River Commission and nearby residents to develop an exciting master plan for a new park on



Photo courtesy of The Architerra Group

A new one acre park at Confluence Park will replace the former Xcel Energy substation plant this coming Fall.

this site. The plan includes a plaza adjacent to 15th Street with public art that recognizes this site as the symbolic birthplace of Denver. The site plan radiates out from this point to the river with "ripples" in the pavement and terraces. There is a paved mid level terrace with an overlook to the River and a lower terrace with a lawn area. A faux rock bank provides limited access to the River. The rest of the riverbank will be armored with buried rock and planted with native wetland plants. The park will be planted with native and drought tolerant trees, shrubs, ground covers and turf grasses.

We hope to start final design during the summer of 2003 and begin the construction of the improvements soon thereafter. This exciting new park is one of the final jewels in the South Platte River corridor's crown!

Support The Greenway Preservation Trust!

Ensuring The River's Future

The Greenway Preservation Trust is a permanent endowment to protect and enhance the South Platte River, implement recreational and riparian improvements, provide youth education and youth employment programs, and sponsor free family oriented special events. Our goal is to raise \$5 million for the corpus of the Trust by 2005.

With **your** help we can show how the people of Metro Denver, armed with energy and purpose, can have a positive impact on their surroundings.

Individual

Your help is crucial in establishing a permanent endowment for the South Platte River and its tributaries. Help us preserve and enhance Denver's Greatest Natural Resource and ensure that the programs and events that help accomplish this goal receive funding well beyond our lifetime.

Yes! I want to help establish the Greenway Preservation Trust.

- \$25 Friend \$50* Advocate \$100** Family \$250 Associate
 \$500 Sustainer \$1,000 Patron \$5,000 Benefactor \$10,000 Partner

* Contribute \$50 and get a free Confluence Concerts T-shirt!

** Contribute \$100 or more and receive Venice On The Creek tickets for two and a T-shirt!

I would like to make a gift through my estate planning. Please contact me about how I can designate the Greenway Preservation Trust through a **planned giving** instrument.

Check with your company to see if they will match your gift. Please make your check payable to The Greenway Preservation Trust, 1550 Platte Street, Suite C, Denver, Colorado 80202. Your contribution is tax deductible. Thank you.

Name _____ Address _____
Phone No. () _____ Best time to call: _____ Home _____ Office _____

Company

Consider becoming a charter benefactor of the **Greenway Preservation Trust**. If your company pledges an amount of \$10,000 or more, your company's name will be added to a beautiful bronze plaque placed along the River at Confluence Park. Please call **303.455.7109 x 2** to find out how your company can support these important efforts.

To date, the Greenway Preservation Trust has received over \$3 million in commitments.

With your help, we can reach our goal of \$4 Million by the end of 2003!

Please take a moment and pledge your support today.

For more information about the Greenway Preservation Trust, check our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

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Special Events

Coordinator

Barbara Gibson

“A

River is more
than an amenity,

it is a

Treasure.”

Justice Wm. O Douglas

SUMMER CALENDER OF EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDERS FOR A
SUMMER OF FUN!

•VENICE ON THE CREEK CONCESSION OPENS

Saturday, May 31st

- Normal Hours of Operation-4:00 pm-Dusk (Sundays-1:00pm-6:00pm)
- Tuesday-Thursday-Rides by reservation only
- Friday-Sunday-Rides by reservation or Walk-Up
- Closed-Monday
- Candlelight Rides available nightly from Dusk-10:00pm,
call for details and reservations.
- Additional hours/discounts for groups of 12 or more
- For information or reservations call 303-893-0750 or reserve a ride

online at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

CONFLUENCE CONCERTS

- Confluence Park •July 3.....The Kool Kats
- All concerts begin •July 10.....17th Avenue All Stars
at 6:30pm and •July 17.....Toast
- conclude at 8:00pm •July 24th.....The Orangu-Tones

•VENICE ON THE CREEK CONCESSION CLOSSES

Sunday, August 25th

NIMBY FEST.....Sat., Sept. 27th

- Begins/Ends at Fishback Landing Park
- 8:00am-12:00pm, Metro Riverfront Volunteer Banquet
afterwards at Fishback Landing (next to Colorado Ocean Journey).

FRIEND OF THE RIVER AWARD DINNER

.....Thursday, November 6th, at Coors Field

- Volunteers for our special events are always needed. If interested, call
303.455.7109 x2 and leave your name and phone number; or check out
our website at www.greenwayfoundation.org.

Preservation Trust

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Dana Crawford
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