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"A
river
is more than
a amenity
it is
a
treasure."

Justice Wm. O. Douglas



THE
GREENWAY
NEWS

Vol. 9 No. 2

Fall 1987

1987 Friends of the River Awards Party Acknowledging those who make it happen

Surrounded by the beauty of Confluence Park, the Board of Directors of the Platte River Greenway Foundation and over 80 enthusiastic Greenway Foundation members and guests paid tribute to the winners of the 1987 Friends of the River Award.

Carl Crookham, longtime supporter of the Platte River Greenway who helped establish tours of the Greenway as part of the elementary school program. Beginning with Grant-Frontier Park in south Denver, this effort, now titled the Greenway Experience, includes four Greenway Parks, with Carl serving as the Coordinator of the program via his position at Denver Public School's Metropolitan Youth Education Center. **Davison Family Foundation, and First Colorado Bank and Trust**, longtime and generous financial supporters of the Greenway Foundation. **Carol Gossard, Glenda Lyle, Jack Shapiro, and Judith Wray**, former Greenway Foundation Board Members who collectively donated their time and talents on behalf of the Platte River Greenway for over twelve years.

Each winner was presented with a personalized engraved plaque, exclaiming their contribution, which was confirmed by the applause and enthusiastic words of appreciation from those in the audience.

Following the awards presentation, brief overviews of current Greenway Foundation efforts were given by Jeff Shoemaker - Greenway Foundation Executive Director, Merle Grimes - designer and architect of our two newest parks, Overland Pond Educational Park and Johnson Scout Park, and Carl Crookham (a.k.a "Old Montana", a South Platte River "gold panner" from the 1800's) - the Greenway Experience



FRONT ROW - Award Winners Judith Wray and Carol Gossard, Chairman Joe Shoemaker, Award Winners Carl Crookham, Bob and Stacia Davison of the Davison Family Foundation, and Scott Woods of First Colorado Bank and Trust.

SECOND ROW - Executive Director Jeff Shoemaker, Board Members Larry Ambrose and Shirley Schley, Award Winner Glenda Lyle, Board Members Amy Miller and Eldon O'Neal.

THIRD ROW - Board Members Charlie Roos, Bill DeGroot, Carolyn Etter and Steve Metcalf.

(Not Shown - Award Winner Jack Shapiro)

Coordinator.

Award winners and guests then toured the Confluence Park area, followed by a delightful supper at nearby Maxfield and Friend's restaurant.

The Greenway Foundation is truly grateful to all those who give of their time, talents and financial support, which have combined to help create the Platte River Greenway. An extra special "Thank You" is extended to the **1987 Friends of the River Award Winners** for their extraordinary contributions to Denver's "Only River in Town"!

1987 Great Relay Race-The Benefits and Fun Continue

by Susan Mason - Race Coordinator



Race participants enjoying a well deserved rest.

For the eighth consecutive year, the month of June witnessed the excitement and enthusiasm of the Greenway Foundation's Great Relay Race. With an ever-increasing number of sporting events in the Metro area clamoring for corporate support, the Great Relay Race looked to our greatest support, the participants, to help this great Denver tradition continue. The racers came through, showing their belief in the race and in the Platte River Greenway. In addition, the Adolph Coors

Company joined us as supporters of the "Only River in Town" with their prime sponsorship, and The Colorado Lottery continued their support.

As we approached summer and Race Day the momentum continued. Entries poured into the Race office, and by June 21 we had 70 teams competing on five race courses throughout the City: the South and North courses of the Platte, the Cherry Creek course, and the newest additions to the Greenway corridor, the Bear Creek and Clear Creek courses. Media sponsor KIMN Radio provided live coverage of the race, drawing more spectators than ever before to the Confluence Park finish line.

Winners of the 1987 Great Relay Race titles were: the Washington Park Hackers, competing for the first time on the South course; the "A" Team, continuing to dominate the long leg of the North; the Denver Water Department on the Cherry Creek; the Visiting Nurses Association team #4 on Bear Creek; and the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association winning the team trophy for the new Clear Creek course, just behind superstar Craig Melville, who completed the entire course by himself.

Other sponsors of this year's race included Mountain High Yogurt; Minute-maid (Coca-Cola Foods); Riverfront Festival Center; King Soopers; DHM, inc.; the Denver Water Department; and Smith, Barney, Harris, Upham.

We are already looking to next year and planning for the 1988 Great Relay Race, destined to be better than ever. Hope to see you all there!

"Have Bodies, Will Volunteer . . ."

by Anna Thurston, REI Outreach Coordinator

Starting in March of 1988 Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), will be providing volunteer assistance towards the clean-up and beautification of the Platte River Greenway. Plans include the removal of trash and rubbish from paths and River, tree trimming, installation of signage and retaining walls, and improvement of existing picnic benches and tables. In coordination with the Greenway Foundation, REI will host a complimentary picnic and co-sponsor an "Awareness Walk" upon completion of clean-up.

Supporting the Greenway beautification is one of the many ways that REI has become involved in the Denver-Metro community. Besides being a re-

tail co-op for recreational gear and clothing, REI is dedicated to providing education and information to its members and the community alike. REI is continuing with their development of new resources for environmental awareness, including clinics, and various outdoor activities. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Platte River Greenway clean-up effort please contact Anna Thurston at REI (937-0536).

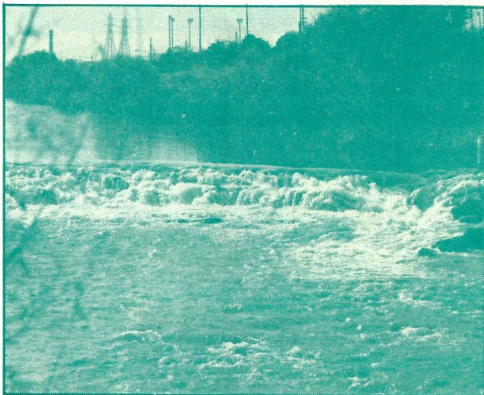
REI is the nation's largest consumer cooperative providing quality outdoor gear and clothing since 1938. The Denver store is located at 2200 West Alameda, between I-25 and Federal Blvd.

1987 Executive Director Update

by Jeff Shoemaker



Students enjoy their gold panning efforts in the River, the culmination of a fun day on the Platte River Greenway.

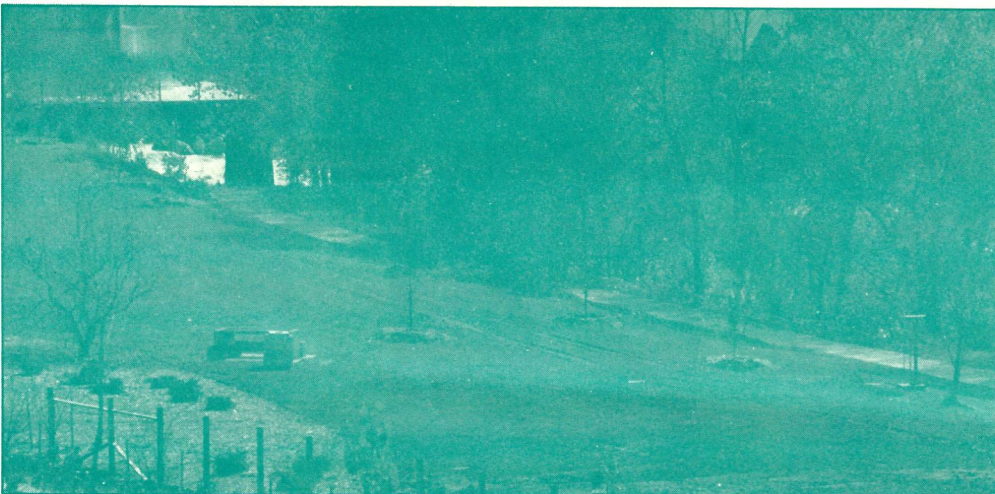


Basic but effective improvements at the Florida Avenue Dam allowing for a safe boat bypass.

Dear Friends:

It seems impossible that year's end can be approaching yet again so quickly. One of the explanations at least in my case, can be credited to yet another year of incredible activity along **your** Platte River Greenway.

At the top of our list of accomplishments is the tremendous success of the **Greenway Experience**. Because of the support of the **Boettcher Foundation** and **Denver Public Schools**, over 2000 elementary school age youngsters, from all over the Denver metropolitan area will partake in this unique indoor/outdoor educational opportunity during the 1987-1988 school years. May 12, 1987 was officially declared "Greenway Experience Day" by Mayor Federico Pena, and we have received a letter of endorsement from the Denver Public School Board, signed by all seven Board Members, further confirming the importance of the Greenway Experience as a vital part of the educational process.



New addition to the pocket park system along the Greenway at 6th Avenue and I-25.

At the Greenway Foundation, we believe it is vital that today's young people understand the importance and potential of the Platte River Greenway for their future, and realize that it is up to them to see that this potential becomes reality. The Greenway Experience is the perfect means to establish this appreciation of Denver's "Only River in Town". For more information about this exciting opportunity, refer to the article in this newsletter by Carl Crookham, the Greenway Experience coordinator, or contact the Greenway Foundation office directly.

A variety of physical and environmental improvements occurred along the Greenway this year, beginning with a cooperative effort between the **Greenway Foundation** and **Denver's Parks and Recreation Department**, resulting in the creation of a safe boating bypass at Florida Avenue. The former site of a hazardous rubble dam, this improved structure continues to allow water to be directed into a pump station to serve the irrigation needs of Overland Golf Course, while in addition including a bypass over the western side of the drop structure which provides a safe route for kayaks, canoes, and white water rafts.

Over 350 tons of large boulders were imported to the site replacing an equal amount of rebar-filled concrete rubble. Additional improvements were slated to occur in 1988 including: selective usage of grouting material to insure that the boulders remain intact during high flows, and landscaping improvements to both banks. We are grateful to the Parks and Recreation Department for their assistance and support of this life-saving project.

On a larger scale, plans and designs are being finalized to bring about vitally needed improvements along the Greenway hike-bike trail between 8th and 13th Avenue. Thanks to the combined efforts of the **Urban Drainage and Flood Control District** and **Denver's Park and Recreation Department**, a \$500,000 replacement effort will occur between February and May of 1988, replacing the wooden boardwalk and railing sections of the trail with an 8' wide concrete trail complete with metal safety railings. In addition, a turnaround area for maintenance vehicles will be added to the trail, just south of 8th Avenue, allowing this five block section of the Greenway to receive improved

Greenway Guides Speak

by Carol Crookham-Greenway Experience Coordinator

Claudia Guzman (Guide) "You have the responsibility of taking care of kids. I'm nineteen years old and I feel more like an adult when I'm leading a tour. It's helping me to mature."

Steve Sloan (Head Guide) "Being a 'teacher' instead of always a student has helped me achieve a lot of self-esteem and discipline. It has helped me to see that I can do what I put my mind to. Best of all is when you see all these kids really learning and enjoying."

Vicky Vigil (Senior Guide) "I like the feeling I get when I am teaching the children and I look down at their eyes and they look so interested and happy. I feel like the guides are a big family and as we work together along the River I get to know them much better. When a little student comes to me and says, 'Vicky! Thank you - I learned a lot', and gives me a dandelion, it is 'major cool'."

Jennifer Wenzinger (Head Guide) "The Greenway Experience is wonderful. It gives me the chance to work with kids which I enjoy. It helps me to learn to communicate and to take on the role of an adult. Teaching the kids how to take care of the River is an important role, for the future of the Platte and the future of Denver."

Audra Sena (Guide) "I feel like I'm doing more for Denver when I'm leading a tour. I love to teach the kids about the history behind the Platte River. It gives me a really good feeling about myself."

William Two Two (Guide) "The Greenway Experience makes me more in touch with myself and others. Kids lives are in my hands so I feel like an adult. I think I have learned more history than in a regular class and when we get out of class it's not to fool around but to learn and teach. This really brings me up."

Brian Hedrick (Senior Guide) "The Greenway Experience is a way of learning how to be a responsible, caring and disciplined person. It's always a joy to teach young children about how to take care of the River and how important it is to them. When the kids leave with smiles on their faces you feel like you really accomplished a great deal."

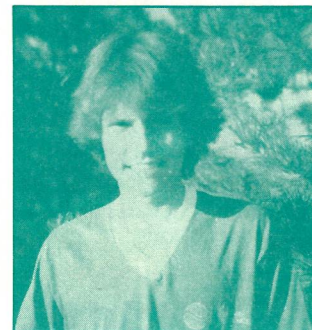
Richard Davis (Senior Guide) "The reason I like the Greenway Experience is that it gives me the chance to take the role of an adult, take the responsibility for the children on the River and teach them the history of Denver and the importance of the River in the future. The part of the tour I like best is the start. We explain the story of the birth of Denver and it seems to get the kids in good spirits and happy to be on the River."

These students, together with twenty-five other guides from the Metropolitan Youth Education Center at 29th and Zuni, make up the Greenway Experience tour team. These are young adults who have not experienced the traditional success of high school and for whatever reason, they need alternative options for pursuing their education. The Metropolitan Youth Education Centers make these options available. The Greenway Experience is just one of dozens of exciting and innovative programs.

It is also exciting to note that the Greenway Experience is the cooperative effort of the **Greenway Foundation, the Boettcher Foundation, the Denver Public Schools, and the Denver Parks and Recreation Department.** How gratifying it is, as a teacher, to see so many different factions of the community moving education into a position of priority.



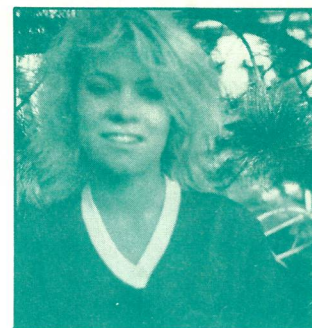
Claudia Guzman



Steve Sloan



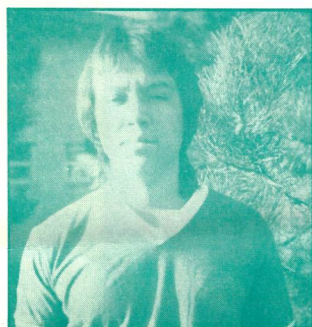
Vicky Vigil



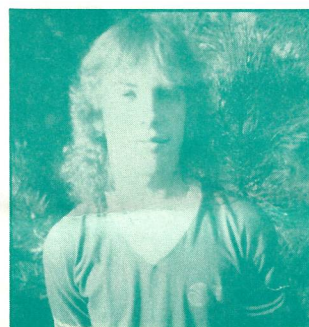
Jennifer Wenzinger



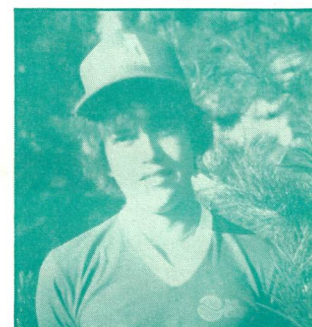
Audra Sena



William Two Two



Brian Hedrick



Richard Davis

service and attention.

We're proud to announce that a new park has been developed along the Platte River Greenway, between the 3rd Avenue Boatchute and the intersection of I-25 and 6th Avenue. The park is a result of cooperative efforts between the **Greenway Foundation, Colorado Department of Highways, and Denver Parks and Recreation**. The park's grass seed is coming in strong, and the park also features a variety of new trees, shrubs, and picnic facilities. Additional planting is planned in the near future. The next time you're traveling along the hike-bike trail or boating down the River, we encourage you to take a moment and enjoy the newest addition to the Platte River Greenway.

Returning for the 8th consecutive summer was the increasingly popular Concerts on the Green series. Three concerts were planned for the last Wednesday evenings of June, July and August, but due to a steady week of rain, we had to cancel the August concert, featuring **Moment's Notice**. The sponsor for this concert, **Maxfield and Friends**, agreed to carry over their sponsorship to next year's series, for which we are grateful. Thanks also go out to our June concert sponsor, **Mile High and Interstate Kennel Clubs**, which featured **Hot Rize**, and our July concert sponsor, **First Colorado Bank and Trust**, featuring **Images**. In addition, we would like to thank our media sponsors for the series, **Rocky Mountain News, KADX f.m. Jazz radio, and KBRQ radio - a.m. and f.m. country**. Over 4000 music lovers enjoyed these superb FREE concerts many of whom were making their way to the Greenway for the very first time.

As always, the Greenway Trail Ranger program continues to be one of the most important efforts undertaken by the Platte River Greenway Foundation. Chris Korba, our Trail Ranger Supervisor, and his four man summer crew, logged over 10,000 collective miles on foot or via their bicycles, traveling along the Greenway hike-bike trail. Between May 1st and November 1st, the Platte River and Cherry Creek trails were swept 36 times, with the summer crew riding along the trail seven days per week. Trained in C.P.R. and First-Aid, this hard working crew kept consistently busy with daily litter pick up, and many other activities including:

- sign construction and repair
- further establishment and maintenance of a small tree nursery
- establishment and maintenance of several flower gardens and

picnic facilities

- protection of trees from beaver damage via wrapping the trees with chicken wire
- assistance at all Greenway Foundation special events
- service to Greenway users including first aid, bike repair, directions and pertinent information, etc.

During the "off season", (October-April), Chris is a "crew" of one, working closely with various Denver parks crews to bring about larger maintenance, repair, and replacement efforts. Chris also coordinates weekend usage of various Scout Troops, as well as other civic minded organizations and individuals. These volunteers, along with D.U.I. assignees provide invaluable assistance in helping Chris keep up with over 10 parks, and 10 miles of trail and River maintenance.

Our membership roster continues to grow, and it is only because of individuals, companies, corporations, and foundations like yourself that we are able to continue our efforts to further improve, maintain, promote and protect your Platte River Greenway. As always, I encourage you to bring your friends and family down to the River and help them understand that together we can make Denver's "Only River in Town" a true environmental, recreational, and cultural haven for all of us.

On behalf of my Board of Directors, it is important you realize how much we appreciate your continued involvement and support. Your suggestions, concerns, and hopefully compliments continue to be welcome! In the meantime, best wishes for a joyous Holiday Season and a successful 1988!



The crowds continued to fill the Confluence Park Amphitheatre during the 1987 Concerts on the Green.



Chris Korba, Greenway Trail Ranger Supervisor, uses a backpack blower to remove silt, glass, thorns, and more from the Greenway hike-bike trail.

Your Support Makes the Difference!

HELP US TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE, MAINTAIN, AND PROMOTE THE GREENWAY

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$30.00 for you or a friend.

Included in the membership is a Membership Card entitling you to:

- Notice of upcoming special events held along the Greenway during the year.

- All new members will receive a copy of our book "Returning the Platte to the People".

- A 20% discount on food and spirits for up to 4 persons at Zang's Brewing Co. (offer applies to any one evening any-time during that year).

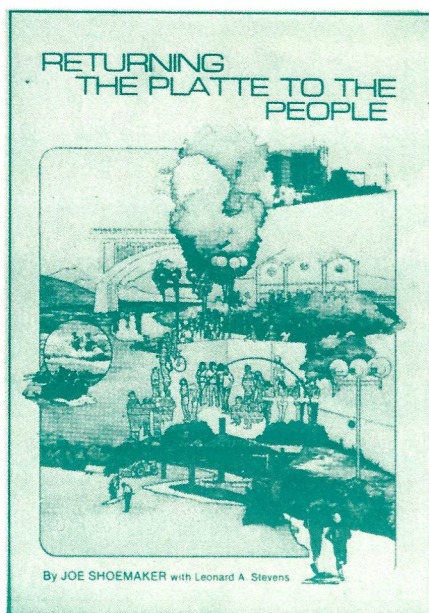
- All copies of the newsletter printed in the year you are a member.

COMMEMORATING MEMBER

For \$100.00, have a contribution made towards the Greenway Tree Fund in the name of a friend or loved one. (Also includes all privileges of an Annual Member).

CORPORATE MEMBER

\$250.00 includes a limited edition print by well known artist William Condit entitled "Seasons Along the Platte." All prints are signed and numbered by the artist (also includes all privileges of an Annual Member).



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