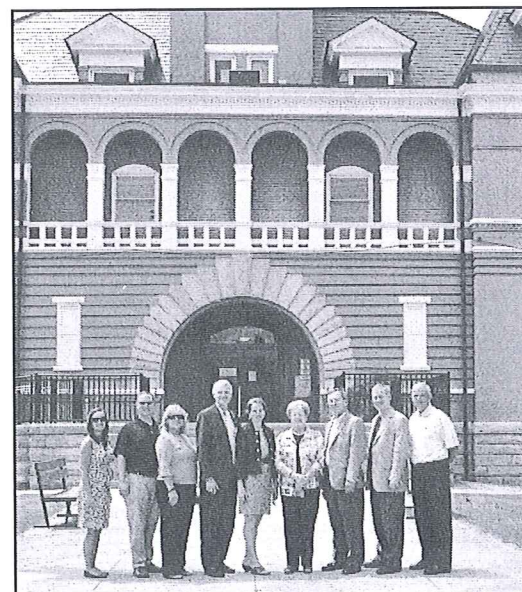


## ARC LEADER VISITS REGION

Recently appointed Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Executive Director **Scott Hamilton** visited north Georgia on May 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. The trip was intended to provide Mr. Hamilton with an opportunity to visit state and local officials and tour regions that are designated as part of Appalachia. Accompanied by **Annaka Woodruff** and **Rusty Haygood** of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), along with **Cheryl Smith** of the Department of Economic Development (DECd), he was in Elbert County on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Also present at the meeting were Elbert County Manager **Bob Thomas**, **Beth Eavenson** of the Development Authority of Elbert County, Elberton and Bowman, Elberton City Manager **Lanier Dunn**, and **Jim Dove** and **Mott Beck** of the NEGRC staff. The group toured the Rock Gym (used for local theatrical productions), the former Samuel Elbert Hotel, the Historic Courthouse, the Jim-Ree African American Museum, and the Elberton Arts Center. The group expressed gratitude to Mr. Hamilton for past grant awards, and discussed possibilities for future assistance.

*Group in front of  
Historic Courthouse*



## ARC PRE-APPLICATIONS DUE AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup>

In the NEGRC region, four counties (Barrow, Elbert, Jackson and Madison) are designated as Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) counties and eligible for its respective programs. One of these programs is an annual call for grant applications that provides funding to address ARC's four goals including:

1. Increase job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachia to reach parity with the nation.
2. Strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy.
3. Develop and improve Appalachia's infrastructure to make the Region economically competitive.
4. Build the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation.

In the past, ARC has funded projects in the NEGRC region that provide financial assistance for infrastructure (e.g., broadband, water, sewer, roads) construction, tourism efforts, and planning. The ARC grant process is two-fold: 1) development of pre-application for review; and 2) development of a full application for approved pre-applications. The first part of this grant cycle is underway with pre-applications due to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on August 31, 2015. NEGRC staff in June participated in an ARC workshop to learn more about the grant application process. In addition, NEGRC staff is available to assist the four ARC counties and their municipalities in developing pre-applications and offer guidance on ARC programs.

For further information about ARC visit [www.arc.gov](http://www.arc.gov) or to discuss a potential application, please contact **Burke Walker**, NEGRC Director of Planning & Government Services, at (706) 369-5650 or email: [bwalker@negrc.org](mailto:bwalker@negrc.org).

## 2015 B.J. SMITH COMMUNITY SERVANT AWARD

The 10th Annual B.J. Smith Community Servant Award Ceremony, hosted by the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board (WIB), was held on Thursday, May 28th in Ila. B.J. Smith served in many roles as a community servant. Prior to his active board involvement in Madison County, he served as a meteorologist with the National Weather Service beginning in 1972. While with the Weather Service, he had his first experience with the local area's Summer Youth Work Experience Program serving as a worksite supervisor of JTPA summer youth participants. After retiring from the weather service in 1990, he joined the Northeast Georgia Private Industry Council (predecessor to the Northeast Georgia Workforce Investment Board) as the Madison County private sector representative. He was actively involved as Member of the Board of Directors of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, and worked on the Economic Development Committee.



Mr. Smith felt that providing people with the tools necessary to ensure their own successes was much more fruitful than providing temporary handouts. After his passing in March 2005, the Workforce Investment Board wished to honor his commitment to community service as well as his memory. The B.J. Smith Community Servant Award was established in February 2006, with the first awards presented in June of that year. This year's recipients will receive a \$1000 scholarship. They are as follows:

**Charles Alan Cain** lives in Barrow County and is a 2015 graduate of Winder-Barrow High School. He will be attending Georgia State University in the fall, majoring in Biology. He wants to pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine. Alan has been involved in volunteer activities through his church and Camp Twin Lakes. As a member of the Key Club, he has mentored elementary school students, gathered food for the local food bank, worked with students at the Boys and Girls Club, and fundraised on behalf of the local animal shelter. He is a member of the National Honor Society, and plays the Baritone Saxophone in the High School marching band.

**Chelsee Walton** lives in Elbert County and is a 2015 graduate of Elbert County Comprehensive High School. She will be attending Clark Atlanta University, majoring in Business Management. Her goal is to eventually open her own business in Elberton, as she has strong ties to the community and wants to see it grow. Chelsee has volunteered at her church, Senior Center, nursing homes and the homeless shelter. She is involved with the NAACP Youth Chapter, served as Vice-President of the Student Council, is a member of the National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, and has been involved with many school organizations.

**Chelsea Smith** is from Walton County, and is a 2015 graduate of Monroe Area High School. Chelsea will be attending Benedict College, where she received a full scholarship. She plans on majoring in Chemistry. Her goal is to complete a Bachelor of Science degree and transfer to a Pharmacy School to pursue her Pharmaceutical Doctorate. Chelsea is very involved with her church and volunteers at the local homeless shelter. She works with the New Direction Ministry in their many volunteer activities. Chelsea is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, National Technical Honor Society, Upward Bound, and other school organizations.

**Dre'Kevious Gibbs** lives in Elbert County and is a 2015 graduate of Elbert County Comprehensive High School. He will be attending Morehouse College, majoring in Political Science. After graduation, he plans on joining the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant. He has been very involved with Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps while in High School and serves as the Brigade Executive Officer, the second highest position in the program. He is the Drill Commander and prime trainer for the JROTC Drill Team. Dre'Kevious has been involved in volunteer activities through his church and JROTC, including a canned food drive, coat drive, and Adopt-a-Highway. He is a member of 15 different clubs, including Student Council, Color Guard, and Future Business Leaders of America. He played the Bass Drum in the High School Band.

These scholarships are presented to WIA students currently enrolled in the WIA In-School Youth Program. The scholarships will assist with books, fees, tuition and related expenses during the recipient's freshman year of college. These scholarships will be coordinated with other financial assistance the student may qualify for (i.e. Hope Grant/Scholarship).

If you would like additional information regarding the WIA In-School Youth Program, please contact **Rima Sullivan**, NEGR/ WIA Youth Program Specialist, at **(706) 369-5703**.



WIB Chairman Amrey Harden  
with Alan Cain



Chelsee Smith with Guests



Gladys Smith with Dre'Kevious Gibbs  
and Chelsee Walton

## BEWARE OF SCAMS

As summer approaches, several scams are occurring throughout the region. Citizens, especially seniors, must be aware of suspicious calls soliciting money.

The most common scam involves a caller who identifies themselves as a police officer, sheriff's deputy, or Internal Revenue Service agent. The caller advises that the individual or a family member has an outstanding warrant for a missed court date, failure to appear for jury duty, or owes back taxes. The citizen is instructed to purchase a prepaid debit card (ex. Green Dot MoneyPak) to pay a fine in lieu of being arrested. Although the Sheriff's Office may call people about an outstanding warrant, they do not solicit payment over the telephone. Neither does the IRS call asking for payment of back taxes.

**Any time a person or entity asks you to pay them by purchasing a pre-paid debit card; you should hear alarm bells and assume you're being scammed. Never act on a request for money without first verifying that the person, entity and situation in question are legitimate.**

Another scam also starts with a phone call in which the caller says a family member has been arrested and needs money for bail or to keep them from being arrested. If a citizen receives such a call, you should contact the individual or a family member to confirm if the person has indeed been arrested.

Criminals are always coming up with new ways to scam our citizens, especially seniors. Do not become a victim. If you receive calls such as these, do not send cash, purchase a prepaid debit card, or give out personal credit/debit card and bank account numbers. If you feel the call is not legitimate, hang up and call 911 to report the activity. If possible, record the telephone number of the incoming call to provide to police.

For additional information and tips on avoiding a scam, contact the Northeast Georgia Elderly Legal Assistance Program at **(706) 369-7147**.



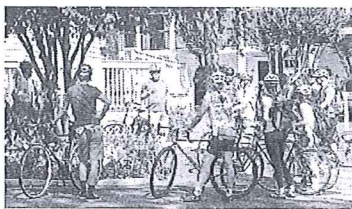
## SECOND ANNUAL GEORGIA TRAIL SUMMIT AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS



The Georgia Trail Summit (GTS) returned to Athens and Northeast Georgia for its second year, June 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> at the Graduate Athens hotel and meeting facility, with NEGRC staff again serving on the Summit's executive committee and chairing the local host committee. Over 175 elected officials, government staff, nonprofit representatives, consultants, and trail enthusiasts attended this year's GTS, whose major themes focused on *Building a Culture of Health on Georgia's Trails*, *Trails are Transportation Solutions*, and *Trails are Money Makers*. The Summit kicked off on Thursday afternoon, June 4<sup>th</sup>, with presentations, panel discussions, and on-trail mobile workshops, followed by a social event at downtown Athens venue, Little Kings, featuring two food trucks and live, local music from the Ale Raisers.

Athens-Clarke County Mayor **Nancy Denson** welcomed participants to Athens on Friday morning, heralding the importance of trails to residents, visitors, and the local economy. After morning sessions – including a plenary panel discussion about the economic impacts of trails for walking, bicycling, and paddling, moderated by NEGRC Senior Planner **John Devine** – **Dr. Richard Jackson** of UCLA presented the GTS keynote address, "Designing Healthy Communities." Friday afternoon featured a re-take on last year's Summit's popular Unconference, which provided a flexible environment for attendees to discuss self-selected topics that were not otherwise covered in the schedule. To close the day's conference activities, registrants were offered a choice between an interactive, audience-driven play and an interpretive walk along the North Oconee River Greenway and Heritage Trail. Friday evening's party on the North Lawn of the Lyndon House Arts Center was catered by Barberitos, with live music coming from Athens's Vinyl Strangers.

On Saturday, after a plenary session over breakfast, participants celebrated National Trails Day by departing on mobile workshops throughout Athens, and into Madison County. Workshop attendees paddled the Broad River Trail, rode the North Oconee River Greenway and Trail Creek Park mountain bike trails, hiked the State Botanical Garden's trails, and learned about tourism promotion on walking tours of downtown Athens and the University of Georgia.



Although next year's Georgia Trail Summit will move to another location in the state, the NEGRC will continue to participate in conference planning and general organizational activities. Please contact **Mr. Devine** at [jdevine@negrc.org](mailto:jdevine@negrc.org) for more information.

### REMINDER

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission **will not** meet in July. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 20th at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWS

On May 12, Governor Deal signed House Bill 308 revising the state historic tax credit. The state historic tax credit is available for certified historic buildings, which are listed in, or eligible for, the Georgia Register. The new legislation increased the maximum credit from \$300,000 annually to \$5 million for certified non-residential buildings or \$10 million for large developments that are required to meet job-creation standards. The legislation also placed a \$25 million cap on the available credits annually. The program also allows for claimed, but unused credits, to be transferred or sold to another Georgia tax payer. The expansion of the historic tax credit is meant to encourage the redevelopment of historic properties, especially large, former industrial spaces. This program could provide opportunities for several communities throughout Northeast Georgia.

The Forest Avenue Historic District in Elberton was listed on the National Register this spring. The neighborhood was planned and built in phases from the 1910s to the 1960s. Early homes along Forest Avenue are one and two story homes, such as Georgian Cottages, American Foursquares, and bungalows in the Colonial Revival, Mediterranean Revival and Craftsman styles. In the 1930s, developers **Wyke** and **Peter Knox** built several small, prefabricated houses, known as "Knox boxes" locally, throughout the neighborhood. The district also includes the International style Elbert Memorial Hospital (1950), two historic churches, the Rock Gym (1941), and the Granite Bowl stadium (1954). The landscape was designed by Atlanta landscape architect **E. Burton Cooke**, and contains curvilinear streets, hilly topography, mature trees, a central park, and Elberton granite features. Congratulations to the Forest Heights Historic District for the National recognition of a beautiful historic resource.

If you have any questions concerning the Georgia Historic Tax Credit or the National Register, please contact Ms. **Jordan Shoemaker**, NEGRC Project Specialist at [jshoemaker@negrc.org](mailto:jshoemaker@negrc.org) or (706) 369-5650.

## NEGRC ELECTS OFFICERS

Meeting in regular session on June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council elected officers for two-year terms, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Incoming Chairman **Frank Turner** received the gavel from Immediate Past Chairman **Kevin Little**. Mr. Turner, retired long time City Manager in Covington, represents Newton County on our Council as Private Sector Representative. The new Vice Chairman is Oxford Mayor **Jerry Roseberry**, and Oglethorpe County Chairman **Billy Pittard** was elected Secretary. The Oath of Office was administered by Commissioner Little, and he expressed confidence that the trio will serve NEGRC well during their terms.



L-R: Vice Chairman Roseberry, Past Chairman Little, Chairman Turner, Secretary Pittard



305 Research Drive  
Athens, GA 30605

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT. STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ATHENS, GA  
PERMIT NO. 502

*Update*

---

**REGIONAL MEETINGS**  
**JULY**

---

14	11:30 a.m.	CareNet	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
15	1:30 p.m.	Aging Advisory Council	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
16	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
17	10:00 a.m.	NEGA Senior Center Directors	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
22	9:30 a.m.	Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room

~

*Sincerely & Respectfully,*