

NEGRC REPRESENTED AT NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Three national conferences held recently in Washington, D.C. were attended by NEGRC staff. The Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA), which includes 73 local development districts in a thirteen-state area extending from New York to Mississippi, held its annual conference on April 3 – 5 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. Executive Director **Jim Dove** currently serves as President of the DDAA. Planning & Government Services Director **Burke Walker** also attended the conference. In addition to the DDAA Executive Board Meeting and the DDAA Annual Meeting, the dinner banquet included an address by Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Federal Co-Chair **Earl Gohl** and a presentation by former Major League Baseball great **Al Oliver**. The overall theme of the conference was *Appalachia – America's Next Great Investment Opportunity*. There were sessions on federal investments in the Appalachian Region, financing growing enterprises, making POWER work in Appalachia, revolving loan programs, and an ARC legislative briefing.



Dove also attended the 2016 National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) National Policy Conference, which was held April 4 – 6 at the same hotel and overlapped with the DDAA conference. He is an eight term member of the NADO Board. A highlight was the opening session on Election Year Politics featuring noted columnist and television personality **Reid Wilson**. Other sessions included discussions on the future of the White House Rural Conference, utilizing sector strategies in regional workforce development, shifts in energy policy and regulation, the federal economic development agenda, rural trends and regionalism in bridging the digital divide, and a legislative briefing.

Finally, Walker attended the Economic Development Administration (EDA) National Conference on April 7 – 8 at the Hyatt Hotel in Downtown Washington. The EDA conference included presentations by numerous federal officials highlighted by U.S. Secretary of Commerce **Penny Pritzker** and U.S. Secretary of Transportation **Anthony Foxx**. The two-day conference also provided break-out sessions on a range of economic development topics like "Made in Rural America," "Building an Effective CEDS," and a "Regional Forum" with EDA leadership and staff.

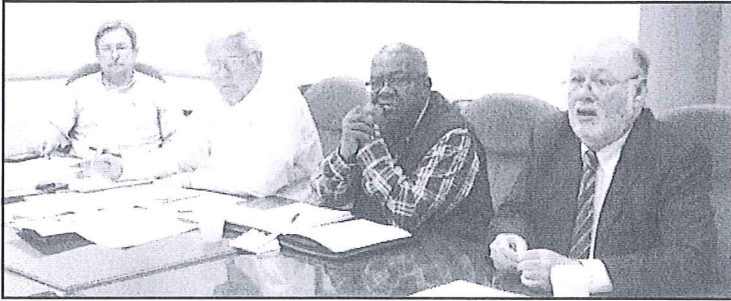
NEWTON COUNTY BOC AND JASPER COUNTY BOC HOLD PLANNING RETREATS AT NEGRC

A visioning session was held with the Newton County Board of Commissioners on March 30th at NEGRC headquarters and facilitated by Dove and Executive Assistant **Mott Beck**. In addition to BOC members, there were several department heads, legal counsel, and County Manager **Lloyd Kerr** in attendance. Topics discussed at length included historic preservation matters, animal control shelter, juvenile court program space, short term work program, cooperative water resources efforts, budget, SPLOST, and personnel – specifically recruitment and retention. Consensus was reached on several important issues.

A similar session was facilitated by Dove and Beck for the Jasper County Board of Commissioners on April 14th at NEGRC headquarters. Discussion topics included SPLOST, T-SPOST, public works, joint city-county code enforcement, commissioner – county manager relations, and upcoming area development. Attendees included the members of the BOC, County Manager **Mike Benton**, legal counsel, and several staff.



Newton County Retreat Participants



Jasper County Retreat Participants

REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **Thursday, May 19, 2016 at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH



Older adults are a growing and increasingly vital part of our country. The contributions they make to our communities are varied, deeply rooted, and include influential roles in the nation's economy, politics, and the arts. From 69-year-old NASA Administrator **Charles Bolden, Jr.** to 84-year-old actress **Rita Moreno** to 83-year-old **Ruth Bader Ginsberg**, who took her seat as a Supreme Court Justice at age 60, older adults are blazing trails in all aspects of American life.

In 1963, we began to acknowledge the contributions of older people by using the month of May to celebrate Older Americans Month (OAM). Led by the Administration for Community Living, the annual observance offers the opportunity to learn about, support, and celebrate our nation's older citizens. This year's theme, "Blaze a Trail," emphasizes the ways older adults are reinventing themselves through new work and new passions, engaging their communities, and blazing a trail of positive impact on the lives of people of all ages.

While the Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging and local agencies provide services to older adults year-round, we will use OAM 2016 to focus on ways older adults in our community are leading and inspiring others, how we can support and learn from them, and how we might follow their examples to blaze trails of our own.

Contact the Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging office by visiting <http://www.eldercare.gov/> or calling **1-800-474-7540** to find ongoing opportunities to celebrate and support older Americans. Discover Older Americans Month: Visit <http://acl.gov/olderamericansmonth>.

DEVINE SERVING ON GEORGIA TRAILS ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Featuring the west Georgia City of Carrollton as the host community, the third annual Georgia Trail Summit (GTS) took place April 14-16, drawing 175 attendees from across Georgia and the Southeast. Building on the success of the Summit over the past three years, a new nonprofit organization, the Georgia Trails Alliance (GTA), will oversee GTS and support trails initiatives statewide.

NEGRC Senior Planner, **John Devine**, AICP, is one of five founding members of the GTA board of directors, alongside **Bill Jones** (Executive Director, Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land), **Jim Langford** (President, MillionMile Greenway), **John Steward** (Program Manager & Director, Georgia State University Environmental Health), and **Tracie Sanchez** (Decatur Active Living).

Please contact Mr. Devine at jdevine@negrc.org for more information on the Georgia Trails Alliance and Georgia Trail Summit.

WORKPLACE FUNDAMENTALS AND MANUFACTURING 101 TRAINING PROGRAMS OFFERED

April was a busy month for the Workplace Fundamentals and Manufacturing 101 Courses offered through Athens Technical College's Economic Development Division. On Friday April 1, 2016, Athens Technical College graduated eight students from their first Workplace Fundamentals Class in Elberton. On Friday, April 8, five students graduated from the Manufacturing 101 course. On Friday, April 15, six students graduated from the Workplace Fundamentals Class in Greene County. The Workplace Fundamentals Program is a six week intense training program in which students receive OSHA 10, Lift Truck, CPR/First Aide and Work Keys Certifications. In addition, the students receive basic computer training including an overview of Microsoft and Excel. Soft skills are covered as part of the program, including Positive Attitude, Team Building, Quality Control, and Conflict Resolution.

Classes run Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and attendance and participation are monitored very closely. The Manufacturing 101 Course includes all of the above with more in-depth training in manufacturing concepts including reading blueprints, how to use a ruler, and other related topics. Based on the employment needs of employers who commit to interviewing successful course completers, additional training topics may be added to course instruction.

Funding for these programs was provided through the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board and the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission's Workforce Division utilizing federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) funds. For information on future classes being offered in the region, please contact the NEGRC Workforce Division at **(706) 369-5703** or Athens Technical College's Economic Development Division at **(706) 369-5876**.



Athens-Clarke Manufacturing 101 Course Graduates



Greene County Graduates



Elbert County Graduates

PRESERVATION MONTH IS CELEBRATED

May is preservation month, and this year, the celebration should be bigger than ever! Make a point to celebrate the preservation projects in your community that define character and sense of place. At the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, we are proud of all

of the successful preservation projects across our 12 counties and 54 cities. From the Rock Gym in Elberton to the Monticello Historic District, our region is rich with historic resources that define our heritage. This month, to continue with our yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are featuring Greene County and their preservation efforts.

It was difficult to choose just one project in Greene County this month, so we will highlight several noteworthy projects. Greene County is home to one of our region's most unique resources, Bethesda Baptist Church. Bethesda Baptist Church is a federal style, brick building, constructed in 1818. Originally known as Whatley's Mill, Bethesda Baptist Church is one of the oldest Baptist congregations in the state, and has continued to function for more than 200 years. The impressive building and surrounding property were nominated to the National Register in 1998. The City of Union Point has recently completed the restoration of the 1947 Union Theatre. The restored Union Theatre shows first runs of movies. This project saved a key resource in downtown Union Point and has created a draw for visitors throughout the region. The county seat of Greene County, Greensboro, has been designated as a Georgia Exceptional Main Street (GEM) from the Georgia Main Street Program. One of the earliest participants in the Georgia Main Street Program, Greensboro has revitalized their downtown and promoted preservation in the commercial district through extensive streetscape improvements. They are outstanding models for downtown revitalization in Northeast Georgia. Greene County is filled with outstanding resources, and through tremendous community involvement, they are able to shine. Next time you are traveling through Greene County, stop and see Bethesda Baptist Church, the Union Theatre, and Downtown Greensboro, you will not be disappointed.

For any questions about preservation month or historic preservation projects in your community, please contact **Jordan Shoemaker**, Project Specialist, at jshoemaker@negrc.org or **(706) 369-5650**.

BOWMAN LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

On April 15, the Bowman Commercial Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Bowman Commercial Historic District comprises the buildings around the public square. The district began to develop in the late 1870s. When the City was incorporated in 1907, the downtown was flourishing. Early businesses included a brickyard, blacksmith, bank, drugstore, grocery and telephone company. The buildings are mainly brick, featuring intricate patterns. Currently, the Bowman Commercial District is known for its many antique shops, historic well, and cake walk. Congratulations to the City of Bowman and the Bowman Commercial Historic District!

BROWNFIELD TRAINING HOSTED BY NEGRC

On May 18, the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission will be hosting a training in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency. The topic of the training will be the various brownfield grants and the application process. For more information or to sign up for the training, please contact Ms. Shoemaker.



305 Research Drive
Athens, GA 30605

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS

May

10	8:30 a.m.	Workforce Development Board	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
19	Noon	NEGRC Commission Council	Athens Holiday Inn
19	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
25	9:30 a.m.	Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room

~

Sincerely & Respectfully,