

# River Currents

September 2001

## Support the Land Use Plan

Upon completion of the Land Use Plan, an Oversight Committee was designated to assist County and City Planning Staff in composing appropriate Development Ordinances, which would encompass all new development within the confines of New Hanover County. This committee was to be composed of citizens with the best interests of the County's future in mind. As time went by, the process became even more flawed as more and more "stakeholders" were inserted into the committee. As a result, the focus of the committee shifted toward easing of the environmental and ecological restrictions rather than reinforcing the intent and purpose of the Land Use Plan. Staff has been unable to re-establish the Plan's focus. The stakeholders hold a majority position on the committee, thereby negating the principles of the Land Use Plan. Thus, the situation has evolved to an untenable situation from the standpoint of upholding the Plan.

Concerned individuals and groups, including CFRW, have expressed a sincere concern regarding the current state of the situation. We suggest that the Planning Staff of the City/County be given authority to make changes returning to the original focus of the Plan, that the census of the committee be redistributed so that the general population will be more represented, that the number of stakeholders be limited so that no one group can dominate, and that an elected official of the city and county be appointed to this committee. We are dedicated to balancing the environment, ecology and economy to improve the quality of life of all our citizens.

## Smart Pavement

The City of Wilmington, in conjunction with NC State University, has installed the first pervious concrete parking pavement in Wilmington. This parking area is located at the Ann McCrary Park picnic area on Randall Parkway. Unlike impervious pavement, such as asphalt, the new pervious pavement can hold up to 1.6 inches of water without runoff. The new concrete will also filter the water, using bacteria to break up oil and chemicals from vehicles.

## Natural Heritage Inventory

Kudos to Camilla Herlevich and the Coastal Land Trust for working closely with our County Commissioners to get the Natural Heritage Bond passed. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program has completed natural area inventories for about half of the counties in North Carolina. A Natural Heritage Inventory of New Hanover County will provide a foundation of detailed, site-specific information and will identify sensitive areas. The Inventory will also identify rare and endangered species present in our county. It provides a basis for proposals of green space, and justifies arguments against development in sensitive areas. An updated inventory also qualifies New Hanover County for state and federal funding grants for land acquisition.

## Calendar of Events

### October

6 Saturday 1st Saturday Seminar:  
Victoria Rouch: Birds of Prey 9AM

6 & 7 Sat & Sun River Basin Station  
at Riverfest at the Cotton Exchange.  
See baby alligators, turtles, starfish,  
great hands on programs for all ages.

### November

3 Saturday 1st Saturday Seminar:  
Richard Lawrence NC Underwater  
Archeology Program at Fort Fisher  
9AM

5 Monday Fresh Oyster Fling at  
Hieronymus Seafood 6-10 PM

10 Saturday Greenfield Lake  
Adventure Sprint call 343-4751

### December

1 Saturday First Saturday Seminar:  
Elaine Chioso Haw River Assembly,  
9AM

### January

5 Saturday 1st Saturday Seminar:  
Andy Wood, NC Audubon Society  
Wildlife of the Cape Fear Region

12 Saturday Polar Bear Paddle at  
Greenfield Lake 1PM

**Cape Fear River Watch  
Board Members:**

*Officers*

President: Don Cooke  
Vice President: Melanie Bruce  
Secretary: Christopher Yerkes  
Treasurer: Walt Pollard

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*Staff*

D. Bouton Baldrige,  
Cape Fear Riverkeeper  
Danielle Seneschal,  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Jennifer Coyner,  
Greenfield Lake Program  
Coordinator

**Fresh Oyster Fling!  
Celebrate  
With  
Cape Fear River Watch, Inc.  
November 5, 2001  
at Hieronymus Seafood**

5075 Market Street  
Wilmington, NC 28405  
392-6313

**Live entertainment, Great Seafood, Door prizes,  
and lots of your favorite fresh, plump oysters and Seafood  
buffet**

**Hieronymus Seafood is generously donating all  
proceeds from the ticket sales to our  
Organization**

The social will begin at 6 p.m. and continue until the music is  
over! The Board of Directors will have a short meeting and  
Election of New Board Members at 7 p.m.

*Tickets just: \$20.00 in advance  
\$25.00 at the door*

*Tickets can be purchased in advance at  
CFRW or Hieronymus Seafood*

This is a great opportunity to come out to meet  
members, staff and the hard-working volunteers of the  
Cape Fear River Watch, Inc.

This is a casual event and all are welcome!



**Meet the Interns**



**Shannon Crate** is a Junior at Chapel Hill. Shannon has been working on the Kerr Ave. Wetland Restoration Site where she is monitoring the progress of the plants, wildlife, and water quality there.

**Elizabeth Polovick** is an Environmental Policy student at Appalachian State, and was a great help at the Clean Water Lobby Day in Raleigh.

**Sarah Page**, a student from Rhode Island, has done an excellent job reorganizing the resource library. She also helped with environmental education classes and clean-ups.

**Brady Tubb** has updated our web page. Hooray!

<http://capefearriverwatch.wilmington.org>

**Jeremy Raynell** is a Senior at UNCW studying Environmental Science. Jeremy got a flat tire recycling hundreds of phone books for CFRW, but kept coming back!

**Kelly Chesnutt** is an English Major at UNCW and has been working very hard on a Volunteer training manual for our Greenfield Lake Environmental Education Classes

**Tim Parker**, a geology major at UNCW, spent many hours at Greenfield Lake. We let him stay even though he brought the rain with him almost every time.

**Brian Burton**, a UNCW Environmental Studies major, has been a true asset for the Greenfield Lake Concession.

## CLEAN WATER LOBBY DAY

By Jennifer Coyner

On June 19, several volunteers from CFRW joined over 80 people from all over the state in Raleigh to participate in Clean Water Lobby Day, an event planned by North Carolina Conservation Network. After dividing into groups based on the river basin we live in, we were given a list of representatives to talk to. A list of lobbying tips was also provided, and greatly appreciated since most of the attendants were lobbying novices. We were also given handouts to leave with the lawmakers that we spoke with. The handouts focused on vegetative buffers, which are some of the cheapest and most efficient ways to lessen the effects of pollution on our rivers. After a quick but thorough explanation of our mission, we were ready to go. Our mission was to talk to as many lawmakers from our area as possible, and to tell them what buffers are, why they are important, and how they can expand the use of buffers in our state. We were also there to support the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

We tracked our first lawmaker, a task which involved running up and down stairs, waiting, guessing, and deducting. Finally, we spotted him. We gave him the handout and tried to explain as much as we could while running up the steps behind him. He thanked us and rushed into his next meeting. One down, many more to go. It was exhilarating.

After lunch, we were fortunate enough to be invited to sit in on a Senate hearing on clean air. The guest speaker was from Tennessee Valley Authority. He gave a very informative talk on emissions regulations.

Riding home, I felt like a more informed, responsible citizen. Anyone can lobby and become more involved in the legislative process. It's not always feasible to spend a day in Raleigh, but a letter or email to our elected officials lets them know that we are informed, and that we care about the laws that affect our quality of life.

*Answers from page three:*

1. Missouri, 2. 60%, 3. 250,000, 4. False, 5. 2 acres, 6. false,
7. 50%, 8. 30%, 9. 100 gallons, 10. 49 gallons, 11. 6 gallons,
12. 2,600 gallons



*Cape Fear River Watch offers our deepest sympathies to all the families who have suffered a tragic loss.*

## THE LEGEND OF SPANISH MOSS

A Spanish soldier fell in love at first sight with an Indian chief's favorite daughter. Though the chieftain forbade the couple to see each other, the Spaniard was too love-struck to stop meeting the maiden in secret. The father found them out and ordered his braves to tie the Spaniard high up in the top of an ancient oak tree. The Spaniard had only to disavow his love to be freed, but he steadfastly refused. Guards were posted to keep anyone—the chief's daughter above all—from giving food or water to the poor Spaniard.

The Spaniard grew weaker and weaker, but he still would not renounce his love for the girl. Near the end, the Chief tried to persuade him once more to stay away from his daughter. The Spaniard answered that not only would he refuse to disavow his love, but that his love would continue to grow even after death. When at last the Spaniard died, the chief kept the body tied up in the tree as a warning to any other would-be suitors.

Before long, the Indians began to notice that the Spaniard's beard continued to grow. The Indian maiden refused to take a husband— unless the Spaniard's beard died and vanished from the tree. As the years went by, the beard only grew stronger and longer, covering trees far from the Indian maidens' village. Legend says that when the Spanish Moss is gone, the Spaniard's love will have finally died.

### FACTS ABOUT SPANISH MOSS

1. Spanish moss is an epiphyte, not a parasite. This means that it acquires nutrients from the air; it does not depend on the host tree for nutrition.
2. Henry Ford used cured Spanish moss in the seat cushions of Model T's.
3. Some creatures use Spanish moss as their homes, such as chiggers, rat, snakes, and frogs (so be careful if you collect it !)
4. Spanish moss is in the pineapple family.

### WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE

#### President Update

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., environmental lawyer and President of the Water Keeper Alliance, was sentenced to 20-90 days in prison for civil disobedience and trespassing on Naval Lands in Vieques, Puerto Rico. He was released after serving 30 days of the term.

# River Currents

September 2001

NONPROFIT BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WILMINGTON NC  
PERMIT NO. 205

Cape Fear River Watch, Inc.  
617 Surry Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
(910) 762-5606  
cfrw@wilmington.net  
<http://capefearriverwatch.wilmington.org>



Keeping an eye on the River

Recycle— pass your *River Currents*  
along to a friend!

Great Gift Ideas:  
*Wilmington A Pictorial History*  
By Ann Russell only \$ 39.95



## River Currents

### Thanks for your Support

Bill Adams  
Tim Allred  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Anderson  
John G. Barrows  
Mary Catherine Bass  
OB and Shelby Battle  
Gary Beecher  
Peter Buskirk  
Shirley Cleveland  
Joseph and Mary Lou Corbin  
Vincent and Joan Cusick  
Alyce Dana  
Val and Bill Davis  
Jim Depree  
Jewell Ann Diehn  
Richard and Shirley Eisenman  
Capt. Morris and Delilah Elsen  
Skip Fry  
John Golden  
Adron Hall

John Godwin  
Elizabeth and Fred Golden  
Bill Hart  
Sue and Dick Hayes  
Lawrence Haynes  
Jim Herstine  
Brenda Hughes  
Carolyn C. Keith  
Charles and Pat Kernan  
Duncan Trout & Marilyn Lammers  
Peg and Herbert Lowry  
Patrick W. Marriot  
Joe and Joan Mascherino  
Celeste W. Maus  
Hiram & Marti Maxim  
David Mayes  
Marie Millis  
David Mitchell  
Wallace Murchison

Harper Peterson  
Terry Gray Pridgen  
Paul Reinman  
Edward and Mary-Louise Rhodes  
Richard and Katherine Salwitz  
Dean Scarafoni  
William J. Schillinger  
Rhett Schools  
Henry Singletary  
Dorian S. Smith  
Richard Smith  
Karen Stansell  
Sandra Staub  
Charles and Mary Stirewalt  
Thomas Stewart  
John Taggart  
Betty Timberlake  
Ann Von Gruenigen  
Donald Zoeckler

#### An Extra Special Thanks To :

Bruce Watkins  
Skip Fry  
Chemsolve  
City of Wilmington

- Budget Office
- Parks and Recreation
- Police Department

Terry Smith CPA  
Robert Cutting  
Goodson & Taylor, CPA  
Clement Goodson CPA  
Tom Hayes  
Pleasure Island Parrot Heads  
Charlie Daniels  
Shrub and Grass

**Earth Day Alliance  
of the Lower Cape Fear  
Proudly Presents  
RIVER BASIN STATION  
At Riverfest  
Saturday and Sunday,  
October 6 and 7  
10 am-5 pm**

Come Learn about your Watershed  
Where: In the Kids Section in the  
Cotton Exchange Parking Lot,  
under the big tent.

**Featuring:**  
**Live baby Alligators, and Turtles**  
**Marine Touch Tank**  
**Games, Hands on Displays & Activities**  
**Fun for the Entire Family and River Buff**

**TEST YOUR RIVER KNOWLEDGE**

*Information provided by the National Geographic Society.*

1. What is the longest river in the U.S.?
2. How many rivers are there in the United States?
3. What percentage of our drinking water comes from rivers and river-fed lakes?
4. True or false: Water is a renewable resource.
5. A quart of motor oil dumped in a storm sewer creates a slick how wide: 10 ft., 100 ft., 100 yds., 1 acre, 2 acres?
6. Most pollution in rivers comes from industrial sources. True or false?
7. What percentage of America's wetlands have been lost or destroyed in the past century?
8. What percentage of native freshwater fish species in North America are threatened or endangered?
9. How many gallons of water a day does the average American use?
10. How many gallons of water does it take to produce one 8 oz. glass of milk?
11. How many gallons of water does it take to grow a single head of lettuce?
12. How many gallons of water does it take to produce a single serving of steak?

*Answers are on page five*

## **ECO TOURS**

During September and October, we will introduce an exciting new program at Greenfield Lake. For a while now, we've offered eco-paddles and eco-walks on a demand basis. In order to increase awareness of this program and to generate interest, we have decided to give eco-tours at a scheduled time.

Throughout the fall, the eco-tours will be held Saturday mornings at 9 am. We'll be incorporating our red canoe with an electric trolling motor into this program so that participants can relax and focus on the lake.

Highlights of the eco-tours include the history of Greenfield Lake, its present day uses and ecological function, water quality information (including what YOU can do to help Greenfield Lake), as well as information about all the exciting plants and animals found right here in our own city.

Space on the canoe is limited and will be filled by reservation or first come, first serve. We will offer eco-walks if we run out of room on the canoe. We recommend that you bring binoculars if you have them. Please call 762-5606 to make your reservation!!

### **WE NEED BIKES**

Do you have any bikes lying around that you don't use or want anymore? We are collecting bikes to use at the Greenfield Lake Concession.

We'll take anything— well, almost anything!

**Thank You Cape Fear River Watch  
Volunteers**

**WE RECYCLED**

**7,620 pounds of phone books.  
Thanks again to all the businesses  
that participated.**

## The Lost Soils Of Suburbia....

**God:** Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in the US? What happened to all the dandelions, violets, thistle, and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees, and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green lawns.

**St. Francis:** It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

**God:** Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds, and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

**St. Francis:** Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

**God:** The spring rains and warm weather probably make the grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

**St. Francis:** Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it. Sometimes twice a week.

**God:** They cut it? Do they then bail it like hay?

**St. Francis:** Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

**God:** They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

**St. Francis:** No, Sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

**God:** Now let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

**St. Francis:** Yes, Sir.

**God:** These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

**St. Francis:** You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast they drag out hoses and pay more money to water so they can mow it and get rid of it.

**God:** What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fell to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

**St. Francis:** You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

**God:** No, What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

**St. Francis:** After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something called mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of leaves.

**God:** And where do they get this mulch?

**St. Francis:** They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

**God:** Enough. I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, your in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

**St. Catherine:** "Dumb and Dumber," Lord. It's a real stupid movie about.....

**God:** Never mind, I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.