

Jim Carrico, Superintendent of New River Gorge National River, announced today that an agreement has been reached with Mr. Orville Ayers of McCreery, West Virginia to allow the National Park Service to identify a public access point to the New River on Mr. Ayers' property in McCreery.

The put-in is located on the riverside of State Route 41, across the road from the McCreery Packette. River users may park in the store parking lot and carry their craft down railroad tie stairs to the river launching area or drive a vehicle over a short one-lane dirt road to unload their craft at the water's edge.

"National Park Service involvement in working out this agreement with Mr. Ayers was precipitated by the objections of local residents to the launching of river craft through a small McCreery residential area which has been used over the years for launching, but has outgrown its capacity to adequately accommodate the increased number of visitors," Carrico said. "We have provided two portable toilets and a trash dumpster to accommodate visitors' needs and we are indebted to Mr. Ayers for his helping to relieve a major congestion problem through the use of his put-in at no charge to the public," he said.

New River Gorge National River was added to the National Park System in November, 1978 and has been in a major planning phase for the past few years. The park operates two visitor contact stations, one at the southern end of the park in Hinton, Summers County and the other at the northern end of the New River Gorge Bridge in Fayette County. The park has initiated river ranger patrols for the first time, and its land base will increase sharply in the near future through implementation of its recently approved Land Protection Plan. River put-in/take-out sites will be acquired to provide additional access points to the river for our visitors, Carrico concluded.

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 7023  
ATLANTA, GA 30357

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Roger & Beth Nott  
2335 Stephens Circle  
Gainesville, GA 30501

TIME LIMIT

Court clears Habersham man

CLARKESVILLE — A Habersham Countian was found innocent yesterday of aggravated assault charges involving his firing of a shotgun into the ground while trying to make a group of canoeists leave his yard.

Dennis Lankes, 42, testified that Wayne Lynn and his wife, Linda, stopped on a small island in front of his home on Riverbend Road in August 1983, apparently for a picnic.

When asked to leave, they became abusive and cursed at him, Lankes said.

The Lynns testified that they stopped only to walk back upstream and get their 5-year-old child, and that it was Lankes who did the cursing.

Lankes said he called the Habersham County Sheriff's Department and a deputy, Danny Densmore, advised him to fire a shot to scare the people off. Densmore took the stand and denied giving such advise.

Testimony indicated that the blast struck almost 200 feet from where the Lynns were standing.

The defense introduced testimony about other incidents canoeists and Lankes, who was an independent candidate for sheriff but withdrew after he said he received threats against his life and the life of his son.

Lankes said he and a partner have invested a lot of money and effort in building the rustic home and that canoeists often camp there without permission, throwing out bottles and trash.

He said that canoeists even have stopped to urinate and have sex right in his yard.



The EDDY LINE

POST OFFICE BOX 7023 • ATLANTA, GA 30357 Vol. 19, No. 11 November, 1984

Deadline for material for the next newsletter is the 15th. Submit material to Gary DeBacher, CRM, 1441 Clifton Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30322. DO NOT SEND DUES, ADDRESS CHANGES, OR SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS TO THIS ADDRESS. All subscription matters should be addressed to GCA, P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta GA 30357. Please type articles border to border (zero margins) with indented paragraphs and no vertical spacing between paragraphs. This format makes it much easier for me to lay out the newsletter. Good, high contrast photos and conservation clippings are also welcome. NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 PM, AT THE GEORGIA CONSERVANCY HEADQUARTERS, 3110 Maple Drive NE in Atlanta, near the intersection of Piedmont and Peachtree. Members and interested persons are welcome to attend. However, if you wish to submit any matters for discussion or vote, please call the president or vice president before the meeting so they can plan time on the agenda.

November 3	Upper Amicalola	2+, intermediate	Laura Jordan	233-7294	
3	upper Chestatee	2-3, senior intermediate	Richard Blews	993-8468	
4	Lower Amicalola	3-4, advanced	John Oakley	939-9061	
4	Ocoee- last run of the season.	3-4+, advanced	Mark Levine	926-8683	
9-10-11	Red Cross Instructors Course.		Don & Bettina George	1-787-9548	
10	Upper Flint	class 1, trained beginner	Doug Bridges	H:992-7967	W:455-7344
10	Nantahala	2-3, senior intermediate	Ed Kevitt	584-6264	
11	Cartecay	2-3, senior intermediate	Jim Silavent	587-1172	
11	Broad	1-2, trained beginner	Owen Bergen	377-2970	
17	Tellico	3-4, advanced	John Oakley	939-9061	
17	Upper Hooch	2-3, senior intermediate	Dale Bergen	469-6289	
18	Sweetwater Creek	3+, advanced	Jerry Holladay	688-1842	
18	Cartecay	2-3, senior intermediate	Dick Hurd	394-4919	
24	Little River Canyon	3-4, advanced	Stan Landers	948-7437	
25	upper Chestatee	2-3, senior intermediate	Andy Warshaw	471-8831	
Dec. 1	upper Hooch	2-3, sr. intermediate	Nancy Barker	874-8897	
2	Chattooga III	3-4, advanced	Marc Rucker	876-7970	
15	Lower Amicalola	3-4, advanced	Ron Towe	435-0903	

To volunteer to lead trips, call the cruismaster, Andy Warshaw, (H) 471-8831 (W) 955-8822

..... R O L L I N G P R A C T I C E .....

Rolling lessons for decked boaters will be held on Monday nights at the Whitehead Boy's Club, starting November 5. Call Mike Miller at 627-4617 before noon, to let him know how many to expect. The charge is \$2.00 a person. We need TEACHERS, too. DIRECTIONS: take I-75 south from downtown Atlanta. Exit at the Lakewood Fairgrounds exit, highway 166, and go east. After a block or so it dead-ends; turn left. Go to the 2nd traffic light. The Boy's Club will be on your right. There is a place to change clothes. Make sure your boat is CLEAN. Looking forward to seeing you!!



My phone is ringing off the hook! For those of you I haven't gotten back to, let me use this newsletter as a response. Fall 1984 is election time -- maybe the most critical election time for environmentalists in this century. I'm not leading canoe camping trips for GCA this fall because I am working politically with other environmentalists to make sure the anti-environment policies of the Reagan Administration are not allowed to continue. Every major environmental organization in America has endorsed the Mondale-Ferraro ticket. Friends, if this Administration's attacks on wilderness scare you as much as they scare me, call me at 233-4093 and get involved. -- Russ Koester

FLINT RIVER, OCT. 13, 1984, 7 FT. AT HWY. 36 BRIDGE....The 5 1/2 miles from Sprewell Bluff to Hwy. 36 is definitely runnable at this level by those with good river reading skills. The rock gardens were numerous but all three significant drops could be run via the usual routes. We went to the left of Owen's Island since it was doubtful there was enough water to float the boats on the more interesting right side. Good clean runs were had by all and some had repeat runs at the drops. Lunch at table rock and a nice fall afternoon were enjoyed by Grace Culpepper, Havis Johnson, Keith Smith, Dave Rosselle, and Anita and Don Langford.

Ocoee September 16, 1984

The advantages of a small group became very obvious as Allan Rainwater, Brad Nichol, and I ran the Ocoee in record time (for a GCA trip), without skipping any significant play spots. Raft traffic was down considerably from late August, which also made for a fast, safe trip. Brad and I had a fairly uneventful day. My major accomplishment was a clean run of Table Saw (current score: Table Saw 2, Williams 2). Allan got off to a bad start, with a body-bruising swim at the put-in and the discovery, at Double Suck, that he had also put 2 foot-long cracks in his hull. However, all was not lost since Shannon Rainwater, our land-based trip photographer and shuttle driver, was able to retrieve a roll of duct tape from my car. The day ended well for Allan as he got a good pop-up from the mid-river hole below Power House, which Shannon captured on film for posterity.

Bruce L. Williams

Broad River, September 8, 1984- We had a beautiful clear sunny day. Thanks to a brisk breeze blowing upstream, we all wondered if this was a better day for sailing. We could have put in at the take-out and easily sailed upstream. Since none of us had sails with us, we paddled extra hard and made the trip in the usual fashion. Two unexpected guests were a pair of German shepherd dogs who swam and hiked the distance along with their mistress who was in a kayak. The dogs were remarkably well behaved and were enjoyed by the several children in our party - as well as the "older children" such as myself. In tandem open canoes were Leroy and Ross Robbins, Richard and Alan Webb, Jim and Becky Jones, Barbara and Nina Williams, Worth and Robbie Williams, Ron and Marsha Snyder, Charlie, Lisa and Chuck Headrick, and Wade and Don Lawhorn. In kayaks were Linda Alley, Elaine Jensen, Connie Robbins, and Ross Robbins. In solo canoes were Ki Wilson and Nancy Barker. My thanks to Leroy and Ross Robbins for running sweep, to Linda Alley for running shuttle, and to each member of the group for making it such a pleasant trip to lead. - Nancy Barker

While I've got the chance - a breather before the Gauley River Festival - I am writing to thank all of you for the support and interest that you've shown for the conservation efforts on the Gauley and Ocoee.

The southeastern paddling community is strong and maturing. We've all learned a bit about the value and power of organization in river conservation. Coordination of effort and the development of an informed active constituency are essential to success. The clubs and their active members proved themselves to be important agents on behalf of the Ocoee and the Gauley.

I just think that those of you in the club who joined the equipment dealers, the manufacturers, the outfitters, and others as part of the "critical mass" need to be recognized and thanked. Please keep it up!

David L. Brown  
Citizens for Gauley River

County road maps are almost as important to canoeing as paddlers are. They show every public road, paved or unpaved, county by county, and every state I know of publishes them. North Carolina's county road maps are cheap at about 25 cents each, but until recently a collection of all 100 county maps, with municipal areas added, was very expensive. Now a full set of 156 22x16-inch maps is available for \$10.70. Send checks to County Maps, 300 Buck Jones Road, Raleigh, NC 27606, Attn. Raymond L. Wilder.

## Encounters of a Poisonous Kind

by Walter L. Larimore, M.D.

Small things can often make or break a backpacking trip, and contact with poisonous plants can definitely make the trip miserable. These potential troublemakers include poison ivy east of the Rockies, poison oak west of the Rockies and poison sumac in swampy areas. Hikers in Texas might find all three.

To someone sensitive to urushiol, the poison found in the sap of these plants, even the slightest contact with them can cause incredible misery. Reactions can occur five to 20 days after an initial exposure and last for seven to 21 days, depending upon the degree of exposure. Urushiol can be spread to all parts of the body including the eyes, genitals and mouth. The greatest concentration of the toxin causes the quickest and most severe reaction.

Urushiol is usually stable to the heat of a campfire. Because of this, smoke from burning branches or leaves of these poisonous plants can, in sensitive individuals, cause a reaction in the nose, throat or lungs which can be incapacitating.

The easiest approach to treating reactions to poisonous plants is a preventative one: recognize and avoid them. Exposure should be treated by washing with copious amounts of water (within minutes if you can). Do not use yellow soap on an exposed area because this can actually spread the oil.

Every backcountry first-aid kit should include:

- Domeboro tablets or powder in individual packets
- 0.5% hydrocortisone cream (e.g., Cortaid)
- Antihistamine tablets (e.g., Chlor-Trimeton, 4mg.)
- Calamine lotion

Many experts recommend applying the cortisone cream to the exposed area after washing. Relief from minor itching can also be obtained by applying wet compresses of Domeboro solution (1/2 packet of powder in one cup of water). If itching is intense, one-half of one Chlor-Trimeton tablet can be taken every four hours to provide relief, but beware: it can cause sedation or drowsiness.

If the rash weeps or blisters, wash the lesions with cool water, blot dry and apply Calamine lotion. Repeat this two or three times per day, or more often if perspiration causes the lotion to wash off. *Cortisone cream should not be used on wet or weeping areas.*

Some agents can actually make the rash worse: topical antihistamines (Benadryl), anesthetics (Benzocaine), phenol, menthol or camphor. Amazingly, many products for poison ivy contain one or more of these ingredients.

Rashes on the face, mouth, eyes, groin or covering more than 25% of the body should be referred to a physician as soon as possible. If you are itching to learn more, additional information can be obtained by writing the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the free pamphlet, *Preventing and Treating Poison Oak and Poison Ivy.*

## Forest Planning Workshops Set For November

By JEAN SOKOL  
Atlanta Group

In accordance with the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the U.S. Forest Service is publishing its management plan for the Chattahoochee/Oconee National Forests in Georgia. These plans dictate how our forests will be used for the next 10-15 years—including timber harvest goals, acreage managed for wildlife and watershed protection, oil and gas leases,

roadbuilding projects, and, of course, wilderness. We can affect the outcome by participating in the 90-day review of the plans.

To that end, the Wilderness Society and several conservation groups, including the Sierra Club, are holding a series of free Forest Planning Workshops. If you want to find out what's happening to your favorite

## A Short Safety Article

by Les Bechdel

Whitewater sport is presently going through some exciting changes. New attitudes towards paddling have produced dynamic boat designs for the cruiser as well as some unique ideas for auxiliary equipment. We applaud these new developments and at the same time realize that it takes time to test their effectiveness.

For years kayaks were built to slalom racing specifications, with the idea that the cruiser might want to race the boat some day. Specialization has killed that notion and boats are now being created for performance standards alone. The result is a new generation of designs that are commonly referred to as "short boats".

Are short boats safer? In the space of this article, we cannot discuss all the various models available. There is, however, one short kayak that stands out as being truly innovative: the Jeti, by the Noah Company.

Affectionately called the "spud boat", this 9-1/2 foot plastic boat presents a blunt and bulbous bow to vertical drops. In contrast to traditional narrow-nosed kayaks, a paddler would have to work hard to become vertically pinned in a Jeti.

The boat's shortness is a safety feature in itself. Being 3-1/2 feet shorter than traditional kayaks, the Jeti permits tighter maneuvering and quicker eddy turns. It is great on steep little streams with those last minute "which-way-do-I-go?" decisions. The fact that it spins on a dime does not hurt, either.

Another safety feature is the full length walls. At 4-1/2 inches, they are the widest in the industry and it is highly unlikely that they would ever fail. The outfitting is comfortable and the molded thigh hooks provide a feeling of security. The cockpit is larger than most kayaks which permits quick entrances and eases unplanned exits. Its rim provides a good lip for positive spray skirt attachment.

What is the Jeti's drawback? It is sluggish to ferry and bogs down when going upstream. This is more of a performance flaw than a safety consideration, unless you find yourself having to make a ferry above a waterfall.

Were short boats designed for performance characteristics or for safety reasons? The answer is not important. Kayaks like the Jeti meet the needs of both performance and safety.

spot, I urge you to attend. Evening meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Rome on Nov. 13, Athens on Nov. 14, and Clayton on Nov. 15. The series will culminate in Atlanta with a more regional focus on Saturday, November 17, from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The speakers and panelists will be specialists in forest planning from the Wilderness Society and the Forest Service.

If you want to learn more about the planning process and its meaning, perhaps with the goal of commenting on the plan, call Jean Sokol, the Wilderness Society Southeast Office, at 262-1357. To find out more about the Rome workshop held at Shorter College Library, call Dr. Philip Greear at 1-291-2121; the Athens workshop held at the Ecology Auditorium at the University of Georgia, call Bill Walsh of the Athens Group at 546-6226; the Clayton workshop held at the Rabun County Library, call Andrea Timpone of Friends of the Mountains at 1-782-2657. The Atlanta seminar will be held at the Trinity

Presbyterian Church with a catered lunch. Help to stop the Reaganization of our forests. Come, listen, and defend your land from the timber and mining interests.

For Sale to Good home: BLUE HOLE OCA (Green) outfitted w/ solo + tandem kneepads - D-Rings high straps, grunch plates, tie-down rivets. EXCELLENT condition, 1yr. old. \$650.00 Also BLUE HOLE SUNBURST (solo), red outfitted like the OCA (loaded). Bought this season - OUTSTANDING condition. \$585.00 Call BRIGITTE SARAN @ (615) 338-8329. Complimentary user instruction available with pick up.

Claude Grizzard was president of two other clubs, one "the Atlanta Jaycees, which took about 110%" of his time during his 1971-72 term of office in the GCA. Nevertheless he did a splendid job, although he didn't have much time to run river trips. There were two great accomplishments during his term of office: (1) official recognition of the Nantahala race as the Southeastern United States Slalom and Wildwater Championship by the American Canoeing Association and (2) getting the GCA incorporated. The thought of anyone bringing legal action against the club when all members were liable, in Claude's words, "Scared me to death." Among his vivid remembrances are the following:

- "1. Horace Holden got his canoe stuck against a rock in Cherokee, N.C., and we all couldn't get it loose. He went to find the Chief of the tribe there to see if they would retrieve it when the river went down. The Chief's name (as I remember it) was John Smith, and he told Horace, "No way . . . you leave it and it's ours." I don't think Horace ever saw that canoe again.\*
- "2. Claude Terry and I went together on the first trip down Section 4 of the Chattooga. We put a gash about four feet long in my Old Town, and we couldn't figure out where all that water was coming from. Someone in our group shot every rapid that day . . . we didn't make them all, but we tried every one. I remember Payson Kennedy tried Corkscrew, and the rapid threw both him and the canoe up on dry land. That was a funny sight, seeing Payson sitting in a canoe, right side up, on dry land, trying to pull a draw stroke.
- "3. I remember a trip to the canoe race in West Virginia on the South Fork of the North Branch of the Potomac. Chip and I entered the cruising class for men (Chip was about 10 at the time); they didn't have a father/son class. There were 75 boats in the race . . . the biggest I had ever seen. Can you imagine 75 boats trying to get in the river at one time? Well, somehow, I'm sure either by miracle or timer's mistake, Chip and I won the race. That was quite a thrill.
- "4. I remember Bill Crawford turning over in his kayak and using his head as a centerboard . . . fortunately, he had a helmet on.
- "5. I remember a trip on Section 3 of the Chattooga when it was raining real hard and the river was real muddy and there was a heavy fog over the river. No one saw the rapid at Dick's creek and when it was all over, the place looked like a battle field . . . with canoes, ice chests, paddles, lifejackets, etc., all over the place."

As Claude says, the list could go on and on. Memories are great, and we thank you Claude for sharing your remembrances with us.

Anna Belle Close,  
Historian

- \* By the way, there is a happy ending to the story. A week or so later Horace drove back up to Cherokee and spied his canoe on top of a car. He chased the vehicle down and talked to the driver who had retrieved the canoe when the water level dropped and had had the boat repaired (the river had flattened it). Horace persuaded the driver to accept the money it had cost him to have the canoe repaired and to let Horace have his canoe back.

## Courts Rule on Hydropower Programs

In mid-May, two federal courts dealt well-deserved blows to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's hydroelectric power licensing programs. Both decisions were applauded by environmental organizations, including Friends of the Earth, because they served as checks on the Commission's develop-rivers-at-any-cost attitude in two key regulatory areas. Each of the rulings concurred with arguments made by the environmental parties in the cases.

In a May 10, 9th Circuit US Appeals Court decision, entitled *Tulalip Tribes of Washington et al. v. FERC*, the court voided an August 27, 1982, Commission rule that has spurred hundreds of developers to apply for exemptions from licensing for new hydropower projects on mountain streams, especially in western states.

The court stated the Commission had expanded classes of hydroelectric projects eligible for exemptions far beyond what the plain meaning of the law allows and that exempted projects may only be associated with already existing dams. Under the rule, some 196 hy-

dropower projects have been exempted in the past four years, with many more applications currently pending. The US Forest Service estimates that 90 percent of the hydropower exemption proposals on national forest lands (now numbered in the hundreds) involve new dam construction affected by the court's decision.

While many of these exemptions and exemption applications are now void, it is expected that hydropower developers will soon seek licenses for their projects. The ruling will afford environmental organizations and agencies the opportunity to comment or intervene in many of these new proceedings to seek mitigation conditions or to protest licenses where important natural resources may be jeopardized.

In a second decision, issued May 15, the US Supreme Court ruled that federal land managers may impose mandatory conditions on FERC-issued hydroelectric licenses to protect federal lands.

The case, titled *Escondido Mutual Water Company et al. v. La Jolla, Rincon, San Pas-*

*qual, Puma and Pala Bands of Mission Indians, et al.*, centered on conditions issued by the Secretary of Interior to protect several southern California Indian reservations from adverse effects of a hydroelectric proposal by the City of Escondido.

The Commission had argued that it alone should have exclusive power to determine what conditions will be included in the licenses it issues. The Supreme Court, however concurring with an earlier 9th Circuit decision, flatly disagreed. One effect of the high Court's decision is to greatly increase the importance of the environmental role agencies like the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management will play in hydroelectric licensing.

In preparing a friend of the court brief along with the National Wildlife Federation, Friends of the Earth helped to document Forest Service predictions that as many as 3000 new hydroelectric license applications are expected to be filed on national forest lands in the coming decade.

—David Conrad

By 11:30 on a perfect Sunday morning we had all met at the "Put In". The biggest task of my first time as trip leader was over, though I didn't know it at the time. Later on in the day I realized that putting the trip together, deciding on meeting places, putting rides together etc., took more time and planning than the trip down the river. I was blessed with a good bunch on this trip. Paddling K1 were Elaine Jensen, Bohn Frazier, Evelyn Hopkins and Doug Wells. C1 was Roger Sheppard, winner of the "best dressed, color coordinated" award. Canoes were paddled by Donnie Greene, Fred Nuebolt, Valerie Millar and me. True to the second weekend after Labor Day syndrome the river was free of the usual summer collection of floaters and we enjoyed a leisure trip downstream. Lunch break at Ferebee Park brought out an odd assortment of goodies shared by every one. The big pool below Delabars Rock was the site for the decked boat rolling contest. As much to cool off as it was to hone their skills. Valerie Millar tested the icy waters in "Surprised Rapid", the big standing wave just above the scouting area at the Lesser Wesser and agreed the water is still cold. Everyone ran the Wesser with skill and accuracy and Doug's throw rope was restored in the bag dry. Who told the best stories or the biggest lies remains to be seen as the decked boaters opted for supper at the N.O.C. and the rest of us for the Happy Flounder in Andrews. A tip of my paddling helmet to all of those who made my first trip leader experience a pleasant one.

Dick Wright

Last Epilogue to the Ocoee River Circus

PHILIPPER MEETS THE OCOEE, OR NOW I REMEMBER WHY I HATE THESE LOW VOLUME BOATS. (In our last episode, the feckless editor had just purchased a new low volume C-1 after many happy years in his Rubbermaid Raider, Miss Piggy. Since then, he has enjoyed happy and fairly uneventful runs on the Nantahala and Chattooga IV. We rejoin him now on September 1 at the Ocoee put-in, where he is waiting for the Ocoee River Circus Parade to embark.)

THUMP BUMP CRUMP. Gasp. Three hundred yards, two blorts and two rolls later, I realized that I'd better quit worrying about the various newcomers to the Ocoee, because I was about to have a bad day. Everything was feeling so squirrely under me that I wondered if my initial success in Philipper had been a fluke. Down at the staging area I complained loudly to everyone in earshot while we waited for the last GCA paddlers to gather. So as not to keep others waiting for me to self-rescue, I peeled out early and headed downstream.

I managed to blunder through Vegematic/Broken Nose OK, but Slice and Dice/Second Helping has always been my bad luck rapid on the Ocoee. Flipped and rolled, flipped again, and while setting up, hit a rock so hard with my shoulder that I decided to get out. Big mistake. My new spray skirt wouldn't let go, so I left it on the boat, and with the help of a strange kayaker (all yakkers are at least a little strange), I found a mid-stream rock on which to dump out the boat.

On the way down through Turkeys, I realized it wasn't the big stuff that was getting me, but the trash on either side. The boat seemed to have teeth which it loved to sink into every passing eddy line, and the rear deck was a picnic ground for blorts and sprovits. I couldn't slow the boat down when I needed to, and so ended up running Double Trouble with my bow under Andy Warshaw's stern.

The boat behaved beautifully through Tablesaw, ignoring the lateral surges which had always kicked Miss Piggy's big bow from side to side. I made the left eddy in time to see Mark Levine try for the Guinness Book of World Records with an incredibly slow roll in his Gyramax.

Things improved a little down to Powerhouse, where I decided to take a break and throw rope for the others. Most of our opens took the left sneak and then ferried across above the bridge. One open boater must have thought the ferry too threatening, because he chose to sneak down the extreme left bank and over the ledge. This isn't considered a safe option, because the hole below the ledge is sometimes a keeper with some nasty leg traps. I know because I've swummit. However, the boater in question managed OK.

My favorite sneak route for Hell Hole, a.k.a. Witches' Hole, is down the extreme right bank. Piggy always used to manage that so neatly, porking through the soft right edge of the hole. So I squirreled Philipper down the same route, only to have the boat sink its fangs into a bankside micro-eddy and turn backwards. Oh, well, no time to turn around...I got a swell upstream view of both waves in Hell Hole before I flipped over. One marginal roll later and the day was as good as over.

Camped at Chilhowee, I nursed my wounds Sunday and returned Monday to get even on a solo run. Things went a lot better, notwithstanding a near back-ender disaster at Broken Nose. I took the left sneak by Hell Hole, saving it for another day.

With respect to Hal's Sept. 1 River Circus, Hal really did a better job of keeping up with things than he admits. Wayne Gentry deserves credit also for his rope work and boat rescues. ---Ed.

FOR SALE: 2 Ethafoam sheets (for kayak walls, canoe saddles, etc.) one 2"x24"x54" (\$12), the other 2"x24"x108" (\$22); one set Blue Hole thigh straps-- D-ring anchor and Vinabond cement included (\$10). Call Bruce Williams: 231-5624 (H) or 420-8951 (W)

**FEAR OF ACID RAIN HAUNTS SMOKIES**

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (UPI)--The Great Smoky Mountains National Park marks its 50th birthday with fears that acid rain is bringing "the ecological disaster of the century" to America's most popular wilderness preserve.

Officials say the lush 520,000-acre preserve of mountains, waterfalls, hiking trails and campground could be facing its greatest threat since the park's formation June 15, 1934, thwarted the schemes of developers secretly buying up the land.

"We have identified the effects of air and water pollution as our No. 1 problem," said Stu Coleman, chief of resources management for the park. "But it's one of those things that you just don't know what to do about."

Some 100,000 trout have died since 1981 in trout farms owned by Cherokees on the boundaries of the nation's most-visited national park, and TVA is investigating whether acid rain is the cause.

Half of the trout have died in four fish kills since February, officials said.

Atop the park's five tallest peaks, red spruce and Fraser fir trees that normally live up to 400 years appear to be dying after 45 years, said Dr. Robert Bruck, a plant pathologist at North Carolina State University.

"There is a definite decline phenomenon in the spruce and fir populations at high altitude in the Great Smoky Mountains," Bruck said. "This is of great concern."

"The Great Smoky Mountains is one of our most precious natural resources. If this degradation continues, it would be the ecological disaster of the century."

Tests of mountain rainfall have revealed heavy amounts of acid, but Bruck said more research is needed before acid rain can be pinpointed as the cause of the trees' stunted growth.

Sulfur dioxide belched by coal-fired power plants is believed to be the main ingredient for acid rain.

"The acid rain that is falling is very profound," Bruck said. "We're talking about 100 times more acidity than you would find in pristine rainfall."

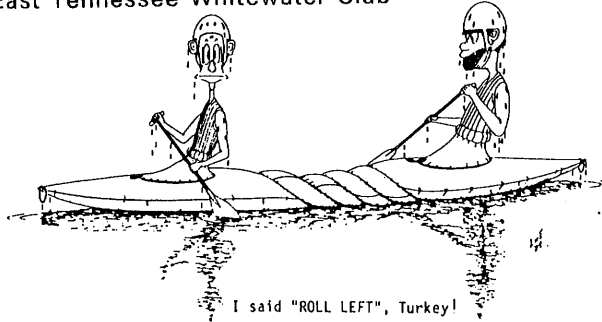
Bruck said a team of North Carolina State researchers is investigating damage to trees on Mount Sterling, Mount Guyot, Mount Le Conte, Clingman's Dome and Laurel Top. The plant pathologist said trees are picking up pollution from clouds that float past the tallest peaks.

Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association

**SECTIONS OF SIPSEY SCENIC; SOME NOT**

Two segments of the Sipsey Fork, West Fork River, totalling 28.7 miles, were found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation. Two other segments, totalling 48.5 miles, were judged ineligible. According to the American Rivers Conservation Council, under the preferred alternative of the study, 14.7 miles of the West Fork Sipsey in the northwestern part of Alabama would be designated "wild" and 14 additional miles "scenic."

East Tennessee Whitewater Club



by David Dickson, Associate to the Conservation Director  
American Rivers Conservation Council

In early July, President Ronald Reagan spent three days trying to convince the voting public that he cares about the environment. Standing on the banks of the Potomac River, using the memorial to our nation's first great conservationist, Theodore Roosevelt, as a backdrop, the President stated that one of the best kept secrets of his presidency is his administration's good environmental record. As a service to him and to the electorate, it seems only fair that we briefly examine the Reagan administration's record on our free-flowing streams.

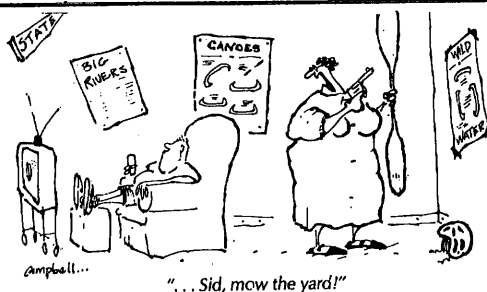
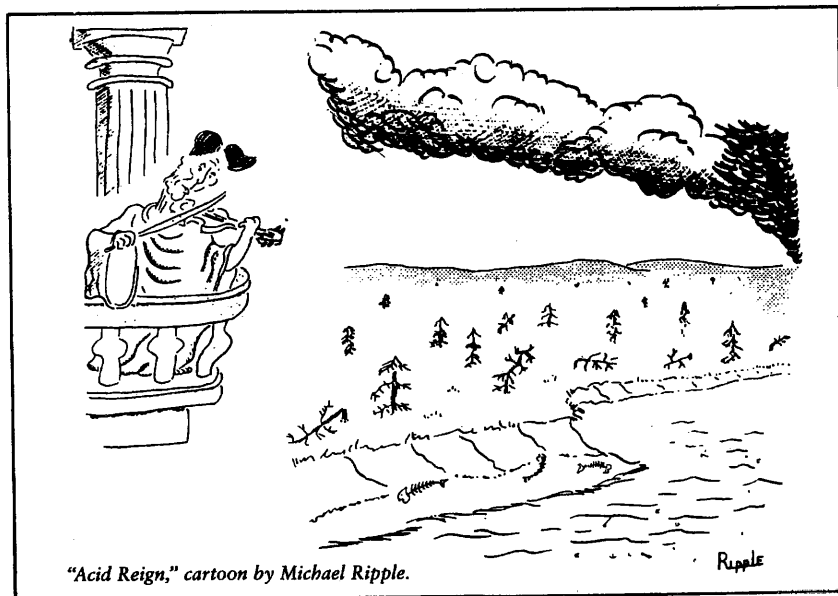
The truth is that this administration has an established record of negative action and neglect for America's streams. Since 1980, they have allowed the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to languish: no new rivers have been protected, no new studies have been initiated, and now eight studies are overdue, with another 25 due in October. In addition, this administration has used funding cuts, management plans, and court cases to try to drown the whole program.

The Reagan administration also has proposed amendments damaging to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. One amendment would allow state legislatures to strip some rivers from the national system. Others would limit the time for interim protection that wild and scenic study rivers have, and make the process for state-requested inclusions more difficult. In addition, the administration has opposed key provisions of the State and Local River Conservation Act, which would help state and local governments in their efforts to protect rivers.

In its budget requests for fiscal years '84 and '85, the administration proposed elimination, or crippling fund cuts, for two essential river conservation programs: the Park Service Technical Assistance Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. These two programs are tremendously effective and only lobbying by ARCC and other environmental groups restored their funds.

These examples bring to light the true nature of the Reagan administration's "best kept secret" regarding our creeks and rivers. In the interest of fairness this is not an indictment of the Republican Party in general, but of this administration specifically. The rivers of America have many Republican friends in Congress, but apparently our streams, indeed our children's streams, have no friends in the Reagan administration.

For more information, or to support ARCC's efforts in river conservation write: ARCC, 323 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20003.



**RIVER CONSERVATION UPDATE**

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**RIVER USE ON PERE MARQUETTE DOWN DUE TO PERMIT SYSTEM AND DEPRESSED MICHIGAN ECONOMY**

Baldwin, MI: While river use has been increasing steadily on other Wild and Scenic Rivers across the country, livery canoe use has been decreasing on Michigan's Pere Marquette River. The river floated about 1,620 watercraft from May 15 through July 22, a slight decrease from last year's figures, according to Brad Johnson of the Forest Service. Although livery canoe use has decreased and private canoe use has remained about the same as last year, the river is issuing about 60% of the permits it can allocate for canoe use, Johnson said. He called this a "moderate" amount of traffic.

The Forest Service has attributed most of the decrease to the depressed economy in Michigan. Another reason could be the watercraft permit system which is in its second year of operation.

All canoeists who use the Pere Marquette must have a permit for the specific day and section they plan to use. There are three sections on the river, each with about 12 to 14 miles of scenic riverway. The landowners along the river must have a two-year permit to paddle. The permits are free and must be obtained from the USDA Forest Service offices, and Baldwin area canoe liveries.

The permit system was initiated to control the number and distribution of watercraft. It has also reduced some of the user conflicts that existed. Canoeists are not allowed to use the river before 9AM and after 6PM, allowing fishermen to use the river during peak angling hours. In addition, river users are not allowed to get out of their watercraft on land that does not belong to the state or federal government, easing tension with private landowners.

**NEW RIVER TRAIL GROUP IS FORMED**

North Carolina: Groups working for the preservation of free-flowing rivers often emphasize the water-related recreational value of rivers. A more neglected subject is the use of land and trails lining river banks. In March 1984, a group was formed in North Carolina devoted exclusively to the issue of river trails. This group, the Yadkin River Trail Association headed by Dave Brendle, was created to promote river trail dedication and maintenance, to enhance river appreciation through education and recreational activities, to develop site-access (for boat launching, fishing, camping, sightseeing, etc.), and to serve as a general watch-dog on water quality and various legislative activities. The focus of all this attention, the Yadkin River Trail, totals approximately 142 miles of accessible trail. The entire trail eventually could be designated into the North Carolina Trail System.

One encouraging aspect of the YRTA, highlighting the group as a possible blueprint for future community-based organizations, is the association's skillful coordination of many diverse local elements. Included in the group's composition are volunteer organizations, private industry, individual government and citizen representatives, and local park and recreation departments. One example of this cooperation is the site-access system; for each new site incorporated into the trail system, there will be a separate sponsor (sponsors will include towns or counties, utility companies, Corps of Engineers, etc.) responsible for maintenance and operation of the access area and corresponding trail section. In this first year of operation the Yadkin River Trail Association seems full of potential - we wish them luck in their endeavors.

