

THE

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CLARION

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INSIDE

Student Conservation Association... page 3

Ani DiFranco.... page 4

Campus Voice on Voting... page 5

Campus Calendar... page 6

Classifieds... page 8

Volunteers "SWEEP" the French Broad

BY JARVIS BROOM

On Sept. 8 at 8:30a.m., students from Dr. Jennifer Frick's Environmental class at Brevard College and members of the Brevard College coalition, lead by Linda Helms, embarked on an all-day 8-mile river cleanup along the French Broad River. The "Big River Sweep" was sponsored and organized by Headwaters Outfitters.

Approximately 24 canoes were provided, 12 from Headwaters Outfitters and 12 from Brevard College. Brevard students were not the only participants in the clean up. There were also students from Hendersonville High School and other residents from Hendersonville, Brevard, and Asheville. All of the canoes were dropped along the river where Headwaters Outfitters is located.

After the first four miles, everyone pulled up by a nearby bridge

to dump their first load of trash, where students that walked along the river banks would retrieve the trash and dispose of it. Brevard College students

it would be impossible to get it out of the water," said Troy. Two smaller tires were also found in the river, one of which caused a canoe to flip over.

cleanup, there was a cookout waiting for them at the Headwaters Outfitters.

There were over 300 pieces of trash collected from the French Broad River.

"I was impressed at how much trash was in the river considering that it had been cleaned previous years," said Dr. Frick, Professor of Ecology.

Wilderness education students Nancey Hutcheson and Perry Hughes swept behind everyone in kayaks to make sure that everyone was safe.

"It was good to see a lot of people with little experience on the water having a blast and taking care of the environment at the same time," said Perry.

Overall the "Big Sweep" was a safe and successful experience for everyone!

Contact Broom at broomjl@brevard.edu



Photo by G. William Rickman III

Troy Mathers and Jarvis Broom were the last ones to pull up during the first stop due to a gigantic industrial wheel on our boat.

"When I saw the industrial wheel, I thought it was stuck and that

However, all the trash that spilled from the canoe was gathered again.

The second spot was the pulling out spot for both the canoes and the rest of trash that was collected. Once everyone had finished the

Monarch Butterflies:

Appalachian Almanac for the 16th of September

BY DR. JENNIFER FRICK

That most regal of butterflies, the monarch, is a common sight this time of year in the southern Appalachians. They are heading south, to Mexico. Those of us along their migration route may see hundreds gliding silently overhead on any day between mid-September and mid-October.

It is nearly unimaginable that a creature so small, so fragile, should be able to fly to Mexico, but millions do. One monarch was

tagged near Toronto, Canada, and was found, some weeks later, at a winter roost in Mexico. How long would it take you, a thousand times larger than a butterfly, to travel that same distance under your own power?

Monarchs accomplish this impressive feat by "fueling up" on the nectar of flowers. Just a little sugary sap sends them on their way. Once they reach their destinations, they may not eat again until the next spring, and rely on a store of fat to

sustain them.

Their wintering locations are unique habitats. Monarchs in the eastern part of North America winter in the mountains of Mexico. There the perfect combination of moist and cool, but not freezing conditions, allows the monarchs to slow their metabolism and survive without eating. They neither dry-out nor freeze. They usually huddle together in huge groups of hundreds of butterflies, and I've even seen them cluster together high in the

tulip trees of our mountains on a cool migration evening.

If you get a chance to look closely at a monarch, you can tell whether it is male or female. The sexes are patterned differently from each other, but the differences are subtle. The black veins on the hind wings of male butterflies are thinner than the veins of females. The male also has a black spot in the cen-

MONARCH Continues on Page 7