

# NEWS

## Flat Rock Music Festival

-by WENDY JO ALLEN, guest writer-

Brevard College students earned their way into the 2001 Flat Rock Music Festival during the fall. Volunteers saved over \$50 in workshop fees for a few hours directing traffic, leading the rope course and climbing tower or nursing at the infirmary. Participants choose from workshops and entertainment to concerts and sports events as reward.

The third annual music festival engulfs an entire weekend in an ever-changing kaleidoscope of food, fun, craftsmanship and musicians. Vegetarian and Australian food vendors blended in with the barbeque, cappuccino, fresh squeezed lemonade scent that filled the air. Color-filled tents of Indo-Crafts and hand woven hammocks added to the array of jewelry, stone and wood carvings, and hempcrafts.

A CD of the 2000 festival sold as musicians hoped their performances this year would be included in the 2001 CD. Doc Watson and grandson Richard sang classic tunes and Opry favorites. Groups like Dixie Flyers, Acoustic Syndicate and Momma Said performed a wide range of music to please most music fans. All proceeds support E.C.O (a group dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the area) and Camp Merry Time (providers of camping trips to children and their families over Memorial Day weekend).

For more information on how to volunteer log on to [www.flatrockmusicfestival.com](http://www.flatrockmusicfestival.com).

## Logging on the Southeastern Waterways

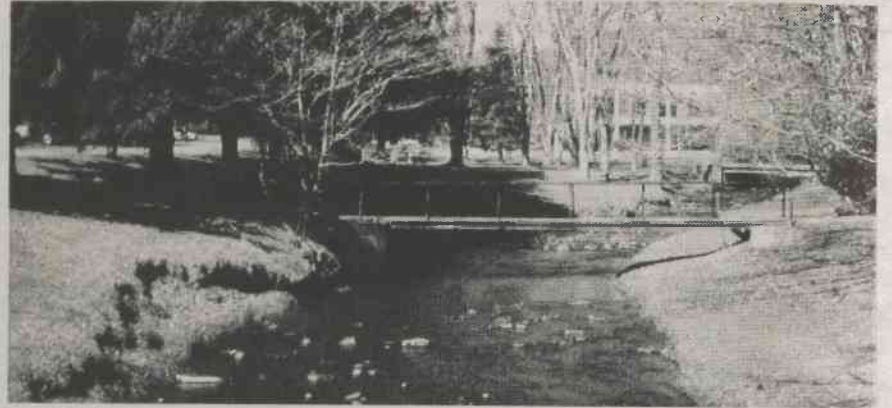
-by MATT GAUDETTE, guest writer-

Every year millions of people use our beautiful rivers and streams for leisure and recreation. At the same time millions of individual organisms and intricate ecosystems rely on the purity and consistency of these wild places in order to survive. Due to poor logging practices the Southeastern waterways are becoming some of the most threatened wetlands in the country. The balance between the human race and nature has been an issue for years. However, this balance that humankind has tried so hard to maintain is being tipped in the wrong direction.

According to Kevin Colburn of American Whitewater, logging began in the Southeast when the first Europeans arrived. The biggest and best trees were selected to construct masts for ships. From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, forestland was clear-cut. Railroads were built up creek beds in the Smoky Mountains making for easy transport of trees.

"Currently in the Southeast there are over 150 high-capacity chip mills in operation. These chip mills consume over 1.2 million acres of trees per year." Kevin Colburn of American Whitewater said. These chip mills use a method of land clearance called clear-cutting. In clear cutting land logged is stripped, desecrating the area. Age, size, or species of tree is of little consequence when clear-cutting an area. The immense hardwood forests are replaced by "mono-culture" pine plantations. A mono-culture pine plantation is an area that had been clear-cut and is now being replaced by pine trees planted unnaturally in straight lines to maximize the use of the land. As a consequence, "the quality of our Southern Appalachian Rivers is threatened due to both the increased runoff of silt and sediment from clear cuts, and pesticides and herbicides from the pine plantations," according to American Whitewater's Nick Lipkowski.

What are the main effects that logging has on our waterways? First, the building of roads for the logging trucks disturbs the top-



-King's Creek. Photo by Jeff Headrick.-

soil. Second, the roots systems, which serve as "rebar" for the soil, in order to hold it back, rot when the trees are separated from them. These events leave the soil more prone to erode and flow into the rivers. With irresponsible logging practices come road failures and landslides, which causes much of the sedimentation problems in the rivers. Third is the critical disturbance of the trees along rivers. These trees serve several functions including, but not limited to, cutting down on sedimentation flowing into the river, as well as decreasing the erosive forces of the river on its banks. Due to soil compaction and the loss of evapotranspiration from the trees, the riverside ecosystems lose their ability to store and slowly release water. Consequently, when an area receives precipitation the run off quicker than a non-affected area causing the high water flows to be higher and the low water flows to be lower.

Chips mills are allowed to continue these devastating practices because currently there are few to no prohibiting regulations. According to The Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA) these forestry practices will be continued: "through 2040 thirty million acres of forests will be lost to sprawl and 270 million acres will be cut by the timber industry. Logging is projected to increase in the South by 50 percent through the year 2040. The increasing share of pulp and engineered wood products and the removal of pines currently exceed growth throughout

the region, and removals of hardwoods will exceed growth by 2025. One in every four acres of the Southern forest will be intensively managed as pine plantations, totaling 52 million acres of pine plantations." These are all alarming figures when they refer to the places that many revere for their incredible beauty and purity.

There are several practices that foresters could follow to prevent the degradation of our beautiful waterways.

1. No more logging of old growth and road less areas.
2. The creation of strict buffers around creeks and rivers in which no logging is allowed.
3. Commitment to obliterate or maintain roads to prevent failure and erosion.

Awareness is probably the strongest asset that we could have. Be aware of national issues such as road less initiative as well as forest service policies regarding logging. Also be aware of things going on in your own backyard. Take part in public processes, including potential logging projects in the area and conservation opportunities. Being active can help. Currently, American Whitewater and the Dogwood Alliance are both striving to help solve this never-ending dilemma. Protection of these areas begins with people getting involved and doing everything or anything to protect these places. Contact either one of these organizations for more information on how you can help.

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