

# Panel To Study Algae Problem

(Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the February 15 edition of the *Virginian-Pilot*.)

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RALEIGH — The entire Chowan River above Edenton was in violation of the state's standards for chlorophyll levels last year, according to a report prepared for the Environmental Management Commission.

"At many points, it was more than twice the levels allowed," according to Alan Klimek, head of the water quality planning branch.

The first full meeting of the North Carolina-Virginia Chowan Technical Panel has been scheduled Tuesday at 10:30 A.M. at the Holiday Inn in Roanoke Rapids. This group will include six members from each state. "We'll see what we can do together," Klimek said.

Presentations to the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission on trends on water quality were scheduled for the session here Thursday but were delayed until a later meeting.

What the reports from Klimek and staff environmental scientist Dr. Al Duda show is that: "In summary, our problems seem to be getting worse at the coast."

## Conference To Be Held

Marinas are big business along North Carolina's coast. They provide goods and services for thousands of coastal boaters and affect dozens of other businesses, such as restaurants and motels. But little is known about the marina industry.

If you're a marina operator and would like to share ideas and learn more about the industry, attend the Marina Operators' Conference, February 28 and 29. Sponsored by UNC Sea Grant, the conference will be held at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh.

The conference is designed to cover such topics as management, marketing, sales and upcoming changes in the marina industry. In addition, information about the new North Carolina Marina Association will be presented.

Marina owners, operators, employees and others associated with marina businesses are encouraged to attend the conference. For more information, contact Leon Abbas at the Sea Grant headquarters in Raleigh, (919) 737-2454.

blooms as the most complex issue in the water-quality survey. These have been occurring for years in the Chowan River. "Other symptoms of the problems include the radical drop in the viability of striped bass eggs in the Roanoke in the last five years and the epidemic of red-sore disease that was estimated to have killed 95 per cent of the white perch in Albemarle Sound and has infested up to 90 per cent of the some commercial fish catches."

According to Duda's report, the red-sore disease problem is "rampant" in the Neuse, the Pamlico, and Currituck Sound. And, the paper added, large concentrations were found recently in the Roanoke River below the pulp mills. "Fish catches are not only down in the Chowan, but are reported to be down in Currituck and the Neuse."

Klimek's statement said that staff members are "extremely concerned" about deteriorating quality of the Chowan. Tar-

Pamlico, and Neuse estuaries. "The sluggish nature of these waters is such that pollution can accumulate for decades before we finally reach the breaking point. We have reached this condition in the Chowan. We're approaching it elsewhere."

A diagram of the coastal waters in 1970-72 showed only parts of the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse, and none of the upper Chowan with elevated chlorophyll levels. The level of chlorophyll, the green plant pigment of photosynthesis, is a measure of the plant growth in the waters. The state standard is a limit of 40 micrograms per liter of "chlorophyll A." In a study in 1978-79, all of the Chowan above Edenton had levels greater than 40 and large areas showed more than 80. During 1979, these levels in the Chowan reached values as high as 150 micrograms. Duda pointed out that more recently discovered algae problems to the south have

gone even higher; to 300 in the Pamlico and 225 in the Neuse.

The difficulty in enforcement of the standard is to blame. "That's the problem," Klimek said. "There are so many sources." The approach is to try to lower the contributions of all the types of nutrient sources to the river basin. According to Duda, agriculture and point sources of discharge appear to be the "sources of most concern."

The report addressed several aspects of water quality in all parts of the state and concluded that progress has been made in restoring oxygen to the state's waters. But, even with this progress, Duda wrote, "we cannot guarantee that aquatic life will improve because of other materials that are discharged."

On bacterial problems, the inland waters got a grade of "good" while the coast was judged to have "localized" problems. Over 10 years, the inland waters have shown "improvement" and the coastal waters have shown "slight improvement."

The mountains and coast have fewer sediment problems than the Piedmont region. And on the matter of nutrients, which bring about algae growth, the inland waters are described as in good condition compared to an over-all "fair" for the coast.

## Cures For Frostbite

With the scientists and meteorologists predicting the coldest winter yet to come, you may be one of the many North Carolinians who will literally be "chilled to the bone" if you don't watch out.

Frostbite is one of the most common disturbances of winter weather and can also be one of the most serious. If prompt and effective measures are not taken, it can lead to gangrene and possible amputation.

Frostbite occurs when your body is exposed to extreme cold for an extended amount of time. The blood flowing from the trunk to the outer parts of your body begins to chill, and this is when trouble arises. The fingers and toes are the most susceptible but the nose, ears and cheeks are easy targets for frostbite, too.

The first sign of frostbite is flushed skin, which is your body's first reaction to the cold. The blood vessels dilate to allow more blood to flow to these regions. If no further steps are taken to warm the area it will begin to hurt. The tingling sensations will give way to numbness as severe frostbite sets in.

When all sensation has been lost and the pain has subsided, it is a sign that ice crystals have formed in the tissues, causing serious damage. By this time the skin has taken on a greyish-yellow or white appearance, with blisters commonly appearing. The result is a serious infection which left

untreated can lead to gangrene or complete decay.

If you or someone you know becomes a frostbite victim, the first step is to restore circulation. The victim should be taken indoors or to a warmer place as soon as possible and given warm liquids to drink. Emerging the affected areas in lukewarm water will help "thaw out" the frostbitten tissues. NEVER use hot water; it will dilate the blood tissues so fast that they will rupture.

If lukewarm water is not available, wrap the victim in wool blankets or anything else that will effectively retain body heat. Do NOT use heat lamps or stand in front of fireplaces, radiators or heat vents. This will cause even further damage to the tissues.

The old wives' tale of rubbing the frostbitten areas with your hands or with snow should also be avoided since this too will increase the damage to your skin.

Once circulation has been restored, encourage the victim to move his fingers and toes. Cover any blisters or cracks that may have developed with sterile gauze to help ward off infection.

Frostbite can be remedied with prompt attention, but it can be avoided completely if you take care to dress warmly and dryly. Exercise to keep yourself warm, especially your hands and feet. But above all, have enough sense to come in out of the cold when it begins to chill you.



PEACE COLLEGE FATHER-DAUGHTER DAY — Among those attending annual Father-Daughter Day at Peace College on Saturday, Feb. 16, were, from left, Charles Small and daughter Lynne, and Penny Jo Powell and her father, Henry A. Powell.

## Special Day Observed

RALEIGH — Fathers of Peace College students spent the day on campus with their daughters Saturday, Feb. 16. More than 150 dads from throughout the state and beyond gathered for the annual Father-Daughter Day.

Activities included a basketball game with the Peace Giants soundly defeating North Greenville, S.C., Junior College with a score of 99 to 55; time for tennis, swimming, television or shopping; and a buffet dinner and dance. During the evening, music varied from disco to the bunny hop, and the fathers kept in step.

Father-Daughter Day is sponsored by the Peace Student Government Association.

Among those attending were West W. Byrum of 119 Pembroke Circle with daughter Gail, Henry Allen Powell of 206 N. Broad Street with daughter Penny Jo, and Charles H. Small, Jr., of 10 Queen Anne Drive with daughter Lynne, all of Edenton.

## ECHSA Holds Project Reviews

The monthly meeting of the Eastern Carolina Health Systems Agency (ECHSA) will be held Wednesday, March 12, 1980 at 7:30 P.M. at the Ramada Inn, Greenville, N.C.

The agenda items will include, but not be limited to the following: Project Reviews: Craven Hospital - Addition of 58 Beds and Expansion of Ancillary Departments; National Migrant Worker Council - East Coast Migrant Health

Project; Edgecombe-Nash Mental Health Center - Distress Grant; Edgecombe-Nash Mental Health Center - Children's Resources Grant; Wilson-Greene Mental Health Center - Continuation Grant; Twin-County Rural Health Center - Rural Health Initiative Continuation.

For additional information on project reviews, contact the Director of Project Review,

ECHSA, P.O. Box 7306, Greenville, N.C. 27834; (919) 758-1372.

The public is invited to attend this meeting.

The ECHSA is a private, non-profit corporation funded by the U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare (DHEW). The agency workers through a volunteer governing body and committees comprised of citizens from the 29 counties of Eastern North Carolina.

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