

Chowan CALENDAR

What's happening this week . . .

Saturday - 4/3

SPRING HIKE
Come to the canoe rental area of Merchants Millpond State Park at 4:30 p.m. to go on a hike and observe the coming signs of spring. Dress appropriately.

Tuesday - 4/6

CLUB TO MEET
The Chrome Pony Mustange Club of Elizabeth City will meet at 7 p.m., at the Marina Restaurant, Camden Causeway, Elizabeth City, NC. For more info, call Mark Cooper at (252) 331-1022, (252) 264-4381 or Virgil Griffith, (252) 335-9618.

FIBROMYALGIA
The Fibromyalgia or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group will meet at 7 p.m. at Chowan Hospital, Classroom B. Call 482-6242 for more information.

Upcoming Events

SILENT AUCTION
The Silent Auction at the Chowan Arts Council Gallery begins Thurs., April 8 at 10 a.m. The auction ends Sat., April 17 at 8 p.m.

FLOWERS
Pasquotank Arts Council will host "Flower, Flower, Flowers" on Thurs., April 8 at the Gallery. A reception will be held from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

ELIZABETHAN GARDEN TRIP
The Chowan County Home Horticulture Club will be leaving Thurs., April 8 at 10 a.m. from Edenton Municipal Building to go to Elizabethan Gardens.

CREATIVE DANCE WORKSHOP
Fun filled class for children (grades K-1st) given by Linda Brown on Saturday, April 10 from 9:30 - 11 a.m. in the Senior Center activity room.

EDENTON PILGRIMAGE
The 50th Anniversary of the Edenton Biennial Pilgrimage will be held April 16 and 17, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The tours of historic homes and countryside begin at the Barker House. The event is presented by The Edenton

Woman's Club.
CIVIL WAR LIVING HISTORY
A reenactment of North & South joining forces will be held Fri., April 16 at 6:30 p.m. on E. Water St., Edenton. It is free to the public.

CONCERT BAND PERFORMANCE
Chowan Middle School's 7th and 8th graders will present a concert on Friday, April 16 at 1:30 p.m. at the Courthouse Green. The public is invited.

PILGRIMAGE FOUNDERS TEA
A tea honoring organizers of the first Biennial Pilgrimage will be held Sat., April 17 from 4 - 6 p.m. on the lawn at Wessington, 120 W. King St. Donation.

ANTIQUÉ CAR SHOW
The Freshwater Chapter AACA will host its 3rd Annual Antique Car Show Saturday, April 17 at the Cotton Mill, Edenton. Antique car owners are invited to participate, no hotrods or streetrods please. For more information call (252) 482-7597 or (252) 297-2461.

SOUP AND A BOWL
You can pick out a hand-made ceramic bowl created by a regional potter . . . have it filled with soup, and keep the bowl at a fundraiser by Chowan Arts Council on Sat., April 17 at CAC gallery from 5 - 8 p.m.

SPECIAL GUEST
Dr. Peter White, UNC-Ch professor of biology and director of the NC Botanical Garden will be at Shepard-Pruden Library Thurs., April 22 for a program entitled "From the Appalachians to the Coastal Plains: North Carolina's Rich Wildflowers and Natural Ecology."
BOOK CLUB MEETING
The Friends of the Library's Book Club will meet Thurs., April 22 at 2:30 p.m. This month's book "On the Occasion of My Last Afternoon" is by Rocky Mount native, Kaye Gibbons.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
Chowan County Special Olympics will be held April 30 at the John A. Holmes High School Athletic Complex in Edenton. To volunteer, call Connie Peeler or Carrie Watson at 221-4078.

Martin

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talked mostly about the "tax and spend" policies of the Democrats. And the Democratic candidate talked about education, his plan for free community college tuition, and his role in the tobacco settlement.

Both major party candidates spent millions—some raised directly and more funneled through the political parties and political action committees.

Sounds like what most folks expect in North Carolina next year, but again it's what went on in Minnesota

In Minnesota, nobody got excited about the election until

something unexpected happened. A boisterous third party candidate came out of nowhere campaigning against politics as usual—against both political parties, against insider politics, government as usual, political action committee contributions and influence, and everything else that the ordinary citizen hates about our way of conducting public business.

Jesse Ventura provided the excitement that got people to the polls to vote against the major parties' insider candidates.

Now, could the same thing happen in North Carolina?

I think so, if the major party candidates don't give potential voters, something more to get excited about.

Another "if" is the appearance of a Jesse Ventura type

candidate to run on some third party or independent ticket. Somebody off-the-wall like Jesse Ventura. Somebody, maybe, like Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege. Hege is a constant seeker of publicity who drives inside political figures in both parties crazy. He has put prisoners back in striped uniforms, organized a posse with more than 100 volunteers, conducted raids to get front-page coverage, put prisoners on the local radio—letting the public know how tough he is.

He senses what ordinary people are worried about and he knows how to exploit their passions.

Hege is toying with the idea of running for governor in the Republican primary. I hope he

does. I wouldn't have to worry about him there. Even if he won the primary, he would get crushed in a head-on-head contest against the Democratic nominee.

But if Hege, or some other Jesse Ventura type person, chooses to run as a third party candidate, I will be nervous.

In a close, three-way race, a Ventura candidate can win with as little as 34 percent of the vote. Ventura gave the protest vote a place to go. He mobilized the disenfranchised and angry voters in Minnesota and won a close one. Ventura - 37%. Coleman - 34%. Humphrey - 28%.

So, if North Carolina gets a Ventura type candidate, there is only one thing to say. Watch out!

Guest

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gram, and the newly signed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Together these programs could focus up to three-quarters of a billion dollars on water quality improvements in North Carolina over the next decade.

The Marine Fisheries Commission considered a total moratorium on herring harvest, but elected instead to give watermen a chance to work on alternatives, asking for comments on a compromise harvest level of 400,000 pounds, which would reduce fishing pressure minimally. Unfortunately, most

fishermen used the extra time granted for consideration of the proposal only to lobby for even greater fishing levels. Four regional advisory committees were swayed, asking the Commission to adopt a 550,000-pound limit. After much soul-searching, the Commission adopted a 450,000-pound limit, a further compromise. In response, the NCFA criticized Commission members.

This criticism is unfounded and regrettable. No one can be satisfied with the status quo. The great irony is that the design of an effective solution will require all parties at the table, especially the fishermen and officials who know this resource the best.

As Commission members move beyond this temporary

rule to the full fishery management plan, they should seriously consider implementing a total moratorium on herring harvest from 2000 until 2004. They should request funds from the General Assembly equal to the profit expected by fishermen and fish houses from the catch (much less than \$1 million over the life of the moratorium). The funds should be spent during these four years employing fishermen to gather data needed to monitor herring stocks, and to help design and implement habitat restoration plans. The State must move immediately to design and implement CHPP's for spawning and nursery areas, so that when the progeny of the "unfished" adults return, they will find a place to spawn, and

juveniles a place to grow.

Only by concerted action can river herring be restored to their rightful place among the great fisheries of the East Coast. Without herring as prey, the restoration of many coastal fisheries will be much more difficult. Springtime is the right time to breathe life into the age-old cycles of birth and rebirth in coastal waters. Such a rebirth requires all concerned to rise above personal attacks, and to work together to solve this problem once and for all.

Dr. Douglas N. Rader is senior scientist with the North Carolina

Environmental Defense Fund, working with EDF's Ocean Program.

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