

Backyard Briefs



JUDY JESSOP

NATURE CONSERVANCY

Atlantic sturgeon are very rare these days and for quite sometime it was believed that they no longer came up the rivers of our region to spawn. Local fisherman knew differently however and in 1997 showed Jim Armstrong, then a graduate student at North Carolina State University where to look for these sturgeon. What Jim found was proof of a separate population of young Atlantic sturgeon born in one of our rivers and living in the southwestern reaches of the Albemarle Sound.

You might wonder how scientists would know that these young sturgeon were born here and did not just wander in from the ocean or the Pamlico Sound. Though sturgeon spend the majority of their adult lives in the ocean, they travel long distances up large rivers to spawn and lay their eggs. As juvenile sturgeon grow they gradually move down stream into more brackish water, but remain above the salt line, near the river in which they were born, for the first few years of their lives. The sturgeon found in the Albemarle were in this age range, too young to move into the more salty water of the eastern sound, and therefore must have been born in one of the rivers that feed into the southwestern part of the Albemarle.

The next step is to discover which rivers the mature sturgeon are using to spawn. One likely river is the Roanoke, since spawning sturgeon are known historically to have been abundant as far west as Roanoke Rapids-so abundant that back in 1889 a fish processing plant was established which processed both the flesh and caviar of these fish. As early as 1915, however, the numbers of Atlantic sturgeon had declined to such an extent that many advocated for its protection.

Additional research is currently underway to discover where these fish spawn and what may aid in their recovery. With a tail like a shark and bony armor instead of scales, these unusual fish have existed since the time dinosaurs roamed the earth 150 million years ago. They can be accidentally caught in fish nets, so if you are out net fishing and happen to catch such an odd looking fish, please, gently release this creature back into its watery home, for each individual sturgeon's well being swells the hope for the recovery of these remarkable fish.



Honored at retirement

Edenton Police Chief Greg Bonner, left, presents a plaque to Sgt. Lewis Brothers, who is retiring from the Edenton Police Department, symbolizing the department's appreciation for a job well done. The presentation was one of several made during a well-attended retirement dinner held in his honor at the American Legion Building in Edenton last Monday evening. Sgt. Brothers joined the local police force in February, 1975. (Staff photo by Bud Weagly)

IRS encourages those with filing extensions to e-file

The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers who have filing extensions that they can e-file their tax returns until Oct. 15.

More than 8.5 million taxpayers are estimated to have tax returns due on Aug. 15 because they requested an automatic extension to file. The IRS estimates that almost 3 million taxpayers will request an additional extension giving them until Oct. 15. All of these taxpayers can take advantage of IRS e-file.

"IRS e-file is the quick, smart, fast way to get taxes done," said IRS spokesperson Valerie Thornton. "Taxpayers receiving refunds can receive them more quickly through IRS e-file especially when they choose the direct deposit option."

Taxpayers with a balance due can also pay their taxes electronically by scheduling a safe and convenient electronic funds withdrawal from their bank account or pay with a

credit card. Taxpayers can also sign up through Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) to make their payment electronically.

Taxpayers have several ways to e-file. They can use tax preparation software on their own computers. Or they can have a tax professional that offers e-filing prepare and transmit their return. Some taxpayers can still participate in the Free File program and e-file their tax returns for free.

Free File, the tax preparation and electronic filing service, remains available for people who received filing ex-

tensions. Free File, which debuted Jan. 16, is a public-private partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, a consortium of tax preparation software companies. Each company sets its own criteria for taxpayer eligibility, generally based on income, age or state residency. Eligible taxpayers are able to prepare and e-file their federal tax returns for free.

Free File must be accessed through www.irs.gov. By April 15, 2003, more than 2.73 million filed their taxes for free through the Free File Program.



INSIGHT INTO EYESIGHT

DR. A.F. DOWNUM, JR.
- OPTOMETRIST -

HOLDING BOOKS TOO CLOSE

ANISEIKONIA means that there are unequal sized or shaped images sent to the brain from each eye. For normal, comfortable, binocular vision, the difference cannot be more than three or four percent. A greater amount can produce symptoms of mild to severe headaches and even double vision.

When the prescription for lenses in the two eyes differs drastically from lens to lens, aniseikonia is a probability. Sometimes the very glasses which correct other vision defects will produce the condition. That being the case, you would be tested for aniseikonia. Unfortu-

nately this doesn't always happen.

This is too bad, because the symptoms of this condition can be relieved readily with special glasses or contact lenses. The most important thing is detection. It has been estimated that there may be millions of people who suffer the discomforts of aniseikonia without even knowing it.

brought to you as a community service by:

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CH10971

Blood Drive is very successful

BY THELMA HALSEY
Secretary
Yeopim Ruritan Club

Once again the citizens of our community turned out to support the Red Cross Blood Drive. The Yeopim Ruritan Club thanks everyone for making this drive a success. The goal of 50 units was achieved and exceeded by six.

The drive, held July 8, was relocated to the parish house of St. Ann's Catholic Church. The air conditioning at the Edenton United Methodist Church, where the drive was scheduled to be held, was not working and St. Ann's graciously offered the use of their facilities.

There were 71 possible donors registered, with 56 units

collected and 14 deferrals.

The Yeopim Ruritan Club would like to express their thanks to the wonderful donors who made the effort to participate in the drive. Thanks also go to Lane's Bar-B-Q and McDonald's for donating food for the canteen. The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be Tuesday, Sept. 2 at the Edenton United Methodist Church. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Blood Services is a leading provider of blood services related to transfusion medicine and serves 49 hospitals, 87 counties, and more than 3.4 million people within central southeastern Virginia and eastern North Carolina.

To stay informed about upcoming community events, read the Herald

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GWALTNEY FRANKS .79¢ 12 OZ.	OUR FAMILY VEGETABLE OIL \$1.19 24 OZ.
GWALTNEY BACON \$1.99 12 OZ.	EASY CHEDDAR CHEESE \$3.39 8 OZ.
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WHEN?
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You need to know what's happening and what's available, to plan ahead, in the office, at home, or in school. Having the facts is always a good idea.

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