

# CHOWAN HERALD



Wednesday, April 22, 2009

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— Dallas Woodhouse, state director of Americans for Prosperity

## Taxpayers stage tea party revolt on green



VERNON FUESTON/THE CHOWAN HERALD

Above, protestors on the courthouse green in Edenton share their views on government spending; at right Mason Weaver, author and syndicated radio talk show host, speaks to the protestors at the tea party.



By Vernon Fueston  
Staff Writer

A crowd of more than 600 showed up from Chowan and surrounding counties April 15 to protest what they saw as runaway spending and fiscal irresponsibility in Washington and Raleigh.

The crowd braved gusty winds and chilly temperatures to gather on Edenton's courthouse green.

There they listened to several conservative leaders and a radio talk show host blast the policies of President Barack Obama and Gov. Beverly Perdue.

"They are taxing us without representation," said Tony Skulskie of Roanoke Rapids. "They didn't even read that spending bill. My grand kids are going to be in debt because of this."

Skulskie was holding a picket sign that read "Awake! Tyranny Is Afoot!"

The crowd was peaceful and well-mannered, content to cheer the speakers and chant "USA, USA!" But their anger at what they perceived to be an irresponsible government seemed real enough.

When about two dozen of the protestors were asked, none could recall ever attending a protest rally or carrying a picket sign in their lives.

Dallas Woodhouse, state director of Americans for Prosperity, the organization responsible for the rally, left little doubt about just who he felt was responsible for the nation's mounting debt.

"What's the difference between our government representatives and a drunken sailor?" he asked the crowd. "A drunken sailor spends his own money."

Woodhouse said the state's budget is expected to increase next year by between three and four percent in the face of a recession and falling revenues.

"Why in the world does the government think they can spend more when we have less?" Woodhouse asked.

Sen. Richard Burr sent an aide to read a statement of support to the crowd, decrying the \$2 trillion national deficit and predicting the national debt will swell by triple that amount in ten years.

"A government large enough to give you everything you want is large enough to take everything you have," Burr said.

Mason Weaver, an author and radio talk show host from San Diego, California, was the rally's keynote speaker.

Weaver laid out his grievances with the government and said too many people were huddling like a herd of sheep, afraid of "wolves" in the form of bad economic news and seeking protection at all costs.

"We aren't sheep," Weaver said. "Who kills more sheep, wolves or sheep herders?"

Weaver, an African-American, likened his attitude toward Washington and its policies to life on a plantation.

"Remember, every slave had a job on the plantation," Weaver said. "There was 100 percent employment on the plantation and everybody had government housing. But it's OK to leave the plantation."

When all was said and done, 614 protestors had thrown tea bags into a burlap sack and signed a petition demanding what they called a return to fiscal responsibility.

The rally ended with a protestor in Indian headdress tossing the bags into Edenton Bay.

Similar protests to the one held in Edenton occurred around the county on Tax Day with activists claiming rallies in 346 cities with estimates of between 300,000 and 600,000 in attendance.

Opponents of the protest cited President Obama's \$120 billion tax cut targeting middle class families as evidence that the tax protests are misguided.

They also said high spending by the federal government was necessary to stimulate an economy in deep recession.

"My administration has taken far reaching action to give tax cuts to Americans who need them while jump-starting growth and job creation in the process," the president said.

## Pilgrimage Tour begins Friday

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

When Rolfe and Nancy Schroeder opened their doors to the public two years ago for the Pilgrimage, they had just finished renovating their home at 207 East Water Street.

And it was their first time on the tour.

This week, when they again share their home with the public, they will be seasoned pros at handling the crowds that show up at their door.

"We enjoy having people in, and had a lot of fun doing it the last time," Nancy Schroeder said, laughing.

And, she said, having a deadline looming when you have to be ready for the tour also serves another purpose — "with a deadline in mind, you get busy and get things done."

### Happy coincidence

The Schroeders found their house here quite by accident.

Nancy Schroeder said she and her husband, who were living in Virginia at the time, just happened upon Edenton while driving on some of North Carolina's back roads.

The location, on the waterfront, sold them on the idea of buying the house.

Schroeder said she has an embroidered pillow in her den that reads, "If you're lucky enough to live on the water, you're lucky enough."

Then, she said, there was the novelty of living in an older home and the slower pace of life here.

Both Schroeders grew up in large cities — Rolfe in Chicago and Nancy in Houston.

"We were used to traffic being just horrible," she said.



VERNON FUESTON/THE CHOWAN HERALD

Rolfe and Nancy Schroeder will open their Water Street home.

Finding a place where traffic, and the pace of life, is slower has been great, she said.

And having an airport in the community has enabled her husband, a vice president of human resources for Computer Sciences Corp. (CRC) to keep his job.

"My husband is not retired," Nancy observed.

"Not everyone who comes here is retired."

This October they will mark their fifth year in their home across the street from the Edenton waterfront.

She said lots of their family and friends had made the journey to Edenton to visit, and they are expecting guests to stay with them during the tour.

### About the house

Dating back to about 1775, the Millen House has undergone three updates and underwent a major renovation in 1986 yet today retains many of its features including sash-over-sash windows and a Flemish bond chimney.

The staircase at the rear of the first floor hall is also original to the house.

The tour is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this weekend. For more information call 482-2637.

### IF YOU GO

WHAT  
Biennial Pilgrimage 2009

WHEN  
Friday and Saturday,  
April 24-25  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sponsored by the  
Edenton  
Woman's Club

COST  
Tickets \$25; Groups of  
20  
or more are \$20  
per person

FOR TICKETS  
Edenton Visitor Center,  
Chowan Arts Council  
and the Barker House

### ON THE TOUR

Millen House  
Poplar Neck at Jubilee  
Long Beach  
Mulberry Hill  
Sumnerville House  
Branning House  
Folk Taylor House  
Shelton Farms  
Greenfield  
Beverly Hall  
Chapanoke  
Carriage House  
Hayes  
The Homestead  
C.S. Vann House

## GIANT CARP SNAGGED



VERNON FUESTON/THE CHOWAN HERALD

William White, left, holds his German carp while Mark Dawson lends a helping hand and support.

By Vernon Fueston  
Staff Writer

William White has fished from the shores of Edenton Bay for about 10 years, but he said he caught something the morning of April 14 that he's never seen before — a German carp he estimates weighed 40 pounds.

White caught the fish off the seawall behind the Barker House in Edenton. He didn't have a scale with him when the fish was caught, so 40 pounds is his best estimate.

If White's estimate is accurate, and fishermen are noted for their conservative estimates, he could really have something.

The state's wildlife service doesn't keep records on German carp, but a 48-pound carp, taken from a pond in Mecklenburg

County holds the species record from 1986.

A 68 pound 12 ounce grass carp also holds a state record after being caught in Leland back in 1998.

"I've caught one of these before, but he wasn't that big," White said. "A couple of years ago, I caught a catfish that was 11 or 12 pounds, but this is the biggest thing I ever caught, right here."

White said he started fishing early, Tuesday, at about 8:30 and came rigged for bottom fishing. He said his bait choices for the day were red worms and night crawlers.

When asked if a carp that big was going to be any good to eat, White didn't seem to care.

"He's gonna be!" White said. "I'm going to fillet that bad boy. If I put enough seasoning to him, he's going to be eatable."



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**Z.T. Evans Family Relay for Life Team at LEON NIXON CATERING**  
**APRIL 28, 2009 • 4 - 6:30 PM AUCTION 6:30 PM**  
 Eat in or Take Out ENTERTAINMENT BY Rocky Hock Rebels  
 Fried Chicken, Barbecue & Fish Dinner (Catered by Leon Nixon Catering)  
 Tickets \$10.00