



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Perquimans County Waterway Watch has been busy monitoring water quality this summer at five locations in the county. The group will collect water samples to help identify potential nutrient hot spots that may contribute to poor water quality and algal blooms.

Algae Invades Region's Waterways

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

For the most part, the blue-green algae that plagues the region's waters during past summers had been in quarantine, but that changed in recent weeks as temperatures rose, blooms flourished and coves changed colors.

Sure, the algae infected familiar spots in June along the Chowan River but nowhere else until it suddenly popped up, relatively speaking, in Edenton Bay and the Albemarle Sound during Fourth of July weekend.

On July 1, the N.C. Division of Water Resources (DWR) issued an advisory urging the public to avoid contact with green or blue water, specifically in the Albemarle Sound and adjoining waterbodies, after receiving reports of discolored water observed in Edenton, Rocky Hock and Elizabeth City.

See the Chowan Herald's Facebook page for a quick interview at Bertie Beach, a short hop from the Chowan River Bridge.

On that side of the river, green tea flowed up against the sandy beach on Sunday morning.

Meanwhile Monday morning, Edenton Bay looked relatively clear until past the first channel marker or so. Algae looks yellow-green this year, but there still are the familiar long green strands.

This does not mean that all the water between Chowan and Bertie beaches is green but some places are a little more green than others, so the state has issued an advisory to exercise caution wherever the fish may be biting.

DWR staff are monitoring the blooms and have sent samples to the Water Sciences Section for analysis. DWR said in its advisory, cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) blooms have been occurring in the area over the past few years. Some forms of cyanobacteria can produce toxins that are harmful to humans and animals.

State health officials encourage the public to avoid areas showing signs of an algae bloom. Algal blooms fluctuate based upon weather conditions and may move around collecting in coves and along shorelines.

Algal blooms are caused by too much nutrients in the water, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus, along with slow moving water and hot temperatures.

Chowan Edenton Environmental Group serves

on front lines of the algae problem by gathering data and providing information about what's happening.

"The blue-green algal blooms are a worldwide issue for freshwater streams, rivers and lakes generally caused by a combination of factors such as warmer temperatures, increased precipitation (run-off), and changes in land use. Some of the cells are able to make their own nitrogen when conditions are right. The CEEG is working collaboratively this summer with researchers at UNC-IMS, UNC-CH and NCSU to monitor the location of the blooms as well as to study other bloom factors. Watch our facebook page for updates," said Colleen Karl who works alongside husband Steve to gather the data.

Meanwhile, across the river and through the woods, a new group of volunteer citizen scientists, Perquimans County Waterway Watch has been busy monitoring water quality this summer at five locations in the county. The group will collect water samples monthly through September to help identify potential nutrient hot spots that may contribute to poor water quality and algal blooms.

The Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council and Perquimans Soil and Water Conservation District are providing technical support. Perquimans County is providing funds for the program.

Mark Powell, a program and project management consultant with the Albemarle RC&D Council, offered some insight into the blue-green algae problem. He said algal blooms are increasing across the Albemarle region, but especially along the east side of the Chowan River from Arrowhead Beach south.

ARCD is working with Chowan-Edenton Environmental Group, Perquimans County Waterway Watch, Green Saves Green, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, county and town governments, state agencies, and universities to monitor water quality in creeks and rivers across the region, and to identify and address nutrient hotspots.

This effort, started in 2018, has identified a number of potential hotspot creeks. The partnership will continue to monitor these areas and implement projects to address the specific sources of nutrients.

Powell said it is important to remember that good water quality starts at

James E. Swain

HERTFORD - James Elwood Swain, 62, of 231 Swamp Road, Hertford, NC, died Saturday, July 4, 2020 in his home.

James was born in Washington County on February 7, 1958, and was the son of the late Rex Ventress Swain, Sr. and Barbara Jean Vanhorn Swain. In earlier years he had worked on a tugboat with The Norfolk Dredging Company, in maintenance with the Pelikan Ink Corp. in Edenton, and as a contractor for UPS. He attended Mt. Sinai Baptist Church.



An avid sports fan, he loved all things about the Washington Redskins and the Baltimore Orioles, making many trips to watch them play. A nature lover, he appreciated God's creatures and their surroundings, and cared for the littlest of these as he fed and watched his birds. A kind, quiet soul with a great sense of humor, he will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by the "love of his life", his wife, Miriam Hurdle Swain, who died suddenly in January of 2016. They were married nearly 14 years.

Surviving are his son, James E. Swain, Jr. of Portsmouth, VA; three sisters, Sandra S. Poe of Roper, Debra S. Garrett of Plymouth, and Terri S. Graham of Elm City; a brother, Rex V. "Butch" Swain, Jr. and wife, Debbie, of Roper; a granddaughter, Jade Nicole Edwards; and several special nieces and nephews. Also surviving is Miriam's family, sister Rebecca H. Hamill of Greenville; and brother, Wayne Hurdle and wife, Linda, of Hertford, and their children, Ron and Jenna.

A memorial service will be held Friday at 2:00 p.m. in the Miller & Van Essendelft Funeral Chapel and will be conducted by the Rev. H. Gene Boyce. A private burial will follow in Cedarwood Cemetery.

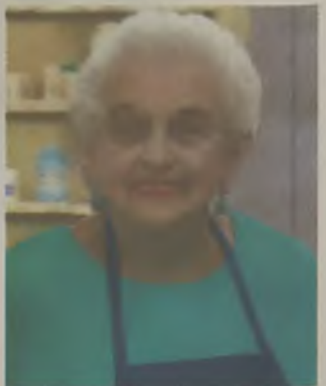
In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, in care of John Mansfield, 801 W. Grubb Street, Hertford, NC 27944.

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation to Albemarle Home Care and Hospice for the comfort given their loved one during his period of declining health and transition.

Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.millerfhc.com.

Eleanor Faye Forehand

HERTFORD - Eleanor Faye Howell Forehand, 86, of 803 West Grubb Street, Hertford, NC, died Saturday, July 4, 2020 in her home where she was cared for by her family.



Mrs. Forehand was born in Perquimans County on June 19, 1934, and was the daughter of the late Wayland and Mildred Stanton Howell. Many will remember her for her many years as a clerk with Woodard's Pharmacy. A longtime member of Anderson United Methodist Church, in recent years she had attended Hertford Pentecostal Holiness Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Angela Robinson; a son-in-law, Ernest Cary Stallings; and by her sister, Lois Hope Dail.

Surviving are her daughter, Leondra Stallings of Norfolk, VA; three grandsons, Chad Britt (Katie) of Chesapeake, VA, Brandon Robinson of Greenville, and Dustin Robinson of Farmville; two great-grandchildren, Cody and Riley Britt; step-grandchildren, Michelle Stallings and Eric Stallings (Evelyn), all of Portsmouth; and step-great-grandchildren, Jordan and Emily Stallings. Also surviving are her beloved niece and nephew, Sheila Matthews and Randy Dail.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 7th, at 2:00 p.m. in the Miller & Van Essendelft Funeral Chapel, 1125 Harvey Point Road, and were officiated by the Rev. H. Gene Boyce. A private burial followed in Cedarwood Cemetery. Friends joined the family at the residence.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hertford Pentecostal Holiness Church, 132 West Market Street, Hertford, NC 27944.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhc.com.

Earl Ray "Sonny" Godfrey

ELIZABETH CITY - Earl Ray "Sonny" Godfrey, age 68, of Elizabeth City Health and Rehab died at Sentara Albemarle Medical Center on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. Born in Pasquotank County, NC on April 23, 1952 to the late Ray Godfrey and Earline Morse Godfrey, he was owner of Sun Ray Farms and was a good uncle to his niece and nephew.



He is survived by a sister, Sharon G. Meiggs and husband, Garry, of Burnt Mills, NC; a nephew, Jason Noblitt and his wife, Angela, and their children JR, Dylan, and Faith of Camden, NC; and a niece, Rachel Meiggs and Charles Arbuckle of Big Timber, MT.

A private service will be held. Burial will be in West Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery. Twiford Funeral Home, 405 East Church Street, Elizabeth City, NC is serving the Godfrey family. Online memorial condolences may be sent to the family at www.TwifordFH.com.

LAW ENFORCEMENT LOG

Perquimans Sheriff's arrests between June 26 and July 1:

■ Ronnie Sampson of Cypress Street, Hertford, was arrested June 28 and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, driving with a revoked license, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to a ½ ounce, possession with intent to manufacture methamphetamine. Bond was set at \$12,000 secured.

■ Steven Bass of Holiday Island Road, Hertford, was arrested June 29 and charged with possession of stolen goods, larceny, fictitious registration and driving with a revoked license. Bond was set at \$1,000 secured.

■ Crystal Crawley of Edenton was arrested June 29 and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and simple possession of drugs.

Bond was set at \$2,000 secured.

■ Ronnie Spence of Edenton was arrested June 29 and charged driving with a revoked license, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession with intent to manufacture drugs. Bond was set at \$11,000.

■ Brittany Cooper of New Hope Road, Hertford, was arrested June 30 and charged with second degree trespassing. Bond was a written promise.

■ Kelsie Jernigan of Edenton was arrested July 1 and charged with failure to appear. Bond was set at \$500 unsecured.

■ Kimberly Scott of Harris Landing, Hertford, was arrested July 1 and charged with assault and battery. Bond was set at \$1,500 secured.

OBITUARY POLICY

For information on submitting obituaries or death notices Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 252-329-9505 or email obits@apgcnc.com and specify that you are interested in obituary information for The

Perquimans Weekly.

On weekends and holidays, email obits@apgcnc.com. We do not accept notices by fax.

Obituaries must be received, processed and approved by noon on Tuesday to appear in print in the Thursday edition.

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NEWS BRIEFS

BY SUBMITTED REPORTS
Board members selected, to serve until 2023

Friends of State Historic Sites, Edenton, recently announced the incoming new board members: Bracy Boone, Anthony Hathaway, Flint Harding and Gail Miller.

Their terms expire in 2023.

Songwriting Workshop set for July 11-12, 18-19

North Carolina Veterans Songwriting Workshop will live stream on Zoom from the Outer Banks, July 11-12 and July 18-19.

It is free for veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

All musical skill levels are welcome.

The event features songwriters Mike Lille, Tony Rosario, Jana Pochop, Shawnee Kilgore, Karle Werne and Ron Capps.

To register, visit www.darearts.org/veterans

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

(USPS428-080)

Published Each Thursday

A publication of Adams Publishing Group
Established 1934
111 W. Market St., Hertford, NC 27944

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Sean O'Brien.....General Manager
Miles Layton.....Editor
Phone 252-426-5728 ■ Fax 252-426-4625
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Subscription Rate

Home delivery..... \$35 + tax per year

Information

For subscription questions, delivery issues, classified ads, legal notices, and obituaries, please call Customer Care at 252-329-9505

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Perquimans Weekly, Hertford, NC 27944

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