

Updates to *Paddling Eastern North Carolina* (second edition)

November 30, 2011

Google Earth Placemarks

Google Earth Placemarks are available to show the put-ins and take-outs for all stream sections listed in the Second Edition of *Paddling Eastern North Carolina*. For details:

<http://pocosinpress.com/Maps.htm>

Cape Fear Basin

Black River

Section 2, page 43

- The Nature Conservancy has purchased 106 acres that include the high bluff (mi 2.7) covered with mountain laurel, known as Sugarloaf Bluff. The bluff is said to be the highest on the Black River.
- Danny Baldwin (910-990-6234) has a campground at Mossy Log, just upstream right of the NC 41 bridge. It is about 300 feet from the Mossy Log boat ramp to the bridge. Rates are \$18 for full hookup, \$15 for electric and water hookup only, and \$10 for a tent site. A bathroom is available. The campground is closed during January and February.

Sections 3–4, pages 43–44

- Don Meece's email has changed: meece@embarqmail.com
- The private, gated access near Wildcat Road is no longer available.
- Paddlers have used upstream left of the Wildcat Road for access by parking on the road shoulder before reaching the guardrail and walking to the river. They walk with the guardrail to their left and avoiding trespass on the landowner's property to the right.

Section 6, pages 45–46

- This section was paddled June 24, 2007 at very low water. USGS gauge *Black River near Tomahawk* was 30 cfs, 1.49 feet. The gauge across the river from the ramp at Henry's Landing was 0.7 feet. There was enough water for paddling until where the Narrows goes left and the swamp forest route goes right. No water was flowing into the Narrows. The swamp forest route had enough water to paddle except for a few areas requiring walking. Total distance walked was a few hundred feet.
- Flagging in the swamp forest route has been removed.

Sections 7–8, pages 47–48

- The Borough access, near the confluence of Moores Creek and the Black River, is closed. The nearest public access is at the put-in for Moores Creek Section 1 (page 116).

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Cape Fear River

Section 2, page 53

- Cape Fear RV and Canoe Center in Lillington is closed.
- Cape Fear River Adventures is located in Lillington near the US 401/421 bridge. They rent canoes and kayaks and offer shuttle services. Call 910-891-9348 or see: <http://www.capefearadventures.com/>

Sections 3–4, pages 53–55

- The new riverside park at Erwin is open and offers easy access to the river, upstream left of the NC 217 bridge.

Section 7, page 56

- Paddlers can arrange to go through the locks instead of portaging. Locks are now also available on weekends. Reservations are required. Try to make a reservation at least 48 hours in advance. Contact Lockmaster Phil Edge at 910-483-7746 or 910-874-0883. Email: phil.edge@usace.army.mil An additional contact is Ranger Tom Charles at 910-874-0881. Email: thomas.p.charles@usace.army.mil

Section 10, page 58

- See the Section 7 update information above for arranging to lock through Lock # 2.

Section 12, page 59

- Starting May 23, 2011, the access ramps just upstream and downstream of Lock and Dam 1 will be closed to the public for about two years. Construction will be underway to make it easier for fish to bypass the lock and swim upstream in spawning season. During the construction period, paddlers can still make reservations to be locked through, but the Lock and Dam area cannot be used to put in or take out. An exception is from mid-March until Late May, construction will stop for fish spawning. During this time, paddlers may use the ramps.

Section 13, pages 60–61

- The boat ramp at Dram Tree Park has been renovated, and a canoe and kayak launch has been added.

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Deep River

Section 3, page 71

- At the take-out, park on the road shoulder, downstream right of the NC 42 bridge. The gate to the drive leading to the river is locked, but the landowner has been allowing paddlers to walk to the river.

Section 7, page 74

- The NC 42 bridge was found to be cleared of logjams on 12 August 2007.

Sections 9–10, pages 75–76

- A concrete boat ramp is upstream left of the Camelback Bridge at Deep River Park.

Haw River

Sections (all)

- River Run Outfitters, located in Burlington, offers guided trips and canoe and kayak rentals for all sections of the Haw River and many other rivers. Call 336-212-2697.

Sections 2–3, pages 89–91

- The Glen Raven access at NC 87 has been improved. A parking area is available upstream left of the mill sluice channel. A pedestrian bridge allows crossing the sluice without having to walk the highway bridge.

Section 3, pages 90–91

- The Shallow Ford Natural Area, a 200-acre river park, is now open. It is upstream left of the Gerringer Mill Road (Alamance Co. 1561) bridge (mi 2.7). A paddle access is at the bridge, and a paddle access upstream on the left bank (mi 2.1) allows access to campsites. The park also includes about 10 miles of hiking trails.

Sections 3–6, pages 90–94

- Haw River Outfitters (<http://www.hawriveroutfitters.com/index.html> or 336-212-0124) offers trips, rentals, and shuttle services on river sections in Alamance County.

Sections 3–4, pages 90–92

- Property upstream of the gate at Glencoe Mills Dam is owned by Alamance County and is the future site for Glencoe River Park. A portage trail for the dam begins 200 feet upstream left of the dam. To end the trip after portaging, go another 200 feet to the gate. To continue downstream, cross the small steel bridge over the mill sluice and go down the bank to reenter the river.
- At NC 62 and River Road, upstream left of the NC 62 bridge, a small Alamance Parks & Recreation park allows for paddling access. The entry drive is 100 feet up River Road from NC 62.

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(Haw River, continued)

Section 4, page 92

- Burlington Parks and Recreation has opened Town & Country Access (mi 3.4) on the right bank. To drive to the access from US 70, turn north onto Sellars Mill Road. Go 0.5 miles and turn right onto Hyde Street. Go 0.8 miles to the T-junction at Riverside Drive. Turn right, go about 400 feet to the end of Riverside Drive, and park in the small lot. Walk down the trail to the left about 200 yards to reach steps at the riverbank.
- Red Side Park is 800 feet upstream right of the NC 49 bridge. Lang Street leads from NC 49 to the park. Steps to the river provide paddling access, about 100 feet upstream of the old, broken dam at Cone Mills.

Section 5, pages 92–93

- A Burlington-Swepsonville River Park access is upstream right of the confluence with Alamance Creek (mi 2.5) off Boy Wood Road (Alamance Co. 2116). It has parking, boat ramp, and tent campsite. A walking trail connects to the Swepsonville River Park that begins about a half-mile upstream off Boy Wood Road. The parks have three tent campsites.
- At the Swepsonville Dam (mi 3.1), a new landing dock has been built on the left by The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Co. to eliminate getting out of your boat in the mud. The landowner has erected portage signs and wire indicating the path around the dam. Please respect his property rights and do not trespass. Plans for the Puryear portage include a launching dock on the downriver side of the dam and improvements to the boat slide over the dam wing-wall.
- Just downstream left of the Swepsonville Dam (mi 3.1) is Spirit Island, which extends for a quarter-mile downstream. A camping platform has been built on the Island by The Haw River Canoe Company, <http://www.hawrivercanoe.com/> or 336-260-6465. Here is their announcement:
 - Spirit Island is ready for permitted overnight camping and/or day use. Our 16' X 20' camping platform is the perfect place to “get away from the insanity of civilization”. A small boardwalk leading away from the platform connects to a private privy. When receiving your permit, you will be given a portable “john” containing enzymes and a gelling agent. All you need is some food, tent and a sleeping bag and pad. Spirit Island is located 4.5 miles upriver from our office in Saxapahaw, NC. The camping platform is modeled after the camping platforms in the Roanoke River swamps and is situated on the upriver end of the Island near a rapid. The sounds of falling water and secluded placement of the camping platform make an overnight experience on Spirit Island both refreshing and energizing.
- The Boy Scouts access upstream of the Saxapahaw Dam has been improved. Vehicles can be driven to the dock during daylight hours.

Section 6, page 94

- A new river access is open at Saxapahaw near the Community Center building, upstream left of the Church Road (Alamance Co. 2171) bridge. Entrance to the parking lot is from Swepsonville-Saxapahaw Road. Metal steps with railings extend from the bank to the river to allow boat access.

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Little Coharie Creek

Section 1, page 107

- Friends of Sampson County Waterways reports tornados downed many trees between the NC 24 and Fleet Cooper Road bridges. Consider this section unnavigable until the obstructions can be cleared.

Lower Little River

Sections 2–3, pages 111–112

- Paddlers from two different trips reported many downed trees between Manchester Road (Cumberland Co. 1451) and Elliott Bridge Road (Harnett Co. 2045).

Sections 3–4, pages 112–113

- The campground, shuttle service, and canoe rental (operated by Denton Ridge) are no longer in business.

Moores Creek

Section 1, page 116

- Moores Creek National Battlefield is open from 9a.m.–5p.m. An easier put-in is available inside the park. After entering the park from NC 210, take the first right and continue to the parking lot. Moores Creek is about 50 feet from the end of the lot. This put-in is 0.8 miles upstream from the NC 210 bridge.
- The Borough access, near the confluence of Moores Creek and the Black River, is closed. Moores Creek must be paddled as a round trip.

Northeast Cape Fear River

Sections 4–5, page 124

- A new Wildlife boating access is at Chinquapin, upstream left of the NC 41/50 bridge.

Rocky River

Sections 1–4, pages 139–142

- A new USGS gauge, *Rocky River at US 64 near Siler City*, is available. Water from the gauge takes about 2 hours to reach the Section 2 put-in. For Section 4 (if rain is widespread), there will be two peaks: one about 3–4 hours after the new gauge peaks, and one about 7–10 after the gauge peaks. The first peak is from tributaries close to Section 4, and the second peak is from the upper Rocky River.

Six Runs Creek

Sections 4–5, page 146

- A group reported paddling these sections during November 2011 at about 200 cfs on the *Black River near Tomahawk* gauge. They had an easy trip with 5–6 trees to pull over or around. They estimated the minimum would be 150 cfs.

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Town Creek

Sections 2–3, pages 158–159

- Brunswick Nature Park, 911 acres, offers a floating dock for paddlers. To reach the park traveling north on NC 133 from the Town Creek bridge, go 0.3 miles and turn left into the park. Follow signs to the dock, about a mile. Using this dock shortens Section 2 by 2.8 miles and lengthens Section 3 by 2.8 miles.

Upper Little River

Section 1, page 161

- Paddlers reported on a trip during December 2010 that there were beaver dams making paddling difficult.

Chowan Basin

Chowan River

Section 1, pages 169–170

- Dockside Restaurant is closed. The ramp is open and the fee is now \$5. A free public ramp is 2.2 miles upstream, downstream right of the US 258 bridge over the Nottoway River.

Meherrin River

Sections 1–3, pages 177–178

- A paddler reported being disappointed by the amount of noise heard for over 24 hours during a canoe camping trip. The noise included a few probable chip mills (near Branches Bridge Road and about 10 miles downstream) and noise from farm machinery and trains.

Warwick & Catherine Creeks

Section 1, page 191

- The ground along the creeks is swampy. There are no places to get out of your boat unless you continue to Holiday Island downstream on the Chowan.

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Lumber Basin

Drowning Creek

Section 1, page 200

- The US 1 bridge is being replaced. Parking near the bridge is not possible. The status of stream access after completion is not yet known.

Section 2, page 201

- Paddlers report encountering a dozen downed trees during March 2010 at 3.8 ft (175 cfs) on the USGS *Drowning Creek near Hoffman* gauge. Only one tree had to be portaged at this level.

Lumber River

Section 1, page 208

- Lumber River State Park cleared this section of downed trees September 2007. It has been paddled at 1.7 feet (50 cfs) on the USGS *Drowning Creek near Hoffman* gauge. Newly fallen trees are likely.

Sections 1–2, pages 208–209

- The access at US 401 was closed due to road work (September 2011). Until the work is complete, use the Lumber River State Park's Chalk Banks access.

Section 3, page 209

- Lumber River Canoe Club cleared this section of downed trees September 2011. Minimum after this clearing was 6.5 feet (100 cfs) on the USGS *Lumber River near Maxton* gauge.

Sections 5–6, page 210

- At the Recreation Center Road (Robeson Co. 1354) bridge, No Parking signs extend for several hundred feet on all sides of the road. It is possible to unload near the bridge and park beyond the signs. For an easier access, use Harpers Ferry Church, where NC 710 crosses 2.9 miles downstream from the Recreation Center Road bridge.

Section 7, pages 210–211

- The John Culbreth Memorial paddle-in campsite is at mile 8.0 on the left bank. It has two fire-rings and picnic tables. The site is owned by Lumber River State Park.

Section 14, page 215

- Cutoffs now bypass several of the meanders, and the meanders are not navigable at low water. The total distance is 10.5 miles.
- River Bend Outfitters in Fair Bluff is closed.
- Al Pittman, south of Lumberton off Willoughby Road, arranges shuttles and rents canoes. Telephone: 910-738-4936 or email: swamptoy@webtv.net

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Neuse Basin

Contentnea Creek

Sections 8–9, pages 241–242

- A new access with parking and ramp is upstream right of the NC 123 bridge at Hookerton.

Sections 10–11, page 242–243

- South Street is now Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Eno River

Sections 3–4, pages 257–258

- The old Duke Power dam just upstream of Pleasant Green Road has been removed.

Flat River

Sections 2–3, pages 264–265

- The State Forest Road low water bridge washed away and has not yet been replaced.

Little River (near Goldsboro)

- Two new USGS gauges are available: *Little River near Zebulon* and *Little River At NC581 near Goldsboro*. The latter gauge does not yet report flow (cfs).

Section 5, page 278

- The county park, where Lowell Mill Dam was removed, is finished and provides easy access.
- The Wildlife boating access downstream of Weaver Road (Johnson Co. 2144) is closed. Access is possible from the Weaver Road bridge.

Neuse River

Section 1, pages 285–286

- Paddle Creek has moved from near Falls Dam to 10012-B Capital Blvd., Wake Forest, NC 27587.

Section 2, pages 286–287

- River access at US 1 is still possible, but a gate on the drive is locked. Passes to access the river along this piece of property are available through Paddle Creek and are free of charge. Visitors will be asked to sign a release form and agree to a parking and usage agreement. Contact Paddle Creek at 919-866-1954.

Section 4, page 288

- To reach the canoe access at Anderson Point Park: from New Bern Avenue, go south on North Rogers Lane, turn left on Neuse View Drive, turn right on Anderson Point Drive, and go 250 feet to the parking lot on the left.

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Sections 5–6, pages 288–289

- To reach the river from Mial Plantation Road bridge, use the downstream left side. Go down just to the side of the concrete bridge apron. The ground between the apron and riverbank had been mowed when checked April 2008. The wooden steps previously found at the riverbank were gone. The bank is 10–15 feet above water, steep, and very slippery when wet.

Section 8, page 290

- Two camping platforms (12 ft x 12 ft covered and 30 ft x 30 ft uncovered) are at mile 16.3 off the right bank, 40–50 feet up Gar Gut Slough [GPS: 35°24.148' N, 78° 16.992' W] . Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center (<http://www.johnstoncc.edu/howellwoods/>) manages the platforms. Campfires are not allowed, and camping is not permitted during special hunt days. Reservations are required at a cost of \$5 per tent. Contact: James Sasser at 919-938-0115 or sasserj@howellwoods.org

Section 11, pages 291–292

- Waynesborough State Park is now operated as Waynesborough Historical Village. (<http://www.waynesboroughhistoricalvillage.com>)

Section 14, page 293

- A private access is available at Daly Campground (<http://www.dalyrv.com/>) on the right bank, 3.9 miles downstream from the NC 111 bridge. They charge \$5 per boat. To reach the campground traveling south on NC 111, cross the Neuse River, go 100 yards, and turn left onto River Road SE (Wayne Co. 1741). Go to the end of the road and take the gravel drive to the campground.

Sections 18–19, pages 295–296

- A Wildlife boating access is 400 feet upstream right of the Maple Cypress Road (Craven Co. 1470) bridge. The access drive connects to Maple Cypress Road a quarter-mile from the bridge

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Trent River

Sections 1–2, pages 305–306

- Paddlers and fishermen are now using River Road (Jones Co. 1169) to access the river at Comfort. River Road is a dirt road off NC 41, 0.1 miles east of the post office.

Sections 3–4, page 306

- A new access, managed by Jones County, is 200 feet upstream left of the Chinquapin Chapel Road bridge. It is reached from Plantation Road (Jones Co. 1131), which joins Chinquapin Chapel Road 50 feet from the bridge.

Sections 3–8, pages 306–308

- The White Oak Stewards (<http://www.whiteoakstewards.org>) report (February 2008) these sections have been cleared of downed trees.

Section 8, page 308

- Evening Breeze Outfitters is closed.

Pasquotank Basin

Alligator River

Section 3, page 318

- A paddler reports (March 2010) being able to paddle about 6 miles up the Northwest and Southwest Forks without being hindered by alligator weed.

Perquimans River

Section 1, page 341

- Teachers Park is at the NC 37 bridge, downstream right. It has a gravel parking area, picnic area, and concrete ramp.

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Roanoke Basin

Cashie River

Section 1, pages 357–358

- A small campground is next to the Wildlife boating access (mi 0.7) mentioned as an alternative put-in. RVs are on the outside of the loop. There are a few tables and grills on the inside of the loop. Tent camping is \$2 per day, paid to an honor box.

Section 3, pages 359–360

- The take-out at the end of Shipyard Landing Road on Cashoke Creek is owned by Ricky Hughes (252-217-9322). He charges \$3 per boat for launching and parking. Plans include rental cabins, tent camping, shuttle service, and a tackle shop. Expected completion is summer 2010.

Dan River

Section 1, pages 369–370

- Scheduled water releases from the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Plant are listed at: <http://www.danvilleutilities.com/>

Section 2, page 371

- The old bridge (mi. 9.5) at Joyce Mill Road has been removed.

Section 4, page 372

- Hanging Rock Outdoor Center has closed.
- Big Creek joins the Dan at mi 6.6 of Section 4. Some paddlers put in or take out on Big Creek, upstream left of the NC 268 (Lynchburg Road) bridge. It is 500 feet downstream on Big Creek to reach the Dan River. There is little parking at NC 268. Park on the shoulder of NC 89.
- The Dan River Company leases a private access near the NC 268 bridge over Big Creek. The shuttle fee from their shop near the Section 6 put-in is \$12 for the first boat and \$5 each for the next three. See: <http://www.danrivercompany.com/>

Sections 4-5, pages 372-373

- River access at Moore's Springs Campground is closed. Efforts to reopen the campground and secure river access are ongoing.

Sections 7-8, pages 374-375

- Access at Power House Road adjacent to Hemlock Golf Course has been restored.

Section 10, page 376

- Eagle Falls Outfitters is now Dan River Adventures, located at the Dan River Campground. See: <http://www.danriveradventures.com/>

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(Dan River, continued)

Section 12, page 377

- A new access, Draper Landing, is downstream right of the NC 700 bridge at Eden

Section 13, page 378

- Dan River Park, off Memorial Drive in Danville, has been reopened and renamed Abreu-Grogan Park. A boat ramp is available.

Roanoke River

Sections 8–9, pages 404–405

- River Landing Platform is now available. It is only about a 100-foot walk from the US 13/17 Wildlife boating access. It is connected to the River Landing Boardwalk and features a screened and covered facility with restrooms and showers nearby and two bicycles that can be used for a short ride on the connecting Skewarkee Trail to downtown.

Smith River

Section 2, pages 412–413

- Island Ford Landing is a new boating access located downstream left of the NC 700/770 (Meadow Road) bridge. It is at the trailhead for the Smith River Greenway.

Tar-Pamlico Basin

Fishing Creek

Sections 3–4, pages 428–429

- (February 2009) The US 301 bridge near Enfield is being replaced. Access to the creek may be difficult during construction.

Tar River

Section 9, page 452

- Rocky Mount Parks & Recreation has improved access at the Old Bailey Highway (Nash Co. 1001) bridge on upstream right. Several vehicles can be parked behind the guardrail, where wooden steps lead down the first level of embankment.

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(Tar River, continued)

Section 10, pages 452–453

- Rocky Mount Parks & Recreation has improved access at NC 58 on downstream left. A rough drive leads 100 feet to a small beach on the reservoir. Park on the road shoulder and portage gear along the drive.
- Rocky Mount Parks & Recreation provides a camping platform on an island in an arm of the Tar River Reservoir. A roof covers half the platform, and a fire-ring is provided. A permit is required (252-972-1235). The fee is \$10 per night per person. To paddle to the platform from the boat ramp off Bend In The River Road (Nash Co. 1745), paddle under the bridge, go 500 feet, and bear left into an arm of the reservoir. Continue a mile to the Old Carriage Road (Nash Co. 1603) bridge. A boat ramp is left just past the bridge. Continue 0.4 miles through a left bend, where an island can be seen a half-mile ahead. Pass just to the right of the island and look to the left for a small dock [GPS: 35°52.948' N, 77°55.156' W] . The platform is just behind the dock but difficult to see through trees.

Section 11, pages 453–454

- Rocky Mount Parks & Recreation provides a new access just upstream right of the Nashville Road bridge. The access is a quarter-mile downstream from the Griffin Street access. Parking and river access are better at the new Nashville access, Wooden steps and a boat slide are close to parking spaces. Traveling north on Nashville Road, turn left into a parking area before crossing the bridge. Hammond Street T's into Nashville Road on the right.

Section 12, pages 454–455

- Rocky Mount Parks & Recreation provides a camping platform on an island about a quarter-mile downstream of Rocky Mount Mills Dam. Reservations are required (252-972-1235), and the fee is \$10 per night per person. To reach the platform without having to portage around the dam, put in at the concrete boat ramp in Battle Park. The platform is a quarter-mile upstream from the ramp. Paddling upstream will require some effort at normal water flow. If water is flowing over the dam, it may not be possible to paddle against the current. The platform [GPS: 35°57.631' N, 77°47.928' W] is up about 15 feet above the river. A wooden ladder extends from the riverbed to the platform. The platform does not have a roof, and posts are not high enough to support a tarp. A fire-ring is provided.

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White Oak Basin

Newport River

Pages 483–485

- The Northwest Prong, Southwest Prong, and mainstem of the Newport River were cleared of downed trees in March 2008. The clearing crew reports that the primitive low bridge across the Northwest Prong, Section 1 (mi 0.5) was not seen.

White Oak River

Sections 4–5, pages 493–495

- Boon Docks, at the Stella bridge, charges \$5 per boat to use their ramp. Pay at the honor box. Camping is available at Boon Docks for a fee.
- Boat access at White Oak Shores Camping & RV Resort is only allowed for paddlers camping there.

Yadkin-Pee Dee Basin

Rocky River

Sections 2–3, pages 529–550

- A new access is upstream right of the NC 205 bridge. Land for a nature park has been donated by Brooks Barnhardt. There is a locked gate at the driveway into the park. Paddlers are welcome to park on the road shoulder and carry past the gate to the river. To arrange to have the gate opened or to camp on at the park, call Brooks at 704-485-8795.

Yadkin River

Sections 4–5, pages 553–554

- W, Kerr Scott Reservoir has installed a new canoe access off Marley Ford Road (Wilkes Co. 1137). It can be used instead of Warrior Creek Park campground. From NC 268, take Marley Ford Road 0.8 miles to where it swings right toward reservoir campgrounds. Go straight ahead through gates to the canoe access. The access is free, and using it reduces Section 4 by a half-mile and adds a half-mile to Section 5.

Section 11, page 557

- The low bridge at Rockford access is no longer a hazard. A high bridge has replaced it.

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Appendix B: Camping Platforms

Pages 569-570

- For platform reservations by telephone, the number has changed. Call Ann at 252-792-3790 or 252-724-0352, or call Lucia at 252-792-0070.
- The \$50 maximum per platform no longer applies.
- Portable toilets are no longer available at Roberson's Marina. Campers should bring a portable toilet or a 5-gallon bucket with lid and disposable bags.
- On Sections 2-3 of the Roanoke River, *Halifax* Platform is now called *Tusca Landing* Platform
- River Landing Platform is now available. It is only about a 100-foot walk from the US 13/17 Wildlife boating access. It is connected to the River Landing Boardwalk and features a screened and covered facility with restrooms and showers nearby and two bicycles that can be used for a short ride on the connecting Skewarkee Trail to downtown.