

The Daily Southerner

Weather for Tarboro
 Cloudy
 Time: 9:30 am
 Temp: 82 F
 Real Feel Temp:
 Humidity: 80 %
 Winds: SSW at

[Click for 5-day forecast](#)
 powered by AccuWeather.com

Tuesday July 12, 2005

Tarboro, N.C.

Serving Edgecombe County

Updated at 2PM Monday -

- [Home](#)
- [Local News](#)
- [Local Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Events](#)
- [State News](#)
- [Food](#)
- [TGIF](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [World News](#)
- [Financial News](#)
- [Health News](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Guestbook](#)

[Subscribe Online>>](#) [Place a Classified Ad>>](#) [Submit a Letter to the Editor>>](#)

[Advert](#)

Editorial

Calling all river rats

By W. Terry Smith

We need to use the Tar River as the resource it truly is - and was more than 200 years ago.

Joe Pitt called it eco-tourism during the taping of "WRAListens to Edgecombe County" this week.

You will see that on Channel 5 at 7:30 p.m. July 13. Pitt, Edgecombe Community College's Dr. Deborah Lamm, Community Enrichment's Doris Stith, farmer Tom Porter, educator Bill Negron and yours truly made up a panel that fielded questions from the venerable Charles Gaddy.

Make no mistake, this wasn't "Larry King Live" where softball questions dominate. We tossed around subjects such as economic development, agriculture and our growing Hispanic community.

For sure, the ongoing recruitment of industry and small businesses must continue.

But we also must utilize what we have. What we have is a clean community with friendly folks, beautiful old buildings, an active

Online Poll

What do you think of the web site?

- Love it!
- It's good
- It's ok
- No Comment

Vote

arts community, an improving school system - and the Tar River.

"The river is the main reason Tarboro is here," Edgecombe County Historian Monika Fleming has said more than once.

As early as the 1700s, the Tar River was the main navigational highway for this region. The first bridge across the Tar River was built in Tarboro in 1758.

The same river that was used by paddlewheels and steamers to transport cotton, tobacco and naval stores is still here. If you have not been on the river lately, borrow a canoe or boat and spend some time soaking up some sun and scenery. It will have a medicinal effect.

Just walk down to the river and look. You might see a heron walk around or a fish jump. It can be good for what ails you. Pitt knows. His love affair with the Tar has gone on "a long, long time," he said.

"It's one of the best flat-water rivers for canoing there is," Pitt said.

Pitt, who owns and operates ACE Hardware on Main Street, knows that the ol' Tar and the hunting opportunities in our area bring people into town.

"Often it's young professionals, mostly from the Triangle," Pitt said. "They come into my store to get a fishing or hunting license, depending on the season. And they buy things, too."

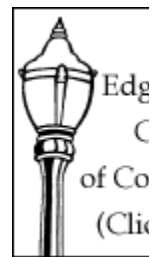
Area farmers lease their land to hunters and hunt clubs. Some visitors hire guides who put them up in cabins.

"We have great duck hunting," Pitt said, "great shad fishing, great rock fishing and good deer hunting. Turkey hunting is getting big. All of that brings people into town. I think there is a real potential here ...

"We have got to capitalize on what we have and attract people to come in. I don't think this takes a lot of money. We don't have to raise a million dollars.

"Bringing people into town is what it's all about."

I agree with Pitt completely. I would like to see an outfitter put up a shack at the town-owned River Front Park. Let this small business rent canoes, kayaks, inner tubes, etc.



News 1
Locati

[Click here](#)
[News Rack](#)

More >:

[Charles Rou](#)
[deserved bet](#)

[LETTER TO](#)
[EDITOR](#)

[Calling all ri](#)
[rats](#)

Plan an annual river festival like the one last week in Edenton. Is the Tar deep enough around here to hold a water skiing event?

Paddlers are out there; we just have to get them here. The town has done its part by hooking into the 180- mile paddle trail from Oxford to the Pamlico Sound. More can be done. A paddling club out of Windsor has built 12 camping platforms on the Roanoke and Cashie rivers. You can camp on the water from Weldon all the way to the Albemarle Sound.

Make the river even more accessible and visitors will have fun and, the next thing you know, they will be walking downtown looking for a place to eat and exploring shops - and the planned arts center.

The new billboards are under construction. That will help get traffic off U.S. 64.

On the Square has shown that people will drive here regularly from Rocky Mount, Wilson, Roanoke Rapids, Greenville, Edenton, Washington and New Bern to eat an upscale meal. Our Tour of Home events draw visitors.

What are we waiting on? Let's get in the boat.

W. Terry Smith is editor of The Daily Southerner.

| [Home](#) || [News](#) || [Sports](#) || [Classifieds](#) || [Guestbook](#) ||
|| [Archives](#) || [About Us](#) || [Health](#) || [Entertainment](#) || [Financial News](#) |