

Stewards of the White Oak River Basin

2003-06-06 TRENT RIVER

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from Pleasant Hill Road, #1130 to
Comfort off Route
41.

Write-up by The Trashman
Pictures taken by Don Sykes

This is a beautiful section of this very beautiful river. We wanted to put in at Pleasant Hill but we knew it would not be canoeable due to blown down trees blocking the river and heavy weed growth clogging the river. We learned this the hard way on May 30th when the water was about 5 or 6 feet higher than today.

Close in old, high hardwood trees line the shores of this narrow stream at



the outset. After a while you come into large swamps or pocosins and then into a long, large lake where the river broadens out and runs more slowly. Then you come upon canyon like walls on the right side severely under cut into the limestone layer under harder rock. The face of this rock has moss and leaf growth in interesting patterns.

Before you get to Comfort you come up on the disappearing bridge. This bridge has huge heavy steel H beams. We looked for it on May 30th and could not understand why we did not see it. Local people told us about it and it appears on some maps.

Now we know the answer. The bridge was completely under water on May 30th and we paddled over it not knowing it was there. Today we paddled under it!

Paul Ferguson went back by land and turned down a dirt road next to #5730 (house # sign in green and white). He learned this is a better access point

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to this river than turning by the Post Office to the river.



We appeal to Jones County authorities to clear this river of blowdown trees and logs and weeds clogging it. This is a fine gem of a river and has tremendous possibilities for thousands of tourists wanting to canoe or kayak it. It can be a very attractive asset bringing tourist dollars into Jones County by this fast growing sport.

We opened up a lot of the strainers on this section to make it well worth while to paddle now. We cannot, however recommend the section from Pleasant Hill to Route 1130 until it is cleared of trees lying across the river.

More pics will appear on our web site

later. Sorry, I just discovered all pics were deleted from the camera before I captured them. Don't understand the program on my new computer yet.

Participants were: Ken Court, Joanne Somerday, Gary Scruggs, Cal Bridges, Missy Tenhet, Don Sykes, Paul Ferguson and Elmer Eddy.

Marie Williams: I called in about six bags and a cooler to be picked up on Route 41 at Comfort. They are under the big Oak tree in front of the Post Office. (Placed there with the permission of Edna the Postmistress).

Marie, please ask Clifton Mills to install "Littering is Illegal" signs at the bridge at State Road # 1130. All trash we picked up is being thrown off this bridge. The majority of it is large, heavy, quart glass bottles of beer. We got everything we could reach but we could see more back in the swamps where it was inaccessible to us. It will stay there forever and our wetlands like this will eventually become landfills of these materials. The



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rest of it, of course, is on the bottom of the river.

We have got to stop the trashing and littering of our rivers the majority of which is being thrown from bridges. How do we do it?

The White Oak River Trashman
Stewards of the White Oak River Basin
Please visit: www.whiteoakstewards.org

