

Stewards of the White Oak River Basin

2003-12-16 NORTHEAST CREEK

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We put in at the boat ramp at Tarawa Terrace. As we started out we saw trees full of buzzards. Then we saw seagulls and pelicans fighting over something in the water underneath the trees. It turned out to be pieces of a deer carcass. All in all it was quite a sight to behold.



Brian Wheat towed our kayaks

upstream about 2/3rds of the way past the Naval Hospital toward the 24 bridge. We put in on a sandy beach and began picking up trash as we worked our way back down. We loaded up fast with two ghost crab pots and three tires.

There were many tires all along the shore in the water where they obstructed access to the beach. It is beyond our capability to remove these. We will ask the marines to see if they can do this for us. A bunch of outboard motor boats equipped with shovels could get them out of there. We suspect they exist all along the shoreline from 24 to the New River.

We certainly cannot leave them there forever. They were probably dumped in the

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river when it cost \$2:00 to turn them in. That was a very bad law. Now a disposal tax is charged on each tire purchased. This is the only and best way to stop the dumping of everything in our waters and forests, i.e., have the cost of disposal include in the purchase price.

Missy Tenet was not feeling good and left before lunch. Brian and I had lunch on the Naval Hospital

dock. We soon had company as shown in the picture. He practically became our pet. Brian found him on his boat and he landed beside me in my kayak on the way home. He stayed with us all the way back to Tarawa.

The area around The Tarawa Boat Ramp was trashed badly. We picked up seven more bags of trash right there and did not get it all. It is obvious that boaters come in here and clean out their boats before going home and throw the trash as far as they can into the woods, brush and briars. This makes it very difficult to pick up. This practice must be stopped. How? Look at the pile of trash in the picture.

We called Carmen Lombardo, 451-7226 and asked him to come and remove this pile of trash. He said he would and thanked us profusely.

We asked him how this terrible littering could be stopped. He said barrels don't work and signs don't work. We suggested every Base Permit issued for hunting, fishing, boat launching etc. have the words, "I will not litter" printed just above their signature. He thought it was a great idea and will take it up with the base game warden.

We never saw Northeast Creek so calm as the picture will show. The temperature was in the high sixties and it was a gorgeous day to be out on the river. Elmer

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Elmer, The White Oak River Trashman
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Please visit: www.whiteoakstewards.org
