

New River Otters

Date: 27JUNE09

Location: Chaney Creek – Phillips Park location

Tools: Canoes/kayaks

Summary: Whitney Nelson (Education Coordinator)

Today, students got on the water! A brief discussion on aquatics and how/why aquatic interests are important and should be preserved took place before launching a mixed group of canoes and kayaks onto the water. We traveled down Chaney Creek towards the mouth, then worked our way up Mill Creek. It was the original plan for the instructor and students to use the dip nets to gather and discuss the fauna and flora of both creeks, but, instead, we traveled as far as time allowed us up Mill Creek to possibly see a large aquatic reptile (from a safe distance). Unfortunately, a large watercraft alarmed the reptile mere moments before our arrival, so defeat was conceded and the group turned around.

Results: Students should have a better understanding of how to maneuver in the watercraft we used today. The intent for the June meeting was largely to have a fun paddle on the water, which was a success. However, next meeting there will be an on-land canoe drill and informative session before taking students on the water in order to provide better watercraft maneuverability to all students, both for our purposes and also for their own future travel on the waters of costal North Carolina.