

## SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF THE NAVIGABLE PORTION OF CHICOD CREEK

Updated 7-6-11

### INTRODUCTION

*“Chicod Creek provides one of the finest creeks for adventurous paddlers in all of Pitt County. Called Chicods Creek on early maps, this creek was named for an Indian who resided here during the colonial period. Threatened by stream channelization in 1969, this stream was selected for a legal test of legislation that enabled stream channelization. The case eventually led to an end of massive stream channelization in the entire country while simultaneously preserving the downstream section of Chicod Creek itself”* (Excerpt taken from “Pitt County Canoe/Kayak Paddle Trails” guide provided by Mid-East RC&D, Pitt County, PTRF and Sierra Club).

### MILE POST 3

#### JA-LYNN’S SPORTS SHOP ACCESS

*“Access to this trail may best be at the Sport Shop adjacent the NC Hwy 33 bridge crossing (launch fee)”* (Excerpt taken from “Pitt County Canoe/Kayak Paddle Trails” guide provided by Mid-East RC&D, Pitt County, PTRF and Sierra Club).

Every spring, Chicod Creek at NC Hwy 33 used to be a world-class river herring fishery with cars from all over the U.S. cramming both sides of the road. Today and on the brink of extinction, only a few herring are spotted in the creek each year.

### CHICOD CREEK MILE POST 5.5/TAR RIVER MILE POST 188.6

#### MOUTH OF CHICOD CREEK

*“Location of a wooden hull over 100 feet long is said to be the remains of a Confederate Gunboat that was under construction at Washington, NC early in the Civil War”* (Excerpt taken from “Pitt County Canoe/Kayak Paddle Trails” guide provided by Mid-East RC&D, Pitt County, PTRF and Sierra Club).

### FURTHER DOWNSTREAM ALONG THE TAR RIVER

#### TAR RIVER MILE POST 188.7

#### SEINE BEACH – GRIMESLAND/PACTOLUS BRIDGE

*“This historic crossing of the Tar River dates to the pre-colonial period. The name Seine Beach was probably derived from the use of seine nets to catch shad and river herring here during their annual spring ‘run.’ The bluff to the south once had a house used for gambling, reached only by boat from Seine Beach. Today this area can be reached by the appropriately named ‘Poker House Road.’ ...Below Seine Beach the Tar River gradually widens and is bordered on both sides by swamp forest. Sand replaces muddy clay at the river edge”* (Excerpt taken from “Pitt County Canoe/Kayak Paddle Trails” guide provided by Mid-East RC&D, Pitt County, PTRF and Sierra Club).

#### SALTWATER WEDGE

The Grimesland/Pactolus Bridge is the approximate location of the “saltwater wedge,” frequently monitored by the Greenville Utilities Commission.

#### TABLE TOP

*"It was said he [Blackbeard the Pirate] would visit a sister up the Tar River near what is now known as Grimesland. There was a once huge cypress tree near there known as 'Table Top,' famed as Blackbeard's lookout" (Excerpt taken from "Blackbeard, Rogue of Eastern North Carolina" by Roger Kammerer).*

#### **UPSTREAM FROM MOUTH OF CHICOD CREEK ALONG THE TAR RIVER TAR RIVER MILE POST 185**

#### YANKEE HALL ACCESS

*"Yankee Hall is situated within the Pactolus community. This community was named after the classical Pactolus River in Asia Minor. In the King Midas legend the Pactolus River turned to gold when touched by the king. This Tar River landing is steeped in history. Established by New England shipbuilders during late colonial period, pre-Civil War trade at this landing brought prosperity to the area. Numerous plantations were actively in operation and the Midway Male and Female Academy was established. Most recently it has seen use as a landing for shipping hardwood logs to local sawmills. Evidence to corroborate the historical significance of the site can be observed in the piles of colonial ballast stone lying along the water's edge and by the remains of an antebellum cemetery on the hill above the landing. Road access to this landing is via Yankee Hall Road at Pactolus on US-264" (Excerpt taken from "Pitt County Canoe/Kayak Paddle Trails" guide provided by Mid-East RC&D, Pitt County, PTRF and Sierra Club).*