

## **Riverbend Park 10 Year Anniversary Celebration—Riverbend Park Saturday, October 17, 2009—All Day into the Evening**

Join us here at Riverbend Park to celebrate our ten-year anniversary! We will be having an all day celebration with plenty of activities for everyone to enjoy. We will be starting the day at 9 am with a Bird walk led by Ranger Dwayne Martin. October is a great time to see various fall migrants that are passing through our area. We may see birds such as the beautiful Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, or Red-headed Woodpecker. This will be a moderate two and a half hour hike. Please wear comfortable shoes, bring water and of course—do not forget to bring your binoculars!



Starting at 11 am, Ranger Lori Owenby will be taking a Wet and Wild Paddle Trip down the Catawba River. Come a little early with your canoe or kayak and we will begin at the canoe access located in the bottom parking lot, paddle past our mile of shoreline, and take out about five miles downriver. We will have the opportunity to paddle around several islands, explore the flora and fauna of the river, and look for many bird species such as Bald Eagle, Osprey, and Great Blue Heron. We may also see River Otters or American Minks playing on the rocks or swimming in the shallows. This trip will take approximately three hours. Please wear appropriate attire and wear plenty of sunscreen. Canoes and kayaks are not provided.

After lunch, the fun continues with a Fall Foliage/Wildflower Identification Walk led by Ranger Dwayne Martin. The program will begin at 1 pm at the park office. The beginning of fall is when the trees begin showing off their beautiful foliage colors. The park has a variety of deciduous trees including Red and White Oaks, Hickories, Sourwoods, Sweet Gums, and Red Maples. We will also keep our eyes peeled for fall asters and goldenrods, which are plentiful throughout the park. Please wear comfortable shoes, as this will be a moderate two-hour hike.



Creek Splash, at 3 pm, with Ranger Alisha Hayes will be the exploration of one of our many streams to look for some of the many amphibians that call the park home. Dusky Salamanders are our most common salamander species here at the park—but we may get lucky and find a beautiful Spring Salamander or a Southern Two-lined Salamander. As we walk to our destination, we will be turning over rotten logs and searching under leaf litter to look for more terrestrial amphibians such as Slimy Salamander and Eastern Newt. We also have Eastern

Fence Lizards, Fivelined Skinks, and Ground Skinks that live among the forest floor. Ranger Hayes will describe the many differences between amphibians and reptiles and the different habitats in which they live. Please wear appropriate attire, as your feet may get wet. This activity will begin at the park office and will take approximately two hours.

Beginning at 5 pm at the large picnic shelter located near the river, the Rangers will be having a Kid's Fishing Tournament. This event will be open to children ages 0 through 15 years of age. There will be a "Small Fry" division for ages 0 through 6 and a "Junior" division for ages 7 through 15. This activity exposes children to the excitement of fishing and gets them involved in the great outdoors. There will be prizes awarded to the youngster who catches the biggest fish in each age category. Fishing rods and bait not provided. Please wear appropriate attire.

Nighttime in the outdoors is the perfect time to see certain animals because that is the only time they are active! Some of our favorite animals to find at night here at the park are owls. Starting at 7 pm Ranger Dwayne Martin and Ranger Alisha Hayes will be leading an Owl Prowl. We will meet at the Park Office and take about a two-mile hike through the park. Some of the owl species we could see are Barred Owls, Great-Horned Owls, and Eastern Screech Owls. Please bring flashlights and wear comfortable shoes.

Did you know there are over 1700 species of moths in North Carolina? Join volunteers Todd and Melody Gilbert and Ranger Lori Owenby at 7 pm for Moth Mania and a likelihood to see some of the beautiful species of moths we have here at the park. They will set up a sheet and backlight combination that will attract all kinds of night flying creatures. Some of the species we have a chance of seeing include Luna Moth, Tulip-Tree Silk Moth, and Io Moth. This event will be at the Education Building located in the upper parking lot.



Then join us as we polish off a perfect day by roasting marshmallows and making s'mores by a bonfire on the banks of the Catawba River at 8:30 pm. S'mores and marshmallow roasting sticks will be provided. Please bring a chair, bottled water, and be prepared to relax and enjoy the rest of the evening! Please contact Ranger Lori Owenby at [lowenby@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:lowenby@catawbacountync.gov) or call 828-256-9157 to register for these special events.