

CHARLIE POOLE RIVER RAMBLE: A Weekend of Music and Paddling

The Fifteenth Annual Charlie Poole Music Festival, June 11-13, will include the first **Charlie Poole River Ramble on Saturday June 12 at 9 a.m.** Float down a stretch of the beautiful unspoiled Smith and Dan Rivers, and still not miss any of the festival. Launch near the historic 1892 Spray Mercantile Building where paddlers will hear the stories of this once-thriving textile town. Internationally renowned banjo musician Charlie Poole worked here at Spray Cotton Mills.

Two additional scenic river trips for paddlers will also be coordinated on Friday afternoon, June 11 on the Smith River in Henry County, Virginia and on Sunday morning, June 13 on the Dan River in Stokes County, NC. Both of these trips are within easy driving distance of Eden, NC.

TICKETS: Festival and River Ramble tickets are \$50 per person and include:

- Charlie Poole Music Festival admission (all three days),
- Light breakfast, voucher for lunch on Saturday
- Refreshments for the River Ramble
- Shuttles from fairgrounds to the river for Saturday's River Ramble
- Free boat and gear rental for Saturday is available on a first come, first served basis.
- Free tee shirts for the first 30 River Ramble registrants!
- Bonus river trips on the Smith River on Friday and the Dan River on Sunday.

PLACE: Transport from the Eden Fairgrounds on 13970 Old NC 87, Eden, NC, 27288, (336) 623-1040 Shuttle arranged through the Dan River Basin Association and Three Rivers Outfitters in Eden, NC.

Space will be limited, so sign up early, on line, or just send your check to P.O. Box 867, Eden, NC 27289. Free tee shirts for first 30 to sign up!

REGISTER ON LINE: Reservations, schedules and other information are online at www.charlie-poole.com. Click on Festival. For further information call 336-623-1043.

CAMPING: Basic camping is available, with bathrooms and showers, at a charge of \$10 per night, \$20 maximum for the week, and campers will be welcome any time during the week preceding the festival.

RIVER RAMBLE DESCRIPTION: This leisurely two hour float will be guided by Three Rivers Outfitters. The trip begins on the scenic Smith River, near the historic 1892 Spray Mercantile Building where paddlers will hear the stories of this once-thriving textile town.

Also nearby is the historic 1898 Nantucket Mill. Piedmont Folk Legacies and the National Banjo Initiative envision a new life for the mill as a National Banjo Center, museum, recording studio and performance venue.

After putting on the river at Spray Cotton Mills, paddlers will float under Island Ford Bridge near Spray Circle and past the new Island Ford Landing at Eden's Smith River Greenway. About a mile downstream, after passing under the Kings Highway Bridge, paddlers will come upon a large rock formation on river left known as Bear Slide, a state Natural Heritage Area recognized for rare communities of wild flowers.

Paddlers can expect to see June wildflowers, water fowl and perhaps even Eden's mascot, a river otter. Past Bear Slide, where the Smith joins the Dan River, paddlers will turn upstream a short distance to view the impressive remains of the 1852 Leaksville Toll Bridge. After floating down to the nationally famous arched Mebane Bridge, paddlers will take out at the NC Wildlife Access on the Dan River where all will be shuttled back to the Charlie Poole Festival in time for lunch at the fairgrounds.

BONUS RIVER TRIPS: Two additional river trips for paddlers are being coordinated for Friday afternoon on the Smith River in Henry County (exact location depends on water levels; for experienced boaters only) and a "Banjo Heritage Float" on Sunday morning on the scenic Dan River in Stokes County. See home page news items and upcoming events at www.danriver.org for registration information.

A "Little Ramblers" children's area, sponsored by Sheetz, will be another new addition. Food and other vendors will be on-site for the festival.

This project receives support from the Rockingham County Arts Council and the NC Arts Council, an agency of the NC Department of Cultural Resources.

River event sponsors include the Dan River Basin Association, Three Rivers Outfitters and the Dan River Company.