

Meeting Agenda for Friday, December 8th, 2023, 9-11am*

Transylvania County Community Services Building, 106 E. Morgan St., Brevard, NC 28712

Zoom Link for Virtual Attendees: <https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/99238803725?pwd=MXZLeFlJNDhCNDdodHJoZlVwcmRYdz09>

9:00-10:00.....Program: “*Regional Effects of the Pactiv Evergreen Paper Mill Closure*”
 Bill Yarborough

Retired Soil & Water Conservationist Bill Yarborough will present on the impacts of the closure of Canton’s Pactiv Evergreen mill in March 2023 and the implications that it may have for forestry and wildlife interests within a 200-mile radius. The closure will likely mean the loss of small sawmills and loggers that feed these mills. Many landowners today use their forestland as their 401K or emergency funding, so without the paper mill taking low grade timber, the price of even high-grade timber is reduced. But there are even farther-reaching implications, including the irreversible loss of productive and important farmland - reduced timber and land values and a crippled market may force landowners to sell to the highest bidder, which in recent years has been developers.

10:00-11:00.....Business Meeting:

- Welcome & Introductions
- Approval of September/October/November Meeting Minutes
- Land Manager Updates
- Committee Member Updates
- Subcommittee Updates
 - North Fork WSR
- New Business
 - Rosman Riverfront Plan
 - County-wide Nonnative Invasive Plant Initiative
 - Bioblitz Opportunity (MtnTrue/TNRC/TC Schools)

Tentative Programs Schedule:

TNRC Speakers (2023)			
Date	Speaker	Affiliation	Topic
8-Dec-23	Bill Yarborough		Regional Effects of the Canton Paper Mill Closure
12-Jan-24	Jake Rash	Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	Speckled Trout in Transylvania County
9-Feb-24	Adam Warwick	The Nature Conservancy	Fire Ecology of the Southern Appalachians

Possible future programs:

1. Dupont State Forest Master Plan Update
2. Updated Forest Plan (USFS)
3. NC Growth – Smart UP Field Guide to Blueways (<https://ncgrowth.unc.edu/index.php/blueway-guide-launch/>)
4. Geology of Appalachian Mountains (Michael Follo)
5. User/entrance/parking fees for public recreational areas
6. Rescues and Safety on Public Lands
7. Ecusta Trail Updates (COB)
8. Chronic Wasting Disease within White-tailed Deer (NCWRC)
9. Mussels of the French Broad
10. River Snorkeling – Biodiversity and the BR Snorkel Trail (Kevin Merrill, Oxbow)

Announcements:

The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Friday, January 12th from 9-11 AM** at the **Community Services Building**, located at **106 E. Morgan St., Brevard**.