

LAND OF THE POCOSIN

The Croatan is one of four National Forests in North Carolina. It is the most "coastal" of any National Forest in eastern United States, being adjacent to, or close to, the waters of the Atlantic Ocean on the southern and northeastern sides. Its total area is 155,000 acres. The name "Croatan" is derived from the Algonquian Indian word for the "council town" that was located in the area.

The coastal environment provides an almost year-long recreation season, and is especially favored by those who enjoy fishing, boating, and swimming. Three recreation areas are available that provide facilities for a day's outing or for longer visits by campers.

The Croatan has many unusual attractions, some of which are unique to this National Forest. The unusual include many species of animal, bird, and plant life seldom seen elsewhere. Unique to this Forest are the areas of pocosins, and at least one plant species.

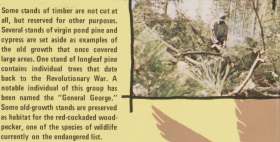
Timber is grown, harvested, and regrown on a planned program of sustained yield. This means that only as much wood is removed as it grows, or less if forests wish to build up particular stands of timber. The result is an increasing yield of vital wood products from forests that are all the while actually improving in quality, quantity, and value.

All timber removed from National Forests is harvested by private individuals or companies in the wood industry who bid competitively. The Forest Service directs which trees are to be cut, and how.



Commercial hardwood species on the Croatan include sweetgum, tulip poplar, yellow poplar, and oak. These are grown on an 80-year cycle for "rotation". The pines, including loblolly, pond, longleaf, and shortleaf pine are usually managed on a 20-year rotation.

Some stands of timber are not cut at all, but reserved for other purposes. Several stands of virgin pond pine and cypress are set aside as examples of the old growth that once covered large areas. One stand of longleaf pine contains individual trees that date back to the Revolutionary War. A notable individual of this group has been named the "General George". Some old growth stands are preserved as habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker, one of the species of wildlife currently on the endangered list.



"POCOSIN" is derived from the Indian word for "swamp on a hill." The name fits, for a pocosin is a wet upland bog with varying depths of mucky, organic soil. This spongy bog layer holds water like a giant sponge, and can dry out almost as rapidly.



Several unusual plant species thrive in the areas of the pocosins. The Venus fly trap (*Dionaea muscipula*) (left), for example, occurs only in the eastern Coastal Plain, and on no other National Forest. It has leaves that are able to close on and entrap insects, which the plant then digests. Another plant, the shrub *Zenobia*, is found only in pocosin areas.



Other peculiar and interesting plants would certainly include the beautiful little sundew (top) and the pitcher plant, (right) both of which supplement their own diets by eating insects.

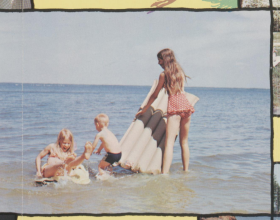
CROATAN National Forest

RECREATION on the Croatan National Forest has something for everyone who enjoys the coastal region and beaches. Thousands of visitors picnic and camp each year at the Neuse River Recreational Area (popular locally as Flaming Beach), at Cedar Point Recreation Area, and at Pine Cliff. Boating access is at Calypso Creek, River's Creek, and Haywood Inlets.

The Croatan serves as a convenient stopping point for tourists who are headed for or from the Tarboro-Duke Banks area of North Carolina. Access is through U.S. Highway 17 or U.S. Highway 70.



Outdoor recreation opportunities on the Croatan include camping, picnicking, boating, canoeing, birdwatching, swimming, hunting, fishing, or simply enjoying the forest solitude. Summer visitors should bring a supply of insecticide.



WILDLIFE on the Croatan National Forest provides pleasure for hunters of game birds and animals, and excellent opportunities for those who love to see and study the wild creature.

Animal life includes deer, black bear, turkey, quail, quail, rabbits, and raccoons, all of which can be hunted under North Carolina State Game Regulations. Badger, skunk, and otter are also fairly common.



The Croatan is on the Atlantic Highway of migratory birds, including ducks and geese, its coveys, bays, swamps, marshes, and pocosins provide habitat for many types of birds. Bird watchers may see sparrows, the catbirds, woodpeckers, hawks, woodcock, owls, and many other species. Several rare species of birds, including the bald eagle and peregrine falcon, are seen occasionally. A common resident of Croatan is the osprey or fish hawk (young in nest - left).



FLOUNDERING is a favorite pastime for summer visitors to the tidal areas of Neuse River and Pettiford Bay. Using a light at night in shallow waters along shore, flounder fishermen catch the flat, bottom-dwelling fish, and "big" them with spears.



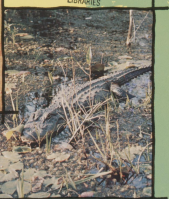
REPTILES, both friendly and not so friendly, are part of these forest and coastal environments. The largest and probably the most awesome is the alligator, a rather retiring resident of the deep swamps and waterways.

More troublesome would be the poisonous reptile species: cottonmouth moccasin, canebrake rattler, eastern diamondback rattler, pygmy rattler, and copperhead.

FISHERMEN enjoy their sport with both saltwater and freshwater species. Freshwater sport fish include large-mouth bass, red-breast sunfish, bluegill, chain pickerel, warmouth, yellow perch and catfish. Saltwater fishing is popular at the lower end of Neuse River and the saltwater marsh areas.

There are 42 miles of streams and 4,300 acres of lakes on the Croatan. Lake fishing is quality poor, however, due to the high acidity of the water.

MAP DEPARTMENT
JUN 1 6 1976
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
LIBRARIES



63902 .07 1973 .06



