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Catawba River is focus of conference

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(07/06/07) Ed Crowley, of Rock Hill, unloaded his canoe, fishing rods and other gear before slipping into a sun dappled Catawba River . He paddled upstream from River Park to try his luck with a little early morning fishing. (JOHN D. SIMMONS - jsimmons@charlotteobserver.com)

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Water quality and protection on the Catawba River District is the focus of the third annual Economic Development Conference in downtown Mount Holly on Tuesday.

Guest speakers include Rusty Rozzelle of the Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services. He will provide details of the river district concept for northwest Mecklenburg and northeast Gaston counties.

The district is a marketing concept representing a branding opportunity for the two counties. Members include developers and environmental advocates and an organizational structure is expected to be in place by January.

Also at the conference will be Peter Raabe, southeast director of the Government Affairs & Outreach of American Rivers. He'll discuss the importance of protecting the Catawba River.

The conference is sponsored by the Mount Holly Community Development Foundation and the Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The event is from 7:30 until 10 a.m. at the City Café, 128 Main St. in Mount Holly.

Registration is available online at www.gastonchamber.com or by calling June Jones at 704-864-2621.

For more information on the foundation, go to www.mounthollyfoundation.org.



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