

**ORANGE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE,
PARKS AND RECREATION**

MEMORANDUM

To: Commission for the Environment
From: Rich Shaw and Tom Davis
Date: February 5, 2014
Subject: Environmental Summit 2014

The Commission for the Environment has hosted three “environmental summits,” each timed with the release of its State of the Environment report. The first was held at the NC Botanical Garden’s Totten Center (March 2003); the second at Carrboro’s Century Center (April 2005); and the third at the NC Botanical Garden’s newly-opened Environmental Center (Sept. 2009).

In January the CFE formed an ad hoc committee to begin the planning for the Summit (Jeanette O’Connor, Rebecca Ray, and Lydia Wegman). They have contacted different venues and conferred with CFE chair, vice-chair, and staff.

Jan Sassaman met with Loren Hintz and staff (Rich and Tom) this week to discuss further details of the summit, such as what we plan to do, who might speak, and when are the best times. At this point, we are looking at **May 17** as our first choice, and **May 24** as our 2nd choice. A key factor is when a potential keynote speaker can be there. Jan has been talking with Dr. Norm Christianson, founding Dean of Duke’s Nicholas School of the Environment, and he is available those dates.

In addition to a keynote address, we have discussed having several breakout sessions on several areas discussed in the State of the Environment document, such as Transportation, Water Quality, Air Quality, etc. Lastly, we may want to have activities for the younger set – kids.

All of these issues will influence where we want to have the meeting, and we will have all this to discuss at the meeting on Monday evening.

[See potential venue options on back]

Possible Environmental Summit Locations

Building	Fee	Pros	Cons
NC Botanical Garden (S/O NC 54, Chapel Hill)	\$450? / 4 hours	Nice setting. Gardens available.	Chapel Hill-centric
Maple View Ed Ctr. (Dairyland Road)	\$75 / hr	Nice, rural setting. Ice cream available.	
New Hope Improvement Association (Whitfield Road)	\$200 ? plus \$100 for kitchen use	Kitchen available. Between CH and Hillsborough. Near Duke Forest.	
Shared Visions Retreat Center (Murphey School Rd)	\$450 base fee plus \$75 cleaning fee	Kitchen available	More expensive. Location somewhat more difficult to find. Off the beaten path.
New Hope Camp and Conference Center (NC 86)	Varies depending on size but several options available and non-profit discount available.	Centrally located between CH and Hillsborough. Kitchens available. Rural setting. Trails/pond available?	
Seymour Senior Center (Homestead Road)	Free?	Kitchen available. Nice auditorium. Separate rooms also available. Public transit?? Nature trail close.	
Orange County Library (Hillsborough)	Free?	Near River Park and River Walk	Farther from Ch Hill
Big Barn Convention Ctr. (Hillsborough) 919-732-2361	Unknown		Unfamiliar location to many. Farther from Ch Hill