

Riverspeak

News from WINYAH RIVERS FOUNDATION



Sponsor of the WACCAMAW RIVERKEEPER® PROGRAM

FALL 2010

Volume 10 Issue 3

CELEBRATE OUR RIVERS @ RIPLEY'S!



Sunset on the Waccamaw—by Frank Perrotta

CELEBRATE OUR RIVERS @ RIPLEY'S

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH
5:30* pm - 9:30 pm

ENJOY HORS D'OEUVRES & 2 COMPLIMENTARY DRINKS
WHILE BROWSING & BIDDING ON SILENT AUCTION ITEMS
THEN ENJOY LIVE MUSIC, DESSERTS & COFFEE

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

www.winyahivers.org or 843-349-4007

ADVANCE TICKETS:
Members \$45 pp, Two for \$80
Non-members \$50 pp, Two for \$90

**COME ANYTIME AFTER 4:30 PM TO ENJOY THE AQUARIUM
AND ITS FESTIVAL OF TREES BEFORE OUR EVENT!*

Goodbye to Jimmy Chandler

In August, the environmental community lost a dear friend...Jimmy Chandler. Jimmy, a founder of South Carolina Environmental Law Project, in Georgetown, SC, was a tireless advocate for the protection of South Carolina's environmental resources. He was a friend of Winyah Rivers Foundation, a long time supporter and will be sadly missed by all.

WATERKEEPERS at the front line



Our current campaigns include:

Protecting the Clean Water Act—a bill recently introduced will make an already difficult task ...cleaning up our nation's waterways...even more difficult and needs to be stopped.

Redefining coal ash as hazardous waste—EPA is listening and we're talking about the impacts of coal ash disposal on our surface/ground water quality.

Clean Farms, Clean Water—we're working to establish monitoring rules in North Carolina to protect our waters from hog waste.

RiverSpeak by Christine Ellis

It was a hot and humid summer with lots of activity on the environmental front. We have been working with County government to get a tree ordinance passed (Georgetown County) that will afford greater protection of trees and their numerous benefits and to get a conservation subdivision ordinance passed (Horry County) to protect and provide for more natural areas in new developments, good for our natural resources and good for developers that will realize incentives in exchange for protection. Now in the 2nd year of a 3 year partnership project, we are working to promote the myriad opportunities to conserve important lands within our watershed as part of the Blue Trail initiative. This project has prompted North Carolina stakeholders to promote the idea of a paddle trail to begin at Lake Waccamaw and continue to Winyah Bay. As a result of our success in South Carolina, stakeholders in North Carolina are close to implementing water quality monitoring upstream. We participate as an education provider with the Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium, assisting local governments with stormwater education and involvement of the public. We are contributing to the redrafting of the Section 208 Water Quality Plan with the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments. We continue to work with the youth of Georgetown County to promote watershed stewardship as "Youth for a Healthier Sampit River". Follow our progress at www.winyahivers.org and on Facebook and Twitter and join us in our efforts.

VOLUNTEERS MONITOR THE WATER QUALITY OF THE WACCAMAW RIVER

Christine Ellis, Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®

It's a hot, humid morning in August, the so called *dog days of summer*, when the group arrives at the Waccamaw River. Come rain or shine, cold temperatures or hot, these dedicated folks meet at the boat landing. At one time strangers, the group has become friends with a purpose...to watch over the Waccamaw River, the river that provides our drinking water, myriad recreational opportunities and habitat for unique plant and animal life.

The scene is the same all along the Waccamaw River in South Carolina. Every second and fourth Wednesday morning year-round, groups of volunteers meet at their designated boat landing on the river. They come from all walks of life, young and old, area natives and transplants, fishermen, boaters, master gardeners, and people who have time and interest. Regardless, they all are interested in protecting the Waccamaw River.

The Waccamaw River defines our area. Our area is known as the Waccamaw Region. Many businesses have adopted Waccamaw as part of their name. We are the Waccamaw.

The Waccamaw River is a defining feature in Horry and Georgetown Counties in South Carolina. This beautiful black water river is fed by the extensive wetlands in the coastal plain of southeastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina. This black water, steeped like tea in the wetlands, has characteristics that are unique...slightly lowered dissolved oxygen and pH (a measure of acidity or alkalinity) and lots of color.

The black waters of the Waccamaw River are also steeped in history. Those who utilized the Waccamaw River and its riches were the Waccamaw tribe, the Gullah-Geechee people, the locals and those who sought out this area for its natural resources. At one time, it was a major transportation highway, moving goods up and down the river to the communities that grew up along the river, ferrying people from one side of the river to the other. Its history reminds us of how important this river has been and is to our local economy.

It is also rich in natural history with flora (plant life) and fauna (animal life) that are uniquely adapted to this area. Some are endemic, found nowhere else on earth but right here in our own backyard. Others are rare, found locally in abundance but less so elsewhere. The Waccamaw watershed is known nationally as an area of significant biodiversity, with lots of different species of plant and animal life native to this area.

The volunteers arrive at the river carrying a bucket with the equipment they will use to monitor the river's water quality. Each have been trained to use the equipment and meet the quality control standards necessary for the results to be valid for use by the agencies that regulate water quality and environmental conditions. There are handheld meters that are used to measure water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH and conductivity. Another handheld meter measures turbidity (the clarity of the water). Nutrients (ammonia, nitrate and nitrite) are measured using strips that are dipped into the sample and that change color to indicate their presence.

A sample of the river water to be analyzed is taken using a handheld pole with a sampling container at its end. Along with the sample that is taken for on-site testing, a sterile bottle is filled with river water that is then taken home by one of the volunteers to be analyzed for E. coli bacteria. All of the information obtained by the volunteers is entered by them into an online database that is maintained by Coastal Carolina University's Waccamaw Watershed Academy. Go to www.coastal.edu/wwa, click *Volunteer Monitoring* in the left menu and learn more about the water quality of the Waccamaw River near you.

Established in June 2006 by Coastal Carolina University's Waccamaw Watershed Academy with monies from an EPA grant, the objective was to create a volunteer-based, water quality monitoring program for the Waccamaw watershed. Following the EPA grant, funding for the project is provided by Georgetown County, Horry County and the City of Conway to help meet regulatory requirements for public education and involvement and illicit discharge detection for prevention of stormwater pollution.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER AS A WATER MONITOR?

We are recruiting additional volunteers to help with our monitoring efforts at:

- East Bay Park, Georgetown
- Hagley Landing, Pawley's Island
- Hwy 9 Landing, Longs
- Hwy 904 Landing, Pireway, NC
- Hwy 130 in Brunswick County
- Lake Waccamaw (4 sites)

To learn more about the Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring Program and volunteer needs:

- Go to www.coastal.edu/wwa and click on "Volunteer Monitoring"
- Or
- Call the RIVERKEEPER® at 843-349-4007.



The project has grown over the past four years to become a successful volunteer water quality monitoring project for the Waccamaw River watershed. We have a strong citizen volunteer force watching over our beautiful Waccamaw River. The data they are generating are being used by our local municipalities and state and federal agencies to help protect our river and its water quality.

The impact of our citizen volunteers will be told by our ability to watch over our local water quality and steward this amazing watershed.

**Interested in learning more about the
Waccamaw River's water quality?**

**Register to join us
Wednesday, September 29th, 9a-noon
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute—Litchfield**

**Call OLLI to register for this free conference
at (843) 349-4001.**

Waccamaw River Blue Trail—Come paddle with us!

Efforts are ongoing to establish a “Blue Trail” on the Waccamaw. The water equivalent of a hiking trail, Blue Trails facilitate recreation on and along the river and are used by paddlers, anglers, hikers, picnickers and those seeking a little solitude. Blue trails promote protection of the river and adjacent lands.

Recently, the partners hosted a workshop for landowners to learn more about the opportunities to protect their land. This followed an earlier workshop for tax professionals to learn more about land protection opportunities for their clients. We appreciate the support of our sponsors, our presenters and all attendees.

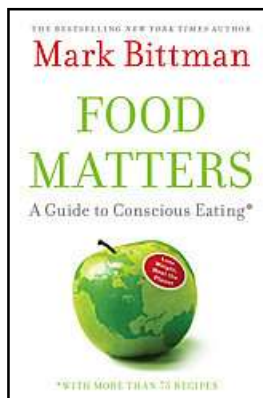
We are also working on several tools to improve the trail experience, including identification of signage requirements in and along the river, the development of an online interpretive guide to natural, historic and cultural resources of importance and the development of a waterproof map for the trail.

How can you help? Are you a paddler? Help us identify signage needs along the River. Have special knowledge about the River? Let us know how to include that important information. Want to get out on the River? Come join us as we paddle the beautiful Waccamaw River. Call 843-349-4007 to get involved.



A partnership project between American Rivers, Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program of Winyah Rivers Foundation and Pee Dee Land Trust. Become a fan on Facebook!

RIVERKEEPER® READS...



Food Matters offers a plan for responsible eating that's as good for the planet as it is for your health. Bittman, a food writer, notes that eating more vegetables and whole grains will result in better health and reduce our carbon footprint. This Guide to Conscious Eating questions why food matters and asks us to rethink consumption and our food choices. 75+ recipes show that our choices can be cheaper, healthier and socially sound.

Thanks to Frank Moliterno for introducing me to this book.

WANT TO BE A RIVERKEEPER®?

Winyah Rivers Foundation is seeking an **apprentice to the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®**.

The qualified candidate must have a scientific background and/or experience in environmental education and advocacy. Excellent research/communication skills are a plus. Being passionate about protecting our local rivers and wetlands is a must.

To learn more about the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program, go to www.winyahivers.org.

Interested? Please send your resume and cover letter to wrk@coastal.edu.

Winyah Rivers Foundation will soon be turning 10!

Incorporated January 2001, 2011 will mark our 10th year protecting the rivers of the Winyah Bay watershed.

Celebrations begin November 6th at **“CELEBRATE OUR RIVERS”**

BUSINESS HONORARY RIVERKEEPER



BUSINESS DEFENDER



BUSINESS ADVOCATE

WACCA WACHE MARINA
BLACKWATER, LLC

Our thanks to all the businesses that support our mission of protection of the greater Winyah Bay watershed.

To become a Business Member and support our work, call the Riverkeeper at 843-349-4007.

You can make a difference!

Winyah Rivers Foundation
 Center for Marine and Wetland Studies
 Coastal Carolina University
 1270 Atlantic Avenue
 Conway, SC 29526

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Waccamaw River Cleanup
 9/18

World Rivers Day
 9/26

**Waccamaw Water Quality
 Conference**
 9/29

And coming soon...

NOVEMBER 6

**CELEBRATE OUR RIVERS
 @ RIPLEY'S**

Check out our calendar for more info.
www.winyahrivers.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

Printed on recycled paper.

Winyah Rivers Foundation
 (843)349-4007
 WRK@coastal.edu
www.winyahrivers.org

Support our work!

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 (Framed certificate of membership, recognition in all newsletters
 and on website with your logo, 1/4 page ad in one newsletter)

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The Board

- Richard Moore, President, Pawley's Island, SC
- David Scott, Vice-President, Lake Waccamaw, NC
- Reggie Daves, Secretary, Conway, SC
- James Battle, Conway, SC
- Lucy Dargan, Conway, SC
- Jobie Dixon, Georgetown, SC
- Walt Frank, Georgetown, SC
- Richard Goldberg, Pawley's Island, SC
- Bill Hedgepath, Conway, SC
- Bob Mimms, Pawley's Island, SC
- Robert Moran, Murrells Inlet, SC
- Becky Westbrooks, Chadbourn, NC

*Are you passionate about our rivers?
 Apply to serve on our Board.*

Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®
 Christine Ellis



Winyah Rivers Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.