

2009 Waccamaw Conference

Saturday, February 28, 8am—1:30pm

This conference is a must for all concerned about this wonderful resource...

We have planned an exciting agenda with meetings on a variety of subjects vital to the protection of our local rivers!

Talk about a “watershed moment”!

We’ll learn about legislative initiatives, conservation priorities, water quality/quantity issues, blue trails, and more!

Senator Ray Cleary will provide the keynote.

The film “Flow—For Love of Water” will be premiered.

*Only \$10 for members, \$12 non members
Includes lunch!*



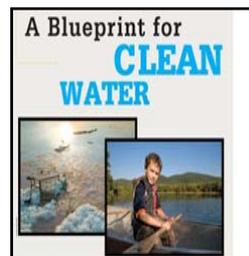
For information and registration, please go to
www.WinyahRivers.org
or call 843-349-4007

River Talk... By Christine Ellis, Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®

A TOP TEN LIST FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

In 2008, WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE published its U.S. **Blueprint for Clean Water**, offering a new agenda for strengthening U.S. environmental protection to restore America’s ailing rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands and coastal waters. Unique in both its scope and depth, the Blueprint proposes a new way for the federal government to strengthen environmental protection in all areas relating to water and identifies the way forward for each of ten priorities:

- 1. Restore Protections** - An estimated 60% of our creeks, rivers, streams and tens of millions of acres of wetlands and other sensitive waterbodies have lost federal protection in the last few years.
- 2. Enforcement**- Clean Water Act enforcement programs at significantly harmed by shrinking funding and polluters are
- 3. Stormwater Runoff** - Runoff from highways, roads, side-infrastructure is the primary source of water pollution in
- 4. Sewage** - Sewage treatment and conveyance facilities are population served and fraught with leaks and overflows
- 5. Mercury** - Coal-fired power plants are the single largest spewing nearly 50 tons of this deadly poison into the air and
- 6. Diversions** - Shrinking water levels in rivers and lakes are ways are under growing pressure to provide many different tion, wastewater treatment, agricultural irrigation, recreation, hydropower and industrial uses.
- 7. Coal Mining** - Mountaintop coal mining is the scourge of communities in many rural areas with more than 400,000 acres of the world’s most productive and diverse temperate hardwood forests destroyed.
- 8. Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution** - Agricultural pollution is a major source of declining water quality in rivers and lakes, the second largest source of impairments to wetlands and a major contributor to the contamination of estuaries and groundwater.
- 9. Ocean Protection** - The continued ecological decline of our public seas represents a major threat to our economy, security and environment.
- 10. Environmental Justice** - Society’s wastes flow toward communities debilitated by high illiteracy, unemployment and low voter registration, causing pollution that has adverse effects on people’s health and is a violation of human rights.



both the state and federal levels have been less likely to face enforcement actions. walks, parking lots and related urban/suburban areas.

antiquated, unable to meet the demand of the every time it rains.

source of airborne mercury in the country, into our local watersheds each year.

becoming an increasing problem and our water-services, such as drinking water supply, naviga-



While WATERKEEPERS® fight for clean water at a local level, the President and the federal government have a critical role to play in ensuring existing environmental laws and regulations are enforced and new ones are created. We are hopeful that this new administration recognizes the value of a clean and ample supply of water for all.

RIVER ROAST SOUTH A HIT!

Lots and lots of oyster were enjoyed by the attendees of our River Roast South held at Hobcaw Barony's Kimbel Lodge in Georgetown on January 29. Bob Mimms of **Litchfield Beach Fish House** provided the delicious oysters and southern buffet. **New South Brewing Company** supplied the beer. The "69 Band" entertained the crowd. Early bird registrant, Bill Gobbel, was the lucky winner of "A River in Time", a beautiful coffee-table style book on the Yadkin-Pee Dee River System.

It was a great way to kick off 2009!



Photo by: Carl Kerridge of GAP

Supporters enjoy the oysters from Litchfield Beach Fish House.

Bank of America 
Bank of Opportunity

WRF has been accepted into Bank of America's Matching Gift Program! This Program encourages associates of Bank of America to contribute to nonprofit organizations. The Bank of America Charitable Foundation will match up to \$10,000 annually per associate.

ANNUAL MEETING

for
Members of WRF

BBQ
& FIXINGS
APRIL 19, 2009
OSPREY MARINA
4 PM—6 PM

PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM YOU ARE SUPPORTING!

COME MEET WITH CHRISTINE ELLIS AND WRF BOARD MEMBERS.

EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

RSVP REQUESTED
843-349-4007



Valerie Moliterno Retires

February 4 was Valerie's last WRF board meeting. She is retiring but not quitting. The very same day she retired she arranged to have our annual meeting held at Osprey Marina. She also was talking to more people about become members. So we thought we would let some of her fellow board members tell us what it was like to work with her.

"Intellect, passion and a great sense of humor to boot!" Peter MacIntyre. *"Valerie approaches every task with enthusiasm and a high*

level of contagious excitement!" Richard Moore. *"I think she is a grand person and a great lady!"* Hal Vivian. *"Wow, what a great worker, pleasant to be around, and always willing to compromise!"* Reg Daves. *"My heartfelt thanks to Valerie for her commitment, energy and enthusiasm toward protection of our local rivers and watersheds!"* Christine Ellis. The Board and staff of WRF thank Valerie for her many contributions!

A dream turns into a reality...

The Waccamaw River will have a Blue Trail!!!

By: Christine Ellis

Thanks to a generous grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, American Rivers, along with its partners, Winyah Rivers Foundation's Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®, and the Pee Dee Land Trust, will begin work in Horry and Georgetown Counties to create a blue trail on the Waccamaw River.

Project Goals

The goals of this three year project are to improve recreation opportunities as well as public support for the river to assure it remains healthy. Collaboration with communities in Horry and Georgetown Counties to establish the Waccamaw River Blue Trail is essential to the project.

Blue trails, the water equivalent to hiking trails, help facilitate recreation in and along rivers and are used by paddlers, anglers, hikers, picnickers, and those seeking a little solitude. While the blue trail will improve recreational opportunities, it will also help to educate citizens, local governments and the elected officials about the importance of the river as a community asset, increase community involvement in the river, and support conservation.

This blue trail is part of a larger effort and it will serve as an innovative model for how to bring people back to their rivers through recreation and work to protect and restore these valuable assets.

The Partners

American Rivers:

The mission of American Rivers is to protect and restore America's rivers for the benefit of people, wildlife and nature. Founded in 1973, American Rivers' work is driven by a core conviction that a healthy river is one of a community's most valuable assets.

"A healthy Waccamaw River that provides the community benefits of clean and flowing water, recreation and nature-based tourism will depend on the protection of this incredible resource" said Gerrit Jobsis, American Rivers' Southeast Regional Director.

Pee Dee Land Trust:

The mission of Pee Dee Land Trust is to conserve the significant natural, agricultural, and historical resources of the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina through education and outreach, and primarily through voluntary land conservation projects. Created in 1999, the Pee Land Trust has almost doubled its territory for land conservation projects.

"This day in time, you can't just do nothing and expect natural areas to stay the same. As people look for more ways to protect the Waccamaw, PDLT can offer some of the tools that help take care of such a well-loved river" said Jennie Williamson, the Executive Director of the Pee Dee Land Trust.

Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program of Winyah Rivers Foundation:

The mission of Winyah Rivers Foundation is to protect, preserve, monitor and revitalize the health of the lands and waters of the greater Winyah Bay watershed. Founded in 2001, the Foundation seeks to ensure that the land and water uses in the watershed support a high quality of life for all human and natural uses. The Foundation initially sought to ensure these protections in the Waccamaw River watershed and in 2002 sought licensing from the WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE and hired the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® as a full-time, paid advocate for the ecological, social and economic health and integrity of the Waccamaw River watershed.

"The blue trail project will help us to engage local citizens in the stewardship of their watershed," said Waccamaw Riverkeeper, Christine Ellis, who serves as the local voice for the Waccamaw River. *"This project is among our top priorities for the watershed because of the benefits for the community and for the long-term health of the river."*

The partners are excited about the opportunity afforded us to promote land conservation and sustainable land uses, facilitate and promote community use and protections for the river, and foster stewardship of the Waccamaw River watershed.

Stay tuned for more information on this project and how to get involved!



FROM THE RIVER

by: Hal Vivian

The "Other Health Care"

Though we recognize the role that the "Health Care Industry" has in our daily lives, have you considered that the **RIVERKEEPER®** program along with other concerned groups practice a form of "Health Care"? In fact you can argue the case that we are in the "preventative" part of the process. Our organization, along with others, look after the Health of our Water and Habitat. We constantly monitor our environment to minimize the effect that people, development, animals and, yes, nature herself has on our environment. Using the tools available to us we can prevent the degrading of our water, habitat and quality of life. We all need to be vigilant and aware. With your help the **RIVERKEEPER®** program can lead the way.

More on this next time.

Success!

Mitigation Monies Used to Conserve Land

In 2005, Central Electric Power Cooperative received approval from SC Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management to site a power line across the Black River in Georgetown County. On behalf of Winyah Rivers Foundation (WRF) and the Sierra Club, South Carolina Environmental Law Project filed an appeal and ultimately received a settlement of \$125,000 to be used for land protection in the area. WRF members Michael Hyrowski, Larry Fox and Christine Ellis and SCELPA's Amy Armstrong sat on the committee to identify areas of high conservation value worthy of protection and in late 2008 successfully identified a worthy land conservation project. Working with Maria Whitehead of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), we used these settlement funds to contribute to the Winyah Bay Drainage Protection Project. The Project, coordinated by TNC and including the Grissom Parkway Mitigation Fund, a WWF Foundation grant and private funds, endeavors to undertake landscape level protection of strategic tracts of freshwater, forested and estuarine wetlands, along with uplands threatened by development in the Black, Pee Dee and Waccamaw River corridors. Approximately 1660 acres of land, including five former industrial forest tracts, will be protected under this Project. The easement will be held by the Pee Dee Land Trust. WRF is appreciative of the efforts of the committee and all of the Project partners. This successful conclusion to the appeal and settlement will help to protect prime wildlife and natural resource habitat in perpetuity.

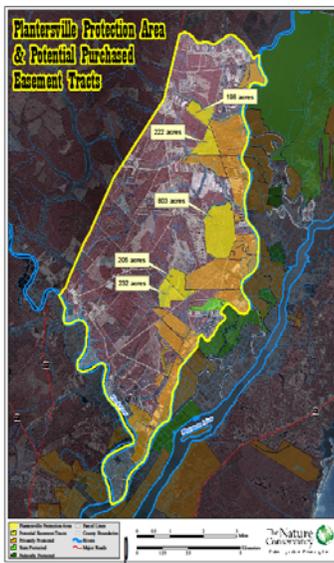
SPRING GARDENERS:
Please say NO to cypress mulch!
 The cypress mulch industry is destroying Louisiana's forested wetlands for cheap garden mulch. These wetlands save lives and prevent the destruction of coastal cities. Cypress mulch is not as effective as other mulches and contrary to belief is not rot or termite resistant. When gardening and landscaping, choose other types of mulch and say "NO" to cypress mulch!

PURE FARMS, PURE WATERS:
WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE
FACTORY FARMS CAMPAIGN
 WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE has launched this campaign to raise awareness about environmental impacts associated with factory farms. Working with farmers, environmentalists and political leaders, we are promoting sustainable agriculture and real alternatives to factory-raised food that does not degrade water quality and negatively impact the quality of life in rural communities.

JOB OPENING!
AMERICAN RIVERS
CONTRACT POSITION OPENING
 Waccamaw River Blue Trail Organizer
 This is a full-time (40 hours/week) position. We anticipate the project's duration to be 3 years, funding permitting. The Greater Conway area is preferred as the base for this position.
 For Requirements and Minimum Qualifications Please go to our website:
www.WinyahRivers.org



CORRECTION:
 BOB MORAN'S
 LAW FIRM IS
 ROBERT J. MORAN, PA



Winyah Rivers Foundation would like to recognize Ron Zwing for his contributions to WRF.
 His time & talents are very much appreciated!

BUSINESS
HONORARY RIVERKEEPER



BUSINESS ADVOCATE
BLACK WATER, LLC
PALMETTO CHEVROLET
WACCA WACHE MARINA



WINYAH RIVERS
FOUNDATION
2ND ANNUAL
PHOTO CONTEST
PROMOTING
THE BEAUTY OF
THE WINYAH
RIVERS!

OPEN TO ALL! ENTER OFTEN!
PRIZES TO BE AWARDED!
CONTEST BEGINS APRIL 1
DEADLINE JULY 1, 2009
 For details, call: 843-394-4007
 Or visit www.WinyahRivers.org

Business Champion



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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- FEBRUARY 28**
WACCAMAW CONFERENCE
- MARCH 18**
VOLUNTEER MONITOR MEETING
- MARCH 28**
RIVER CLEAN UP—CONWAY
- PHOTO CONTEST**
STARTS APRIL 1—JULY 1, 2009
- APRIL 18**
EARTH DAY FESTIVALS
- APRIL 19**
ANNUAL MEETING
OSPREY MARINA
- MAY 2**
RIVER CLEANUP—LONGS

Membership has its Rewards

Join us!

	Date _____
Guardian through Champion categories will earn rewards.	
Introductory (1st Year Only)	\$ 35.00 _____
Protector	\$ 50.00 _____
Guardian	\$ 100.00 _____
Advocate	\$ 250.00 _____
Defender	\$ 500.00 _____
Champion	\$1000.00 _____

Business Categories

Business Guardian	\$100 _____
(Certificate, recognition in one newsletter)	
Business Advocate	\$250 _____
(Certificate, recognition in each newsletter)	
Business Defender	\$500 _____
(Certificate, recognition with your logo in each newsletter and on website)	
Business Champion	\$1000 _____
(Framed certificate of membership, recognition in all newsletters and on website with your logo, 1/4 page ad in one newsletter)	

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

We accept Visa and Master Card
 Card number _____
 Expiration date _____
 Signature _____

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

TO

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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- Hal Vivian, Murrells Inlet
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Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®

Christine Ellis
Assistant to Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®
 And Editor of RIVERSPEAK

Crystal Caschera
Volunteer Coordinator—Georgetown County
 Shannon Siau

