

# Riverspeak

News from the WINYAH RIVERS FOUNDATION



Sponsor of the WACCAMAW RIVERKEEPER® PROGRAM

SUMMER 2009

Volume 9 Issue 2

## SINCE WE LAST POSTED



Senator Cleary

We have had a number of successful get-togethers in the last few months: Waccamaw Conference held on Saturday, February 28th, at the Waccamaw Higher Education Center. This year's theme, Valuing Our People and Places, gave rise to presentations on water conservation, conservation subdivisions to protect sensitive areas and water quality, legislative initiatives at the State level, results from our volunteer water monitoring program and an introduction to blue trails, the water equivalent to hiking trails, that improve recreational opportunities while promoting land conservation and water quality protections. We were honored to have Senator Raymond E. Cleary III, District 34, Charleston, Georgetown & Horry Counties, as our keynote speaker. In turn, we honored the 2008 Volunteer of the Year, the late Joe Elliott, for his dedication to the protection of the Waccamaw River and his support of the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program.

We were happy to welcome our members to Winyah Rivers Foundation's Annual Meeting held on Sunday, April 19th at Osprey Marina in Myrtle Beach. With a beautiful location by the Waccamaw River (thank you Osprey Marina!), a pig pickin' and fixin's provided by Larry Dickerson, chef and owner of Donzelle's and Riverwalk Grille in Conway and new member, we recounted our activities over the past year and our plans for the coming year and thanked our members for their support of the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program. Next year's Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2010 River Roast South so mark your calendars now for the evening of Friday, January 29th, 2010. **It's sure to be a great event!**



Members of Winyah Rivers Foundation at our Annual Meeting at Osprey Marina

In addition, we have had three successful river cleanups: on Saturday, March 28th in Conway where we were joined by Representative George Hearn, Mayor Alys Lawson, City Administrator Bill Graham and many other city employees, resulting in our biggest crowd to date, literally tons of trash picked up and great food provided by Fatz Café and members Rick and Fran Rickenbaker of Conway; on Saturday, April 25th at Sandy Island where youth volunteers from Georgetown County's Service Over Self group worked to clean up the public beaches and surrounding areas prior to the heavy use of these areas during the summer months; and on Saturday, May 2nd in Longs at Anderson Landing where we enjoyed breakfast biscuits from Hoskins Restaurant and the company of the Yakkity Yackers kayak group as they helped us to clean up the landing and the river in that area and then enjoyed the delicious food prepared by Dale and Recolla Stevens of Loris, SC.

***Come join us on the river at Reaves Ferry Landing in the Conway area on Saturday, June 6th, along with the Gray Oaks Property Owners Association, beginning at 9 am.***

WINYAH RIVERS FOUNDATION

2nd ANNUAL

PHOTO CONTEST



"Mama and Children Egrets"  
BEST OF SHOW  
by Bill Goebel

PROMOTING THE BEAUTY OF THE WINYAH RIVERS OPEN TO ALL! ENTER OFTEN! PRIZES TO BE AWARDED! DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES JULY 1, 2009

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Rep. George Hearn, Mayor Alys Lawson and Christine Ellis

## Cove Swamp will be Protected!



Thanks to the efforts of many individuals and organizations, Cove Swamp, a 440 acre forested tract bordering Lake Waccamaw, will now be protected in perpetuity. The property owner, Riverstone Properties, LLC out of Richmond, VA, had been in negotiations with The Nature Conservancy of North Carolina to sell the property but hit a road-block when the price could not be agreed upon. Once negotiations ceased, Riverstone intimated that the property would be



harvested for its timber values. The Friends of the Green Swamp, the Friends of Lake Waccamaw State Park, other local residents and interested stakeholders raised concern and sought to address the shortfall in funds necessary for TNC to purchase the property. Several months later, thanks to all involved, TNC received the funds necessary to purchase the property and protect it. Contributions were received from over 100 people from and including the Town of Lake Waccamaw, 2 local businesses, Winyah Rivers Foundation and Friends of Sampson County Waterways. Thanks to all who were so instrumental in protecting this sensitive and important area within the headwaters of the Waccamaw River watershed. **“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.” Margaret Mead**



**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.**

**We are launching a new project called “IF THE RIVER COULD TALK” What would it say? Let’s start the discussion... Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> “If the River Could Talk”**

Join the members of the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program for a morning paddle on the Waccamaw River in North Carolina. Departing from the Pireway boat landing, we’ll float downstream taking in the beauty of our black water river along this stretch of the Waccamaw River. **Check our website for more details on this in the coming months. You can also learn more about what we are working on, become a friend on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (Waccamawkeeper).**

## Welcome Staci Williams! Waccamaw River Blue Trail Organizer

By: Christine Ellis

The Waccamaw Riverkeeper welcomes Staci Williams, Waccamaw River Blue Trail Organizer. Staci is working for American Rivers in partnership with the Pee Dee Land Trust and the Waccamaw Riverkeeper to establish a paddle trail on the Waccamaw River in South Carolina thanks to a generous grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation. With Staci’s leadership, we will work towards further developing the recreational opportunities along the Waccamaw River by establishing a blue trail, the equivalent of a hiking trail but on the Waccamaw River. In addition, we will work to educate citizens, local governments and elected officials about the importance of the river as a community asset, increase community involvement in the river, and support conservation. Staci is located in the Waccamaw Riverkeeper’s office in the Burroughs and Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies at Coastal Carolina University and can be reached via e-mail (swilliams@americanrivers.org) or by telephone ((843) 957-2367). You can also become a friend on Facebook (Waccamaw River Blue Trail). Watch for more information in the coming months on how you too can get involved in the Waccamaw River Blue Trail!



Staci Williams paddling the Waccamaw

## Come paddle the Waccamaw! Saturday, June 20th

Join Staci Williams, the new Waccamaw River Blue Trail Organizer, and representatives of the three partner organizations, American Rivers, Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® and Pee Dee Land Trust, for our first paddling event to kick off the Blue Trail project. Meet Staci and enjoy the fun of paddling on our beautiful black water river. Become a friend of Waccamaw River Blue Trail on Facebook and learn more about upcoming events. Come enjoy the wonder of the River!

**RIVERKEEPER ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH SCOUTS!**  
The Black River District of the Boy Scouts of America have signed on to partner with WRK on upcoming project. Stay tuned for more details as they develop!  
**WELCOME BOY SCOUTS!**



## FROM THE RIVER

by: Hal Vivian

Last issue I mentioned that the **RIVERKEEPER®** program is like being in the “preventative” health care business. I have had conversations with several health care professionals and they all seemed to agree that not enough is done to bring awareness to the public concerning the wellbeing of our WATER. They are concerned about storm water run-off, animal waste (pets, farms and wildlife). The increase in these problems along with dwindling water supplies should be of primary concern. The water supply is at risk if we don’t act NOW to inform everyone of the potential threat. Every decision we make has it consequences. What will be the consequence of not making the effort to protect the health of our rivers! The next time you turn the tap will it be clean and healthy water that comes out? We can only hope. If we are not vigilant, our access to a clean and healthy source of water could be in danger!

## RIVER TALK... by: Christine Ellis, Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®

As a RIVERKEEPER®, my job is to educate and advocate for the protection of our local watersheds. One of the tools we use is the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), enacted in 1972 to clean up and protect our nation’s waters. The cornerstone of surface water quality protection in the US, the CWA employs both regulatory and non-regulatory tools to reduce pollutant discharges into our waterways. Its broader goal is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters in order to support the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and recreation in and on the water.

For over three decades, the CWA afforded protections to waters of the US, including headwaters, wetlands and intermittent streams, all integral to the health of our water resources; however, two recent US Supreme Court cases (SWANCC, Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. Army Corps of Engineers, and Rapanos v United States) undermined these protections, leading to confusion about which waters are protected and stripping protections from our nation’s water resources.

In response, new protective legislation to stop these Clean Water Act rollbacks was introduced as the Clean Water Restoration Act and reintroduced in April 2009 by US Senator Russ Feingold. The CWRA seeks to remove the confusion created by the Supreme Court decisions and to restore protections to all waters of the US, the original intent of Congress when the CWA was enacted in 1972.

Water is interconnected, a dynamic resource that continuously cycles through our environment. Comprehensive federal legislation that provides for consistent protection of water resources nationwide is a necessity. It was seen as necessary in 1972 when the CWA was enacted and shall be so again under the CWRA.

Passing the Clean Water Restoration Act in 2009 will restore longstanding safeguards for America’s water resources and put us back on the path toward protecting all of our drinking water, lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. *Without this legislation, America’s waters will remain at risk.*



## Goodbye and thank you, Hut Moody!

Longtime Board member and volunteer, Hut Moody has resigned from the Board of Directors. Mr. Moody has been a very hard working and a motivating part of Winyah Rivers Foundation. We all want to wish him the very best and heartfelt thanks for all he has done to further the works of the Foundation and the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program. **Thank You!**

## NEEDS AND WANTS

We will be dedicating this section to the needs and wants of WRF.

We are in need of volunteers for several committees:

Development, Finance, Membership and Program Committees.

Your commitment is only for 1 year and for not more than a few hours per month.

Your help would be greatly appreciated as we spread awareness of our mission and expand our programs. If you want to help shape the future of our organization and further our mission of protection, please contact the Waccamaw Riverkeeper.

## BUSINESS HONORARY RIVERKEEPER



## BUSINESS ADVOCATE

BLACK WATER, LLC

PALMETTO CHEVROLET

WACCA WACHE MARINA

## BUSINESS GUARDIAN

RUFF HARDWARE

OSPREY MARINA

RIVER MEMORIES

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
[www.winyahrivers.org](http://www.winyahrivers.org)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

TO:

**JUNE 6**  
 RIVER CLEANUP—REAVES FERRY  
**JUNE 13-14**  
 MARKET COMMON ART WALK  
 ENVIRONMENTAL THEME  
**JUNE 20**  
 BLUE TRAIL KICK OFF  
 CONWAY  
**JUNE 27**  
 RIVERFEST AT CONWAY  
**AUGUST 8**  
 IF THE RIVER COULD TALK  
 PIREWAY

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**Winyah Rivers Foundation**  
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 wrk@coastal.edu  
 www.winyahrivers.org

**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)

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We accept Visa and Master Card  
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 Christine Ellis  
*Assistant to Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®*  
*And Editor of RIVERSPEAK*  
 Crystal Caschera  
*Volunteer Coordinator—Georgetown County*  
 Shannon Siau

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

