



**APRIL 1-JUNE 30, 2010 REPORT**  
**PRESENTED TO WINYAH RIVERS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
*Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010*

**PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

**Staffing:**

- **Part-time Assistant to the Waccamaw Riverkeeper** – Crystal finished her part-time employment with Winyah Rivers Foundation at the end of June 2010. She has offered to assist with membership and newsletter tasks on an as-needed and paid basis, similar to the situation we have with Shannon Siau
- **Part-time Volunteer Coordinator for Georgetown County** – Shannon Siau went on furlough in late 2009 but is now working limited hours to support two projects: 1) Service Over Self youth project on the Sampit River and 2) Tara Hall project with Georgetown County Stormwater Department.
- **Riverkeeper Apprentice** – Plan to hire an assistant who can help not only with the administrative work but with technical work (job description and salary range to be determined)
- **Student Intern** – Hope to engage a student intern in Fall '10.

**Membership:**

- We have approximately 120 memberships and need a focused effort to expand both individual and business memberships (Membership Committee).

**Newsletter:**

- The Summer 2010 newsletter was mailed in May 2010. The deadline for the Fall 2010 newsletter is August 10<sup>th</sup>. Crystal has offered to assist as has Hal Vivian. Submissions are welcome.

**Website:**

- We continue to utilize social marketing (Facebook, Twitter) and provide updated information on our website regarding events and issues.
- We have web hosting through Inexpensive Domains and pay biannually (\$190). Inexpensive Domains also holds our registration for our domain name [www.winyahivers.org](http://www.winyahivers.org) while GoDaddy holds our registration for [www.waccamawriverkeeper.com](http://www.waccamawriverkeeper.com). (\$10 each)
- No immediate action is currently planned regarding ownership by Kaye King, former WRF Board member, of [www.waccamawriverkeeper.org](http://www.waccamawriverkeeper.org) or [www.waccamawriverkeeper.net](http://www.waccamawriverkeeper.net). These websites now redirect to [www.ncwaccamawriverkeepers.com](http://www.ncwaccamawriverkeepers.com) and reflect the Kings' events.

**Funding:**

- **Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation** – \$25,000 was received in March 2010 for the Waccamaw River Blue Trail Project, the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this grant.
- **Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation** – A Final Report for our Spring 2009 grant (\$15K) was submitted in May 2010. A Concept Letter for 2010 funding was submitted in April 2010 followed by a Grant Proposal submitted in May 2010 then by a Site Visit at Bunnelle offices in June 2010. We should hear back on our grant request (\$20K) in July 2010.
- **Coastal Carolina University** – We received \$5,000 for the period through June 2010 to support our work on the Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring Project and expect to receive \$10,000 on an annual basis assuming funding levels from the project funders (City of Conway, Horry County, Georgetown County) continues.
- **Other Funding Sources** – We continue to look for additional sources of funding for sustainability of our organization (Development Committee).

**WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE:**

- Attended the Waterkeeper Alliance conference June 9-13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Baja California.
- Recruited to the CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) Campaign, an alliance between Waterkeeper Alliance and the Waterkeepers in Eastern North Carolina (presentation at July 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting).

**Upcoming Activities:**

- July 8: Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium Education Providers Meeting (discuss Year 6 plan)
- July 9: WRF Board Meeting, Lake Waccamaw
- July 13: Meeting with CCU Volunteer Coordinator for Freshman Year Experience (FYE) projects related to the environment and water quality.
- July 14: Waccamaw River Volunteer Water Monitoring
- July 14: Celebrate Our Rivers @ Ripley's planning meeting
- July 26: Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments Stormwater Subcommittee Meeting
- July 28: Waccamaw River Volunteer Water Monitoring
- August 7: "If the River Could Talk" paddle event
- August 11: Waccamaw River Volunteer Water Monitoring
- August 25: Waccamaw River Volunteer Water Monitoring
- August 25: Landowner Tax Workshop – Waccamaw River Blue Trail Project
- September 8: Waccamaw River Volunteer Water Monitoring
- September 16: Presentation "Life in a SC Black Water River", Litchfield Beach
- September 18: Beach Sweep/River Sweep
- September 20: Eco-Movie Monday
- September 22: Waccamaw River Volunteer Water Monitoring
- September 22: CCU Volunteer Fair
- September 29: Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring Public Data Conference
- October 2: "If the River Could Talk" paddle event

**Past Events:**

- April 1-2: North Carolina Conservation Network Annual Conference (Raleigh, NC)
- April 5: Sierra Club – Winyah Group meeting
- April 5: Columbus County Commissioners meeting (Resolution of support for Waccamaw River Blue Trail)
- April 12: Presentation to Dr. Susan Libes' environmental class
- April 12: Deadline for 2010 Photo Contest Submissions
- April 13: Section 208 Stormwater Subcommittee Meeting
- April 13: Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium education providers' meeting
- April 14: Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring
- April 15: Presentation on Oceans of Plastic Pollution
- April 17: George Goes Green & Youth for a Healthier Sampit River
- April 22: Earth Day at Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, NC
- April 22: Earth Day at North Myrtle Beach
- April 26 – 29: National Volunteer Monitoring Conference, Denver, CO
- May 3: Environmental Policy Institute Water Conference, Orangeburg, SC
- May 4: Workshop on Land Conservation Tax Incentives
- May 7: 2010 Photo Contest Awards Ceremony
- May 12: Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring

- May 13: Field Trip – Exploring Lewis Ocean Bay
- May 15 Waccamaw River Cleanup - Longs
- May 26: Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring
- June 7: Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium Biennial Meeting
- June 9: Waccamaw River Volunteer Water Monitoring
- June 9-13: Waterkeeper Alliance Conference, Baja California
- June 14: Plantersville Summer Academy – Environmental Education Workshop
- June 15: Plantersville Summer Academy – Environmental Education Workshop
- June 19: River Reverie in Conway
- June 22: CAFO meeting in New Bern, NC
- June 23: Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring
- June 23: Bunnelle Foundation Site Visit
- June 24: Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring Training Session
- June 24: Waccamaw River Modeling Seminar – Dan Tufford, USC
- June 24: Waccamaw River Blue Trail meeting – online interpretive guide
- June 24: Gulf Spill 101 Seminar
- June 25: NC Waccamaw River Volunteer Water Monitoring meeting
- June 26: Hands Across the Sand event in North Myrtle Beach
- June 26: Community Paddle at Conway RiverFest
- June 28: America’s Great Outdoors Initiative, Charleston, SC
- June 29: Yadkin Riverkeeper event with Erin Brockovich

## **NORTH CAROLINA ACTIVITIES**

### **Primary focus areas:**

**Waccamaw River Blue Trail in North Carolina** – We are working with over 30 interested stakeholders to gain consensus to develop a paddle trail along the NC section of the Waccamaw River to join with efforts on the SC portion. We are being assisted under a technical grant from the National Park Services’ Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Group (Bill Lane). The whole group has met twice to date and a steering committee with sub-committee participation has been formed and met several times. Both Columbus County and Brunswick County governments have adopted resolutions to support the paddle trail. We continue to identify opportunities for funding for the NC work. The paddle trail effort is also attempting to address logging issues along the Waccamaw River in NC to maintain water quality and viewscapes along the river.

**Volunteer Monitoring on the upper Waccamaw** – Meetings continue with Lake Waccamaw State Park employees and the stakeholder group to coordinate volunteer monitoring on Lake Waccamaw and the NC portion of the Waccamaw River. Together, all stakeholders continue to identify additional opportunities for funding to support this program in NC. An initial training for project coordinators has been held and equipment has been ordered and, in some cases, received. We are hoping to launch Phase 1 of the program this fall.

**Muddy Water Watch Program** – All NC Waterkeepers are implementing this program. I propose to implement training in Lake Waccamaw in concert with volunteer monitor training.

**Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaborative** –I serve on the Executive Committee and participate in quarterly conference calls. The Arch offers opportunities for partnerships and funding opportunities, especially in the NC portion of the watershed. We have been written into a grant that the NC Coastal Land Trust is submitting this week. If received, the grant monies would provide for water quality monitoring equipment (an additional kit) and staff time.

**CAFO Campaign** – One of Waterkeeper Alliance’s oldest campaigns, Pure Farms, Pure Waters, focuses on the issue of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), particularly farming for hogs, poultry and cattle. In NC, the focus has been on hog CAFOs, particularly in Eastern North Carolina. Waterkeeper Alliance is working with Eastern NC keepers to address water quality issues and Waccamaw Riverkeeper is joining the effort given the number of CAFOs in the Lumber Basin.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA ACTIVITIES**

### **Primary Focus Areas:**

#### **Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments**

- The Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan for the Waccamaw region is currently being updated. I serve on the Stormwater subcommittee to address non-point source pollution into the greater Winyah Bay watershed. We are assisting Daniel Newquist, 208 Coordinator, draft the management plan and coordinate public workshops in the 3 counties affected (Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg).

#### **Southern Environmental Law Center – Federal Wetlands Challenge & SC Amicus Brief**

- WRF is party to a lawsuit that SELC has filed in federal court challenging the Army Corps of Engineers’ jurisdictional determination of a 31 acre wetland in Murrells Inlet. Represented parties include South Carolina Wildlife Federation, the Coastal Conservation League, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Waccamaw Riverkeeper, Winyah Rivers Foundation. We continue to await a response following the request from the court for the Army Corps to review its jurisdictional determination.

#### **Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring Project (funded by Coastal Carolina University, \$10,000 for 2010):**

- I continue efforts as Field Leader for this project now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year. We are now receiving compensation for our work as Field Leader for this project (\$5,000 through June 2010, \$10,000 for fiscal year beginning July 2010).

#### **Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium (CWSEC):**

- Semi-annual meeting for municipalities and education providers was held in June 2010.
- Ongoing presentations and activities to support the MS4s requirements for public education and involvement, including updating CWSEC database, participation in Education Providers meetings and planning for semi-annual CWSEC meetings and Year 6 education plan.

#### **Waccamaw River Blue Trail (funded by the Donnelley Foundation, \$25,000 for 2010):**

- Working with Staci Williams, the Waccamaw River Blue Trail Organizer, on education and outreach activities, stakeholder participation, and research on land conservation options along the Waccamaw River.
- A land conservation workshop for tax professionals was held and another for interested landowners is being planned.
- Created the “If the River Could Talk” paddle series to support our Blue Trail efforts. Participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Paddle at Conway’s RiverFest on July 26<sup>th</sup> and am planning another “If the River Could Talk” paddle in August.
- Assisting with the development of signage, mapping and the online interpretive guide for the project.

#### **Conservation Voters of SC:**

- I participate as a member of the Steering Committee for the Common Agenda of environmental legislative initiatives and also serve as a member of the Water Warriors focused on legislation that impacts water quality in SC.

### **HORRY COUNTY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES:**

#### **Horry County Ad Hoc Committee on Rivers and Wetlands Protection:**

- The re-drafted version of the proposed Conservation Subdivision ordinance continues. It was approved by the Planning Commission and will go before the Infrastructure and Regulation Committee of Horry County in July. Then, if approved by I&R, the ordinance will go before Horry County Council for final approval and adoption. Our role will then become education and advocacy for the development community to implement this voluntary ordinance.

#### **Horry County Solid Waste Authority:**

- I am participating in advocacy regarding SWA plans to assess environmental conditions in Sterritt Swamp as a result of the negotiated process with local citizens regarding the proposal for a piggyback expansion of the landfill on Hwy 90. A meeting with the Editorial Board of the Sun News is planned for July.

#### **Conway Water Quality and Drainage Commission:**

- Crystal will continue to serve on this commission as a volunteer through December 2010; however, Crystal's departure from the Riverkeeper's office will necessitate my being involved to a greater extent in this commission to represent our organization. One of the major efforts of this group is to advance a "River Friendly" designation for businesses.

### **GEORGETOWN COUNTY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES:**

#### **Georgetown County Programs (funded by the Bunnelle Foundation):**

- Service Over Self – Youth for a Healthier Sampit River continues with various programs scheduled. The last program was held on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> in concert with George Goes Green (Shannon Siau involved).
- Tara Hall Project – participated in an education program with other CWSEC providers and are continuing to work with Georgetown County Stormwater and other stakeholders to address erosion and sedimentation issues into the Black River and to engage the boys in ongoing water quality monitoring of the Black River. (Shannon Siau involved).
- Ongoing citizen education and awareness for stewardship of our local rivers, including George Goes Green, Plantersville Summer Academy and SOS's Summer Fun Shops.

#### **Pee Dee Scenic River Advisory Committee:**

- Participate in quarterly meetings as a committee member, led by Bill Marshall with SC Department of Natural Resources, and addressing issues of concern along the Pee Dee River (both the Great Pee Dee and the Little Pee Dee) as well as contributing to the development of the Scenic River Management Plan.