

Riverspeak

News from WINYAH RIVERS FOUNDATION



Sponsor of the WACCAMAW RIVERKEEPER® PROGRAM

SPRING 2011

Volume 11 Issue 1

2011 WACCAMAW CONFERENCE & RIVER ROAST SOUTH BENEFIT

On Saturday, February 19th, we hosted the Waccamaw Conference with the support of the Sierra Club—Winyah Group and celebrated **A Decade of Protecting Our Rivers**. Thanks to our exhibitors, speakers and attendees for making this an important community education event!

Following the Conference, supporters enjoyed a warm and sunny day at beautiful Hobcaw Barony at our River Roast South Benefit. Thanks to **Litchfield Beach Fish House** for the fabulous food, to **New South Brewing Company** for the delicious beers, and to all who supported the event!

Thanks for your support of Winyah Rivers Foundation and of our mission to protect, preserve, monitor and revitalize the health of the lands and waters of the greater Winyah Bay watershed, focusing on local activism through the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR FOR 2010 HAL VIVIAN



Hal Vivian receiving his award from Christine Ellis
Photo: Grace Gifford

On February 19 at the 2011 Waccamaw Conference, the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Joy Pinson Award of Excellence for Service to the Waccamaw River was presented to:

Hal Vivian

Hal has served WRF in many capacities, including as a member of the Board of Directors, as a water quality monitoring volunteer, as a member of the organizing committee for our major fundraising events and in many other ways to help our organization

meet its mission of education and advocacy for the protection of a clean and ample supply of water for all beneficial uses.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU, HAL!

RiverSpeak by Christine Ellis

Winyah Rivers Foundation turned 10 in January!

For a decade now, we have worked at the grassroots level to educate and advocate to protect our local rivers and their watersheds, our mission “to protect, preserve, monitor and revitalize the health of the lands and waters of the greater Winyah Bay watershed.” This watershed includes the 5 rivers; the Waccamaw, Pee Dee, Lumber-Little Pee Dee, Lynches, and Black River.

For our first decade, through the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program, our focus has been on the Waccamaw Watershed in North and South Carolina. Now as we enter our second decade, we look to the future and plans for expansion. Our goal is to fund and implement a Pee Dee RIVERKEEPER® Program in order to expand our current efforts and focusing more resources for protection of this important watershed in South Carolina.

The Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® and the Pee Dee RIVERKEEPER® would be programs of Winyah Rivers Foundation, working together to meet WRF’s mission and the vision of its founders over a decade ago.

Winyah Rivers Foundation is proof of the good that communities can achieve, protecting our local rivers and your source of water for drinking, recreation and enjoyment for another 10 years. Please donate to support our efforts.

**WINYAH RIVERS FOUNDATION
2011 PHOTO CONTEST**

2010 Best of Show
Mike Covington's
"MARSH MOON"

**PROMOTING THE
BEAUTY OF THE
WINYAH RIVERS**

OPEN TO ALL!
Contest Rules on reverse

ENTER OFTEN!
\$10 per entry

Deadline for entry:
May 4th, 2011

**OVER \$2500 IN PRIZES
TO BE AWARDED!**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Winyah Rivers Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to protect, preserve, monitor and revitalize the health of the lands and waters of the greater Winyah Bay watershed. Seeking and local activities through the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



WATERKEEPERS at the front line



As a member of WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE, we are proud to be a family of nearly 200 Waterkeeper organizations on six continents defending their communities against anyone who threatens their right to clean water. Sadly, our own Congress appears to be threatening that right. Waterkeepers nationwide are concerned about current efforts to cut funding to clean water safeguards and key conservation programs. These cuts would mean more sewage and pollution in our waterways, less protected lands for wildlife and represent a serious threat to public health, our natural heritage and our ability to protect our public trust, our waterways and important conservation lands. Specifically in our area, cutting the Land & Water Conservation Fund will directly impact the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, a protected area vital to maintaining clean water, preserving wildlife and providing a diverse coastal ecosystem.

We hope that you will agree that our natural resources, including clean water and healthy wildlife communities, are essential for the economic benefit of the Carolinas. The President, in his recently released America's Great Outdoors Report, proposed a budget for 2012 that reflects an investment in conservation programs that not only protect our natural heritage but that also generate jobs and boost local economies.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER AS A WATER TESTER?

We are hosting a meeting on
Wednesday, March 16th
for existing and new water testers at
Coastal Carolina University's Center
for Marine and Wetland Studies
8:30 am -12:00 pm

Reservations: Call (843) 349-4007

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

- Hwy 9 Landing, Longs
- Hwy 904 Landing, Pireway, NC
- Hwy 130 in Brunswick County
- Lake Waccamaw (4 sites)

Go to www.coastal.edu/wwa and click on "Volunteer Monitoring" for more information and to view our data.



Banning Plastic Bags

Locally, it began in Pawley's Island, spearheaded by Goffinet McLaren. Now, with the help of Grace Gifford, the effort is expanding throughout Horry & Georgetown Counties...**ban single use plastic bags!** We agree...just say "NO" to that plastic bag and say "YES" to bringing your own reusable bag for your shopping needs. **Make it your Earth Day resolution!**



SPRING CLEANUPS BEGIN

Do you love your river? Do you hate the trash? Then join in on our cleanups.

Our spring cleanup season begins **March 26th** in Conway, hosted by the Rickenbakers (Rick was the 2006 Volunteer of the Year). Then, on **April 22nd** (yes, Earth Day!), we're going to target Crabtree Canal and Swamp in Conway with help from CCU's Eco-Reps and launch a program to educate local businesses on how to keep trash in its place. On **May 14th**, we'll move upstream to Longs and be hosted by the Stevens of Loris.

We're also partnering on the initiative, **Keep Horry County Beautiful**, a new chapter of Palmetto Pride, and will be helping with the County's litter index in March. KHCB's mission is "to inspire residents and visitors to value and protect the natural beauty of Horry County and to empower them to keep roadsides, riverways, open spaces and beaches clean and litter free."



AROUND THE GLOBE

Pamela Martin, associate professor of politics at Coastal Carolina University, spent time in Ecuador as a Fulbright Scholar conducting research on global and local dimensions of energy policy and conservation in the Amazon. She focused on Ecuador's decision to leave its largest oil reserve underground in Yasuni National Park, a UNESCO Man & Biosphere Reserve, in return for 50% of its value to be spent on conservation and alternative energy. Pam notes "Countries like Ecuador, poor in economic capital yet wealthy in terms of extreme biodiversity and natural resources, are not waiting for the world's leading nations to develop a climate change strategy that works for them."

CCU Magazine, Spring/Summer '10
Pam & son, William



SPOTLIGHT THE GREAT PEE DEE RIVER

The Great Pee Dee River basin encompasses 22 watersheds and 4,029 square miles, flowing across the Sandhills to the Coastal Plain and into the Coastal Zone region. Of the ~2.5 million acres, 33.4% is agricultural land, 25.7% is forested land, 27.9% is forested wetland, 6.3% is urban land, 2.7% is scrub/shrub land, 2.6% is water, 1.2% is non-forested wetland, and 0.2% is barren land. There are ~4,669 stream miles, 10,864 acres of lake waters, 17,676 acres of estuarine areas.

But, the waters of the Pee Dee are impaired for pollutants including Mercury which limit fish consumption. And, a 2009 USGS study identified widespread occurrence of inter-sex bass in the river.

The river is important for recreation and as a drinking water source. The lower river from Highway 378 to Winyah Bay is designated a Scenic River. The Great Pee Dee River is an important part of our natural heritage and deserves protection.

Waccamaw River Blue Trail*—Come paddle with us!

Project partners presented a session at the Waccamaw Conference themed "Protect Our Lands". Staci Williams, American Rivers, and Van Whitehead, Pee Dee Land Trust, were joined by Maria Whitehead of The Nature Conservancy to speak about our efforts to identify opportunities for land conservation within the Waccamaw watershed.

We continue to work 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.

Our call for the **Adopt a Landing Program** has been well received with several local groups interested in partnering. We're still working out the details but have some preliminary information available at our website. Thanks to those who have already expressed an interest!

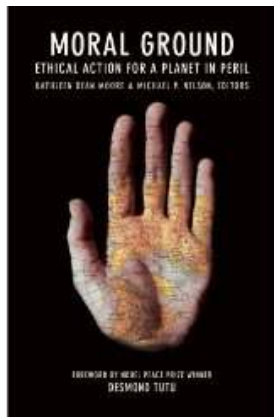
We applaud the President in his recently released report on America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative for proposing to establish the AGO National Recreational Blueway Trails Initiative to designate community scale portions of rivers as recreational destinations that receive special attention for restoration and access.

Note: The SC project has spawned an effort in North Carolina to expand the Blue Trail upstream. The RIVERKEEPER® has been working with stakeholders in Brunswick and Columbus Counties to develop this concept and seek input from the community.



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...



Moral Ground Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril

presents a diverse and compelling call to honor our individual and collective moral responsibility to our planet. Science knowledge alone does not tell us what to do. The much needed centerpiece in the debate is the need for ethical values, moral guidance and principled reasons for doing the right thing for our planet, its animals, its plants and its people.

For more information, go to <http://moralground.com/>.

SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 24TH

RIVER CELEBRATION

A Benefit for

the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®

We begin with an outdoor festival at Conway's waterfront and on the river events. Then we'll move indoors to the Lower River Warehouse for the main event.

In Memory of...

Rachel Broadhurst—because of her love of the environment and her civic mindedness (fondly remembered by the Moliternos).

Emily Schultz, one of our founders, died Feb. 23 at her home in Myrtle Beach at the age of 88. She played a key role as chair of the Winyah Group of Sierra Club, when it joined with the Cape Fear, NC Group of Sierra in 1999 to form the Waccamaw River and Watershed Protection Project. She was the coordinator for the series of meetings that led to establishment of Winyah Rivers Foundation two years later. Her love of the local environment will be permanent in what is known as the Schultz Tract, a 192-acre portion of the Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve. The land, on the north end near the state line, was sold to the state trust in 1995 far below the market price and affords one of the few camping spots on the high ground as well as a public hunting area. A memorial service is planned for some time in April (by Zane Wilson).

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



**NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 Myrtle Beach
 PERMIT #33**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Water Monitoring Meeting
 Conway, SC
 March 16

Waccamaw River Cleanup
 Conway, SC
 March 26

WRF Board Meeting
 Myrtle Beach, SC
 April 12

Crabtree Cleanup
 Conway, SC
 April 22

Waccamaw River Cleanup
 Longs, SC
 May 14

Photo Contest Awards Ceremony
 Myrtle Beach, SC
 May 20

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

Support our work!

Date _____

- Guardian through Champion categories 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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 State _____ Zip _____
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We accept Visa and Master Card
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Winyah Rivers Foundation
 (843)349-4007
 WRK@coastal.edu
 www.winyahrivers.org

The Board

- Reggie Daves, President, Conway, SC
- Bob Moran, Vice-President, Murrells Inlet, SC
- Bill Hedgepath, 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
- Bob Mimms, Pawley's Island, SC
- Mark Ousley, Myrtle Beach, 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.