

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

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Riverspeak

NEWS from the WINYAH RIVERS FOUNDATION
Sponsor of the Waccamaw Riverkeeper Program

FALL, 2006
VOLUME 6, NO. 3



2006 Calendar

SEPTEMBER 23:
*THE CHANGING OF
THE GUARD*
See page 1.

NOVEMBER 11:
*ANNUAL RIVER
ROAST*
Ripley's Aquarium,
Myrtle Beach
Saturday, November 11, 6 to 9 p.m.
**Please note the change
in starting time.**

Printed on recycled paper.

Winyah Rivers Foundation

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

The Board

Barb Postles, President, Columbia
Valerie Moliterno, Secretary,
Myrtle Beach
Hut Moody, Treasurer, Myrtle Beach
Kendall Buckner, Pawleys Island
Eddie Dyer, Conway
Judy Ellis, Myrtle Beach
Kaye King, Tabor City, NC
Peter MacIntyre, Murrells Inlet
Bill Marsh, Conway
Bill Martin, Pawleys Island
Richard Moore, Conway
Andrea Peterson, Murrells Inlet
Joy Pinson, Murrells Inlet
David Scott, Lake Waccamaw, NC

Waccamaw Riverkeeper™

Christine Ellis



join us!

Date _____

Honorary Riverkeeper.....	\$5000	_____
Protector.....	\$3000	_____
Champion.....	\$1000	_____
Defender.....	\$500	_____
Advocate.....	\$250	_____
Guardian.....	\$100	_____
Business.....	\$50	_____
Family (list all).....	\$35	_____
Individual.....	\$25	_____
Full time student.....	\$5	_____
Additional contribution _____		
Other (including memorial or tribute gift) _____		

FIVE-YEAR COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN PLEDGE: I want to build a strong local base of support by pledging to continue my membership/contribution at the above level or higher for five years, beginning this year.
Signed _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____
Home Email _____
Work Email _____
Fax _____

Foundation Hires Second Waccamaw Riverkeeper

The Board of Winyah Rivers is proud to announce the hiring of the second Waccamaw Riverkeeper, Christine Ellis. Christine replaces Hamp Shuping who has been the Waccamaw Riverkeeper since 2002.



Christine has most recently been an Adjunct Professor at Coastal Carolina University and Horry-Georgetown Technical College, teaching biology. She comes to us with an extensive background in environmental compliance for industry; many of the skills she learned there will translate nicely into the nonprofit world.

"Christine is an energetic environmentalist. Her former coworkers and employers speak highly of her skills and her work ethic. We are delighted to welcome her to the Riverkeeper program and full-time advocacy work," said Barb Postles, WRF President.

Christine was born in Toronto, Canada and has worked in the U.S. since 1991. She lives in North Myrtle Beach with husband, Bernie Smith, also a Canadian. Both are avid golfers.

The search for the Riverkeeper took several months and extended across the country. "The Foundation is greatly indebted to the fine work of the Personnel Committee--Andrea Peterson, Hal Vivian, Philip Keilen, Dr. Susan Libes, Hamp Shuping, and Barb Postles. Special thanks go to Susan, who recognized Christine's skills and recommended her to us," Postles said.

We hope you will join us at The Changing of the Guard event October 1 at 3:30 to meet Christine and to say "goodbye" and "thanks" to Hamp. Christine also welcomes your stopping in to introduce yourself at her Coastal Carolina office. She will be spending a great deal of time getting to know our members, our grantors, other environmental organizations, and the people involved in each of our issues.

Farewell to Hamp...

We are sad to see our first Waccamaw Riverkeeper leave our employ. Hamp assures us that he is merely changing roles and that he will still be involved in the program he started. We are glad to hear that and very grateful to him for all he has done for the Waccamaw River and the Foundation.

Hamp became the Riverkeeper in 2002. He has been involved in many issues--hog farm pollution, the Black River power line siting, river shacks on area waterways, road citings, logging of cypress trees, stormwater, planning for growth, the Green Swamp dump, mercury, and mines. He samples water and organizes volunteers. He has shaped the Waccamaw Riverkeeper Program, and his work is a model for how it needs to go forward.

During his tenure, he's touched many lives in the course of his work. We invited others to comment on his work. A sample:
(Continues on page 2.)

A Message from Christine...

I am very proud to be the new Waccamaw Riverkeeper. I look forward to building on the strong foundation provided by Hamp Shuping, the Board of Directors of Winyah Rivers Organization and all its dedicated volunteers, members and donors.

I have worked in the environmental field since beginning my career. I started in the power industry where I assessed the environmental impacts of power plants on the affected aquatic environments. I have worked in several different industries since then, either as an environmental professional within the organization or as a consultant providing environmental services to industries seeking my assistance. The range of industries has been broad and has included such industries as forestry, hazardous
(Continues on page 2.)



Come to the shore and join us for

A Changing of the Guard

Sponsored by our friends at



Our members are invited to
A joyful waterside Celebration
Thanking Hamp Shuping,
Our first Waccamaw Riverkeeper
and
Welcoming Christine Ellis,
Our new Waccamaw Riverkeeper

Saturday, September 23, 2006

4:00 pm at "Buckeye"

Home of Joy & Joe Pinson
Murrells Inlet, SC

Acceptances only by September 12
651-9063

Hor d'oeuvres and Supper, Casual dress

Parking at the intersection of Business 17 & Sunnyside Avenue.
(If traveling on Bypass 17, turn toward water at stoplight at 707
intersection in Murrells Inlet.)

Hamp

(Continued from page 1.)

From Kaye King, Board member: "I have enjoyed working with Hamp in the Pireway Riversweep and in the Pireway Paddlefest. Hamp has always helped Charles and I with all the work that we have done here. I think that Hamp liked doing the riversweeps here because he always went swimming in the cold water! We will miss his expert advice, hard work, and jovial attitude as the Waccamaw Riverkeeper."

From Eddie Dyer, Board member: "There's not a more

Foundation Welcomes Three New Board Members

Judith Ellis

Judith is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio where she earned a dual Master's degree from Xavier University in Psychology and Educational Administration. She had a 30 plus year career in education which included being a teacher, a school psychologist, an administrator, a principal and an educational consultant. Her final position before retirement was as Executive Director for First Steps of Horry County. Judith has been a resident of Briarcliffe Acres for the past ten years. Her recent retirement has allowed Judith the opportunity to explore her interest in the



environment.

She has completed her Master Gardener's certification and is an active member of the North Myrtle Beach Master Gardeners Club. She serves on beautification, landscape and Backyard Habitat Project committees in Briarcliffe Acres. Judith is also an active member of Sierra Club where she was first introduced to the Winyah River Foundation.

Bill Marsh

Bill holds a BA in Business Administration from Coastal Carolina University. He is president of Palmetto Chevrolet Co., Inc. in Conway. Currently, he is Chairman of the Coastal Educational Foundation, and is also a board member of Coastal Federal Bank and the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce. Bill is a native of Horry County and has enjoyed spending time on the Waccamaw River since he was a boy.



David Scott

David has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology. He is a retired business owner. He is a lifelong environmentalist, sailor, paddler, and camper and is interested in spiritualism as it relates to the religion/environment interface. He is co-founder with wife Donna of the Lumber River Basin Committee, a local environmental group that succeeded in getting the Lumber River designated National Wild and Scenic and later established a NC State Park. Our group is a past recipient of the NC Wildlife Federation and Mid-Atlantic Country Magazine's Conservation Group of the Year awards. Eagle Scout. Past Outings Program Chairman for the Lake Waccamaw Depot Museum.

dedicated steward of God's gift of nature to mankind than Hamp Shuping. His quiet leadership is both exemplary and inspirational."

From Kay and Ernie Nance: "You can't beat his knowledge of the rivers in this area or his dedication to clean water. He was a pleasure to work with. He will always be our Riverkeeper."

"We have been supporters of the Riverkeeper Program from the beginning and met Hamp soon after he became involved. He has done outstanding work and will be missed tremendously. Through the foundation he has laid, this program will continue to progress," said Marlene and Ralph Deacon.

From Dwight Fee, "It's all about being in the world with responsibility. Hamp is responsibility personified."

Hal Vivian: "Thank you for your dedication, inspiration, leadership, and for 'mentoring' me. You got us off to a great start and on the correct path insuring the success of the Riverkeeper program. You have been a delight to work."

Valerie Moliterno, Board member: "Hamp kept things in perspective. Going after a piece of trash on the Waccamaw in a lightning storm was not as important as the safety of the environmentalists helping out."

Joy Pinson, Board member and Founding Director: "Hamp's love of the Waccamaw has shown through all his good works as the river's first keeper. He's a great waterman! We hate to let him go, but we will certainly be calling on him to share his in-depth knowledge of the river. We really appreciate Hamp's dedication to bringing the river alive to so many folks!"

Hamp recently won the Conservationist of the Year award from the South Carolina Sierra Club. The Winyah Group of the Sierra Club says, "Hamp has made a major contribution to the statewide and national conservation campaign to keep our water clean. He is an outdoorsman who has a great knowledge of the Waccamaw River. He has had a major impact on all of the communities along the Waccamaw River through his role as the Waccamaw Riverkeeper."

From Dr. Susan Libes, Coastal Carolina University: "I don't really feel too panicked about his stepping down as Riverkeeper because Hamp is continuing his efforts as head of the Conway Water Quality and Drainage Commission. I think he underappreciates what he has done - he's made the Waccamaw Riverkeeper part of the community giving it instant and positive name recognition."

"Hamp made extra efforts to attend as many of The Friends of the Green Swamp meetings and events as possible, despite having to drive up to Lake Waccamaw and often getting home late. He was particularly helpful in getting residents of Brunswick and Horry Counties to attend the earlier public hearings on the proposed regional solid waste landfill in the Green Swamp. We appreciate his efforts and contributions on our behalf," said Steve Smith, Chariman of Friends of the Green Swamp.

"In the summer of 2004 Boy Scout Troop 512 of Whiteville canoed and kayaked the length of the Waccamaw River for 12 days. The Waccamaw Riverkeeper Hamp Shuping was very helpful in the planning of the trip. The national Boy Scout magazine, "Boys Life" later did a feature story on the trip, which brought national attention to the Waccamaw River. Without Hamp's help, the trip would have been more difficult, or possibly not have happened. Thanks and best wishes Hamp! ...from the Boy Scouts of Troop 512, Whiteville, NC



Reserve Now!

River Roast 2006

Saturday, November 11, 6 to 9 pm



Broadway at the Beach

Highway 17, Myrtle Beach

(Please note the change in starting time.)

This is our largest fundraiser of the year. It is a terrific way to help the work of the Waccamaw Riverkeeper program and have lots of fun! Remember, this year's event offers:

An award-winning chef
Live Steel Drum Entertainment
Admission to the Aquarium
Ripleys Aquarium Festival of Christmas

Trees

Two Complimentary Drinks
Our Silent Auction

If you would like to buy a sponsorship for the event or help solicit sponsors, contact Philip Keilen a 359-0444 for information.

Ticket price is \$50.00. Because of limited room, all tickets must be purchased prior to the event. Reserve early! Contact new Waccamaw Riverkeeper Christine Ellis at the Riverkeeper office for tickets at 349-4007.

Christine

(Continued from page 1.)

chemical, pharmaceutical/biotech and electronics industries. In each, my focus has been on implementing environmental laws and regulations, identifying areas of environmental improvement and helping the company, its employees and contractors understand the role they play in protecting the environment.

Training and communication have always been an important and enjoyable part of my career. I have conducted numerous training sessions required to meet environmental regulations and/or corporate policies or international standards. Most recently I have enjoyed teaching biological and environmental science courses as an adjunct professor at Horry-Georgetown Technical College and Coastal Carolina University.

I have a Master of Science in Environmental Management from the University of San Francisco and a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from the University of Western Ontario.

I consider myself very lucky to work in the environmental field. It is a very satisfying and enjoyable line of work and one that I love. As I take on my new role as advocate for the protection of the Waccamaw River, I look forward to working closely with those people and groups who love the River and want to protect and preserve its environment for themselves and future generations to enjoy.

Conservation News...

Green Swamp Dump Part of Moratorium

The North Carolina legislature has passed a moratorium on large land fills in North Carolina, and Governor Mike Easley signed it. This action includes the Green Swamp Dump, a project the Winyah Rivers Foundation has opposed for years.

A July 29 editorial in *The Sun News* stated: "The many folks who worry about the health of the Waccamaw River no doubt are ecstatic that the N.C. General Assembly banned the permitting for new landfills for one year. The political impetus for the bill was North Carolinians' fear that their state could become a destination for trash from all over the eastern United States. Large majorities in the N.C. House and N.C. Senate want the state to take a closer look at the environmental problems such mega-dumps could cause before allowing them to open for business.

This site seems a dangerous place to put a landfill, no matter how well constructed it may be. The Green Swamp, mostly in private hands, is ecologically fragile. The hundreds of trash trucks per day that would rumble through the area could not help but damage plant and wildlife via noise and air pollution. The environmental impact of the landfill would be felt well beyond its fence line. Moreover, if the landfill did leak, it could degrade the Waccamaw River ecosystem south of the state line--right here in our communities."

Since the moratorium is for only one year while the issue is studied we must continue to be vigilant. We plan to continue to work with the Friends of the Green Swamp (FOGS) to keep the Green Swamp Dump from becoming a threat to the Waccamaw River.

Court Says EPA Must Set Standards for Stormwater Pollution

Agreeing with conservation groups, a federal court today ruled on June 29 that the Environmental Protection Agency must set standards to control stormwater pollution from strip malls, subdivisions and other new development. (For a copy of the decision, go to http://docs.nrdc.org/water/wat_06062901A.pdf.)

The ruling resulted from a September 2004 lawsuit filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Waterkeeper Alliance charging that the EPA's unwillingness to control construction site pollution would lead to more beach closings, waterborne disease, flooding, fish kills and contaminated drinking water supplies. The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California ruled that the agency's inaction violated the Clean Water Act. The states of New York and Connecticut joined the conservation groups in the case.

"The EPA isn't protecting our water, it's protecting asphalt," said Nancy Stoner, director of the Clean Water Project at NRDC. "The parking lot lobby may be happy about that, but Americans who like to swim, fish, and drink clean water are out of luck. Now the EPA has to do its job to safeguard public health."

Polluted runoff from paved surfaces, such as parking lots, highways and rooftops, is the fastest growing source of water pollution across the country, according to a 2002 report by the Pew Oceans Commission. EPA's failure to control urban stormwater pollution, NRDC and the Waterkeeper Alliance said, is despoiling the environment and threatening public health, particularly in coastal areas, where stormwater already is the largest source of water pollution and population is growing rapidly.

"Today's decision is a tremendous victory for the American public," said Waterkeeper Alliance Staff Attorney Jeffrey Odefey. "The court recognized that the EPA has shirked its responsibility to control stormwater. Solutions to prevent polluted runoff are available, affordable, and necessary to keep our nation's waters clean."

The Natural Resources Defense Council is a national, non-profit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. Founded in 1970, NRDC has more than 1.2 million members and e-activists nationwide, served by offices in New York, Washington, Santa Monica and San Francisco. More information on NRDC is available at its Web site, www.nrdc.org.

Waterkeeper Alliance is an international non-profit organization that serves as an umbrella for 153 member programs throughout the United States, Canada, South America, Europe, Australia, India and Africa. Alliance member programs patrol and protect more than 67,000 miles of rivers, streams and shorelines, and represent the interests of more than 200,000 members. For more information, go to <http://www.waterkeeper.org/>.