



# Riverspeak

October, 2012



*Waccamaw River* by Phil Burton. To see more images by this artist visit:

[phil-burton.fineartamerica.com](http://phil-burton.fineartamerica.com)

## 40th Anniversary of Clean Water Act

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clean Water Act. On October 18, 1972, the U.S. Congress signed into law this historic piece of legislation that promised to turn the tide for America's polluted rivers, lakes, and coastlines, and to hold polluters accountable for their attacks on the health of the nation's waterways and its people.

Forty years ago, our nation's waterways were ebbing toward disaster. They had become dumping grounds for trash, sewage, oil and chemicals. The passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972 enabled ordinary citizens to confront powerful corporate and governmental polluters. As a result, we have brought America's rivers, streams, lakes, bays and coastlines back from the perilous brink they had reached.

This bold legislation put forward by visionaries in Congress returned control of the nation's waters to the citizens of the United States. It is part of the public trust doctrine that states that the public; no individual, no government, no corporation and no polluter owns our waterways.

The Clean Water Act's citizen suit provision, a critical feature of the law, was the catalyst for an international movement of Waterkeepers who defend their communities against all who threaten their right to clean water.

Waterkeeper organizations now span the globe, including the Waccamaw Riverkeeper right here in the coastal Carolina area watching over our local rivers that drain into Winyah Bay. We, like other Waterkeepers, fight for clean water so that our community can swim, drink and fish in these rivers.

Even as we celebrate this anniversary and the successful cleanup of so many of America's most cherished waterways, efforts continue to undermine the most extraordinary body of environmental law in the world. We need your support to continue these important efforts for the future of our children. Please join us by becoming a member today or renewing your membership to the Waccamaw Riverkeeper Organization. Your donation will provide the resources we need to continue our educational and advocacy programs that have made a difference for the last 10 years. To become a member go to: [www.winyahivers.org/membership.html](http://www.winyahivers.org/membership.html).

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## About the Winyah Rivers Foundation

The **Winyah Rivers Foundation** is a non-profit environmental organization whose mission is to protect, preserve, monitor and revitalize the health of the lands and waters of the greater Winyah Bay watershed which includes the Waccamaw, Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Black, Lynches River and the Sampit Rivers. Our goal is to protect our community's right to fishable, swimmable and drinkable water. We pursue this goal through education and advocacy programs to protect our river resources. These programs are developed and implemented to increase the scientific literacy of our community, including local decision makers, and to engage environmental stewardship and planning for river resource protections.

The **Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program** is a grassroots advocacy organization under the umbrella of the Winyah Rivers Foundation. For over 10 years we have been clean water advocates and have developed an effective program of community engagement to support our mission and protect our valuable river resources. Please visit [www.winyahivers.org](http://www.winyahivers.org) to learn more.

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## Fall Events



### Oct 6 - Big Sweep on the Waccamaw River, 9AM-1PM, Pireway, NC

We're heading upstream to the Pireway/Tabor City area to clean up the Waccamaw. Join us for a clean-up then a cookout at the Pireway Boat Landing off of Hwy 904 (near Hwy 905) across the border in North Carolina. Join us for this fun annual event.



### Oct 7 - Orvis Days, 1PM-5PM, Myrtle Beach, SC

Come visit us at our booth in Market Common where we'll be joining Orvis customers in celebrating outdoor pursuits focused on enjoying our local natural heritage.

### Oct 20—Georgetown Wooden Boat Show, 11AM-6PM, Georgetown, SC

Come visit us at our booth on the waterfront in historic downtown Georgetown at this annual event highlighting Georgetown's rich boating heritage.



### Nov 11 - River Celebration, 5PM—9PM, The Riverside Club, Conway, SC

Join us for a fun-filled evening at The Riverside Club, private club located in Conway on the banks of the Waccamaw River. Enjoy boat rides, a falconry demonstration, food, libations, live music and bidding at our famous silent auction. The fun begins at 5 pm and lasts through 9 pm. Tickets are \$30 each for members, \$35 for non-members and \$20 for students. Come support us and our goal of fishable, swimmable and drinkable water for our families and our future.

**More Details on all Events:** Tickets and information at [www.winyahivers.org/volunteer.html](http://www.winyahivers.org/volunteer.html) or call (843) 349-4007.

Top & Middle: Waccamaw River Cleanup Events

Bottom: Georgetown Wooden Boat Show competition.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please reply by e-mail with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [riverkeeper@winyahivers.org](mailto:riverkeeper@winyahivers.org) or call (843) 349-4007.