

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

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

SUMMER, 2007
VOLUME 7, NO. 2



2007 Calendar

June 23:

Conway's 'Round the 4th
Festival

November 10:

River Roast, Ripleys
Aquarium, Myrtle Beach

This calendar is tentative.
Please consult our website
and future issues of this
newsletter for up-to-date
information.

join us!

Date _____

Guardian through Champion categories will earn rewards.

Champion	\$1000	_____
Defender	\$ 500	_____
Advocate	\$ 250	_____
Guardian	\$ 100	_____
Protector	\$ 50	_____
Introductory (Year 1)	\$ 35	_____
Student (full time)	\$ 10	_____

Business Categories

Business Champion	\$1000	_____
<i>(Framed certificate of membership, recognition in all newsletters and on website with your logo, 1/4 page ad in one newsletter)</i>		
Business Defender	\$ 500	_____
<i>(Certificate, recognition with your logo in each newsletter and on website)</i>		
Business Advocate	\$ 250	_____
<i>(Certificate, recognition in each newsletter)</i>		
Business Guardian	\$ 100	_____
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Winyah Rivers Foundation

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Waccamaw Riverkeeper™

Christine Ellis



Favorable River Shack Bill Becomes Law

Laurels to the South Carolina House and Senate that quickly and almost unanimously ratified the Public Waters Nuisance Abatement Act, better known as the river shacks bill. The bill has been signed by Governor Sanford and monies have been set aside to remove river shacks that do not meet the new requirements.



New river shacks are now prohibited. Existing shacks are required to apply for and receive a permit from SC Department of Natural Resources, meet certain conditions, including having a marine toilet, and, after 5 years, be removed from our public waters.

As you know, WRF has been in the forefront of this issue for some time, spending considerable effort to document the extent of the river shack problem. Thank you to all who have been involved in this issue and its successful ratification. For more information, go to http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3466.htm.

WRF Receives Bunnelle Grant

Winyah Rivers Foundation is a proud recipient of a 2007 Community Grant from the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation. Grant monies will be used for citizen education, awareness and activism for clean water in Georgetown County. We want to spark the interest of the citizens of Georgetown County to participate in the protection and stewardship of the Waccamaw River watershed.

This project will help us achieve two existing long-term goals—establishing a robust environmental watch program and more effectively disseminating information throughout the watershed. We plan to expand the number of involved Georgetown County citizens, with a benefit of enhanced education and more effective participation in protection of the beneficial resources provided by the Waccamaw River watershed.

The project includes developing and implementing a volunteer training program. This program is needed to train volunteers in basic water quality science and watersheds, environmental laws, and neighborhood environmental watch basics so that they may become effective participants in local community groups.

The project also includes the development of educational and interactive display materials for use at County festivals and in public gathering places. This project seeks to raise citizen's knowledge and awareness of the current state of the river so they may understand threats and participate in solutions to protect this valuable resource.

We are grateful to the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation for this generous support.

2006 Volunteer of the Year Arthur "Rick" Rickenbaker



The Waccamaw Riverkeeper Joy Pinson Award for Exceptional Service to the Waccamaw River for 2006 was awarded to Arthur "Rick" Rickenbaker.

Rick was recognized at the 2007 Waccamaw Conference for his dedication to the protection of the Waccamaw River. He is a founding member of the Foundation and has been a dedicated volunteer since its inception in 2001. Winyah Rivers Foundation and the Waccamaw Riverkeeper thank Rick for his support of the program, his time and effort volunteering, and his passion for protecting the Waccamaw River watershed.

Rick, thank you for all you do!

Why I Volunteer?

by Rick Rickenbaker

I decided many years ago that I had been enjoying the benefits of the outdoors—hiking, fishing, bird watching and camping—without doing much to ensure that those places would continue to be a great place to visit. My love for these natural areas led me to think about what I could do to give back a little time for the places I have enjoyed. Anything I could contribute would be my gift to nature. I had no idea that I would be the recipient of so many gifts I thought I would be giving.

I have met many gifted and wonderful people who share a comradeship because of their love of nature. We share this sense of purpose. It feels good to know that one person can make a difference to the places we love.

I have especially enjoyed volunteering for the Waccamaw Riverkeeper program because of the high caliber of people associated with this group. Whether we have a river clean-up or any educational festival, we know we're reaching people, helping the environment, having fun, and making a difference. It's a good feeling. A very good feeling.

Web Searching Generates Funds for Riverkeeper

Search the internet and raise money for WRF at no cost to you. Go to www.goodsearch.com. Under "Who do you GoodSearch for?", type in Winyah Rivers Foundation. Every time you search using this site, we benefit.

2007 River Roast Looming

Help us plan for our biggest fundraiser of the year, the 2007 River Roast and Silent Auction! November 10 is the date; Ripley's Aquarium is the place. This year's event will be bigger and better! To help please contact the Waccamaw Riverkeeper.

Waccamaw Riverkeeper Program Issues Update

Conway Water Quality and Drainage Commission and Kingston Lake Watershed Project - The Waccamaw Riverkeeper is working with the Commission and the Waccamaw Watershed Academy to raise awareness of the issues surrounding the impaired water quality of the Crabtree Swamp and Kingston Lake areas. A KLEAN (Kingston Lake Environment Awareness Network) community forum was held April 28th at the CCU Center for Marine and Wetland Studies. Follow-up meetings are planned to identify stakeholders and engage the community in the revitalization of this area. One aspect of the revitalization is the proposal for a paddle trail commencing in the Crabtree Swamp area, proposed to be named the "Evelyn Snider Memorial Paddle Trail" in honor of the Conway native who lived on the Waccamaw and regularly enjoyed paddling its beautiful black waters. Another initiative underway through the Commission is the "Keep Conway Beautiful" program. For more information, contact the Waccamaw Riverkeeper at wrk@coastal.edu or David Fuss with the Waccamaw Watershed Academy at dfuss@coastal.edu.

Green Swamp Landfill - Friends of the Green Swamp (FOGS) continues its opposition to the regional landfill proposed to be located in the Green Swamp. The year-long moratorium on landfills is due to expire at the end of the summer. A public meeting held in Whiteville on March 22nd was well attended by stakeholders and the media. An Earth Day rally was held at the Columbus County courthouse on April 20th. FOGS is planning to strike a technical committee to review all landfill technical materials. The Waccamaw Riverkeeper has offered to participate on the technical committee.

Great Pee Dee Scenic River Advisory Committee - Meetings of the Committee have been resumed and the drafting of the management plan is underway. The Waccamaw Riverkeeper is a non-voting member of the committee and is participating in both the regular meetings and the meetings of the land use planning subcommittee.

Black River Project - Mitigation monies awarded as a

result of the legal action against Central Electric's powerline project crossing the Black River need to be spent to purchase property or a conservation easement by June 2008. The Waccamaw Riverkeeper is working with a team, including Amy Armstrong with the Southern Environmental Law Project and local residents Mike Hyrowski and Larry Fox to identify potential properties on the Black River.

Horry County and Georgetown County Common Agenda - The Conservation Voters of South Carolina (CVSC) initiated a process through its Education Fund to engage more citizens in a productive dialogue about local and regional planning. Initial conversations in February and March focused on shaping a Common Agenda for Horry County and Georgetown County, respectively. As a result of these initial meetings, some general conclusions were identified, including:

- Although Georgetown and Horry Counties face similar challenges, Common Agenda priorities need to be considered separately in each county

- Comprehensive plans are incomplete and not adequately enforced; zoning is easily circumvented

- There is no framework for holding local elected officials and zoning boards accountable

- Citizens are not well enough informed about local government decision making and are therefore not sufficiently engaged in the planning process

- Conservationists need to reach out to other community activists and to build more diverse grassroots capacity

CVSC plans to hold follow-up meetings to increase communication between diverse constituencies and help establish a framework for accountability. The Waccamaw Riverkeeper has been and continues to be involved in this process.

Sierra Club Executive Committee - The Waccamaw Riverkeeper is serving on the Executive Committee of Sierra Club, meeting monthly to discuss issues of interest to both Sierra Club - Winyah Group and Winyah Rivers Foundation.

Other News, Briefly

New Recreation Area becomes a reality
Centex Homes, Bass Pro Shops, The City of Conway, Anheuser Busch, The Conservation Fund, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have announced a cooperative effort to acquire land for The Cox Ferry Lake Recreation Area on the Waccamaw River on the northernmost end of the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge. Donations from these companies allowed the purchase of 850 acres of hardwood forest, a significant haven for migratory birds. The area is scheduled to open to the public later this year.

SELL and Potential for Impacts to the Waccamaw River Watershed

Winyah Rivers Foundation is concerned with the potential for negative environmental impacts, direct, indirect and cumulative, on the Waccamaw River watershed associated with the eight preliminary new location alternatives for the Southern Evacuation Lifeline (SELL). We are generally concerned with the potential for roadways to have substantial impacts on water quality and the functioning of natural waters as well as the negative impacts of roadways on our protected natural lands, including wetlands.

We oppose any road that will degrade water quality, impact the quantity and quality of our wetlands, and/or harm the important conservation areas that serve as critical habitat for wildlife and offer significant ecological services such as maintaining water quality. As such, we advocate a policy of providing the highest level of protection for these critical areas. This is consistent with 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."

If you would like more detailed information about our position, please contact the Waccamaw Riverkeeper.

Horry County plan hits snag

Darts to the Horry County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee for attempting to lump rural and urban concerns in the land use element of its revised comprehensive plan, Envision 2025. Rather than recognizing and addressing the unique nature and differing land use concerns of each, the Committee wants to consider rural and urban areas as a single entity for land use planning purposes. When word of this action made its way to County Council, County Council Chairperson Gilland stepped in to indicate that council was unlikely to approve this recommendation. The Steering Committee is in the final stages of drafting the land use element of the Comprehensive Plan, the final element of the Plan and for which public comment will be sought. For more information, go to www.horrycounty.org.

Conway approves stormwater plan

On May 28th, Conway City Council unanimously adopted a new Stormwater Management and Sediment Control Ordinance. The new regulations strengthen the requirements for controlling erosion and polluted stormwater on construction sites and increase the provisions for inspection and enforcement. Stemming from months of hard work from the all-volunteer citizen members of the Conway Water Quality and Drainage Commission, under the leadership of former Waccamaw Riverkeeper Hamp Shuping, Jr., the City is demonstrating its commitment to cleaning up our waterways. In the coming weeks, look for more information at www.cityofconway.com under the sidebar links to Departments > Stormwater.

Pinson receives award

Queens University of Charlotte has presented Joy Pinson with their 2007 Outstanding Alumni Award for her work as an environmentalist. She was the founding President of Winyah Rivers Foundation and served as Chair of the Waccamaw River and Watershed Protection Project for NC and SC Sierra Club.

RiverTalk

by Christine Ellis,
Waccamaw Riverkeeper

May 27 marked the 100th birthday of the late Rachel Carson. Ms. Carson was the author of "Silent Spring", the 1962 book that touched off an environmental awareness in our nation and focused attention on the use of insecticides, herbicides and other common chemicals in use at the time.



Ms. Carson and her ideas had many critics then and now. In 1962, DDT was used widely as an insecticide on US farms. Partly as a result of Carson's work, the US banned DDT in 1972. In 2001, the Stockholm Convention, a global treaty, banned DDT, although it contained an exception for continued public health use. Most recently, some environmental groups have tried to get a complete ban on all DDT uses to coincide with Ms. Carson's birthday.

The controversy surrounding the complete banning of DDT regards its use as an anti-malarial agent. The World Health Organization estimates there are between 300 and 500 million cases of malaria annually, and one million deaths. However, Ms. Carson didn't urge total bans but rather was opposed to their indiscriminate use at a time when their potential was not truly known.

In 1963, one year following publication of Silent Spring, CBS aired "The Silent Spring of Rachel Carson". In it, Ms. Carson said...

"We still talk in terms of conquest. We still haven't become mature enough to think of ourselves as only a tiny part of a vast and incredible universe. Man's attitude toward nature is today critically important simply because we have now acquired a fateful power to alter and destroy nature."

"But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself. The rains have become an instrument to bring down from the atmosphere the deadly products of atomic explosions. Water, which is probably our most important natural resource, is now used and re-used with incredible recklessness."

"Now, I truly believe, that we in this generation, must come to terms with nature, and I think we're challenged as mankind has never been challenged before to prove our maturity and our mastery, not of nature, but of ourselves."

In 1962, Ms. Carson called for a change in the way humankind viewed the natural world. That call continues today.

For more information on Rachel Carson, please go to www.rachelcarson.org or read Linda Leer's biography entitled "Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature".

Boat needed...

Please let us know if you are aware of anyone who wants to sell or donate a used boat, motor and/or trailer for use by the Waccamaw Riverkeeper.

We are looking for a good, used working boat for use in river patrols, cleanups and pollution investigations. All offers welcomed!

Trash to Treasure

Your trash could be someone else's treasure!

Winyah Rivers Foundation is planning a fall yard sale at a location as yet undetermined. Please save items for use at our yard sale. Our storage capacity is limited so please hold on to your items until the fall. Once the date and location are set, we'll post an announcement on our website and in our Fall newsletter.

Waccamaw Conference a Success

Our 7th Annual Waccamaw Conference, held on Saturday, March 24th, was a great success. This event was co-hosted by the Winyah Rivers Foundation, sponsor of the Waccamaw Riverkeeper, and the Sierra Club - Winyah Group.



Attendees work... and then play.

The folks at Coastal Carolina University's Waccamaw Higher Education Center in Litchfield Beach provided a wonderful venue. Thank you to Linda Ketron and her staff. Our speakers were knowledgeable and entertaining, providing us with information on the current state of the Waccamaw River and practical solutions to help protect it. Our exhibi-

tors provided good information on the effort of local conservation and volunteer groups in our area and the Field and Stream Clinics provided some practical, hands-on demonstrations of the recreation and conservation aspects of our watershed. After lunch, attendees enjoyed a fantastic cruise on the Waccamaw Lady, enjoying narration on the local flora and fauna. Thank you to each and every one of our speakers and exhibitors that day and to Captain Dale Prox and Bill Moeller of the Waccamaw Lady.

Special thanks to WPDE Newschannel 15, DDC Engineers and Osprey Marina, our sponsors for this event. Thanks also to the conference committee members who spent much time and energy planning and participating in the success of the conference. Thank you Amelia Wood, Margaret Wolfe, Bob Wolfe, Sam Shanely, Wes Standish, Rick Rickenbaker, Dan Gray, Dwight Fee, Buddy Freeman, Judy Ellis, Cynthia Hodell Dyer, and John Bracken.

With attendance up, a wonderful venue, informative speakers and exhibitors, and a fantastic, narrated cruise down the Waccamaw River, the conference committee thanks all involved for your part in a very successful 2007 Waccamaw Conference.

Thank you!

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