

BEST OF SHOW



MARSH MOON: by Mike Covington, Pawley's Island

Our third annual photo contest was a wonderful success, thanks in part to the continued commitment of our founding sponsors "The Horry Independent" and "803 Labs" of Myrtle Beach. We are so pleased that the Franklin G. Burroughs - Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum welcomed us back to exhibit this year's winning photos. The awards ceremony held May 7 at the museum was well attended. Our contestants and guests enjoyed a wonderful array of appetizers provided by our newest sponsor for this event, "Fatz Café" of Conway. The tables were complimented by beautiful flower arrangements provided by "Master Gardeners", and with stemware and linens provided by SpringMaid Beach Resort.

A "People's Choice" contest was held that evening and the winner was??? Please visit our website to see that winning photo and the other 2010 winners.

Congratulations to Mike Covington, Anthony Morano, Bill Gobbel & Steve Berkowitz, our 2010 winning photographers!

RiverSpeak by : Christine Ellis

WATERKEEPERS *at the front line*



May 12th CCU Students Raise Awareness of Oil Spill Catastrophe in the Gulf

On Friday, May 14th, Coastal Carolina University students, led by Lauren Greoski, a rising Senior, issued a call to action to raise awareness about the environmental catastrophe that is ongoing in the Gulf of Mexico. The students organized a rally under the bridge in downtown Conway. Unless you've been living in a cave, you likely have heard lots about the blowout at the wellhead of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, 5000 feet below sea level, the explosion that killed 11, and the discovery, on the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, that the riser pipe connecting the well to the rig was spewing oil into the Gulf of Mexico. As of this writing, the spewing continues. Comparisons to the Exxon Valdez are pointless. That was a finite amount of oil spilled. The BP oil disaster will go on until the well is effectively capped. *Christine Ellis, the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®*, spoke at the rally: **What happened in the Gulf of Mexico?**

This catastrophe wasn't supposed to happen but it did. There are industry standards, a bevy of government regulations and fail-safe devices that are supposed to make blowouts less likely. All of those stop-gaps failed. The result will be untold impacts on human health, the environment, fishing (both recreational and commercial), tourism and recreation.

There's no silver bullet for cleaning up spilled oil.

Booms— More than a million feet of boom has been deployed along the coasts of Gulf states to corral the oil slick in an attempt to protect vulnerable areas. There are drawbacks to booms—in rough seas

oil can flow over the booms, or the booms can become displaced and wash ashore.

Burning and Dispersants - Oil at the water's surface has been burned in some instances, which has proven more effective than skimming operations. The EPA has also approved the spraying of a detergent-like chemical called a dispersant.

Health Impacts: Men lost their lives and numerous other rig workers were injured. Oil and its fumes are highly toxic and can have short-term as well as chronic, long-term and even fatal negative health impacts on those exposed to it, especially volunteers, workers, those with respiratory ailments, the elderly, pregnant women, and the children of the Gulf Coast.

Environmental Impacts: We wonder if some of the land types thought to be most susceptible to oil contamination, like the extremely bio-diverse and ecologically important marshes and wetlands of Louisiana, will survive.

World Wildlife Federation estimates 400-600 species threatened by the spill. **The volume of oil pouring into the Gulf is unknown and the extent of the impacts on the communities and ecosystems are potentially immeasurable!**

WELCOME NEW WRF BOARD MEMBERS!



Mark Ousley: Mark moved to Myrtle Beach in 1983 from Charlotte, NC. He graduated from Appalachian State University with a degree in Business Management. Mark joined Allstate Insurance Company in 1987 and owned and managed an Allstate Agency from 1990 thru 2007. After the sale of his business he worked with First Citizens Bank for two years. Mark joined FSA/Full Steam Ahead as a partner on January

1st of this year. Mark is married to Teri and they have five children and five grandchildren.

William F. Hedgepath, Jr. As a teenager Bill skied, swam and played in the river as much as possible and has always respected the river and now as a avid boater wants to maintain its quality. Bill says “ the river shacks offend me greatly, as I know they have no proper swage disposal system and cheapen the appearance of the Waccamaw. I always do as much as possible to be a friend and supporter of our waterways”



Jobie Dixon: Jobie is President of Visioning, a consultant firm, book author and radio host on Voice America Radio. He was previously President of the Georgetown County Visitors Bureau and a board member for 6 years on Georgetown County Cultural Council. Visit his website at www.jobiedixon.com to learn more.



Lucy Griffith; “ I’ve lived in Conway for over thirty years and have always been interested in the quality of the river system. I suppose that interest might stem for having spent so many of my summers in a tent beside a river in West Virginia. Now that I am retired from teaching, I have time to be one of the guardians for the river. When I came to this area one of my first observations was that Conway had its back turned to the river in more that just a physical way. No one seemed to be caring for our most significant, and certainly our most beautiful, natural resource. I delight that times have changed, and I want to be a force in the Waccamaw river safekeeping.”

Have you ever donated money to a worthy cause and then become inundated with endless pleas for more money, making you wish you hadn't donated in the first place? That's happened to me...I'm sure you have had the same experience. My average donation is about \$50 but after receiving about a half dozen requests asking for more money, and my knowledge of printing cost and postage, I don't believe that much of my donation is being put toward the cause. They explain that they just don't know how they will be able to accomplish their mission if I don't send more! I'll tell them how....put my money toward the cause and stop sending all those mailings!!!! My point is how often do you receive mailings from us? Once a year for your renewal notice maybe an annual appeal request, right? Let's not forget our quarterly newsletter....So where are your Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® membership monies being spent? I hope the following RIVERKEEPER® report of Jan 13– Mar 31, 2010 will help answer that question. If I run out of space(and I know I will) please visit our website for the complete report.

Reported Activities: First Quarter

- 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 7: Horry County Infrastructure & Regulation Committee meeting (Conservation Subdivision ordinance)
- 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



Richard Goldberg : Richard is employed by Coastal Carolina University as a Research Vessel Captain as well as an instructor in the Marine Science Department teaching Seamanship and Navigation. Prior to working at CCU he owned and operated Island Queen Inc. which was a ninety passenger river boat that operated up and down the Waccamaw and its tributaries, and during that time also ran barges and tugboats in and out of the area for Pirrelli Cable Corp.

- April 20-21: Filming on the Waccamaw with Charlotte film crew
- 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 1: Waccamaw River Cleanup - Longs
- May 3: Environmental Policy Institute Water Conference, Columbia, SC
- May 4: Workshop on Land Conservation Tax Incentives
- May 7: 2010 Photo Contest Awards Ceremony
- May 12: Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring

The RIVERKEEPER® report is given at every Board of Directors meeting. Please watch for it in the months to follow on our website.



FROM THE RIVER

by: Hal Vivian

As the summer approaches we need to be even more vigilant in our stewardship of the river. With the large influx of visitors the chance of litter, spills, lack of recycling etc. becomes more prevalent and noticeable.

I am sure that all of us in some way or the other interact with our visitors and take advantage of "bringing" them up to date of our goals and activities.

We must try to get EVERYONE involved. You also can help by making the RIVERKEEPER® name more recognizable. I had the opportunity to speak to the Lions Club of Georgetown a while back in which about 25 people attended, but less than half recognize the name and had any idea of who or what we are about. Let's get this changed. To all a "Great" Summer.

WANT TO BE A RIVERKEEPER®?

Winyah Rivers Foundation is seeking a RIVERKEEPER® apprentice! The qualified candidate must have a scientific background and/or experience in environmental education and advocacy. Excellent research and communication skills via all media are an advantage. Being passionate about protecting our local rivers and wetlands is a must. For more information, contact us @ wrk@coastal.edu.

Some great quotes:

"There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life -- happiness, freedom, and peace of mind -- are always attained by giving them to someone else." Peyton Conway March

"They who live have all things; they who withhold have nothing." - Hindu proverb

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Elenore Burgasser
Mother of long time supporter
Frank Moliterno
Elenore moved to Buffalo, NY from Italy when she was 4 years old
She was 101 years young.
Memorial gift from: Helen Hodges

Jeff Roberts, who unleashed a river of music in this area
Memorial gift from:
Shelly S. Ridout

Memorial gift from family of:
Long time supporter
Rev. W.F. Wingard

THANK YOU!

Lisa Horn of Pawley's Island for donating two kayaks complete with equipment!!

Pat Selby of Pawley's Island for donating "Cobra walkie talkies"!!

These donations came from a request made by Christine through the Coastal Observer. The donation of the kayaks have made it possible for your RIVERKEEPER® to go out on the river with less effort and cost than launching her motor boat. And for the pure enjoyment of kayaking the river along with participants in our series of paddle trips we call "If the River Could Talk". The walkie talkies have made it possible for us to keep in touch while out on our beautiful river! Thanks so much!

HAPPY 10th!
YES WE ARE GOING ON OUR 10th YEAR.
WE WILL KICK OFF THE CELEBRATION STARTING NOVEMBER 6
"CELEBRATE OUR RIVERS"
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

BUSINESS HONORARY RIVERKEEPER



BUSINESS DEFENDER



BUSINESS ADVOCATE

WACCA WACHE MARINA
~
BLACKWATER, LLC

BUSINESS GUARDIAN

OSPREY MARINA

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

**NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 Murrells Inlet
 PERMIT #33**



UPCOMING EVENTS

**RIVER FEST
 CONWAY
 Saturday– June 26**

**SERVICE OVER SELF
 Summer Fun Shops
 July 12-16**

**“If the River Could Talk”
 Paddle trip– Saturday
 August 7, 9 am– 1:30 pm**

Visit our website for all the details!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

Printed on recycled paper.

Winyah Rivers Foundation

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

The Board

- Richard Moore, President, Pawley’s Island
- David Scott, Vice-President, Lake Waccamaw, NC
- Reggie Daves, Secretary, Conway
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- Walt Frank, Georgetown
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- Robert Mimms, Jr., Pawley’s Island
- Robert Moran, Murrells Inlet
- Mark Ousley, Myrtle Beach
- Becky Westbrooks, Chadbourn, NC
- Jim Wilkie, Murrells Inlet, SC

Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®

Christine Ellis
Assistant to Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®
 And Editor of RIVERSPEAK
 Crystal Caschera



Join us!

	Date _____
Guardian through Champion categories will earn rewards.	
Introductory (1st Year Only)	\$ 35.00 _____
Protector	\$ 50.00 _____
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Defender	\$ 500.00 _____
Champion	\$1000.00 _____

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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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Winyah Rivers Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.