

Riverspeak

News from WINYAH RIVERS FOUNDATION



Sponsor of the WACCAMAW RIVERKEEPER® PROGRAM

SUMMER 2011

Volume 11 Issue 2

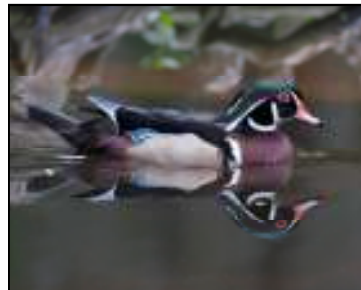
4th ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST Promoting the beauty of the Winyah rivers

Judging from the photographs received, we live in a very scenic area with plenty of wildlife viewing opportunities. 72 photos were entered, judged by Dixie Dugan and Sean Thompson, and winners were chosen in three categories: Scenic, Wildlife and, for the first time, Youth, as well as Best of Show.

Congratulations to the following photographers:

Best of Show—Did you get the shot? - Frank Perrotta (at right)

Scenic: 1st place—Sunrise Silhouette - Frank Perrotta (below, left)
2nd place—Sunrise at Grainger Steam Plant - J. William Gobbel
3rd place—Oyster Landing - Donald Withers
Honorable Mention—The Dixie Queen - Barry Monaco



Wildlife: 1st place—Reflecting - Frank Perrotta (above, right)
2nd place—Pelican in Calabash - Ashley Spatholt
3rd place—Courtship - Donald Withers
Honorable Mention—Wood Duck Drake - Jennifer Cormack

Youth: 1st place—Sun on the Bank - Dayton Busse (right)

All winning photos can be viewed on our website at www.winyahrivers.org.

Founding sponsor, **803 Labs Inc.**, processed the winning photos for display at the **Franklin G. Burroughs—Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum**. At our Awards

Ceremony on May 20th, winners were announced and received gift certificates from 803 Labs Inc. and cash prizes. The venue was made even more wonderful with tables complimented with linens and stemware provided by **Springmaid Beach Resort**, beautiful flower arrangements provided by local **Master Gardeners** and the lovely voice of **local musician, Lola**. In addition, we appreciate the sponsorship of The Horry Independent, also a founding sponsor, and new this year, Alternatives and Coast Magazine, both of who advertised and published the winning photos.

Mounted photographs will be auctioned at our September 24th fundraiser, River Celebration, at the Lower River Warehouse in historic downtown Conway or may be purchased in advance by contacting the Riverkeeper. Thank you to all!



RiverSpeak by Christine Ellis

As we start our second decade, there are many people and organizations to thank. But for now I want to say a special “**thank you**” to the leadership of the organization, both past and present, for without you we would not be effective advocates for the protection of our local rivers and watersheds.

Recently, we said “goodbye” to former Board President, Richard Moore, Vice-President, David Scott, and Director, Lucy Dargan. Thank you for your service!

We are pleased to welcome Chris Millus of Conway, SC and Doug Smith of Old Dock area of Whiteville, NC as new Directors.

For a decade now, under the leadership of the Board, we have worked at the grass-roots level to educate and advocate for the protection of our local rivers and watershed. From its birth to present day, Winyah Rivers Foundation has benefited from those who have chosen to serve on its Board of Directors. Thank you to each and every one!

**A decade of protecting our local rivers!
Won't you join us and support our mission?**



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. In June, Waterkeepers have two opportunities to gather to discuss and exchange ideas on how to protect those rights. From June 3rd–6th, water protection advocates from across the nation will come together in North Charleston, SC for the National River Rally, hosted by River Network. River Rally serves as a major bridge for a diverse community of organizations, agencies, tribes and businesses working to connect our water, lands, and communities. This is the 12th River Rally but my first. Then from June 22nd-June 26th, Waterkeepers from around the world will be convening at Northwestern University in Chicago for our annual Waterkeeper Conference. A cornerstone of our movement, the annual conference educates, inspires and energizes individual Waterkeeper organizations and strengthens their fight for clean water. Increasingly important as the movement grows, it is a way to keep programs connected, to maintain the unique Waterkeeper identity and to increase program effectiveness.



SPRING CLEANUPS YIELD RESULTS

Thanks to our volunteers, this is what was pulled out of Crabtree Swamp on Earth Day! Similar yields were obtained at other spring cleanups (March 26-Conway, May 14-Longs, May 20-Georgetown). Thanks to hosts, the Rickenbakers at Conway, and the Stevens at Longs! On Earth Day we partnered with CCU's Eco-Reps. In Georgetown we partnered with Keep Georgetown Beautiful. **Mark September 17th for SC's River Sweep.**



Conway's River Friendly Business Program

Are you a River Friendly Business? Conway's Water Quality & Drainage Commission developed a certification program adopted by the City. We are promoting it to local businesses (you may have received a flyer from us on Earth Day when, with CCU's Eco-Reps, we educated businesses on how to keep trash in its place). For info, go to www.cityofconway.com.



SCIENCE CORNER

Litter Contribution to Dissolved Organic Matter in Coastal Blackwater Rivers: Implications of Drinking Water Quality (Part I) - by Alex Chow, Ph.D.



Chemical disinfectants are widely used in drinking water treatment to minimize biological contamination and pathogens. However, all chemical disinfectants react with dissolved organic matter (DOM) forming a variety of carcinogenic and mutagenic disinfection byproducts (DBPs) such as chloroform (Figure 1). It is a great health concern in the coastal communities that use blackwater rivers as their drinking water source.

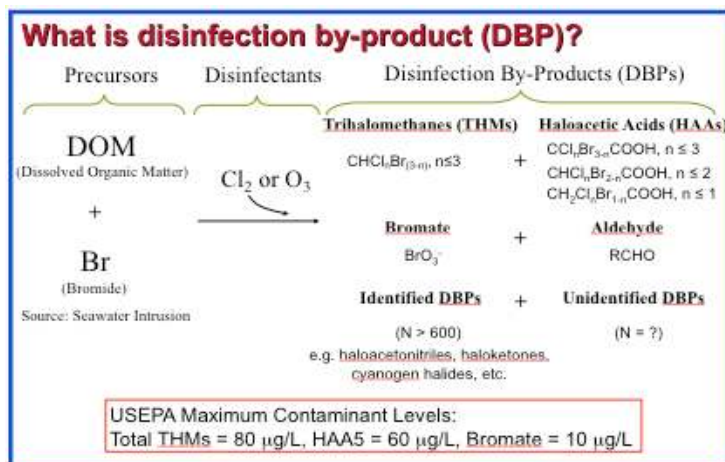


Figure 1. A host of disinfection byproducts can be formed during drinking water disinfection.

Tea-colored like DOM leached from fresh and decomposed litter materials laying on forested watersheds and wetlands are sources of DOM in coastal blackwater rivers (Figure 2). Chromophore, part of organic molecules responsible for producing color, is related to aromatic carbon content and considered the major reactive moiety with respect to DBP formation during chlorination.



Figure 2. Detritus materials—a major source of dissolved organic material in coastal blackwater rivers.

Dr. Alex Chow, faculty at Clemson's Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology & Forest Science, is currently studying the chemical characteristics of DOM leached from foliar litters to determine potential impacts on drinking water quality. In upcoming issues, Dr. Chow will provide more fundamental knowledge about drinking water disinfection and disinfection byproducts and update his research progress.

Waccamaw River Blue Trail—Come paddle with us!

With the warmer weather, paddlers are taking to the water and experiencing not only the beauty of our local rivers but also the benefits of being in nature and being active. With our abundant water resources, paddling is just one aspect of an ecotouristic future that we think is a path to sustainability for our area's natural heritage and economy.

To encourage you to enjoy this resource, we offer a quarterly paddling event, entitled "If the river could talk". **Our next paddle is scheduled for Saturday, June 11th.** We are partnering with Black River Outdoors Center to enjoy the tidal creeks of the Waccamaw River in the Pawley's Island area. More information is available at our website or by calling 843-349-4007. Come join us, enjoy the beautiful Waccamaw River and support a local outfitter and our education and advocacy programs.

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.

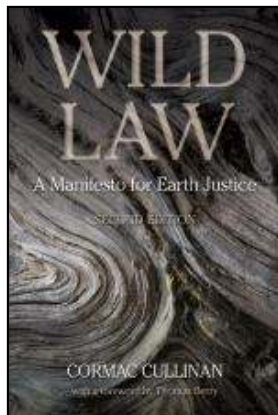
We have officially launched the **Adopt a Landing Program.** Information and an application is posted on our website. Interested groups are asked to complete the application and commit to a minimum of twice yearly cleanups at their adopted landing. Thanks to those who have signed up!

Note: Efforts continue in North Carolina to expand the Blue Trail upstream. Call 843-349-4007 to get involved.



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...



Wild Law

A Manifesto for Earth Justice

Authored by Cormac Cullinan, this is an inspiring book for anyone who cares about Earth governance and jurisprudence. Recognizing that many laws and policies have failed to protect nature, the author uses politics, theory and ancient wisdom to offer practical guidance on how to steward the Earth.

Available for purchase at Amazon and other booksellers.

SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 24TH

RIVER CELEBRATION A Benefit for the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®

Spend your afternoon by the River...

Local craft & food vendors
Kayak/Canoe Races
Guided River Trip

Enjoy an elegant evening at the Lower River Warehouse...

Heavy hors d'oeuvres
Beer & wine
Silent auction fun
Music

Please consider sponsoring our event.

In Memoriam...

Memorial donations were received from Frank and Valerie Moliterno in memory of **Rachel Broadhurst** because of her love of the environment and her civic mindedness and from Joy and Joe Pinson in memory of **Emily Schultz** because of her important role as one of the founders of Winyah Rivers Foundation.

On behalf of all of us, thank you for honoring these friends and kindred spirits through donations that support the mission of Winyah Rivers Foundation.

BUSINESS HONORARY RIVERKEEPER



BUSINESS DEFENDER

Alternatives COAST



BUSINESS ADVOCATE

BLACKWATER, LLC

VAUGHT EYE ASSOCIATES

WACCA WACHE MARINA

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
 P.O. Box 261954
 Conway, SC 29528-6054



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
Myrtle Beach
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Waccamaw River Paddle
June 11

WRF Board Meeting
Myrtle Beach, SC
July 12

Waccamaw River Paddle
August 6

Cape Fear Arch Conservation
Collaboration Meeting
August 17

!SAVE THE DATE!

RIVER CELEBRATION
A benefit for
the Waccamaw Riverkeeper
Conway, SC
September 24

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

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

Printed on recycled paper.

Your membership supports our work!

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|--|------------|
| Guardian through Champion categories earn rewards. | Date _____ |
| Introductory (1st Year Only) \$ 35.00 _____ | |
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| Guardian \$ 100.00 _____ | |
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| 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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Winyah Rivers Foundation
 (843)349-4007
 WRK@coastal.edu
 www.winyahivers.org

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 Chris Millus, Conway, SC
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 Doug Smith, Whiteville, NC
 Becky Westbrooks, Chadbourn, NC

The Staff

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.