

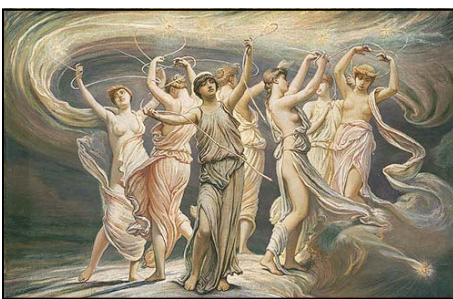
Save the Seven Sisters !



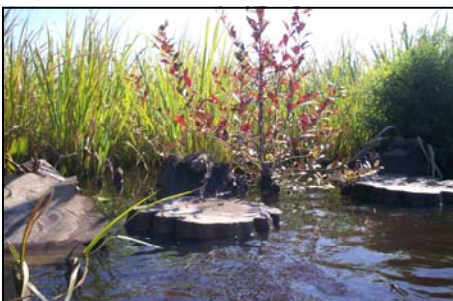
Seven Sisters—standing alone in the old rice fields.

Like sentinels watching over the historic rice fields stand seven of the remaining trees in the wetlands adjacent to the Waccamaw River in Pawleys Island. Coined the “Seven Sisters” by local resident and avid kayaker, Mary Gale Budzisz, these trees remain while many others in the channels and along the river have been timbered. Mary Gale first noticed that trees were being cut in February and became more alarmed over time with the denuding of the area. Her suspicions were raised when she heard what sounded like timbering activity during the dead of night. A subsequent kayak trip revealed cut cypress trees on a neighboring property and even more decimation in the rice fields. Having kayaked in the area over 6 years, Mary Gale has been witness to the destruction of the cypress trees in the area and alarmed about the changes to her beloved rice fields and river. Concern and anger caused her to alert others to this

activity, including the Waccamaw Riverkeeper who subsequently joined Mary Gale on a kayak trip to investigate the situation. What we observed was not only evidence of timbering but also what looked to be disruption of the wetlands along the river; hence, the US Army Corps of Engineers was contacted and provided with information to assist in their investigation. Sadly, to date, we continue to await resolution. In the meantime, the Seven Sisters bear witness to the devastation. Like their mythological counterpart, Pleiades, the seven sisters born to Atlas, a titan who held up the sky, and the oceanid Pleione, the protectress of sailing, these Seven Sisters inspire wonder, the wonder of our natural resources and we wonder, can they be saved?



The Dance of the Pleiades—E. Vedder



Conservationists Common Agenda

60 conservationists from across the state, including Winyah Rivers Foundation, convened for the Common Agenda meeting in September, choosing a handful of timely issues to focus on in 2009:

- **Water Use** (withdrawal permitting)
- **Energy Efficiency** (Energy savings target, modernized building codes)
- **Conservation Bank** (Increased land protection funding)
- **Renewable Energy** (Portfolio Standard, Infrastructure Fund, Solar Access)
- **Water Quality & Conservation** (tiered water rates, stream buffers, clean up polluted waters)
- **Clean, Healthy Air** (Clean up diesel particulate pollution)

Global Awareness Project 2009 Calendar

The Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program is one of 12 nonprofits featured in GAP's 2009 Calendar, What's Your Cultural Vision, available soon. Gap's mission is to create awareness in the community by promoting charitable organizations through the arts.

Thank you to My Morning Jacket!

On Sunday, August 31st, My Morning Jacket performed at the House of Blues in North Myrtle Beach.. The Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program was chosen as the local charity to receive \$1 from each ticket sold. Tickets sold out! Thanks to My Morning Jacket!

2008 RIVER ROAST @ RIPLEYS

It was another successful evening in support of Winyah Rivers Foundation's Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program on Saturday, November 8th, thanks to our sponsors, donors, volunteers and participants!

Hosted by Ripley's Aquarium in Myrtle Beach, our guests enjoyed not only the venue itself but also the annual Festival of Trees and the wonderful food and services provided by the Chef and staff at Ripley's. Thank you to Peter MacIntyre, General Manager of Ripley's and Treasurer of Winyah Rivers Foundation, and Ripley's staff!



Supporters enjoying the Roast

Our sincere thanks to our many supporters, including our sponsors who helped finance the event, donors who generously donated over 110 silent auction items, volunteers who helped plan and work the event, and attendees. We thank each and every one of you who helped to make our event a successful fundraiser.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE WACCAMAW RIVERKEEPER® PROGRAM!

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



James Battle...Since he can remember, James has enjoyed canoeing and fishing the local rivers in Horry County. As a teenager, he convinced his parents to buy a canoe, which he subsequently used to take his family on extended paddling excursions. And although these same family members are wary of signing up for one of James' canoe trips, he still believes paddling is the best way to see the local

wildlife and hopefully find some adventure. James is an attorney at Battle, Vaught & Howe, P.A. in Conway.

John Long...was born in Conway, SC, the son of Furman and Ann Long. A graduate of The College of Charleston (BS Business Administration), he began his career as an Inspector with the US Customs Service, earning two of its highest awards, the Humanitarian Award and the Unit Citation Award. John is an active member of Leadership Grand Strand, First United Methodist Church and on the Board for the Horry County Solid Waste Authority.

Robert Moran...Bob is a returning Board member, having served Winyah Rivers Foundation previously. An attorney with Mullett Law Firm in Pawley's Island, he has practiced in Georgetown County since 1978. His service includes Georgetown County Visitor's Bureau, the Pawley's Island Litchfield Business Association, the Georgetown County Land Bank Commission, the Sierra Club Winyah Group, and Georgetown County's Environmental Protection Society.

Would you like to receive your Newsletter by E-Mail? We can save a lot of expenses if members would agree to this method. For more information on WRF board members, or getting your newsletter by e-mail go to www.WinyahRivers.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL SPONSORS!

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We Mourn the Loss of a Friend

By: Christine Ellis, Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®

On Saturday, September 20th, volunteers joined the Waccamaw Riverkeeper in the Conway, SC area to cleanup trash in and on the banks of the Waccamaw River. Volunteers present included members of the RIVERKEEPER® Program, other area residents, local cub and scout troops and students from Coastal Carolina University. This year's cleanup was dedicated to our dear friend and longtime volunteer, Mr. Kelly Joe Elliott, the victim of a homicide at his home earlier that month. Joe was a resident of Loris, SC, born and raised in the area, an avid boater and fisherman, a lover of the Waccamaw River and a dedicated volunteer of the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program. Participants at the river cleanup each signed the official Beach Sweep River Sweep tee shirt which was provided to Joe's family. In addition, each participant honored and remembered Joe by tossing a white carnation into the river that he loved. Joe will be sadly missed by his family, friends and all the members and volunteers of the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program.



At an earlier clean up are: Dale Stevens, Joe Elliott and Buddy Freeman
Photo by: Christine Ellis

Shannon Siau—Volunteer Coordinator for Georgetown County



Shannon is the new Volunteer Coordinator, hired to assist in a part-time capacity with our volunteer efforts in Georgetown County. A native of the area and currently a resident of Pawleys Island, she is working to promote our mission and volunteerism within the communities that are part of the Waccamaw River watershed and the greater Winyah Bay drainage area. A graduate of the Waccamaw Riverkeeper's Neighborhood Environmental Watch (Or

How to be a River Watcher) Program, Shannon has a BA in Psychology from Columbia College and an AA in Business Management from Spartanburg Methodist College. Please welcome Shannon!

Updates from the Waccamaw Watershed Academy...

Ken Hayes joined Coastal Carolina University's Burroughs and Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies as an Environmental Laboratory Technician and Coordinator for the Volunteer Monitoring Projects. Born in Indianapolis, Ken has lived in several states including Michigan and Illinois. A 1998 graduate of CCU's Marine Science Program, he most recently was employed as a Research Specialist with the University of South Carolina's Belle W. Baruch Institute. Ken's research interests focus on coastal water quality and eutrophication dynamics and the physiological ecology of toxic/nuisance algae. Ken feels strongly that volunteer monitoring is vital to our community and to efforts to protect the Waccamaw.



Quaye Trimble is the new GIS Manager at Coastal Carolina University's Burroughs and Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies. His responsibilities include design and implementation of geospatial information systems, supporting GIS/database research functions and maintaining the Center's website. Prior to joining CCU,

Quaye was employed by The Booth Company in Myrtle Beach and Advanced Technology Solutions, Inc. in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. A graduate of Millersville University of Pennsylvania (BA, Geography), Quaye is enrolled in the Master of GIS program at Penn State University's World Campus.

Many thanks to all who donated to the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program in memory of Joe.

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FROM THE RIVER

by: Hal Vivian

MY TWO CENTS WORTH...

If you didn't attend this year's **River Roast @ Ripley's**, you missed out on a great event. The volunteer committee did a fantastic job, led by **Reg Daves** who kept us on the straight and narrow. **Peter MacIntyre** and the **Ripley's Aquarium staff** went above and beyond assisting us and ensuring the event was successful. The food was great, the donations for the silent auction were of top quality and, most important, fun was had by all. A special thanks goes to **Crystal** and **Christine** for exceptional work, advice and help.

We have already booked for next year, **November 7th, the 2009 River Roast @ Ripley's**. So mark those calendars and don't miss out. This is our **BIG** fundraiser for the year. We need your help and support. Volunteers welcome!

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 4

GREEN DRINKS, MYRTLE BEACH
 5—7 PM. @ TOMMY BAHAMA'S
 MARKET COMMONS

JANUARY 17—18

WINYAH BAY HERITAGE FESTIVAL
 GEORGETOWN

JANUARY 29

RIVER ROAST SOUTH
 6:00 PM.
 KIMBEL LODGE @ HOBCAW BARONY

FEBRUARY 28

WACCAMAW CONFERENCE
 8 AM-1:30 PM.
 WACCAMAW HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER
 LITCHFIELD BEACH

Join us!

Guardian through Champion categories earn rewards.

Introductory (1st. Year Only)	\$ 35.00	_____
Protector	\$ 50.00	_____
Guardian	\$ 100.00	_____
Advocate	\$ 250.00	_____
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Champion	\$1000.00	_____

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(Certificate, recognition in one newsletter)		
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)		

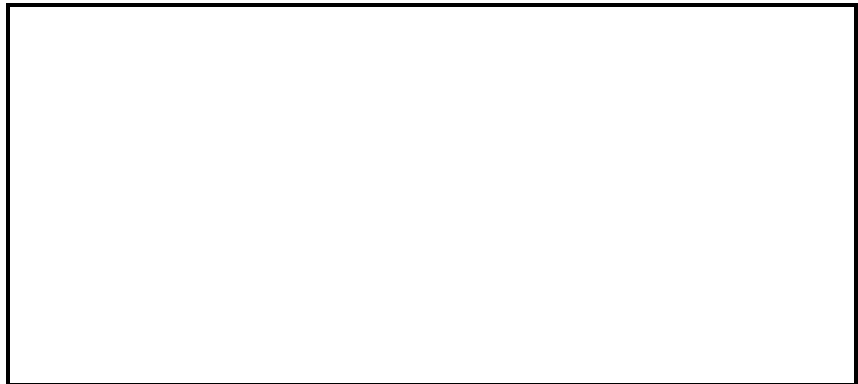
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 Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Winyah Rivers Foundation
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 WRK@coastal.edu
 www.WinyahRivers.org

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 Christine Ellis

Assistant and Editor of RIVERSPEAK
 Crystal Caschera

Volunteer Coordinator—Georgetown County
 Shannon Siau

