

Riverspeak

News from WINYAH RIVERS FOUNDATION



Sponsor of the WACCAMAW RIVERKEEPER® PROGRAM

WINTER 2011/2012

Volume 11 Issue 4

We are thankful for the supporters of River Celebration A benefit for the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®

Held in downtown Conway, river lovers gathered to enjoy a fun afternoon festival and an elegant evening of silent auction fun...see page 2.

RIVER CELEBRATION
A benefit for the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®

Thank you Sponsors!

Advocate for the River: Anonymous
Guardian of the River: Anonymous

Conway Medical Center
Hal & Alice Vivian
Larry W. Paul
Protector of the River: Conway Medical Center, Hal & Alice Vivian, Larry W. Paul

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Wacca Wache Marina
The Westbrook's

Other sponsors shown: 101 MINI STORAGE, IGA, ONE HOUR, Palmetto Chevrolet, Vaught Eye, Wacca Wache Marina, HANDY & BECKY WESTBROOKS.

From your Riverkeeper

All I want for Christmas is... safe, clean water for drinking, swimming and fishing.

In 2012, we'll be joining with other WATERKEEPER®s to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. We will celebrate its successes, activate communities to protect their right to swimmable, drinkable & fishable waters, and advocate to draw attention to the fact that it is under assault.

What does clean water mean to you? A glass of cold water on a hot day, a favorite swimming hole, fishing with the kids. Clean water is essential to our life. Isn't it worth fighting for? It took a movement to create the Clean Water Act. It will take a movement to protect our clean water.



What can you do? Sign the Red, White and Water pledge. Join the many individuals and companies who support our efforts. Take a moment to make your year-end contribution to help ensure that we will be here, with you, protecting your source of water for drinking, recreation & enjoyment for our families & our future.

This holiday season, we want to give thanks to our members. Through your generous support, we are into our 2nd decade of protecting your river resources. Thank you for making our work possible and best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Save the date... Saturday, February 4th

2012 Waccamaw Conference

Coastal Carolina University's Waccamaw Higher Education Center, Litchfield Beach
8:00 am to 12:30 pm - breakfast, seminars & demonstrations

\$10 advance & member price/\$15 at the door (includes hot breakfast buffet)

Join the experts to learn some simple techniques to protect our community's most valuable asset...our water!

Oyster Roast & Southern Buffet
by Litchfield Beach Fish House

Kimbel Lodge @ Hobcaw Barony, Georgetown
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

\$30 advance & member price/\$35 at the door

Tickets available online (www.winyahrivers.org) or by calling (843) 349-4007.

Cont'd...The afternoon included handicrafts from local artisans and generous donations by The Spots, Donzelle's, Pepsi Bottling Ventures & River Memories. Burroughs-Chapin Art Museum sponsored the creation of a mosaic of the Waccamaw. The highlight was our Inaugural Bridge to Bridge Canoe & Kayak Race, organized by Frank Eaton & the Yakkity Yakers who put together goodie bags for competitors, including a River Celebration T shirt (Drake Cartrette design). Even the rain couldn't dissuade our



intrepid paddlers. Thanks to all who helped make our afternoon so fun! For the evening, volunteers transformed the Lower River Warehouse into a magical place of celebration. Many contributed to the evening's success; hors d'oeuvres by Murrells Inlet Seafood, beer donated by California Dreaming, wine donated by Harriette Harvey), the beautiful music of Lola and of Sarah Wellons, furniture from CCU Theatre and Trinity Methodist Church, and the generous donations of local individuals and businesses to our fantastic silent auction. Thank you to all!



GONE TOO SOON...

Frances Freeman—Frances volunteered as a Waccamaw River water monitor along with her son, Buddy, a longtime Riverkeeper volunteer. She was a treasure, bringing joy to all she met and is sadly missed.

Paul Hutson Moody—Hut was a longtime Riverkeeper volunteer, participating in river cleanups, water monitoring, and as a board member His bountiful laugh still rings in our ears and warms our hearts.

Don Lacy—Don was an early supporter of Winyah Rivers Foundation, contributing much to our long-term success. In memory of Don and his many contributions, a donation was made to WRF by the Moliternos of Myrtle Beach.

Genevieve Chandler Peterkin—"Sister" will be remembered for her many significant contributions in environmental preservation and her many literary works.

CAROLYN'S CORNER



The successful launch of our new Adopt-a-Landing Program was held in conjunction with South Carolina's Beach Sweep/River Sweep. Groups who have joined the effort got the chance to make a difference at their adopted landing. This coordinated cleanup took place along 100+ miles in SC on Sept 17. A similar event was held upstream on Oct 1 when we participated in NC's Big Sweep at Pireway. Previous RIVERKEEPER® cleanups had not been as expansive but, with this newly launched program, the entire river can benefit from volunteers picking up litter along its length. Of course, with a larger scale cleanup, more debris would be expected to be pulled from the river. These expanded efforts resulted in more debris removed in every category, except one...a reduction in the collection of fishermen's bait containers. How nice it is to see an 80% reduction in bait containers left on the river banks from folks who value the river and its fish resources. A great litter cleanup effort by all our volunteers! Thank you to Winyah Bass Masters, Service Over Self, Thomas and Hutton Engineering, Grand Strand Ducks Unlimited, Murrells Inlet 20/20, Hannah Bananas Sunshine Cabana, Wacca Wache Marina, Mid Week Bass Club, Wilkes/Shelley family, Wildlife Action – Horry County, Yakkity Yakers, Hennifords, and four CCU student groups; Eco-Reps, Students for Environmental Action, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and Beta Gamma Sigma Sorority. These groups have adopted landings and enlisted their own volunteers to protect our waters, committing to clean up the litter that is a danger to wildlife, our safety and our economy. Call us to adopt your local landing. We encourage you to join us. The River will thank you!

TIME MARCHES ON...

WORK TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT CONTINUES

On November 3rd, we joined with Sierra Club—Winyah Group members to celebrate 25 years working to protect communities, wild places and the planet itself. Founded by a local grassroots initiative within Sierra Club—Winyah



Group, the members of Winyah Rivers Foundation celebrate with our Sierra Club—Winyah Group friends.

Happy Anniversary & Congratulations!

Waccamaw River Blue Trail—Come paddle with us!

On Saturday, October 1st at Cox Ferry Lake Recreation Area we celebrated the official release of the Waccamaw River Blue Trail map in conjunction with the Refuge's boardwalk dedication and acquisition of the Long Tract. The Blue Trail maps are available from local outfitters and at our office (please call first to make sure we're in the office).

Our November 12th "If the river could talk" paddle was fantastic with 28 paddlers enjoying the warm fall weather while paddling our beautiful black water river and touring the Sandy Island Preserve. Thanks to Black River Outdoors Center for a great tour!



Our next paddle is in partnership with Black River Outdoors and is a multi-day paddle along the Waccamaw River Blue Trail from Highway 9 to Georgetown, scheduled to launch on Thursday, March 29th. Join us for the entire trip or just a part for this paddling adventure intertwined with historical interpretation celebrating the induction of two local authors, Franklin Burroughs and Charles Joyner, into the SC Academy of Authors. Mr. Burroughs is the author of *The River Home*,

chronicling his trip by canoe along the Waccamaw River. Mr. Joyner is the author of *Down by the Riverside*, a journey back in time through the SC Lowcountry along the Waccamaw River. Check our website for details as they become available.

We were surprised and delighted by the recent announcement from the America's Great Outdoors initiative that the Waccamaw River Blue Trail was selected as one of two projects of interest in North Carolina. A project separate from our SC initiative, we have been working with local stakeholders in the communities along the river in Columbus and Brunswick Counties to promote establishing a paddle trail as a tool to protect the river and its many important resources. We will continue to work with these local communities to identify and help to address their concerns regarding water quality and quantity and traditional uses, including for hunting and fishing.



A partnership project between American Rivers, Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program of Winyah Rivers Foundation and Pee Dee Land Trust. Become a fan on Facebook!

New & Upcoming Projects

- In October, we partnered with CCU's Eco Reps and the Waccamaw Watershed Academy to begin an on-campus water monitoring project.
- Volunteers in North Carolina were trained and commenced water monitoring at 4 Lake Waccamaw sites. We need volunteers for 2 River sites too.
- We're planning an outdoor classroom experience for middle school students in Columbus County, NC and Georgetown County, SC to promote scientific literacy and environmental stewardship of our rivers and their resources.

Welcome New Board Members!

We are pleased to welcome our newest board members from the North Carolina portion of the watershed; Doug Smith from the Old Dock Community of Whiteville and Phil Norris from Ash. Doug was very involved in the organization in its early years but duty called for service overseas. Phil is new to our organization but not to its mission of protection being born and raised by the River. Both bring a wealth of knowledge and passion to our cause and both are welcome additions to the Board of Directors of Winyah Rivers Foundation.

We invite you to join our Board in 2012 and help to steer the direction of our efforts on behalf of the communities we serve.

These businesses support our community's most valuable asset

OUR WATER

BUSINESS HONORARY KEEPER



BUSINESS DEFENDER

Alternatives



BUSINESS ADVOCATE

CAROLINA RADIOLOGY
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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
PERMIT #33

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2

SC Arbor Day
 Hug a tree

January 10

WRF Board Meeting
 5:30 pm

February 4

Waccamaw Conference
 8:00 am—12:30 pm

River Roast South
 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

March 3-4

Winyah Bay Heritage Festival

March 29-April 2

“If the River could talk” Paddle
 Waccamaw River Blue Trail

Check our online calendar for info.
www.winyahivers.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

Your contribution supports our most important asset—Our WATER!

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY MEMBERSHIP:

Introductory (1st Year Only)	\$ 35 _____
Protector of the River	\$ 50 _____
Guardian of the River	\$ 100 _____
Advocate of the River	\$ 250 _____
Defender of the River	\$ 500 _____
Champion of the River	\$ 1000 _____

Rewards for members Guardian to Champion
 (monogrammed items, e.g., tee, hat, poster)

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP:

Business Guardian of the River	\$ 100 _____
Business Advocate of the River	\$ 250 _____
Business Defender of the River	\$ 500 _____
Business Champion of the River	\$ 1000 _____

All business members receive a certificate & newsletter, website recognition

Event sponsors receive recognition at the event and in all publicity.

Yes, I want to support your efforts for our rivers to be fishable, swimmable and drinkable!

Name _____ We accept Visa and Master Card
 Address _____ Card Number: _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ Expiration Date _____
 Phone _____ Signature _____

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

Printed on recycled paper.

Winyah Rivers Foundation
 (843)349-4007; www.winyahivers.org

The Board

- Reggie Daves, President, Conway, SC
- Bob Moran, Vice-President, Murrells Inlet, SC
- Bill Hedgepath, Secretary, Conway, SC
- James Battle, Conway, SC
- Walt Frank, Georgetown, SC
- Richard Goldberg, Pawley’s Island, SC
- Chris Millus, Conway, SC
- Bob Mimms, Pawley’s Island, SC
- Phil Norris, Ash, NC
- Mark Ousley, Myrtle Beach, SC
- Doug Smith, Whiteville, NC
- Becky Westbrook, Chadbourn, NC

The Staff

- Waccamaw Riverkeeper—**Christine Ellis**
Riverkeeper@winyahivers.org
- Assistant Riverkeeper—**Carolyn Ross**
Carolyn@winyahivers.org



**FISHABLE
 SWIMMABLE
 DRINKABLE**

WATERKEEPER@s around the world are working locally to protect our water. We have been working for over a decade to protect our local rivers.