

Riverspeak

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

WINTER, 2006
VOLUME 6, NO. 4

Multiple Issues Keep Our New Riverkeeper Busy

by Christine Ellis, Waccamaw Riverkeeper

River "Shacks"

The Waccamaw Riverkeeper has been involved with documenting the presence of shacks on many waterways in the state, including the Waccamaw. Now the effort to remove these polluting eyesores moves to the state legislature. Proposed legislation would also include abandoned boats. We will continue the fight wherever it leads.

Green Swamp Landfill

Friends of the Green Swamp (FOGS) continues its opposition to the regional landfill proposed to be located in the Green Swamp. While a moratorium on landfills in North Carolina is in effect, the group is working on strategies to more effectively oppose the landfill and raise awareness of the impacts to this fragile ecosystem. We continue to work with FOGS to keep the Green Swamp Dump from becoming a threat to the Waccamaw River watershed.

Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater

Education Consortium

The Consortium aims to help citizens understand stormwater issues and preserve the quality of water resources in coastal southeastern South Carolina. The Waccamaw Riverkeeper is working with members of the Consortium to provide these educational services. We have agreed to include consortium information in outreach activities, specifically targeting HOA/POAs in the watershed. If you have a group that would be interested in learning more about stormwater, its potential impacts on water quality, and how to avoid detrimental effects, please contact me.

Samworth Wildlife

Management Area

Bill Martin, Board member with the Winyah Rivers Foundation, brought to our attention the impacts associated with the maintenance of dykes

along the Samworth WMA along Schooner Creek which flows into the Waccamaw River. Samworth WMA is a 1,258-acre tract managed for a wide variety of wildlife and fisheries resources, including 966 acres of wetlands managed for wintering waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species. During our boat tour of the area, we saw maintenance activities that had the potential to impact the water quality, including tree removal and digging and placing dirt piles on the creek's edge. We spoke with the on-site project manager who has invited us to tour the area to better understand these maintenance activities and the benefits of the Wildlife Management Area.

Conway Water and

Drainage Commission

Chaired by Hamp Shuping, the former Waccamaw Riverkeeper, the Commission is working to develop a revised draft stormwater ordinance for submittal to the City of Conway by early 2007 in order for Conway to meet the regulatory imposed deadline of September 2007. David Fuss and Susan Libes of the Waccamaw Watershed Academy are ex-officio members and have been instrumental in redrafting the ordinance to meet regulatory requirements and ensure that Conway's ordinance jibes with Horry County's and state requirements and technical recommendations.

(Continues on page 2.)

Scenes from the 2006 River Roast Ripleys Aquarium



A beautiful setting....



A record number of auction items...



Donna Scott, WRF board member David Scott,

Two *Easy* Ways to Clean, Ample Water

We're hired a great new Waccamaw Riverkeeper! We have a new, expanded, enthusiastic, hard working board and active committees. We're working hard on the issues and on raising the money to continue and expand our work.

But the success of the Waccamaw Riverkeeper Program and the ability of the Foundation to put keepers on other rivers in the watershed depends **directly** on our member's involvement. We, literally, cannot do what needs to be done without **you**. Here are two easy ways you can help:

Respond generously to the Annual Appeal letter you recently received.

Recruit new members for WRF.

We would very much appreciate this help.

For the Board,
Barb Postles, President

Event Signals a Smooth RK Transition

by Joy Pinson, Director

Wish you could all have been at the Changing of the Guard at my home



in Murrells Inlet September 23! After a quick downpour just before party time, we dried out and had beautiful weather. We were so pleased to have Coastal Federal Bank sponsor our

event. Gwendolyn Davis, manager of Murrells Inlet branch, was there to receive our thanks.

Hamp looked happy and handsome in his new beard with Patty at his side. We gave him our thanks, best wishes, a large photo montage of photo memories, and a gift certificate for dinner for two at The Bistro in Conway.

Christine stepped right into the Waccamaw Riverkeeper role and gave us an upbeat inspirational talk about the importance of her job and how important each of us is to this work of advocating for ample clean water for all life forms. We are all looking forward to a fine future for the Waccamaw Riverkeeper Program! Thanks for coming. Thanks for caring.

Issues update

(Continued from page 1.)

Horry County Solid Waste

Authority

As a result of the efforts of Amelia Wood, the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is investigating allegations that the Horry County Solid Waste Authority violated state law when it used chemically treated materials to build a roadway through wetlands on its property in Conway. DHEC held an enforcement conference with SWA representatives on November 16th. Outcomes resulting from this conference should be available shortly.

Beach Sweep/River Sweep

Volunteers with the Waccamaw Riverkeeper Program participated in the 18th annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep on September 16th, organized by the SC Sea Grant

Water Quality Monitoring Continues on the Waccamaw

By Christine Ellis, Waccamaw Riverkeeper

The Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring Project is in full swing and a major milestone has been met; the availability of a new online data retrieval system to access water quality data obtained by the volunteers since the project began in June 2006. The availability of the database was announced and presented at Coastal Carolina University on November 2. Attendees included volunteers, project partners and reporters from the *Sun News* and the *Horry Independent*.

The database can be accessed at <http://gis.coastal.edu/volunteermonitoring/>

The Volunteer Monitoring project was designed to collect water quality data from the Waccamaw River that will help meet state and federal requirements under the Clean Water Act, specifically requirements for public education and involvement and the detection of illicit discharges. The increased geographic and temporal coverage of water monitoring sites will assist in the development of site-specific water quality standards and will provide additional data to South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control for inclusion in their required biennial reporting to the US Environmental Protection Agency. Funding partners are the City of Conway, Horry County, Georgetown County and International Paper.

Kudos to the team involved, including: Dr. Susan Libes, Project Manager, Waccamaw Watershed Academy; Dr. Joe Bennett, Quality Assurance Officer and Laboratory Leader, Environmental Quality Lab (EQL); Davinder Randhawa, Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator, EQL; Tammie Middleton, Data Processing Leader.

But most importantly, kudos to the volunteers who are responsible for our success. We have about 25 volunteers but are still recruiting and training to expand our volunteer base and improve the program. Volunteers attend a training session to learn how to use the sampling equipment and meet quality standards. Once trained, they choose to join one of five established teams that sample a total of ten sites in South Carolina. Sites include Highway 9 Landing, Reaves Ferry, Conway Waterfront, Bucksport Landing, Pitch Landing, Enterprise Landing, Wachesaw, Hagley Landing, and Sampit River at East Bay Park.

Coordination of the team activity is mostly done by the team itself, with a team captain helping to keep all members of the team in the loop. Volunteers are responsible for coordination within their team and with both the Field Leader and the Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator. A 2007 schedule has been determined and is posted on the Volunteer Water Monitoring website.

Davinder has done much of the coordination with volunteers. Recently I have assumed some of these duties and am responsible for recruiting volunteers and working with the project manager on sampling site selection and data presentation.

We invite you to join us in this worthwhile project. For more information, please visit the website: http://www.coastal.edu/envsci/vm_project.html or contact me by at 349-4007 or by e-mail at WRK@coastal.edu.



Alice and Hal Vivian ready to work at Enterprise Landing.

Consortium and the SC Department of Natural Resources. The Waccamaw Riverkeeper also participated in the Waites Island beach sweep on November 6th.

WBTW 13 Future Focus Program

Bill Martin and the Waccamaw Riverkeeper hosted WBTW News Channel 13 on the Waccamaw River to film an episode of *Future Focus*. We discussed recreational opportunities, river shacks, water quality issues and mercury in fish. Additional information on fish advisories and mercury contamination in the River has been provided to the news station.

Winyah Rivers Foundation

has received a gift
**In memory of
Grady Simmons**

From
Jeff and Becky Lane

River Roast Benefit Auction

Nets Record Revenue

This year's River Roast Benefit Auction was a great success!

The venue was fantastic. Thanks to Peter MacIntyre for hosting us at Ripley's Aquarium. Peter's folks, Jan Connell, Event Planner, and Tom Brummer, Food and Beverage Director, did a great job helping us plan and execute the logistics. The area was beautifully decorated and wonderfully laid out. Kudos to Chef Steve Konradt who prepared a delicious buffet for about 140 attendees. The menu was great and the staff professional and gracious.

Thank you to our sponsors for the event. In addition to our Host Sponsor, Ripley's Aquarium, we had the following sponsorships:

Silver Sponsors (\$500 contribution)

Palmetto Chevrolet

Thanks to Bill Marsh, WRF Board Member and President of Palmetto Chevrolet

Hal and Alice Vivian

Active members of WRF

Bronze Sponsors (\$250 contribution)

Beach First Bank

Thanks to Kendall Buckner, WRF Board Member and Vice President of Beach First Bank

Wacca Wache Marina

Thanks to Andrea Peterson, WRF Board Member and owner/operator of Wacca Wache Marina

David and Donna Scott

Thanks to David Scott, WRF Board Member

M. Robin Morris, RN, LLC,

Attorney and Counsellor at Law

Thanks to Richard Moore, WRF Board Member for soliciting this sponsorship

Fear Knot, DRM 2 Holdings LLC

Thanks to Bill Martin, WRF Board Member for soliciting this sponsorship

Philip and Ruth Keilen

Philip is the former development consultant to WRF

Centex Homes

Thanks to Richard Freedom, Director of Marketing at Centex Homes

First Federal Bank

Thanks to Bill Nelson, VP, Instore Retail Banking at First Federal Bank

Barb and Dave Postles

Barb is President, Winyah Rivers Foundation

Thank you also to our many businesses and individuals who donated items for the silent auction portion of our evening. We had 127 items--72 art pieces, 20 bountiful baskets, 17 gift certificates, 18 events and 3 miscellaneous items. Almost everything sold!

The evening was a success as a result of the organizing committee and the many volunteers who helped in the planning and execution of the event. The organizing committee consisted of **Judy Ellis, Valerie Moliterno, Joy Pinson** and **Christine Ellis**. During the event, we had several other volunteers recruited helped out, including; **Lee Brockington, Hut Moody, Jennifer Kleinfelder, Kim Pekar, Margaret DeSousa, Margie and Bob Wolfe, Becky and Matt Billingsly, Kay Nance, Joe Pinson, Roy Pinson, Para Sparpaglione, Robert Whitmore, Carla Makela, and Donald Pierman**. They all did a marvelous job and we sincerely thank them for their efforts and enthusiasm!

As a result of the generosity of sponsors and donors alike, we exceeded our goal of \$10,000 profit from the event by almost \$4,000. Thanks to all involved!

Outdoor Recreation Generates Big Dollars

According to a report from the Outdoor Industry Foundation, outdoor recreation contributes \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supports nearly 6.5 million jobs across the U.S., generates \$88 billion in annual state and national tax revenue, provides sustainable growth in rural communities, and generates \$289 billion annually. The full report is at <http://www.outdoorindustryfoundation.org/ActiveOutdoorRecreation.pdf>

earth.google.com

If you are not familiar with this website, give it a try. It's fascinating, and it's another way to monitor the Waccamaw River. Check out the river shacks.

RiverTalk

by Christine Ellis,
Waccamaw Riverkeeper

As I write this, I'm a day shy of my three month anniversary as Waccamaw Riverkeeper. In that time, my overwhelming impression is that there are many, many people who love the Waccamaw River and who support 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."



From the welcome I received at the "Changing of the Guard" party, sponsored by Coastal Federal Bank and hosted by Joe and Joy Pinson, to the success of our annual River Roast Benefit Auction, thanks to our many sponsors, donors and attendees, and all the meetings and talks and river trips I've taken in between, there is overwhelming support for the Waccamaw Riverkeeper" Program.

There are many pressures on our watershed, not the least of which is the rapid growth in our area. Our group is the neighborhood "environmental watch" group, with our eyes and ears on the river in our local communities. Talk to your family, friends, neighbors, businesses, and government representatives, anyone who has a stake in the river. Let them know about our mission and how they can help by keeping us informed about issues of concern. The more I can get out into the communities to talk about our work, the more support our mission gains.

We are a community made up of individuals, groups and institutions with a stake in the protection of this valuable resource. And we all have a critical role to play. We must work collaboratively to understand and address the issues that affect our watershed. We own the problems. We own the solutions. And, as local stakeholders, we can identify locally relevant solutions that take into account our community's unique social, economic and environmental conditions and values.

The mission can be a little daunting as there are 140 miles of river to cover, a large drainage basin (about 1110 square miles), two states and many diverse communities whose interests and viewpoints may vary. By working together, we have a high likelihood of long-term success. With your help, we can and will protect this valuable resource, the Waccamaw River Watershed.



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2007 Calendar

March:

Waccamaw Conference
 Kingston Swamp Cleanup

April:

Pireway Riversweep

May:

Highway 9 Cleanup

June

Waccamaw Riverkeeper
 Rendezvous, Conway
 Pireway Paddlefest

November:

River Roast

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

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

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Winyah Rivers Foundation

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 www.WinyahRivers.org

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Waccamaw Riverkeeper™

Christine Ellis

