

# Riverspeak

News from the WINYAH RIVERS FOUNDATION



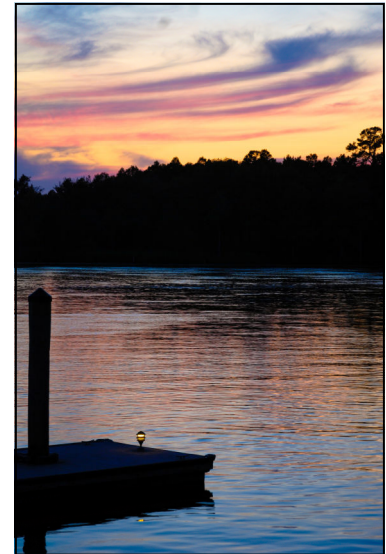
Sponsor of the WACCAMAW RIVERKEEPER® PROGRAM

WINTER 2009/2010

Volume 9 Issue 4

## Celebrate Our Rivers @ Ripley's A Great Success!!

The Celebrate Our Rivers fundraiser took place on November 7 and once again our host sponsor Ripley's Aquarium created a wonderful setting. Special thanks to our event sponsors! NextMedia and WPDE Channel 15 helped again with advertising our event. NextMedia provided a Digital Billboard. WPDE created a commercial and Meteorologist Ed Piotrowski announced our event on his weather report. We would like to welcome Crescent Bank and Goldfinch Funeral Services to our family of sponsors for this event. They join our sponsors, past and present, including an anonymous donor, Hal and Alice Vivian, 803 Labs, Palmetto Chevrolet, Wacca Wache Marina and Moore, Johnson & Saraniti Law Firm, P.A. We are also very appreciative of those businesses and individuals who donated items for our silent auction, one of the best in the area, in my opinion. And a big thanks to all our volunteers and supporters!



"Sunset at Wachesaw"  
By: Sherry Kelley



Thank you to our 2009 Celebrate Our Rivers sponsors, donors & our hard working volunteers!



Moore, Johnson & Saraniti  
Law Firm, P.A.



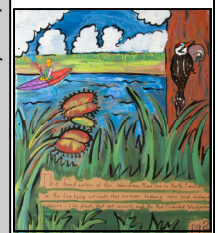
"Sunset at Wachesaw is featured along with the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program in the 2010 Global Awareness Project calendar. The photo is one of two taken by Ms Kelley and donated to us. Both "Sunset at Wachesaw" and "Reflecting on the Waccamaw" are available for purchase as 20"x30" posters.

Global Awareness Project (GAP) is an innovative non-profit organization created to connect the fabric of charitable agencies to one another and the community at large. Using the mediums of photography, video, fine art, multimedia and journalism. GAP's founders Jessica Durivage and Carl Kerridge work to create awareness in the community by promoting charitable organizations through the arts. This is our 2nd year being featured in GAP's calendar.

Please call today and reserve your 2010 GAP Synergy calendar. It's a great way to keep up with our events. \$1 donation requested.

The calendar is just one of the GAP projects that we are a part of. We were honored to be the featured non-profit at the first of GAP's Summer Art Walk at Market Commons series where we created "The Story of the Waccamaw", painted by children that stopped by the art tent. Not only did the kids have a great time but we adults enjoyed the fun too!!

Story book about the origins of the Waccamaw River, illustrated by a collaboration of artists who donated their time to the GAP project. Please go to our website to view the entire 15 page story-book and the two posters now available for purchase.



## Waccamaw River Blue Trail Update

by Christine Ellis

In December, American Rivers released the results of a recent poll conducted by American Viewpoint in Horry and Georgetown Counties concerning the Waccamaw River. Overwhelming majorities (93% total) in both counties believe it is very or somewhat important to protect the Waccamaw River. The main reasons for protecting the river were because it provides beautiful views, home for wildlife, opportunities for families to spend time outside together and clean drinking water for local communities.

The Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® is a proud partner, along with the Pee Dee Land Trust, in the Waccamaw River Blue Trail project, led by Staci Williams of American Rivers. "This poll confirms what we already suspected, that residents are invested in protecting this amazing local treasure," said Staci, "Through the creation of the blue trail we will protect nature so our families have a safe place to experience the outdoors together."

When polled, majorities in both counties expressed overwhelming support for the Waccamaw River Blue Trail, the water equivalent of a hiking trail. And, by wide margins, voters said they were more likely to support a candidate for local office who pledged to work to establish the Waccamaw River Blue Trail. The poll also found that strong majorities in both counties support controlling pollution and protecting important natural areas along the Waccamaw River by strengthening laws relating to development, public purchasing of land and offering tax breaks to developers. This extended across both counties, among men and women, among all age groups, among all partisans, and among all income and education levels.

**Happy Holidays and Happy New Year  
from your friends at Winyah Rivers Foundation!**



Gratitude best expresses my sentiments at this time of year. Author, educator, and motivational speaker William Arthur Ward is quoted as saying “feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” Appropriate for this time of year when many of us exchange presents with family and friends. **There are many who are deserving and to whom I wish to express my sincere gratitude.**

First and foremost are our members and volunteers who not only help to financially support our nonprofit organization but who also volunteer their time and energy to help us accomplish our mission of protection of the Waccamaw River and other rivers of the greater Winyah Bay watershed. With your support, we have accomplished much this year.

At the local community level, we work on projects that add to the scientific knowledge about this area. One project is the **Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring Project** in which committed volunteers help to monitor water quality in the river, establish water quality trends and identify illicit discharges that impact our local freshwater source.

Another project is a newly launched initiative with Georgetown’s Service Over Self youth volunteer group. A group of SOS youth, self-coined as “**Youth for a Healthier Sampit River**”, have committed to a year-long program to monitor and steward this watershed.

We also work closely with our government agencies. At the state level, we partner with other organizations to advance environmental protections in our area. This included successful efforts opposing Santee Cooper’s proposal to build the Pee Dee Energy Campus on the Pee Dee River, thus eliminating a potential new source of Mercury to our already impaired rivers, and promoting energy efficiency and alternative energy sources for South Carolina. In addition, through a Common Agenda process, hosted by Conservation Voters of SC, we partnered in the conservation community’s legislative priorities to promote during the coming General Session.

Regionally, we participate with the Neuse River Foundation and the other North Carolina WATERKEEPERS® in the **Muddy Water Watch™** program to tackle contamination of our waterways from polluted sediment runoff associated with construction activities.

At the national level, we are proud members of WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE and participate in nationwide campaigns, including: Clean Energy and the **Clean Coal is a Dirty Lie** campaign; **Pure Farms, Pure Waters** – our campaign to protect rural watersheds from factory farm pollution and to protect the security of family owned, sustainable farms; and **Defending Clean Water** and support of the Clean Water Restoration Act and reaffirmation of our right to safe, clean, drinkable and swimmable waters.

John F. Kennedy once stated “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” You can be assured that our efforts will continue on your behalf as we work 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.*

Please accept my deepest gratitude for your support of the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program of Winyah Rivers Foundation. You are the lifeblood of our organization, the reason for our existence and the true champions of the environment. You are a part of our family now and forever. **Thank you and Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year to all!**

**ANNUAL MEETING & RIVER ROAST**

**Friday, January 29th, beginning at 5:30 pm**  
Kimbel Lodge @ Hobcaw Barony, Georgetown

In 2010 our annual meeting will be held in conjunction with River Roast South @ Hobcaw Barony. Board members and staff will be introduced and provide updates on our programs and goals for the coming year.

Following the Annual Meeting we will enjoy an oyster roast and a southern buffet catered by Bob Mimms of Litchfield Beach Fish House.

Come enjoy Hobcaw Barony and delicious oysters with us!

**Tickets are available online or by calling 349-4007.**



**WRF 3rd ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST**

Entries for the 2010 Photo Contest will be accepted beginning February 1, 2010. The deadline for entries is April 9. We received so many beautiful photos depicting the wonders of the Winyah Bay watershed and are very eager to see what the 2010 contest will bring. Thanks to the generosity of the Franklin G. Burroughs -Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum, the awards ceremony will be Friday, April 30th at the Museum in Myrtle Beach. Thank you to the **Horry Independent** in Conway and **803 Labs** of Myrtle Beach for their sponsorship of the 2010 Photo Contest.

**Please visit [www.winyahrivers.org](http://www.winyahrivers.org) for contest rules and instructions for entry.**



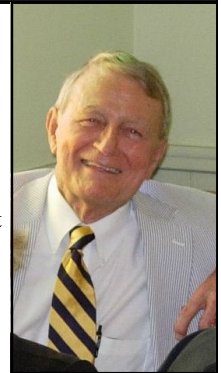
**WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS**



Dr. Walt Frank of Georgetown, SC

Dr. Walt Frank joined our Board in September. Walt grew up far from any waterways amidst the cornfields of central Illinois. Since moving to Pawley’s Island, he has become an enthusiastic advocate for water quality and wildlife. Welcome aboard Walt!

Jim is a longtime supporter of Winyah Rivers Foundation. Since retiring from the Aerospace Industry he has been very active locally, serving on the boards of Murrells Inlet 2020, Georgetown Water & Sewer, Myrtle Beach Flying Club and now Winyah Rivers Foundation. Welcome aboard Jim!



Jim Wilkie of Murrells Inlet, SC

The staff and Board of Directors look forward to working with both of you in the New Year and beyond!

Prince George Garden Club has made a donation to honor **Linda Clos**, co-owner of “Backyard Birds” in Murrells Inlet.

**We have lost a longtime supporter**  
by Zane Wilson

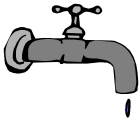
The conservation community has lost a strong but quiet voice for preservation with the passing of **George William “Bill” DeSousa** at age 93.

A life member of The Nature Conservancy and former Connecticut state chairman, Bill died on May 30, 2009, only four months after moving back to Connecticut from Murrells Inlet so that he and his wife Margaret could be closer to their children.

A fixture at local conservation organization meetings since the early 1980s, Bill was an early supporter of Winyah Rivers Foundation. He was active in The Nature Conservancy here and was a founding member of the Botany Support Fund and Bird Study Support Fund at Coastal Carolina University. He was also a member of the Sierra Club and Audubon Society.

Bill was a 1938 graduate of Princeton and spent his career in electronics, including the early days of semiconductors for such firms as General Motors and Sperry Rand. He will be sadly missed by all of us at Winyah Rivers Foundation.

**A memorial gift in honor of Mr. DeSousa has been presented to Winyah Rivers Foundation by founder Joy Pinson.**



## FROM THE RIVER

by: Hal Vivian

### Where has the year gone!

It is hard to believe the year has passed by so quickly. It's December and I'm only up to June on my list of things to do, but on to the task at hand.

Have we made progress - **YES!**

Do we have more to do - **YES!**

With the economy and the holidays coming up the RIVERKEEPER® program can get lost in the shuffle. We know that you will keep us in mind and help when possible. We have mentioned in the past that although financial help is always needed, time given is just as important. As we get ready for the New Year, plans/direction is being worked on. We could use your **input and time** to help keep us on the right track.

As a supporter, I want to thank everyone for the tremendous effort for 2009. Special thanks go to Christine, Crystal and Shannon for their devotion and dedication. FOLKS, we can't do it without them. And to the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs, good work and much success in 2010!

## IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER!

**CONWAY KAYAK  
IS FIRST TO OFFER DISCOUNTS  
TO OUR MEMBERS!**

**PRESENT YOUR CURRENT  
MEMBERSHIP CARD AND  
RECEIVE 20% OFF KAYAK RENTALS**

**Our friends at Hannah Banana's Sunshine Cabana  
at the Wacca Wache Marina  
now offer biodegradable take home containers!  
It isn't cheap for this small business but they have  
made the commitment to our environment!**

What can you do?



**Craig Coleman, City Executive  
with BB&T Bank is presented with their  
"Business Champion Certificate" by  
Peter MacIntyre, WRF Treasurer**

## BUSINESS HONORARY RIVERKEEPER



## BUSINESS CHAMPION



## BUSINESS DEFENDER



## BUSINESS ADVOCATE

**The Cypress Inn,  
Conway**

**Hannah Banana's Sunshine  
Cabana, Murrells Inlet**

### Preserving Water Quality in the Greater Winyah Bay Watershed

Water...fresh water...clean water...our most important basic need. We need to protect a clean and ample supply of water. We need to protect the quality of our drinking water. We need to improve water quality in our rivers. We need to invest in preserving our region's water quality.

#### Waccamaw River Volunteer Monitoring Program

Now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, we are very proud of our volunteer-based water quality monitoring program on the Waccamaw River. The program is helping to meet government mandated requirements for public education and involvement in stormwater pollution prevention, assisting in the detection and elimination of illicit discharges to our surface waters, and increasing geographic and temporal coverage of water quality monitoring to enable development of site specific water quality standards. The program is extremely successful, lauded by the local municipalities (Georgetown County, Horry County, City of Conway) who fund the program, by the USGS whose data are corroborated by ours, and by EPA and SC DHEC who value the quality of our data and have plans to include these data in their agency reporting.

Interested in the data obtained by our dedicated volunteers? Want to see water quality trends at specific sampling locations along the Waccamaw River? Go to <https://bcmw.coastal.edu/volunteermonitoring/wr/>

#### Water Quality Management Plan for the Waccamaw Region

In January, the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments will begin the process of updating the Waccamaw 208 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan for Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties to ensure that it addresses our current and future water resource needs and water quality issues. Last updated October '98, the Section 208 Plan aims to: 1) Provide a water quality assessment of our local surface waters; 2) Develop strategies to improve the water quality of impacted waters; 3) Identify cost-effective, innovative, and environmentally sound wastewater treatment alternatives, land application alternatives, and stormwater management alternatives; 4) Maintain a 20 year long-term planning time horizon that analyzes the projected wastewater treatment needs of the Waccamaw region; and 5) Coordinate with local stakeholders in developing strategies such as riparian buffer setback regulations and conservation subdivision ordinances to minimize the impacts of non-point source pollution on our local waters. The Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® is proud to participate in this process.

#### Common Agenda

Through the Common Agenda process, we support setting legislative priorities to protect our water. Clean, abundant water must be a priority for our state and several issues are of concern for 2010, including requiring: water users to obtain a permit for surface water withdrawals and ensure the maintenance of necessary flows in our rivers; and public notification of major spills from any wastewater plant and a "three strikes" provision for those utilities that have three major spills within one year. At a minimum, these legislative initiatives will support our efforts to be responsible stewards of our water.

**Want to know more? Call the Waccamaw Riverkeeper at (843) 349-4007.**

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**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29**

Annual Meeting &  
 River Roast South @ Hobcaw Barony

**FEBRUARY 1 thru APRIL 9**

Entries Accepted for  
 2010 PHOTO CONTEST

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

Waccamaw Conference  
 &  
 "If The River Could Talk"  
 Paddle Trip

**SATURDAY, MARCH 27**

Waccamaw River Cleanup in Conway

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

**Membership has its Rewards**

*Join us!*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian through Champion categories will earn rewards.

Introductory (1st Year Only)	\$ 35.00	_____
Protector	\$ 50.00	_____
Guardian	\$ 100.00	_____
Advocate	\$ 250.00	_____
Defender	\$ 500.00	_____
Champion	\$1000.00	_____

**Business Categories**

Business Guardian	\$100	_____
(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)		

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

We accept Visa and Master Card  
 Card number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**The Board**

- Richard Moore, President, Conway
- Judy Ellis, Vice-President, Myrtle Beach
- Reggie Daves, Secretary, Conway
- Peter MacIntyre, Treasurer, Murrells Inlet
- James Battle, Conway
- Walt Frank, Georgetown
- Robert Mimms, Jr., Pawleys Island
- Greg Mitchell, Surfside Beach
- Robert Moran, Murrells Inlet
- David Scott, Lake Waccamaw, NC
- Becky Westbrooks, Chadbourn, NC
- Jim Wilkie, Murrells Inlet, SC

**Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®**

Christine Ellis  
*Assistant to Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®*  
*And Editor of RIVERSPEAK*  
 Crystal Caschera  
*Volunteer Coordinator—Georgetown County*  
 Shannon Siau



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