

RIVER SPEAK

NOV/DEC 2024



It's the Season of Giving

Your donations provide critical funding for programs that protect fishable, swimmable, drinkable water for our families, our economy, and our future. Your donations, of any amount, will help us fight to protect your rivers.

ONLINE AUCTION NOVEMBER 18 - DECEMBER 2

We're hosting an online auction, offering lots of great gifts for yourself, your family, and your friends!

Every bid helps support our Riverkeepers' work to:
safeguard clean water,
defend floodplains and wetlands,
protect vulnerable communities, and
partner for sustainable stewardship.

Scan the QR Code



Or visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/WinyahRivers>

Meet our new Waccamaw Riverkeeper Preston Kelly



Born and raised in Darlington County, Preston has a deep-rooted passion for our local waterways, having spent his childhood fishing and exploring the Lynches, Wateree, and Santee rivers. A graduate of Coastal Carolina University with a BS in Marine Science and a MS in Coastal Marine and Wetland Studies, he is dedicated to protecting, conserving, and advocating for healthy freshwater and saltwater systems.

Join us in welcoming Preston to the team!

OUR TEAM



JEFF CURRIE

Lumber Riverkeeper
LumberRK@
winyahivers.org
(910) 668-0372



ERIN DONMOYER

Black-Sampit Riverkeeper
BlackSampitRK@
winyahivers.org
(907) 301-3687



PRESTON KELLY

Waccamaw Riverkeeper
Riverkeeper@
winyahivers.org
(843) 309-6385

Jeff is busy engaging Lumber River communities in cleaning up legacy pollution and dealing with new and emerging threats.

Jeff's work includes advocating for PFAs cleanup at a Lumberton site, and challenging the expansion of biogas projects, the threats created for communities and the greenwashing by the industry. Jeff is also working with UNC's Institute for the Environment to offer well water sampling in Robeson County and with UNC Pembroke for surface water sampling. Jeff has realized significant success, including with the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

Erin has been busy with activities at our Rocky Point Community Forest, assisting the Chicora Tribe with establishing a Tribal Ceremonial Space and planning for a medicinal native plant garden. She is actively engaged with the State Park Network and working with communities to educate and address their concerns.

Erin has successfully installed 2 Divirod sensors on the Black River to provide real-time data on water levels.

Erin is actively investigating PFAs contamination in her rivers, part of a research project with CCU/Seagrant and Waterkeepers Carolina.

Preston is getting his feet wet, literally, involved in water quality monitoring and litter cleanups. He is working with our student interns to get to know the Waccamaw river accesses and reconnect with our adopters there.

Preston is joining our PFAs Team, working with CCU researchers on a Seagrant project, to investigate how flooding impacts the distribution of contaminants in our riverine communities, including the Bucksport community. His climate resiliency work includes a focus on protecting floodplain/wetlands in the Upper Waccamaw in Horry County.

OUR TEAM



DYLAN COLEMAN

PeeDee/Lynches Rivers
Project Coordinator
PeeDeeLynchesPC@
winyahivers.org
(843) 289-0620

Dylan has recruited community volunteers to our Adopt-a-Landing litter cleanup program and SC Adopt-a-Stream to monitor water quality in the Lynches and the Pee Dee Rivers. He is part of the PFAs study team on the Big Pee Dee. He actively defends wetlands in his watersheds (e.g., Little Pee Dee Most Endangered River) and serves on the Board of the Lynches River Conservation Fund for land protections.



DEBRA BUFFKIN

Executive Director
ExecutiveDirector@
winyahivers.org
O: (843) 349-4007
C: (843) 340-0163

Debra leads our team to ensure we are meeting our mission, safeguarding clean water and healthy communities. Debra is building our stakeholder relationships to ensure sustainable watershed stewardship, participating in numerous committees (e.g., Pee Dee River Basin Council)



Evan Murph
Fall Intern



CHRISTINE ELLIS

Deputy Director
Christine@
winyahivers.org
(843) 340-0163

Christine supports Debra and our team, raising funds through grants and our campaigns to ensure that our Riverkeepers have the resources they need to protect our rivers and support our communities' needs for access to clean water for drinking, recreation and a vibrant economy.



Paige Sullivan
Fall Intern

FUN ON THE RIVER

RIVER PADDLES

Join us for a river paddle and experience the beauty of our local waterways!

Check out our Events Calendar on our website for paddling opportunities near you.



In every walk with
nature one
receives far more
than he seeks.

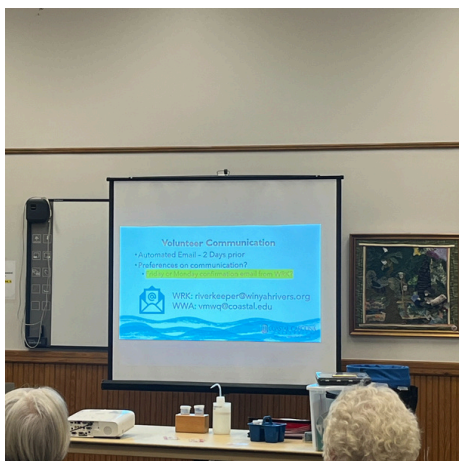
John Muir

NC Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Training

We are incredibly grateful for the dedication of our NC volunteers:

Clay and Kay Swenson, Tim and Laura Taylor, Paul and Kay Pope, Adam Parish, Patty Hobbs, Rosemary Dorsey, Steuart Link, Julie Stocks, Danny McNeill, Amanda Worley, Rudy and Eleanor Tatum, Kimberly Pate, Toby Hall, and David and Donna Scott. Your hard work monitoring the headwaters of the Waccamaw River is invaluable to its protection and health!

Thank you to the Waccamaw Watershed Academy for leading this impactful training session!



LITTER-FREE RIVERS

RIVER CLEANUPS

We're partnering with our communities, including our Riverkeeper Adopt-a-Landing groups, to clean up our local river landings! Join us (we recommend long pants and closed toe shoes). We'll provide gloves, grabbers, and trash bags.



Remaining Fall Dates:

Monday, November 18th: Bucksport Marina

Monday, December 2nd: Wachesaw Landing

All Cleanups are from 1:30-3:00

BUTT OUT!

We are partnering with Keep America Beautiful to rid our rivers of cigarette litter. Our Riverkeepers are installing receptacles at specific public river accesses for convenient cigarette butt disposal.

Together we can BUTT OUT!



GRATEFUL FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS!



EVENTS



OYSTER ROAST/ RIVER CELEBRATION

Save the Date!

Saturday, March 22nd

**We'll celebrate our rivers
together!**

More details coming soon.

Nature is always lovely, invincible, glad,
whatever is done and suffered by her
creatures. All scars she heals, whether
in rocks or water or sky or hearts.

John Muir

quote fancy

CITIZEN SCIENCE

We partner with SC
Department of Environmental
Services to train volunteers to
help monitor the health and
quality of our waterways.



www.scadoptastream.org

HOLIDAY GIVING

From now through December 31st,
join our family of river lovers.

Your year end donations provide critical funding for our
Riverkeeper programs in 2025.

Scan the QR code
or at
winyahivers.org/donations



Donate \$100
Receive a free t-shirt!



Debra Buffkin
Executive Director

Jeff Currie
Lumber Riverkeeper

Preston Kelly
Waccamaw Riverkeeper

Christine Ellis
Deputy Director

Erin Donmoyer
Black-Sampit Riverkeeper

Dylan Coleman
PeeDee/Lynches Rivers
Project Coordinator

ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

We had another amazing photography contest, with many wonderful photographs entered that show the beauty and splendor of our greater Winyah Bay watershed. Please enjoy these amazing photographs from our winners!

<https://youtu.be/jiOp0ZHB9r4>



Best In Show
"Big Itch"
Anthony Morano



Scenic 1st Place
"Wacca Wache Marina"
Robert Steffens



Georgetown County 1st Place
"In Flight"
Mary Hardee



Wildlife 1st Place
"Blue Crab Special"
Bronnie Fisher



Winyah Rivers Alliance

EIN 57-1118288

*A 501c3 nonprofit organization serving the rivers of the
greater Winyah Bay watershed*

STAFF

Debra Buffkin

Executive Director

Christine Ellis

Deputy Director

Preston Kelly

Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®

Jefferson Currie II

Lumber RIVERKEEPER®

Erin Donmoyer

Black-Sampit RIVERKEEPER®

Dylan Coleman

Pee Dee Rivers/Lynches River
Project Coordinator

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 554
Conway, SC 29528-0554

Membership Application Form

Personal Information: Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

_____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

_____ Date of Birth: Month: _____ Day: _____

Membership Type (Please Check One): ☐ Individual (\$50) ☐ Family
(\$75) ☐ Student/Volunteer Membership (\$25) ☐ Individual Life (\$450)
☐ Family Life (\$700) ☐ Other (*you choose your amount*)

Membership Fee: \$ _____ (Payable to Winyah Rivers Alliance)

Areas of Interest (Please Check All That Apply): ☐ Watershed
Protection ☐ River Cleanup ☐ Environmental Education ☐ Advocacy
☐ Land Conservation ☐ Sustainability ☐ Community Outreach ☐ Other

Skills or Expertise (Optional): _____

OFFICE LOCATION

301 Allied Drive
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 349-4007
WinyahRivers@winyahrivers.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Dan Hitchcock - President
Richard Moore - V. President
Michelle Lewis - Treasurer
Amy Hill - Secretary

Directors

Tom Badgett
Betty Gause
Clay Swenson
David Shane Lowry
Reggie Daves
Dana Shields
Matt Varnadore
April Cain

How did you hear about us?

By signing below, I agree to support the mission and objectives of
Winyah Rivers Alliance. I understand that my membership dues will
contribute to the organization's conservation efforts and community
outreach programs.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for joining us in our efforts to protect and preserve the
environment for future generations. We look forward to having you as a
valued member of our organization!

OUR NONPROFIT...



WINYAH RIVERS ALLIANCE

An alliance of RIVERKEEPERS,
we protect, preserve, monitor
and revitalize the health of the
lands and waters of the greater
Winyah Bay watershed,

including the Waccamaw, Lumber,
Little Pee Dee, Pee Dee,
Lynches, Black, and Sampit River watersheds.



Protecting waterways,
safeguarding drinking
water, and sustaining
recreational water
resources that Carolinians
hold dear.



United in protecting
every community's
right to
drinkable, fishable,
swimmable water.

WINYAH RIVERS ALLIANCE
PO BOX 554, CONWAY, SC 29528-0554
843-349-4007
WINYAHRIVERS.ORG