

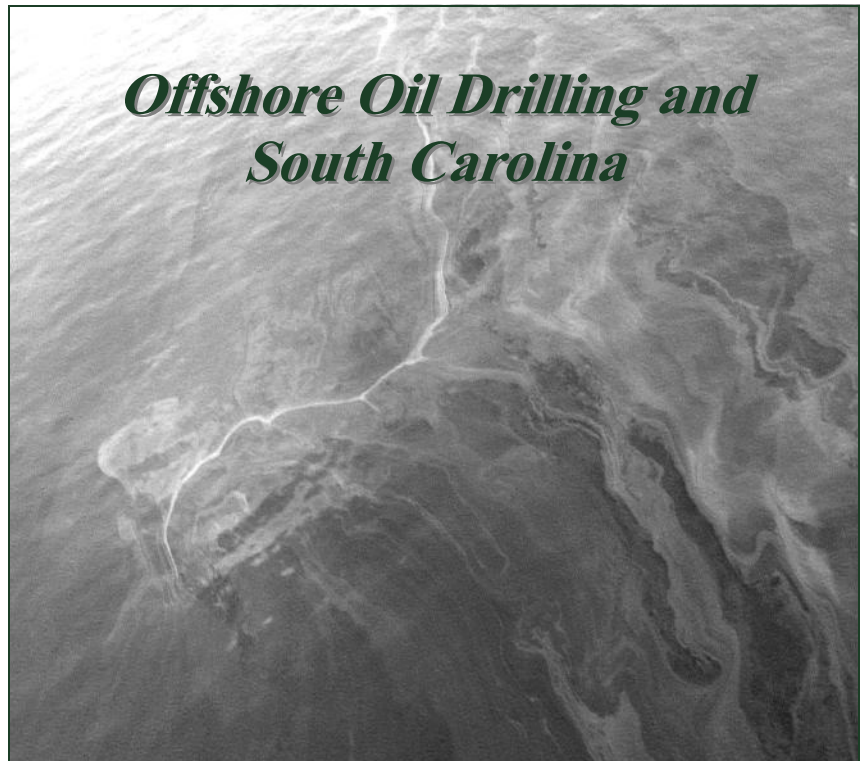


# The CONGAREE Chronicle

Summer 2010  
Volume 33, Number 2

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## *Offshore Oil Drilling and South Carolina*

(Courtesy of U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Woody Paschall)

***By: Hamilton Davis***  
*Energy and Climate Program Director,*  
*Coastal Conservation League*

As the largest man-made environmental disaster in US history unfolds in the Gulf of Mexico, most South Carolina politicians continue to demonstrate a fundamental inability to speak intelligently about the energy challenges facing our state and our country.

Legitimate concerns about national security, our foreign energy dependencies, and rising consumer costs are consistently used to justify support for expanded offshore drilling, yet the evidence demonstrates these connections to be spurious. In fact, credible studies from the US Department of Energy

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## Seeing the Big Picture

*Susan Corbett, Chair,  
South Carolina Chapter*

As I write this column, there doesn't seem to be a solution to the massive amounts of oil spewing unimpeded into the Gulf waters. Perhaps by the time you read this, the problem will have been fixed, but the

larger problem of our dependency on oil is a crisis that is about to crash on our shores like oil onto the Louisiana coast.

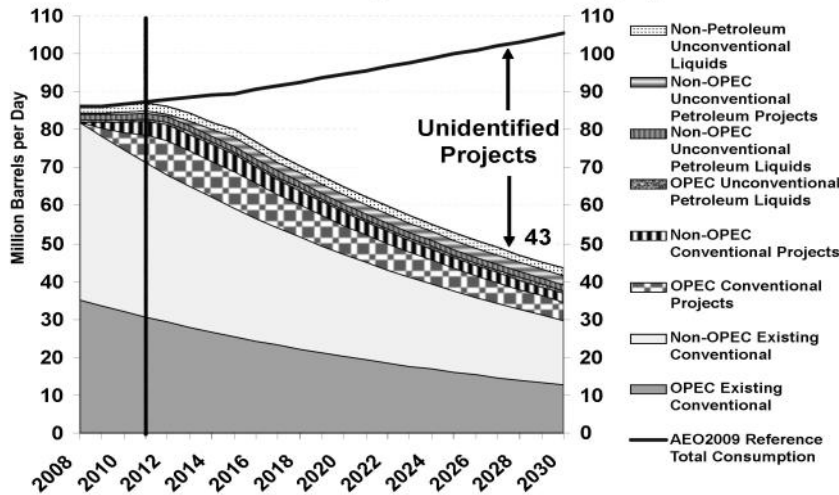
The U.S. uses twenty-one-million barrels of oil a day. The U.S. can never produce that amount of oil; the resources simply don't exist (domestically, we produce about six-million barrels a day). U.S. production of oil "peaked" or tapped out in the 1970s. There are small isolated pockets of oil, in Alaska, in places offshore, in the Canadian tar sands, and the Green River formation, but these are not enough to satisfy our current consumption levels, and these domestic sources are not the \$50 a barrel oil on which we have built our current economy. For the most part, all major global oil fields, the kinds that produce the light, sweet, cheap crude we have become addicted to, are tapped out or on the way to being depleted.

The remaining world oil reserves require much more complicated and expensive extraction techniques, fraught with risk and high cost. The BP deep water platform in the Gulf is a good example. This oil will cost a great deal more to produce and will not translate into the cheap gas we Americans depend on for everything from food production to transportation of goods and services. We have built our economy on a house of cheap oil cards that is getting ready to collapse.

The problem is not that we couldn't find another fuel source; the problem is in making the paradigm shift away from oil to other alternative transportation fuels. Big oil has so much political clout that there is little motivation on the part of our elected officials to stand up to it and demand other options. Our whole system is built and tooled to run on oil products. Trying to change things quickly is like trying to turn the Titanic . . . to avoid the iceberg looming dead ahead.

I am including, in this column, a graph that represents the oil crisis. This is not a graph from an environmental group, or a Peak Oil website or any other source that could be politicized. This graph comes to us from the DOE and the U.S. Army:

**World's Liquid Fuels Supply**



Source: EIA, AEO2009

This is the bad news: starting very soon, most analysts say by 2012 or sooner, global demand for oil will start outstripping global production. Prices will start to

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*Hamilton Davis continued from page 1*

conclude the exact opposite: current off-limit supplies of offshore oil and gas are too meager to significantly impact either consumer costs or foreign dependencies.

Another alleged benefit relates to the economic boon South Carolina could expect from drilling in its coastal waters. Even though past exploration activities in the South Atlantic during the 1970s and 80s led the oil and gas industry to conclude

that no economically recoverable oil and gas reserves exist along our coast, pro-drilling advocates fail to be persuaded; instead, they have taken the Orwellian approach of using the results from those same studies to tout massive job and economic growth potential for South Carolina if only we would just *drill, baby, drill*.

Until the recent BP oil spill, it was also popular for offshore drilling advocates simply to ignore the additional millions of gallons of oil that have spilled into the Gulf from recent hurricane activity. They, instead, choose to peddle the myth that improved technology has made the oil and gas industry “safe.”

All of these assertions equate to either willful ignorance or intentional deceit by those elected to serve the public’s best interests.

South Carolina is almost completely dependent on other countries and states to supply its means of energy production. Whether it’s the uranium imported from Canada and Russia, the coal imported from Kentucky and Colombia, or the oil and gas imported from the Gulf of Mexico, South Carolina has clearly chosen to export jobs and capital outside of its borders rather than take advantage of its in-state resources like solar, offshore wind, and biomass.

Add to this the fact that South Carolina is one of the least energy efficient states in the country, and it is difficult to explain why the public and business community continue to give elected officials a pass when it comes to energy policy (or lack thereof) in the Palmetto State.

If there exists a silver lining to the catastrophe now threatening the long-term economic prosperity and environmental well-being of the Gulf coast states, it will be the general recognition that our country’s addiction to fossil fuels has reached a point of diminishing returns; it will be the insistence by South Carolinians that we develop state and federal energy policies that make sense for our health, economy, and environment; and it will be an intolerance of those individuals that undermine the potential to secure our energy future by chaining us to the status quo.

## ***New Group Forming in Aiken Area***

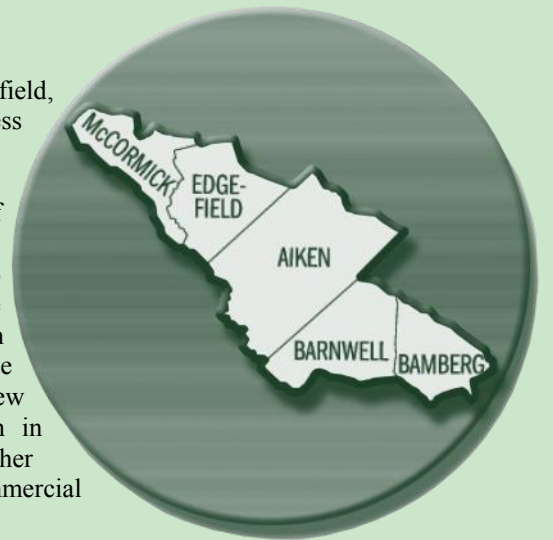
In an effort to better address the needs of members living in McCormick, Edgefield, Aiken, Barnwell and Bamberg Counties, the chapter has put into motion the process to form a new, tenth group for the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The inaugural meeting of the new Aiken Group is planned for the second half of June. As with all the groups in the chapter, the new group will set its own agenda for addressing regional environmental concerns; however, of major concern to the chapter is continued remediation and clean-up of the radioactive legacy at the Savannah River site, coupled with opposition to any new missions that result in more radioactive waste being created or dumped in our state. This DOE site depends on new missions for its funding, but we would like to see these new missions focus on clean-up of existing waste and the growth of research in non-nuclear technologies such as offshore wind, solar thermal, geo thermal and other clean options. We are opposed to any move toward the reprocessing of spent commercial reactor fuel, as this would create more deadly waste for our state.

The chapter is also concerned about air quality in the Aiken-Augusta area, the contamination of the Savannah River, and other conservation issues. We need members in the local area to be engaged and active on these issues, as well as other issues that the new group would elect to pursue.

The new group is going to need to elect ExCom members and select who will be its designated representative on the Chapter ExCom, and it is hoped that the group will begin to sponsor outings to explore the rich, natural resources of its member counties.

If you would like to be part of the process or if you would like more information about the new group, please contact the office at (803)256-8487 or via email at [kurt.henning@sierraclub.org](mailto:kurt.henning@sierraclub.org).



## *Progress Report on Rock Hill: One of the Cool Cities of South Carolina*

*Dr. J. Zdenek*  
*Chair, Henry's Knob Group*

It seems so long ago that work began on getting Rock Hill involved in the Cool Cities Program. It was in November 2006 when I arranged a meeting for Mayor Doug Echols, Dell Isham, former Executive Director of the South Carolina Sierra Club and John Hartz, Cool Cities Coordinator, to apprise the mayor of the Cool Cities concept. He was receptive to the idea and had city staff analyze what signing on to the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement would entail.

A Cool Cities Coalition was soon formed of members from the Chamber of Commerce, Clean and Green, York Tec, Catawba Regional Council, Rock Hill School District, Henry's Knob Group of the Sierra Club, Public Affairs, Public Works, Winthrop University and the city staff. In October 2007, the City Council authorized the mayor to sign off on the agreement, and Rock Hill became the fifth city in South Carolina to sign on to this national agreement to reduce city pollution caused by city operations, reduce energy consumption and reduce Rock Hill's emissions that contribute to global warming. A Cool Cities Subcommittee was formed, with Elizabeth Morgan, Environmental Education Specialist, as chair.

What has happened since the committee was formed? Reports are given periodically by city representatives about how the city



## *Lobby Day Update*

On April 20, 2010, a contingent of Sierrans met in Columbia where Cary Chamblee's lobby team explained the legislative process and how citizens of the state could engage with their elected officials. They presented detailed explanations of current environmental issues (e.g., S.1325: Exempting Incinerators and H.4093: Electronics Recycling, to name just a few).

During our time at the statehouse, we encouraged the members of the Medical Affairs Subcommittee to table the Incineration Bill (S.1325) for this year's legislative agenda. You can read more about this and other issues in Cary Chamblee's Legislative Update article on page 9.

Afterward, everyone returned to Lincoln Street where we enjoyed a home-cooked, zero-waste lunch, provided by the chapter and prepared by our own Pam Greenlaw. If you missed out on this year's Lobby Day, don't worry, we plan on having one again next year. You can have your name put on the notification list by calling the office or sending an email to [kurt.henning@sierraclub.org](mailto:kurt.henning@sierraclub.org).

is complying with the program and with recommendations for future compliance. Other entities such as Winthrop University, the Rock Hill School District and York Tec have all made similar compliance presentations. The city conducted a global warming emissions inventory of what programs were already underway and made recommendations in several major areas: building-related energy, transportation, recycling and waste and land use. The Cool Cities Subcommittee, on which Henry's Knob is represented, meets the third Monday of each month and is charged with communicating to the community what the goals and objectives are in green / conservation / sustainability areas.

A logo was created: "Green City, Clean City" so that our mission would be better understood by the citizenry. The subcommittee also organizes activities to encourage Rock Hill citizens and businesses to go green. There is a *speaker series* called "Green Speaks," which is open to the public and is also televised. Some of the topics presented have been everyday energy-efficiency for the home, water conservation, composting, recycling and air quality. A green business certification has been implemented to recognize achievements toward the Green City, Clean City goals. Additionally, the subcommittee has also sponsored other activities such as a Main Street Live Green Fair, free gas cap checks, and an ozone reduction awareness program.

Although progress is being made to make Rock Hill really "cool," we still have a long way to go, not the least of which is getting the word out constantly and more effectively about Cool Cities in general, and how all of us can participate in particular.

## *Activist Network*

One of the more difficult aspects of activism, even with the array of technology available, is being able to contact Club members who are interested in taking part in the various activities around the state. Imagine, for instance, what could be accomplished if we could contact members who were interested in wind power for South Carolina? That's what we struggled with leading up to March 24 when the SC Energy Office held its Offshore Wind Energy Workshops and again when DHEC held hearings on allowing SCE&G to release arsenic into our waterways.

If you would spend only five minutes of your time and go to <http://mysierra.org/chapter/activist-sign-up.html>, you can help us to help you make South Carolina a safe and healthy place to live, work and play. Select the issues that interest you from the list (or add any that we've missed), and, as events occur or information becomes available, we'll send you updates.

The information you supply to us will only be used for notifications and will not be used for any other purpose. You can designate if you would prefer a telephone or email alert.

Our Activist Network is for people who want to be involved in the issues threatening South Carolina's environment, and it is for people who just want to know what is going on in the state. We get calls in the office all the time from people who "wished they knew" something was going on. Don't be left out of the loop, get connected! Get active!



## *South Carolina's Scenic River Program and Protection*

*Peggy Brown*

*Conservation Chair*

*South Carolina Chapter*

As Conservation Chair for the Chapter and Pee Dee Group, I receive requests for a vast number of environmental concerns. Covering all state issues is nearly impossible so choosing which disputes to take a stand on is difficult. This is why your group may be called upon from time to time to be involved in a local issue, and it is the only way we can ensure that we act on our mission statement of protecting the environment earnestly. Lately, I've been involved in forestry practices as they relate to designated scenic rivers.

Earlier this year, concern was shared about logging on sections of the scenic designated Lynches River in Florence County. After making a kayaking site visit, I was (and still am) shocked at how close the cuts were to the river banks and how much of the canopy was lost. As fellow South Carolinian Sierrans, you don't need me to elaborate on the beauty or history of the Bald Cypress trees that line the banks of black rivers across the state. The current state of the landscape leaves me angry, sad and puts a lump in my throat that's real hard to swallow down. The devastation caused to the root systems of the few, remaining trees on the bank leave them vulnerable to wind and storms. The state of the Lynches River begs the question: is this the only scenic river in the state program in danger? Unfortunately for South Carolina, the devastation from forestry practices isn't limited to the Lynches River. My first thought was that larger riparian buffers were needed, but, after research, conference calls and consideration, the conclusion was that we have a good protective management plan for scenic rivers if it's followed. The South Carolina Scenic Rivers Program strongly advocates a minimum buffer of at least 100 feet on both sides of the river to protect water quality, scenic values, and wildlife habitat.

According to the Scenic Rivers Act, for a river or river segment to qualify, it must possess unique or outstanding scenic, recreational, geological, botanical, fish, wildlife, historic or cultural values. A polluted river can be considered for eligibility if other values are considered outstanding. Further eligibility requires scenic rivers, or river segments, to be free flowing rivers that possess riverbanks that are largely undeveloped and with limited road access. The adjacent lands can be partially or predominantly used for agriculture, silviculture, or other **dispersed human activity which does not disturb substantially the natural character of the river corridor**. If the logging taking place in this segment has not disturbed the natural character of this corridor, then I don't know what *disturbed substantially* means.

As part of the Scenic River program the SCDNR works with all parties: the South Carolina Forestry Commission, riparian landowners, State and County Legislators, and other interested parties to designate a river segment or river in the scenic rivers program.

Negotiations that take place with the riparian landowners as it pertains to forestry practices can leave the river much less than scenic. The Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) known as the SC Forestry Commission's Best Management Practices (BMP) suggests a 40 foot minimum, **volunteer** riparian buffer be sustained. Just consider how wide 40 feet is. A kayak (like the one pictured on page 8) is 10 feet long; so the buffer is 4 times the length of the boat. In some places, you would really be pushing it to say that it meets the BMP of 40 feet. SC Forestry Commission's SMZ isn't about scenic aesthetics or preserving natural habitat; it's about water quality standards set by the EPA. Because of this designation, the scenic value of the tree line and canopy are not considerations of the SC Forestry Commission's regulations.

As we're all aware, the majority of the rivers in South Carolina are on DHEC's 2008, 303(d) list of impaired waters, so to the SMZ and BMPs one can only say something isn't working. Like so many other gray areas in South Carolina, we accept minimally adequate protection where our natural resources are concerned. Riparian buffers are so important because they act as the natural filtering system for a body of water by removing sediment loads, fertilizers and pathogens from both surface and shallow ground water. The buffers help to protect soils in vulnerable areas by reducing erosion and providing protection and cover for wildlife and fish. When rivers are protected by adequate buffers, those buffers will improve water quality, helping to meet federal, state and local pollution-control requirements.



If you raise the issue of forestry practices on river banks, you had better be ready to hear from the ever-so-protective timber association. No one disputes the timber industry's strength or takes lightly the major role it plays in state and local economies, and we understand that timber is renewable, rejuvenating and decomposable. Conservationists also realize how important timberland and forests are to the ecosystems of the state and their importance to South Carolina's water quality. Timber association folk may even tell you that the Bald Cypress trees being logged on the riverbanks are from 3rd or 4th generation timber harvests. If this were true, wouldn't we still see the stumps? Bald Cypress trees are remarkable in that they withstand water, age, and weather and take hundreds of years, if ever, to decompose. Have you read about the cypress logs uncovered at the sand mine near Johnsonville that were felled by a natural disaster long before people walked these parts? Those trees are believed to be almost 40,000 years old. While hardwoods like Water Oak, Water Hickory and Tupelo Gum

*continued on page 6*

**Young Columbians  
Think Green about Food**  
*Marjorie Palmer*

As a late afternoon shower subsided over Columbia one Sunday this past April, about a dozen middle- and high-schoolers gathered in a youth meeting room at St. Martin’s in the Fields Episcopal Church to learn about local foods and to step outside later to start their own garden.

Instead of lecturing to the group, I posed a basic question to start a conversation: why would any of us want to eat locally grown foods? Before I knew it, the young adults were teaching each other as much, if not more, than I did. The level of knowledge among them was quite encouraging. To keep them focused on the main points I hoped to make, I also passed around a basic fact sheet highlighting three reasons to eat locally grown foods, an enlightening South Carolina Grown Produce Availability Calendar, and some information about local farmers’ markets. Keeping it simple, I decided to focus on these three major reasons to eat locally grown foods: to be a good environmental steward, to support South Carolina’s economy, and because it’s more nutritious than other options.

Admittedly, this oversimplifies the complexities of the food issue and

doesn’t necessarily capture the full array of benefits, but I didn’t want to spend a Sunday evening in a room full of young adults with their eyes glazed over.

As we delved into why eating local foods makes you a better, more conscientious keeper of the Earth, a high school sophomore explained the carbon impacts of purchasing food that arrives at the grocery store from far away places. While she might not have articulated the issue that precisely, she did have a basic understanding of the impacts of massive food transport; her understanding allowed the two of us to develop the point for the group through our conversation.

The conversation continued as other equally astute young Columbians discussed the fact that market produce comes without the excessive, unnecessary package waste that inevitably comes with grocery store goods. We also discussed the higher nutritional value of fresh crops that aren’t picked prior to ripening. As we began to talk about how buying locally available foods promotes our state’s economy, we turned to the South Carolina Produce Availability Calendar.

What the group was not aware of was the importance of farming to our state’s economy and the rapid conversion of South Carolina’s farmland to urban uses—about 200 acres a day. I pointed out that farmers’ direct sales at a market

obviously cut out multiple middlemen. In contrast to bringing their produce to local markets, farmers, on average, only receive twenty-cents of each food dollar spent when their produce is shipped to other areas. This was news to them, and I was encouraged that I had finally offered them a totally fresh piece of knowledge to wrap their minds around.

Before the meeting began, I had set out some seed packets outside along with some flower pots and soil. After I explained that we would each have the chance to start a small potted garden to tend at home that could later be moved into the yard, I let them loose. Several dove straight for the cilantro, having just learned that it grows well in our state’s climate almost year round. Wary of the challenges of starting a garden from seed and not wanting the group to be discouraged, I gave them an already flourishing tomato plant to care for together.

All in all, I was quite pleased to find that these young adults already had a basic understanding of the benefits and importance of eating locally grown food. More importantly, they were excited to learn more. To this day, the tomato plant continues to thrive in a sunny spot on the St. Martin’s church grounds, and I have received positive reports on the potted gardens that the participants took home that day.

***Upcoming South Carolina Sierra Club Chapter Events / Dates***

July 17, 2010	—	Chapter ExCom Meeting
July 28, 2010	—	Petitions for ExCom Candidates due (see website or contact office for more details)
August 27, 2010	—	Articles Due for Fall 2010 Congaree Chronicle
September 2010	—	Congaree Chronicle Distribution (ballots issued through newsletter)
October 16, 2010	—	Chapter ExCom Meeting
November 19, 2010	—	Articles Due for Winter 2010 Congaree Chronicle
December 01, 2010	—	Ballots Due

***Peggy Brown, continued from page 5***

trees grow back within 20 to 30 years, the Bald Cypress may take 150 to 200 years to mature to their pre-harvest size. Even though they may eventually grow back, is it fair that future generations over the next 150 to 200 years will miss out on the beauty and enjoyment that these trees provide?

As taxpayers, we should be concerned about the impact of logging scenic rivers in the state. If you would like to witness, first hand, the destruction and see where entire canopies are in ruin, then take the float trip in Florence County from New Landing, near Johnsonville, and float for eleven river miles past Pitch Landing and Half Moon to Glens Bluff.

Perhaps to address the damage being done to our scenic rivers, counties need to investigate the feasibility of tree ordinances to protect mature bald cypress trees, wildlife habitats, and to ensure better water-quality practices. This is the direction that I plan to take, with the first step being to meet with the Florence County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission to make a presentation on the benefits of scenic river riparian buffers. The goal of this meeting is to gain commission support for a recommendation to County Council to begin an ad hoc committee study that I will participate in. Yes, it's a long bureaucratic process, but the results, if positive, will protect our river landscape for generations to come.

## ***Recycling Pays Off***

***Jeremy Grant***

***Recycling Co-Chair***

***South Carolina Chapter***

Sierra Club members are well aware that recycling pays off environmentally and spiritually. For members of the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club, recycling has paid off...literally. Over the past three years, the Five Points Association (FPA) has donated over \$7,000 to the Chapter.

You read that right...over \$7,000 in three years. If you live outside of the Columbia area, you likely have two questions running through your mind as you read this...what is the FPA and why is it giving us seven grand? The FPA is a non-profit organization whose principal task is ensuring that the "Five Points" area of Columbia remains an integral and important part of the City of Columbia. Five Points is an entertainment district in Columbia that contains an eclectic mix of bars, restaurants, and individually-owned boutique shopping.

You're probably still scratching your head wondering why the FPA donated seven grand to the Sierra Club. The FPA organizes the third largest St. Patrick's Day Festival in the southeast. Three and a half years ago, I met with the Executive

Director of the FPA to discuss recycling at the bars and restaurants in Five Points.

As this discussion progressed, it became apparent to both of us that by demonstrating that recycling was possible during Five Points' busiest day of the year, then we could show that it was possible to recycle every day of the year.

Before I could blink, I was the recycling coordinator for the St. Pat's in Five Points Festival tasked with developing and implementing a recycling plan for a festival that regularly attracts more than 30,000 people. With no experience in this arena besides being an avid recycler at home, I wondered if, perhaps this time, I had bitten off more than I could chew. Much to my relief, my recycling program was a huge success and has continued to improve with each iteration. To date, this program has kept more than five and a half tons of aluminum, plastic, and cardboard from ending up in local landfills. Not bad for three days of work by an all-volunteer work force. Credit for the success of the program truly lies in the hard work that these volunteers have done. Volunteers for the program have come from several organizations including the John Bachman Group.

Several members of the festival board meet each year to decide how much of the festival's profit will be donated to

charity and which organizations that supplied volunteers for the festival will receive portions of this donation. Each of the three years that the festivalwide recycling program has been in existence, the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club has received in excess of \$2,000 with a total of over \$7,000 in donations from the FPA.



To volunteer for the recycling program at the St. Pat's in Five Points Festival or to learn more about festival/event recycling, please feel free to contact me via email at [jeremygrant2@hotmail.com](mailto:jeremygrant2@hotmail.com).

## ***A Note from the Fundraising Committee***

We're half-way through the calendar year, and donations to the Chapter's finances have almost met the half-way mark of this year's budget. The year has started out well, but there's still much that we have to do. While only 4% of our members have made donations to the chapter, 51% of those donors have donated for the first time. Just imagine what the Chapter could do if only 25% of our members donated something in the remaining six months of 2010. Kudos go to the Pee Dee Group, which has had the highest number of donors in comparison to its total group population. The Nancy Cathcart Group had the largest percentage of first-time donors in comparison to its total donors for the year. These two groups' membership numbers are in the bottom third of the chapter—the gauntlet has been thrown down. Will you larger groups (Bachman, Bartram & Lunz) pick it up?!?

You can send your contribution today by using the attached envelope or go to our website and make a donation using Paypal.

## ***Kurt Henning Hired as Chapter Coordinator***

The Chapter has hired Kurt Henning as its new Chapter Coordinator. He comes to us from the halls of academia, where he was working on his Ph.D. in English. Replete with many years of experience as an executive administrator, Kurt possesses many of the skills crucial to the success of our organization, including, but not limited to, graphics design, writing and editing skills, experience in office management, computer applications, and a wonderful telephone and speaking voice and manner!

Kurt has also been a lecturer at the University of South Carolina, a graduate teaching assistant, a writing consultant, and a journalist. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi and Golden Key Honor Societies. In the few short months he has been employed by the Chapter, he has made major improvements to the website, produced our first conservation brochure and has brought some much needed organization to the office! Please welcome Kurt with a phone call, email or card, or drop by and see him, he's in the office everyday from 8:00am—4:00pm.

## Sierra Club Outings

(June through November)

Compiled by Starr Hazard  
Chapter Outings Chair

### Saturday, June 12: (Postponed) Garus Landing to North Bull's Island Sea Kayak Trip

This is a moderately-serious paddle trip from the landing to Bull Island. We will walk from the North to the bone-yard and back along the dikes. Educational opportunities abound as we may get to see Sandwich and Black terns as well as the general beauty of a sea island in late spring. We will ride the ebb tide out and hope for pleasant winds on the return. This is a longish paddle. Contact Starr Hazard at (843)881-8902 or via email at [hazardes@bellsouth.net](mailto:hazardes@bellsouth.net).

### Saturday, June 26: Kayak Black Creek into North Fork Edisto River

Paddle where most boats can't go! We will put in our kayaks at State Road #245 (Hartley Quarter Road) outside of Pelion and paddle approximately seven-miles down a remote creek that is often no bigger than the width of a kayak, ending on the North Fork Edisto River at Highway 302. Due to swift flow, narrow width, and vegetation, this is moderately difficult for kayakers about ten-feet long. If you are able to maneuver your kayak well, fit enough to get over any downed tree trunks (there were only a few last time) and are unafraid to get into the water, this will be a short, easy workout for you. Participation is limited, send an email to David Hutchens at [Lebri@aol.com](mailto:Lebri@aol.com).

### Saturday, June 26: (Postponed) Shem Creek to Morris Island Tour de Harbor Tour and Moon Rising Show

We will ride the tide from Shem Creek past Crab Bank and Castle Pinckney. We will loiter through the day on Morris Island, cross the channel near low-tide and then take up position near a lee shore to watch the moonrise from out on the water. You'll want to bring lots of sunscreen and drinking water. This is a non-protected open water trip for experienced paddlers and may include after-dark navigation. Weather permitting. Contact Starr Hazard at (843) 881-8902 or via [hazardes@bellsouth.net](mailto:hazardes@bellsouth.net).

### Saturday, June 26: Canoe the Tyger River

We are canoeing a section of the Tyger River in Union County. This section of the river goes near the Rose Hill Plantation, an antebellum mansion. We plan to stop and take a half-mile educational walk up to see the plantation, a South Carolina State Park. The Tyger River goes through National Forest lands, so it is very much in a natural state.

The Tyger River is an easy paddling river; we can accommodate beginning paddlers as long as you are reasonably fit. Dennis Chamberlain and Norm Sharp, both experienced canoeists, are also coming on this trip. We are making arrangements to rent canoes and equipment for anyone who needs gear. Because of the logistics involved, sign-up by Sunday night, June 20 is mandatory. Call Eric Thompson at (864) 297-6015 to sign-up for what should be a nice summer canoe outing.

### Saturday, July 10: (Postponed) Kayaking Around of Sullivan's Island

This is a long half-day kayak sampler for novices (i.e., not beginners). Participants will experience open water, beaches, clapotis, favorable and contrary currents, breaking waves, tranquil inland waterway passages, views of historic forts, numerous picturesque bridges and much, much more. You can call Starr Hazard at (843)881-8902 or send an email to him at [hazardes@bellsouth.net](mailto:hazardes@bellsouth.net).

### Sunday, July 25: (Postponed) Canoe/Kayak/Swim a Section of the Black River

Come cool off on the river with a

relaxed paddle pace and stops to lounge on sand and allow the river to flow over you and wash the heat away. You can contact Starr Hazard at (843)881-8902 or via [hazardes@bellsouth.net](mailto:hazardes@bellsouth.net).

### Saturday, August 21: (Postponed) Kayak from Cherry Point Landing to Deveaux Bank and Back

This is a lovely paddle trip that begins and ends in the protected waters of the Intercoastal waterway and heads out of the Edisto River to a bird colony and barrier island. Bring your nature guides as dolphins, sea turtles, shrimp boats and terns, terns, terns will probably highlight this journey. You can telephone Starr Hazard at (843)881-8902 or send him an email at [hazardes@bellsouth.net](mailto:hazardes@bellsouth.net).

### Saturday, November 13 (subject to change): Bicycling the Wateree Passage of the Palmetto Trail

We'll cycle about fourteen-miles in two sections of the Palmetto Trail between Poinsett State Park and north to the Wateree River. We'll also go into Manchester State Forest and Wateree Swamp toward the river. The morning trip will be up to seven-miles on elevated, flat, converted railroad bed through the swamp toward Wateree River. We'll then move to Poinsett State Park, where we'll do a more path-sized "mountain bike" section of the Palmetto Trail before heading onto the dirt roads of Manchester State Forest. You don't need to take the whole thing on, either the easy morning half may be done, or the more moderate afternoon half. Send an email to David Hutchens at [Lebri@aol.com](mailto:Lebri@aol.com).



Peggy Brown on Lynches River near Snow Island in Johnsonville SC; photo by Frank Brown

## Sierra Club Legislative Update



### *Legislature Ends on Positive Conservation Note*

*Cary D. Chamblee  
Chapter Lobbyist*

The 2009-2010 legislative session ended in early June on a positive conservation note, but the session, as a whole, was only partially successful. Successes included passing a landmark surface water regulation bill, e-waste legislation, partial funding for the Conservation Bank, and on-bill financing for energy conservation measures. Conservationists also stopped Covanta, a New Jersey based waste-to-energy incineration company, from dismantling the newly adopted solid waste regulations and current laws limiting incineration. Also stopped were several attempts to weaken the Coastal Zone Management Act and a bill to expedite offshore drilling.

Among the disappointments this session were the failure of bills that would have improved water quality, warned the public of water pollution, DHEC reform and measures to strengthen the future of the Conservation Bank.

These wins and losses are discussed further below:

**Surface Water Regulation**—In the waning minutes of the legislative session, the House agreed to the Senate amendments to the surface water permitting and regulation bill and sealed a long-awaited victory for water protection and regulation. The bill protects in-stream flows for fish, wildlife and boating, requires permits but grandfathered existing users and requires permits for all new surface water users of more than three-million-gallons per month.

**Electronics Recycling**—This law now bans e-waste, such as televisions and computer equipment, from landfills and requires electronics manufacturers to offer e-waste recovery and collection in a manner convenient to consumers.

**Energy Efficiency**—A milestone was reached this year when the governor signed the “on-bill” energy efficiency financing legislation. This new law will help pave South Carolina's way to a brighter energy future by saving money for homeowners, reducing energy use and creating local, green jobs.

This measure enables electricity providers to offer voluntary

financing and loans to their residential customers for weatherization, insulation, and upgrading to more efficient heating and cooling systems. The homeowner repays the loan over time on the utility bill, and, if the property is sold, the new owner assumes the loan.

**Renewable Energy Manufacturing Tax Credits**—Legislation has passed that provides tax credits to large manufacturers of renewable energy systems and components for solar, wind, geothermal, or other renewable energy.

**Conservation Bank**—Partial funding was appropriated for the South Carolina Conservation Bank at \$1.7 million. This is far short of the amount requested by the bank and conservation supporters but is considered a victory in these lean economic times. Also disappointing was the failure to extend the sunset clause to 2023 from its current sunset date of 2013 and to remove the death clause from the Conservation Bank law. The death clause deletes all funding for the bank in a down economy.

**Covanta Incinerator Stopped**—A bill was killed that would have undermined South Carolina's solid waste reduction plan by exempting large incinerators that generate power through “waste to energy” facilities. This bill, which was backed by Covanta, a New Jersey company, would have allowed the construction of an incinerator in Chester County to burn waste in excess of the current statutory six-hundred tons per day limit. A major concern was the potential for importation of trash from the northeast. Covanta would burn over half a million tons of trash per year and leave behind almost one-hundred thousand tons of unwanted ash. Incinerators emit dangerous dioxins and more mercury per unit of electricity than coal-fired power plants. This fight is not yet over. Look for it again next year.

**Offshore Drilling Stopped**—This bill proposed to allow drilling within state waters – 3.3 miles from shore or less – and provide expedited permits from DHEC. After a strong lobby effort, the bill was defeated. This occurred only days before the disastrous BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Disappointments**—A number of priority conservation bills were defeated to the dismay of conservation interests. Among these were the emergency sewer spill notification bill; the three strikes bill that would require upgrades at sewer works with repetitive spills; a ban on phosphates in household cleaning supplies; DHEC reform and measures to strengthen the Conservation Bank.

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 (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=57636080926>)

**Do you have an idea for a program or an article you would like to see in the Congaree Chronicle?**  
**Email it to [kurt.henning@sierraclub.org](mailto:kurt.henning@sierraclub.org).**

# In Appreciation

*Contributions from Sierra Club members like you make our conservation work possible. Thank you!*

*Donations received from January 29, 2010 to May 31, 2010*

**White Oak (\$2500+)**

Five Points Association

**Longleaf Pine (\$500-\$999)**

Magnolia Plantation Foundation

**Spruce (\$250-\$499)**

Graydon Kingsland  
John Bachman Group  
R. Sobczak & K. Kempe  
Tom W. Clements  
William R. Hare  
Wood N. Lay

**Dogwood (\$100-\$249)**

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hanlin  
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Thomas Hutto & Barbara Neal

**Trillium (\$25-\$49)**

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Joan Taylor  
Kurt Krucke  
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Paul & Phoebe Palmer  
Sandra & Richard Cashwell  
Stephen & Sue Valder  
Susan & John Hartz  
Whitney Hines

**Red Clover (<\$25)**

Let's Go Green  
David & Nancy Stroupe  
Frances Elmore  
Julieta Slater  
Kenneth Wagner  
Michael Sullivan  
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Virginia Greer  
R. Brent Barron  
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John Green

*Susan Corbett, continued from page 2*

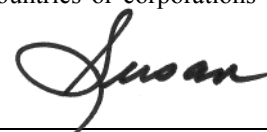
rise dramatically, and there will be worldwide struggles to capture remaining reserves. By 2030, global demand for oil will top one-hundred-million barrels per day, while global production will drop to about forty-three-million barrels. That white area, labeled "unidentified projects," describes the alternatives to oil we, and the rest of the world, are supposed to be developing to make up for that enormous gap.

The good news is that if any country can adapt, adjust, get busy, innovate and survive, I put my money on America. During WWII, Americans made enormous sacrifices and lifestyle changes to help weather the storm and help the nation's war effort. Changing energy plans will not be unlike a wartime crisis. The other good news is that rising oil prices will make globalization less attractive—buying goods produced locally will be cheaper, and many long-lost jobs may come back to the U.S. as corporations adjust to rising fuel costs. Many opportunities

will emerge, as they do in any crisis.

The best thing we can do is to get educated on this issue and to be prepared. Rapid change is often uncomfortable and disconcerting; rapid social change can trigger extreme behaviors. The world as we know it is already in dynamic change, but, like the frogs in the slowly heating pot, it's often hard to recognize the signs before we're cooked.

The spill in the Gulf is more than just a wake-up call . . . it's the Chernobyl of oil and should signal why we need to move away from this dirty, polluting, risky, expensive and, ultimately, finite energy source and move rapidly to green, clean sustainable sources that are truly American (oil belongs to the foreign oil companies), homegrown, replenishable, and, ultimately, will make our country more self sufficient, independent and not beholden to foreign countries or corporations that care nothing for our well being.



## Chapter Awards Nominees Sought for 2010

The Awards Committee of the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club is seeking nominations for meritorious service during 2010. Nominations must be submitted by October 15, 2010.

**Conservationist of the Year**  
Given to a Sierra member who has made a major and extraordinary contribution to a statewide or to a national conservation campaign.

**Carolina Sierran**  
Given to a Sierra leader who has administered a position or office in the chapter with unusual skill and success.

**Silent Footprinter**  
Given to a Sierra member who has gone above and beyond expected performance in an unobtrusive club role. The recipient need not have a formal title or position.

**Palmetto Pathfinder**  
Given to a Sierra member who has exhibited outstanding effort and influence in organizing, leading, and recruiting for exciting outings in South Carolina.

**Elected Official of the Year**  
Given to an elected official in recognition of current or past environmental efforts and achievements, with preference given to legislators and other officials serving at the state level.

**Media Person of the Year**  
Given to an individual in recognition of outstanding, positive contribution to the environment in South Carolina through journalism.

**Distinguished Service Award**  
Given to a member who has contributed long-term, outstanding service and accomplishments to the chapter.

**Group Achievement Award**  
Given to groups for outstanding activity in any area of club activity. Groups may be self nominated.

**Student Environmental Excellence Award**  
Given to a Sierra Student Coalition member or other member of the Sierra Club attending a school, college or university in South Carolina who has exhibited high achievement in the areas of environmental projects,

environmental awareness, and/or enhancement of the organizational well-being of the Sierra Club in South Carolina.

Nominations must be written and should include:

- 1) full contact information for the nominee,
- 2) award category,
- 3) full contact information for the nominator, and
- 4) sufficient details for the Awards Committee to evaluate the nomination.

To make a nomination, please contact Joe Zdenek at 752 Harrell Street, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730, or at [jzdenek@comporium.net](mailto:jzdenek@comporium.net).

### 2010 SIERRA CLUB CHAPTER AWARD NOMINATION

To make a nomination, please mail this form to Joe Zdenek, 752 Harrell Street, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730 or email it to [jzdenek@comporium.net](mailto:jzdenek@comporium.net). Please describe the accomplishments this person or group has made in 2010 to be eligible for the award suggested. Provide sufficient detail in order to allow the Awards Committee to evaluate the nominee. Remember, the Awards Committee may not be familiar with the nominee. If more space is needed, use additional pages. If appropriate, include additional materials such as newspaper clippings. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 15, 2010.**

Name of nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Award category: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Details of reason for nomination (Use attachments if needed):

