



The CONGAREE Chronicle

Fall 2011
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The Congaree Cup Returns

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We are the Spirit of the Congaree

The chapter ExCom, with the recommendation of the Fundraising Committee, proudly announces the return of the *Spirit of the Congaree* competition. The award, the Congaree Cup, was last earned by the Swamp Fox group in 2008. The award was designed to encourage a healthy competition among the groups to engage their members in activism and fundraising. The current cup has been brought out of retirement courtesy of the Henry's Knob group.

How can you help your group win the cup this year? The group with the largest percentage (based upon its member numbers) of \$10 donations from January through December each year will have its name engraved upon the cup and will be able to display the award at its meetings.

The cup will be presented to the winning group at the chapter's Awards Ceremony on February 4, 2012. Please help raise the *Spirit of the Congaree* and give your group bragging rights for a year! [Click here](#) to donate today!



Seeing the Big Picture

*Susan Corbett, Chair,
South Carolina Chapter*

GOP Candidates Waffle on Warming Science

Last week, I sat and watched the Republican debate. While there are issues within the party that I disagree with, nothing stands out as much as the almost

unanimous agreement that Global Warming is a hoax, that the majority of scientists don't agree about it, and that we shouldn't do anything to try to correct where it may be taking us. Along with the almost unanimous rejection of the theory of evolution, it throws the party's credibility into serious jeopardy.

The only adult in the room seemed to be Jon Huntsman, a well-educated, sophisticated man, who speaks fluent Chinese, has been an international figure for decades and two-term governor in Utah. He has been bold enough to say he DOES believe in evolution, and he absolutely believes in Climate Change. He joined fellow moderate Arnold Schwarzenegger in an emissions reduction partnership when Huntsman was Utah's governor and Schwarzenegger was California's. Huntsman stood up for energy efficiency, protections for nuclear waste disposal and the phasing out of ethanol and all other energy subsidies. He is arguably the greenest GOP candidate. So why isn't he getting more traction?

It seems that the new party agenda, within the GOP, is the trashing of scientific study (and, by association, anything green). Much like the tobacco crusades of years ago, the GOP wants to peddle doubt as its main defense to those who are raising the call for change in response to global warming. And they are making themselves look foolish in the process. Rick Perry glibly glossed over a gaffe allusion to the fact that "Galileo was hushed up by the church"—yes, indeed, he was—for trying to insert scientific reason and evidence into the record during the 17th century religious interpretation of cosmic laws. When pressed for the names of scientists he was using as a source, Perry couldn't think of any. It's ironic, in the face of his state's ongoing wildfire disaster and the hottest summer on record with no rain, that he wouldn't at least give some small amount of credence to the reigning scientific thought: human activity is causing or exacerbating the global changes in climate patterns.

But I don't want to focus only on Perry. Michelle Bachman is also on record saying she does not believe that human activity is contributing to climate change. Her theory is that CO2 is part of the natural process, "a part of the regular lifecycle of earth." She asserts CO2 is a "harmless gas." While on the face of it, these statements may be true, but she has completely ignored the reality of the rising parts-per-million of CO2 in the atmosphere. One only has to look to the skyrocketing numbers to see that there is a problem. You would have to go back fifteen-million years to find CO2 levels where they are now. This was during the middle Miocene Epoch, when India crashed into Asia, creating the Himalayan mountains. Scientists speculate this collision unleashed huge volcanic eruptions and, along with other major geologic catastrophes going on at the same time, resulted in large amounts of CO2 being released. The current increases started with the dawn of the industrial revolution and the burning of fossil fuels. Humans have never existed on an ice-free planet, and we are headed in that direction. What the impacts of this will be on our survival, we can only speculate.

Moving on to other GOP candidates, Ron Paul has called global warming "the biggest hoax I think that has been around for many, many years." Great! While Texas withers and burns, he fiddles and denies. One must believe that many elected officials from tobacco-producing-states had the same opinion of cancer studies being done around the use of cigarettes. As a congressman from one of the most polluted states with some of the worst air quality, it's hard to take Paul

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Alcoholic Beverage Container Recycling Bill (S.461)

(Introduced by Senator Ray Cleary and referred to the House Agriculture Committee)

What does the ABC Recycling Bill do?

Establishes a statewide program to provide a sustainable stream of recyclable material for industry growth and job creation.

- Calls for establishments that have a permit for on-site consumption of alcohol to implement a recycling program in the next two years for plastic, corrugated cardboard, aluminum and glass.
- Outlines model recycling plan for DHEC and permit holders. The Department of Revenue will annually perform random audits of recycling plans to determine compliance.
- Provides a 10% discount on permit applications or renewals for eight years if there is a recycling plan that includes glass. The permit cannot be revoked for failure to comply.
- Provides exemptions for establishments if recycling is not “financially feasible,” whose recycling costs would be greater than 14% of their solid waste disposal fees. Establishments providing evidence of a lack of access to glass recyclers are exempt.

The Numbers—Recycling means Jobs:

In 2009, the recycling industry created **1,354 new jobs**.

Recycling equals a **\$52 million dollar** opportunity for this state, annually.

South Carolina has seven material recycling facilities and over three-hundred collectors, brokers, processors and manufacturers across the state, **employing approximately 15,600 people**.

A 2010 Clemson University study projects recycling industry growth at 12% annually producing 37,000 direct and indirect jobs in five years.

Recycling in South Carolina is decreasing; today **we recycle only 22%** of our solid waste, far below the state goal of 35%.

In 2009, an estimated **400,000 tons** of recyclable material went into South Carolina’s **landfills**.

Recoverable material going to landfills **costs taxpayers \$31 million** in disposal costs and decreases revenue opportunities for the state, counties and municipalities.

S.461 passed the Senate in a 31-9 vote and has been referred to the House Agriculture Committee.

Sources:

- *Clemson University Jim Self Center for the Future; Recycling Cluster Strategic Plan – 2010*
- *Southeastern Recycling Development Council; 2010 Study to map demand of recycled feedstock in the Southeast US*
- *South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report for Fiscal 2009*

ABC Permit Holders: Cost of Waste Disposal v. Recycling**

Size/Type of Establishment	Waste Only	Waste + Recycling	Notes
Small Restaurant	\$5,500/yr	\$5,495/yr	Figures vary according to weight of waste, frequency of recycling pick-up, and number of roll carts purchased
Large Restaurant	\$10,340/yr	\$9,370/yr	
Large Hotel	\$18,298/yr	\$18,200/yr	Additional costs vary depending on depth of recycling (lobby, hotel rooms, pool areas, beach access for recycling receptacles/ collection) and other recycling equipment or program costs.

**While difficult to pinpoint exact costs of waste disposal and recycling due to numerous variables and fluctuations, these average estimates illustrate that most ABC permit holders will be able to receive both services at little, to no, extra cost.

- **South Carolinians threw away almost 400,000 tons of recyclable materials in 2009, which cost taxpayers nearly \$31 million in waste disposal costs.**
- **Land filling waste costs \$16-\$17/ton. Plus, there are “hidden costs” that clients routinely pay for.**
- **Recycling materials such as glass, plastic, metals, and corrugated cardboard could generate more than \$52 million annually for the state.**

Why should businesses pay for recycling efforts?

Bars and restaurants pay fees to send an inordinate amount of recyclable materials into landfills, reducing the capacity and increasing the need for more landfills, which taxpayers must pay for. South Carolina cannot afford this burden!

Everybody should be recycling, not just bars and restaurants.

This is one of many steps toward reaching the state's recycling goals outlined in the Solid Waste Management Act. S.461 will help grow the recycling industry and once the industry grows it will be easier to expand statewide recycling efforts.

This bill benefits the recycling industry at the expense of local bars and restaurants.

When implemented properly, the cost of recycling is comparable to the price of sending waste to a landfill. And when businesses recycle, the expenses they incur paying haulers to take their waste to landfills decrease. Real costs associated with real businesses show that some license holders see a reduction in their overall waste disposal expenditures by recycling.

Chapter Election Time Is Here Again

What makes the Sierra Club special? Our governing executive committee is not hand-picked by donors but elected by our membership. This means YOU! Seven great candidates are running for four open spots. Please read their statements carefully and then vote for your four choices. **You'll find the ballot slip on the last page of this issue.** Ballots must be postmarked or received via fax by December 1, 2011. Happy Voting!

You may also choose to vote electronically. Simply direct your browser to the club's website (www.southcarolina.sierraclub.org) and click on the Chapter Election tab at the top of the page. If you have not already registered on the site, you will be required to do so first. You will need your membership number (found above your name on the label of your paper ballot (or on your membership card).

Simply check the boxes for the **four candidates** for whom you wish to cast your vote. You may change your vote up until the due date for ballots (December 1, 2011). If you have any questions or problems casting your electronic vote, contact the office at (803)256-8487 or via email at kurt.henning@sierraclub.org.

You must cast only one vote for each candidate (multiple votes for a single candidate will invalidate your ballot).

Susan Corbett



I'm back for one more term. But this could/should be my last. For a grassroots, democratic organization to keep growing and being healthy, it should avoid getting stale or complacent with the same people in positions of leadership year after year. Change is good. Leadership should be a shared responsibility. So I hope more of you will GET INVOLVED and run for your group and, possibly, the chapter ExComs. I'm in my third year as chapter chair, and, while I do enjoy this "job," it is, indeed, a lot of work. But a grassroots organization like ours needs strong and active leadership, and I hope I am fulfilling those requirements. I certainly feel like I spend a lot of time being chair!

My goals (if I am re-elected) are to continue growing the chapter, revitalizing the individual groups, getting a good fundraising machine in place, improving communications and member involvement through new social media,

remaining a strong part of the Common Agenda and the Legislative process, and either hiring a conservation organizer or making sure we have member leadership on the number of issues/campaigns we have going on around the state. As a member of the largest conservation group in South Carolina, I have never felt we are taking full advantage of our numbers. New software in the chapter office coupled with members' heightened use of the internet will empower us to have a stronger voice. I also want to do more outings and continue to engage people in our very excellent outings programs going on around the state; indeed, enjoying the beautiful places we work so hard to save and protect should be the number one order of business! Thank you, if you have voted for me in the past, and, if I am re-elected, I will continue to do my best to deserve your vote.

Jay Reitzes



Jay Reitzes has over fifteen years of experience as a multi-disciplinary professional. He is a Certified Public Accountant with a Juris Doctor degree from Villanova University School of Law and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Ohio University. Jay founded Reitzes Consulting, Inc. in 2001, which provides the full spectrum of accounting, tax, and finance services to multi-state corporations, partnerships, non-profits, and individuals. Additionally, Jay's small business consulting has been a valuable asset to diverse businesses throughout the country. The fiduciary relationships he has developed with his clients has been earned on account of his core values – integrity, creativity, professionalism, and attention to detail.

Jay and his wife, Anne, are originally from Ohio, but they have resided in South Carolina since 2003. They enjoy traveling and many outdoor activities, such as camping, kayaking, hiking, biking, and skiing. Concern and passion for the environment led Jay to the Henry's Knob Group of the South Carolina Sierra Club in 2005, where he immediately began serving as treasurer. In 2010, Jay also assumed the role of the treasurer of the South Carolina chapter, and became actively involved with several committees, including budget, fundraising, communications, and special events. He is also South Carolina's Delegate to the Council of Club Leaders.

Elaine Cooper



I grew up in Chicago, and, about thirty-three years ago, I moved to South Carolina, drawn to its wonderful warm weather and cleaner environment. I attended SIU, Southern Illinois University during a turbulent time of activism, majoring in Film, TV and Theater. Years later, I finished my BA at USC. Recently, I retired from ETV after working there for almost thirty-two years. At ETV, I edited documentaries (and some folks might recall that I worked on "Roots in the River," a documentary on the Congaree Swamp.

Over the years, I have been involved with numerous grass roots campaigns. Currently, I am the John Bachman Chair and am seeking re-election for my At-Large ExCom seat. My activism includes the League of Women Voters, Conservation Voters and Friends of the Earth.

I've been taking on a more proactive role with the Fundraising Committee and initiated a search to bring Bruce Lawrence in to lead us in our professional

fundraising efforts. I also serve on the State Fair and Conservation committees. I have been committed to serving on the ExCom these past two years, attending all the meetings, signing up for various committees and attending Sierra Club training programs such as National's Leadership Training and the "Art of the Ask" fundraising teleconferences.

Throughout my term, I've worked diligently to help promote the Club's ideas and agenda. Working on behalf of the Fundraising Committee, I brought in Rudy Mancke for the 40 Acre Rock walk (through our ETV relationship) to help us kick-off for our Congaree Cup campaign. I love to lobby for the Sierra Club and for the Conservation Common Agenda, and I ask you for your vote to allow me to continue in my passionate commitment to raising funds for the chapter and to keep it a viable leader in South Carolina's activism.

I not only "talk the talk," but also I "walk the walk."

Christopher Hall



Growing up in Michigan, the Great Lakes were a foundation for my passion for water conservation and enjoyment. I traveled extensively in my youth, visiting iconic parks, such as Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, the Badlands, Redwoods, Smoky Mountains and many others. After several years of traveling, I returned to Aiken and got involved with the Edisto River Canoe & Kayak Commission (ERCK). That association led me to the Sierra Club and environmental conservation.

I am a volunteer river guide and have taken a variety of classes in canoeing, kayaking and river rescue (not to mention several sea kayaking classes). I also teach kayaking at the annual Women's Retreat (sponsored by SC Wildlife Federation). I'm now working toward becoming a certified American Canoe Association instructor.

At my first meeting with the Western Carolina Group, I was asked to join as an ExCom member. My responsibilities with the group have included becoming a certified outings leader, the outings chair and the group's

co-chair. I've also developed an email list for our group's communication, set up a Facebook page to promote our group and am involved in setting up a website within the chapter site. Along with my technology skills, I share my stories of travel through my writing and photography. I'm interested in developing my videography skills, as I believe we all learn in different ways, and I want to be able to reach as many people as possible with a message of hope for our natural places. After only a few months with group, I've been asked to run for the chapter's ExCom.

My first-hand experiences in our national parks (and Quetico Provincial Park) have taught me to respect nature and urge me to take care of these beautiful places, especially those in my own backyard: the Edisto River. The potential threat to the Edisto still exists; I believe we have many people whose involvement can keep our river clean. I look forward to the opportunity to serve with our chapter both on this issue and on the others that affect South Carolina.

Tameria Warren



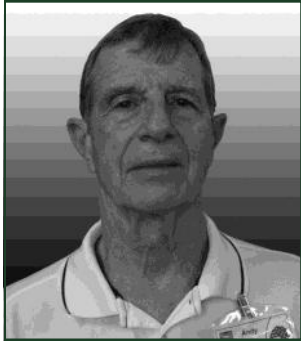
I am very passionate about protecting our environment and helping people to rethink and change their actions to ensure its viable existence. I take a personal interest in how people of color, low income residents and other underrepresented communities are impacted by changing environmental conditions, or, more importantly, how local and wide-scale practices negatively impact their quality of life.

Having grown up in an urban city at the height of automobile manufacturing, I have witnessed firsthand how small communities and neighborhoods fall victim to over-industrialization, immense air and water pollution, and other implications of "NIMBY." While I want to ensure every citizen and animal on this earth have the

opportunity to live in a clean environment, I am interested in helping, educating and advocating for those who have not been as vocal or present in the environmental movement.

I believe it will take a collective effort to restore the pristine quality of our environment, and I hope to work with people of all walks of life to achieve that.

Andy Yasinsac



I have a BS in Civil Engineering and a Masters in Sanitary (Water) Engineering, both from North Carolina State University (1965 & 1969). I worked for an environmental consulting engineer in Charlotte, North Carolina from 1969 to 1975, designing municipal and industrial water and wastewater facilities. From 1975 to 2008, I worked for DHEC, regulating industrial wastewater and stormwater. During that time, I assisted in closing a few facilities and putting a couple of people in jail for environmental violations. Since 2008, I have been active with the South Carolina Sierra Club and the South Carolina League of Women Voters Environmental Committee in commenting on and, sometimes, objecting to South Carolina DHEC permitting of environmental facilities.

I believe that South Carolina DHEC regulations and enforcement tremendously improve the environment of South Carolina; however, the limitations on its numbers and pay of personnel mean that DHEC has to pick and choose its activities, and the Sierra Club can help the agency make some much better choices. I would also like to see us advocate stronger support by the legislature for DHEC's regulatory activities.

The legislature also needs to hear from us as advocates for environmental protection.

Lynn Malley



A life-long Sierra Club member, I have been a National Service Outings leader for the Southeast Region for the last two years, leading trips in Florida and Louisiana. I recently moved from Oklahoma to South Carolina to take a job with Clemson Extension, coordinating a state-wide program supporting military kids. I look forward to blending my love of the outdoors with my work with military families in every county. The opportunity to explore many areas of the state will also be a great way to become familiar with the environmental strengths and challenges around the state.

I am interested in sustainable living and have been involved in the transition town and local foods movements in Oklahoma. I have always enjoyed both eating and

giving away foods grown in my own garden or prepared in my own kitchen, and I very much look forward to learning more about Southern foods and food preparation. (There can't be much that is better than the low country boil that was served at the recent Regional Leadership Meeting on Jekyll Island!) I am also actively involved in the diversity efforts of several national organizations and believe that those experiences would be helpful in expanding diversity in Sierra Club.

I would enjoy the opportunity to be your voice as a member-at-large on the Executive Committee of the South Carolina chapter of the Sierra Club.

When Inspiration Encourages Conservation

Christopher Hall

Western Carolina Group, Co-Chair

I listened to the water splash back into the river as I pulled my paddle out, reaching forward to plant another stroke. My kayak slowly moved downstream. It was a peaceful day. The sun was shining warmly on my back; the birds were singing their songs, but there was another sound in the air. It was very faint to begin with, but, slowly, beat after beat, the sound increased. That sound was the heartbeat of our rivers, and as I listened, I knew they were headed toward cardiac arrest.



Photograph courtesy of Christopher Hall

I recently became concerned about the future of one of these threatened rivers, the longest free-flowing blackwater river in the country—the Edisto River. I learned that upstream where the North Edisto River starts, there are plans that could affect the health of my beloved river. Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority (SCWSA) and the Town of Batesburg-Leesville (BL) have entered into an agreement for BL to provide wastewater treatment for SCWSA. The issue at hand here is that the current wastewater treatment plant at BL would likely need renovations if it were to handle adequately the additional load of one million gallons per day of flow that SCWSA would send, and the information I've received is that the parties involved plan on pushing this project through with or without the cooperation of the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

When email messages started rolling in this past spring, and I heard of the plans that would severely impact the Edisto River, I became distressed. For me, the Edisto had become a source for a sort of rebirth for me. On this river, I built new friendships, started paddling more frequently and started cutting my teeth on conservation. Now, a river that I dearly love was being put in harm's way. I felt I needed to get involved, and I jumped in. Over time, I created an email group to help facilitate communication about the issue, and I read each message, trying to wrap my head around the science and politics of what was unfolding. I learned much about water quality issues over the past several months.

Of the many tools we have available to us water conservationists, one of the most important is located on the website of the Department of Health & Environmental Control, and it's the 303d list. The list is a detailed listing of South Carolina's impaired waters, but its information goes much further than that. The impaired waters list details the location, the use (aquatic life and/or recreational use), the cause of impairment and a target date to bring that body of water up to standard. The plan used to address impairment issues is called a *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)* and the use of it was established in the 1972 Clean Water Act. The most recent 303d was completed in 2010, and a brief look at this list reveals that our rivers from the Pee Dee to the Savannah are impaired for a variety of reasons, including contamination by many heavy metals.

I am reminded that when I look at this issue of impairment of our rivers on the larger scale of our state, I have to keep things simple by bringing that back to my backyard. In the case of the Edisto River, certain steps have to be completed before 'flow' is sent from SCSWA to BL. A pipeline has to be built from Saluda County to Batesburg, a pump station also needs to be built, but even before that happens, land gets purchased, which means, in some cases, negotiating with private land owners and the required equipment has to be described in specific detail. Of course, before any shovels hit the dirt, a variety of construction permits must be obtained through DHEC.

At this point, DHEC maintains that no applications have been submitted, and no permits have been granted. In discussions with them in mid September, I was also told that once an application for expansion has been turned in, the wastewater treatment plant at Batesburg-Leesville will be reviewed and determinations made as to the maximum load it can handle in it's current state or what repairs/upgrades will need to take place to service Saluda County. Another part of the permitting process includes receiving public comments. All public notices for DHEC are made available on its website. Since meeting minutes are available to the public, I believe the prudent action to take is to keep abreast of the actions of both Saluda County and Batesburg-Leesville.



Photograph courtesy of Christopher Hall

I believe that the larger part of conservation starts with the

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Chapter Passes Resolution Opposing I-73—So What’s Next?

Peggy Brown

If you haven’t seen the resolution passed on August 1, 2011, please go to http://mysierra.org/chapter/images/stories/2011/Draft_Resolution_on_Interstate_I_73_-_110815_1114.pdf to view it. The chapter followed up on the Resolution with a statewide Convio email blast on August 23, 2011 asking all Sierra Club members to take action by contacting the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Commissioners to let them know they oppose the I-73 corridor not only for the environmental degradation of over 3000 acres of farmland and over 300 acres of wetlands but also for the economic regression impact it could possibly have on the businesses along the current routes to Myrtle Beach. Having said that, are you ok with the fact that if the interstate goes through in spite of the aforementioned effects that any road infrastructure in your city/county that may be desperately in need of repair could be put on the back burner indefinitely because of the state’s transportation debt?

How can we possibly support any proposals made by a state government entity whose board of commissioners will continue to spend money and not even pause when its dirty laundry has

been hung out for the entire state to view? SCDOT faced over a \$50 million deficit while contractors and road workers were late getting paid, causing contractors to fear that they could possibly end up going out of business. So to remedy that catastrophe, Governor Haley turned to the federal government for a \$52 million cash advance to get caught up on its bills, but according to state Transportation Secretary Robert St. Onge this could happen again during the peak construction season next year. If we can’t pay for road work being done today or next year how can SCDOT, a few Horry County legislators, their chamber and business leaders ask South Carolinians to support the obnoxious cost of the proposed I-73 plan? If SCDOT hadn’t run into cash flow problems, I-73 probably would have moved forward on the fast track!

How can we trust this body to make sound decisions on the state’s behalf when basic business practices have not been managed properly? SCDOT needs to wake up to the fact that businesses and South Carolinians rely on payment for work they’ve completed. SCDOT is still struggling to pay its bills even after receiving a \$52 million cash advance from the administration of President Barack Obama.

Sierrans, if you missed out on the opportunity to speak publicly about this daunting proposal that was held on September 16, you can still send a letter to the SCDOT commissioners and tell them to put South Carolina to work repairing its existing infrastructure and not to waste funding on a road that we don’t need.

Spread the Word

Harry Gregory

Nancy Cathcart Group, Chair

One way to keep the chapter & group’s messages out in the public eye is by writing letters to the editors. So, feel free to copy this one and send it to your local papers or use it as inspiration for your own letter to the editor. We’d like to make this a regular feature in the Congaree Chronicle, so if you have an idea for a letter-to-the-editor-campaign, please send it to the office (kurt.henning@sierraclub.org)

Leveling the Playing Field

Rick Perry says that climate scientists are in it for the money. That may also explain why senators received \$370,000 for their vote to retain oil subsidies, and why Perry has an

\$11,000,000 history with the oil industry. So, who are we going to believe? The grant-seeking scientists or the donation-seeking messengers for the oil companies?

Considering that our kids’ air and water are at risk if we get this wrong, let’s err on the side of caution by leveling the playing field for clean energy. What we have now amounts to socialized oil.

The subsidies keep the price at the pump artificially low. Remove the subsidies and the market will lead us to true energy independence and create clean energy jobs in the process.

A Quick Aside: On page fourteen of the Congaree Chronicle, you’ll find the text for a petition encouraging the president to stop the Keystone XL Pipeline. I implore you to print it out, get as many signatures as you can and send it to the office by October 24, 2011. Once we’ve received them, we’ll send them on to the White House.

Hall, continued from page 6

awareness that a problem exists, I have to decide that it’s just not acceptable, and I have to take action. I start by breaking things down to small manageable pieces. Along the way, I stack one piece on top of another to build a level of expertise. Applying this knowledge to the situation unfolding at the Edisto River: Water Quality Standards state that “a stream may not be degraded below its existing quality without showing that it’s

necessary to do so.” The danger we face, as conservationists, with the Edisto River is the threat of greatly degrading the quality of the river. At its headwaters, the Edisto is barely a trickle over some stones. If Saluda County and Batesburg-Leesville continue with plans to send additional ‘flow’ to the Batesburg-Leesville’s wastewater treatment plant, considering the present list of impaired waters, it is a very real threat that 2.5 million gallons per day of waste could be dumped into the headwaters of the Edisto. I can’t let another river in South Carolina find its way onto the 303d list.

Why Get Arrested to End the Tar Sands Pipeline?

Jan Hammett

Citizen Activist & Sierran

This is a question I have been asked many times since my arrest in Washington, on August 22, 2011. It seems my rebellious act was a shocking contradiction of suitable conduct and completely unbecoming of a senior citizen. Although I was in good company with the likes of author and activist Bill McKibben, climatologist and head of the NASA Goddard Institute, Dr. James Hansen, actress Daryl Hanna, and author Naomi Klein, no one was more shocked than I when a very large man dressed in black and wearing a gun, told me to stand up and turn around. Lafayette Square on the 1600 block of Pennsylvania Avenue was abuzz with Secret Service, Park Police on horseback and foot, a SWAT Team and goodness knows who else . . . even a sniper on top of the White House. The Park Police came in and cordoned off the front of the area and announced in a megaphone for us to leave because we were blocking the sidewalk. After a third warning, he said, "You are all now under arrest and cannot leave the area." When he said that to my group, I felt my heart drop for just a moment. I had no idea how I, a law abiding grandma, would react to my imminent arrest. The time to leave was over. It was serious, and I had a dread rise up in me that could only be described as fear with adrenaline doing a binary dance of the Tango in my stomach.

So, how did I get from my comfortable home in Spartanburg to sweating in a hot paddy wagon in Washington, D.C with my hands tightly cuffed behind my back? It all began when I received an email from Bill McKibben saying that, in a few weeks, President Obama would be making a decision on whether



Photograph courtesy of Jan Hammett

or not to end the Keystone XL Pipeline. We needed to get the attention of our president and the American people. It was time for civil disobedience. In my mind, I was already there and this is why. To quote President John F. Kennedy: "If we make peaceful revolution impossible, we make violent revolution inevitable." The tar sands in Alberta, Canada are the second

largest pool of carbon on Earth, after the oil fields of Saudi Arabia, and, as Dr. Hansen has said, if we tap into these sources of energy, it is "essentially game over for the climate."



Photograph courtesy of Jan Hammett

The pipeline would cross over South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas and cross over an active seismic zone that, in 2002, had a 4.3 magnitude earthquake. Amazingly, it would also cross over the Ogallala Aquifer which supplies drinking water to two million people and supports \$20 billion in agriculture. Bill Erasmus, Regional Chief with the Assembly of First Nations in the Northwest Territories, is concerned about water quality. "Everything that happens in Alberta is part of the Mackenzie water basin," he said. Indigenous people of Canada are already suffering and have labeled this pipeline as "a slow industrial genocide." Where is moral integrity when we allow the love of profit to create death and destruction for fellow human beings?

Although the pipeline has passed a major hurdle with the U.S. State Department, Susan Casey-Lefkowitz, international program director for the Natural Resources Defense Council has stated that the Environmental Impact Study was incomplete. "Once again, the State Department has failed to do its homework, and they're leaving the American public to suffer the consequences. It is utterly beyond me how the administration can claim the pipeline will have 'no significant impacts' if they haven't bothered to do in-depth studies around the issues of contention," she said. The final decision will be up to the president.

The time has come for us all to say "no" to an inert way of being and to the silence that would enable the status quo of big oil. Be active and dare to speak up for what you believe, even at the expense of disapproval. There is no time left for us to be indifferent or casual about the aggressive exploitation of our natural resources, instead, we must take our hope "out of the mothballs" and speak up for renewable sources of energy. Theory, research and education are paramount to the first blush of change, but, when you combine this knowledge and conviction with an out-of-the-ordinary spirit of conduct, a beautiful thing happens—you have inaugurated a ripple effect that people cannot ignore. You become a real activist, hand cuffs and all.

Group Update Pages

John Bachman Group Update

The John Bachman Group is the local Sierra Club group in the Columbia, South Carolina area.

Its meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7pm in USC's Green Quad. All meetings and events are free and open to the public. The meetings are held at 1216 Wheat Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29208.



THE FIRST ANNUAL COLUMBIA GREEN FAIR WILL BE HELD AT FINLAY PARK ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2011! SEE YOU THERE!

Last year, Charleston Green Fair hosted over 5000 eco-minded citizens at their Marion Square Main Event. Our goal continues to be providing education and enlightenment to the residents of the Columbia area while promoting local green businesses and non-profits in South Carolina. Come see us in Finlay Park on October 22, 2011 for the First Annual Columbia Green Fair and find out easy ways that you and your family can make more sustainable choices!

Winyah Group Update

The Winyah Group will host Nancy Cave, North Coast Director of the South Carolina Conservation League, on **October 3, 2011** who will speak about the proposed Interstate I-73, and its environmental and economic implications. **The group will also be collecting used ink cartridges at its meetings to recycle them.**

On **November 3, 2011**, the group will celebrate its 25th Anniversary of membership in the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club, and it will recognize individuals who have made important contributions over the years.

Mark your calendars and please join us. (Please note that this event replaces our regularly scheduled luncheon meeting for November.)

JOIN US on Thursday, November 3, 2011 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm for a reception at Gray Man Gallery (10707 Ocean Highway, Pawley's Island). The awards ceremony will present a video history of the club, refreshments & light snacks and will run from 7:00pm to 9:00pm (Dinner at Bistro 217, which is next door to Gray Man Gallery).



Nancy Cathcart Group Update

The Cathcart Group participated in the River Sweep on the May River in Bluffton. The 23rd annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep was held on Saturday, September 17, 2011.

Each year, thousands of people participate in the Sweep, South Carolina's largest one-day litter



cleanup of beaches, marshes and waterways. The SC Sea Grant Consortium and SC Department of Natural Resources organize the statewide event, which is held in conjunction with the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup. Last year, in South Carolina, over 4,700 dedicated volunteers removed 24 tons of debris.

Watch for an email announcement regarding our October meeting. We also want to know if you are interested in taking a leadership role in the group. Please send inquiries to harrycgregory@gmail.com.

William Bartram Group Update

The Bartram Group is focusing volunteer time on a series of service outings over the next couple of months.

June Yanick continues to lead our quarterly Adopt-A-Highway program with the next one scheduled for November 12, 2011.

Chip Green leads outings in the Spartanburg area. A service outing for clean-up around Lake Bowen (Spartanburg) has just been completed. Jim Majors continues leading trail service maintenance in Jones Gap/Caesar's Head.

The next one is scheduled for Saturday, November 19, 2011. And, finally, the Bartram Group built and has maintained for

many years a trail called the Fernwood Trail in the main downtown Greenville park for many years.

This trail has a large Bartram/Sierra Club sign to mark its entrance.

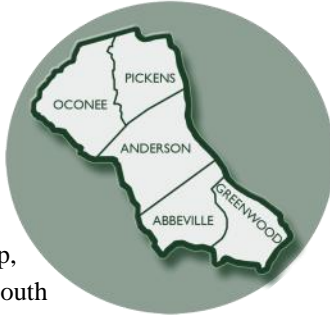
Dennis Chamberlain will be leading the annual service maintenance for this trail on October 29, 2011. Details of all these efforts can be found on our website or our facebook page.



Group Update Pages

Foothills Group Update

The Foothills group meets on the first Tuesday of every month (except July) at 7:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 226 Pendleton Road, Clemson, South



Carolina.

Doors open at 7:00pm and the meeting is followed by a social hour. The group’s next meeting is titled: “The Intelligent River Project” Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 7:30pm. It is free and open to the public! The speaker is Dr. Gene W. Eidson who serves as principal investigator of the Intelligent River project. He is Program Director for restoration ecology within the Clemson University Restoration Institute.

Henry’s Knob Group Update

The Henry’s Knob Group, after a two month hiatus, met on September 20, 2011. The group now meets on the **third Tuesday of every month** except during the months of July and August.

With the pending resignations of two ExCom members, we are now in need of an outings chair and a program chair.

We have been without a conservation chair for several months.

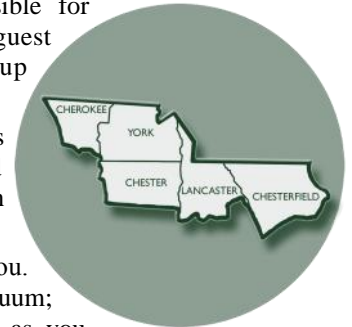
In addition, our Adopt-a-Highway Chair has resigned. Like the chapter, we will embark on several fundraising ventures, as we, too, are in need of funds to operate.

Among the outings chair’s responsibilities, is coordinating, scheduling and planning outings.

The program chair is responsible for scheduling and recruiting guest speakers for monthly group meetings.

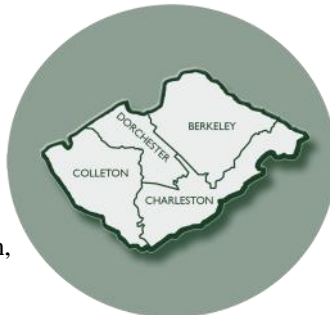
The conservation chair provides leadership, direction and guidance for local conservation issues for the group.

Don’t let the titles intimidate you. Groups do not function in a vacuum; our members will support you as you get your bearings. Become an active member of your group!



Robert Lunz Group Update

The Robert Lunz Group meets every first Thursday at 7:00pm at the MUSC - Baruch Auditorium at 284 Calhoun Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29425.



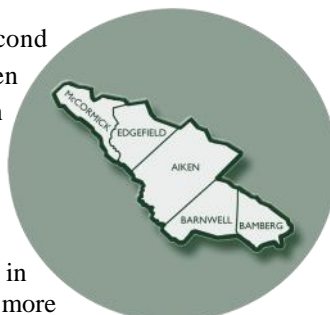
Lunz Letter Delivery Change

The Lunz Group has shifted its delivery system for the *Lunz Letter* from post to electronic. Make sure that you don’t miss the group’s events and activities, get your email address to Starr Hazard by sending it to hazardes@bellsouth.net. Please include your zip code as well.

If you are unable to receive the electronic version of the *Lunz Letter*, contact Janice May at (843)763-6542.

Western Carolina Group Update

The Group meets every second Tuesday at 7:00pm at Aiken Unitarian Universalist Church which is located at 115 Gregg Avenue, Aiken, South Carolina 29801-2797.



If you would like to participate in future outings or would like more information, contact Chris Hall via email at ipaddle4fun@gmail.com.

Pee Dee Group Update

The Group meets every second Thursday (except for June, July and August) at 7:00pm at the St. Luke Lutheran Church - 1201 Cherokee Road, Florence, South Carolina, 29501.



You can download a copy of the most recent edition of the Pee Dee Group’s *The Paddler* at www.peedeesierraclub.org.

Kayaking Florida's Big Bend

Allyn Schneider

Nancy Cathcart Group

In early spring, I received an email from the Southeastern Subcommittee of the Sierra Club. It stated that an assistant leader on a kayak trip had hurt her arm and could not take part on the trip. They were looking for a Sierra Club leader with kayaking experience, for which I qualified. Living in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, I kayak year round, and, in the past two years, I have kayaked in the Okefenokee NWR, Georgia; Sewanee River, Florida; The Everglades, Florida; and in Belize.



I responded to the email, citing my experience and soon received a reply: if I could make the scheduled trip, which was only one week away, the position was mine.

The Big Bend area of Florida is where the west coast of Florida meets the panhandle (see map insert).

I met the leader, Ben, in Orlando, Florida where we rented a sixteen passenger van and picked up a trailer with sixteen kayaks. We met the fourteen participants at the Orlando Airport and then drove five hours to the Big Bend area. Orlando was selected as the meeting place as there are many more economical flights from around the country than there are at Tallahassee, which is closer to Big Bend. We stayed at the Wakulla Springs Lodge which is in the Wakulla Springs Florida State Park and was built in 1937. Wakulla Springs is one of the largest clear springs in northwest Florida with a flow of over a million gallons a day.



Photograph courtesy of Allyn Schneider

The first day of paddling found us on the Wacissa River where we paddled thirteen miles downstream. In order to do that, we had to set up a shuttle so that the van and trailer were at the finishing point. This required close to an hour to accomplish. Because the participants had to paddle or swim around the starting point until the leaders returned, Ben and I decided that was the last paddle trip to require a shuttle. All future trips would begin with a paddle upstream followed by the return paddle/float downstream. In spite of the start of the trip being

delayed, it ended up being a great paddle with much wildlife to be seen.



Photograph courtesy of Allyn Schneider

The next day it was on to the Wakulla River which originates in Wakulla Springs. To protect the springs, no kayaking is allowed in the state park, so we started downstream and paddled to the park boundary. Northwest Florida is composed of limestone which is porous and allows rain water to permeate it and flow out at a lower elevation. That is why this area has so many clear, freshwater springs. The area is called a Karst region, named for an area in Austria with similar geology.

The Aucilla River was next, and it was a surprise. Most of the rivers flow without any rapids, but the Aucilla River, due to its limestone outcroppings, created rapids which we had to run in both directions or push the kayaks up through them. It was a nice change of pace as the earlier rivers did not have a ripple.

Next came the St. Marks River, another gently flowing river. We were able to get to its source where it emerges from underground.

The great part of kayaking these rivers was the rich animal life of birds and reptiles. There were egrets, herons, ibises, anhingas, limpkins and eagles. There were alligators and turtles everywhere.

For a change on the last day, we kayaked in the Gulf of Mexico at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. We not only kayaked in the gulf, but also meandered through a salt marsh that was alive with wildlife. After kayaking, we spent some time hiking through the refuge.

The Sierra Club runs many kayaking trips in all parts of Florida throughout the year where you can experience the clear waters from the many clear springs. If you have the interest and opportunity, please take part. No experience necessary.



Photograph courtesy of Allyn Schneider

Sierra Club Legislative Update



Cary D. Chamblee
Chapter Lobbyist, Columbia
chambleec@gmail.com

Common Agenda Planning Meeting Is Now Set

This year's Common Agenda Planning Meeting will be held again at the Green Quad in Columbia, South Carolina on Friday, October 7, 2011.

Representatives from the state's conservation organizations will meet to gain consensus on the major 2012 legislative priorities. We will meet from 10:30am until 3:30pm in Columbia, South Carolina at the USC Green Quad.

Lunch will be provided.

Please send an email to Debbie Parker at debbie@conservationvotersofsc.org if you would like to attend the meeting.

Proposals for the Common Agenda Priorities are being developed by issue teams made up of members of all of our conservation groups.

Please note that the priorities for these teams are not comprehensive. This is only a sampling. The teams are:

Land Leaders/Growth Gurus

Supporting the conservation bank, monitoring and opposing efforts to limit a community's rights, promoting wildlife habitat conservation bills and fishery regulations and encouraging sustainable agriculture and local foods.

Water Wizards

Upholding coastal zone management act regulations, encouraging septic tank inspections, supporting the three-strikes chronic sewage spill bill, and fine-tuning dredging regulations.

Energy Eagles

Introducing reasonable renewable energy requirements for utilities, encouraging the update of building codes, supporting economic incentives for solar energy equipment and pursuing the development of offshore wind energy alternatives.

Waste Warriors

Working toward making DHEC more transparent, accountable and effective, supporting a consumer beverage recycling program, developing effective coal ash storage solutions, addressing the state's landfill issues and opposing the pursuit of waste incinerators.

Conservation Leaders' Summit

You may want to save the date for the upcoming Conservation Leaders' Summit. It will be held on Sunday, November 6 and Monday, November 7, 2011 at Camp St. Christopher on Seabrook Island.

Registration information will be released in a few weeks. You can contact Debbie Parker, Legislative/Program Director for the Conservation Voters of South Carolina for more information. She can be reached at (803)799-0716.



Photograph courtesy of Kurt Henning

Sierra Club Outings

(September through December)

Compiled by Starr Hazard

Chapter Outings Chair

Saturday, September 24

Trail Service Outings at Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area Event 4

We are beginning the ninth year of service to Caesars Head and Jones Gap State Parks. Please join us on Saturday, September 24, 2011 from 9am until 3pm for the fourth event in the 2011 Trail Service Project to improve and preserve the existing trails at these mountain parks.

Contact Jim Majors at (864)233-7576 or at jim_majors@bellsouth.net.

Weekend of September 30

2011 Georgia Chapter Retreat

Please join us at Jekyll Island, Georgia for the Georgia Chapter Sierra Club 2011 Retreat, Sep 30 – Oct 2. This year's retreat will be held on beautiful Jekyll Island, the island that has been preserved for the people of Georgia. We'll explore the island, learning about the birds, sea turtles and Georgia's State Mammal, the Right Whale, all of which rely on this island and the sea offshore for their survival.

There will be plenty of opportunities to go dolphin watching, biking, kayaking, birding, kite-flying, etc. We also have a variety of workshops planned where you can learn more about how you, as a Sierra Club member, can become more involved in the variety of Conservation initiatives of the Georgia Chapter.

To register, direct your browser to: <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/Calendar?id=153041&view=Detail>

For more information, please contact: Genie Strickland via email at genie.strickland@sierraclub.org or (404)607-1262 ext.: 221 or you can contact Terry Jones - Wolpers4@aol.com or (706) 549-9643.

Saturday, October 22

Trail Service Outings at Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area Event 5

We are beginning the ninth year of service to Caesars Head and Jones Gap State Parks. Please join us for the fifth event in the 2011 Trail Service Project to improve and preserve the existing trails at these mountain parks.

Contact Jim Majors at (864)233-7576 or at jim_majors@bellsouth.net.

Weekend of October 29-30

SC Sierra Club WFA-CPR Training

American Red Cross (ARC) Wilderness First Aid and CPR training. Upon completion, everyone will get ARC certification which is good for two years, and fulfills the first aid requirements for Sierra Club OLT201 for wilderness Outings, plus acquire knowledge that may save someone's life. One cabin (of the five available at Poinsett State Park) has been reserved as a "headquarters/dining hall," and two campsites adjacent to the enclosed campground shelter building which will allow us to use it for training with an early morning start. There are four other cabins available at the moment, but would have to be reserved individually; we're only supplying camping spots, meals, WFA and CPR training. Poinsett State Park, 40 miles east of Columbia, has unique attributes that make it seem like being in the mountains while also having a swamp at the far end of the pond. There are ruins from an old (1700s/1800s?) mill fed by a water-falling creek. The Palmetto Trail goes through here, and there is another nice open shelter (among others) less than a mile's hike down that trail. This park was built during the Great Depression, by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). This is a highly discounted Training Outing with limited participants. Cost through July 31 (\$110), Sept 10 (\$130), after (\$150), and includes ARC certified WFA and CPR, meals, and camping spot. 50% due to lock in the current rate, balance due at the Training Outing, deposit refunded only for Outing cancellation or rescheduling.

To register, send an email to Starr Hazard at hazardes@bellsouth.net and instructions on where to send your check will be sent. Registration "occurs" when Starr gets your check.

Saturday, November 19

Trail Service Outings at Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area Event 6

We are beginning the ninth year of service to Caesars Head and Jones Gap State Parks. Please join us on Saturday, November 19, 2011, for the final 2011 Trail Service Project to improve and preserve the existing trails at these mountain parks.

Contact Jim Majors at (864)233-7576 or at jim_majors@bellsouth.net.



Photograph courtesy of Kurt Henning

Petition against the Keystone XL Pipeline

(Copy this text & get as many names as you can. Send your petition to the office by October 24 & we'll send them to the president)

President Barack Obama
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
 Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The majority of climate scientists tell us that we are on the Titanic and the Keystone XL Pipeline is the iceberg. Full speed ahead is not an option. We need to change course toward renewable energy and stop this pipeline right now.

We, the undersigned, urge you to demonstrate real climate leadership by rejecting the requested permit and focus on developing safe, clean energy to move the planet away from dependence on fossil fuels.

Sincerely,

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Email</u>
John Q. Sample	1314 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29229	j.sample@e-mail.com

South Carolina Sierra Club Calendar

- October 2, 2011 — Georgia Chapter Retreat & Chapter ExCom Meeting
- October 12, 2011 — Start of South Carolina State Fair **(Volunteers are needed!)**
- October 23, 2011 — Final Day of South Carolina State Fair
- November 5, 2011 — Articles Due for Winter 2012 Congaree Chronicle
- December 1, 2011 — Ballots Due
- December 3, 2011 — Chapter ExCom Meeting



Corbett, continued from page 2

seriously when he weighs in on this issue, or his answer on how to handle pollution, which is to get rid of the EPA and encourage citizens to file class action law suits against the polluters. It's even more ironic, or moronic, to find out he is in favor of major tort reform, reforms that would limit citizens' ability to sue and cap the amounts that could be collected.

In typical try-to-follow-my-changing-positions fashion, Newt Gingrich has gone from saying that our country must take action to address climate change to saying he regretted making a television ad with Nancy Pelosi for WeCanSolveIt.org, calling for action on climate change. Whether this is pandering to the extreme right or just the weird machinations of an unpredictable mind, we may never know, as Newt is as illusive and changeable as any politician gets.

Driven by the politically motivated and big business funded "debunk climate science" movement, Tim Pawlenty has apologized for once supporting *Cap and Trade*, and now even Mitt Romney has become mushy about an issue he once seemed pretty firm on. He has gone from accepting the science when he

was governor, to saying now that he doesn't know whether the climate is heating up, or if it is, why.

As I stated at the beginning, only Jon Huntsman is the adult in the room on this issue. As a world traveler, sophisticated and polished diplomat, he has certainly read the science and seen its impact on other countries. China is experiencing major global warming effects with the expanding Gobi desert and its devastating impacts on Beijing along with rapidly diminishing water resources. He doesn't seem afraid to say he believes in the science of global climate change.

It seems obvious that the party of big business doesn't want any part of any science that points out how business is harmful to human life on the planet. Jobs and profits trump all, even *Reason*. If the Tea Party continues to have its way, it looks like we will have to choose between a president with lots of good intentions who isn't getting much done, and a science denier who thinks we can pray away the weather. This new dark-age of science denial seems eerily reminiscent of a time when religious doctrine trumped empirical data, and politics silenced any who dared speak the truth. Truly, if you believe in prayer, now is the time to pray for wisdom and guidance.



Chapter Awards Nominees Sought for 2011

The Awards Committee of the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club is seeking nominations for meritorious service during 2011. Nominations must be submitted by December 15, 2011.

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.

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.

Distinguished Service Award

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

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

Carolina Sierran

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

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.

Group Achievement Award

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

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.

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.

Media Person of the Year

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

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,

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

2011 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. Please describe the accomplishments this person or group has made in 2011 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 DECEMBER 15, 2011.**

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*):

In Appreciation

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

Donations received from July 1, 2011 to September 15, 2011

White Oak (\$2500+)
The Guacamole Fund
M.U.S.E.

Magnolia (\$1000-\$2499)
Harry & Rebecca Dalton
N. Barton & R. Guild
Robert Lunz Group
John Bachman Group
Pee Dee Group

Spruce (\$250-\$499)
Doug Robinson
Henry's Knob Group
William Hare
Georgia Roane
Pat & Ed Fitzgerald

Dr. & Mrs. Zdenek
Nancy Cathcart Group

Dogwood (\$100-\$249)
Cindy & Daniel Tufford
G. Rudolph & C. Fralix
Jeremy Grant
Paul & Phoebe Palmer
Sam & Laurie Booher
Elaine & Ira Cooper
Western Carolina Group

Rosebud (\$50-\$99)
Kristen Moldenhauer
Judith Ziemer
Richard Lamb
James & Barbara Majors

Melissa Garvan
George & Jane Polk
Robert & Peggy Brown

Trillium (\$25-\$49)
Julia & Robert Hall
Debbie & Thomas Rountree
Alexander Ogden
Dr. J.R. Edinger
Susan Corbett

Red Clover (<\$25)
Barbara Burwell
Lois Taylor
Jesse Hudson
Emily Jackson
Jay & Anne Reitzes



Call for Volunteers at the State Fair

Chapter will host a booth at the fair

We're going to be at the State Fair again this year, and we need your assistance. Volunteers are needed to help us maintain a presence at the chapter's booth, because fair organizers will not allow us to present a booth to fair visitors unless we can guarantee our physical presence during all the fair's operating hours.

The Fair runs from Wednesday, October 12 through Sunday, October 23 and the hours are from 10am until 10pm (12pm to 10pm on Sundays). In a nutshell, we need at least 96 hours of help.

We're primarily looking for members to help us fill the 4pm to 7pm and 7pm to 10pm shifts each day; however, volunteers who would prefer to visit with us during the day are welcome to do that as well. The chapter will cover the admission fee for all volunteers (parking is free in the Fair's lot).

You don't need to feel like you need to know everything about the Club, in fact, a friendly face and supporting the Sierra Club's mission would suffice. It might also be helpful for you to share your personal reasons for joining the Sierra Club with booth visitors. We will provide material and "cheat sheets" just in case visitors are interested in specific details of our mission and accomplishments. Please contact the chapter office to let us know that you are interested in helping out at the State Fair. You can call us at (803)256-8487 or email at kurt.henning@sierraclub.org.



Photograph courtesy of Kurt Henning

Create a brighter future by donating to our vital work!

\$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ Other _____ Please do not publish my name as donor: _____

I would like to join the South Carolina Congaree Society by making a larger gift for my family's future:

\$250-499 Spruce \$500-\$999 Long Leaf Pine \$1,000-\$2,499 Magnolia \$2,500+ White Oak

() Please charge my credit card () Visa () MasterCard for my \$_____ gift.

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name _____

Address _____

Please make your check payable to: Sierra Club of South Carolina, P.O. Box 2388, Columbia, SC 29202. Your contribution to the "SC Sierra Club" is not tax deductible; it supports our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobby efforts.

If you prefer to make a tax-deductible gift to support our work, please call (803)256-8487 to learn how.



A Note from the Fundraising Committee

South Carolina Sierrans, the state chapter needs your help!

Over the past two years, the chapter has struggled with fundraising efforts due to the economy, employee turnover and not having a concentrated focus or person dedicated to this essential function of our state organization. Even though funding is low, the state board chapter, staff, and volunteers continue to provide leadership in environmental issues across the South Carolina. Our conservation priorities include educating on Renewable Energy, Water Quality, Global Warming, Zero-Waste, Water Pollution and Mercury Reduction, Air Quality, Nuclear Energy, Coal, Oil and Wildlife Protection. Throughout South Carolina, we have provided and will continue to provide guided outings: kayaking, canoeing, biking, hiking and work service trips for members and friends.

In South Carolina, we have over 5500 members, if, **today**, you would consider a small donation of \$10.00 each or \$15.00 per household this would see us through a difficult year's end and through the winter months of 2012. South Carolina Sierra Club has had a positive presence for many years, and very much desires to continue. Please consider your donation an investment in the future. [Click here](#) to donate today! Many thanks, the Chapter Fundraising Committee.

Visit us on the web at: www.southcarolina.sierraclub.org

Follow us on Twitter: @SCSierraClub

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SierraClubofSC

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.

**2011 Official Sierra Club Ballot:
At-Large Candidates to Chapter Executive Committee**

Voting Instructions: Please place checks by your top four (4) candidates and then mail the completed ballot in a sealed envelope to our office postmarked by December 1, 2011. *In order for your ballot to be counted, your name and member number must be written on the OUTSIDE of the envelope.* You can find your member number on the mailing label below or on your membership card.

The Candidates	Your Vote	Your Partner's Vote (if joint membership)
Susan Corbett		
Jay Reitzes		
Christopher Hall		
Elaine Cooper		
Tameria Warren		
Andy Yasinsac		
Lynn Malley		

Send ballot to:
Elections Committee
Sierra Club of South Carolina
Post Office Box 2388
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

After verifying the eligibility of the ballots received, the Elections Committee will separate the ballots from the envelopes before examining the ballots and tabulating the votes. Failure to follow voting instructions may invalidate your ballot. Our organization depends on you! Please vote. Remember to write your member number on the mailing envelope.

..... *Detach Here*

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 101
Columbia, SC

Congaree Chronicle
Sierra Club of South Carolina
PO Box 2388
Columbia, SC 29202