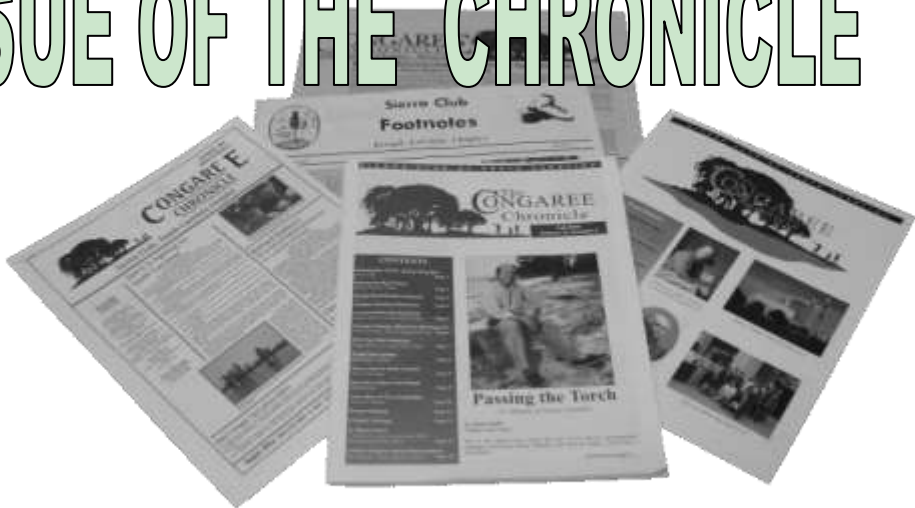




The CONGAREE Chronicle

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LAST PAPER ISSUE OF THE CHRONICLE



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As the economic downturn has changed the way Americans and South Carolinians spend their money, it has also, unfortunately, affected the financial state of affairs of our South Carolina Sierra Club. Even though our chapter has traditionally run on a very lean budget, we have been forced to look for additional ways to make our modest budget go even farther.

To that end, we've decided to halt the physical printing and distribution of the Congaree Chronicle in favor of publishing an electronic version. You may not be aware that printing and distributing our quarterly newsletter is by no means inexpensive. It costs from \$16,000 to \$18,000, annually, in printing and shipping fees alone. We want to use your donations as wisely and effectively as we can, so the change from mailboxes to electronic mailboxes seems like the right thing to do.

We want to make sure that you get your copy of the *Congaree Chronicle*, which includes updates about the groups around the state, outings listings and feature articles about activities and issues around South Carolina. In order for this to work, we are going to need as many email addresses from members as possible so that we can send out the pdf of the *Chronicle*. To avoid any confusion: **this edition of the newsletter is the last one we'll be physically mailing to members.** Starting with the Spring 2011 edition, we will be distributing an electronic copy only. Be sure that you get the newsletter in your electronic mailbox, by emailing kurt.henning@sierraclub.org with **the words "Congaree Chronicle Email Address" in the subject line.**

Please make sure that you send an email to the office so that we can continue to send out this important Club newsletter and information source. We want to make sure that you receive your newsletter, but, if we don't have your email address, we won't be able to send you these important Club newsletters.



Seeing the Big Picture

Susan Corbett, Chair,
South Carolina Chapter

This week the South Carolina Legislature passed a resolution urging the Obama administration to continue with the licensing procedure of Yucca Mountain, a site in Nevada where all the high-level nuclear waste was going to be stored—forever.

It seems our legislators feel there is some kind of Harry Reid / Barack Obama political conspiracy to deprive the country of a permanent geologic repository. Nothing is farther from the truth. The real truth is that Yucca Mountain is and has been a political, technical and geologic debacle from the beginning.

At the beginning of all this, in 1984, the creation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act guaranteed a fair and scientific process would be used to find the best possible location geologically for the proposed site, but the process broke down almost immediately.

A number of primary and secondary sites were examined and put on a list of prospective locations; however, during the 1986 election cycle, the Reagan administration acquiesced to pressure from the eastern states that had potential suitable sites for a repository and suspended the search for a second location (there has always been a plan to build more than one). Then, three of the four states that had been selected as potential, primary sites, Louisiana, Texas and Washington, managed to get their states off the hook and singled out Nevada as the sole site. **At the time, there was no Harry Reid in power, and it came down to Nevada's** political weakness vs. the clout of Senate Energy Committee Chairman J. Bennett Johnston (LA), House Speaker Jim Wright (TX) and House Majority Leader Tom Foley (WA). Nevada was chosen because it represented the path of least resistance or, at least, the least potential political pushback.

Even as work proceeded on Yucca, it became apparent this was not a suitable geologic site. The area is riddled with earthquakes, and, during construction, it became common for earthquakes to shake the walls of the facility. Additionally, **the numerous magma chambers moving beneath the western United States'** tectonic plate and the passage of water through the site are of more concern. Early on, the Department of Energy realized that it could not meet the standards called for in the NWPA to isolate the waste for 10,000 years with Yucca's geology. So, the DOE then turned to a plan that would engineer manmade containers to do the job. The flaw in this is that no manmade containers have proven to be able to last that long, and, if they could, we could plant the waste under the dome of the capital and keep it safe there. . .

One of the most onerous parts of this whole thing has been the secrecy and strong arming of the DOE. The state of Nevada had to fight every step of the way to be able to have input and access to the ongoing process. As early as 1984, Nevada had to go to court to secure its right to oversee the site . . . something that is guaranteed in the Act. When it became apparent Yucca could not meet the original DOE geologic standards, rather than abandon the site, the Act was amended to "make it work." The scientific standards were abandoned and DOE ignored findings that would disqualify the site.

In fact, according to the Bruce Breslow, Director of Nevada Nuclear Affairs, "DOE petitioned Congress to exempt the site from health and safety regulations to get around suitability problems, and then scrapped its own site evaluation guidelines altogether when the site couldn't meet them either."—Unbelievable.

I am telling you all this so that you can understand how a completely unsuitable site got ramrodded through a political and technical process and now has turned into something else completely. Congress shares most of the blame in this failure. If NIMBY politics had not intervened, and the Act was implemented in its original

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Sierra Club of South Carolina
Post Office Box 2388
1314 Lincoln Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29202
(803)256-8487
www.southcarolina.sierraclub.org

Chapter Executive Committee

Chair: Susan Corbett, West Columbia
jscorbett@mindspring.com

Vice Chair: Bob Guild, Columbia
bguild@mindspring.com

Treasurer: Jay , Columbia
j1robey@bellsouth.net

Conservation Chair: Harry Gregory, Bluffton
harrycgregory@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Starr Hazard, Mt. Pleasant
hazardes@bellsouth.net

Membership Chair: Emily Jackson, Florence
jacks404@gmail.com

Allyn Schneider, Hilton Head
aschneider@hargray.com

Elaine Cooper, Columbia
irafcooper@earthlink.net

Jerry Rudolph, Lexington
gerald.rudolph@gmail.com

Marjorie Palmer, Columbia
marjorie_palmer@alumni.sewanee.edu

Joe Zdenek, Rock Hill
jzdenek@comporium.net

Mark Hall, Sumter
8034644819@txt.att.net

Jeremy Grant, Columbia
jeremygrant2@hotmail.com

Jim Majors, Greenville
jim_majors@bellsouth.net

John Bracken, Pawleys Island
johnbracken@juno.com

Peggy Brown, Florence
pegjobrown@yahoo.com

George Booth, Salem
Gejbooth@bellsouth.net

John Demko, Aiken
jldemko@bellsouth.net

Staff

Chapter Legislative Director: Cary Chamblee
chambleec@gmail.com

Chapter Coordinator: Kurt Henning
kurt.henning@sierraclub.org

Conservation Coordinator: Samantha Siegel
samantha.siegel@sierraclub.org

Honoring John Spratt: Champion of the Environment



The South Carolina Sierra Club awarded Representative John M. Spratt, Jr. the Elected Official of the Year Award during its second annual awards ceremony, held on January 29, 2011. Representative Spratt has served South Carolina admirably as its Fifth Congressional District representative since 1982.

John Spratt earned a law degree from Yale and then served as a captain in the Army from 1969-71, where he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. During his service to South Carolina in our House of Representatives, he was the chairman of the Budget Committee and a negotiator of the Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997. He was also the second ranking democrat on the Armed Services Committee. In addition, he co-chaired the Textile Caucus, the Bearing Caucus, and the Nuclear Energy Caucus.

During his time in office, John Spratt convinced the U.S. Forestry Service and Congress to deed 48,000 acres of Sandhills

National Forest to South Carolina, managed to secure a \$3 million appropriation to buy a 1,049-acre addition to Landsford Canal State Park and fought to ensure that our right to breathe clean air and drink clean water was not impaired. He worked under the aegis that we have a duty to leave the earth better than we found it. He voted to strengthen the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts, to increase the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to limit out-of-state hazardous waste. He has fought waste dumps on the state line, acted as a watch dog over clean-up at Savannah River, and been named "Friend of the National Parks."

Another impressive aspect of John Spratt's tenure in the House of Representatives was his ability to attain an average environmental score of 93%, over the last few years, according to the League of Conservation Voter's ranking system. This seems no small feat when considering the federal environmental agenda since the beginning of the new millennium. In the past year alone, he voted in favor of legislation designed to protect or preserve the environment such as *The Home Star Energy Retrofit*, *the National Estuary Program* and *the Ocean Acidification Prevention Act*. His absence on the House floor will be sorely felt on both the national and state level.

One of his most recent political contributions for the country was to serve on President Obama's deficit commission. He admitted to NPR's Guy Raz that while the commission's suggestions didn't receive enough votes to move out of the budget committee, the suggestions and summary of the problem in the sixty-five page document should serve to keep the discussion moving forward about the government's fiscal responsibility.

John Spratt and his wife, Jane, who continue to live in York, South Carolina, have three daughters and five grandchildren.

Passion, Programs, Partners and Action Harry Gregory Chapter Conservation Chair

Question: What can Sierra Club learn from the Tea Party?

Answer: By stirring local passions, we can affect national change.

We are the oldest, largest, most influential grassroots environmental organization so we can do that. We have local groups that meet on a regular basis and determine their own agenda. We stir local passion on air quality, water quality, and other environmental issues. At the November Conservation Summit, Ann Timberlake, Executive Director of the Conservation Voters of South Carolina, told the representatives of the nineteen environmental groups assembled that we needed to "build a bigger tent." The

results of the 2010 election indicate that there will be very little political support in Washington for environmental issues. **We can't wait two years and hope for change.** What do we do?

Stir, baby, stir! The conservation segment of our retreat was focused on *passion, programs, partners, and action*. We will had guest speakers who aimed to stir our passion. Ann Timberlake reminded us of our success on issues like Congaree Action Now. Jenny Wiedower, Executive Director of the South Carolina Chapter of US Green Building Council, joined our own Joe Zdenek in a panel discussion on the Cool Cities Program that looks to address global warming one city at a time. Steve Valk with Citizens Climate Lobby told us how we can price carbon in a way Republicans can support and why South Carolina is so important to this process, and Matt Rice with American Rivers talked to us about American Great Outdoors.

We reviewed programs designed to

provide young people with a positive outdoor experience, some of which were specific to military families. You can choose the best fit for your community. All of these programs represent excellent opportunities for building partnerships under that "bigger tent." Maintaining these partnerships will lead to a broader common agenda which will give us more political capital. Please read my article on page 6 and bring letters to give to Steve Valk for the Million Letter March. Also, read "Reflections on a milestone year for youth and the outdoors" in *The Buzz: the newsletter of the Sierra Club's Youth Program*.

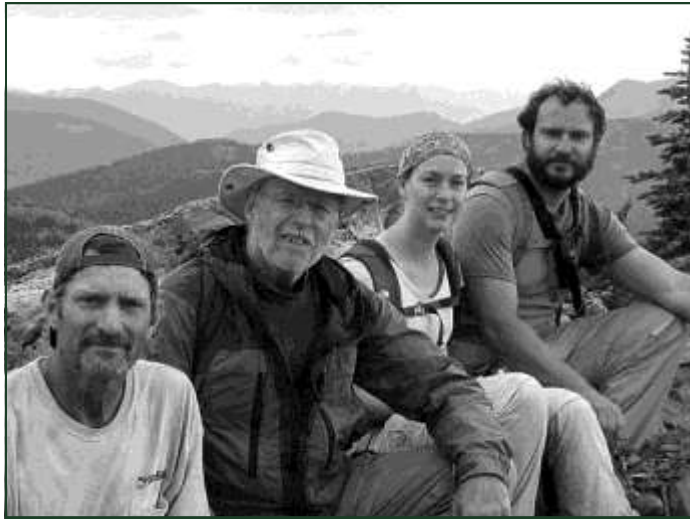
This is the last print edition of the newsletter. To continue to receive the electronic version of the Congaree Chronicle, send your email address to kurt.henning@sierraclub.org.

Subject: Congaree Chronicle Email Address

The Panhandle National Forest

Allyn Schneider

The Panhandle National Forest, located in Idaho, contains the Cabinet Mountains along the Montana border and the Selkirk Mountains along the Washington border.



I had the opportunity to lead a group of Sierrans on a service trip in August where we worked in the Cabinets for eight days and hiked one day in the Selkirks.

This was an unusual trip as the Forest Service crew outnumbered the Sierra Club participants 9 to 7 (as a result of stimulus money), and Pat, the Forest Service Trails and Recreation Ranger, supplied and cooked the meals, including desserts (cookies, brownies, etc. that she had baked during the winter). Normally there are two to three Forest Service personnel on a typical service trip.

The trip started in Bonners Ferry, Idaho at the ranger station and included a fifteen mile drive to the trailhead. From the trailhead, it was a short hike of three plus miles, but it was continually uphill, making for a strenuous hike because we were loaded with full backpacks containing our personal gear (tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, clothes, etc.). I had told the Sierrans to get in shape prior to the trip, and they were all glad they did. The base camp was situated at an elevation of 5,000 feet, and we hiked each day to our work site after a morning stretch.

The work was also strenuous as we were cutting new trail, which included removing trees and their roots, rocks, the bear grass which was tenacious and finally leveling the trail tread. We were establishing a new trail as the old one, the one we hiked in on, was too steep for comfortable backpacking. This was a

major objective for the trip along with some trail maintenance on other sections of the trail, such as improving or adding cairns (a heap of stones used as a trail marker) for better visibility.

What made it enjoyable was the location of our campsite, the great food and the camaraderie of the group. The campsite was an open area at an elevation of 5,000 feet with spectacular views to the west (Selkirk Mountains) and to the south (Lake Pend Orielle [pronounced: pondaray]). The campsite, however, lacked water which the pack animals had to carry in (in five gallon cubes) along with our food, tools and kitchen.

On our day off, we hiked in the Selkirk Mountains, which contained many lakes that were formed as a result of glacial action, and had many beautiful scenic lake views. The Cabinets on the other hand were not impacted by glaciers and had no lakes to speak of. While mountains are beautiful, the addition of many lakes makes for spectacular scenery.

In spite of the hard hike in and work, we all enjoyed the trip and would eagerly take part in another Sierra Club service trip.

If you ever considered taking part in one of these trips, and **didn't, please think about it again and sign up. The trips are** rated as being strenuous or moderate or even easy, so you can take your choice, but do take one. You will never regret it. Next year, I will be in the Steens Wilderness of southeast Oregon and the Pemigewset Wilderness of New Hampshire. So join me. To join a trip, consult the December issue of the Sierra Magazine or the sierraclub.org website and click on outings. Besides a description of the trips, they will explain the grading of the trips from easy to strenuous.

The trip ended with a farewell dinner in downtown Bonners Ferry in which all the trail crew and Sierra Club participants took part. The next day it was back to the Spokane Airport or Amtrak and our trip home.



A Note from the Fundraising Committee

We look forward to the challenges of the new year and reaffirm our mission to protect and enjoy the natural places of South Carolina. As many people do this time of year, we will also make resolutions to improve ourselves, our situations and the world around us, and we ask that you add something to your own resolutions this year: resolve to become more active in your South Carolina Sierra Club (attend a meeting in your area, participate in a trail clean-up or other event) and pledge to give a little **something to keep your chapter viable this year. If you don't think you'll be able to donate a large amount, why not consider sending a small amount each month—you can do this by directing your browser to the chapter's website (www.southcarolina.sierraclub.org) and clicking on the PayPal button.**

South Carolina Wilderness Areas

Norm Sharp,
Vice-Chair, Sierra Club Wildlands and
Wilderness Team

The United States was the first country in the world to define and designate wilderness areas through legislative acts. In the 1964 Wilderness Act, Congress declared a national policy to **"secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."** Since then, one-hundred-and-nine million acres of wilderness have been designated by Congress on federal lands across the nation, including two million acres of new wilderness areas in 2009. This act, which has preserved so much land, defines wilderness as:

"an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man"

"an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvement or human habitation"

"generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable"

"has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation."

In South Carolina, there are seven federally-designated wilderness areas. They are:

Ellicott Rock Wilderness (8,274 acres): partly in Oconee County. Ellicott Rock is the only wilderness area in the country that spans three states. Rugged terrain, tall peaks, and the wild and scenic Chattooga River are the hallmarks of this wilderness. Offering one of the foremost white-water trips in the eastern United States, the Chattooga runs through the middle of the area.

Congaree National Park Wilderness (15,010 acres): comprising almost the entire Park. Congaree National Park protects an unsurpassed old-growth bottomland hardwood forest that escaped the saws and axes of post-Civil War South. The Congaree River, Wateree River, and several tributaries periodically flood the park, bringing rich silt that encourages tree growth. Approximately ninety species attain heights and girths found nowhere else in the state. You'll find bald cypress with circumferences of twenty-seven-and-a-half feet and extensive root systems that rise above the water in "knees" that can reach as high as seven-and-a-half feet. Loblolly pines, rarely associated with hardwood floodplains, have stood here for about three-hundred years, soaring to record-breaking altitudes of one-hundred-and-sixty-nine feet. Twenty miles of hiking trails and canoe routes on Cedar Creek and the Congaree River offer outstanding recreation opportunities.

Cape Romain Wilderness (29,000 acres): comprising most of the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. For twenty-two miles, the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge stretches wild

and free along the coastline of South Carolina, protecting sanctuaries of open water, sandy beaches, freshwater and saltwater marshes and tens of thousands of water-loving birds. No other place on the Atlantic coast attracts as many oyster-catchers during the winter. Loggerhead sea turtles lay more eggs in these beaches than anywhere else along South Carolina's coast.

Hell Hole Bay (2,125 acres): one of the four Francis Marion Wildernesses. Hell Hole Bay takes its name from a large opening in the forest probably formed by wildfires dating back before the 1700s. For much of the year, the Hell Hole Canoe Trail (six to twelve inches deep, six to eight feet wide, and just over a mile long) crosses the bay, but, during the "dry" season, it becomes a mushy hiking trail. The trail passes bald cypress, tupelo, and spreading maple. There are no other trails in the area.



Little Wambaw Swamp (5,047 acres): a river-bottom land of hardwoods and sloughs. Bald cypress and tupelo grow impressively large, and about sixty acres of forest in the southwestern portion of the swamp are believed to be virgin timber. The dense understory consists primarily of wild orchids, bladderwort, and pickerel weed. Old, earthen railroad trams cross the area and provide high ground for foot traffic and potential places to camp. Bridges where the trams spanned the many sluggish waterways are long gone; prepare to wade in the water. Camping is available at bordering Buck Hall Recreation Area, where the earthen tram system can be accessed.

Wambaw Creek Wilderness (1,825 acres): protecting eleven miles of Wambaw Creek. This is another of the Frances Marion Forest wildernesses. Old dikes and canals bear evidence of attempts made by early European settlers to tame this region for agriculture. Giant cypress and gum trees line the creek, which flows down the heart of this long, slender wilderness. The creek varies in width from twenty to eighty feet and provides a home for a few alligators that are seen only occasionally by humans. There are no hiking trails; to see Wambaw Creek, you will need a canoe and a tide table.

Wambaw Swamp Wilderness (4,815 acres): offering no trails and little dry ground. Here, in the last of the four Frances

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*Conservation-ally
Speaking*
Harry Gregory
Conservation Chair
South Carolina Chapter

Dear Senator Graham,

I write to you today as the father of three young men who will one day have children of their own. I worry about the kind of world that I will leave behind for my future grandchildren if we fail to address the impending threat of climate change.

I fear it will be a world that will descend into chaos when sea levels rise and hundreds of millions of people are forced to become climate refugees. It will be a world where glaciers that hold water for a billion people will have vanished; where increasing drought will cause food shortages and famine. A world where the beaches I enjoy here in South Carolina will have disappeared.

Senator, I implore you to address this challenge by sponsoring legislation that will enable our nation to make the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy without increasing our deficit. A fee on carbon-based fuels will make clean energy more competitive and send a price signal that will spur investment in green technology. The money should be rebated back to the public to mitigate rising energy bills. This simple "fee and dividend" approach will work without adding any additional government bureaucracy to create green jobs and help drive our economy for decades.

Senator Graham, as a member of the Armed Services Committee and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, you know what energy independence would mean to our country. This is a moment when our nation and the world need your leadership. Your response to this issue will be your legacy.

Sincerely,
Harry Gregory, Conservation Chair
South Carolina Chapter Sierra Club

On November 7th and 8th, nineteen South Carolina environmental organizations met at **the Conservation Leaders' Summit and stressed the connection** between environmental issues and the economic benefit from clean energy jobs. As these groups discussed the problems our state faces, we realized that one major problem we face is that our Politicians are listening to the polluters and not the people; so how do we get their attention and create the political will to address climate change?

Citizens Climate Lobby, a group that was not at the summit, may have the answer: It's called the *Million Letter March, the write way to stop climate change*. They believe that handwritten letters to members of Congress have more influence than emails, phone calls, or petitions. For all the information you need to write an informed personal message, you can visit www.MillionLetterMarch.org. You will see an introductory video featuring James Hansen, Lester Brown, and Bill McKibben that will inspire you to take action. I am including a sample letter to Senator Lindsey Graham at the end of this article. Please feel free to use it as a template letter. If you can hand-write your letter, address it, put it in an envelope and give it to your group chair, we will forward all the letters to the campaign so that they can be logged before being mailed together.

Senator Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Upcoming South Carolina Sierra Club Chapter Events / Dates

- March 19, 2011 — St. Patty's Day
- April 2, 2011 — Chapter ExCom
- April 12, 2011 — Chapter Lobby Day



*Advanced Leadership
Training Outing*
David Hutchens

Over the Halloween weekend, a contingent of South Carolina Outings Leaders attended advanced Sierra Club "Outings Leadership Training" (OLT 201) sponsored by the Florida Chapter and taught by the best leaders/instructors that the National Office has to provide. These instructors flew in from California and Oklahoma just to impart their vast

knowledge and love of the outdoors onto us.

Our Florida hosts reserved cabins, campgrounds, and the recreational/dining hall building in Gold Head Branch State Park, a "Great Depression" era park constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), President Roosevelt's public works program created to lead the United States into better economic times.

The park, which is located among a group of sinkhole lakes and a spring-water fed grotto, is about sixty miles southwest of

Jacksonville. Our CCC period cabins were on the largest lake, and had 1930's amenities such as solid pine-board paneling and screened porches overlooking the lake. The temperature was perfect, just under 70° during the days, and pleasant for immensely star-filled nighttime walks around the lake and grounds.

Attendees learned leadership techniques over three days, including advanced volunteer leadership styles, group cohesion, games and emergency response,

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Let's not Waste the Opportunity

Nancy Cave

Coastal Conservation League

South Carolinians produce approximately one ton of solid waste per person per year.

That's a lot of trash. The state goal to recycle 35% of our solid waste has never been met, and, in fact, our recycling rate has decreased over the last several years to approximately 22%. The time has come to begin state-wide mandated recycling.

To facilitate this process, a coalition of recycling industry representatives, the environmental community and interested individuals have been meeting over the past several months to draft and to build support for recycling legislation to be introduced during the 2011-2012 legislative session. The result is the

Waste Reduction Incentive bill and the Alcohol Beverage Container Recycling (ABC Recycling) bill.

The Waste Reduction Incentive bill calls for a \$3 incentive to be added to every ton of solid waste going to a class 3 landfill. 20% of our solid waste comes from out-of-state, so trash from New Jersey, New York and other states will help us increase recycling programs in South Carolina. Revenues from this \$3 fee would go to a special account in the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund and their use restricted to three very specific activities. The funds would be distributed in the following manner:

- 50% would go to counties and municipalities to implement waste reduction programs like pay-as-you-throw and other recycling initiatives;
- 20% would be rebated to establishments gearing up for the mandated container recycling;

- 20% would provide asset lending for equipment to develop the recycling industry;
- 10% would be used by DHEC to administer the program.

The second piece of legislation, the ABC Recycling bill, mandates that bars and restaurants that have liquor permits must recycle plastic bottles, tin cans and glass and cardboard containers. The bill gives establishments up to two years to implement recycling.

Both of these bills not only get the state on the road to mandated recycling but also act as economic development drivers. The recycling industry produced 1,354 new jobs in 2009 and, with 12% annual growth job production, could exceed 36,000 in five years.

Recycling creates jobs, saves money, saves energy, retains local employers, generates tax revenues and reduces the need for new or expanded landfills.

Sustainability and the City

Nearly four years after *An Inconvenient Truth* helped launch a new environmental movement, we're being bombarded by environmental messages. This information overload threatens to turn words like "green" and "sustainability" into meaningless clichés that people simply tune out. In Columbia, however, sustainability is becoming a way of life, thanks to the City's Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC).

The City of Columbia formed the CPAC in October, 2006 to identify and implement measures to reduce greenhouse gases and improve the environment and quality of life in Columbia and surrounding areas. The CPAC identified four major areas of focus: air quality, water conservation, recycling and waste reduction, and energy conservation. In forming an action plan, CPAC established a three-phase approach at the onset, which has proved to be highly successful.

Phase One: City Government Operations

CPAC's initial focus was on city government, and the committee developed a Climate Protection Action Plan that

identified 65 action items to reduce emissions generated by city government. **Here are just a few of the City's achievements:**

- **More than 90% of the City's traffic lights** have been converted to energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- Solid Waste implemented a residential e-waste recycling drop off program, which has prevented more than 50 tons of electronics from being landfilled.
- The City conducted an energy audit of all municipal facilities and developed a ten-point plan for increasing energy efficiency. The City recently used American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding to fund the first recommendation, retrofitting lighting in 53 municipal buildings.

Phase Two: Business Community
CPAC's second step was to develop a plan to educate and encourage businesses to join the City's initiative to reduce greenhouse gases:

- CPAC developed a Green Business program, which provides education, recognition and encouragement for businesses who take proactive steps to improve the environment. There are currently 130 Green Business

members, and the program is growing monthly.

- Each year, CPAC coordinates a "Green is Good for Business" conference, a day-long event featuring educational sessions to help businesses become more sustainable. **This year's conference, the City's fourth annual one, attracted a record crowd, and planning is underway for the 2011 conference.**
- The City has developed a Green Building Incentive Program, which provides both financial and intangible incentives for building in Columbia with better regard for the environment.
- The City is implementing a new glass recycling program for restaurants and bars with a \$100,000 grant from DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling and expects to divert over 750 tons of glass from the landfill annually.

Phase Three: Neighborhoods and Residents

CPAC is now well into Phase Three of their action plan, educating and engaging neighborhoods and residents. Since its inception CPAC has reached out to neighborhoods and residents, but with the

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Sustainability, continued from page 7

recent hiring of a Sustainability Facilitator, is able to devote more time and resources to this important phase.

- The City recently kicked off a Green Congregations program. Patterned after the Green Business program, Green Congregations involves faith-based organizations in Columbia's sustainability campaign. More than seven congregations are now educating their members and greening their facilities through Green Congregations.

- With a dedicated staff member, CPAC is now providing more community outreach to schools, civic groups and

neighborhoods via presentations and special events.

- CPAC encourages Columbia residents to trade in their gasoline-powered mower for a deep discount on the purchase of a new, energy-efficient, cordless electric mower as part of the Central Midlands Lawnmower Exchange. The City of Columbia is a three-year co-sponsor of this event, along with Richland and Lexington counties, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and Keep the Midlands Beautiful.

The City just kicked off Southern Fried Fuels, a new initiative that established a

residential used cooking oil drop-off recycling program. Green Business member Midlands Biofuels collects the cooking oil and turns it into biofuel, which will be used to power one of the **City's garbage trucks.**

While CPAC is pleased with its progress, **members aren't resting on their laurels.** City Council Chairman Daniel Rickenmann is identifying ten goals that the committee will work on in the coming year. As they continue to implement the three-phase action plan, CPAC looks forward to providing people the information and tools needed to make sustainability a way of life, not just a meaningless cliché.

Conservation Retreat & Awards Ceremony

During the weekend of January 29-30, 2011, representatives of groups from all over the state gathered for a two day **conservation retreat at Fort Jackson's** Weston Lake in Hopkins, South Carolina. They met so that they could set the agenda for conservation work for 2011 and beyond.

The event was coordinated by Harry Gregory, Chapter Conservation Chair, Samantha Siegel, Chapter Conservation Coordinator, Susan Corbett, Chapter Chair and Kurt Henning, Chapter Coordinator. Among the guest speakers, Anne Timberlake, director of Conservation Voters of South Carolina, Steve Balk, Citizens Climate Lobby, Jenny Wiedower, executive director US Green Building Council and Joe Zdenek, **chair of the Henry's Knob group spoke**

about issues like grassroots organizing, climate change, green building and cool cities. Mr. Gregory also presented fishing **rods to Doug Morrow, Fort Jackson's** representative, in support of the *Take Me Fishing* program that the chapter plans to develop throughout the state this year.

You can find pictures of the event on our facebook page (www.facebook.com/SierraClubofSC)

Saturday evening was topped off by our Second Annual Awards Ceremony where the chapter honored members and distinguished guests from around the state for their work on behalf of the club and **for South Carolina's environment.**

The event was held at the Officers' Club at Fort Jackson and consisted of a reception, silent auction, dinner and awards presentation. Items for the silent auction were donated by members of the ExCom, staff and friends of the club.

Andy Yasinsac and JoAnne Day deserve special mention as sponsors of the evening.

The chapter awarded Sammy Fretwell from the State Newspaper its Media Person of the Year, Rob Schuhmacher from the Winyah Group the Silent Footprinter, the John Bachman Group the Group Achievement Award, Susan Corbett, our Chapter Chair the Carolina Sierran, Jim Robey the Distinguished Service Award and Representative John Spratt the Elected Official of the Year.

Of particular interest for the evening was the delivery of remarks by John Spratt who spoke about some of the environmental highlights of his tenure in office and his affection for the club and **for South Carolina's environment.**

The evening topped off a year of renewed **vigor for protecting South Carolina's environment and the club's position of** champion and advocate for a healthy and verdant Palmetto State.

Susan Corbett, continued from page 2

form, it's very possible we could have had a working repository at this time.

Yes, we do need a place to store nuclear waste, a geologic site that meets the criteria to isolate it from the biosphere for the next 10 millennia. It should not be about politics. It should be scientifically based, and, wherever it is sited, there needs to be buy in from the community. The Nevadans don't have nuclear power, therefore they don't make any nuclear waste . . . forcing the nation's nuclear burden on them hardly seems any more

fair than dumping it in South Carolina.

Any final location should be voluntary. No state wants this forced on them. **Without the ability to say "No," no state** will want to engage with the DOE. Partnerships with the local community, county, local entities and the state must be formed and nurtured to ensure complete credibility in the process. As Mr. Breslow points out, after his experiences in **Nevada, "a repository cannot just be a** federal project. It must be a community project, run by a federal or private entity, joined equally with its state, tribe, county and local partners. A successful

repository project can be achieved, but **only if it's an open process, fully** involving the state, region and local **communities. It's a risk/reward venture** that everyone must share in developing."

We hope the DOE will take note of this and not repeat its mistakes in the future. Yucca has failed and all states that host mountains of nuclear waste must accept it and move to the next phase of the ongoing dilemma of how to handle its disposition. Trying to force a failed project to go forward is hardly the answer.



Rock Hill as a Cool City Remains “Cool”

Dr. Joe Zdenek

Chair, Henry’s Knob Group

The Clean City, Green City Committee, an outgrowth of the Cool Cities movement here in Rock Hill, now meets every month on the second Wednesday, in the RH Operations Center behind the Winthrop University campus. The next speaker series called Green Speaks (one of the efforts of the Committee) **was on the topic of “Green Businesses” and took place on January 20, 2011 at the City Hall.** The programs are filmed, can be seen on local TV, and have a link at www.rockhilltv.com. To attract attendees to Green Speaks, all the restaurants in the downtown area have agreed to offer lunch at a 15% discount to those who attend the session and then stay downtown for lunch. To date, eleven businesses have been certified as Green according to the criteria on the application form, and four are

awaiting inspections. The next target is to certify business parks in the Rock Hill area, focusing on one industrial park at a time to try to get 100% participation. The committee will also target some larger corporations such as Kohls, Target, Wal Mart and **Office Depot.** The last Green Speaks had as its topic **“Yard Carts, Composting and Grass Recycling.”** The Green Speaks program in March will be about the 1000 Rain Gardens Program. Plans are in progress to make a DVD on all the Green Speaks topics to give to businesses or community groups.

Another major project of the Green City, Clean City Committee was the York County Green Business Conference held on March 3, 2011 at the Baxter Hood Center of York Technical College. This one day comprehensive conference provided attendees and their business, institution, organization or non-profit with new and innovative ways to go green and even save some money in the process. Sessions were focused on air quality, alternative energy, business recycling, green building, green cleaning, green hospitality, green landscaping and the reduction of the carbon footprint. In addition, the conference featured green vendors, service providers and opportunities to earn CEUs.

Champion of Environment Dies

(Article appears courtesy of the Island Packet and the State Newspaper.)



Former state Rep. Harriet Keyserling, who fought for better schools, women's rights and a clean environment, died on December 10, 2010 after a lauded career in public life. Keyserling was eighty-eight.

Keyserling had entered the hospital earlier this month for knee-replacement surgery but developed complications, said her son, Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling. In an e-mail to friends, Billy Keyserling said his mother contracted pneumonia after the surgery and died peacefully in her sleep Friday, December 10, 2010.

A New York native who moved to Beaufort in 1944, Keyserling represented the Lowcountry county in the state House of

Representatives from 1977 until her retirement in 1993.

During her career, the feisty Democrat often stood up against the status quo. Her persistence often paid off. Her accomplishments included crafting laws that led to a state recycling program and a state energy office.

She also fought a Barnwell County nuclear-waste landfill that took much of the nation's low-level radioactive waste. Her efforts put the spotlight on the landfill debate and, eventually, helped shutter the facility to the nation three years ago.

During legislative debate in 2007 on whether to close the landfill as scheduled, Keyserling returned to Columbia, testifying Barnwell County had become "addicted" to nuclear waste. She said South Carolina needed to shut the landfill down, which the legislature did.

Last year, Keyserling was honored by the Conservation Voters of South Carolina for her lifetime of work to protect the environment. At the time, she said the state's landscape was too important to ignore.

"It's time for South Carolina to have woken up to the fact that we have these resources to protect or they will go away," she said at the 2009 event.

"I wish we had more Harriet Keyserlings," said Ann Timberlake, director of the Conservation Voters. "She was a visionary, courageous and compassionate."

Hutchens, continued from page 6

and we studied and practiced example situations that might be encountered on an outdoor trip outing.

Half of us acquired wilderness nicknames such as Mouse, Meercat, and Chameleon.

Though billed as a training outing, we had enough free time to explore the natural and historic features of the park and

campgrounds. The picnic shelters are unlike anything that is currently constructed in our parks. Seen at the park with us were numerous deer, gray fox, raccoon, a black scorpion houseguest, and birds aplenty.

This was an excellent, rare, advanced training event, and we all left more knowledgeable, better prepared, and more enthused for future outings.

Sierra Club Outings
 (March through April)
 Compiled by Starr Hazard
 Chapter Outings Chair

Saturday, March 26:
 Paddle Cedar Creek in Congaree National Park
 We'll return to South Carolina's only National Park just outside of Columbia, to paddle approx seven miles down the narrow Cedar Creek in swamp-like bottomlands among preserved virgin forests. Short paddling boats are preferred unless you're capable of pulling a larger one over downed trees (if any) in the water. No cotton clothing should be worn during this time of the year. Any adults and children able to handle their boats with lots of turning,

including lifting them, in a gentle flowing creek are welcome. Send an email to David Hutchens at: Lebri@aol.com.

Saturday & Sunday, April 30- May 1:
 Hike & Camp in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
 Visit America's most popular National Park at the North Carolina/Tennessee state line, about three-and-a-half-hours drive from Columbia. We'll hike a very small section of the famous 2000+ mile Appalachian Trail, visit numerous waterfalls, and tent camp alongside a creek in a developed campground (showers etc.) outside of Cherokee, North Carolina. All healthy adults and children able to hike up to seven gentle miles per day (with breaks) over less steep or downhill trails welcomed. A small fee

(\$10? each) for the campsite will be required, participation is limited. Send an email to David Hutchens at: Lebri@aol.com.

Saturday & Sunday, June 4-5:
 Paddle Edisto River & camp in Colleton State Park
 We'll return to the "black river" Edisto for an easy paddle of about seven miles each day, tent camping (near bathrooms & showers) at the trip's center in Colleton State Park just off I-95. Trip could also be done either day as just a single day's paddle. An easy downstream paddling trip with no obstructions, well suited for all adults & children who can paddle or ride in their boat. Swim attire is the preferred clothing this time of year. Send an email to David Hutchens at: Lebri@aol.com.



2011 Trail Service Outings at Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area

We are beginning the ninth year of service to Caesars Head and Jones Gap State Parks. Our first service day was on Saturday, February 19, 2011, for the initial 2011 Trail Service Project to improve and preserve the existing trails at these mountain parks. If you enjoy these trails, please plan to join us on any of our other 2011 outings. For more details, contact Jim Majors at (864)233-7576 or jim_majors@bellsouth.net.

2011 Trail Service Outings

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| March 19, 2011 | April 30, 2011 |
| May 21, 2011 | September 24, 2011 |
| October 22, 2011 | November 19, 2011 |

Sharp, continued from page 5

Marion Forest wildernesses (see the previous listings), you'll find river-bottom hardwood swamp edged with small stands of pine. Wild orchids, lizard's tail, pickerel weed, sedges and ferns dominate the understory. The water level is generally too low for canoeing. Insects, snakes, muck and lack of dry campsites keep most humans away. This may be the least visited spot in South Carolina.

How You Can Help

The previous descriptions were taken from www.wilderness.net, an invaluable resource for wilderness lovers and activists. There you will find information on the Wilderness Act and all the

nation's wilderness areas, including the twelve in North Carolina and the fourteen in Georgia.

You can read an outstanding history of the country's wildernesses in *The Enduring Wilderness* (2004), by former Sierra Club Conservation Director Doug Scott.

The Sierra Club Wildlands and Wilderness Team works on securing new wilderness areas and protecting current wildernesses. We have a page on the Sierra Club Activist network at http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/Wildlands_and_Wilderness, where you will find the current status of wilderness bills in Congress, photos, documents, tips on wilderness campaigns, and how to help. Join our team and help **to protect America's magnificent wilderness areas!**

Group Update Page

John Bachman Group Update

The John Bachman Group meets on the third Monday of every month at the University of South Carolina Green (West) Quad Learning Center for Sustainable Futures (LCSF) at 7pm. The LCSF is located between Sumter Street and Main Street near the intersection with Wheat Street. Prior to each meeting, there is a light dinner at 6pm for a nominal donation.



Our January meeting had a speaker who talked about "pay as you throw" (PAYT). PAYT is a program where municipalities charge residents a unit price for the disposal of their solid waste. Communities with PAYT programs in place have reported significant increases in recycling and reductions in waste, due primarily to the waste reduction incentive created by PAYT. Less waste and more recycling mean that fewer natural resources need to be extracted. Other potential upcoming programs include a documentary film about the ACE Basin and offshore wind energy production potential in SC. As always, we are interested in finding out what programs would interest you. Please submit program ideas to Nena Rice at ricen@mailbox.sc.edu.

The John Bachman Group also sponsors Green Drinks Columbia in concert with Keep the Midlands Beautiful, and Natural

Awakenings magazine on the first Tuesday of every month from 5:30 pm to 7 pm. Green Drinks is an opportunity for environmentally-minded midlands people to socialize and network at a different local bar/restaurant every month. To find out where we will be each month, become a friend of Green Drinks Columbia on Facebook (Green Drinks-Columbia, SC) or look for the announcement in the John Bachman Group Constant **Contact™** emails.

If you are not an active member, you may wonder what the John Bachman Group has been/is involved with. Every three months, we clean up a two-mile stretch of roadway at the entrance to Congaree Swamp National Park. Our most recent adopt-a-highway clean-up was held on February 19, 2010. To volunteer for or obtain more information about the adopt-a-highway clean-up, contact Lawrence Haselden at lhaselden2000@yahoo.com or (803)216-9865. Every March, volunteers from the Sierra Club and other local organizations **help recycle at the St. Pat's in Five Points Festival** (as well as Rosewood Crawfish Festival in May and Viva la Vista in September). Volunteers are needed for the St. Pat's Recycling program. Over the past three years, the Five Points Association has contributed over \$7,000 to the Sierra Club because of this recycling program. The number of volunteers each organization contributes to the festival's success is considered when donations are made. Volunteering to recycle at St. Pat's not only helps the planet but helps the Sierra Club's efforts. To obtain more information about this recycling effort, send an email to jeremygrant2@hotmail.com or (803)422-2910.

Western Carolina Group Update

The group meets every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Aiken Unitarian Universalist Church, which is located at 115 Gregg Avenue (at the corner of Derby and Gregg Avenue), Aiken, South Carolina 29801-2797.

We are a newly-formed chapter in Aiken, South Carolina and would fully embrace the contributions of individuals aware of the urgency of problems now facing the Aiken area. We are on the precipice of receiving nuclear waste from around the country to be stored at the Savannah River Site, and we have a window of opportunity to have our voices heard. The stronger the group, the louder the voice. We can affect change, but we need to get out of our armchairs.

We have the wonder of natural beauty surrounding us, the more we are in it, the greater the awareness to protect it. We will be exploring the nooks and crannies of these hidden treasures, with our outings chair, Chris Hall, a professional photographer. The community of involved, engaged outdoor enthusiasts is here to be nurtured, so please join us in our efforts to relish this world and to protect it.



William Bartram Group

The group consists of two sub-groups that meet as follows:

The Greenville group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at 255 Enterprise Boulevard, Greenville,



South Carolina, 29615-3577.

The Spartanburg group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, which is located at 210 Henry Place, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 29306-3208.

For more information, contact:
Eric Thompson, Chair: ericarol66@yahoo.com
Jim Majors, Delegate: jim_majors@bellsouth.net

Group Update Page

Robert Lunz Group Update



The two-faced Roman god Janus was supposed to be looking both forward and back as the years progressed, so it's appropriate to review 2010 and anticipate 2011 at this time. Here are some reminders of the Lunz Group's 2010 activities.

On the program front, we presented the film Coal Country in January. Cyrus Buffon, founder of Charleston Water Keeper, described his organization in February. Dana Beach talked about trekking in Nepal as the subject for our March program. In April, we presented James Poch on plug-in cars. In May, Megan Westmeyer told us about sustainable seafood. In June, we showed the film Garbage Dreams as an un-official Picolo Spoleto event. In August, we had a picnic for you all. In September, we brought you 'Why sharks matter' by David Shiffman. Memories and facts about lowcountry earthquakes were reviewed by College of Charleston Professor Dr. Erin Buetel in October. Our November program featured Tom Dooley who talked about prescribed fires, and December brought to you David Joyner who gave a talk on water issues. We hit energy, sharks, seafood, cars, garbage, earth and fire in 2010 for a nice mix of gloom, doom and fun.

Outings took us to Williman Island, Santee Coastal Reserve, Bear Island, biking the Moultrie Passage, hiking in Congaree National Park, paddling in Rimini Swamp, and biking on Hunting Island. Except for a broken leg, we would have also biked in Savannah, paddled to Bull Island, paddled around Charleston harbor, and around Sullivan's Island. Back in September, Bill Turner led a magical moonlight paddle on Rantowles creek. Later on, Bill took you paddling on the Little Pee Dee. Then Bill took you base camping in Pisgah Forest. We went for a day-hike on the Swamp Fox Section of the Palmetto Trail, canoed on the Edisto/Penny Creek and walked on Botany Bay. So, hey, we were all over some of the best places in South Carolina in 2010.

Our oyster roast-fundraiser, our August picnic and our December WOK party were all pure fun.

We donated money to the state Sierra Club Chapter, South Carolina environmental Law Project and paid tuition for the LEEP leader, Laura Fralinger, to take a SC Master Naturalist course.

And you know what? We'll be doing it again in 2011. Plan on joining us for informative, provocative meetings, visiting the greatest places on our outings, and helping us keep involved in appreciating and saving the lowcountry throughout the coming year. Join us on Facebook (Robert Lunz Group South Carolina Chapter Sierra Club) and tweet us and follow us on Twitter @SC_RobertLunz.

Swamp Fox Group Update

The Swamp Fox group does not currently meet; however, the group is working toward getting reinvigorating itself in Lee, Sumter, Clarendon and Williamsburg counties. Mark Hall has been attending chapter ExCom meetings and keeping the group's environmental concerns in the ExCom's consciousness.

He can't do it alone. For the group to remain viable, it needs to form its own ExCom and meet regularly.

We urge all Sierra Club members in Lee, Sumter, Clarendon and Williamsburg counties to contact the office and let us know if you are interested in helping by joining the Swamp Fox group.



Henry's Knob Group Update



The group meets every third Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Wesley Foundation, 406 Stewart Avenue, Rock Hill, South Carolina, 29730.

We meet the second Thursday of the month except in July and August. Our new outings leader, Faye Metzl, is planning to run one outing a month, and we are hoping the turnout will be good so she will not be discouraged like the previous outings leaders. The January outing was a bird watching trip to Huntington

Beach State Park.

The group went hiking in the Congaree National Park in February, hiking on the Fort Mill Creek Greenway in March, and plans on hiking on the Carolina Thread Trail in April.

Our most recent event was our annual Christmas party/covered dish/sing along/fundraiser with a silent auction and split-the-pot raffle. Although the attendance was meager, the food was good, fun was had by all, and we earned enough money to make it through the year.

In spite of really good programs throughout the year arranged by our new program chair, Sherry Lorenz, attendance is low and disappointing. We urge members to become more active!

Group Update Page

Nancy Cathcart Group Update



The Nancy Cathcart Group had its first organizational meeting in early March. We have a core group necessary for the ExCom, but still welcome interested members to contact the office to indicate that they would like to take part in the startup process and to become active members in the group.

Several members plan to attend a public presentation by the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Savannah Harbor dredging project. There is no project that will impact the future of our region more.

The range of potential impacts include: degradation of the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, contamination of our drinking water supplies, and damage to other aquatic resources in South Carolina and Georgia. This issue has the potential for building a local common agenda with other environmental groups including Coastal Conservation League and the Sierra Club group in Savannah, Georgia.



Winyah Group Update

The Winyah Group meets every first Monday of each month at 11:30am at the Applewood Pancake House, which is located at 14361 Ocean Highway (Highway 17), Litchfield, South Carolina, 29585.

The group plans to support the Conservation Community's Common Agenda in regard to 2011 legislation and support / co-sponsor the 2011 Waccamaw Conference with the Riverkeeper.

Programs under consideration for the upcoming year are: water quality; 208 program, garbage control, plastic bags, plastics etc;

continued funding of public transit; landfill expansions; consideration of land trust, closest is Charleston or Florence; support tree planting program; continue to monitor tree ordinance implementation (Fresh Market site); support legislation, Conservation Bank; Support / co-sponsor outings on the rivers with the Riverkeeper and American Rivers; continued concern for mercury presence (Santee Cooper plant).



Halloween Weekend 2010: Outings Leader Training in Florida

By Marjorie Palmer

During the last weekend of October 2010, Sierrans from throughout the Southeast and as far as California and Oklahoma gathered at Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park, near **Keystone Heights, Florida for the Sierra Club's Outings 201 Training Session.**

South Carolinians were in high attendance at the training. Jeremy Grant, David Hutchens, our new Chapter Conservation and Development Coordinator, Samantha Siegel, and I participated in the training. Upon arrival, we also met two new Sierrans, Caxton Beaty and Dan Yost, whose interest in inner-city outings prompted them to participate. To keep his outdoor leadership talent sharp, long-time Sierra Club outings icon, Starr Hazard, attended as well, donned in a kilt for the entirety of the weekend.

The Club requires Outings 101 training for a member to lead day trips and Outings 201 for overnights. The Outings 201 training, held in Florida, offered each of us that participated the opportunity for more extensive and hands-on training than **Outings 101 alone. The mission of the Sierra Club's outdoor activities program is "to connect all people with the natural world and with the Club by maintaining and enhancing diversified, superior, volunteer-run outdoor activities that support the Club's conservation mission" and outings trainings equip members to work toward this purpose.**

Primary objectives of the training were to gain greater knowledge of Sierra Club outings policies and procedures, develop leadership skills and confidence, and of course, to learn to inspire outings participants, and further their awareness and involvement in the conservation work of the Sierra Club.

Sascha Paris, the Sierra Club's Outdoor Activities Training Manager, and Tom Libby, Chair of the Outdoor Activities Governance Committee, led workshop sessions throughout the weekend. The Sierra Club's national Outdoor Activities Program Team is charged with providing oversight and guidance for the Club's outdoor activities. The Outdoor Activities Governance Committee, on the other hand, has the specific responsibility of "ensuring that the Club's outdoor programs are carried out in accordance with all relevant Club policies and goals, and that outings programs are conducted in a fiscally responsible manner." Melanie Mac Innis, the West Regional

Representative from the Sierra Club's national Inner City Outings Steering Committee, also traveled to Florida to lead the training but, unfortunately, was ill for most of the weekend.

Trainings covered connecting outings to conservation, trip planning, interpersonal leadership skills, group management, Leave No Trace, first aid kits, and a simulated emergency scenario. Perhaps more importantly, the weekend allowed Club members to learn from each other. Both Sascha and Tom proved to be insightful and inspiring leaders throughout the weekend, modeling the traits that we all came to develop and become more aware of in ourselves.

The weekend included a viewing of *Monumental: David Brower's Fight for Wild America* – a film documenting David Brower's leadership in fighting the dam construction in the Western U.S., particularly the Grand Canyon. Breathtaking scenes from Brower's daring climbing expeditions as well as interviews with family and friends close to the Club's first Executive Director are included in the film along with footage from Brower's decades of political activism. Well worth viewing, the film shows how Brower's audacious and fierce leadership could be both constructive and, to a certain extent, destructive.

We also had free time to enjoy the state park, which was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, and includes a unique, deep ravine with a clear flowing spring. Totalling about 2,000 acres, the park boasts a range of natural habitats, including marsh, lakes, scrub, sandhills, and forest. A small portion of the Florida Trail, which covers about 1,500 miles in the state, runs through the park also.

I think I can speak for all who participated in saying that we headed back to South Carolina Sunday afternoon with a greater sense of confidence not only in our ability to lead outings, but in **the importance of outings to the Sierra Club's longevity and vitality.** Outings allow us to connect our members and prospective members with nature, making our conservation goals and priorities more relevant and real. A thriving outings program is absolutely critical to inspiring the activism necessary to keep the Club alive.

If you're interested in leading day trips, you need not attend a weekend-long training as we did. You can complete Outings 101 through an online course or studying the Outings Leader Handbook along with completing basic first aid training. More information about outings leader training and national and local outings are posted at these links:

www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/leadership/index.asp
mysierra.org/chapter/outings.html
www.sierraclub.org/outings/

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.

In Appreciation

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

Donations received from September 16, 2010 to February 28, 2011

White Oak (\$2500+)
The Guacamole Fund
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Mr. & Mrs. Stephens
R.J. Swartzel
Lynn Teague
Carl Voelker
Sidney Wallace
Elizabeth Welch
Lois Whitaker

Special Thanks to Volunteers at State Fair

The following Sierrans responded to our call to volunteer at the Sierra Club's booth. Thank you all for giving your time!

Mr. & Mrs. Satterfield
Bob Guild
Susan Corbett

Peggy Brown
Kewpie Sprott
Marjorie Palmer

Jeremy Grant
Andy Yasinsac
Leslie Miner

Alice Davis
Ira & Elaine Cooper
Deb Henning

Don Coleman
Janet Ciegler
Dona Stewart

Samantha Siegel Hired as Conservation Coordinator

The South Carolina Sierra Club Chapter is excited to announce the hiring of Samantha Siegel as our new Chapter Conservation and Development Coordina-

tor. Samantha has spent the past two years working to save Charleston's fourteen-hundred year old Angel Oak. This tree is thought to be the oldest living thing east of the Mississippi river. Her work on that campaign exemplified the kind of passion for the environment so important to the Sierra Club.

Samantha now works in the Columbia chapter office. Her

role in the chapter will be to organize activities around the chapter's conservation campaigns, support group campaigns and identify new conservation issues to be addressed by the Club. We believe her fresh outlook, obvious love of the environment, and ability to organize, communicate and educate will be valuable assets to the chapter.



Create a brighter future by donating to our vital work!

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