



The CONGAREE Chronicle

Winter 2012
Volume 34, Number 4

Chapter Reorganization Retreat

Calling All Sierra Activists: Come to the Annual Retreat

We are looking at restructuring our chapter to make it more effective, and we need all voices to be heard.

When: Weekend of February 4, 2012

Where: Lake Weston, Fort Jackson, Columbia SC

Cost: \$45 for the whole weekend, which includes cabin accommodation and 4 meals (cabins are available starting Friday evening)

Come for all or part of the weekend. The agenda will be announced soon.

Our Chapter is at a crossroads. The times are changing, and we need to adapt or go extinct. Social media, changing demographics, other conservation organizations and a poor economy—all these are affecting the functioning of our chapter. We need to look at the current model of organization to see if it really IS the best way to operate in our state.

Here are some questions we will be deliberating and answering:

- Is the group model working? Should we move away from this model to other alternative ways to organize our state leadership/structure?
- Is it necessary to fund and maintain a chapter office with chapter staff? What is the role of a chapter office, and how does it fit into any alternative models we are looking at?
- How important is it to fund our lobbyist and lobbying efforts?
- If we change models, how will we elect an ExCom and designate its responsibilities?
- How can we activate and empower the many members who don't come to meetings but are still interested in helping with our missions and campaigns?
- How can outings play a fundamental role in supporting our mission?

Please take time out of your busy schedule to come to the retreat. I know that the Sierra Club is important to you, and it can't function without you. The restructuring workshop will likely take place on Saturday morning and last about 2-3 hours. WE NEED YOUR INPUT.

To register, please contact the chapter office by phone at (803)256-8487 or email at kurt.henning@sierraclub.org.

This is YOUR opportunity to be heard and to express your ideas on how you think our South Carolina Sierra Club should go forward, how we will be organized, what we will accomplish and how we will do it. GET INVOLVED NOW! It's YOUR Club. Thank you.

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Third Annual Awards Ceremony

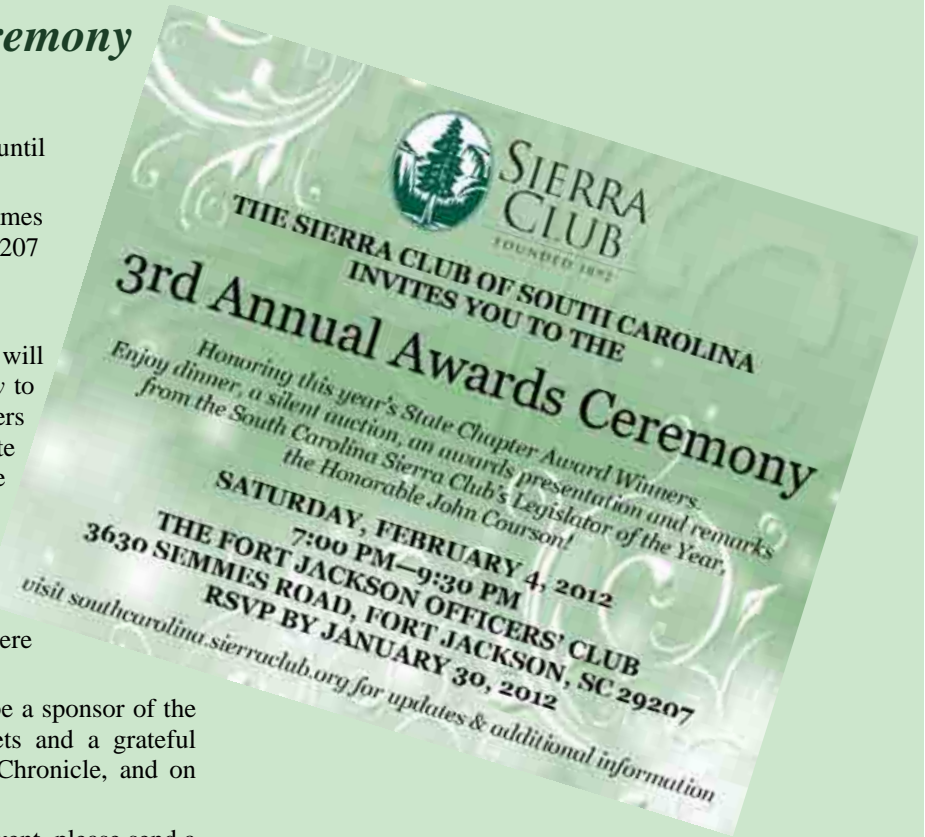
- What:** Third Annual Awards Ceremony
When: Saturday, February 4, 2012 from 7pm until 9:30pm
Where: Fort Jackson Officers' Club, 3630 Semmes Road, Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207 ([map](#))

The South Carolina chapter of the Sierra Club will be holding its *Third Annual Awards Ceremony* to honor those environmentalists and volunteers who exemplify public service and to celebrate chapter and group accomplishments of the previous year.

Please mark your calendars and join us on **Saturday, February 4, 2012**, at the Fort Jackson Officers' Club for several hours of camaraderie, celebration, and good food. There will also be a silent auction.

Tickets are \$40.00 per person. You can also be a sponsor of the event for \$150.00 (which includes two tickets and a grateful acknowledgement in the program, Congaree Chronicle, and on the website).

If you would like to reserve your place at the event, please send a check, payable to the South Carolina Sierra Club to Post Office Box 2388, Columbia, South Carolina 29202, or call the office at (803)256-8487, or you can send an email to kurt.henning@sierraclub.org. You can also order your tickets online by clicking [here](#).



SIERRA CLUB OF SOUTH CAROLINA
3rd Annual Awards Ceremony
Saturday, February 4, 2012

Tickets at \$40 _____ x \$40 = _____
 Sponsor* at \$150 _____ x \$150 = _____
 * includes 2 tickets and a grateful acknowledgement will be made in the printed program

Name of Sponsor: _____ **Total = _____**

To order your tickets online, direct your browser to:
<http://tinyurl.com/chapter-paypal.com>

I cannot attend, but please accept this donation in honor of the
 South Carolina Sierra Club \$ _____

To RSVP (no later than January 30), please make your check payable to SC Sierra Club
 and mail to PO Box 2388, Columbia, SC 29202, call the office at (803)256-8487, or
 email kurt.henning@sierraclub.org. You can also use paypal (<http://tinyurl.com/chapter-paypal.com>) to reserve your tickets.

**Important reminder: to enter Fort Jackson, you must have up-to-date
 insurance and registration information for your vehicle and valid id cards
 for all occupants (driver's license, etc.)**

If you would like to donate an item for the silent auction, or if you would like to serve on the awards ceremony committee, please contact the office.

Important note: to enter Fort Jackson, you must have up-to-date insurance and registration information for your vehicle and valid id cards for all occupants (driver's license, etc.)



Seeing the Big Picture

Susan Corbett, Chair,
South Carolina Chapter

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Are you one of the 283? If you are, we thank you for being part of the dedicated group of local Sierra Club members who have donated money this past year, and allowed us to continue to operate as the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club. **Thank you!** But is having only five percent of total membership as a donor base a sustainable model for funding our chapter? **Absolutely not.**

Realistically, if we are going to continue as an organization in this state, more members than 283 must come forward and financially support the chapter. With over 5,200 members, if everyone just gave \$20, we could almost meet our yearly budget of \$140,000. In fact, I am asking every one of you to do that right now. Go to this [link](#) and donate generously to keep our chapter functioning.

We should all commend the 283 dedicated members who have been sustaining this chapter and thank them for their willingness to step up and shoulder the fiscal burden of running our chapter . . . but my big question is: **where are the other 4,917 of you?** How do you think the chapter will operate without sufficient funding? If you believe that we can depend on the big national Sierra Club in the sky, you are mistaken. National does not fund, underwrite or otherwise sustain the state chapters. We must raise our own finances to meet our budgets. Other chapters have fallen apart due to lack of funding. I am doing my best to see that we do not become one of them.

One of the ways that we keep from falling apart is by staying connected with our members through email; however, we do not have the email addresses of all our members. This is made more difficult because we had to abandon a physical newsletter due to the high cost of printing and mailing. We now only communicate with our members via the internet—this electronic newsletter, our Facebook page, Convio emails and other electronic media. We do not have the money to send every member letters, cards, reminders, etc. We have a once-a-year, statewide *ask* in the form of our March appeal, when many donations do come in, but the success of this annual appeal has not been strong enough to meet all the chapter's needs. We have struggled to raise our budget this year and for the last five-years.

I know how easy it is to think that "somebody else will write a check, come forward, do the PayPal thing or give a big donation." But, in this tough economy, we are finding it harder and harder to depend on the few to support the many. **It's EVERYONE's responsibility to give something to the chapter if they want to see it continue.**

The ExCom has done everything it can to cut expenses. The chapter is down to one and half staff members (Kurt Henning and Cary Chamblee). We maintain a chapter office with phone and internet service, but, aside from this, we have cut expenses to the bone. Further cuts will eliminate either the staff or the office itself. The ExCom has even discussed having an office in someone's home, but is this really the direction our members want us to go?

I cannot be more serious about the chapter's dire straits. We need the 4,917 members who have NOT donated to become financial partners of this organization at the local level. You joined the Sierra Club because you wanted to help protect the environment. Your membership dues certainly help National Sierra Club to

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Helping and Exploring New Orleans 2011

Lynn Malley

How many Sierra Club members does it take to change a light bulb? Thirteen Sierra Club members from around the country changed 573 light bulbs in two days on a recent national service trip to New Orleans. “Can’t anyone change a light bulb?” you might be asking. “Why would Sierra Club members travel from all around the country to New Orleans to change light bulbs?” Of course, they wouldn’t. They *would* travel to NOLA to be of service in any way possible, especially in the lower 9th ward. They would travel there to meet the people of the Crescent City and learn about their experiences during hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. More to the point, those Sierrans traveled to the Big Easy and changed light bulbs because the swap resulted in a savings of \$26,358 in energy costs for the residents.

This service trip to New Orleans was unique among the traditional Sierra Club offerings, because it was an urban outing and dependent not only on the weather, but also on the particular projects that were available at the time the trip ran. Very little was predictable except the need for help and the satisfaction of helping to bring this great city back to its former glory. Another unique aspect of the trip was the stay at the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice. The staff at the CEL has connections to many of the helping organizations in the city and has a wonderful cook, two things that are hard to beat. The Sierra Club has run this trip annually since Katrina first struck, and the need for volunteers continues.



Besides replacing incandescent bulbs with energy efficient ones under the auspices of www.greenlightneworleans.org, these

Sierrans also painted the outside of a house that had been ravaged by Katrina in 2005 and which was only recently repaired. The owner and her grandchildren were hoping to move into their home by Christmas. The volunteer Sierrans also raked pine needles at the New Orleans Sculpture Garden and then toured the garden. On their final day, they helped to plant nearly 300 native trees at Jean Lafitte National Park on behalf of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (www.crcl.org).



The service trip was not all work, however, as the group also found time to tour the city, treat themselves to Chicory Coffee and Beignets at Café Du Mond, and listen to the Zydeco Cha-chas one evening at a local bowling alley and bar. Nothing was boring or predictable about this service trip and the varied tasks as well as the extra-curricular activities made for a good time. To quote one participant: “I liked my fellow participants, the leaders, CEL, the other nonprofits, and the variety of activities that allowed us to see various places in New Orleans and see various people and places in New Orleans. Project Green enabled us to meet people and visit homes. Raking in the sculpture Garden allowed us to see a world class sculpture collection. Painting the outside of a home allowed us work together and to begin and complete a project.” Another volunteer said that “[t]he trip could not have been better. I feel so grateful that we were able to experience so much of New Orleans and try so many different activities.”

This national Sierra Club outing was led by local South Carolina Sierra Club member Lynn Malley and assisted by Marjorie Richman. Lynn will be an assistant leader on trips to Florida’s Pelican Island and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge later this year.

South Carolina Sierra Club Calendar

- February 4, 2012 — Third Annual Awards Ceremony
- February 4-5, 2012 — Chapter Retreat at Weston Lake
- March 3, 2012 — Articles Due for Spring 2012 Congaree Chronicle
- April 24, 2012 — Chapter Lobby Day



Winyah Group Celebrates 25 Years

Christine Ellis

with contributions by Zane Wilson and Bo Ives

On November 3rd, 2011, members of the Winyah Group gathered to celebrate our 25th Anniversary. We were honored by the presence of four of our founders: Betty Bullock, Ginger Ogburn-Matthews, Susan Libes and Zane Wilson who offered heartfelt and emotional presentations recounting some of the highlights of the Winyah Group.



Robert Schuhmacher receives the Emily Schultz "Conservationist of the Year" award from Chair Bo Ives and ExCom member, Pam Creech

Founder Michael Murdoch was unable to attend, but his contributions were felt by all. Mike played an integral role in the establishment of the Winyah Group. By September 1985, when Mike had moved to Georgetown to serve as County Recreation Director, he found that there was no local Sierra Club group. At that time, Sierra Club members in Horry and Georgetown Counties were represented by the Charleston-based Lunz Group. Local leaders, eager to form their own local group, recruited Mike along with Susan Libes who had recently moved to Conway to teach at Coastal Carolina University to spearhead a local effort.

A grassroots group of locals began meeting and chose the group name "Winyah" based on a prominent geographical feature in the area, Winyah Bay. They were joined by Dick Watkins, at that time, the chapter's Conservation Chair, who ultimately wrote the report and recommendation for accreditation as a group of the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club. On June 21, 1986, the chapter Executive Committee approved the Winyah Group's application for accreditation, assigning it the members who lived in Horry, Georgetown and parts of Williamsburg Counties.

The newly accredited Winyah Group members jumped in with both feet addressing the enormous development pressure on the coast and the need for watchdogs for the environment. Projects included massive highway planning such as for the Carolina Bays Parkway, virtually unchecked marsh dredging to create waterfront lots, wholesale clear-cutting and other practices damaging to our natural environment.

Seafood cookouts and barbecues were held to raise money to support the Group's activities. Outings helped to show off our

region's natural resources and to engage new members. Our newsletter communicated our goals and our activities to all of our members.

A few of the highlights from our past include:

- Fighting dioxin contamination in the Sampit River caused by the Georgetown paper mill that ultimately resulted in the mill changing its processes to eliminate dioxin release;
- Fighting the dredging of a long channel in DeBordieu Creek in Georgetown County that could have caused great harm to the Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve;
- Involvement in planning for the Carolina Bays Parkway (Highway 31) and Veterans' Highway (Highway 22) and improvements of existing roads to reduce environmental impacts;
- Working with legislators to strengthen air and water pollution regulations and coastal development rules.

Probably our most visible and longest-lasting accomplishment was the establishment of Winyah Rivers Foundation and the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® Program and its mission to protect, preserve, monitor and revitalize the health of the lands and waters of the greater Winyah Bay watershed. The program grew out of fears for the Waccamaw River when a huge landfill was planned for the wetlands near its headwaters in North Carolina. Barbara Postles, a member of the board of the state chapter was instrumental in getting this effort going, beginning with a joint meeting in November 1999 between the South Carolina Winyah Group and the North Carolina Cape Fear Group. Joy Pinson, a Winyah Group member, took on a leadership role as the founder of Winyah Rivers Foundation.

Over the years, the Winyah Group has been led by many fine individuals including; Mike Murdoch, Ginger Ogburn, Betty Bullock, Bob Windhager, Rick Rickenbaker, John Stuart, Dean Berry, Lou Finkle, June Share, Emily Schultz, Mary Ellen Olcott, Joy Pinson, Gene Euchler, John Bracken, Amelia Wood, Cynthia Powell, Hamp Shuping, Hobie Kraner, Barbara McGhee, Rhett Power and, currently, Bo Ives. We are grateful for their leadership and dedication.



Sierrans celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Winyah Group

Along the way, we have lost many friends. In 2011, Winyah Group was saddened by the passing of Emily Schultz, a longtime

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Steens Mountain Wilderness

Allyn W. Schneider
At-Large Member

Steens Mountain is a 9,000 foot tall mountain in the high desert of southeast Oregon. It is a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) designated wilderness, though it was once ranch land and has many miles of barbed wire fencing throughout. The fencing is a problem for wildlife, especially for the pronghorn antelope, the fastest mammal in North America. Because it does not jump, it sometimes gets trapped in the barbed wire fencing. The BLM's goal is to eliminate the fencing.

I had the opportunity, this past June, to lead a group of Sierra Club service trip volunteers to a base camp in the Steens Mountain Wilderness and assist in the barbed wire removal.

The trip began when I flew into Redmond, Oregon where the co-leader (and our cook), Elizabeth, met me after she drove from Oakland, California.



We then drove 180 miles to Steens Mountain, passing through only one town, Burns, Oregon. Southeast Oregon is a desolate area offering little more than scrub until it becomes the Steens region. Steens Mountain is a north-to-south running ridge, and, at 9,000 feet, it blocks the clouds that move from the west, creating a wet area on the west side of the mountain with beautiful forests and open meadows. Historically, this is why the ranchers moved into this area even though the surrounding region was high desert. The rains, however, were not consistent, and because the cattle could not thrive, the ranchers moved on.

The mountain had received so much snow this past winter that the snow melt washed out the bridge over the Donner and Blitzen River, resulting in us not being able to get to some of the fencing, as the river was too high and dangerous to ford.



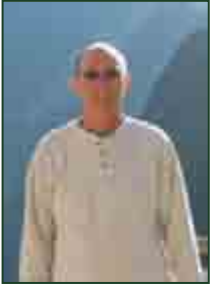
Barbed wire fencing removal consists of disconnecting the wire from the posts and trees where it had been stapled and removing the vegetation that had grown around it through the years. The four strands of wire that make up the fencing are then separated, cut into 250 foot lengths for easy handling and then wound on a portable reel rig into coils weighing about 75 pounds. The hand-cranked reel and the rig could be broken down into two pieces for transportation on the back.

Since Steens Mountain was inaccessible due to the snow cover, we visited the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge on our day off. It is located between Steens and Burns. There we saw all kinds of waterfowl and other birds, including bald eagles.

In the evenings, after a great dinner prepared by Elizabeth and some of the other participants, we would talk about conservation, not only in the Steens Mountain Wilderness but also back home. The ranger who was assisting us talked about the challenges she faced: illegal hunting and four wheelers and snowmobiles which are not allowed in wilderness areas, and other mechanical equipment such as chain saws are not allowed either. We also discussed the wolves and the mountain lions which were just now moving into the area from the east.

A Sierra Club service trip is a great way to give back to the wilderness we all love, and, at the same time, enjoy some of the magnificent scenery in a part of the country you have not visited. I would recommend it to everyone. The trips are listed in the Sierra magazine or at the website along with outings such as backpacking, rafting and many others.





Beyond Coal Campaign: Leaving a Promising Legacy

Harry Gregory
Chapter Conservation Chair

You may have heard of the *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*. The documentary is a fascinating look into our ancestor's world.

An accident of nature, a landslide, sealed and preserved this 32,000 year old time capsule that contains some of the oldest and most detailed cave paintings ever discovered. To put this in perspective, project 32,000 years into the future and try to imagine what discoveries will be made that will reveal our legacy to humanity's future. Hopefully, not our spent nuclear fuel storage dumps because they won't be safe yet. They need to be stored, without being disturbed, for three times as long. In the documentary, the cave explorers stopped in silent awe at what they were witnessing. Contrast the joy the explorers felt with the potential horror of some future archaeologists uncovering our nuclear waste.

But let's return to the present and some good news in our efforts to protect the environment. On December 21, 2011, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson announced an important new rule that sets limits on mercury, arsenic and other toxins released into our air. The rule requires coal burning power plants to update their pollution-control technologies to reduce the amount of mercury released by ninety percent. Mercury contamination is a major issue in South Carolina. Most of the rivers between Columbia and the coast contain fish with high levels of mercury which can cause neurological and developmental problems. Children and pregnant women are at greatest risk, but children in communities of color suffer the most. African-American and Latino children are sixty percent more likely to have asthma attacks than whites. Annually, mercury pollution causes up to 11,000 premature deaths, 4,700 heart attacks, and 130,000 asthma attacks. The EPA estimates that Americans will save up to \$90 billion in health benefits per year in return for the \$9.6 billion cost to the industry. The Sierra Club's [Beyond Coal Campaign](#) deserves a great deal of credit for this victory because of its tireless push to stop new coal plant development and to retire the aging and dirty coal plant fleet. This is a legacy that all Sierrans can be proud to pass on to the next generation.

Visit us on the web at: www.southcarolina.sierraclub.org
Follow us on Twitter: [@SCSierraClub](https://twitter.com/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.



Spirit of the Congaree

We're in the final stretch for the 2011 *Spirit of the Congaree* competition. The award, which was designed to encourage a healthy competition among the groups to engage their

members in activism and fundraising, will be bestowed during the February 4, 2012 award ceremony.

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.

Please help raise the *Spirit of the Congaree* and give your group bragging rights for a year! [Click here](#) to donate today!

Ellis, continued from page 5

Sierran who contributed to many of the group's successes including as chair of Winyah Group. Her love of the local environment was made tangible when, in 1995, she sold 192 acres far below market value to the state trust. The Schultz tract affords one of the few camping spots on high ground as well as a public hunting area within the Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve near the North Carolina/South Carolina state line.

To honor Ms. Schultz, the Emily Schultz "Conservationist of the Year" award was created and presented to member Robert Schuhmacher. The award honored his contributions to the group's successful advocacy for the increased protections afforded by a revised tree protection ordinance enacted in Georgetown County. Rob's acceptance speech reminded all of

us of the value of individual contributions toward the goals of Sierra Club.

Our 25th Anniversary celebration was made special by the contributions of our members and friends. Special thanks go to: Vida Miller, owner of Gray Man Gallery who hosted our reception; the Fresh Market for its donation of a fruit and cheese tray; beer donated by Quigley's; glasses and dishes provided by Bistro 217; and donations from members Nancy Bracken who donated her original painting, Pam Creech who donated a shawl and shell beaded purse, and John Bracken who donated lottery tickets. Added to their generosity was the generosity of attendees who shared their memories of twenty-five years of the Winyah Group. Here's to another twenty-five years of successes!

Sierra Club Legislative Update



Cary D. Chamblee
Chapter Lobbyist, Columbia

The last year of the current two-year session of the South Carolina Legislature kicked into high gear in early January. Below is a list of significant conservation measures that are currently in play.

In addition to these bills, there is a serious buzz in the lobby regarding rollbacks in coastal and isolated wetland protection. These rollbacks are being sought by developers and big business interests that stand to profit from the filling of wetlands and development in critical areas. No bills have yet been introduced, but I would not be surprised to see a bill any day now. This could be a serious threat to environmental protection.

H.3470 Phosphate Bill: Introduced by Representative Mike Pitts (R-Laurens) has passed the House and received second reading in the Senate and going into the Tuesday, January 24th legislative day. The bill is on the calendar for its third reading but has been held up for the last two weeks with an objection by Senator Bright of Spartanburg. The bill protects South Carolina water quality by prohibiting the manufacture, use and sale of detergents containing phosphate in amounts greater than 0.5 %.

H.3617 Chronic Sewage Polluter Bill: Introduced by Representative Mike Pitts (R-Laurens) has passed the House and Senate. It is awaiting the pro forma ratification before it is sent to the Governor. As currently written, it would apply to any wastewater utility with two spills over 5,000 gallons each per 100

miles of collection pipe in a twelve-month period. The utility would then be required to conduct a comprehensive audit to determine what caused the spill and fix the problems identified.

Conservation Bank Funding—The Sierra Club is lobbying for full formula funding for this year. For the past three years, during the economic downturn, the Conservation Bank has had some minimal funding, but, this year, the bank should, barring a major push to divert its funding, receive full formula funding of about \$9 million for permanent land protection.

H. 3083 Rep. Conservation Bank Sunset: Introduced by Representative Mike Pitts. The Conservation Bank faces sunset in 2013. This bill extends the life of the Conservation Bank until 2026. This bill has passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee. This is a major Sierra Club priority.

H.3346 Solar Energy Investment Tax Credit: Introduced by Representative Dwight Loftis. This bill provides a tax credit of 35% to any taxpayer installing a residential or commercial solar energy system or other qualified renewable technology in South Carolina. It has been referred to Senate Finance Committee.

S. 461 ABC Recycling: Introduced by Senator Ray Cleary (R-Georgetown), this bill has passed the Senate and is in subcommittee in the House Agriculture Committee. It requires the holders of ABC permits for on-site consumption of alcohol to recycle their beverage containers and the cardboard packaging and calls for these establishments to develop recycling plans guided by DHEC.

Important Chapter Event!

Sierra Club Lobby Day Challenge:

100 Sierrans at the State House

On **Tuesday, April 24**, we will have a unique opportunity: this is the Sierra Club Lobby Day, a day for Sierra Club members to meet at the Capitol, and lobby our elected officials about the many issues of concern to us. We want our legislators to see our collective numbers, hear our voices and our concerns, and realize that we are part of the vanguard of people protecting our state's precious natural resources.

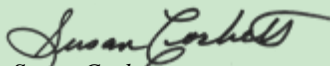
As chair, I am challenging each group to bring ten or more members for the day to this special event.

For those of you who haven't lobbied before, our lobbyist, Cary Chamblee, will do a short training session and guide you through the process so you can confidently represent our organization.

After this training, we'll embark to the state house. Afterwards, we will have lunch, and spend some fun time together.

Please put this on your group's calendar and start recruiting folk now to come to Columbia. We are the largest environmental group in the state! Let's remind our legislature of this with our sheer numbers and our voices. Let's get a hundred Sierrans there!

I'll be there . . . I hope you will be there too!


Susan Corbett
Chair, South Carolina Chapter

Mark your calendars, and join us on April 24!

Call Your Representatives TODAY to ask for their support for responsible recycling

The ABC Recycling Bill is an incentive for restaurant and bar owners to participate in a common sense recycling program that reduces the need for landfills, creates jobs and boosts South Carolina's economy.



What does the bill do?

The Alcoholic Beverage Container (ABC) Recycling Bill, S.461 (in the House Agriculture Committee), creates a statewide program to provide a sustainable stream of recyclable material for industry growth and job creation. The bill:

- Calls for businesses that have permits to serve alcohol on-site to recycle their plastic, cardboard, aluminum and glass.
- Provides incentives for participating business; offers a 10% discount on liquor permit fees for plans including glass. (Liquor permits cannot be revoked for failure to comply.)
- Exempts businesses from participating in program for whom recycling is not financially feasible or accessible.

Recycling expenses are comparable to the price of sending waste to a landfill. And when businesses recycle, land-filling expenses decrease, the burden on the taxpayer to pay for new landfills is lightened, and everyone wins. Recycling is good for South Carolina business; A 2010 Clemson University study projects recycling industry growth at 12% annually producing 37,000 direct and indirect jobs in five years.

Leave a quick email or voicemail message TODAY for these legislators:

Rep. Bill Crosby [R] - North Charleston

Home: (843) 553-2821

State House office: (803) 212-6879

[Email Rep. Crosby here](#)

Rep. Chandra E. Dillard [D] - Greenville

Home: (864) 233-6549

State House office: (803) 212-6791

[Email Rep. Dillard here](#)

Rep. Nelson Hardwick [R] Committee Chair - Surfside Beach

Home: (843) 238-8380

State House office: (803) 734-3022

[Email Rep. Hardwick here](#)

Rep. Chris Murphy [R] - Summerville

Summerville office: (843) 832-1120

State House office: (803) 212-6925

[Email Rep. Murphy here](#)

Sierra Club Outings

(January through March)

Compiled by Starr Hazard

Chapter Outings Chair

Sunday, January 29

Turkey Oak Nature Trail Hike

This easy trail is located at Cheraw SP, in Cheraw, SC. Cheraw SP also has a Red-cockaded Woodpecker Area which connects to the 2.6 mile Turkey Oak Nature Trail. It is a pleasant walk through a very dense forest of longleaf pine, blackjack oak, turkey oak, and hickory trees. On Lake Juniper, you may see waterfowl, and a wide array of raptors. Bring binoculars, daypack, water, trail snacks. Rated: Easy.

Please contact: Art Seel via email at arthurjseel@bellsouth.net or via telephone at (803)260-7401.

Sunday, February 12

Lunz Group Annual Oyster Roast & Auction FUNdraiser

Mark your calendars for our annual oyster roast and auction! Sunday, February 12, 2012 from 2pm to 5pm at Bowen's Island Adults \$20, Students \$15, Children (6-12) \$5 and Under 6—free. Ticket price includes oysters, chili, hot dogs, and Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Palmetto draft beer available for \$2 donation. Open to the public—purchase tickets at the gate. Bid on great auction items! Bring cash or check. Auction items include: Restaurant gift certificates, sailing classes, kayak tours, gift baskets, books, theater tickets, hot-stone massage and more! For more info or to donate auctions items, please call Laura at (864)364-1976. Eco-tip: Bring your own reusable cup, plate and eating utensils.

<http://southcarolina.sierraclub.org/lunz/>

Weekend of February 18

Paddle to Sandy Island Preserve on the Waccamaw River. Car Camp at Huntington Beach SP

Sandy Island Preserve, February 18-20—Paddle trip to Sandy Island Preserve on the Waccamaw River. Car camp at Huntington Beach SP. There is no camping on the island; this is a day trip. Rated: Easy.

Please contact: Art Seel via email at arthurjseel@bellsouth.net or via telephone at (803)260-7401.

Saturday, February 25

Day Hike at Bear Island Wildlife Management Area

A seven mile walk around the wildlife-filled fresh water impoundments of Bear Island, the best of the ACE Basin refuges.

Call Bill Turner at (843)571-3503.

Sunday, February 26

Morning Hike on Cathedral Aisle Trail

This easy, three-mile loop trail, has a colorful history as well as natural beauty. This day hike is located at Hitchcock Woods in Aiken, South Carolina. No bikes or motorized vehicles are permitted in this park. After the hike, we will eat lunch at one of Aiken's many lunch spots downtown. Bring daypack, water, trail snacks. Rated: Easy.

Please contact: Art Seel via email at arthurjseel@bellsouth.net or via telephone at (803)260-7401.

Saturday, March 3

Day Hike at Santee Delta Wildlife Management Area/Sewee Shell Mound

A three-part outing in which we'll walk the old rice dikes of the largest river delta on the east coast in the morning, then tour the small museum in McClellanville to learn about the native and European history of the area, and finally visit two Indian shell mounds of the Sewee region in the afternoon.

Call Bill Turner at (843)571-3503.

Saturday, March 17

Day Hike on the Natural Bridge Trail in Keowee-Toxaway State Park

A day hike on the Natural Bridge Trail, part of which overlooks Lake Keowee. Option: Car camping at Keowee-Toxaway State Park for the weekend, side trip to Raven Rock Trail (4.2 mile loop). Rated: Moderate.

Please contact: Art Seel via email at arthurjseel@bellsouth.net or via telephone at (803)260-7401.

Saturday, March 24

Bicycling at Bonneau Ferry Wildlife Management Area

Fifteen to eighteen miles of cycling at a

leisurely pace at Bonneau Ferry on the Cooper River, a refuge which features the ruins of the early 18th century Comingtree Plantation house, an old rice mill building, hardwood and pine forests, and lilly-studded ponds.

Call Bill Turner at (843)571-3503.

Sunday, March 25

Morning Hike on Cedar Bluff Nature Trail

This Sunday day hike is located at Calhoun Falls State Park in Calhoun Falls, South Carolina. It is a 1.7 mile loop trail, bordering scenic Lake Russell. As you loop toward the lake you will discover unexpected vistas as you hike up and down gentle hills and across several footbridges. Bring daypack, water, trail snacks. Rated: Easy/Moderate.

Please contact: Art Seel via email at arthurjseel@bellsouth.net or via telephone at (803)260-7401.

Saturday, March 31

DuPont State Forest (North Carolina)

A day hike trip to Wintergreen Fall (three miles round trip), then day hike to Triple Falls. Option: Car camp at Davidson River Campground, Pisgah National Forest. Rated: Easy/moderate.

Please contact: Art Seel via email at arthurjseel@bellsouth.net or via telephone at (803)260-7401.



Photograph courtesy of Kurt Henning

In Appreciation

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

Donations received from September 16, 2011 to January 15, 2012

White Oak (\$2500+)

The Guacamole Fund

Spruce (\$250-\$499)

Jesse Young

Georgia Roane

Mary Robertson

Dogwood (\$100-\$249)

Nancy Cathcart Group

Pat & Ed Fitzgerald

G. Rudolph & C. Fralix

Suzanne McCullough

Rebecca Meriwether

Robert & LaNelle Barber

Susan Corbett

W.C. Crow

Sam Daniel

Jeremy Grant

Fred Herrmann

Susan Hilfer & William Campbell

Marsha Jenkins

Joanne & William Lehman

Danuta McBride

John & Patricia Wagner

Western Carolina Group

Greg & Kristin White

Rosebud (\$50-\$99)

Dr. & Mrs. John Spragins

David Dexter

June Yanick

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Jane Anker

Amy Armstrong

Nancy & Billy Cave

Jeannie Croxton

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Gail Royal

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Trillium (\$25-\$49)

Mrs. Jamie McCulloch

J.W.F. Holliday

Wood Lay

Gail Crouch

Mr. & Mrs. John Klein

Red Clover (<\$25)

Klaus & Ann Koch

Ed Fenton

David & Donna Mulder

Elaine & Ira Cooper

A Note from the Fundraising Committee

South Carolina Sierrans, the state chapter needs your help!

Over the past three 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 South Carolina. Our conservation priorities include educating citizens 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 5,200 members, if, **today**, you would consider a small donation of \$20.00 each or \$40.00 per household, this would see us through the winter months of 2012. South Carolina Sierra Club has had a positive presence for many years, and we look to you to help us continue. Please consider your donation an investment in the future. [Click here](#) to donate today! Many thanks, the Chapter Fundraising Committee.

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operate, but your local chapter needs your financial support to function as well. Everywhere I go, to the South Carolina state house, to hearings, to meetings, to demonstrations, I see Sierrans out in front, leading the discussion, leading the fight—and they do it **with support from the chapter, its staff and its resources.**

Without a strong chapter, we become less cohesive and less

effective. I have seen this happen in other states where there is no central chapter office or staff. Ours is a small state with big problems, and we need the strength of a central chapter to help meet those problems head on.

Please pass this appeal on to others. Post it to Facebook. Copy and send it as an email. Print it and mail it as a letter. And after you've done that, get out your checkbook, or credit card, and make a significant donation to our chapter. It cannot survive living on the edge much longer.

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. You can also make a donation through [PayPal](#).

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

..... Detach Here



Making a Difference: a Success Story
Bruce Monson

Six years ago, a friend asked if I'd be interested in supporting the Sierra Club. I responded, "Maybe, I don't know." My friend was patient with me, and, eventually,

I came to understand why I should indeed advocate for the environment. One of the turning points for me came two years ago, when I attended a Georgia Sierra Club retreat and became interested in solar power as an alternative to coal. And this past year, I assembled a 7kw solar-powered generator, feeding into my local power grid. It felt like I was finally contributing in some significant way to help mitigate an environmental travesty (the constant polluting of our air and water by coal-burning power plants).



I signed a contract with my local non-profit Electric Cooperative, but I was shocked when I got my first bill. The coop wanted \$50 every month for the use of its distribution

network. I met with my local utility representative and challenged the coop's policy. Even though the cooperative had published an encouraging, eco-friendly message for the public, its rate structure for a grid-tie connection felt rather discouraging to me.



With assistance from a political expert and a literary professional, I repeatedly posted letters to government representatives in my home state and to all eighteen of the South Carolina Electric Cooperatives, pleading for some relief. My local utility continued to charge its excessive fee and stalled any resolution. But I persisted and submitted my argument, along with various financial alternatives, to the South Carolina Electric Cooperatives association. Those executives met at the end of the year and formed a committee to examine their net-metering policy.

It took an entire year after going on-line and much anxiety, but the policy has been revised. It now encourages individual initiatives for clean energy production. The fee for a grid-tie connection is now the same low-cost as for any other residential customer, and I am able to sell my net-metered power for exactly the same price as I purchase power when the sun doesn't shine on my solar panels.

It hasn't been easy, but I've experienced the power of persistence and of hope.

Get involved – You, too, can do this!