

# Congaree Chronicle

September/October, 2006

Volume 29, Number 5

## *Election Endorsement Issue*

*Chapter endorses Governor Sanford for reelection, page 1.*

*List of all South Carolina Chapter endorsements, page 3.*

*How candidate endorsements are made, page 3.*

*Detailed comparison between Sanford and Moore on environmental issues,  
<http://www.southcarolina.sierraclub.org/governor.html>*

## **Sierra Club Endorses Sanford, Barber, DeFelice**

The South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed two Republicans and two Democrats for statewide office--Republicans **Mark Sanford** for Governor and **Henry McMaster** for Attorney General, and Democrats **Robert Barber** for Lt. Governor and **Emile DeFelice** for Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Sierra Club has also endorsed two candidates for U.S. Representative. We are supporting the challenger in District 1, **Randy Maata** (D) and the reelection of **John Spratt** (D) in District 2. Maata is opposing offshore oil drilling, while incumbent Henry Brown supports it. Brown, who has a minus-4 percent voting record from Republicans for Environmental Protection, has represented the coastal district since 2000.

Spratt, who has served in the northern South Carolina district since 1983, has had the best environmental voting record in the state's delegation during the last two sessions according to the League of Conservation Voters. His lifetime voting record is 77 percent.

Sanford, running for reelection as governor, has a long list of environmental accomplishments. He has championed the Conservation Bank, conservation easements, and the restoration of the Barnwell Trust Fund. He has opposed the Briggs-Delaine-Pearson Connector over the Upper Santee Swamp and the drilling for oil off our coast. He commissioned the Quality of Life Task Force to examine growth issues in the state and the Water Law Review Committee to prepare for water conservation.

McMaster was the leading advocate for environmental crimes legislation. He also sided with the Sierra Club in requiring that the Department of Health and Environmental Control follow appeal procedures regarding re-licensure of the Barnwell Nuclear Waste Dump. The



Sierra Club's endorsed candidate for governor, Mark Sanford, enjoys staying fit through outdoor recreation. (Photo by Chris Moore, Sumter/The Item)

## **Kilowatt Ours Tours South Carolina**

Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America, is an award-winning film addressing the environmental impacts of coal-fired energy, including mountaintop removal, soot, mercury, and greenhouse gas emissions.



The Sierra Club, the South Carolina League of Women Voters, the South Carolina Solar Council, and a host of other civic organizations are sponsoring a Kilowatt Ours film blitz across the state this September. Each screening will be followed by a discussion between the audience and filmmaker Jeff Barrie. Suggestions for conserving energy and information on how individuals can encourage the production of renewable energy will be offered.

Producer/director Jeff Barrie became inspired when he heard Vice-President Dick Cheney, in his well-known energy

(Continues on page 2, column 1.)

SC Sierra Club endorsed him prior to the filing deadline but was gratified when no one filed against him.

The SC Sierra Club also endorsed Robert Barber for Lt. Governor prior to the filing deadline. Barber served two terms in the State House of Representatives prior to being a professional environmental advocate for 12 years, representing both the Sierra Club and the South Carolina Wildlife Federation. While in the legislature he scored a 100% voting record to protect the environment. He is opposing the incumbent Andre Bauer in the General Election.

Emile DeFelice is opposing incumbent Hugh Weathers, who was appointed to the position of Agriculture Commissioner. DeFelice is state director of the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association. He also farms with traditional organic techniques. His Caw Caw Creek Farm pigs are sought by some of the best chefs on the East Coast.

The SC Sierra Club has endorsed 32 candidates for the legislature in the General Election. See page 2 for the full list.

Three candidates have been endorsed for county council; **James Chandler** (D) in Georgetown County, **Fred Payne** (R) in Greenville County, and **Kit Smith** (D) in Richland County.

A full discussion about how endorsements are made can be found in Frank Crowder's column on page 3.

## Kilowatt Ours

(Continued from page 1.)

policy speech of April 30, 2001, claim that America must build 1,900 new power plants by the year 2020. That is one new power plant per week for the next two decades. *Kilowatt Ours* follows filmmaker Barrie on an 18-month journey around the Southeast, where more than six tons of coal are burned to generate electricity for the average home annually.



Air pollution contributes to asthma, a serious health threat to our young people.

This film is especially relevant to Americans, who consume 25% of the world's energy, and account for only 6% of its population. The film shows that within the United States, the Southeast is the highest consumer of energy, 60% of it from coal.

Leaving the devastation behind, the film makes an uplifting turn, uncovering hope-filled examples of conservation, efficiency and renewable power at work today. Simple measures taken by the citizens of South Carolina can help dramatically reduce pollutants, including greenhouse gas emissions. Solutions are surprisingly accessible and affordable for the

average American. *Kilowatt Ours* presents viewers with an ambitious plan for shifting America's energy paradigm towards conservation and renewable energy.

The *Kilowatt Ours* web page is at <http://www.kilowattours.org/>

### The Schedule

**September 7:** Noon, "Your Day" on the SC Educational Radio Network will feature an interview with film Producer/Director Jeff Barrie.

**September 12: Clemson,** 7:30 p.m., Clemson University, Strom Thurmond Institute, Perimeter Road. Visitors parking is available at the Institute. (<http://www.strom.clemson.edu/events/directions.pdf>)

**September 13: Columbia,** 7:30 p.m., University of South Carolina, Learning Center West Quad Residence Hall, Wheat St. at Sumter St. (<http://www.sc.edu/uscmapp/> -- see Bldg 146d on map, or type in WEST QUAD)

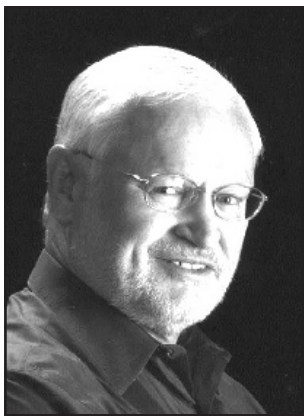
**September 14: Florence,** 7:00 p.m., Francis Marion University, Lowrimore Auditorium, Caughen Educational Media Center Building, Alumni Drive. Parking directly across from the building (Lot A) Enter campus at Patriot Drive (gate #3) - Parking Lot A is first left. ([campusmaplabels.jpg](#) -- see # 4)

**September 15: Charleston,** 5 PM, College of Charleston, Physicians Memorial Auditorium, corner George & Glebe, (<http://www.cofc.edu/about/map/Campus.Map2004.pdf> -- see #47)

## Offshore Drilling is a Bad Investment; Great Opportunity to Connect with Public

By Dell Isham, Chapter Director

The last two election cycles were a disappointment for conservationists. Environmental issues did not resonate with the public. But a massive change has taken place since then. Faced with \$3 per gallon gasoline, consumers are getting a weekly reminder that energy is an important issue. Not since the 1970's has the general public become so concerned about energy, and by extension, the environment generally. Even George W. Bush had to admit, "We are addicted to oil."



The whole world knows we are addicted. We are stumbling around the globe looking for another fix. Just like drug pushers, other countries are willing to give us another hit for an increasingly higher price. They rejoice in the fact that our addiction continues to grow, despite higher prices. The public recognizes something has to be done.

Drilling holes off our beautiful coast seems like a quick way to get another fix. It is tempting, but it only delays the inevitable. We need to find reliable, cheaper, safer and cleaner sources of energy.

Alternative sources of energy abound. The rest of the world has fuel-efficient automobiles; why can't we? The rest of the world conserves energy in the household; why can't we? Solar and wind power are easily available; why can't we invest in these clean sources of energy?

Most Americans, understandably, do not relish a drastic change in lifestyle. Citizens are amazed when they learn that we can maintain our standard living and be energy efficient at the same time. We just have to put American ingenuity to work for conservation instead of waste.

Here is one simple example: If we required our vehicles to average 40 miles per gallon, we would not have to import oil from the Middle East. Imagine how this could make our air cleaner and our country safer.

Drilling for more oil only feeds our addiction; it is both unhealthy and dangerous. Punching holes in our Continental Shelf endangers our wetlands, beaches, and coastal economy. Tourism is the state's number one industry, employing thousands and bringing millions to pay for public services.

Putting more oil rigs in the path of hurricanes is not very smart. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita last year destroyed 113 pipelines and damaged 457 others. The largest oil platform in the U.S. was toppled. Seven million gallons of oil were spilled in the Gulf during the storms; that is about two-thirds of the oil spilled by the infamous Exxon Valdez in Alaska. Even without hurricanes, oil platforms and pipelines leak 500 gallons per day in the United States.

Continuing our dependence on oil is bad for the environment, bad for our economy, and bad foreign policy.

Now, as Congress debates the location of more oil platforms, offshore drilling has become bad politics. The vote on amending the 25-year

(Continues on page 4.)

## Republicans for Environmental Protection Oppose Offshore Drilling Legislation Senate Offshore Bill Could Open Pandora's Box

Senate approval of fiscally irresponsible legislation to open a large portion of the eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore drilling is unfortunate. This will be worse news for America, however, if the Senate bill becomes the vehicle for enacting the extreme offshore drilling legislation that the House of Representatives passed in June, said Republicans for Environmental Protection, a national grassroots organization.



"The Senate bill is not a balanced or long-term energy answer, as it does nothing to advance energy efficiency or diversify our country's fuel mix. The more serious issue with the legislation is that it could become a vehicle for passage of the far more radical House bill, which would undo long-standing coastal protections, threaten the economies of numerous coastal communities, and perpetuate our country's dangerous dependence on oil," said REP Policy Director Jim DiPeso.

"REP urges the Senate to avoid a deal with the House that would allow any of the House bill's destructive provisions to become law. Instead of fixating on drilling, Congress needs to finally focus on responsible energy policies that improve energy efficiency and diversify our energy choices. Those are the lasting energy solutions for a country that holds less than 3 percent of the world's proven oil reserves. Not only will they lessen our dangerous oil dependence, they will reduce pollution, and accelerate commercialization of the job-producing energy technologies of tomorrow," said REP Government Affairs Director David Jenkins.

## Candidates Endorsed By the South Carolina Chapter Congressional Candidates

District 1: Randy Maata (D)  
District 2: John Spratt (D)

### Statewide Candidates

Governor: Mark Sanford (R)  
Lt. Governor: Robert Barber (D)  
Attorney General: Henry McMaster (R)  
Dept. of Agriculture: Emile DeFelice (D)

### State Representatives

#7 Mike Gambrell (R-Anderson)  
#11 Paul Agnew (D-Abbeville)  
#12 Anne Parks (D-Greenwood)  
#13 Lewis Pinson (R-Greenwood)  
#31 Harold Mitchell (D-Spartanburg)  
#35 Keith Kelly (R-Spartanburg)  
#41 Creighton Coleman (D-Chester)  
#45 Alston DeVenny (D-Lancaster)  
#48 Carl Gullick (R-York)  
#49 Bessie Moody-Lawrence (D-York)  
#52 Laurie Funderburk (D-Kershaw)  
#55 Jackie Hayes (D-Dillon)  
#56 Denny Neilson (D-Darlington)  
#63 Kris Crawford (R-Florence)  
#66 Gilda Cobb-Hunter (D-Orangeburg)  
#72 James Smith (D-Richland)  
#75 Boyd Summers (D-Richland)  
#76 Leon Howard (D-Richland)  
#77 John Scott (D-Richland)  
#78 Joan Brady (R-Richland)  
#79 Bill Cotty (R-Richland)  
#90 Bakari Sellers (D-Bamberg)  
#96 Kit Spires (R-Lexington)  
#101 Ken Kennedy (D-Williamsburg)  
#103 Carl Anderson (D-Georgetown)  
#107 David Utterback (D-Horry)  
#108 Vida Miller (D-Georgetown)  
#109 David Mack (D-Charleston)  
#112 Ben Hagood (R-Charleston)  
#115 Eugene Platt (D-Charleston)  
#120 William Bowers (D-Hampton)  
#123 Flo Rosse (D-Beaufort)

### County Council

James Chandler (D-Georgetown)  
Fred Payne (R-Greenville)  
Kit Smith (D-Richland)



First Congressional District candidate Randy Maata, endorsed by the Sierra Club, enjoys the outdoor recreational opportunities on the Coast and is opposed to Big Oil messing it up. Incumbent Henry Brown supports risky offshore oil drilling.

## Candidates for Governor: How They Compare on the Environment

Tommy Moore and Mark Sanford have extensive environmental records, which the Chapter evaluated before making its endorsement of Sanford for reelection as Governor.

We have compiled on our website, [www.south.carolina.sierraclub.org/governor.html](http://www.south.carolina.sierraclub.org/governor.html), a great deal of information on both men's records. We hope you will log on and read all about it. We have included:

Tommy Moore's actions on:

Corporate Hog Farm Bill (H. 3446)  
Takings (H. 3790, S. 121, S. 374, S. 839)  
Chem-Nuclear Waste Facility in Barnwell County (H. 3362)  
Nuclear Waste at Barnwell  
Billboard Protection Act (H. 3381)

Sanford's record on:

Dirty Water Act (H.R. 961)  
Renewable Energy Sources (H.R. 1905)  
Wildlife Refuge Protection (H.R. 1420)  
Temporary Yucca Mtn. (H.R. 1270)  
Takings (H.R. 992)  
Logging in National Forests (H.R. 2115)  
Energy Efficiency Funding  
Land and Water Conservation Fund  
Predator Protection

Additionally, voting records have been compiled for each; Moore has a career score of 38%, Sanford 47%.

Also see Moore's statement to the conservation community and environmental successes and disappointments under Sanford.

## How Does the Chapter Endorse Candidates?

*By Frank Crowder, Political Chair*

How does the Chapter choose which candidates to endorse in statewide elections? It is a very involved process that requires candidate research, compliance with election laws, consultation with group political chairs, and (finally) a vote by the Chapter Executive Committee.

The Chapter endorses candidates for statewide offices. The offices include constitutional offices such as Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, South Carolina House of Representatives, and South Carolina Senate.

The method that is used by the Chapter is the same as used in the *Sierra Club Political Committee Compliance Guidelines*. The most important thing to know is that Sierra Club endorsements are not based on political party affiliation. The Sierra Club is very proud of this. Additionally, we make our endorsements solely on the basis on environmental issues. This is in accordance with national Sierra Club policy.

Questionnaires are sent to candidates after the filing period has expired for each office. It contains a date that the questionnaire must be postmarked. When the Chapter office receives the questionnaire, Sierra Club staff scores the questionnaires. In some cases, interviews are conducted with candidates.

After the questionnaires have been scored, the results are sent to all political committee members. The Chapter Political Committee consists of each group's political chair and members appointed by the Chapter Chair.

The Chapter political committee uses the following criteria:

- Candidate's established policy record, especially on chapter and group priority issues (voting record, authored or sponsored bills, public statements).
- Breadth of candidate's environmental record. (Is it just a few selected issues?)
- Candidate's record of leadership on environmental issues.
- Candidate's demonstrated recent commitment to environmental protection in personal life or organizational activities.
- Club's past relationship with the candidate at the group, chapter, and national levels.
- Candidate's public statements and campaign literature, as a sign of the candidate's priorities.
- Is the environment a significant issue for the candidate? For the campaign?
- Endorsements the candidate has received from other organizations and community leaders.
- Third-party feedback about the candidate from reliable environmental activists who have had personal experience with the candidate.

Using these criteria, the Political Committee votes whether to recommend that the Chapter Executive Committee endorse a candidate. The recommendation requires 2/3 vote of the attending committee members. After the Political Committee votes, the Chapter Executive Committee must approve the recommendations by 2/3 vote of attending members.

I am very proud of the nonpartisan endorsements of the Sierra Club. We have a slate of candidates that have committed themselves, through word and deeds, to the environmental welfare of our state. Now all we need is your help on Election Day. Remember to vote for our state's future. Vote the Environment and provide your support to our endorsed candidates.

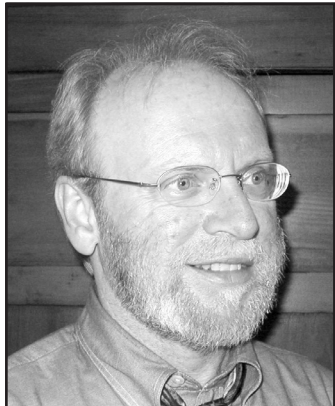


## Can our American Way of Life Really be

### Non-negotiable?

By Bob Guild, Chapter Chair

I seem to remember Vice President Dick Cheney once saying something like: "our American way of life is non-negotiable"--or words to that effect--in expressing his resolve to win the "Global War on Terror" in which our country remains so deeply embroiled. Mr. Cheney's remark came to mind recently in a somewhat different context: the emerging global energy crisis and our society's response to it.



In this context I want to suggest that our "way of life" must not only be "negotiable," but, perhaps, even surrendered. Or if "surrender" seems too abhorrent a concept; how about the notion of a "strategic retreat"? The challenge for us in the Sierra Club is to lead this strategic reconsideration of our squandering of the earth's diminishing resources, to implement of our vision of "living more simply, so that others can simply live."

This idea of the range of possible responses to a challenge to our very way of life--from defiant defense to strategic concession--is starkly presented by James Howard Kunstler's latest musings on the shape of things to come in a post-peak oil world *The Long Emergency*, Atlantic Monthly Press, 2005.

In his earlier work, Kunstler has written well and insightfully on the corrosive effects of our suburban sprawl growth patterns on the traditional culture of community (*The Geography of Nowhere*, Touchstone, 1993). His portrait of the alienation and isolation which has come with our flight away from traditional neighborhoods to the auto-dependent suburbs makes the case for the Sierra Club's Smart Growth anti-sprawl campaign as effectively as any tally of green space lost or gasoline guzzled. But Kunstler's latest missive provokes even deeper reflection on the broadest questions of our consumption of the earth's finite resources and, indeed, our very way of life. For to credit Kunstler with being even half right in his forecast of things to come, means that our way of life as we now know it is bound to change. We simply can't keep consuming the earth's limited resources at the current rate--not without the resulting climate change, species extinction, or, perhaps, even our own extinction as a society or as a species.

Kunstler's dire forecast of the alteration in our social fabric is premised on the all too certain ultimate passing of the point of global peak oil production--the point on the bell curve of oil production beyond which each new barrel found and produced becomes more costly and more bitterly fought for. While Kunstler concludes that the point of peak oil is soon upon us and that it is all downhill from here, the precise timing of that peak is less certain than the fact that such a peak must come. And then it is downhill from there.

Petroleum is, indeed, a finite and nonrenewable resource--at least in the non-geologic time scale in which we humans must count our lives. Once oil becomes scarce and costly, the days of cheap plastic consumer goods shipped 12,000 miles from China to a Wal-Mart SuperCenter near you are over. For that matter, so are the days of California tomatoes in December, Sunday drives in the Hummer, and, even, that vacation at the eco-lodge in the Amazon. Kunstler also convincingly slams the "cornucopians" who blithely trust that our vaunted technology will save the day by replacing oil with alternative energy and transportation fuels so effectively that our profligate lifestyle will continue unabated. Kunstler makes the case that no combination of oil alternatives can fill the void without significant alteration in our consumption behavior.

So here's the silver lining: a constriction in our current rate of consumption of the earth's resources is not only essential to weathering the energy crisis ahead, it is also essential to the survival of the earth and its natural systems on which all life depends. Visionaries like John Muir, Aldo Leopold and Rachael Carson have taught us that we are part of life's fabric too. The sooner we come to grips with the necessity of changing "our American way of life" to reduce our impact on the planet, the better off we and the rest of the natural world will be. Such a strategic retreat in our lifestyles might even allow us to rebuild our neighborhoods, slow down, and enjoy the restored world around us.

## Oil Drilling

(Continued from page 2.)

moratorium on offshore drilling will clearly divide the Congress between those who look to the past and those who look to the future.

We must seize this great opportunity to connect with the public by doing the following:

- Make energy our number one environmental priority
- Offer an optimistic vision that American technology can solve the energy problem
- Include a healthy economy for our children and grandchildren in our message
- Relate our energy stance to national security
- Contrast our vision to the failed policy of handing billions of dollars to Big Oil
- Take the offensive and don't apologize for being a leader

Americans are crying out for leadership. An energy policy that fosters a cleaner environment, a stronger economy, and greater national security is the leadership we are demanding. We should settle for nothing less. Sierra Club is part of that leadership.

## Things are happening more or less behind the scenes

By Barb Postles, Bachman Group

On August 23, *The State* newspaper ran a big article entitled "How GREEN is your Columbia?" I for one was quite surprised at what I read. There appear to be many green initiatives being put in place that for some period, at least, go unnoticed.



Columbia now has a program that cuts down on the energy used in wastewater treatment. "The process to digest sludge at its wastewater plants generates methane gas, which is used to burn the remaining sludge. That reduces the amount of sludge that ends up in the landfill."

Additionally, *The State* reports that other changes are targeted:

- Retrofitting city buildings with energy efficient lighting.
- Buying only energy efficient appliances.
- Use of hydrogen fuel cells in city equipment.
- Converting city vehicles to diesel or buying hybrid vehicles.
- Building trails and bike paths.
- Increasing the efficiency of the pumps in the city water system.
- Expanding the recycling program.
- Working to maintain the city bus system.
- Partnering with USC in hydrogen fuel cell research.

Columbia is poised to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. That's the pact that nearly 300 cities have signed aimed at significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

As many of you know, downtown Columbia has changed dramatically in the past few years, due largely to the transformation of the USC campus. There is a huge building boom, to the point where we wonder whether there is any land in the city center that is not owned by the University! So what happens on the campus

happens to all of us.

We reported on our last issue on some of the green building initiatives on the state's campuses. USC is building an alternative-energy plant in downtown. Some of their shuttles are now using biodiesel fuels. USC has a 13-year contract with Johnson Controls to update the campus steam distribution system, to replace lighting and plumbing fixtures to reduce energy and water consumption, and to identify other energy-saving initiatives. There is a program on campus to encourage park and ride; additional buses have been added to the shuttle system, and a global positioning system shows how long riders have to wait for the bus.

The Savannah River Group reports that South Carolina ranks seventh in the nation in the number of gas stations offering E85 alternate fuel (ethanol) and second (!) in the nation in the number offering B20 (biodiesel). That's terrific.

When I settled in South Carolina 32 years ago, I often wondered when the public and industry were going to get the energy conservation message. Now they have. And even if some initiatives might not be what we consider enough, even if some tradeoffs have to be made, a terrific start has been made for a sustainable future.

## Sierra Club, South Carolina Chapter

1314 Lincoln Street, Suite 211  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 2388  
Columbia, SC 29202  
Phone: (803)256-8487  
Fax (803)256-8448  
E mail: dell.isham@sierraclub.org  
website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/sc>

**Chapter Chair:**  
Bob Guild,  
(803)252-1419  
bguild@mindspring.com  
**Chapter Director:**  
Dell Isham

### Congaree Chronicle

Editor: Barb Postles,  
bpostles@aol.com

Views expressed in the *Chronicle* reflect the opinions of the individual authors and may not necessarily be official Sierra Club views and positions. The *Chronicle* welcomes articles, letters to the editor, photographs, and illustrations. The editors reserve the right to edit any material for clarity, style and length.

The *Congaree Chronicle* (ISSN #0164-5676) is published bimonthly for the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club, 1314 Lincoln St., Site 211, Columbia, SC 29201. One dollar of annual dues pays for a subscription to this newsletter. Periodicals postage is paid at Columbia, SC.

Send address changes to: Postmaster, P.O. Box 2388, Columbia, SC 29202. Include your membership number.

### Advertising Rates and Terms

Full Page—\$250.00  
1/2 Page—\$150.00  
1/4 Page—\$ 80.00  
1/8 Page—\$ 45.00  
Business Card—\$25.00  
Classified Ads—\$1.00/word, 15-word minimum.

Rates are based on circulation of more than 5200 members across the state.

We reserve the right to refuse publication of ads. Paid advertisements contained in the *Chronicle* do not necessarily constitute endorsement, support, recommendation, or alliance with or for the party paying for the advertisement and the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club.

For placement, contact the Sierra Club office at (803)256-8487.



Chapter Director Dell Isham is meeting with all the Sierra Club Groups in the state. Pictured is a meeting with the Nancy Cathcart Group at Jarvis Creek Park on Hilton Head Island. In the back row from left to right is Ann Schneider, Group Conservation Chair Joe Whetstone, Group Chair Allyn Schneider, Isham, Secretary Phyllis Baxter, and Norma VanAmberg. In front is Newsletter Editor Janet Wedlock, Treasurer Rita Jones, and Vice Chair Lauren Economos. (Photo by Terri Isham.)

## My Summer with the Sierra Club

by Kristen Holm-Hansen, Intern

I can't tell you the moment I became enchanted with nature. It may have been when I was three and sledding in New Mexico, or maybe at six while I kayaked with my dad on the Puget Sound.



It could have been during the "nature hikes" that my best friend and I took through Hitchcock Woods in Aiken. But to be honest, I think I was just born this way. Both my parents were environmental scientists, and my brother and I were taught to respect the world around us. We always had pets around, and frequently spent weekends camping, hiking, and kayaking around the state.

All the time I spent outdoors while growing up ensured that I could never stray too far from my nature-loving roots, but during my first two years in college I fell into other niches and did not make enough time to commit myself to any significant environmental causes.

When I was researching internships for the summer I stumbled upon the Sierra Club. I quickly realized this was my chance to get involved in environmental issues and an opportunity I would probably never have again.

Once I got the internship, Dell Isham made sure that I would get everything I could out of the summer. For the first three weeks I shadowed Sierra Club's lobbyist, Cary Chamblee, because I am interested in politics. I learned an incredible amount during those three non-stop weeks.

I met quite a few politicians and lobbyists, watched and listened while Mr. Chamblee lobbied, and observed debates and votes on the House and Senate floors. Everything I studied during a semester of political science does not even begin to compare to the experience I gained at the State House.

Although I was disappointed when the legislative session ended, I was excited to work in the office and get to see another side of Sierra Club. I got involved in the political aspect of the Club by helping compile voting records and researching statewide candidates. I also did research on the proposed damming of the Tyger River and offshore drilling. I worked on a nuclear waste issue with a member.

Before this internship I didn't know how to become involved, or really much about the critical environmental issues my generation will have to face. Now I feel much more adequately prepared and informed. It's obvious that those who work at this chapter and those who have taken on leadership positions, are and must be, incredibly dedicated to environmental causes in order to succeed.

I know it would be impossible to try to express exactly how I have grown in the past few months; however, I can say with certainty that now I am more informed, more involved in my community, and more confident. This has been one of those summers I'll never forget. All that I have learned during this internship will play a major role in shaping the choices I make, and thus who I will grow to be.

Dell Isham, Director of the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club speaks on global warming at a press conference in Charleston on August. 18. With Isham (from l. to r.) is Stephen Smith, Executive Director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy; Erika Hartwig, Secretary of the SC Sierra Club; and Megan Desrosier, Program Director of the SC Coastal Conservation League.



## Executive Committee meets at Jones Gap Chapter Awards Announced

The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Chapter met at historic Jones' Gap State Park on July 22-23 to conduct business, receive training, and participate in an outing. This beautiful Upstate location was a welcome change for ExCom members, officers, committee chairs, and visitors. On-site arrangements for the meeting were made by Jim Majors and Eric Thompson.

Treasurer Jim Robey reported on the chapter's tight financial situation, Membership Chair Erika Hartwig reported on increasing membership,

Chapter Director Dell Isham said fundraising was exceeding the previous year, and Lobbyist Cary Chamblee reported on legislative accomplishments and challenges. Chapter Chair Bob Guild appointed Ollie Johnson to the Membership Committee and Priscilla Preston as the future newsletter editor. Awards for 2005 were presented by John Bracken and are as follows:

- \* **Conservationist of the Year -- Hamp Shuping**
- \* **Carolina Sierran -- Bob Guild**
- \* **Silent Footprinter -- Amelia Wood**
- \* **Palmetto Pathfinder -- Rick Rickenbaker**
- \* **Distinguished Service Award -- Frank Crowder**
- \* **Media Person of the Year -- Joey Holleman**
- \* **Group Achievement Award -- Foothills Group**
- \* **Student Environmental Excellence Award -- Dan Yost**

Isham said he was visiting each group ExCom this year and asking them how the chapter may be of better service to the groups. He is also seeking members who would like to actively participate on the Chapter Conservation Committee, Technology Committee, and Speakers' Bureau.

In the annual race for the Spirit of Congaree Cup, awarded for membership participation in chapter fundraising, the Pee Dee Group is in the lead. Second, so far, is the Swamp Fox Group and third is the John Bachman Group. The contest goes until January 15, 2007.

Isham presented the 2006 Fundraising Plan on behalf of Fundraising Committee Chair Ed FitzGerald. The plan proposes a nearly 10-percent increase in fundraising from direct mail. A major effort will be made to solicit the membership of conservationists who have the ability to make large contributions to the Sierra Club. It was also reiterated that each member of the chapter ExCom should contribute at least \$250 to the chapter each year. The Fundraising Plan was adopted by the ExCom.

Under Political Committee Report it was noted that the SC Sierra Club endorsed 16 candidates who had contested Primary Election races and 13 of those candidates won their races. It was also noted that the Sierra Club was receiving excellent cooperation from Attorney General Henry McMaster and Governor Mark Sanford on environmental issues. Both men are running for reelection.

At lunch members of the Foothills Group presented a program on water quality in the state. Using Dept. of Health & Environmental Control statistics, they demonstrated that the great majority of water bodies in the state were polluted.

In the afternoon members received training on the recruiting and involvement of volunteers. Leading the presentation were Thompson and Dave Muhly.

Next morning several participants hiked from Camp Asbury to Moonshine Falls and return.

The next meeting of the Chapter ExCom will be October 14, 10:00 a.m. in the Gamecock Room of the Luther Lee Building, 1314 Lincoln Street, Columbia. All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.

*(Please see the related article on the weekend's outing.)*

## Nominations Open for At-large Chapter Executive Committee Positions

Nominations are now open for three at-large positions on the Chapter ExCom. Those with nomination recommendations may contact Nominations Committee Chair Nina Rice until September 22.

Nominations by petition require the signatures of 15 chapter members and must be turned in to the chapter office by 5:00 p.m. on September 29.

Contact Dell Isham at the Chapter office (803-256-8487) if you have questions.



Nena Rice, Erika Hartwig, Allyn Schneider, and Jim Majors pose in front of Moonshine Falls near Jones Gap State Park.

## ExCom Meeting

### Hosted in the Upstate

As part of a Chapter initiative to promote friendship, training opportunities, and recreation, the Chapter Executive Committee met in July at Jones Gap State Park located near Traveler's Rest.

Attendees were hosted by Bartram Group member, Jim Majors, who provided food and accommodations at Ansbury Hills Methodist Camp. Members from around the state were delighted at the change of venue and the cool weather.

During the meeting lunch break visitors were treated to a special presentation by the Lake Group – a private citizen organization intending to educate citizens about the dangers of fecal coliform in upstate rivers and lakes.

Following the business meeting, attendees were also provided with training opportunity from Regional Sierra Club Coordinator, Dave Muhly. Eric Thompson, a member of the National Leadership Development Committee, assisted Muhly in the special two-hour training designed to help chapter leaders become more effective in recruiting and training new leaders. After the training leaders enjoyed a meal from Sticky Fingers and then a small group headed to the Asbury Hills Methodist Camp for an overnight stay in rustic cabins. On Sunday morning a small group took a three-hour hike to Moonshine Falls near Jones Gap State Park to see the Prohibition-era moonshine distillery.

Chapter Chair Bob Guild immensely enjoyed the weekend. "We are committed to combining work, skills building, and relationship development in our meeting formats. Those who invest their valuable time appreciate those benefits."

Former ExCom member, Nena Rice enjoyed returning to these meetings after many years to meet active members. Rice especially enjoyed the socializing and the overnight cabin stay and Sunday morning hike to Moonshine Falls. As the nominating committee chair she wanted to meet different leaders from groups around the state to better inform her of potential new members for the Chapter Executive Committee.



## Fundraising On Track

Over three-fourths of the funding for the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club is raised by individual contributions within the state. Voluntary donations are essential and gratefully received any time of the year.

We acknowledge the contributors listed below, who made donations between June 16 and August 28. Thank you.

This year's contributions are meeting funding goals so far but the number of participants is less than last year. In other words, in 2006 we are receiving fewer but larger contributions. The message from the chapter is, "You don't have to feel like a big spender to participate in our annual fundraising drive. Any size donation is welcome."

Chapter Treasurer Jim Robey recommends you make your check out to "SC Sierra Club," not "Sierra Club Foundation." Either is a legitimate donation, but the "SC Sierra Club" donation, while not qualifying for a tax deduction, is more valuable to the chapter because it can be used to fund all types of advocacy, while there are IRS restrictions on the Foundation contributions.

### American Holly (\$5000+)

Harry & Rebecca Dalton

### Magnolia (\$1000-2499)

Ed & Patricia Fitzgerald

### Long Leaf Pine

(\$500-999)

David and Martha Cowan

Joseph and Joy Pinson

Gerald and Barbara Schapiro

### Spruce (\$250-499)

Stuart and Arlene Andrews

Bob Guild

Dell Isham

Robert and Catherine Murphy

Pee Dee Group

Robert Lunz Group

Winyah Group

Bob Wislinski

### Dogwood (\$100-249)

William and Barbara Anderson

Jane Anker

Peter and Donna Cantrell

Frank Crowder

David Dexter

Tommie Moody

Anne Neely

Donald and Frances Plotnik

Cynthia Powell

Dr. Mark Salley

Joe Whetstone

### Redbud (\$50-99)

Kay Abernathy

James Canup

Deborah Adler-Hartman

Ollie and Barbara Johnson

Thomas and Rae Anne Manning

### Trillium (\$25-49)

David and Linda Courtney

John N. Lind

Soo Ling Saleeby

Donna Slyce

### Red Clover (<\$25)

Thomas and Lucretia Brooks

Oconee Natural Foods Club

Thomas and Suzanne Robinson

Jerome Vandeweghe

## The Benefits of Environmentally Responsible Investing

Environmentally responsible investing (ERI) takes into account a company's environmental profile in the course of making an investment decision. A company with a positive environmental profile has minimized its environmental liabilities, uses natural resources more efficiently, responds better to environmental regulation and litigation, has greater employee morale and productivity, is lead by enlightened management teams, and is generally positioned in the marketplace to capitalize on emerging trends that reward sustainable business practices. For these reasons, advocates of the ERI approach believe that corporations which have proactively addressed their environmental issues are better investments over the long term.

Beyond the financial performance of ERI portfolios, of course, there are other benefits that environmentally aware investors can reap. The ability to "put your money where your mouth is" so to speak, by creating an investment portfolio that reflects an investor's values is significant. This may mean avoiding companies whose practices or products are ecologically problematic, such as petroleum, mining, agricultural chemicals or nuclear power. At the same time, an environmentalist may wish to invest in companies that produce environmentally beneficial goods and services, such as renewable energy, organic foods, or more fuel-efficient transportation. The benefit of an investment discipline that considers both environmental risk and opportunity is unique and valuable to an environmentalist.

Finally, investors in a publicly-traded company are, in fact, the owners of the company and can approach management with issues that concern them. By leveraging their ownership in companies, environmentalists can influence corporate practices and policies in many areas of interest, such as energy efficiency, land use policies, and replacing toxic chemicals in consumer products with safe alternatives. The use of shareholder engagement to promote environmentally progressive corporate practices is perhaps the most powerful (though often unrecognized) benefit of an ERI approach.

Environmentally responsible investing provides a way to identify environmental risk/reward in a company, offers access to corporate management to voice environmental concerns, and allows an investor to integrate one's environmental values into an investment portfolio. Anyone with an environmental ethic, whether it is a non-profit organization, a small company, a foundation, or a concerned individual ought to consider the benefits that an ERI approach can deliver.

The Sierra Club has recognized the advantages of ERI and, together with Forward Management (an investment advisor), has launched the Sierra Club Mutual Funds.

The proprietary mutual fund line of the Sierra Club avoids investing in the most environmentally egregious industries and companies, providing competitive financial returns in mid-to-large cap "core" investment portfolios.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



### We all deserve clean water, right?

The Clean Water Act has been protecting us for 30 years. While the Act has been instrumental in keeping billions of pounds of sewage and toxic chemicals out of our waterways each year, we are still a long way from cleaning up ALL of the nation's water bodies. In fact, the majority of Americans live within 10 miles of polluted water. We need to strengthen the enforcement of the Clean Water Act, and we need your help to do it. Clean water is not a privilege, it's a right.

JOIN Sierra Club to help keep the Clean Water Act strong.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
 Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
 Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Membership Degrees	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Funds include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 5298, Boulder, CO 80522-2988 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)



Please add 5200 to the box at the left when you return the form. Thanks.

F94Q | W

# State Outings

## September

September 23: **Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area Trail Maintenance Service Project.** Bartram. The objective of this service project is to improve and preserve existing trails in the Caesars Head State Park in order to assure that all trails are safe for use by future hikers. Workers will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Caesars Head Ranger Station. The morning work session will last until the noon lunch break. Each worker should bring their own lunch and water. The afternoon work session will end about 3:00 p. m. Jim Majors (864)233-7576 or jim\_majors@bellsouth.net.

September 29-October 1: **Pantherdown Valley, North Carolina hike.** Lunz. Lots of waterfalls. Maureen Blair, (843)568-7134 or maurblair@hotmail.com.

September 30: **ACE Basin River canoe/kayak.** Lunz. Ashepoo, Combahee, Edisto somewhere in the ACE that's really beautiful. Starr Hazard, hazardes@bellsouth.net, (843) 881-8902.

## October

October 7-9: **Hike at Manchester State Forest in Sumter and Clarendon counties.** Lunz. Dave Schwartz, 843-563-6404, ganserschwartz@hotmail.com.

October 7-9: **Beginner's backpack, Jocassee Gorges.** Bartram. On the Palmetto Trail. Begin at Table Rock State Park, 12 1/2 miles. Camp after 8 miles; last day mostly downhill for 4 1/2 miles. Limited to 8. Mandatory premeeting on September 14. Jim Majors, (864)233-7576 or jim\_majors@bellsouth.net.

## November

November 11-12: **Canoe/kayak camping to a lowcountry body of water.** Lunz. Starr Hazard, hazardes@bellsouth.net, (843) 881-8902.

## December

December 2-3 or 9-10: **Overnight kayak camp trip to Otter Island.** Lunz. Permits pending. We will see where the ACE Basin meets the sea. Starr Hazard, hazardes@bellsouth.net, (843) 881-8902.



From Table Rock.

Photo courtesy of Richard Bernabe. Visit his website at [www.richardbernabe.com](http://www.richardbernabe.com) to see some amazing South Carolina photos.

## Keeper of the Wild Rehabilitates Animals in the Lowcountry

By Kristen Holm-Hansen, Student Intern

Janet Kinser was working as an interior designer when she took in her first animals to rehabilitate—three orphaned, baby squirrels. As the number of animals she was caring for increased, Kinser decided to dedicate herself to the rehabilitation and conservation of South Carolina's wildlife. She is the founder of Keeper of the Wild, a non-profit organization that runs a private wildlife rehabilitation and education center. The center mainly cares for South Carolina's indigenous mammals such as bobcats, beavers, squirrels, opossums, and raccoons, all of which will be released after rehabilitation if they are capable of living independently.



A recent resident of the shelter is "Bobby K," a bobcat cub. She was abandoned and is now nine weeks old. Bobbie K will be released once she is mature enough to hunt and live on her own. (Photo provided by Keepers of the Wild.)

Keeper of the Wild's wildlife center takes in animals brought to them from all over the Lowcountry of South Carolina. The center cares for about 3,000 animals a season and also provides a sanctuary for animals from coastal shelters during hurricane evacuations. Kinser, founder and president, is licensed through the Department of Natural Resources. If you would like to get involved or learn more about Keeper of the Wild and their rehabilitation center visit [www.KeeperoftheWild.org](http://www.KeeperoftheWild.org).

## Outdoor Recreation Generates Big Dollars

The Outdoor Industry Foundation has released a report, *The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy: A \$730 billion annual contribution to the U.S. Economy.*

Outdoor recreation contributes \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy and

- Supports nearly 6.5 million jobs across the U.S.
- Generates \$88 billion in annual state and national tax revenue
- Provides sustainable growth in rural communities
- Generates \$289 billion annually in retail sales and services across the U.S.
- Touches over 8 percent of America's personal consumption expenditures—more than 1 in every 12 dollars circulating in the economy.

For the full report, go to <http://www.outdoorindustryfoundation.org/ActiveOutdoorRecreation.pdf>

## Another Installment of Outdoors Tips from The Backpacker....

**How to guarantee your child will love camping:**

Good shoes, warm bag, easy mileage, and roasted marshmallows.

**How to predict the time of sunset:**

Hold your hand in front of you with your arm extended and palm facing in. Align the bottom of your hand with the horizon, then count fingers until you reach the sun. If it's early, you'll need more than five fingers. Each finger equals roughly 10 minutes of daylight.

**How to start a fire in the rain:**

Collect dry wood from under overhanging rocks or beneath dense tree cover. Use a knife to strip away the wood's wet outer surface. Saturated ground will suck the life out of your fire, so insulate with a thick layer of pine needles. Now start it with your wax-soaked wood chips. (Fill cardboard egg-carton compartments with wood shavings or laundry lint. Cover with melted wax.)

