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CHAPTER NOTES

While kayaking with some friends recently, I found myself thinking about you. We were on the Pee Dee River and posted at a landing were advisories warning that the Pee Dee is contaminated for both mercury and fecal pollution. I was proud to recall that thanks to Sierra Club members like you, we now have 400 such signs at threatened lakes and rivers all around the state. And I was also frustrated because both this river and our citizens remain threatened by Santee Cooper's dirty coal plant.

Our efforts to find better ways forward on issues like water and energy help tell the story of all we have accomplished this past year. For example:

- In October 2008 we brought leading climatologist Dr. James Hansen to South Carolina to make the case against Santee Cooper's coal plant.
- We have intervened before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to stop an expensive, unnecessary nuclear plant from being built on the Broad River.
- Our lobby team is passing legislation that will place a moratorium on "mega dump" landfills.

These achievements speak to the dedication of our members and the urgency of these times. At the federal level, the Obama Administration has promised to combat climate change by putting a cap on carbon emissions and by investing in clean energy. But in South Carolina, Governor Mark Sanford has threatened to reject federal assistance even as the legislature slashes programs that protect our environment and public health.

As our country moves into a clean energy future, will South Carolina be left behind?

The answer depends on us. We are the grassroots of South Carolina's conservation community, taking on our state's toughest challenges. And we need your help.

You may not realize that only \$5 of your general membership dues remains in our state. The rest supports the great work of the National Sierra Club at the federal level.

But every year national Sierra gives local chapters one opportunity to make a direct fundraising appeal. Known as the Spring Appeal, this campaign funds the essential work we do all year to create a better tomorrow for South Carolina.

Any contribution you make to this appeal stays right here in South Carolina. With your support, we can:

- **Accelerate** our state's transition to a clean energy economy by passing building codes and energy efficiency legislation.
- **Ensure** clean, abundant water by passing the "Fair Share" water allocation bill.
- **End** our state's role as the nation's "pay toilet" by placing a moratorium on landfill expansion.

The following pages give a snapshot of all we doing. I believe you'll conclude after reading them that whatever may have happened to your stocks or retirement account, a contribution to the Sierra Club of South Carolina represents a sound investment.

Please consider donating so that we can continue this vital work.

Hope to see you on the trail.

John



SIERRA CLUB OF SOUTH CAROLINA

1314 Lincoln St., Suite 211
Columbia, SC 29202
803-256-8487

www.southcarolina.sierraclub.org

The Sierra Club of South Carolina's mission is to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth and to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources.

Chapter Leadership

Chair: Susan Corbett
jscorbett@mindspring.com

Vice Chair: Bob Guild
bguild@mindspring.com

Secretary: Erika H. Myers
erika.h.myers@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jim Robey
jlrrobey@bellsouth.net

Membership Chair: Emily Jackson
jacks404@gmail.com

Fundraising Chair: Susan Corbett
jscorbett@mindspring.com

Conservation Chair: John Hartz
hartzjm1@aol.com

Outings Chair: Starr Hazard
hazardes@bellsouth.net

Staff

Chapter Director: John Ramsburgh
john.ramsburgh@sierraclub.org

Legislative Director: Cary Chamblee
chambleec@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
Crystal Robertson
crystal.robertson@sierraclub.org

Stop Trashing Our State!



Cary Chamblee is the Sierra Club's staff lobbyist. He lives in Columbia.

Ever get stuck at a railroad crossing and as you count the cars passing by, wonder what they are carrying? Would it surprise you to learn that not infrequently they are bringing in trash from North Carolina and New Jersey for our Class III municipal solid waste landfills?

Last year North Carolina passed more stringent restrictions on so-called "mega dump" landfills. So what did big waste companies like MRR Southern and Waste Management do? They expanded their operations in South Carolina, where weak and confusing DHEC regulations have allowed these companies to propose for South Carolina some of the largest landfill expansions in the entire country.

Meanwhile, our landfill "tipping fees" for out-of-state trash are lower than in North Carolina or Georgia, and half of what they are in the Northeast.

DHEC has recognized that there is a problem and last year established a Statewide Landfill Capacity Taskforce to make recommendations on closing some of the loopholes in the regulations. The challenge is what to do in the interim, because big out-of-state dumping companies don't want to lose South Carolina as the "pay toilet" of the nation.



Native tribes in South Carolina support the landfill moratorium. (l-r) Tribal Chairman Peter Parr, Chief James Caulder and Vice Chief Ben Thompson of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe of South Carolina and Chief Louie Chavis of the Beaver Creek Indians.

So they are taking advantage of economically disadvantaged communities to open "mega dumps" around the state. Witness Marlboro County, where MRR Southern has sought a permit that could lead to a dump eventually covering 5,000 acres with garbage 300 feet deep.

Citizen Activists Respond!

Fortunately, local citizens understand that the "sweetheart" deals offered to their county councils by these trash companies not only represent a serious health threat, they spell long term economic ruin. Indeed, great citizen activists in Williamsburg County just stopped MRR Southern from building the seventh largest landfill in the country in their backyard.

They, along with activists from Cherokee, Lee, and Marlboro Counties, as well as native peoples from all over South Carolina, have come out in force to implement a moratorium on landfill expansion until DHEC can get its regulations in order. As Vice Chief Ben Thompson of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe of South Carolina explained, "As the Native People of this land we believe it is imperative that we protect our Mother Earth for the generations to come."



We're not gonna take it! Citizen activists and Sierra Club members push for the passage of S. 324.

This diverse coalition, joined by our Sierra Club lobby team members, helped craft and push for S. 324, which places a two-year moratorium on Class III landfill expansions.

But the fight is only beginning. The trash haulers have contracted high-powered lobbyists to thwart our sensible solution when it reaches the House.

So we need your help! Only with a strong showing from citizen volunteers will we pass a strong bill in this year's session. Please contact our office if you would like to get more involved. And your contribution to our Spring Appeal helps support our legislative effort. Thank you for your support!

Clean Water for Our Children and Grandchildren



Earl Meyer is Chair of the South Carolina Sierra Club Water Committee and a member of the Foothills Group. He lives in Salem.

In January of this year the Water Committee released its third report, this time taking aim at the serious threat posed by aging and substandard water treatment and sewer systems in South Carolina. Our findings will alarm you.

After combing through ten years of DHEC data, we found that of the roughly 531 waste treatment facilities in our state, 101 are regularly releasing high levels of bacteria into surrounding waterways. These and other polluting plants are responsible for over 5,000 unpermitted discharges in the past decade, sending nearly 100 million gallons of partially and/or untreated sewage into our South Carolina lakes and rivers.



It was standing room only when the water committee presented their findings on utility and sewer failures at USC's Green Quad on January 27.

As we saw this past summer with a large spill on the Saluda River, when you combine a poorly managed plant with lax oversight, the public pays the price. The massive spill on the Saluda was not detected until nearby residents noticed the horrible stench. By then several swimmers had become sick. Columbia-area water recreation businesses also took a hit as the river had to be closed to public access for a week.

The failure of our treatment plants and sewer systems cry out for statewide solutions. Because problems upstream impact users downstream, we need to approach water quality solu-

tions on a statewide and even regional level.

Many great South Carolina conservation groups are working to monitor and improve their local waterways. But like the Sierra Club, these organizations also realize that we will need comprehensive reforms at the state level if we are to solve South Carolina's water quality crisis. Thus, the Sierra Club is helping to form a statewide water campaign seeking solutions at the state and regional level. And here are two initiatives we are pursuing before the General Assembly.

Presently, waste treatment plants are not required to notify the press or the public when their operations fail. With the leadership of Representative Carl Gullick (R-York), we are supporting legislation that would require utilities to inform the public within hours of an unpermitted discharge.

We've also noticed that DHEC fines for water quality violations are trivial, averaging only about \$11,000. We are therefore looking for ways to make fines commensurate with the infraction and to force utilities and municipalities to fix the problem rather than simply continue repaying the fines.

We traveled recently to Columbia to present our findings. We spoke with over 30 legislators, met with DHEC staff, and gave a presentation to a gathering that included not just conservationists and water tourism business owners but representatives from Columbia-area water utilities. Once they heard our presentation, everyone – whether elected official, avid paddler, or utility executive – shared our concern. We thus have every reason to hope that working together, all of us can be part of the solution to water pollution in South Carolina.

If you would like to learn more, or schedule our Water Committee for a presentation, please go to our website: www.southcarolina.sierraclub.org. And please consider donating this spring to the Sierra Club – your contribution helps support our work.



Calling for clean water: water team members lobby at the State House. l-r: Earl Meyer, Stewart "Chris" Christner, Rep. Grady Brown (D-Lee), and George Booth

The Road Less Traveled: Why the Sierra Club Opposes Nuclear



Susan Corbett is the Chapter Chair of the South Carolina Sierra Club. She lives in Columbia.

While cleaning out my attic recently (so I could add new insulation as an energy saving measure) I found a trunk full of old memorabilia, including buttons that said, “We Don’t Need Nuclear.” “How quaint,” I thought. “We’re stuck in 1977.”

In the decades following the 80s, we all thought the nuclear industry was done. Then enter the nuclear “renaissance,” ushered in by concerns about climate change and a mistaken perception that our only solution is to replace base load coal with base load nuclear. *Renaissance* means “rebirth,” though in the case of nuclear it really means digging up the dead.

In the 1980s the nuclear industry experienced a long, economically painful death that had little to do with anti-nuclear activists like me. It had to do with money. The industry died from exorbitant cost overruns, design flaws, construction problems, gross mismanagement, and wildly inflated demand projections. It left 64 plants in various stages of construction as stranded costs. Back then, if a utility defaulted on a loan or decided to quit a project, the investors bore some of the liability. Utilities had to go back to the Public Service Commission (PSC) and request rate hikes so that their customers could help soften the economic blow.

No more. With the passage in 2005 of the federal Energy Bill and in 2007 of South Carolina’s Base Load Review Act, utilities can pass the risks to consumers by charging up-front for construction costs. What’s more, if the plant is NOT built, utilities don’t have to return the money.

How is this possible in a free market economy?

We know how nuclear energy works in a socialist country like France: taxpayer dollars go to finance everything, from energy to education to health care. But last time I looked, we were a self-proclaimed “work free” state where free market principles are supposed to reign. It is therefore striking to watch fiscal hawks and free market champions like Governor Mark Sanford endorse nuclear. He recently told conservationists that we would have to choose between nuclear and coal. We wonder what happened to good old principles like saving rate payer money and increasing energy production through our state’s “first fuel”: energy efficiency.

Meanwhile, our elected official in the General Assembly are looking for more federal handouts for nuclear. Their dependence has become an addiction in South Carolina, with legislators writing more bills to get more federal money for more nuclear power plants producing more nuclear waste that we, the taxpayers will have to monitor and pay for, virtually forever. And there seems to be no consideration for leaving future generations a deadly, poisonous, carcinogenic, potentially catastrophic radioactive waste legacy they will bear for a thousand years.



We’re about to be fleeced! South Carolina rate payers Leslie Miner and Sara Tansey get ready to hand over billions to SCE&G tycoon Tim Lizewski.

The “nuclear renaissance” has gotten off to a rocky start. The European Pressurized Reactor being built in Finland by the French nuclear giant Areva is already two years behind schedule and 50 percent over costs. Areva is setting a course for another generation of spectacularly expensive plants that never come on line, on time, or on budget. And the French are supposed to be experts. We haven’t built a plant in the U.S. in over 20 years.

Our Nuclear Regulatory Commission is having a difficult time certifying or even obtaining anything like a final design for the new, untested Westinghouse AP1000 reactor slated to be built at the VC Summer Station in Jenkinsville. We have to wonder whether South Carolina will serve as a guinea pig in testing this new technology less than 30 miles from the state’s capital.

So here we are in the new millennium playing out the same scenario, this time with even more at stake. So I’ve put on my “We Don’t Need Nukes” button and been wearing it to the PSC meetings. If we had invested in solar, wind and other renewable technologies with the same commitment we’ve given nuclear power plants, I would be passing these memorabilia down to my grandchildren as some token of ancient history, not dusting them off to carry back into battle.

So Bright We'll Need Shades: Solar is the Solution!

The Sierra Club congratulates Charleston and Tablerock Technologies for proving that solar is a great energy option for South Carolina. Under Mayor Joe Riley's leadership, Charleston is installing solar panels at four of its municipal swimming pools, including the James Island Recreation Center, the W.L. Stevens Aquatic Center in West Ashley, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. and Herbert Hassell pools in Charleston.

A South Carolina solar company, Tablerock Technologies, has been contracted to do the installation. According to company founder Tone Nichols, solar is a great option for our state.

"On the average, we get about 225 sunny days here," explains Nichols. "South Carolina residents can spend up to 85 percent of their electricity bill on heating and cooling their homes and on heating their water. Why not let the sun do the work while we cut our bills?"


To help reduce the costs, there is a 30 percent federal tax credit and 25 percent state tax credit for both solar photovoltaic and hot water systems, so both residential and business customers can expect to cover up-front installation costs quickly.

Of course not everyone has joined the solar bandwagon. Despite their unobtrusiveness, residential solar panel projects are sometimes turned down by Home Owner Associations (HOAs). Thus, the Sierra Club of South Carolina has helped draft legislation that would protect residential solar projects from being summarily rejected by HOAs.

Tablerock Technologies Vice President Susan Grant points out, "If we can pass the historic city of Charleston's standards, then surely we can meet concerns by the Home Owners Associations. In most cases our roof mounts are virtually invisible."



Jobs that can't be outsourced! Tablerock Technologies installs solar panels atop the James Island Recreation Center.




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201-C Shady Grove Rd.
Pickens, SC 29671
864.878.5540
www.solarcart.com

Tone C. Nichols (President)
tnichols@solarcart.com
Susan A. Grant (Vice President)
sgrant@solarcart.com

What You Can Do!

Currently, the solar panel bill introduced by Representative Joan Brady (R-Richland) H.3628, is in the Committee on Labor, Commerce, and Industry. This bill will cost nothing to the state, but will make a huge difference for the future of renewable energy. Please call your legislators and encourage them to pass H.3628 this year.

And of course in the meantime, residential homeowners can take more modest steps to promote solar and reduce their bills. Tablerock Technologies offers a solar roof fan that is easy to install and will help cut summer cooling costs. It's a great clean energy option for what promises to be a hot summer!

SKY Energy® Posi- tively Impacts Climate Change

SKY Energy, Inc., a Greenville-based company, was launched in 2004 to provide 100% clean renewable wind energy to businesses, universities, and residences in South Carolina through its branded *Wind-e*® Renewable Energy Credits & Certificates, or RECs. These RECs are the renewable resource and clean air benefits generated by “Energy from Above®” wind turbines collectively called wind farms or wind power plants from utility partners across the United States. SKY Energy’s *Wind-e*® RECs are recognized by the EPA Green Power Partnership & Climate Leaders program for businesses and can help your organization achieve its sustainable and green initiatives.



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RECs provide an affordable way to offset your carbon footprint without changing power companies or adding extra transmission lines. For example, a typical household consumes about 10,000 kWh of electricity annually, emitting approximately 13,700 pounds of greenhouse gases mostly carbon dioxide from fossil fuel power plants. That homeowner can purchase the same quantity of RECs generated from a certified clean, renewable source of energy in the US and have those benefits transferred to them.

Hope at the Federal Level!

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the \$787 billion dollar American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) referred to commonly as the stimulus plan. This plan boasts landmark spending, especially on energy efficiency and renewable energy measures—practically every agency receiving funding has an energy-related provision.

Of this funding, \$3.1 billion dollars will go to the State Energy Program, which encourages energy-saving investments and renewable energy projects. An additional \$3.2 billion dollars will fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant which will go to states and local governments to support the development of energy efficiency strategies and programs that include installing solar projects on government buildings. Another \$500 million will be available through the Department of Labor for job training projects that prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The ARRA also has tax provisions to benefit the renewable energy market. For example, the bill removed the individual dollar caps for solar water heating property that was formerly capped at \$2,000. Congress is debating other policies, like a national Renewable energy Portfolio (RPS) and global warming legislation, which will also stimulate the growth of the solar industry.

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DHEC Caves Anyway

Of course these and other arguments were not enough to overcome the culture of acquiescence at DHEC. By a vote of four to two, DHEC board members upheld an air permit that allows Santee Cooper to add another 90 pounds of toxic mercury each year into a region where DHEC is busy putting up signs warning about, you guessed it, mercury.

The legal fight is just beginning. Sierra Club and Southern Environmental Law Center attorneys are already preparing our challenge before the Administrative Law Court. And in the absence of DHEC leadership on health issues, we are initiating mercury testing of our own.

What You Can Do!

Our Sierra Club chapter is helping to lead efforts to defeat this plant, and we need your help!

1. At our website, www.southcarolina.sierraclub.org, you can download and sign our on-line petition and see our calendar of events.
2. We are joining forces with Appalachian Voices to back a moratorium on importing mountain top removal coal into our state. Our conservation champion Rep. Carl Gullick (R-York) has filed our bill; call or email to thank him! (803) 734-3011 GullickC@schouse.org
3. And we are undertaking a campaign to test people for mercury poisoning. Do you eat the fish from our state's rivers? Know people who do? Please contact us if you would like to be tested!

Want to be a part of the last coal plant fight in South Carolina? You can always contribute to our Spring Appeal!



Sierra Club National Director Bruce Nilles helps launch the SCSaysNO campaign. (l-r) Peggy Brown, Susan Corbett, Cynthia Powell, John Hartz, Bruce Nilles, Pam Greenlaw, and Trey Fouche

Our Efforts Endorsed by Florence Mayor Stephen Wukela



“As the Mayor of the City of Florence, I commend the work that the Sierra Club, and the rest of the conservation community, has done in fighting the proposed coal plant in Kingsburg, South Carolina. Increased mercury contamination is a serious concern for an area with already elevated levels in our rivers and lakes. The citizens of Florence and the rest of the state cannot allow the construction of a power plant that would continue the destruction of our natural environment and adversely affect human health. For these reasons, I fully support the effort to fight the proposed coal plant. Thank you.”

2009 Legislative Update



The 2009 session is proving every bit the challenge we thought it would be. As we anticipated, our “Fair Share Water Bill” is now competing with a utility-backed water bill that would give 80 percent of our public waters to big businesses and electric utilities. Only with your support can we ensure clean, abundant water for all South Carolinians!

At the end of last year’s session, the Legislature managed to swipe all the funding for Conservation Bank to pay for school bus fuel; it looks unlikely that we will fund this valuable program this year.

Fortunately we’ve already chalked up a number of victories. Great Sierra Club activists beat back an effort in the Senate to define nuclear reprocessing as a renewable energy source. Our bill to protect South Carolina turtles from out-of-state harvesters has passed out of the House. And Sierra Club members remain the heart and soul of the conservation community’s volunteer lobby effort.

Thanks for all your help and please contact the office if you would like to join us or contribute!

Cary
Legislative Director

The End of Conservation Bank?



For years, Conservation Bank used voluntary acquisitions to protect vital watersheds and treasured places in South Carolina. The bank preserved over 135,000 acres at an average cost of only \$523 per acre. But last summer the House swiped the funds to pay for school bus fuel, breaking our state’s promise with landowners who had already gone to considerable expense.

Funding for land protection is an investment in South Carolina. Tourism, travel, forestry, agriculture and hunting and fishing are the top industries in South Carolina and are completely dependent on the protection of our natural resources. Without prompt action by Sierra Club members, we are looking at the complete end to the Conservation Bank.

Nuclear is NOT Renewable!

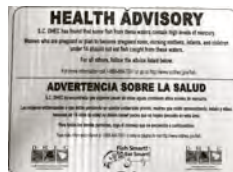
After losing at the committee level, Sen. Greg Ryberg (R-Aiken) attempted to inject “nuclear fuel reprocessing” back into our state’s definition of renewable energy. Doing so would have invited millions of tons of spent nuclear fuel to our state, making us the country’s high level nuclear waste dump.



Along with our great ally Tom Clements of Friends of the Earth, your Sierra Club was the “first responder,” lobbying against Ryberg’s amendment. Our leaders, Chair Susan Corbett and Vice Chair Bob Guild, played a key role both behind the scenes in undermining support for this dangerous bill. On March 31 it was defeated on the Senate floor in a rare roll-call vote.

Restructuring DHEC

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is charged with protecting the health of our citizens and environment. Unfortunately, several factors – including a confusing management structure and a convoluted appeals process – have resulted in numerous failures by the agency to protect the health of our citizens and our state’s resources. Fundamental reform is needed! We supported Sen. John Courson’s S.384, which would have brought that reform, but in March the Senate Medical Affairs Committee decided to “carry over” S. 384, essentially ending its chances for this session. It will take a strong effort by Sierra Club volunteers if we are to bring about change at DHEC.



Improved Building Codes



Our state building code standards are supposed to reduce energy consumption for new construction, but a 1990 State House law exempts energy efficiency provisions for residential construction. As a result we have some of the least energy efficient building codes in the country.

An improved standard would save the average new or renovated South Carolina home approximately \$547 through 2015, increasing to \$1146 thereafter. Over a ten-year period, the average homeowner would realize over \$7,000 in savings. This translates to \$1.7 billion in energy savings statewide, and a carbon reduction equal to taking 725,000 cars off the road. We are working hard to pass this good bill!

Don’t Drill Our Coasts!

The fact that leading geologists estimate that South Carolina has no offshore oil has not stopped Senator Robert Ford (D-Charleston) from introducing S.44, which would open our coast to drilling. His bill also directs DHEC to “expedite” permit applications for exploration, drilling and permitting. Thanks to Sierra Club opposition, it looks like this bill has died in committee.



South Carolina may not have offshore oil, but we do have some of the highest offshore wind potential on the Eastern seaboard. The Sierra Club has been working to educate legislators on this giant untapped source of potential energy.

Opinion: Energy Security and Economic Security for South Carolina



Tom Howell is a member of both Environmentalists, Inc. and the John Bachman Group. He lives in Columbia.

Energy security and economic security for South Carolina are closely connected. By developing our renewable energy resources and diversifying our generation and distribution systems, we would not only increase revenues but also make it possible to keep these revenues from leaving our state.

As we so often hear, small businesses are the bedrock of our state and national economy, constituting the greatest share of our gross domestic product and providing the most jobs. If we were to invest in the distributed energy systems associated with efficiency and renewable energy, we would create more jobs than we currently provide through large power generation stations.

Sadly, our state is currently one of the least energy efficient in the nation and we get less than two percent of our energy from homegrown, renewable resources. The efficiency programs our state so desperately needs, including weatherization and retrofits, would produce thousands of local jobs that are literally impossible to export. Moreover, encouraging business opportunities in renewable equipment manufacturing and sales, as well as the services to install and maintain these products, would create even greater local earnings.

Renewable energy technologies reduce pollution and avoid the dangerous and expensive waste storage and disposal problems associated with coal and nuclear. Distributed power generation, operating in combination with the existing power plants and distribution grid, offers the possibility of more efficient, robust, and flexible power distribution. Even large utilities stand to gain as they are especially well positioned to connect their renewable energy projects to the grid.

As we saw during Hurricane Katrina, interruptions to a centralized power grid even hundreds of miles away can threaten our state's economy. Because of our over-dependence on foreign energy sources, businesses throughout South Carolina and the Southeast had to shut down or slow operations when Katrina knocked out refining plants along the Gulf Coast. Not so the BMW plant near Greenville, which generates electricity by drawing on methane gas from a local landfill.

If your concerns include energy security, you should favor diversifying our state's energy portfolio while encouraging a distributed power grid. Distributed power generation provides greater security than large power plants feeding a centralized grid. Distributed generation also reduces the need for new transmission lines and reduces power losses caused by transmitting electricity over long distances.

To free itself from the long and vulnerable fuel supply lines, our US military is looking into renewable energy to power its army in the field. Shouldn't we? Dispersed over thousands of South Carolina rooftops, solar panels would make us not only more secure from natural disasters, but would provide fewer high value targets to our enemies.

Distributed power isn't a win-win for South Carolina. It's a win-win-win.

RENEWABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Companies like General Electric and SKY-Energy, Inc., both based in Greenville, are either producing wind turbines or helping to market wind energy to South Carolina residents. But both face a hostile business and regulatory climate, thanks to our big utilities and a Public Service Commission that is woefully out of touch. General Electric is producing turbines that can withstand hurricanes, but is shipping those turbines to expanding markets in the Midwest and West. Meanwhile, South Carolina legislators are pushing legislation to lift the state's moratorium on offshore drilling for oil. South Carolina has little or no oil but some of the highest offshore wind potential on the Eastern seaboard.



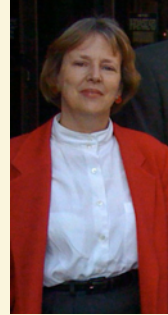
SKY-Energy, Inc. provides 100% clean renewable wind energy to businesses, universities, and residences in South Carolina and nationwide through its branded Wind-e® Renewable Energy Credits & Certificates or RECs.

Chapter Awards!

What makes the Sierra Club special? Our member-activists, who make our mission a reality. Once a year the the Sierra Club of South Carolina honors a chosen few for their dedicated work. Here are the winners from 2008. Please thank them for all they do, for the Club -- and the environment!

Interested in nominating a conservation champion for an award? You can download a nomination form from our website at www.southcarolina.sierraclub.org. Please email your nominations to Awards Chairman Joe Zdenek at jzdenek@comporium.net

Conservationist of the Year!



Whether tabling at a festival or cross-examining utility lawyers before the Public Service Commission, **Pam Greenlaw** does it all. Last year she coordinated the Chapter's clean energy efforts, helped run the Gills Creek Watershed Association, and prepared delicious meals before John Bachman Group meetings. A dedicated lobby team member, she was instrumental in passing the net metering study bill (H.3395). Her honesty and thoughtfulness have won her the respect and admiration of everyone, from Sierra Club members to tough-talking legislators. Congratulations Pam!

Media Person of the Year:

Given to an individual in recognition of outstanding contributions to the environment in South Carolina through journalism.



Stratton Lawrence writes articles about environmental issues for a variety of publications, including the City Papers in Charleston and Columbia. Though always objective and fair, Stratton is sensitive to the incredible challenges facing our environment. He is willing to call out elected officials and has served as a de-facto media watchdog on conservation issues.

Carolina Sierran:

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



After years of service to the Sierra Club, friend and activist **Ollie Johnson** stepped down from the Chapter Executive Committee in 2008. Among his contributions, Ollie was an active member of the Political Committee and a reliable and effective volunteer lobbyist at the state level. We will miss his sound advice on the ExCom but wish Ollie and Barbara all the best.

Distigished Service Award:

Given to a member who has contributed long-term, outstanding service to the Chapter.



For the past twenty years **Bob Guild** has been at the heart of South Carolina's conservation movement. He has served at virtually level in the Club, most recently as Chapter Chair. He is also chapter delegate to the national Club, where his contributions to the national mission are widely admired. As an environmental lawyer, Bob has represented ordinary South Carolinians in their fight for cleaner, healthier communities.

Student Environmental Excellence Award:

Given to a Sierra student member who has exhibited high achievement in the areas of environmental projects and awareness.



Marissa Mitzner is the youngest member of the Chapter Excom and one of our state's most promising environmental leaders. While a student at Coastal Carolina, she initiated environmental education programs that led to her hiring as the university's sustainability coordinator. She currently runs outreach efforts that involve dozens of students at Coastal and has participated in state and regional leadership trainings.

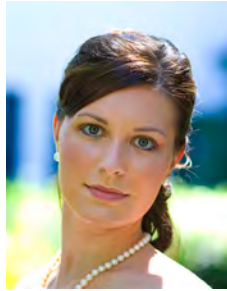
Silent Footprinter:

Given to a Sierra member who has gone above and beyond expected performance in an unobtrusive Club role.



Aaron Myers serves as Chapter WebMaster, keeping the site up-to-date and, on occasion, revamping it entirely. Most recently he has redeveloped the site to allow volunteers to be able to update it instantly. He has also held webinars to train volunteers in our web tools. Aaron's patience and hard work greatly appreciated! If you would like to get more involved with our web site, please contact the office.

Green Wedding: How a Sierra Couple Celebrated their Union

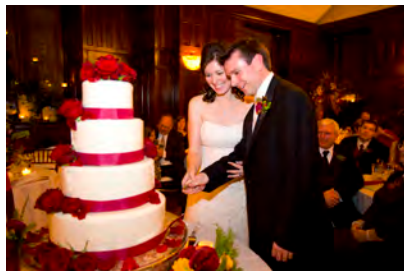


Erika Myers serves on the Chapter Executive Committee and is a member of the John Bachman Group. She and her husband Aaron live in Columbia.

I met Aaron Myers for the first time at Cool Beans in downtown Columbia. The Club had hired him to revamp and maintain the Chapter website and I needed his help for a new membership site. I quickly realized Aaron was everything I was looking for in a companion and two years later we were engaged and set our wedding date for October 2008.

I wanted to make the wedding representative of our environmental ethic. We started by sending out homemade “save-the-date” magnets that could be repurposed for years to come.

The most important decision was the wedding location, since travel can have the largest carbon footprint for an event. Our families were coming from far reaches of the country, so we decided on a location in the middle: Asheville, NC. In addition to the central location, the town is very amenable to sustainable events and offers a wide variety of alternatives.



We chose Homewood for our wedding location and reception. Having the guests

park in one spot for both events kept motor fuel consumption to a minimum. Homewood also offered in-house recycling, composting, a greenery package with potted evergreens and orchids, china and silverware that they reuse for all events, and organic cotton linens.

The food and beverages were another hurdle and we found a great caterer who was familiar with green weddings. We used locally-grown chicken, trout and vegetables. Even the cake contained locally-grown organic raspberries. We also served sustainable wines and organic, free-trade coffee. A totally organic menu was cost prohibitive, so we made the best decisions with the budget we had.

I was fortunate to find a florist who had my same taste in flowers and she assembled amazing bouquets and boutonnieres with locally-grown organic berries, pitcher plants, herbs, fiddle heads, coxcomb, ferns, and lotus pods. To keep costs down, we ordered silk centerpieces which also served as gifts for the wedding party. The beautiful fall-inspired creations will forever grace the homes of our loved ones. The centerpieces were surrounded by soy candles in recycled glass votives that also doubled as gifts for our guests.



I wanted to reuse my cousin’s wedding dress, but alterations were not possible. I purchased a silk gown and plan to find someone who will be able to reuse it. I also borrowed a friend’s veil and my sister’s headpiece.

Though we initially wanted to go totally green, we ended up with a low impact wedding that still reflected who we were as a couple. It was the most special day of our lives and we thank the Sierra Club for making it possible.

Creative ways to donate!



Dedicated Sierra Club members are finding creative ways to support our Chapter. Recently **John and Marian Miner** donated much needed office furniture to our Columbia office. Have anything you think might help our Chapter? Please contact the office! And thank you John and Marian!

The Congaree Chronicle (ISSN #0164-5676) is published quarterly by the Sierra Club of South Carolina. Advertising rates and terms: half page, \$1300; quarter page, \$700; eighth page, \$400. Circulation: 6,000 households, as well as media and elected leaders.

CALENDAR

You can find an extensive listing of events at our newly revamped website calendar:

www.southcarolina.sierraclub.org

THANK YOU!



A big thank you to **Ann Jennings**, former Director of the Congaree Land Trust and Sierra Club member, who has been helping out at the office on weekday afternoons. Do you have administrative experience and/or a pleasant phone voice? Want to work with fun people in a great environment? Please contact our office if you’d like to volunteer!

In Appreciation

Contributions from Sierra Club members like you make our conservation work possible. Thank you! Donations received from Sept. 1, 2008 to March 1, 2009

White Oak (\$2500+)

Elliott Close
Will Close
Rebecca and Harry Dalton

Magnolia (\$1000-\$2499)

Bettina and Don George
Donna Collier Harper
Ann and Allyn Schneider

Longleaf Pine (\$500-\$999)

LaBruce Alexander
Senator John Courson
William Dufford
Robert W. Foster, Sr.
Susan Hamilton
and Thomas Gross
Susan Hilfer
and William Campbell
Anne and Frank Holleman
Ann Jennings
Joanne and William Lehman
Catherine
and Robert Murphy
The Pee Dee Group
Joy and Joseph Pinson

Reta Richardson
Georgia Roane
Carolyn and Emile Russett
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Salley
Catherine and John Spragins
Patricia and John Wagner
Janet Wedlock
and Joe Whetstone

Spruce (\$250-\$499)

Cary Chamblee
Rebecca and James Chandler
Susan Corbett
Wade Crow
Patricia and Ed FitzGerald
William Hare
The Henry's Knob Group
The John Bachman Group
The Lunz Group
Marian and John Miner
Carol and Eric Thompson
Jack Wetzel

Dogwood (\$100-\$249)

John Bracken
Jay Ervin
Carol and Donald Fellner
Susan Grey and John Hartz

Patricia Hayes

Blan Holman
Lisabeth Isom
Albert L. James, Jr.
John Jay James, II
Barbara and Ollie Johnson
Karen and Michael Manley
Jamie Young McCulloch
Suzanne McCullough
Harry McMillan Jr.
Reverend Joe Mills
Jane and Donald Pilzer
Maria and Terry Richardson
Anella and Chester Sansbury
June Shissias
Pamela Shucker
Susan and Henry Smythe
Loring Stone
Robert Stringer
Mary and Edmond Taylor
Alice Wald
Richard Watkins
David Whiteman
Ben Williamson
June Yanick

Rosebud (\$50-\$99)

Dean Berry
Robert Botsford Jr.
Alice and John Claggett
Beverly Diamond
and Edwin Hettinger
Julia Eichelberger
and Leroy Hutchinson
Ellen and Robert Elson
Ann and Gary Fink
Mr. and Mrs. Harold F.
Gallivan, III
Anne and Emmett Godbee
Mark Hall
Ann Boatwright Igoe
Finley and
Albert L. James, III
Marcia and Luther Lyle
Stuart Massey
Pamela and Ralph Melbourne
Reverend Andrew O'dell
E.D. and Frank Rambo
Barbara Reed
and Robert Day
Jeremy Reynolds
Suzanne and Curtis Rhodes
Nena Powell Rice
Frances and Arthur
Rickenbaker

Dudley Salley
Peter Silveston
James Townsend
Mary and Frank Traficante
Elliott Neal Walker

Trillium (\$25-\$49)

Jean and George Booth
Kate Foster Boyd
Vincent DeMaria
Elizabeth Ervin
Erika Hartwig
Jo Jeffers
Ernest Lander Jr.
F. McNeill Martin
Jane and Frank Powell
Mary Rose
and Bruce Randall
Suzanne
and Thomas Robinson
Uta and Jack Valpey
Margaret and Dan Williams
Jennie Williamson

Red Clover (<\$25)

James Hyman Jr.
Joseph Lyles

We need your support!



This year, more than ever, it is so important we continue our financial support of the Chapter. We began this year in good shape and we want to continue that trend even through these difficult times. I have found a simple and painless way to give. I do my bill paying on-line and last year added the Sierra Club of South Carolina as one of my "payees." Now, each month when I sit down to pay my bills, I have a reminder to donate to our Club. I am able to spread my contributions out over the year and in this way by the end of the year have made a nice donation.

Also, our website now takes secure on-line donations! So save a tree (and a stamp!) through our easy and secure donation link, which you can find on the left-side menu of our homepage: www.southcarolina.sierraclub.org

Thank you for your support!

Susan Corbett
Chapter Chair

A Dinner With Malcolm

Sierra Club members took a break from saving the planet to enjoy the culinary brilliance and personal generosity of **Chef Malcolm Hudson**, who along with **Chef Tim Peters** of Motor Supply Co. Bistro, prepared a seven-course French dinner to benefit our chapter. **Jeff Helsley**, who owns Goatfeathers Restaurant in Five Points, donated his restaurant for the evening. Many thanks also to **Danielle Howle** and **Jamie Beresford** for the great music!



Janet Ciegler and John and Carol Kososki enjoy a great evening to benefit the Sierra Club of South Carolina.

**Our Action Page! Please send your responses to the Sierra Club of South Carolina
PO Box 2388, Columbia, SC 29202**

I, the undersigned, am opposed to the coal plant proposed by Santee Cooper in southern Florence County, on the Great Pee Dee River.

This dirty coal plant will emit yearly 93 pounds of toxic mercury as well as thousands of tons of ozone-forming nitrous oxide, soot-forming sulfur dioxide, and lung-damaging particulate matter. It will also emit 10 million tons of carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas most responsible for global warming.

This dirty coal plant will endanger our health, damage our environment, and undermine South Carolina's effort to become energy independent. Santee Cooper has addressed neither the environmental and human health impacts of this plant, nor the long-term economic risks of investing in coal as an energy source.

This dirty coal plant is not needed to meet our energy needs. By investing in energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy, South Carolina can meet growing demand without relying on a polluting, out-of-state energy source.

I request that Santee Cooper abandon its plans to construct this plant. I also urge our state regulatory agencies, the Governor, Santee Cooper's board of directors, and our state legislature to exercise their authority to halt this plant.

Name*: _____ Email: _____

Phone (optional): _____ Signature: _____

***We will keep your information confidential. The petitions we submit to our elected leaders will contain the signer's first name, last initial, and home town.**

How can we better serve you? Please send us your member survey!

1. What is your most pressing local environmental concern?
2. Which of the following Sierra Club campaigns most interests you?
 - Our statewide clean water campaign
 - Our clean energy efforts
 - Our campaigns against dirty coal and nuclear plants
 - Our legislative and electoral efforts
 - Our outings
 - Other: _____
3. How do you prefer to receive updates from us?
 - Mail
 - Email (provide address): _____
 - Phone (provide number): _____
 - Meeting individually
 - Meeting with a small group of your peers
 - Other: _____
4. Do you have friends or family members who might be interested in supporting our work? ____ yes ____ no
If yes, would you be willing to help support the work you care about in 2009 by:
 - Hosting a Sierra Club party for your friends
 - Mailing a personal letter (or making phone calls) to your friends, sharing why you support the Sierra Club's work in South Carolina
 - Inviting interested friends to join you at a "breakfast briefing" where Sierra Club staff can provide a brief overview of our work in South Carolina and answer questions
 - Providing us with a list of your friends and their contact information so that we can make a request for their support in your name.
5. Would you interested in learning how to start a local group in your area?

You can create a brighter future by donating to your state chapter!

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

I would like to join the *South Carolina Congaree Society* by making a larger gift for your 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 / __ Master Card) for my \$ _____ gift.

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone (optional): _____

Please make your check payable to: Sierra Club of South Carolina, P.O Box 2388, Columbia, SC 29202. Your contribution to the Sierra Club is not tax deductible; it supports our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobby efforts. If you prefer to make a tax-deductible gift to support our work, please call 803-256-8487 to learn how.

The Sierra Club of South Carolina
1314 Lincoln St., Suite 211
Columbia, SC 29202

Addressee Name
4321 First Street
Anytown, State 54321