



Awareness

Newsletter of the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina

EEASC Web address: <http://alpha1.fmarion.edu/~scenvedu/EEASC.html>

SPRING/SUMMER 2002

"Upstate Forever" Earns EEASC's Environmental Education Award

The Upstate of South Carolina is blessed with an incredibly beautiful landscape. It has majestic mountains, lush woodlands, spectacular waterfalls, scenic rivers and picturesque blue mountain lakes. It's no wonder that more and more people from other areas of the state and nation are drawn there.

Growth in the Upstate is a good problem to have, if it is sensibly planned. "Upstate Forever" is an organization that is working hard to steer planners, developers and government officials in the region toward following a plan for sensible growth. The organization's founder and Executive Director Brad Wyche and his "right hand," Associate Director Diane Eldridge, are assisted in their efforts by an impressive board and staff. Together they are making excellent progress.

To accomplish their goals, "Upstate Forever" has developed a 10-point plan of action. It includes promoting communication, coordination and cooperation among counties, cities, towns and special purpose districts; planned layout of infrastructure; region-wide zoning and adoption of design ordinances; protection of open spaces & historic sites; expanding downtown revitalization; promoting traditional neighborhoods, affordable housing, alternative transportation, and innovative strategies to control stormwater.

We applaud "Upstate Forever" for their efforts. We all owe them a great debt of gratitude for their efforts to guard and protect this special region of our state. (See Page 7 for a full conference review.)



At the spring meeting in Greenville Brad Wyche, left, leads group on a tour of the Reedy River.



Auctioneer Karey Santos helped raise over \$600 for EEASC!



Past presidents enjoy a reunion.



Tim Lee and Lou Lethi discuss events.

~ DATES TO REMEMBER ~

EEASC Environmental Education Forum

"HOT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
IN SOUTH CAROLINA"

Friday, August 2, 2002, 9AM-2:30 PM

Harbison Forest Environmental Education Center

(See bottom Page 2 for details)

EEASC Fall Meeting
"CAROLINA BAYS"

Hike, Canoe, Meet New -and Old- Friends,
Learn, and have a Great Time!

Saturday, October 26, 2002

Woods Bay State Park (Olanta, near Florence)

EEASC Annual Meeting March 7-9, 2003

25th Anniversary Meeting Highlights

By Lou Lethi, first v.p. and program chair

I would like to thank all of you who assisted in making this spring's conference a huge success! Without the help of so many members coming to attend, present, and assist, I could not have done it!

Those of you who were unable to attend missed some memorable programs. Diane Eldridge from *Upstate Forever* was our Keynote Speaker Friday night. Diane shared with the group how urban growth is affecting the Upstate and how we as environmental educators can become involved throughout the state to make SC's growth less invasive on our natural resources. Smart Growth, land-use planning, and long-term goals were also discussed.

EEASC was also fortunate to have two feature presentations during the conference. Bill Hilton, Jr. shared with us his project from Hilton Pond, "*Operation RubyThroat*". Everyone had the opportunity to learn how we are impacting the plight of this beautiful bird and more importantly how we in EE can get involved. Bill discussed how students learn by becoming actively involved in data collection and communication with others across North, Central and South America. "*Operation RubyThroat*" provides students an opportunity to learn more about the natural system(s) in which they live and how their activity can impact the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and its habitat.

Dr. Ken Sargent and Dr. Brannon Anderson of Furman University presented their water research project, *River Basins Research Initiative*. The RBRI's goal is to determine the cause(s) of poor water quality and to link land use to water quality within the Enoree and Saluda River Basins. Both gentlemen shared their research to date and encouraged college students to apply for their summer research course to continue the study.



Rick Huffman

achieve better looking and longer lasting landscaping results. Those who attended received a book, sketch pad, and a fantastic guided tour by Rick.

Other presenters included: Tim Lee- *Discover Carolina*; Karey Santos- *ZPG (Zero Population Growth)*, Donald Sweeper- *Using Earthworms in the Classroom*; Kathryn Komoroski- with both *Population Curves* using bubbles and *Math with SC Maps*; and Julia Krebs & Lisa Pike on EEASC's new website.



Donald Sweeper & worm

Highlights from our field trips included: Nancy Fitzer and Melanie Ruhlman of *Pinnacle Consulting* and the *Conestee Foundation* led a woodland tour of the *Lake Conestee* brownfield reclamation area; Brad Wyche gave a guided walking tour of the *Reedy River*. Pete Kennedy of Greenville Technical College conducted a short course on their *Geomatics Lab* and Mary Lou Jones led a tour through *Paris Mountain State Park*. Just about everyone returned in time to beat the rain. On Sunday several members stopped by the *Alpaca Farm* in Gray Court on their way home.

This year's *Environmental Exchange* was a blast! Thanks to the Diane Curlee, Glenda Lewis, and Louise Hughes of the Orangeburg Soil and Water Conservation District for bringing so many exchange items.

EEASC's first Annual Auction was a tremendous success. Special thanks to Karey Santos for running the show and all of her hard work behind the scenes! I am sure that no one will want to miss next year's auction. (Be on the lookout for a green tree person!).



Nancy Thompson, Tim Lee (immortalized) & Susan Young

Another special "Thank You" needs to go to Bonnie Schneider for putting together a terrific 25th Anniversary Program and to all of EEASC's past presidents who attended and shared the history of EEASC.

Mark Madden has put together a phenomenal *Power Point presentation* about EEASC. If you have not seen it, please check out our website: <http://alpha.fmarion.edu/~scenvedu/EEASC.html>.

And what would be a spring conference without Chef George?! Many thanks to *George Sawyer* who went way beyond the call of duty, serving as host on opening night and, as always, as Super Chef for Saturday's picnic lunch at a nearby park.

Once again I would like to thank everyone involved for making this another memorable Spring Conference for EEASC. Let's do it again next year! Lou

Members of the EEASC Board want to extend our special appreciation to Program Chair Lou Lethi who put together one fantastic program!! GREAT JOB, LOU! - But sadly, she won't be able to "do it again next year". We are losing her- to CALIFORNIA! Our loss is their gain! Thanks, Lou, for all you've done as a member of our board these past few years. We'll miss you!