

Kingston Lake Environment Awareness Network (KLEAN) - Update for August 2007

GREETINGS from the Kingston Lake Environment Awareness Network (KLEAN)!

About once a month, you will receive an e-update with the latest information about Kingston Lake, Crabtree Swamp, and the Waccamaw River. Let's see what's been happening lately and what's coming up.

Events and Announcements

The next meeting of the Conway Water Quality and Drainage Commission will be held on September 26th at 6 PM. Commission meetings are held in Conway City Hall on 3rd Avenue and Main Street in the conference room on the first floor. A public input period is always scheduled.

The Horry County Stormwater Advisory Board will hold its regular meeting on September 25th from 3-5 PM. Meetings are held at the Horry County Government and Justice Center on 2nd Avenue in Conway. A public input period is always scheduled.

The City of Conway plans to hire a stormwater manager to oversee implementation of its Stormwater Management Plan. For more information, visit the City's website (<http://www.cityofconway.com/>) and click on 'Employment' in the sidebar.

Tired of seeing trash around town? Want to do something about it? The City of Conway is trying to establish a Keep America Beautiful chapter under South Carolina's Palmetto Pride program (<http://www.palmettopride.org/>). If you want to help Keep Conway Beautiful, contact Buddy Freeman (365-0188; <mailto:buddyfreeman@sc.rr.com>).

This Month's Feature History of Conway and Waccamaw River by Ben Burroughs

On the 7th of February 1734, several adventurous men left the newly established port city of Georgetown, SC in a large canoe and headed up the Great Pee Dee River with the intent of exploring the upper Waccamaw River. About ten miles from Georgetown they spent the night at a Mr. Gordon's. The next day they cut over to the Waccamaw River to Major Pawley's residence. From that point they proceeded up the Waccamaw accompanied by both Mr. Gordon and Major Pawley. The account that one of them left is the earliest known description of that area.

After a few days travel they came to a bluff that "was the bluff on which Kingstown [Conway] is to be settled, but there are yet no inhabitants; the lower part of the township is not above fifty miles from Georgetown, but the tide runs seventy miles up; it is much the boldest river in all South Carolina; in a parallel line with the sea coast, which runs north-east and south-west, and is not above two miles across to it in some places." He went on to say, "The land hereabouts is, for the generality, very good, and for the most part high champaign land, and is not subject to overflow, as a great many of the rivers do, particularly P.D. and Santee; this river runs about two hundred and fifty miles up, and heads in a beautiful lake [Lake Waccamaw in NC]."

The party continued on up river to Bear Bluff where they camped and then returned the next day, 20th February 1734, to Kingston bluff "where we had the good fortune to kill one bear, some of which we barbecued for our suppers. The next morning we sat out from thence, and the same night reached Major Pauly's [sic]..."

The bluff at "Kingstown" mentioned in the account is most probably the bluff on which Kingston Presbyterian Church now sits. In the original plan of the town of Kingston, a portion of the bluff along Kingston Lake was designated as the town commons. By 1756, a Presbyterian congregation had organized in the village. The church sanctuary was built on the bluff along Kingston Lake within the town commons area. The colonial building was destroyed sometime around 1813 in a great storm and in 1858 the existing Kingston Presbyterian Church was constructed adjacent to the site of the old colonial building.

Learn More

If you are looking for a speaker for your group's next meeting, why not book a presentation about wetlands? Tommy Fennel of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and David Fuss and Dr. Susan Libes of Coastal Carolina University are available for a joint presentation geared for citizen groups. For more information, contact David Fuss at 843-349-4023 or dfuss@coastal.edu.

To sign up for monthly updates from KLEAN, send an email to KLEAN@sccoast.net or call 248-1730.

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