

Kingston Lake Environment Awareness Network (KLEAN) - Update for March 2009

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 happening this month.

Events and Announcements

The next meeting of the Conway Water Quality and Drainage Commission will be held on **Wednesday, March 18th at 6:00 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 next regular meeting on **Tuesday, March 24th at 3:00 PM** in Multipurpose Room D at the Horry County Government and Justice Building at 1301 2nd Avenue in Conway. A public input period is always scheduled. For more information, visit <http://www.horrycounty.org/stormwater/index.asp?page=9>.

On **March 28th from 9 AM – 1 PM**, join the Waccamaw Riverkeeper Program to help clean up the River and Kingston Lake area in Conway. Meet at Conway Marina at 9 AM. Food will be served after a hard morning's work. Contact Christine Ellis at wrk@coastal.edu or 843-349-4007 for more information.

The City of Myrtle Beach and the Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium host a Property Management Stormwater Educational Seminar on **April 2nd, 9 AM – 12 PM** at the Myrtle Beach Base Recreation Center. The program is designed to help property managers, engineering and maintenance staff, and homeowner/property owner association members to become familiar with their own on-site stormwater facilities and better understand City of Myrtle Beach's post construction inspection program. Registration is free, but space is limited. To learn more, contact Janet Wood at jwood@cityofmyrtlebeach.com or 843-918-2000.

The Horry County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed Conservation Subdivision Zoning District on **April 2nd at 5:30 PM** in the Horry County Government and Justice Building at 1301 2nd Avenue in Conway. For more information, contact Christopher Klement at Horry County Planning at klementc@horrycounty.org or 915-7899.

This Month's Feature – Construction Begins to Restore Crabtree Swamp

A locally-driven collaborative's first demonstration project to restore the highly channelized Crabtree Swamp to a more natural state is underway. Conceived in 2007, the Crabtree Swamp Restoration Initiative is a broad partnership of stakeholders that is driven to fix water quality impairments and flooding problems, as well as provide suitable wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for citizens. Construction began in March on a project between Oak Street and US 501 designed to stabilize eroding banks and to provide a modest floodplain shelf to accommodate high flows and to filter sediment.

To relieve pressure on the canal's steep and often slumping banks, the project design calls for creating a "bench" in the banks of the canal several feet above the stream bottom. The "bench" would then gently slope up to the grade that existed prior to channel modifications in the 1960s, allowing increased flood storage and slower flows to settle out pollutants. Once construction is complete, the bench and slopes will be re-vegetated with native aquatic and upland plants to help stabilize the bank and shelf, filter pollutants and provide wildlife habitat. On the upland side, the project design accommodates future extension of a recreational trail.

Initiative partners providing physical, technical, and/or financial assistance for the demonstration project include: Horry County, City of Conway, Coastal Carolina University, Clemson University, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A Memorandum of Understanding, finalized in January 2008, formalizes the local partners' commitments to restoring the impaired stream system. MOU signatories

include Horry County Council, Horry County Stormwater Advisory Board, Conway City Council, Crabtree Swamp Watershed Conservation District, and the Horry Soil and Water Conservation District. For more information, contact Joe Dignam, Conway Stormwater Manager (jdignam@cityofconway.com or 248-1730).

Archived E-updates

All of the KLEAN e-updates are archived and available for download. Check them out at http://www.coastal.edu/www/klean/archived_eupdates.html.

Learn More

If you are looking for a speaker for your group's next meeting, why not book a presentation about water quality or wetlands? David Fuss and Dr. Susan Libes of Coastal Carolina University are available for presentations 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. Your email is kept confidential and is not shared for any other purposes. If you have received this message in error or you no longer wish to receive these e-updates, please send a message to KLEAN@sccoast.net.