

## Kingston Lake Environment Awareness Network (KLEAN) - Update for May 2008

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**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.

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### Events and Announcements

The next meeting of the Conway Water Quality and Drainage Commission will be held on **Wednesday, May 21st 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 **Monday, June 9th at 3:00 PM** in Multi-purpose Room D of the Horry County Government and Justice Center on 2nd Avenue in Conway. A public input period is always scheduled. For more information, visit <http://www.horrycounty.org/stormwater/index.asp?page=9>.

By popular demand after the successful seminar in January, another seminar is being offered on **July 17th** entitled "*Getting to Know Wetlands: Innovative Planning and Development Approaches for South Carolina's Wetland Resources*." Targeting city and county officials and staff, developers, planners, realtors, and consultants, this seminar experience will help you understand why wetlands issues are important, understand the laws and rules governing them, and understand how well-informed decision making can yield more efficient results that adequately protect our coastal resources and meet land use and development needs. This event is free of charge and is sponsored by the North Inlet-Winyah Bay Coastal Training Program, Coastal Carolina University's Center for Marine and Wetland Studies, South Carolina's Dept. of Natural Resources, and the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve. Seats are limited so advance registration is required. To register online and learn more about the event, visit [www.northinlet.sc.edu/training/events.htm](http://www.northinlet.sc.edu/training/events.htm) or contact Nicole Saladin at <mailto:nicole@belle.baruch.sc.edu> or 843-546-6219 ext 241.

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### This Month's Feature – All About Open Space

"Open space" is surely a *buzz word* these days, but what does it mean? Open space is an important "quality of life" community feature that may include recreation sites, sensitive environmental resources, scenic vistas and greenways, or plazas and town squares. Open space can be publicly or privately owned and maintained. You might think of open space as an oasis from the hustle and bustle of daily life. As we develop our communities, open space should be a central part of the picture. Why?

Open spaces offer many benefits to citizens and visitors, including:

- *Economic value* – accessible, appealing open space boosts property values and tourism and attracts business and commerce
- *Health* – recreational sites promote fitness, including sports, hiking, biking, jogging, and walking
- *Community character* – relief from urban sprawl defines a community's identity and is a source of community pride
- *Scenic value* – protects scenic views and their natural, historic, or cultural significance
- *Comfort/link to nature* – provides locations for relaxation, contemplation and quiet
- *Rural lands preservation* – protects working crop and timberlands
- *Resource and wildlife protection* – maintains water sources, wildlife habitat, and unique landscape features

- *Hazard reduction and public safety* – reduces risk to life and property associated with lands prone to natural disasters such as floods, fires, and hurricanes

Horry County established an Open Space Board in 2000. Renamed the Parks and Open Space Board, its mission is the protection of natural open spaces while ensuring the provision of passive and active recreation sites. For more information, visit <http://www.horrycounty.org/boards/openspace/>. Additional information about the benefits of open space may be found at <http://www.townofcary.org/depts/dsdept/P&Z/openspace/openspacebenefits.htm>.

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### **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](mailto:dfuss@coastal.edu).

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