

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

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 Horry County Stormwater Advisory Board will hold its next regular meeting on **Tuesday, October 28th at 3:00 PM** at 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>.

SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control's Bureau of Water is holding a series of public meeting to evaluate freshwater water quality standards, classifications, and uses, as they relate to recreation. The nearest meeting location and time is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 28th at 6:00 PM** at Darlington Institute of Technology, 160 Pinedale Drive, Darlington, SC. For more information, contact Karin Skipper at skippek@dhcc.sc.gov.

The next meeting of the Conway Water Quality and Drainage Commission will be held on **Wednesday, November 19th 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.

This Month's Feature – Rain Gardens

When it rains, where does all the rain go, and what effect does it have? Many developed properties cannot absorb much rain. Instead, the water runs off of the hard roofs and driveways (called impervious surfaces) into streets, ditches, ponds, streams, and rivers. So, what's the problem? Well, all that water is not just rain anymore. Along the way, it picks up fertilizers, animal droppings, oil and gas from roads, eroded soil, and trash that are harmful to the environment and wildlife. In fact, scientific studies have found that nearly 70% of the pollution in rivers, lakes, and bays is carried there by stormwater. So, what can be done to reduce the pollution entering our waterways and stop erosion?

Planting a rain garden is an easy, affordable, and natural way of reducing stormwater runoff and pollution while making your yard beautiful. A rain garden is a bowl-shaped depression created in an area that tends to collect rainwater, such as a swale or low point near a downspout. As stormwater collects in the rain garden, the growing plants take up the water and pollutants are filtered out. By using plants that don't mind being wet, you can intercept runoff, yet gain a scenic view and even attract beneficial wildlife.

To build a rain garden, according to *Community Associations and Stormwater Management: A Coastal South Carolina Perspective*, you must first find a suitable location between the sources of the rainwater and where this water naturally flows. This area should be at least 10 feet from your home. You will need to dig the depression about 12 inches deep. The soil mix added to the depression includes 50-60% sand, 20-30% top soil, 20-30% compost, and a dense-material mulch on the top. The plants should be native to coastal South Carolina (see chart below for a few suggestions from the above reference).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Months in Bloom
Beautyberry (deciduous shrub)	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	June - July
Witch Alder (deciduous shrub)	<i>Fothergilla gardenia</i>	September - October
Wax Myrtle (evergreen shrub)	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	
Dwarf Palmetto (evergreen shrub)	<i>Sabal minor</i>	
Joe Pye Weed (perennial plant)	<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	July - October
Cardinal Flower (perennial)	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	July - October
Black-eyed Susan (perennial)	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	August - October
Verbena (perennial)	<i>Verbena canadensis</i>	March - May
Sweetgrass	<i>Muhlenbergia filipes</i>	October - November

Maintaining a rain garden will require weeding and mulching like any other landscaped area, but you won't need to irrigate so you'll save money. For more information on rain gardens, please see the PDF publication *Community Associations and Stormwater Management: A Coastal South Carolina Perspective* (pages 70-72) at www.urbanestuary.org or www.raingardennetwork.com.

Written by Stephanie Miller and Karen Fuss of the Center for Marine and Wetland Studies at Coastal Carolina University.

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.