

Kingston Lake Environment Awareness Network (KLEAN) - Update for September 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

Beach Sweep/River Sweep, South Carolina's largest one-day volunteer cleanup event of its kind, is scheduled for **Saturday, September 15th** from 9 am to 12 pm. Winyah Rivers Foundation participates annually in this cleanup, organized by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and S.C. Department of Natural Resources. To participate, meet at the Conway Marina on Elm Street in downtown Conway.

The Horry County Stormwater Advisory Board will hold its regular meeting on **September 25th** from 2-5 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 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.

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 Features

Recently, North Carolina Governor Mike Easley signed into law a moratorium on large land fills in North Carolina, including the Green Swamp Dump that has been proposed in the headwaters of the Waccamaw River in North Carolina. The Sun News recently editorialized, "This site seems a dangerous place to put a landfill, no matter how well constructed it may be. The Green Swamp, mostly in private hands, is ecologically fragile...The environmental impact of the landfill would be felt well beyond its fence line. Moreover, if the landfill did leak, it could degrade the Waccamaw River ecosystem south of the state line--right here in our communities." The law that effectively bars this dump is good news for those concerned about the Waccamaw River downstream in South Carolina!

Lately, there have been reports of sturgeon jumping from the water in the Waccamaw River and Winyah Bay. For example, the dockmaster at Heritage Marina, about 12 miles above the river's confluence with Winyah Bay, has reported seeing one jump about every 15 minutes. What's going on? The Waccamaw River has two sturgeon species, Atlantic and shortnose. Sturgeon are anadromous, meaning they spawn in freshwater and spend most of their lives in salt water. Sturgeon are among the most primitive of the bony fishes. They occur along the Atlantic coast of the U.S. and Canada in major rivers and the coastal ocean. In South Carolina, these fish typically spawn in the late spring, between May and June. Mature adult female Atlantic sturgeon typically range from 6 to 8 feet in length. Sturgeon feed along the bottom, primarily on insects, crustaceans, and mollusks. Researchers have proposed various reasons for sturgeon jumping, such as getting rid of parasites, communication, or just because they can, but none of these theories are proven. The jumping seems to be normal behavior and is often observed in the

summer months. So, keep your eyes open for sturgeon. Please keep in mind that sturgeon are protected and need to be handled as such. For more information, visit the following links:

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/mrri/diadrofish/atlanticsturg.html>

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/cwcs/pdf/Sturgeon.pdf>

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/fish/shortnosesturgeon.htm>

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.

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