

4-18-2013

The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 3 Issue 22

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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Recommended Citation

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program, "The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 3 Issue 22" (2013). *The Fierce Green Fire*. 8.
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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



Senior seminar students and faculty visited an archeological site directed by USC students while on their kayaking trip down the Congaree River in Columbia.



Volume 3, Issue 22

ENVS Senior Capstone Presentations Tonight

5:00pm-6:00pm

Milliken Science, Room 122

Oral Presentations by:

Jacob Godwin

"South Carolina conservation history – the influence of Thomas Wyche"

Langley Altman

"A 21st century land ethic in South Carolina"

Martha Cammack

"Local Food – the old and the new in Spartanburg"

Rachel Brittenham

"Improving Wofford College's attitude towards waste and recycling—Can it be done?"

Peter Wilson

"Framework for a sustainability strategy at Wofford College"

6:00pm-7:00pm

Poster Session & Reception



Students and faculty meander down Congaree Creek.

Rivers of Columbia: A senior seminar adventure

by Rob Kennedy and Steven Bearden

Last Saturday we were unsure what to expect on our seminar trip to Columbia. There wasn't much discussion occurring on the bus at 7:30 on a Saturday, and we all settled in for a little more shut-eye. Entering the city, we made our way to the headquarters for the River Alliance. Executive Director Mike Dawson explained that over the last two decades they have headed up a successful movement to connect Columbia citizens to their rivers by developing the Three Rivers Greenway along the Congaree, Broad, and Saluda Rivers. They have carried out actions such as creating the 8' wide Riverwalk for a 9½ mile stretch that before was nearly inaccessible. Riverside fishing piers, public restrooms, and an outdoor amphitheater also enhance this vital attraction for the Columbia area. We got to check it out for ourselves as we spent the next hour walking the greenway and seeing what it had to offer.

Following our exploration, we quickly ate a Publix sandwich and took off to Congaree Creek where we met our guides, waiting with kayaks and paddles. We launched one by one and began our journey. This was certainly the best part of the trip as we were able to relax and lazily paddle along the meandering stream and take in its beauty. The shallow bottomland creek snaked through a swamp where it sometimes overflows its banks

hundreds of feet in either direction. The cool shade, warm weather, and being on the water in such a landscape was an awesome experience, and inspired us to begin planning our own multi-day river trip in the days following graduation. We continued along the creek for almost two miles; during this stretch we were able to see Rev. Robinson flip his kayak, soon followed by Kristyn Schwartz. Despite these mishaps we arrived safely at our takeout point at the old Fort Congaree.

This made for an adventure. We had to scale the thirty-foot high bank to get to the archaeological site of the fort. After we got everyone up top the kayaks were next. Our guides pulled them up the steep grade while we learned about the fort. Three active dig sites are worked by USC undergraduates led by USC masters student James Stewart. They have found bones, coins, buttons, pottery, and many other artifacts from Native Americans and colonial settlers. The fort was a huge trade hub for animal skins. Digging and sifting through the excavated soil is a slow and painstaking process; it takes much patience.

After the excavation and kayaking it was time to head back to Wofford. We stopped by the public boat launch on the Congaree River before hitting the road. It was a great way to spend a sunny spring Saturday among friends.



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- April 18th **Environmental Studies Senior Capstone Presentations:** Graduating seniors will present their projects. Oral presentations from 5:00 – 6:00pm in “the Pit” (RMSC 122); reception and poster session from 6:00 – 7:00pm in Great Oaks Hall.
- April 18th **Audubon Society Program:** 7:30pm Dan Whitten, Master Naturalist at Clemson, will talk about their program. All Audubon programs free and open to public. Parish House at St. Francis, 601 Webber Road, 29307.
- April 21st **FGF’s First Annual Shoals Fun Run 5K in Honor of Earth Day:** Volunteers and sponsorships needed for this event, contact Jan Patton pattonje@email.wofford.edu for information. Race starts at 9:00am. Registration for the event is found on this link <https://www.wofford.edu/environmentalStudies/shoalsfunrun.aspx>.
- April 22nd **USC-Upstate Hosts “Think Globally, Act Locally” on Earth Day:** 3:00pm – Bree Krirsh, “*From Primates to Preserves*”, how her field research contributed to establishing a new wildlife preserve in Kenya; 4:00pm – Laura LaVoie and Matt Belitsos, “*Live in 120 square feet?*”; 5:00pm – Angel Hjarding, “*Red Listing: The Recognition You Do Not Want*”, PhD research to determining if a species needs to be red-listed for protection. All three speakers will be in Tukey Theater on USC-Upstate campus.
- April 22nd **Fierce Green Fire Meeting:** Next meeting in BSA 1 at 8:30pm.
- April 24th **Sustainability Cups for Sale:** Fierce Green Fire students will be selling the Wofford Tervis tumblers during lunch 11:30am-1:30pm in front of Burwell. \$20 each - Use your Terrier Bucks or cash. Help us reduce waste on campus by purchasing and using the cup!
- April 27th **Concert at Glendale Shoals:** *The Antibodies* will perform at the outdoor amphitheater at 5:30pm. Admission is free, but we are collecting donated supplies for The Adult Learning Center (writing utensils, notebooks, dry erase materials, etc.).



PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

University of Wisconsin – Environmental Conservation

The University of Wisconsin’s Nelson Institute offers a MS in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development. The program is built on the legacy of pioneering environmental leaders such as John Muir, Aldo Leopold, and Gaylord Nelson. “It helps early-career working professionals advance their leadership, conservation and environmental management expertise through campus learning and remote experiences.”

Students also work directly with conservation organizations such as Conservation International,

International Crane Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wildlife Fund.

The Nelson Institute also offers degrees in Environment and Resources and Water Resource Management.

Visit the school’s website for more information on their program:

http://nelson.wisc.edu/graduate_degrees/index.php