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Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



The Thinking Like a River group gathered around the campfire during the overnight float trip.

Volume 3, Issue 6

Where's The Raft?



Students, faculty, and TLR panelists, Allison Hedge Coke, Susan Fox Rogers, and Mike Freeman enjoying their paddle down the river.

Last week our *Thinking Like a River* symposium was met with enthusiasm by nearly 100 students, faculty, and community members. The weekend permitted time to deepen the conversation. A group of 12 including three of the visiting authors, three ENVS students, faculty from two departments, the Goodall Center outreach coordinator, and Bob Hathcock, our intrepid outfitter set forth from the Skull Shoals put-in on the Pacolet River in two rafts, six kayaks, and a home-built canoe.

Discussion and reflection while paddling addressed topics ranging from the Hudson River to sand hill cranes and the Alaskan wilderness, along with sightings of great blue herons, osprey, and turtles. We met at the confluence of the Pacolet and Broad Rivers, feeling the slowing water as we worked our paddles a little harder.

Arrival at Goat Island shortly beyond the confluence brought about discussion of this river as a mutual hunting and fishing grounds for the Cherokee and Catawba tribes, and stirred thoughts of rivers as both boundaries and integrators. Rifle shots in the distance reminded us that the surrounding lands are still used for hunting.

A fine dinner was served in style and happily consumed in crazy-creek chairs around the campfire while stars and the Milky Way began to make their appearances; the air cooled and the dew descended. Conversation lingered until one by one we drifted off to tents or bivy sacks. Overnight clouds rolled in but no rain added to our dampness. After breakfast and a short float we were at the steep takeout at Lockhart dam, reluctant to break the spell of thinking like a river. (*You'll have to ask about the raft!*)



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- October 22nd **Fierce Green Fire:** Come out to help FGF paint the corn hole sets to be used at the Halloween Carnival. They will meet at 6:00pm on the lawn behind Phase V.
- October 23rd **“Between God & Green: Evangelicals & Climate Change”:** Author Dr. Katharine Wilkinson will speak on the subject of evangelicals and the environment. 11:00am in Olin Teaching Theater. Co-sponsored by the Santee Cooper Lecture Series on Sustainability & Energy Issues and South Carolina Interfaith Power & Light.
- October 27th **Athletic Recycling Initiative with Fierce Green Fire:** Join us before the Homecoming football game and help educate the public on what can be recycled and how easy recycling can be. Contact Jan Patton pattonje@email.wofford.edu if you would like to help.
- October 29th **Deadline for Leadership Role Applications in Fierce Green Fire:** If you are interested in a leadership position in Fierce Green Fire, email Jan Patton (*see email above*) for information and descriptions of roles.
- October 31st **Deadline for South Carolina Wildlife Federation Scholarships:** Scholarships will be awarded to full-time undergraduate or graduate students studying environmental education. Winners announced in December 2012. See Dr. Savage if you are interested in applying.
- November 1st **Longleaf in the Long Run: Restoring the South’s Richest Forest:** Speaker Rhett Johnson, founder and president of The Longleaf Alliance, will speak as part of the newly established *Tyson Family Lecture on Restoring and Preserving Southern Ecosystems*, which will be an annual event hosted by Environmental Studies. 7:00pm in Olin Teaching Theater.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

American University – MA in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development

American University’s MA program in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development is a dual-degree program with the United Nations-affiliated University for Peace in Costa Rica. American University offers an MA in International Affairs, and the University for Peace in Costa Rica offers an MA in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development. This unique program offers students the opportunity to learn about environmental and development policies from the perspectives of both the South and North.

According to their website the two-year program schedule is: “Students spend their first semester at American University learning the foundations of

sustainable development policy both inside the classroom and within the Washington, D.C. policy community. They spend the next two semesters at the UN-affiliated University for Peace studying concrete practices and tracking international efforts toward sustainable development. During their summer at UPEACE students must complete an internship. They return to AU for their final semester, during which they write a substantial research paper, participate in an integrative seminar and complete their final courses.”

<http://www.american.edu/sis/sisabroad/graddual/UPeace.cfm>