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## The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 3 Issue 18

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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# The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

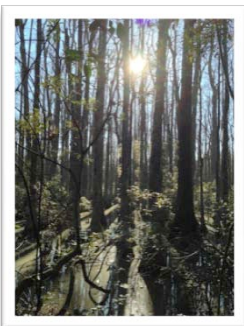


ENVS Senior Seminar students and faculty pose for a group picture during their overnight trip to Georgetown at Yawkey Wildlife Preserve.

Volume 3, Issue 18



*Dr. Phil Wilkinson talked with us about his fascinating study of polycystic ovary disease in alligators. He is investigating the role of environmental toxins in the progression of this disease, which is becoming more common in women.*



*Cypress swamp at Hobcaw Barony*

## *Senior Seminar Visits Winyah Bay by Peter Wilson '13*

In the words of esteemed Environmental Studies major George Schley, "We came to Georgetown to live deliberately and deliberately we lived." I'll be honest: when I first heard that we would have to give up one of our weekends to go on a field trip for our Environmental Senior Seminar class, I wasn't enthused. And when my alarm went off at 7:00am on Saturday morning, I was even less excited about the trip. But, as I look back on the weekend, I realize that our expedition to Hobcaw Barony and Yawkey Wildlife Preserve was one of the best experiences I have had in the course of my tenure as an Environmental Studies major.

As a forefather of environmentalism, Thoreau's well-known mission to "live deliberately" seemed to resonate with the people we met, places we saw and experiences we had over the weekend.

Our enthusiastic guides for the first day, Lee Brockington and Dr. William Connor, met us at the Hobcaw gate. We toured the property and saw a series of former slave villages, plantation houses dating to 1813, and a bald eagle. We discussed the effects of drought on the cypress swamps and positive consequences of prescribed burning. For dinner, we returned to Georgetown to have a delicious meal and see Dr. Simmons' incredible Blue Marlin mount at the harbor.

After staying the night in a cabin on the Yawkey Wildlife Preserve and gazing at the

inspiring view of the cosmos, we awoke for Day 2 of our expedition, to tour Tom Yawkey's legacy in the company of guides Jamie Dozier and Dr. Phil Wilkinson.

A timber mogul and former owner of the Boston Red Sox, Yawkey was a northerner who loved spending time on this property and left it to South Carolina, in the care of SC DNR, in his will. The land was a rice plantation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is home to the world's oldest remaining rice chimney. There are many alligators, bald eagles, a healthy duck population, red cockaded woodpeckers and much biological diversity.

On the drive back to school, it was hard not to think about how studying the environment will impact our futures. Of course, the nature we immersed ourselves in was inspiring through its beauty and diversity, but more important were the people we met. Those who led us on our tours, our professors and fellow students all find solace in the environment and have chosen to make it a part of our lives. The foresight of Tom Yawkey, and Belle Baruch of Hobcaw Barony, in leaving their properties for conservation, preservation and research, prove the importance of the environment in their lives and show how they graciously decided to make it part of others' lives. In essence, we learned on our trip to Winyah Bay in Georgetown how to live in a deliberate way to make the environment a meaningful part of our young lives.



## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Each Wednesday in  
March

**Sustainability Cups are Still for Sale:** Support our Fierce Green Fire Student group by purchasing the cup for \$20 (*cash or Terrier Bucks with W#*). Students will be selling at Burwell and Zach's, 11:30am-1:30pm. Use your cup at many of the dining facilities on campus for free soft drinks!

March 15<sup>th</sup>

**Applications Due for Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Ecology:** NSF-funded 10-week summer program at Southern Illinois University, in a distinctive physiogeographic region where prairie, forest, wetland, floodplain, and river systems converge, starts May 28<sup>th</sup>. Up to 10 undergraduate students will be chosen and will receive a \$5000 stipend. If you are interested in this program, see Dr. Savage.

March 19<sup>th</sup>

**Two Years After Fukushima – How Safe Are South Carolina's Nuclear Reactors?** 7:00pm-9:00pm at Younce Conference Center on Furman University campus. Dave Lochbaum, Director of the Union of Concerned Scientists' Nuclear Safety Project will discuss safety and security issues at South Carolina nuclear plants and others nationwide. <http://goo.gl/maps/vimT>.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Spartanburg County Household Waste Collection Day:** Spartanburg County Administrative Building, 9:00am-2:00pm; Free, safe disposal of aerosols, cleaners, fluorescent bulbs, fertilizers, propane gas cylinders, pesticides, and more (*see list at [www.spartanburgcounty.org](http://www.spartanburgcounty.org)*). Open to Spartanburg County residents only. Bring in your old gasoline-powered lawn mower and purchase on-site a battery-operated model at a special event-only price. Rain Barrels will be available for purchase. Volunteers are also needed!

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Tyger River Sweep:** Volunteers need to help clean up the Middle Tyger River. 9:00am-noon, meet at Middle Tyger River SJWD Water Treatment Plant. Contact Ben Palmer at (864) 804-5504 or [ben.palmer@spartanburgparks.org](mailto:ben.palmer@spartanburgparks.org) to register. Free t-shirt and lunch provided.

March 25<sup>th</sup>

**Organic Farming Presentation:** Benefit from Tracy Priest's presentation on supporting organic, local, and slow food systems, natural health, "real food" nutrition, and environmental sustainability. 6:00pm at Cleveland Park Event Center.

March 25<sup>th</sup>

**Fierce Green Fire Meeting:** Next meeting in BSA 1 at 8:30pm.

April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Deadline for Colorado Ecosystem Field Studies:** This program is now accepting applications for 2 summer sessions, June 18-July 4 or July 30-August 15 (*20 students/session*). Earn 3 undergraduate transfer credits while hiking and camping in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Visit [www.ecofs.org](http://www.ecofs.org) for more information.

## PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

### *University of Vermont – MS in Natural Resources*

The Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources maintains a small graduate program of 70-100 students to keep a personal and community-oriented atmosphere. Their masters program in natural resources offers concentrations in aquatic ecology and watershed science; environment, society and public affairs; environmental thought and culture; forest sciences and wildlife sciences.

The aquatic ecology and watershed science concentration works closely with the *Vermont Water Resources and Lake Studies Center* and the *Vermont Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit* to provide students with training and research experience in the aquatic sciences. Students in the environment, society and public affairs

concentration focus on social issues that include land use planning, policy and planning, ecological economics, and park and wilderness management. The environmental thought and culture concentration is an individually designed Master's degree with a foundation in the ethical and philosophical traditions that inform environmental theory and action. The forest sciences and wildlife sciences concentrations work closely together while maintaining their traditional and individual distinctions, allowing students to choose from a broad range of topics -- from sustainable forests to wildlife habitats.

Visit <http://www.uvm.edu/rsenr/masters-program>.