

10-16-2014

The Fierce Green Fire: Vol 5 Issue 6

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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Recommended Citation

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program, "The Fierce Green Fire: Vol 5 Issue 6" (2014). *The Fierce Green Fire*. 71.
<https://digitalcommons.wofford.edu/fiercegreenfire/71>

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Professor Lane and Dr. Savage moderated the panel discussion featuring our two guests, King and McMillin.



Volume 5, Issue 6

Blueways: An inquiring gaze



Leslie King and Kaye Savage paddle along the Broad River downstream of its confluence with the Pacolet.



ENVS student Mareli Sanchez participated in the floating seminar.



Our youngest floater, Penelope Brewitt

The third “Thinking Like a River” Symposium took place last week with two visiting speakers: T. Scott McMillin, Professor of English at Oberlin College and author of *The Meaning of Rivers*, and Leslie King, Director of the Rivers Institute at the University of Dayton. Events included a panel discussion, talks by both speakers, and an overnight floating seminar along the Pacolet and Broad Rivers. McMillin and King engaged students, faculty and community members in discussion about two very different blueways: the Los Angeles River, and the Great Miami River, respectively.

McMillin challenged us to think about how our use of language reflects our attitude towards rivers, noting that it is only recently that the heavily urban Los Angeles River has been officially designated a river rather than a concrete-lined ditch. With this change, the community is developing a new relationship to the river that emphasizes and strengthens its wildlife habitat and encourages people to interact with the river recreationally. His photographs of the river showed striking differences between areas lined with concrete, and “soft-bottomed” stretches that support rich ecological zones.

King’s emphasis was on the way that rivers can build community by bringing people together. She shared the “River Stewards” model at University of Dayton – a

group of 45 students from a wide range of majors that commit to three years of participating in community education about rivers, visiting schools with their “RiverMobile” and leading kayaking excursions. King also highlighted the importance of partnerships across organizations including business, nonprofit and government sectors in order to create a vibrant, healthy blueway that goes hand-in-hand with regional economic development.

A wonderful group of Environmental Studies students, faculty, and our guests finished the symposium with our annual floating seminar, with a sunny Saturday, a campfire conversation, and a rainy takeout at Lockhart dam. Scott McMillin waded out at the confluence of the Pacolet and Broad Rivers and delivered a mini-lecture fit for any proud textual potoamologist; and later, Leslie King talked of the importance of blueways from the bow of Kaye Savage’s elegant, hand-made wood canoe. Our river guide Bob Hathcock once again amazed us with an impressive dinner and stories to match. We will have video soon from Terry and Brian Miller of RidgeRunner Media. Keep watch on our “Thinking Like a River” webpage!

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- October 16th** • ***Piedmont Audubon Tonight***: 7:30 PM, St. Francis Anglican, Webber Road, 29307. The featured film, FRESH, focuses on sustainable agricultural practices.
- October 19th** • ***Tyger River Float Trip***: Please join *SPACE* and the *Spartanburg County Parks & Recreation Department* for a float on Spartanburg's Tyger River. This trip is appropriate for novice or beginning paddlers. Depending on water levels, duration of trip is about 2 hours on the water, with extra time for instruction and transportation from take-out to put-in. They have a limit of 15 boats available for this trip so sign up early, or bring your own boat for a \$10 charge. 2:00-5:00pm. Registration online at Eventbrite.com.
- October 21st** • ***"Big Men"***: Film screening features oil exploration and the oil industry. Sponsored by ENVIS & Government departments. Olin 101 at 7:00pm. Refreshments and discussion following the film.
- October 23rd** • ***Fall for Reading***: Headquarters Library – Barrett Room, 7:00-8:30pm, Yosemite park ranger Shelton Johnson will be on hand to discuss his historical novel *Gloryland*, his life as an African-American National Parks ranger, and his appearance on Ken Burns' popular documentary *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. This program is part of the Dennis L. Bruce Author Series.
- October 28th** • ***Halloween at Goodall***: Bring the kids for some tricks and treats at the Goodall Center, 7:00-9:00pm! Snakes, spiders, bones, and more! Contact Haley if you would like to help with activities for the kids – brielhe@wofford.edu.
- October 31st** • ***Deadline to apply for South Carolina Wildlife Federation educational grants***: Any full time student pursuing environmental education at South Carolina schools of higher education is eligible to apply. See Dr. Savage if you are interested in applying.
- November 16th** • ***Appalachian Soul: The Music & History of the Southern Mountains***: 4:00-6:00pm at the Goodall Environmental Studies Center. **Featured speakers: TIM SILVER**, a professor of history at ASU and author of *Mount Mitchell and the Black Mountains: An Environmental History of the Highest Peaks in Eastern America*. **PHIL JAMISON**, the coordinator of Warren Wilson College's Appalachian Music Program - also a nationally known dance caller and flatfoot dancer, performing and teaching at music festivals and events around the world. **DOT JACKSON** is a journalist and the author of *Refuge*. She is also a co-founder of the developing Birchwood Center for Arts and Folklife. **Music by YAM (Young Appalachian Musicians)**.

Visit our www.thinkinglikeariver.com website!

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

University of Miami - Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science

Located on Virginia Key, Florida, the Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) was begun in the 1940's and has grown to become "one of the leading academic oceanographic and atmospheric research institutions in the world." The 65-acre campus encompasses a marine research and educational park, along with two NOAA laboratories and a marine and science technology high school.

The Masters of Professional Science Program (MPS) is for students seeking advanced training in

marine and atmospheric science. MPS offers areas of study in Applied Marine Physics, Marine Affairs and Policy, Marine Biology and Fisheries, Marine and Atmospheric Chemistry, Marine Geology and Geophysics, or Meteorology and Physical Oceanography. MPS is a professional degree rather than a traditional, research-based MS degree and is geared toward those students who seek employment that requires scientific knowledge and professional skills.

Visit their website, <http://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/>.