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The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 9 Issue 5

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

*Students in ENVS
203 explore the
Pacolet River*



Volume 9, Issue 5

ENVS on the River by Dr. Kaye Savage



This was a week of river labs in Environmental Studies. On Monday, ENVS 203 undertook sampling of macroinvertebrates in Lawson's Fork Creek at Glendale to learn about biodiversity. Flipping rocks, rattling roots, lifting leaves, and dancing in gravel to dislodge nymphs, students found stoneflies, mayflies, and dragonflies disguised as leaves, along with a riffle beetle, crayfish, aquatic worms, and invasive clams. They learned how to assess stream health by examining the relative numbers of sensitive, somewhat sensitive, and tolerant organisms. They even caught a couple small fish (but of course soon turned them loose again).

On Tuesday and Thursday, the two ENVS 150 lab sections visited the Cottonwood Trail for the second time. Last week they examined and identified wetland plants from the boardwalk; this week, they wore their waders and calculated stream discharge using velocimeters and tape measures, under the guidance of Visiting Assistant Professor Kimberly

Mace. Having recently learned about the stream functions of erosion, transportation, and deposition, and the importance of the riparian zone, they appreciated first-hand the relationship between stream velocity and sediment mobility while enjoying the splendid weather.

On Wednesday, half of the ENVS 203 class set out for adventure on the Pacolet River, paddling upstream of the dam at Clifton. They learned about the great flood of 1903 that demolished textile mills, swept away homes, and left at least 65 people dead. They wandered amongst boulders, finding the evidence of revolutionary war-era ironworks in the form of slag, and wondered at tales both tall and small told by our river guide Bob Hathcock. The rest of the class will do the same on Monday, to be followed next Wednesday by Dr. Telligman's 101 class kayak visit to the Upper Shoals at Glendale. In Environmental Studies, we are river lovers, and we are excited when our students plunge in along with us!



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- October 6th**
9:00am-11:00am
*The Rail Yard, 353
Forest Avenue, 29302*
- Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail Work Day:** Join PAL and Trees Coalition to give the Rail Trail a little love. Work will involve clearing invasive species and making sure the trail is free from overhanging or otherwise annoying branches. We'll meet at the Rail Yard, located behind Matrix Engineering at 912 South Pine Street. Visit their [Facebook Event page](#).
- October 15th**
Application Deadline
- Hiring Student Workers at Hub City Farmers' Market Urban Farm:** The Wofford Sustainability Committee seeks to hire two student farmers. Responsibilities will include helping grow food and maintaining the farm, helping plan for the 2019 growing season, and developing educational programs for the community. They will work under supervision of Farmer Meg Whiteley and Dr. Amy Telligman. Please have your resume reviewed by The Space prior to submission through them.
- October 18th**
7:00pm
*Richardson Family Art
Gallery*
- Gallery Talk – Savage Ballance:** Join Dr. Savage and Dr. Colleen Ballance to discuss their gallery exhibition. Savage's *Art & Earth: Landscapes* and Balance's *Only the M Places* feature arresting works in multiple aesthetic media that inform one another as they interest in unexpected ways.
- October 20th**
9:00am-1:00pm
556 Kelly Road, 29307
- Spartanburg Area Conservancy Hosts Work Day:** SPACE is having a work day to maintain and improve the parking area and trailhead at Peter's Creek Heritage Preserve. Bring gloves and lawn tools, wear work clothes and closed-toe shoes. Carpooling suggested – parking limited. Pre-register through [Eventbrite](#) or email clay@spartanburgconservation.org.
- October 22nd**
7:15pm
Olin 101
- The Honeybee Crisis – an Opportunity for Change:** Alex Tuchman from [Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary](#) will give a talk.
- October 28th**
Application Deadline
- Conservation Outreach Internship:** Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District is taking applications for October 2018-May 2019 paid, part-time internships. For more information and how to apply, visit this [website](#).
- November 8th**
7:00pm
Olin 101
- Save the date ~ Romill Sustainability & Public Health Lecture:** This year's lecture will feature Rebecca West, formerly of Spartanburg Water and Greenville Water, who will talk about her work with international water resources development.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Arizona State University – Master of Sustainability Solutions

Arizona State University offers a master's degree in Sustainable Solutions (MSUS) that uses sustainability principles and approaches to prepare students for a variety of fields, addressing complex human and environmental challenges.

According to their website, "Students with an MSUS will have the knowledge base and skill sets to bring sustainability solutions to corporate, government, and NGO sectors." The program offers students the ability to specialize in one of four

tracks: policy and administration, technology and society, international development, and nonprofit organization.

The MSUS program uniquely offers a capstone experience, in which students will do an internship, applied project or workshop in lieu of a thesis, gaining practical experience in today's competitive and knowledge intensive job market.

[Arizona State University – School of Sustainability](#)