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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

*ENVS
Seniors spent
time studying
the wetland
habitat of the
Savannah
River Site.*



Volume 9, Issue 24

Seniors Visit Savannah River Site



ENVS Seniors, along with Dr. Telligman and Dr. Brewitt, visited the Hitchcock Woods near Aiken, SC.



Last weekend, five Environmental Studies Seniors, as well as Drs. Brewitt and Telligman, traveled to Aiken to learn about the ecology of the local long-leaf pine ecosystems at Hitchcock Woods and the Savannah River Site (SRS). After leaving Wofford Friday morning, they met up with John Kilgo '89, resident Wildlife Biologist for the US Forestry service in the SRS, to talk about their plans for the weekend. They also received their identification badges so that they could have access to the highly secure, 300 square mile site, where weapons-grade uranium and plutonium were produced during the Cold War.

Afterwards, they rode over to the Hitchcock Woods, which is an urban forest in the middle of Aiken. They were guided by retired USC-Aiken botany professor Harry Shealy, who explained Hitchcock Woods' history as an equestrian park and how it has been really successful in reintroducing the native longleaf ecosystem, which once dominated the area, through the use of prescribed burns.

The next day, after camping overnight, the group met with John Kilgo again and entered the SRS. They learned about the

conservation and protection of the endangered Red Cockaded Woodpecker, which only roosts and lives in long leaf pines, and were even able to see the elusive birds and their eggs. Next, they all put on waders and met with David Scott '77, amphibian ecologist with UGA's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory to learn about the hundreds of wetlands on the site, and the many amphibians that depend upon them, by catching and observing hundreds of tadpoles.

After a quick lunch break, they toured the site to learn and see more about its history, including one of the five decommissioned nuclear reactors. They then spent time learning about the studies and management techniques being used for two of the SRS's "newer" species -- coyotes and feral hogs -- by looking at live traps and talking about the methods used to better understand their impacts on the ecosystem.

The group finished their exciting day, before returning to Wofford, by being able to shoot one of the tranquilizer guns used by the team to study deer population dynamics.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

**These count toward your two required extracurricular events for the semester.*

- April 27th**
9:00am-11:00am
Spartan High Tennis Court parking lot
- April 26th – April 29th**
- May 1st**
Application Deadline
- May 15th**
6:00-7:00pm
*Hub City Bookshop
186 W Main Street*
- June 15th**
Application Deadline
- Ongoing**
- Spartanburg Area Conservancy Cottonwood Stream Cleanup***: Join SPACE for a cleanup day at the Cottonwood Trail. [Sign up here](#) and wear closed-toe shoes, gloves, and clothes that can get wet.
- City Nature Challenge 2019**: Help Spartanburg County compete against 125 cities worldwide to see which one can observe the most nature over a 4-day period. Participating is easy! Find wildlife, take pictures of what you find, upload and share your observations. Visit <http://www.tygerriver.org/naturechallenge.php> for more information and to download the app.
- Oceanus Summer Research Program**: 10-week (May28-August7) [research position available](#) to study Galveston's (TX) potential in tourism and coastal community development. Stipend + travel, housing, and meal expenses. One last-minute research position needs to be filled (*this position not listed on the website*).
- In Discussion with Dr. Peter Brewitt**: Dr. Brewitt will be at the Hub City Bookshop to discuss his new book *Same River Twice* which tells the stories of three major Northwestern dam removals—the politics, people, hopes, and fears that shaped three rivers and their communities.
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- Schiele Museum of Natural History Internship Opportunity**: Fall and spring semester 2019-2020 part-time environmental education internships in a museum setting. Visit [Schiele Museum Internships](#) for more information.
- Job Opportunities in Conservation and Restoration**: [The Great Basin Institute](#) is a nonprofit organization that specializes in conservation and restoration all throughout the West. They are currently hiring for over 60 paid positions ranging from ecological monitoring, wildlife monitoring, trail maintenance, range land management, and fuels reduction.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Pace University – Environmental Law Program

Pace Law School's environmental law program is consistently ranked by *US News & World Report* as one of the top programs in the nation. Located in White Plains, NY, the school offers both graduate degrees and JD degrees in a variety of specialized law and joint degrees.

There are more than 40 environmental law courses offered through Pace University's Global Center for Environmental Legal Studies, Energy & Climate Center, and Land Use Law Center for Sustainable

Development. Pace has an international environmental law program and “hosts numerous initiatives, institutes, and programs with an international focus” and partners with institutions abroad to give students opportunities to study environmental law internationally. Clinics and externships are also available to students for developing practical skills and professional job experience.

[Pace University – Elisabeth Haub School of Law](#)