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The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 4 Issue 1

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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The Environmental Studies Program is entering the second year of our Thinking Like a River initiative, funded by the MAC Foundation. The first year was a flurry of excitement as we purchased kayaks, installed monitoring equipment including a stream gauge, weather station, and the “Dam Cam,” instituted a Community Fellows program, and hired our amazing outreach coordinator, Haley Briel, who has been working with visiting school groups and developing family-oriented educational events. A highlight of the year was the Thinking Like a River symposium in October, with four visiting speakers.

Getting people out onto rivers is a major goal of the program, and we held several floating seminars. ENVS 101 and ENVS 203 classes spent lab periods on the Lawson’s Fork and Pacolet Rivers, respectively, and ENVS 332 (hydrology) experienced flow dynamics on the Tyger. Symposium participants floated the Pacolet through its confluence with the Broad River, with an island campout; and the Community Fellows had a short but informative float to the Upper Shoals at Glendale and a weekend at Lake Jocassee.

Plans for the coming year include a second Symposium to be held October 3–6, a series of videos to introduce students to key features along our “home stretch” of the Pacolet River (starring Environmental Studies major Ryan Hurst), and the introduction of a Student Fellows Program in tandem with the second cohort of Community Fellows. The culminating experience will be a summer course exploring western rivers, in collaboration with symposium speaker Hal Crimmel of Weber State University in Utah.

For more information about Thinking Like a River, please contact Professor Lane.

Walk the trail at the Glendale Shoals Preserve to see “Nascent Fate: Disintegrate,” a cast paper sculpture installation by Dr. Savage, before it succumbs to weather and insects!
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Fierce Green Fire Meeting: First meeting of the semester in BSA 1 at 8:30pm.

Second Tuesday Trail Run: Partner’s for Active Living hosts a 4-mile run once each month. This month’s run begins at Southside Trails at Croft State Park at 6:30pm. RSVP to this event on Facebook: https://m.facebook.com/events/161112704080176/

Upstate Forever: 2nd Annual Preservation Ride – located at Strawberry Hill USA, 3097 Highway 11, Chesnee, SC. 3 great routes. Register at www.upstateforever.org.

Dedication of the Mary Arrington Walters Preserve at Glendale Shoals: SPACE invites you to this dedication ceremony, 4:00pm-6:00pm. Professor Rayner will give a presentation on “A New Role for the Local Land Trust.” BBQ dinner provided; tickets $20/person. Please call 948-0000 for reservations.

Friday Lunchtime Bike Ride: Each Friday at 12:00pm Partner’s for Active Living hosts a lunchtime ride. This week’s ride will start at the Henry Street trailhead of the Mary Black Rail Trail. All levels welcome, helmets are required.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day: 10:00am-2:00pm. Drop off any old medication at the Sheriff’s office or Spartanburg City Hall. Check www.ariverremedy.org for more information. Also look for Spartanburg Citizens for Recycling on Facebook.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:
We Want to Feature You!

Students - We would love for you to write about your summer experience! Alumni – you could tell us about your experiences since graduation. A feature article looks great on your resume. Let Dr. Savage know if you are interested.

Watch This Space for Weekly Profiles