

SOUTHEAST FOCUS

America's Great Outdoors	4
Sturgeon Research.....	6
RiverLink's Conservation Easements...	7
Surface Water Withdrawal, SC.....	8
Nature Centers in Arkansas.....	10
Changing Riverine Vegetation, FL.....	12
Veterans Paddling Club, NC.....	13
Dillsboro Dam Removal, NC.....	14
2010 River Ranger Rendezvous	15
Partnerships and SCA Interns	16
NPS Rangers - A Day in the Life	18
Environmental Message Mistakes.....	24



Containment booms being installed by state contractor and DHEC staff. Photo: SC DHEC

Protecting Our Environment: *Little Pee Dee* River

by Buck Graham, Jr CPM

Petroleum spills challenge resources and expertise, whether it is a massive spill like the recent BP spill in the Gulf of Mexico or a smaller but no less troublesome spill in one of South Carolina's bodies of water.

While the effects of this year's BP spill in the Gulf of Mexico continue to be addressed, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) workers are entering their fourth year of response and recovery of a gasoline release to the Little Pee Dee River floodplain in Dillon County.

The Little Pee Dee River is a characteristic blackwater stream with distinguishing features including; clear dark waters, sandy river bottoms and bars, and borders cypress-tupelo swamps and bottomland hardwood forests. Sections of the Little Pee Dee, including Dillon County's

portion, has been designated as a scenic river by the South Carolina Legislature. Located north of Dillon on US Hwy 301/501, the Little Pee River floodplain spans a distance of approximately one mile. The river is bordered by swamps and wetlands, integral habitats of the ecosystem which function in flood control. The river boat ramp is used predominantly for launching boats for those fishing for bream, bass and catfish and duck hunting. Others enjoy "river-bank" fishing, as evidenced by the foot trails extending outward from the ramp area. Exposing the river's natural heritage, local conservation groups and business leaders are developing plans for a canoe trail to promote ecotourism.

In late November 2006, DHEC's emergency response team from Florence responded to a report of a strong odor of gasoline in the vicinity of the Little Pee

Dee River near the US Highway 301/501 N. Bridge. The responding staff member began to detect gasoline odors a quarter mile from the bridge. The onsite investigation revealed pools of gasoline coming up in the river floodplain adjacent to the road embankment and extending under the river bridge. With recent heavy rains and high water levels inundating the floodplain, the initial response focused on stopping the direct surface discharge of gasoline to the Little Pee Dee River by putting out containment booms, absorbent booms and pads. Subsequent investigations by a geological services contractor hired by the responsible party, working in collaboration with DHEC staff from the Florence regional office and DHEC's Columbia offices, revealed an estimated 5,000 gallon gasoline release from an aboveground storage tank located at a nearby family-

(continued on page 17)

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RMS is a non-profit professional organization.
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The mission of RMS is to support professionals who study, protect, and manage North America's rivers.

Editorial Policy: Articles are not edited for content and may not reflect the position, endorsement, or mission of RMS. The purpose of this policy is to encourage the free exchange of ideas concerning river management issues in an open forum of communication and networking among the RMS membership. Unless indicated, points of view are those of the author and not RMS.

RMS Main Office



Caroline Kurz and family

From the *Outgoing* Program Director

Recently a song came on the radio, and I turned it up. Way up. John Mellencamp's *Your Life Is Now*. It struck a chord, so to speak, and ever since I have been rolling those words around, chewing on that simple statement that is obvious, yet...

I fell into college, river guiding, graduate school, and the River Management Society. I wish I could claim that clarity and passion drove me from point A to B, but the truth is I am a generalist, and could have ended up just about anywhere. I'm lucky to have discovered rivers twenty five years ago.

When the reality of my leaving RMS hit our kids, they asked me to reconsider. I found this curious. After all, they would no longer be told "I have a conference call so don't interrupt," or "I'll be home from the symposium before you know it." Everyday they would hear "I can't, I need to work." Our oldest simply said "You shouldn't quit your job because you are working to save the planet."

In September I turned 44 years old. Maybe I have hit the halfway mark. I've been married to a thoughtful, sensitive, and unbelievably capable man, Mike, for fifteen years. We are doing our best to parent three daughters—Madeline age 12, Anna 9, and Audrey 6. For this mind-boggling task I

cling to the advice of my own mother, who counsels that we shouldn't take the credit, or blame, for how they turn out! My family has shared me and our home with RMS for seventeen years. I am very grateful to, and for, each of them.

What I will miss most about this job is seeing all of you fine folks at meetings and events. Federal contracts and cooperative agreements would be a close second. (*Insert a sarcastic smiley face thing here.*) What I regret most is not being able to go on so many river trips! But, I intend to make up for that... do you need a volunteer for your river patrols? I have references.

People keep asking what I plan to do next. Here's another admission—I *still* don't know. There is a great big world out there and no shortage of ways to make a meaningful contribution.

I won't begin to list names of people who have come into my life through RMS—becoming dear friends, and family. I thank you all in a big, big way.

Special thanks to Steve Johnson and Gary Marsh for sending me off in fine style, and welcome aboard Risa—I am excited to be passing the baton your way!

Life is now. And I say, turn it up. ♦

From the President

As this reaches you, the recreational boating season is winding down in most parts of the country and many river managers can take a few deep breaths. You may have a chance to take a few days off, maybe refresh those fishing or hunting skills. Sure, paperwork awaits, but there's always paperwork, always reports to write.

For a lot of organizations, this is a good time for a little navel-gazing, thinking about the future—whether it be the coming year or the coming decade. For RMS, that's especially true this year.

In this issue you're introduced to Risa Shimoda, our new Executive Director and the Society's first new employee since a young woman then-named Caroline Tan came to work for us 17 years ago. Now Caroline Kurz, she's been the face and voice of the organization for as long as most of us have been involved with RMS, but everyone needs to move on at some point and we'll lose her—partly—at the end of October. She will continue to contract with RMS to produce the quarterly Journal, so you'll continue to see her handiwork.

Risa brings outstanding experience and terrific new energy and ideas to the organization and it couldn't happen at a better time. We are exceptionally lucky to have her skills and we're going to put them to the test quickly. (*See more on page 26.*)

Our board meets monthly by conference call and once a year—in October—in person. By the time you read this, that meeting will have just occurred. We adopt an annual budget at these face-to-face meetings, as well as an annual work plan.

And now, with a strategic plan that's 10 years old (we gave it a quick update five years ago, but didn't change much), it's time for some serious navel-gazing. We asked RMS members for their thoughts at the symposium in Portland in May and got a tremendous response, which I described in these pages in the last issue. So beginning at the board meeting in October and continuing for several months beyond, we're going to focus on the organization's future.

Nonprofit boards tend to focus a lot of thinking on capacity building—finding ways to attract new members, or new money. That's important, certainly, but I'm a firm believer that if you do good work—produce a quality organization with quality products—people will want to be part of it, and both members and funding will come.

One thing you've clearly told us is that the symposia and river manager's workshops we sponsor are our most important work. So while we need to spend some time looking ahead at the organization's future, we are also focusing on those activities. I've been sitting in on conference calls lately about the workshop next May in Alaska, and I can tell you the program is going to be fantastic. Better than the scenery.

In the meantime, winter is coming and we need to think about long-range planning.

It's a new decade. We need to get ready. ♦



Steve Johnson

From the New Executive Director

Risa Shimoda resides in Takoma Park, Maryland



I am honored to have an opportunity to work for you all, professionals with collective experience that is both unique and rich. While I'll not even try to fill Caroline's shoes, I will do my very best to acknowledge the bar of responsiveness and personal integrity that she has set for the Board, members and our many partners.

As we witness the increase in demand on our rivers for both sustenance and enjoyment, we will need to evolve the balancing act that is required to keep them healthy. I am sobered by the challenges we as river resource leaders are likely to encounter in the years ahead, and hope that I can contribute to our pursuit of RMS' mission with the appropriate mix of patience and urgency. I'll admit a reputation for being an agent of change, and as such may challenge the status quo regarding what we do or how we do it.

However, you'll always be able to count on me for doing so in the name of the home team and a healthy future for our rivers.

A concept that paddlers utilize when running a rapid describes how I see our future at RMS. "Charc" - short for "charging arc," refers to one's application of angle, speed and intention that determine an outcome. Results are predicted by the quality of the approach: "charc in equals charc out." Similarly, RMS will grow its programs and capacity according to the energy and intention that we apply. While you have a new person in a new position of leadership, the organization will be driven by the person you saw in the mirror this morning, and those of your fellow members.

I'll be here for you, and look forward to your partnership in the journey. ♦

America's Great Outdoors: “We Will *Never Again* Turn Our Backs to Rivers”

by Matt Rice, American Rivers

The quote in the title is from Secretary Salazar's opening remarks at the America's Great Outdoors listening session in Denver, Colorado on July 16th, 2010.

As most of you know, President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors Initiative (AGO) in April this year. They are committed to building this program from the ground up and are holding “listening sessions” around the country to get the public's recommendations, to learn about local conservation and recreation success stories, and to learn about some of the challenges communities face reconnecting people to the outdoors and protecting special places. I have attended a few of these listening sessions and the administration's commitment to AGO and shaping this program from the grassroots up is clear. The last time an administration had this type of open dialogue with the public about protecting our treasured landscapes, the American people got the National Park System.

Typically the format goes like this: opening remarks, usually from very senior federal agency representatives. Department of Interior Secretary Salazar spoke in Denver and USDA Secretary Vilsack spoke in Charleston. Opening remarks are usually followed by a state or regionally specific panel discussion facilitated by one of the agency representatives. The break-out group section follows the panel and this is the most important activity of the listening session. In the break-out groups the public has a chance to tell the administration about local conservation and recreation success stories that could possibly serve as national models for AGO. They can also tell the administration about challenges they face reconnecting people to the outdoors and protecting special places. Finally, participants are asked what the federal government can do better and what tools they can provide to help communities accomplish their conservation and recreation goals.

Two overriding themes of AGO are reconnecting people especially kids to

the outdoors and connecting urban and rural communities with our greatest public places. Rivers do a great job of both. They are a fun and exciting way to discover the outdoors and most connect rural and urban communities to special places. With over 3 million miles of streams or rivers in the U.S., virtually every American lives within a couple of miles of a river. Rivers, streams and creeks are found everywhere and are a perfect way to help a broad cross-section of people discover America's great outdoors.

Recreating on rivers can be intimidating for some people. For too long we have turned our backs to rivers and people have lost their connection to the very resource that built their communities. Blue Trails or Water Trails are an innovative, locally-driven way to safely connect people with rivers. A blue trail is a dedicated stretch of river that enjoys special clean water safeguards and is a destination for fishing, boating, and other recreation. Just as hiking trails are designed to help people explore the land, blue trails help people

Wateree River Blue Trail dedication. Photo: Matt Rice



discover rivers, and connect urban and rural communities with the outdoors. Blue trails provide a fun, exciting way to get kids outdoors, and are economic drivers benefiting local businesses and quality of life. Blue Trails are a perfect fit for the America's Great Outdoors initiative.

Nationally, the Blue Trail movement is growing rapidly and there are several great trails in the Southeast. In Columbia, South Carolina the Congaree River Blue Trail which was designated a National Recreation Trail in 2008 connects urban communities in Columbia to Congaree National Park, South Carolina's only National Park. If you have not been there, go, it is truly one of our nation's special places. The Wateree River Blue Trail also connects to Congaree National Park and provides possibly the best opportunity for multiple overnight river camping in an undisturbed river corridor east of the Mississippi. The Waccamaw River Blue Trail, near Conway and Myrtle Beach offers some of the highest quality black water paddling around, the Edisto Canoe and Kayak Trail is spectacular, the Alabama Scenic River Trail allows paddlers the opportunity to paddle over 600 miles from the piedmont to the Gulf of Mexico. The list goes on and on.

A national water trails program as part of AGO could provide funding and technical assistance for local communities interested in creating water trails. Because just about every community has access to a river or stream, the opportunities are endless. Such a program would go a long way towards accomplishing the administration's goals for AGO. It would also build broad support for new river protection and restoration efforts as well as creating new generations of river stewards.

If you have not participated in an AGO listening session, you can submit written comments to the Department of the Interior at: <http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/>

Tell the Administration:

- Every American *deserves* a clean, healthy river. Rivers, streams and creeks are found everywhere and are a perfect way to help a broad cross-section of people discover America's great outdoors. Healthy rivers connect communities with treasured landscapes and our nation's rich natural history, supporting recreation and wildlife. We must protect our nation's river heritage and special places for the enjoyment of future generations.
- We need to establish and maintain river corridors for recreation and *wildlife*. Trail designations, funding for restoration, and incentives for landowners can help make the river a more inviting place for both people and wildlife.
- We need a National Blue Trails Program. Blue trails are an innovative, locally-driven way to connect people with rivers. A blue trail is a dedicated stretch of river that enjoys special clean water safeguards and is a destination for fishing, boating, and other recreation. Just as hiking trails are designed to help people explore the land, blue trails help people discover rivers, and connect urban and rural communities with the outdoors. Blue trails provide a fun, exciting way to get *kids* outdoors, and are economic drivers benefiting local businesses and quality of life.
- Safeguards like Wild and Scenic and Wilderness *protections* should be prioritized for deserving rivers and landscapes. ♦

Welcome!

New RMS Members

Associate

Haven Livingston, CA
 David Sterling, Estimate Manager
 UIC Construction LLC, AK
 Eric Larson, Civil Engineer
 Natural Resource Conservation Service, MN
 Vickie Whiteaker
 Bureau of Land Management, OR
 Tom Gentry
 Bureau of Land Management, OR
 Shawn Clark
 Bureau of Land Management, OR
 Kevin Altenburger
 Bureau of Land Management, OR
 Gitta Anderson
 Bureau of Land Management, OR
 Brian Andrews
 Bureau of Land Management, OR
 Brandon Backman
 Forest Service, OR
 David Brock
 Bureau of Land Management, OR
 Lisa Byers
 Forest Service, CA
 Brett Fisher, River Ranger
 Bureau of Land Management, OR
 Josh Hamon
 Bureau of Land Management, IA
 Darin Rembert
 Bureau of Land Management, OR
 Marc Ryan
 Bureau of Land Management, OR

Organizational

Karen Cagnolin, Executive Director
 RiverLink, NC

Professional

David Craig, River Checker Supervisor
 Forest Service, ID
 Wendy Steinberger, Natural Resource Specialist
 Alaska Dept of Natural Resources, AK
 Gia Wagner, Resource Management Division Chief
 National Park Service, SD





Fish biologists catching, tagging and releasing Shortnose sturgeon for research in SC. Inset: Atlantic sturgeon release. Photos: Bill Post

Sturgeon Research to Begin

by Bill Post

Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) and Atlantic sturgeon (*A. oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) are anadromous species with ranges that include most of the Atlantic coast of the United States. Shortnose sturgeon have been on the Endangered Species List since the late 1960's and Atlantic sturgeon are a threatened species which have been under a coast-wide fishing moratorium since 1995. The status of shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon populations in most southern rivers are unknown. Current existence of these species is in doubt for some river systems due to profound anthropogenic impacts. Recently, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) received funding from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to evaluate these species on a coast wide basis. SCDNR will partner with North Carolina State University, North Carolina Department of Marine Fisheries, and the University of Georgia for a three year study. This work will include capturing sturgeon in NC, SC, and GA waters and attaching a transmitter with a life span of up to four years to the animal. In addition, an array of receivers will be spread from the tip of NC to southern GA that will cover all major river systems in the three states from the near shore saltwater areas to the headwaters of those rivers. Receivers will also be placed in areas of the Intra-coastal Waterway to document incidence of intra-basin transfer. By having such an extensive coverage area, over three states, we should be able to finally answer questions concerning the life of these species and their use of our rivers for spawning and critical life habitats. ♦ Questions may be directed to Bill Post, SCDNR Diadromous Fishes Coordinator: Postb@dnr.sc.gov

Sustain RMS Make a Monthly Gift!

You can donate to RMS by setting up an automatic monthly transfer from your bank account to ours. Your 100% tax-deductible gift can be as little as \$5.00 per month (\$60/year) or any amount you choose. Apart from a one-time set up, it is hassle free!* You can stop making monthly donations, or change your level of giving, at any time. Just let us know.

If you would like instructions on how to sign up for our monthly giving program, please contact Lee Larson, RMS Treasurer, at (703) 244-3397 or leel Larson@windstream.net.

Particularly in these tight times, we value and appreciate the ongoing support of our members.

Thank you!

*RMS will net almost 100% of your monthly donations. Bank of America will keep only \$0.20 per transaction. This program will replace the Combined Federal Campaign, which was a costly program for RMS to participate in.

RiverLink Chooses the *Forever* Option

by Karen Cragnolin

RiverLink was fortunate to receive a grant from the Western North Carolina Community Foundation this past year to develop a strategic plan for the organization. In these uncertain times when it seems that everything is in flux, developing a plan to help guide us for the next 5 to 10 years seemed overwhelming.

How to achieve clean water and promote economic development simultaneously are eternal questions, and RiverLink's mission. Some would say it is impossible to do both. Everyone wants to know that the water they drink and serve their children is pure and safe. But the "how you get there" of clean water is often debated and can be contentious. Everyone wants the opportunity for "a good job" and a "healthy economy" but how you achieve that without destroying or compromising the environment is another often debated and contentious issue.

After months of meetings, hundreds of hours of soul searching, lots of research, membership surveys, interviews with key regional leaders, a review of our history and accomplishments and a look at local, regional and national mission statements and trends as well as demographic predictions – RiverLink chose the FOREVER option! RiverLink chose *conservation of riparian areas* - with a focus on forever.

Over the years RiverLink has acquired over 300 acres of riparian land (that is land located next to a water source with a complex set of common law legal rights). Most of our easements are quite small, some as small as three acres, and they are spread all over the watershed. RiverLink through its strategic planning process has committed to protect these riparian areas forever. And, now we will more aggressively seek these riparian areas through conservation easements and official land trust accreditation. We call it the FOREVER option.

Conservation easements are voluntary agreements about land between a land trust and a property owner. The property owner retains title to the property but gives up specific agreed upon development rights to the land to the easement holder (RiverLink). Some property owners utilize conservation easements as a public service or gift to the community, others for a tax advantage, others to promote economic renewal of surrounding lands,

shed are both satisfied by the FOREVER option. The benefits of open space to the economic health of an area are well known and well documented. And for our region that so heavily relies on the "quality" of life, it is especially important as a recruitment and retention tool for both people and businesses. The benefits to the environment and water quality of protected riparian corridors are also very well documented.



French Broad Park facilities.

or to assist in greenway development. No matter what the donor's reason for utilizing conservation easements – if it is in or attached to the riparian area and is fewer than 100 acres RiverLink will seek and hold the easements in perpetuity – forever! It is up to the donor as to which rights he or she will give away or sell and then up to the easement holder to determine if the rights offered meet their criteria.

These smaller riparian areas while critically important to water quality, greenway development, flood control, alternative transportation, and of course sustainable economic development have been completely overlooked in the conservation scheme locally, regionally and statewide. Now the smaller parcels will be protected – forever!

RiverLink's dual focus mission which includes the economic and environmental rebirth of the French Broad River water-

So as we look to the future you will notice that RiverLink will focus even more on conservation, environmental education (we are teaching 6,000 kids a year), stream restoration, volunteer involvement of over 500 community members, park and plan development. Greenways, open space and recreation are proven economic development strategies as well as environmentally sound strategies.

RiverLink has pursued conservation, education, restoration and recreation for over 20 years and with our renewed focus will bring even more energy

and awareness to the river issues which benefit the environment and the economy. Our efforts will also continue to bring people closer to the resource and protect the riparian corridors of the river *forever* for everyone to use and enjoy - black and white, young and old, rich and poor alike. Sustainability requires active engagement of both strategies – environmental protection and economic development in balance. We do not see them as contradictory. We view each of them as essential to sustainability. If it were easy anyone could do it, right?♦

Karen Cragnolin is the Executive Director of RiverLink, a watershed based organization spearheading the economic and environmental revitalization of the French Broad River as a destination where everyone can live, work and play. Our goals include making our rivers fishable, swimmable, accessible and drinkable.

Protecting the *Public Uses* of Rivers in South Carolina

by Patrick Moore

On June 10, 2010, South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford signed the South Carolina Water Withdrawal Permitting, Use, and Reporting Act (S. 452) into law. The most important improvement in South Carolina water policy in more than 40 years, the bill is referred to by many names—“Water Bill”, “Surface Water”, “Bass, Boats, and Bubba Bill”, and more. No matter what you call it, the fact is that the law will effectively permit and monitor surface water withdrawals for the first time in the history of South Carolina. While you do need a permit to discharge into our rivers, until June 10, 2010, any riverfront landowner could stick a pipe in the river and consumptively use as much water as they pleased, subject only to the common law “riparian reasonable use” doctrine, encouraging litigation and causing general confusion as different users took different definitions of reasonable to court. This bill changes South Carolina from a “riparian rights” State to a “regulated riparian rights” State. We

are somewhere in between purely eastern water common law and purely western prior allocation water law. For the first time, the Legislature has recognized that there needs to be a permit process in place to protect the public’s interest in water. The recognition in the bill that an appropriate amount of water must be left in the river, and be off limits to private consumptive use, to protect recreation, navigation, and fish and wildlife makes this the most important State law for rivers since the Pollution Control Act of 1972.

How it Works

New surface water withdrawers of 3 million gallons a month or more must get a permit from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) that sets limits and conditions on withdrawals to protect the public and downstream users. Existing users are grandfathered into the program and

automatically receive permits. This grandfathering is based on the fact that all existing withdrawals are considered reasonable under the existing, previously mentioned, common law reasonableness doctrine. If existing users want to expand their withdrawal they must go through the more rigorous review process laid out for new users and if they exceed their grandfathered withdrawal amount, their permit can be modified or rescinded.

Permits issued to new users will set conditions on withdrawals, requiring the permittee to cease withdrawals when instream flows approach the minimum needed to protect fish and wildlife, navigation, and recreation, which is set in the bill at 20/20/40% of MADF (Mean Annual Daily Flow). This seasonally variable instream flow mimics the natural hydrograph and maintains the flows necessary for critical riverine processes such as diadromous fish spawning and floodplain inundation. As part of attaining a permit, new users are

Water withdrawal on the Catawba River, SC. Photo: Mary Crockett



required to acquire access to off stream contingency ponds or municipal water supplies so their business can continue without negatively impacting the river. After contingency water is used up, the permittee must notify SCDHEC that they need to go back to the river, at which time SCDHEC looks at the flow conditions and makes a determination on returning to the stream for withdrawals.

Criticisms

While this bill is a huge step forward for water policy in South Carolina, like everything that happens under the dome, it is in part a political compromise. For example, Agriculture is exempt from the bill under the theory that they are already exempt from the existing Drought Response Act and that food production is of paramount public policy importance. The bill does impose more stringent reporting requirements on agricultural withdrawers which will give South Carolina a more complete picture of 'who uses what water when and where' than we have ever had in the past.

The new law also wholly repeals the existing Interbasin Transfer (IBT) Act, treating all interbasin transfers as 100% consumptive surface water withdrawals subject to broad criteria. Some people have pointed out that the old IBT law required an analysis of feasible alternatives to the IBT, while the new law does not. SCDHEC takes the position that under the new Broad criteria, those alternatives can be considered.

A major point of contention was that under the new law there is no way for SCDHEC to require grandfathered users to reduce their withdrawals, should the data show that a stream is over allocated. The response has been that over allocation by existing users will be handled through existing discharge permits, the existing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process, and if a stream is over allocated, no new industry will be allowed a withdrawal permit.

The bill also exempts withdrawals from licensed impoundments, such as U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) lakes throughout the State. This exemption is often erroneously referred to as a "nuclear exemption" because many if not all of the proposed nuclear power plants in South Carolina will draw from a licensed impoundment. People who assert that this is a nuclear exemption are ignoring the fact there are no fewer than seven Federal and State resource agencies, including SCDHEC and SCDNR, which already have jurisdiction over these impoundments and review any withdrawal proposals.

The bill also prevents any downstream user from suing a permitted withdrawer for civil damages, if the withdrawer is acting within the limitations of their permit. Critics assert this limitation of liability is too protective of withdrawers, but ignore the fact that similar protections are offered in air permits, and that existing withdrawers are de facto reasonable under the existing

common law. The basic logic is that if existing withdrawals have not been found to be unreasonable under the common law, they cannot be unreasonable under the permitting system.

Questions Left Unanswered

The complex nature of the legislation, and the unique characteristics of each of South Carolina's rivers, means that several questions will have to be resolved through the drafting and implementation of regulations. For example, the bill says that the permits are transferable but does not enumerate any conditions or criteria for transfer. Also, the bill states that when a withdrawal point is materially influenced by an upstream licensed dam, the minimum flows for the withdrawer will be the minimum flows from that dam. While many of our licensed dams have seasonally variable release schedules under their existing or soon to be issued federal licenses, the interpretation of "materially influenced" will have a significant impact on what parts of our rivers are protected by the bill. An open question under the bill is whether or not an entity such as an outfitter or municipality could purchase a permit from a withdrawer with the intent of leaving the water in the stream for eco-tourism economic development.

No one describes this as the perfect bill and it may take the next big drought to show us what needs to be changed, but for the first time in history, the public values of rivers have a statutory voice as we evaluate surface water withdrawals.

Good for Business, Good for Fish

Before the passage of this bill South Carolina was one of three States that have eastern water law that did not have a permitting system. (North Carolina and Alabama are the other two.) This means that prior to this bill, new business interested in locating in South Carolina, but also considering locating in other sun belt, big water states, had no assurance that the water they needed would be there when they needed it. Before this bill, existing users could not be sure that someone would not locate upstream of them and use the water they need before it gets to them.

The 20/30/40% of MADF minimum instream flow standard will go a long way towards protecting fish and wildlife, recreation, and navigation if properly implemented. This standard was present prior to the bill in the State Water Plan but was only considered guidance. Georgia, who set its minimum flows much lower than 20/30/40, are in the process of revising their standards and are seriously looking at South Carolina's method as a model. The inclusion of a seasonally variable flow standard in this South Carolina statute demonstrates, despite how it may seem sometimes, that we did learn from the last drought and that there is a dedication on the part of policymakers to properly steward our water resources. ♦

Patrick Moore is an attorney and lobbyist for the Coastal Conservation League based in Columbia, South Carolina. Please contact him at: patrickm@sccl.org with any questions.

Arkansas Blends River Enjoyment and...

Education

Dena Woerner

Rivers are the flowing soul of our country. Over 9,700 miles of Arkansas streams and rivers wind their way through the Natural State. It's no secret that many waterways are transportation conduits. However, few realize these bodies of water yield economic returns by providing recreational and educational experiences. Arkansas rivers and the lakes they feed are some of the nation's best fishing venues. A world-record German brown trout (1992-2009) was caught on the Little Red River. The White, North Fork and Spring rivers also yield brown, rainbow and cutthroat trout. Within the Arkansas borders, the entire stretch of the Arkansas River is popular among anglers seeking largemouth bass. Several big-time tournaments are held annually on Lake Dardanelle and other reservoirs formed by the river. Meanwhile, scenic streams in the Ouachita and Ozark Mountains offer anglers excellent river fishing for smallmouth bass.

Arkansas is home to one of the great Ozark Mountain float streams and the first national river, the Buffalo National River. I visited with Chris Madson, of Wildfowl Magazine, about his Arkansas river experiences. Chris remembered his weekend floating trips down the National River. "The Buffalo is beautifully clear and intensely fertile. There was just something about waking up to the whippoorwills on the far bank and the whisper of the current," said Madson.

Reflecting on his experiences he told me that you can tell a lot about the quality of land by the quality of the water. So, where would someone go that wanted to find out more about Arkansas streams?

Many people enjoy Arkansas rivers and appreciate their beauty and recreational offerings. However, not as many understand the history, science and educational aspects of the waterways. In the past, there simply wasn't one place to acquire this information.

After listening to the desires of Arkansas citizens, the Arkansas Game

and Fish Commission realized the need for a gathering place that would blend entertainment and educational experiences. Through the passage of the 1/8th cent Conservation Sales Tax, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission constructed nature centers across the state. Located in Pine Bluff, Jonesboro, Fort Smith and Little Rock, these educational facilities play host to thousands of Arkansas residents along with people from all 50 states and over 30 foreign countries. Part classroom, part museum and part playground, these centers provide hands-on experiential

education. Each focuses on the natural elements and ecosystems found in its region of the state.

The Governor Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center, located in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, was the first to open. The exhibits reveal the natural history of the Arkansas Delta region. Exhibits include a 20,000-gallon oxbow lake aquarium containing native fish, reptiles and plant species. And as you leave the building to tour the grounds, watch out, there's a very large alligator living right outside the door! Other exhibits describe how these waterways have changed the land and why swamps are incredibly valuable ecosystems.

The Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center, located in Jonesboro, Arkansas, features a three-story education,





Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center, Little Rock. Photos: Arkansas Dept of Parks and Tourism

exhibit and meeting facility on 160 acres. The nature center grounds include a 5.5-acre prairie, 2.5-acre pond and approximately 100 acres in woodlands. The Crow's Nest offers an interesting view from an elevated position above the center's diverse landscape ranging from the ridge to Delta south of the site.

The Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center can be found in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Sitting on 170 acres, the building overlooks Wells Lake, a popular local fishing and picnicking destination. The location of this center draws as many people as the interesting animal and birding exhibits inside. Visitors can enjoy hiking trails, native plants, canoeing and fishing as well.

The Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center is found in a very unique location—downtown Little Rock, Arkansas, along the bank of the Arkansas River. Tucked behind President Clinton Avenue between the Arkansas Museum of Discovery and Clinton Foundation Store, this center offers a one-stop shop showcasing the agency's wildlife conservation efforts and other educational programs.

Located in St. Charles, Arkansas,

another educational center sits in the White River National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge lies in the floodplain of the White River near the mighty Mississippi River. It is one of the largest remaining bottomland hardwood forests in the Mississippi River Valley. The fertile forests and three hundred lakes are interlaced with streams, sloughs, and bayous and is the perfect place for an interpretive facility. The White River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It consists of an auditorium, environmental education classroom and an exhibit hall. The displays explain the human and ecological histories of the area, the hydrology of the White River, and the bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem.

With enjoyment comes responsibility, and Arkansas is doing a great job in providing educational foundations to teach waterway history and preservation. Through education another level of appreciation for our majestic waters is reached. These centers plant seeds for future conservation and recreation efforts for Arkansas rivers. ♦

The Missouri Natural Streams Act (1990): How An Environmental Campaign Was Waged And Lost. By Karen A. Bradley, 2007 (221 pp)

"Lord, We're Just Trying To Save Your Water" By Suzanne Marshall, 2002 (343 pp)

Both using oral history to recount environmental battles in the South, these two studies couldn't be more different. One features a participant-observer approach to several regional issues; the other an analysis of one state's complex electoral campaign.

Karen Bradley reports on an almost forgotten effort to control unsuitable developments along 91 Missouri rivers. Three lengthy chapters based on interviews offer insights of those who organized the campaign in 1990. Another presents an overview of the state's environmental history, which rivals California and Wisconsin in its progressive credentials. She also analyzes the political campaign.

Suzanne Marshall begins her narrative from the wilds of northwestern Georgia at the confluence of the Oostanaula and Etowah rivers where she has joined the Rome Environmental Protection Association (REPA). Led mainly by women, REPA began as an effort to save old growth oak trees from the state highway department and expanded into toxic pollution problems. Altogether nine chapters describe a variety of citizen-based initiatives to protect environmental quality in the southern Appalachian Mountains where Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee meet near Chattanooga.

These two books present approaches to understanding why some individuals risk reputation and riches in unending battles to slow some of the unfortunate, if not deadly, effects of industrialization. ♦

Alex T. Primm, Rolla MO
Oral History of the Ozarks Project

Changes to the Riverine and Tidal Floodplain Vegetation on the *Loxahatchee River* in Southeast Florida

by Richard E. Roberts, Marion Y. Hedgepeth and P. Lorraine Roberts

As Florida's first National Wild and Scenic River, the Loxahatchee River and its major tributaries deserve the intensive attention received from federal, state and local agencies, local residents and tourists. The most impressive feature of the Loxahatchee River is the sub-tropical cypress swamp and mixed hardwood forest that is found within the river's floodplain. This swamp contains bald cypress trees that are 300 or more years old, and is one of the last remaining black-water/floodplain swamps in southeast Florida. Additionally, the tidal floodplain and estuary of the Loxahatchee River are valuable ecological resources within the river's watershed.

Despite an impressive list of enduring natural resources, the Loxahatchee River watershed is now permanently altered by the stabilization of Jupiter Inlet, which heightens the effects of tidal amplitude and saltwater intrusion; and the construction and operation of drainage canal systems which alter the natural pattern of freshwater flow and inundation of the floodplain. The Restoration Plan for the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River (South Florida Water Management District, 2006) chronicles these problems and provides ecological target species, performance measures and monitoring requirements needed to track the success of restoration goals and provide guidance to future adaptive management and operational practices.

The major concern for the floodplain communities in the riverine reach is the inadequate hydroperiods (depth and duration) which: (1) resulted in the loss of canopy trees; (2) encouraged the intrusion of upland and non-native plant species; (3) resulted in the alteration of riverine forest

type communities; and (4) may be insufficient for aquatic organisms to fully utilize the floodplain communities. The major concerns for the floodplain communities in the tidal reaches are increased salinity in

type categories were swamp, bottomland hardwoods, hydric and mesic hammocks and upland.

Species richness, density (abundance), biomass (relative basal area), and frequency of occurrence were examined within 138 vegetative plots within the ten transects. Forest plots sampled on transects were 58% swamp, 13% bottomland hardwood, 13% hammock, 12% mixed hardwood, 3% upland and 1% freshwater marsh types. Canopy species included 26 trees and one large woody vine. The shrub and groundcover layer contained 182 species.

Between the 2003 and 2009 canopy surveys, several changes were noted

in abundance of canopy species. Notable losses occurred in freshwater species: cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*, 12.4 to 9.81%) bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*, 9 to 7.65%) and red maple (*Acer rubrum*, 3.5 to 2.35%). On the other hand, there were significant increases in saltwater tolerant white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*, 22.5 to 29.34%) and red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*, 14.2 to 17.91%) and slight increases in pond apple (*Annona glabra* 13 to 14%), which has been shown to be relatively saltwater tolerant. Some tree loss can be attributed to Hurricanes Frances, Jeanne and Wilma that passed through the area in 2004 and 2005. In examining groundcover stem counts from the 2003, 2007 and 2010 surveys, the freshwater seedlings of pond apple and bald cypress showed significant increases in 2010 presumably due to the wet winter months of 2009/2010 and after several years of recovery from hurricane damage.

The proposed restoration target flows for wet and dry season established by the



Dead cypress with a live mangrove understory on the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River.
Photo: Taylor R. Alexander

surface waters and soils and the increase in tidal inundation and amplitude since stabilization of Jupiter Inlet. The emphasis on restoration in the Loxahatchee River will be on reducing salinities to below 2 parts per thousand (ppt) at the mouth of Kitching Creek for the tidal reaches and improving hydroperiods on the riverine floodplain, which should in turn improve habitat quality for freshwater seed production, germination and eventually reforestation throughout the river system.

In 2003, the staff of the South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Park Service District 5 Office, sampled vegetation on ten transects on the Northwest Fork and its major tributaries to investigate floodplain community composition, structure and health. Seven of the ten transects were previously investigated from 1967 to 1985. Three new transects were created to investigate additional sites. Guidelines were created to identify forest by reach (riverine, and upper and lower tidal) and forest type. The major forest



Photo: Mike Nail

(Loxahatchee, continued)

Restoration Plan of 2006 should enhance the native freshwater communities in the riverine and upper tidal floodplain of the Loxahatchee River by slowing the loss of trees, increasing the hydroperiod, providing additional nutrients to the floodplain and discouraging the invasion of the upland, transitional and non-native species. With the improved freshwater environment in the tidal floodplain, freshwater tree species (primarily bald cypress, pop ash and pond apple) would be expected to increase in abundance, while the saltwater tree species would have decreased abundance except in the lower tidal reach where the limiting factor may be sea level rise and tidal amplitude. The determination of flow levels needed to maintain floodplain communities will provide a scientific basis for an improved management of water deliveries on a seasonal basis. ♦

Notes: For further information on this topic, please refer to: South Florida Water Management District. 2009. "Riverine and Tidal Floodplain Vegetation of the Loxahatchee River and Its Major Tributaries", Vol. I and II (www.sfwmd.gov).

In the fall of 2010, Florida Scientist will be publishing the manuscript "Impacts of the 2004 Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne on the Floodplain Forest Communities of the Loxahatchee River" and the Journal of Environmental Quality will be publishing the manuscript "Linking River, Floodplain and Vadose Zone Hydrology to Improve Restoration of a Coastal River Affected by Saltwater Intrusion," also in the fall.

Team River Runner Asheville *Rocks and Rolls!*

by Will Leverette

Becca Carter needed a local swimming pool to start a paddling program for disabled veterans and Will Leverette of Warren Wilson College smelled a win-win situation. Born out of the dust of the Western Carolina Paddling Club, the first North Carolina Team River Runner chapter started in the summer of 2010.

Leverette secured this use of Warren Wilson's pool and got the campus Service Learning Department to give students credit for volunteer work. Community and student volunteers swarmed to the new chapter, boats and equipment were donated and a program was born.

After about six sessions in the pool the program moved to a small lake at the Bull Creek Ranch and the veterans' skills made a quantum leap in improvement. The veterans were excited and enthusiastic about their first planned river trip, which was to be on the Tuckasee Gorge, a beautiful class I-II river an hour from Asheville. Twenty two volunteers and veterans showed up on July 31st on what started as a gorgeous blue bird day. We divided into two groups and we eagerly headed downstream into the big unknown. This experience was totally new to all the veterans but they showed exemplary attitudes in meeting the challenge. Halfway through the trip we were soaked by one of those classic North Carolina summer thunderstorms.

At the take-out, big smiles were in abundance. Everybody did a great job and really seemed to love the experience. More river trips, pool sessions, video nights and family picnics are planned. We are a paddling family now. Mission accomplished! ♦

Dillsboro Dam Removal

by Mark Singleton

Back in 2001, American Whitewater was part of a diverse group of local, regional, and national interests that began meeting with Duke Energy to collaborate on a new plan for operating their dams in the Tuckasegee and Nantahala watersheds. The outcome of those negotiations was a comprehensive settlement agreement that Duke submitted as their application for new operating licenses. The agreement called for the removal of Dillsboro Dam and subsequent watershed enhancements like enhanced flow releases, new public river access areas, new parks and trails and land conservation.

Unfortunately, the removal of Dillsboro Dam became a controversial issue and the resulting conflict delayed the river restoration and enhancement project for well over three years.

Today, the removal of Dillsboro Dam is complete (*see photos*)! Work continues through the summer to restore and stabilize the riverbanks. In place of an outdated and uneconomic dam (the dam had not produced power in over 4 years), there are two “new” ledges on the river. A yellow silt curtain was placed across the main part of the river until the restoration work had been completed. For paddlers who wished to paddle this section of river, the silt curtain had an opening on the far river right side for boats to pass through.

The settlement agreement also calls for scheduled releases on the West Fork of the Tuckasegee (a class IV romp through a long de-watered gorge) and the Upper Nantahala. The scheduling of these releases is unknown at this time and is dependent on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) moving forward on the process that will lead to the issuance of new licenses for the remaining Nantahala and Tuckasegee Hydro Projects.

On any summer weekend the old dam site is being used by fisherman, paddlers and sunbathers. It's remarkable that signs of the old dam are now almost impossible to see. ♦

Photos: Dillsboro Dam on the Tuckasegee River, NC, before removal, during, and after. Photos: American Whitewater.





RMS Northwest Chapter 2010 River Ranger Rendezvous

by David Brock

As a new member to both the River Management Society and the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) John Day River Ranger staff, expectations for the 2010 Northwest Chapter River Ranger Rendezvous, held June 16-18 on the Rogue Wild and Scenic River, were strictly speculative. Traveling from Prineville, OR, with six other members of the Deschutes/ John Day River's BLM staff, we arrived at Alameda County Park, located just a couple miles upriver from the renowned wild river section on the Rogue Tuesday evening. Good weather and a beautiful surrounding promised a great beginning to the three day event.

Wednesday morning Becky Brown, Rogue River Visitor Center Manager, welcomed us to the Rendezvous at the Galice Community Hall, introducing the planning committee. The 23 participants representing ranger staff from Oregon, California, Washington and Idaho, spent the following 1.5 hours introducing themselves, their organization, and their three main issues facing them on their respective rivers. Group discussion highlighted the common

areas of concern for follow-up discussion during the Friday morning session.

Lynette Ripley, River Manager for the Deschutes and John Day Wild and Scenic Rivers, gave an informative presentation on the topic "Would anyone want to board your ship?" The discussion encouraged audience participation and dealt with setting priorities in a ranger's life, including both their professional career advancement within their respective government agencies and their personal life. Lynette stressed the importance of finding balance needed for an enriched life, and how finding that proper balance between the "office" and life outside work will improve performance in both sectors.

The balance of the day was spent on communications, with an interactive session presented by Jonathan Lange, Professor of Communications Southern Oregon University. Key subjects included active listening, reading people's attitude in order to promote a safe environment, conflict resolution by employing verbal judo, using the impetus of the person's verbiage to steer the communications to a

positive outcome, and how to inform the public on current regulations, encouraging their willing cooperation.

Thursday found us gearing up for a full day's 14-mile float on the Rogue River's recreation section ending at Alameda Park's launch site. During the float, we were joined by Sasha Joachims who gave an enlightening presentation on noxious weeds, a problem facing all river environments. At a later river stop, our own Jim Mueller, head ranger for the Deschutes, gave a presentation on working with guides and outfitters, informing of particular forms and procedures used on the Lower Deschutes River. During the float, Todd Calvert, Rogue River Ranger, offered ongoing commentary on issues indigenous to his river. Todd also gave a successful safety orientation prior to the float. So successful that all members and boats beginning the float were present at the trip's end. We were also entertained by many local inhabitants during the float, including osprey, mergansers and other feathered creatures.

(continued on page 24)



Alex Havens, Heather Golightly, and Supervisor Anne O'Neill posing after working on the assessment.



Kayakers enjoying the Occosquan Water Trail.

Partnerships and the Benefits of SCA Interns

by Kayleen Lofgren

It is all about partnerships, especially when starting new programs! A river assessment is almost complete because the NVRPA called up the NPS and OWL, then RTCA brought in the SCA. Acronyms aside, this is a great success story on the Occoquan River in Northern Virginia between the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA), the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA), Occoquan Watertrails League (OWL) and the Student Conservation Association (SCA).

Recently the NPS's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program funded two SCA interns through a challenge cost share grant. Heather Golightly of George Mason University and Alex Havens of College of Charleston are both SCA interns who are working with RTCA, OWL, and NVRPA. OWL is a friends group who works with volunteers, land agencies, and landowners to promote and protect the Occoquan Water Trail, a 40-mile route down two tributary waterways within the Chesapeake Bay watershed in northern Virginia. RTCA is working alongside NVRPA and OWL to provide the technical assistance to bring together a community focused on the Occoquan Water Trail as well as several parks managed by NVRPA to provide river access.

OWL currently has the goal of creating a water trail map to encourage recreation on the Occoquan River. RTCA brought on Heather and Alex to make a detailed assessment of the Occoquan Water Trail. The assessment of the trail includes noting improvements that could be made to access points and parks along the trail as well as identifying possible new areas for access and picnic areas. They spend their days kayaking along the river pho-

tographing banks and taking GPS points of locations for potential improvements. After finishing the assessment, Alex and Heather will present their map to OWL, RTCA, and NVRPA, and OWL will then apply for improvements through grants.

Working for OWL has been an overall rewarding experience for students Heather and Alex. They have learned that members of the community are interested in paddling along the Occoquan Water Trail and in creating needed improvement to the trail. They also enjoy the unique opportunity of traveling along the Occoquan River seeing wildlife like Bald Eagles and Great Blue Herons, as well as being a part of the early stages of a new water trail. Heather is required to complete an internship to graduate and Alex is using this opportunity to gain more experience in conservation. They both look forward to finishing the assessment and ultimately seeing the finished improvements made to the trail.

SCA interns like Heather and Alex can be utilized in all phases of river management, including planning, marketing, interpreting, managing risk, as well as regular maintenance. Every year the SCA provides high school and college-aged members with hands-on conservation service opportunities in a vast array of fields. Service opportunities range from restoring desert ecosystems, cultural resource management, to teaching environmental education. Not only are the SCA interns versatile in the projects they complete, but also in the different phases of the projects they work in. Other agencies that partner with SCA include: Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For more information, visit: www.thesca.org. ♦

(*Little Pee Dee, from page 1*)

owned convenience store. The release was determined to be the result of ongoing leak or leaks in the underground piping system that supplies fuel to the pump dispensers. The gasoline plume spread from the store's gasoline pumps, under US Hwy. 301, and ultimately to the river floodplain.

As the complexities and dynamics of the Little Pee Dee River situation emerged over time, DHEC was faced with determining the best available and financially feasible technology to clean up the spill and any contaminated soils to help the environment recover.

The ultimate decision was to install monitoring and recovery wells onsite and in the river floodplain to conduct what is known as Aggressive Fluid Vapor Recovery. In addition, DHEC staff decided to install a pilot interceptor/recovery system to capture and remove gasoline migrating into the river floodplain. Collective remediation strategies employed at the site included the use of absorbent/containment booms, absorbent pads, contaminated soil excavation, AFVR, along with free product collection and removal.

With the success of the pilot recovery system, a larger product recovery system was installed in September 2009 to supplement collection efforts. The system was designed in-house with input from DHEC staff with multidisciplinary expertise and backgrounds. The system operates continually to skim the gasoline from the water table, directs it through an oil/water separator, and then channels the product

into a poly collection tank for periodic removal. In addition, 120 tons of highly saturated, petroleum-contaminated soil were removed during trench excavation. So far, about 1,500 gallons of gasoline have been recovered through excavation, AFVR and the two recovery systems.

The BP and Little Pee Dee River spills clearly demonstrate the diversified obstacles and intense resources of time, labor, equipment and finances encountered in oil and gas spill response. Although on a much smaller scale than the Gulf Coast spill, the Little Pee Dee River incident reflects the reality of the many challenges that oil/gas spill response presented to a small family business. Some of the ongoing challenges on the Little Pee Dee River response include ongoing mitigation to protect a state designated scenic river, plume migration under



Gasoline in recovery well – Little Pee Dee River floodplain.



Skimmer/Recovery System.

Aggressive Fluid Vapor Recovery (AFVR) event. Photos: SC DHEC



a major US highway, floodplain geology, constant odor complaints from a high traffic area, working adjacent to bridge support pillars and underground utilities such as telephone, water and sewer lines, and limited financial resources of a small business needing to pay for the response effort.

Oil spills and the cleanups in their aftermath serve as a solemn reminder that an ounce of prevention is indeed worth a pound of cure. Overcoming the hurdles encountered in a spill response/cleanup and the uniqueness of this project, DHEC will continue to work with the responsible party until the project is completed, which is anticipated no earlier than 2012. ♦

Seasonal *Rangers* at Niobrara National Scenic River

“All in a Day’s Work!”

by Leah Maulucci and Alex Van Vechten

Hidden along the edge of the Sandhills in northern Nebraska, the Niobrara River flows east towards its confluence with the mighty Missouri River. Seventy-six of its 535 miles are designated and protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act creating the Niobrara National Scenic River. Within the park’s boundaries six ecosystems intertwine, creating an abundance of wildlife, history, and geology that you can rarely experience in just one area. National Park Service Rangers patrol the Niobrara every day in the summer in order to protect these priceless resources and its visitors who travel from all over the world to enjoy the river. This is challenging when most of our contacts are done by canoe, and we are forced to use unique methods for dealing with situations in an aquatic environment.

This summer the seasonal rangers at Niobrara came from California, Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Our love for water and the outdoors brought us together in Nebraska...

...of all places! This was the first season with the National Park Service for three out of four of us, one ranger returning from last year. We each had a different idea of what to expect working as a Visitor and Resource Protection Ranger and being out in the middle of nowhere Nebraska. Driving through the flat cornfields confirmed every previous stereotype that we had of Nebraska until we dropped into the Niobrara River Valley and saw ponderosa pine forests with a beautiful river snaking through it. All of those preconceived notions changed – it was truly an oasis in the sand hills.

We started out our season with canoe training at a state fish hatchery along Minnechaduz Creek which flows directly into the Niobrara. We learned many different strokes and techniques that are crucial while navigating the river and contacting visitors. On a calm pond you can’t imagine why you were learning a J-stroke and how to draw or pry, but when you are approaching a flotilla of 30-40 tubers that are tied together blocking most of the river, you begin to understand that a cross draw is more appealing than

wrapping your canoe around a boulder on the other side. Contacting visitors was initially a big challenge when you can barely stop your own boat or run into everything in your path.

By mid-June we mostly patrolled the river on our own and the river was getting busier by the week. We were finally able to focus on what other people were doing instead of trying to control our boats. We noticed increasing violations, and responded to more medical situations, but we weren’t quite proficient yet at our jobs. One Saturday two of our rangers were on their first serious contact with a group of tubers. They were highly intoxicated

and littering at a state park on the river. Just as the situation seemed likely to spiral out of control (rangers have been assaulted during simple dog off leash and littering contacts), the ranger capsized his canoe in a strainer in front of everyone on the river. The group of tubers “sobered up” pretty quickly and jumped off their tubes to assist the ranger. They collected all the litter that



Niobrara National Scenic River’s four seasonal river rangers (from left to right) Alexander Van Vechten, Andrew Branum, Nate Hardic, and Leah Maulucci, after the Fourth of July parade in Valentine, Nebraska.

escaped from his canoe. Thankfully the ranger emerged from the river quickly and got back in his boat. From then on the conversation was “yes sir”, “no sir”, and “I’m sorry sir”. We radioed rangers further downstream to notify them about our supposed “difficult group”, who was seen for the rest of the day handing out litter bags to other groups on the river!

In no time at all Independence Day was here and the tubers on Saturday’s were becoming more like a floating frat party. Imagine a river clogged by tubes with very few openings for canoes and kayaks to squeeze through. Many tubing groups had stereos blasting, with people yelling and chanting louder than the stereo; asking other groups to expose themselves for a beer or two. Amidst all this distraction near Big Cedar Falls one of our rangers had contacted a tubing group about a possible drug violation. They thought they were a little too smart for the legal system and began arguing their case with numerous curse words. While we were being educated about how the Fifth Amendment and other legal protections work, two containers of marijuana

rolled out of one of their bags. Keep in mind we're still in canoes, holding on to this group of tubers floating in a giant party, and trying to watch what they're doing while getting them, and us to the bank safely. Just when we didn't think our attention could be divided any further, another group frantically began asking us for help.

One ranger stayed with the drug offenders while the other instantly jumped out of her boat - ready to direct her attention to the next problem at hand. Unfortunately, she gracefully bailed right over the edge of an underwater ledge, resurfacing with moderate scrapes to her legs, wet duty gear, and an acute bruising of her ego. Shrugging it off as if it were a routine part of the job she gathered information about an assault that happened only a few minutes earlier in her soggy notebook. She quickly returned to the other ranger, still in a single-handed debate with the tubing drug offenders. Adrift between the tubers and the rangers, she stood in a mucky, muddy substrate holding onto the canoes. Suddenly she felt something like a coating of slime attach to her legs. Looking down she saw over fifty leeches attached to her legs and requested that other ranger quickly wrap up the contact! Now she was watching the group with one injured leg on top of a canoe with blood dripping into the river, one leg in the water covered in leeches, one hand holding two canoes

and the other hand sweeping off greedy leeches while the other ranger completed a violation notice. The chase was on to find the assailant. They quickly got into their boats and paddled downstream, interviewed river outfitters, visited campgrounds, and matched up a heck of a lot of different colored tubes, to find the man from the assault, which ended in an arrest.

By August we thought nothing on the river could shock us. We had been offered hundreds of dollars worth of alcohol (always while in uniform), proposed to several times a day, been asked if we use rubber bullets or just had fake guns in our holsters, and were even offered someone's girlfriend in trade for not writing them a violation notice for underage drinking.

One Sunday, which are usually a very slow family day on the river, two rangers approached a young man standing in the middle of the river. He seemed to be quite content staring up into the sky at nothing at all. When he saw the first ranger paddling towards him he smiled and approached with arms outstretched. Not feeling in the mood to get swamped the lead ranger told the man, "Please do not grab my boat." He either didn't hear the ranger or didn't care and continued marching towards the boat as it floated downstream. The ranger, more desperate now said, "Do not grab the boat." and the man kept moving closer, now only a few feet from the boat. "Don't grab the boat!" shouted the

ranger, ready to swat some fingers with his paddle as the man was inches from grabbing the side of the canoe. The young man didn't grab the canoe - as his hands poised above the gunnel of the boat, he extended his index finger downward, and allowed the whole length of the boat to glide gently underneath his fingertip. Eyes closed, and with an absurd grin, he faced the other ranger and chimed, "touuuuched itttt!"

Now it's September and the visitor season is quickly winding down. The weather is pleasant, and many visitors are travelers, scout troops and families getting in their last trips before the school year begins. There are no more beer cans floating down the river, and we've picked up most of the litter that got stuck along the banks. We get to enjoy meeting friendly people and sharing with them about these remarkable resources. Floaters talk Husker football and ask for the score on game day Saturdays. Ash, birch and aspen leaves are starting to turn golden while sumac is painted bright red by a retreating sun and cooler temperatures. We're able to explore stretches of the river we've never seen, and hike to waterfalls that we didn't even know existed. We have time to look up a bird in the guidebook, and observe minnows to try to identify them. We also get to go with the resource management staff and research more about how the river works. In September, in one place on the river, you may find a murder of crows, a gaggle of geese, or maybe even a misappropriation of rangers, but it's all in the name of science.

We can't believe our time here is almost over and we are nervous about the next step and the next park we're going to. Where else can you paddle a canoe, meet incredible people, hike in the backcountry, eat lunch under a waterfall, and be jealous of yourself for having such an amazing job? Some of us have applied for winter seasonal jobs all over the country, while others plan to take part of the winter off to travel and visit their families. There's never a guarantee where a seasonal ranger may go next, unless they get a call from a future boss. What we do know is that as our first seasonal job at the Niobrara National Scenic River has a very special place in our hearts, with a burning hope to return next year. ♦

Big Cedar Creek features two popular waterfalls which draw thousands of visitors each Saturday along the Niobrara. Photo: Stuart Schneider.



RMS Chapters

Southeast by Mary Crockett

Summer 2010, the hottest summer on record for South Carolina and possibly the entire southeast region! Our law enforcement officers reported a shortage of parking spaces at many of our river access points due to a large number of recreational users. One form of recreation with an increasing appeal during the hot days of summer is tubing down a river. Tubing can be enjoyed by all ages and across all ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Depending on how fancy you want to float, your tube can be a simple round tire tube for very little money or a fancy misting palm tree float from a boutique store, which can set you back a few bucks. I wanted to see just how many of my women business contacts, friends, and colleagues in South Carolina would be interested in floating a free flowing blackwater river for a few hours, thus I organized a trip down the Edisto River. I was shocked to see fifty-four women, most of which were over the age of 50, show up at Colleton State Park early one Saturday morning. Most of these women had never participated in this type of activity before. We had an international group of women with a colorful mix of rafts. At sandy pointbars, we stopped to

enjoy southern favorites such as watermelon and boiled peanuts. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the float and many of them were bemoaning the thought that it took them fifty years to have such a recreational experience.

Recreation is only one of the many river activities managed by our profession. In this publication of the RMS Journal, there are articles concerning partnerships to provide recreational and educational opportunities, flora and aquatic fauna research, dam removal and advice that will help you effectively convey your message to the public. Our river management issues are varied and some issues are requiring new and innovative ideas in order to move toward solutions. The oil problem in the Gulf of Mexico effecting our tidal rivers and marshes may linger for years to come as will the many local problems involving oil, gas, sewage and other chemicals as they end up in our waterways.

I would like to extend a big “thank you” to all those around the Southeast who contributed articles for this journal and please encourage your colleagues to join RMS. And, continue to check our RMS SE Chapter webpage for updates and activities. ♦

54 women (most over fifty in age) float the Edisto River, SC, in summer 2010. Photo: Mary Crockett



Northwest

July is winding down and the dog days of summer are upon us. Montana experienced a relatively wet, cool beginning to the summer and river flows stayed high as a result. This was good news for those who drew a late-season permit to float the Smith River, which often runs out of adequate boating water the first week of July.

Like everyone in the river management profession, our field staff at Fish, Wildlife and Parks has been working hard this summer. The lower sections of the Blackfoot and Madison rivers are experiencing some prolific innertube hatches and everything else that goes along with hundreds of inebriated tubers floating down the river. By the time this Journal goes to press the staff will be breathing a sigh of relief and looking forward to a little slower pace.

A big thank you goes to Becky Brown of the BLM for spearheading the NW Chapter River Ranger Rendezvous on the Rogue River in Oregon. Twenty-six people attended the event, which received support from the BLM, USFS, and the NW Chapter. A two-day swift water rescue course followed.

In closing, I hope each of you will join me in showing appreciation for Caroline Kurz as her tenure with the River Management Society comes to a close. It will be our good fortune if she is able to stay involved with RMS in some capacity. ♦

Enjoy the Fall,
Charlie Sperry
Northwest Chapter President



(L to R) Maris, Claire and Sienna

First Boat

by Charlie Sperry

I've been the proud owner of a drift boat for a week now. It's a handsome red and black craft with sides that glisten in the sun. I love the way it handles...on the trailer. I haven't actually taken it on a river yet. The other night I sat in the boat (on the trailer) and feathered the oars through the air. It felt real good. I moved to the front of the boat and mimicked casting to rising trout. Then I moved to the back of the boat and discovered Newton's law of gravity applies to boats on trailers (think see-saw).

This boat has been a long time coming, years in fact. It has always bothered me that I didn't own a boat. Most of my friends have boats, some more than one. How is it that Montana's river recreation management specialist, the person who works on some of the nation's premier

ivers, can get by in life without owning a boat? Until now that is.

It's not that I didn't want a boat, far from it. Three years ago I came close. My wife and I carefully saved our money and agreed that we would buy horses or a boat, whichever "good deal" came along first. Let's just say that I have fed a lot of hay the last couple years and enjoyed some great trail rides!

Fast forward to three weeks ago. While on a run I noticed a drift boat for sale near where I work. Naturally I stopped to check it out. Big mistake! It was perfect for fishing the rivers around southwest Montana. Low profile sides for windy conditions. Swivel seats in front and back. Built-in rod holders. Plenty of dry storage. I noted the price, not cheap but fair. I kept running.

(continued on page 26)

RMS Chapters

Pacific by Kristina Rylands

At the RMS symposium in May, members were enticed to a meeting to discuss the direction of RMS and ways to energize the organization. One of the resounding themes I heard was that chapters are the *lifeblood* of RMS. If that is the case, we asked what are the ways to get chapter blood pumping and circulating? Many in the group I facilitated suggested asking members to commit to *one* thing they could contribute to their chapter.

Anticipating the RMS board meeting in October, I decided to put that symposium suggestion into action. In September, Pacific Chapter members met on a conference call to pull together our workplan for next year. As part of that assignment, I challenge all members of the Pacific Chapter to make the following commitment. As we look forward to the year ahead, I'm asking each of you to think right now of that one (or more) thing you could do to contribute to the success of the chapter and let me know. Some possible ideas include:

- Propose a chapter event (trip, training, riverside lunch?)
- Coordinate a chapter event
- Volunteer to chair a quarterly Pacific Chapter conference call
- Host a webinar? (Does anyone have access to this technology?)
- Work with RMS webmaster to develop our chapter webpage
- Take the RMS membership display to a conference, festival, or meeting
- Help with a monthly online chapter newsletter (consisting of "mini blurbs" on your river work)
- Be a member of the new RMS Pacific Chapter River Professional Speaker's Bureau (see webinar idea above)
- Write an article for the RMS Journal
- More ideas welcome!

Already, the ideas are coming in and members of our chapter are stepping up. In the winter edition of the Journal, I look forward to reporting out some of the ideas that our Pacific Chapter members are proposing, as well as our workplan for 2011.

Let's keep the good ideas from the symposium flowing to benefit *all* of RMS. Does your chapter have commitments and ideas that we could learn from? Are there ways that our chapters can collaborate on projects or programs? If so, send me an email (kristina_rylands@nps.gov). ♦

Northeast by Liz Lacy

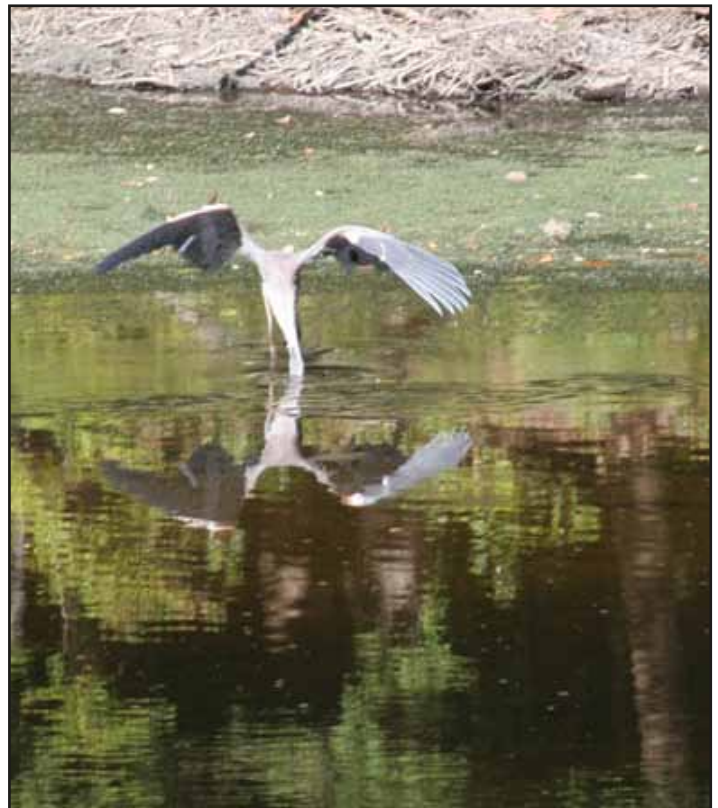
As I write this update in late summer, local rivers are running very low, and nearby plants seem weary from thirst and putting on their show all summer long. Someone mentioned to me at a meeting last night that he had seen four Great Blue Herons on his way. Easy fishing for those long-beaked birds when the water is so low. Floating boats is a whole other story. I am continually reminded how fragile the balance is on rivers - from natural stresses to our own "over-enjoyment" of some streams. It's a great challenge trying to achieve riparian harmony!

State Stewards: We have three new state stewards: Risa Shimoda has agreed to be the DC area steward, Chuck Barszc is on for PA, and Meg Kerr is our Rhode Island state steward. They join Paul Beaulieu (Massachusetts) and Brian Fitzgerald (Vermont). Still looking for takers in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and New York.

Treasurer: Just heard that Hal Hallett is a candidate for treasurer of our chapter which is very good news!

W&S Training: Are there NE Chapter members who would like to help arrange a Wild and Scenic training session at your location or jointly with others? There are a few trained trainers available to do just that. Please contact Liz Lacy if you are interested. ♦

Heron at Whitemore. Photo: Fred Jones



Southwest by Bunny Sterin

Seems like this summer went really quickly after the chapter's wonderful trip down the Grand Canyon. Water levels were about average and I hope that many of you got out to spend time on the water. On August 19, 2010, severe thunder storms caused a major rock and mud slide and washed out the road to Mineral Bottom, the traditional boat take-out for the Labyrinth Canyon segment of the Green River. About 12 miles of the State Road 313 completely collapsed during the storm. This road is a key road to many recreation activities besides boating.

There are several alternative take-outs. One is on private land upstream Labyrinth Canyon. Another is the Spring Canyon Road which is 15 miles upstream of the current take out. The road is challenging with several places very exposed and with single lanes in places. The third option is to float to the confluence with the Colorado River and get a jet-boat pickup back to Moab by an authorized concessionaire.

The SW chapter is planning on participating in the Second Moab River Rendezvous which will be taking place in November 11- 14 at the Red Cliffs Lodge just outside of Moab, Utah. This Rendezvous is a fundraiser with the purpose of celebrating rivers, conservation, history and community. For more information, check out <http://www.moabriverrendezvous.com/> or watch your email for more information.

We are looking for folks to sponsor a spring, summer, or fall float trip for 2011. Please contact me to sponsor an event or share ideas of where you would like to go. Pray for snow!◆



On August 19, 2010, severe thunder storms caused a major rock and mud slide and washed out the road to Mineral Bottom, the traditional boat take-out for the Labyrinth Canyon segment of the Green River. (Note arrow and people on road.)



David Brock

(Rendezvous, from page 15)

Friday morning was spent in ardent discussion of the highlighted topics and issues defined during our session of introductions on day one. The issue that continues to hold the top position remains to be (*surprise, surprise*) toilets, and educating the public to their proper use and systems mandated by current regulations. Rogue staff discussed that as a river toilet fills up, they will remove it without replacement. Many rangers discussed innovative, but maybe not compliant systems they have encountered on the rivers. Other areas of common concern dealt with law enforcement, noxious weeds, and fire regulations.

Being one of the new guys, this was an effective way to learn not only about the product we serve, the common issues facing all rangers, and the specific problems each river encounters in the Northwest, but also about the high caliber of staff managing this resource. A special appreciation to Becky Brown and the Rogue River staff, the River Management Society, BLM and the Forest Service for a superior 2010 River Ranger Rendezvous. A special thanks to the Rogue Wilderness Company for catering high quality food during our stay in Galice, OR. We are always up for good food on the river! ♦

David Brock works for the Bureau of Land Management as the John Day Wild and Scenic River Ranger.

Five Environmental Message Mistakes and How to Fix Them

by Eric Eckl

You've heard the phrase "look before you leap." But what does that mean when it comes to environmental writing and communications? First, an urban legend about what can happen if you don't look before you leap. Enjoying healthy sales of its Nova automobile in the U.S., Chevrolet introduced it to Latin America — where it bombed. As it turned out, "no va" means "no go" in Spanish, and the name was turning potential customers away.

Environmental insiders make mistakes like this all the time, but you don't have to.

When the stakes are high, savvy communicators pre-test their message before they commit to it. For example, advertising executives screen their latest commercial with a sample audience, before they spend millions to air it. Political campaigns test out slogans and speech lines with voters, before the candidates use them on the stump. Trial lawyers practice their arguments in front of mock juries, before they head into court. They use the pretesting to avoid mistakes — and to sharpen their message so they get what they want.

In my practice, I help nature protection and pollution control organizations pre-test their fundraising letters, petitions, brochures, webpages, and related materials. I see some mistakes come up again and again. So here's a short list of our own "no va" moments that you should take care to avoid:

Mistake #1: "If only they knew." I hear this one from my clients a lot. "If only they knew they lived in a watershed," "If only they knew the storm drain went to the creek." So they produce materials that are long on science education and short on action messages. As you might expect, these materials produce little action.

Mistake #2: Weak photography. Nature protection groups use a lot of pretty nature pictures. Pollution control organizations show a lot of pipes and oil slicks. No problem there, but when we pre-test those messages, test subjects often ask for photographs that demonstrate what action they can take.

(continued on page 26)

RMS Southwest Chapter Float - Colorado River

“Since when does the NPS run commercial rafting trips?”

by Maria Blevins

As the Grand Canyon River Ranger checked in with the trip leader of the private group rafting the Colorado River, the man jokingly yelled, “Since when does the Park Service run commercial rafting trips?” When he is told that the group of 33 people loaded onto the four large motorized rafts were members of the River Management Society and were river managers, rangers, and policy enthusiasts from the rivers of the Colorado Plateau, the man replied “Oh, what a group. I have something to say to each of you.” This was not an uncommon response our group would receive as we floated the 280-mile river trip. The comments of this man reminded each of us that managing rivers is a difficult job and often involves balancing the ideas and opinions of many stakeholders which can be contentious and hard. It also illuminated the importance of connecting with a community of people that understand these difficulties and refreshing ourselves with ideas and enthusiasm from other like-minded river lovers.

Everything on the Colorado River is big. The vistas are sweeping, the rapids are large, and the management issues are some of the most challenging in the US. As an exemplar of a river that is managed for multiple uses, the river management professionals of Grand Canyon National Park were the perfect guides to help navigate the river and facilitate discussions about the challenges facing rivers

of the American Southwest. Additionally, discussions around the new permit system that has recently been adopted by GCNP opened an important space for dialogue about how to manage popular multi-day river trips. The diverse group of participants, ranging from river engineers, river rangers and managers, teachers, and living legends offered the opportunity for interesting discussions about issues. I found myself exploring new ideas, concepts, and jokes every day of the trip.

At various points in the trip, we participated in service projects along the river that exposed the group to management issues along the Colorado River. Trimming tamarisk brought the realization that invasive species of plants was an issue that many rivers are dealing with. Picking up trash, and stirring composting toilets reminded the group that dealing with waste of all kinds was a challenge shared among rivers.

The finest meeting of any organization I have ever attended occurred the evening of May 11, 2010, at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Gathered around a propane fire, sheltered from the wind in a rock alcove, with stars above, the Southwest Chapter of the RMS discussed business. Punctuated with a great deal of laughter, jokes, and even a rattlesnake, the group welcomed new members and brainstormed ideas for the River Ranger Rendezvous.

Everyday our group became more of



Maria Blevins. Photo: Bunny Sterin

a community. We supported each other in the daily tasks of cooking, unloading boats, and groover duty. We also supported each other through conversations about the challenges faced on the home rivers we were involved with. By the end of the trip, it became apparent that we had created a community of people that would support each other in the challenges of managing rivers. Reflecting on the trip of a lifetime, I am not sure what will have a more lasting effect on me; the grandeur of a multi-day raft trip through the Grand Canyon or the connection to a community of people that gifted me with growth, learning, and support about river management issues.◆

WE REMEMBER



Long time RMS member Mikel Haase died of natural causes July 28, 2010, at his home in Anchorage, Alaska. Mike had over 30 years of federal service, most of it as a Natural Resources Planner with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Alaska. Over the past decades, Mike worked in his quiet, passionate manner to help Alaska's national wildlife refuges produce Comprehensive Conservation Plans that provided direction to preserve our natural world for future generations. Mike was particularly proud of his work with Yukon Flats and Yukon Delta Refuges in the 1980's and Kodiak and Tetlin Refuges in recent years.

Mike was a kind man, full of compassion and love for both people and nature. Generosity to those in need was a hallmark of his life, and will be greatly missed.◆

(*First Boat*, from page 21)

A few days later I found myself running by the boat again. Another stop, more consideration. That night I got brave enough to approach my wife about the boat. I was encouraged by her support and enthusiasm. Perhaps this was it.

Another week went by. I mulled it over in my head and the only thing holding me back now that I had a green light to buy a boat was whether this was the one. In particular, did I want a hard-sided drift boat or a raft?

In my mind I had gone through this debate hundreds of times. As an angler there is no question as to which type of boat is better to fish from (chalk one up for the drift boat). But I also enjoy whitewater boating and extended river trips (chalk one up for the raft). A drift boat is ideal for the rivers near my house: the Big Hole, Madison and Missouri. A raft is ideal for late-season rock dodging on the Smith River. The easy solution would be to buy one of both. Alas, a person without any boat can probably rule out that option.

Believe it or not, the deciding factor had nothing to do with fishing or boating. It came down to dogs. Five in particular. They aren't like family, they are family! Where we go they go, and that includes river trips. Five dogs in a drift boat might be chaotic but five dogs in a 14-foot raft sounds like a real disaster in the making.

The drift boat came home with me the next day. A colleague of mine said the pain from writing that check would go away as soon as I got the boat home. Well, it might take a little longer than that. At least until I hit the water in my first boat! ♦

RMS Executive Director *in Action!*

Risa Shimoda currently heads The Shimoda Group, LLC, which specializes in whitewater park development. She is the former Executive Director of American Whitewater, and former Treasurer of RMS's Northeast Chapter. During the 1990's she led sales, marketing and product development programs for Perception Kayaks and paddling accessories, and has served the outdoor industry as an active participant in a variety of industry and conservation-oriented initiatives. Risa is a world-class whitewater kayaker, and chairs the Boards for the International Whitewater Hall of Fame and USA Freestyle Kayaking. She also organizes the annual Potomac Whitewater Festival. The RMS Board warmly welcomes Risa to the organization, and looks forward to working with someone so talented and dedicated to rivers! ♦

(*Mistakes*, from page 24)

Mistake #3: Professional jargon. Scientists, engineers, and lawyers tend to use professional lingo that sends the message to the public that your message isn't meant for them. Pre-testing your materials is a great way to uncover words that you thought were plain English, but aren't.

Mistake #4: Too depressing. Sure, you have to convince people there's a problem before they will do something to help solve it. But if you go too far, you will demoralize your audience.

Mistake #5: It's all up to you. Let's face it. Most of the things that everyday citizens can do to protect nature or control pollution make a pretty small difference — and they know it. But when we all do our part, it adds up to something big. So it's very important to include in your message some words and pictures about the other people who are doing their part: donating, picking up after their dog, turning off their lights, signing that petition, etc.

Learning what the five mistakes are is a great way to avoid them. And another way to avoid these mistakes is to follow some writing guidelines like the *Water Words That Work* method. This 4-step method incorporates the findings from many environmental message pre-tests and opinion polls.

Finally, pre-testing your environmental message isn't just for those with deep pockets anymore. There are many new market research services coming onto the market that you can use to catch mistakes and sharpen your message, just like major corporations and candidates for high office do. When you simply can't afford "no va," pre-testing is a "no brainer." ♦



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Next RMS Journal Deadline (featuring the Midwest Chapter): Submissions are due Nov 1, 2010.



Mark your calendars!

2011 River Management Workshop

Sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

May 10-12, 2011

Alyeska Resort in Girdwood, Alaska

Planning is underway and we look forward to heading into the wild with you to share arctic quirks that work for managing, studying and protecting our rivers in the last frontier. We're nailing down the agenda and welcome your feedback on workshop sessions currently under consideration.

Questions? Volunteers? Ideas?

Registration and information will be available on the RMS website:
www.river-management.org/interagencyworkshop.asp

Join us in Alaska to learn more about these topics:

Boating safety, cold and fast water survival skills

"Dunker" training, in case of an emergency aircraft water landing

Water trail designs for Prince William Sound and beyond

Recreation site designs that consider bears, permafrost, spring break-up, and more

Kenai River cooperative management: motors, capacity and restoration

Benefits-based approach to Wild & Scenic River management

Kenai fishery and salmon ecology 101

Preventing invasives and Alaska's ban on felt sole waders