

# Watershed Ecology Center



Photo Courtesy of NASA  
"Sediment Drainage Betsiboka River, Madagascar"

### Around the World:

The Betsiboka is Madagascar's primary river flowing for over 326 miles. With the clearing of the natural rainforest, soil erosion is out of control. This is and will continue to be an ecological disaster for Madagascar.

This fall has been very busy and very successful!

One of our new programs, "What on Earth", has been in high demand! It not only teaches how soil is formed, but easily segues into water quality issues such as sediment control and erosion. This program is popular because it fulfills SC educational standards AND still emphasizes important environmental education.

As you know, last year we taught approximately 10,500 students. Well, this year we have topped ourselves! Last

fall we reached 4,542 community members, compared to 7,334 children and adults this year!

In September, we coordinated an outdoor curriculum for Woodland Heights Elementary School at Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve. We saw 424 students in one day! Then we had an unique opportunity to educate High School students for the Greer Rotary Club's water conference at BMW's Zentrum.

As our program grows, so is our staff. We are excited to welcome interns from the sci-

ence and education departments here at USC Upstate, and also from Converse College. Our interns will develop curriculum and initiate new programs for college credit.

Lastly, we are assembling an Education Review Committee. Spartanburg County and Greer teachers will serve on the committee, and review original WEC curriculum. In the future, we hope to publish our curriculum and to incorporate free environmental education lessons on our website.

## U S C U P S T A T E E N V I R O N M E N T A L E D U C A T I O N P R O G R A M S

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The Watershed Ecology Center will be closed from December 19th-December 1st.
- We are currently expanding our research parameters. By incorporating both the natural sciences and social sciences, we are able to get a holistic view of the community's perceptions of water quality and pollution.

### U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

Z. L. Madden Science Fair	February
Blue Ridge Middle School Science Fair	February
Summer Camp Preview	April
Earth Week!	April
Earth Day Celebration	April 22

## A P R I L 1 7 - 2 2 I S E A R T H W E E K !



In April, the Watershed Ecology Center will introduce its first annual "Earth Week"! During this week, we hope to encourage community awareness of water issues through special events.

We will choose a school where we will present a special Earth Day presentation, and intro-

duce the students to Annie, our tiger salamander. Annie teaches the children that clean water is especially important to animals such as salamanders.

Our BIG event, will center around our "Earth Day Celebration" at Hatcher Garden on Saturday, April 22nd. We will

also be coordinating activities with Hub-Bub, Wildlife Action Inc, and various community groups.

We will have children and adult activities, food and other creative vendors, local musicians, an art show, and several representatives from conservation groups.

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.USCUPSTATE.EDU  
(CLICK A-Z INDEX)



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## U P C O M I N G P R O J E C T S

### Project Learning Tree

Project Learning Tree is an excellent environmental education curriculum based on the importance of trees. The WEC is working with Hatcher Garden to implement PLT at their outdoor classroom. The Spartanburg Garden Club is underwriting the project.

We will also include the connection between trees and water quality in all of our PLT presentations.

### South Carolina Envirothon

Dr. Jack Turner (WEC Director) and Carol Broadus (WEC Program Coordinator) will act as station managers for this years Envirothon. The Envirothon is a program for high school students where the students complete intensive studies of various environmental topics and produce their own presentations. Our Envirothon topic this year focuses on the effects of climate change on water quality and policy

### SAVE THE DATE

IF YOU SERVE ON  
THE WEC BOARD,  
WE WILL COORDI-  
NATE A MEETING  
AT THE END OF  
MAY.

