

Fall 2011



Watershed Ecology Center

University of South Carolina Upstate
800 University Way Spartanburg, SC 29303

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New Year, New Changes

Our Mission

The Watershed Ecology Center's mission is to collect, analyze, and disseminate sound scientific information on the ecology of the region. Special emphasis is placed on watershed conservation, education, water quality and the study of organisms living in the area encompassed by a watershed. The Center serves as a repository for regional ecological information, providing education and research assistance to individuals, communities,

The Watershed Ecology Center is excited to begin another school year of educational programs with students starting with kindergarten through the eighth grade. It is always fun to visit the schools, and share our programs, animals, and artifacts. We have a program scheduled everyday of the school year. WEC, due to lack of funding, is currently having to put schools on a waiting list.

This year, we also look forward to serving the community by expanding our adult outreach programs. Beth Button will be sharing her environmental expertise as our new adult education coordinator. Be sure to check out *Beth's Corner* for exciting news and information.



WEC Will Miss Carol

After seven years at the helm of educational programs and projects for the Watershed Ecology Center, Carol Broadus will be accepting a new position on campus. Her service and expertise will be sorely missed and we wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Is Bottled Water A Good Choice?

If you're like most people, you're probably concerned about the availability of fresh, potable water, but is that bottle of water that you purchased at your local convenient store worth the exorbitant price tag or for that matter any safer than tap water?

Tests have shown that most tap water is as pure as most bottle water. It may surprise you to know that one well known bottle water company charges as much as eighteen dollars for one gallon of water. This is almost six times the average price of a gal-

lon of gasoline! Let's face it; just because the label on that bottle of water you just purchased claims to have been distilled from an icy glacier in Norway doesn't mean that it didn't come from Bob's garden hose.

A cleaner Downstream



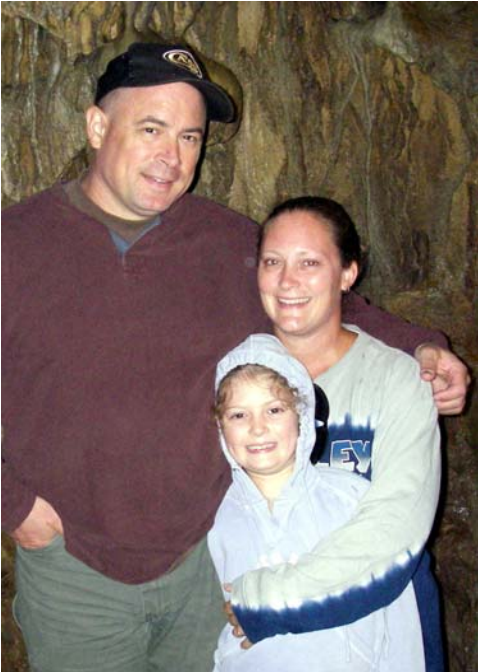
You 've Been Turtled!

We have begun to “Turtle” neighborhoods in the Spartanburg area! Selected communities have had their storm drains marked by WEC staff with seals reading “No Dumping, Drains to Creek” with a turtle in the center. Residents were notified of the markers through our new program and received informational material.

If you know of a community who would like to participate, please contact the center.

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Beth's Corner What's New?



What's new, well, I am! Hi! My name is Beth Button; I am the new Adult Education Coordinator at the Watershed Ecology Center. Previously an educator with the Center, I am excited to be back on staff. I graduated from Western Maryland College with degrees in Elementary Education with a specialization in Environmental Education and Studio Art. After graduation I began traveling around the East Coast teaching at various Environmental Education programs until finally settling in with the River Ridge Environmental Program in Ten Mile, TN. After a season as an instructor and then a few as the Coordinator I directed the program until I got married and moved to a different state. My husband, Clint and I along with our 8 year old daughter, Carolina have now enjoyed lived in Boiling Springs for eight years.

In other news, we are thrilled to once again be doing the Going Green Community Series with the Headquarters Library in Spartanburg. This series will run the second Saturday of each month from 3pm to 4 pm in the Hoechst-Celanese Classroom with the exception of October which will be on the 15th instead of the 8th. Several other clubs and libraries have already scheduled their free presentations from our 2011-2012 Program Guide. This year we are offering six new programs including presentations on "Green" cleaning products, local water quality, water saving animal adaptations and much more. Contact the Watershed Ecology Center for more information or to have a Program Guide sent to your group.

Rain Barrels

Yes!

We now have DIY Rain Barrel kits available at the Watershed Ecology Center! Call ahead for more information or to set up a time to come in to pick one up.

Going Green Series

Last year we offered a Lunch and Learn series at the Spartanburg Headquarters Library. It was well received so we are going to offer another series, this year it will be Saturday afternoons.

Meet Shinlong



Elephants, Koalas, and Hedgehogs, Oh My!!

The kindergarten students really enjoy the program, *That's My Baby*. Using one of the center's live animals, the children learn about the importance of fresh, clean, water for animal survival. Playing a picture matching game, they see how baby animals closely resemble their parents. They realize what polluted water can do to the animals and the importance of a nourishing habitat in order to grow, and mature into that strong adult animal.

Looks Like a

Dinosaur?

It is a joy to have a variety of animals at the Watershed Ecology Center. They are very important to the center and our programs. We teach the importance of water as we talk about animal habitats and what the animal needs to live and survive. Meet our bearded dragon, Shinlong. She is a reptile, native to Australia. She is a skilled climber and uses her strong legs to perch on her tree limb and bask in the sun. Stop by the center and enjoy watching Shin eat her delicious crickets, salads, and fruits.

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