



Congaree Riverkeeper works to protect and improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation on the Congaree, Lower Saluda and Lower Broad Rivers through advocacy, education and enforcement of environmental laws.

River Watch

Table of Contents

[A Journey down the Congaree River Blue Trail](#)

[Trash your grease, not our rivers](#)

Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Become a Member](#)

[Email Us](#)

We would like to thank all of our corporate, small business and organization members. We couldn't do our work without their support. See who they are [here](#).

On December 8th there will be an Arbor Day celebration at Harbison State Forest featuring environmental education and family activities. [Learn more here](#).

Bid on a Carolina or Clemson themed rain barrel, the proceeds go to support the adopt-a-waterway

A Journey down the Congaree River Blue Trail

By Bill Stangler, Congaree Riverkeeper

Earlier this month I got to take an amazing trip down 47 miles of the Congaree River Blue Trail. I was joined on this trip by former Congaree Riverkeeper Stuart Greeter, southeastern director of American Rivers Gerrit Jobsis, and river enthusiast Philoma Skipper. We spent four days and three nights paddling the river and camping on sandbars. While the temperatures were a bit chilly, and some nights were a bit rainy, the trip was extraordinary. The scenery, from the leaves changing colors, to big trees of Congaree National park, to the bluffs rising over the river, was truly breathtaking. The wildlife we saw, which included more than a dozen bald eagles, a large group of wild turkeys, and feral hogs to name a few, was remarkable. The river abounds with not just wildlife, but history as well. The journey we took down river was not much different than the journeys people in our region have been taking for hundreds of years, when the rivers served as the main transportation corridors. Along the way we saw sunken wooden barges that were used to transport goods, collected a few artifacts and camped on sandbars that had at some point likely been occupied by native Americans, early explorers, traders and soldiers at some point. In addition to the scenery, the wildlife and the history, I have to say our campfire dinners were quite impressive too. Stuart and Philoma's lamb chops and Gerrit's Italian sausages with sautéed peppers and onions certainly put my mac and cheese to shame. This trip gave me an opportunity to disconnect from the demands of daily life and reconnect with the wilderness and the river, but it also allowed me to accomplish a personal goal. As a result of this trip I can now say that I have paddled every mile of the 90 mile Congaree Riverkeeper jurisdiction. The



program and the Summer Celebration of Water. Time is running out so act quick. [Here's the link.](#)

If you see a pollution concern call us at (803) 760-3357 or [email us](#). We will investigate.



Congaree River Blue Trail is an amazing, though somewhat challenging, recreational asset in our region. I encourage anyone who has the desire, and the time, to experience it.

View a short video of our trip [here](#), and some pictures [here](#). For more information about the Congaree River Blue Trail visit this website: <http://congareriverbluetrail.blogspot.com>

Trash your grease, not our rivers

It's that time of year again, the days are getting shorter, the air is getting colder and the holidays are around the corner. For many of us that means getting together with family and friends, and maybe frying a turkey or baking a ham. Just remember not to pour any fat, oil or grease from cooking down your drains. The EPA estimates that 40% of sanitary sewer overflows are caused by fat, oil and grease blockages in pipes. With colder temperatures the fat, oil and grease can harden in pipes even quicker and cause more problems. If you have a small amount of grease pour it in a can or jar, let it solidify and throw it in the trash. If you have a large amount, from frying a turkey perhaps, call your city or county and ask where you can recycle it or check [here](#). Help save your pipes, help reduce maintenance costs and help protect our streams and rivers; don't pour grease down the drain.

Please visit our website at <http://www.congareriverkeeper.org>.
Donate to our cause at <http://congareriverkeeper.org/become-member-help-clean-our-waterways>.