



Lower Saluda River

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

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We would like to thank [River Runner Outdoor Center](#) for their continuing support of Congaree Riverkeeper.

October 18th will mark the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, one of the strongest sets of environmental laws ever passed. Congaree Riverkeeper is planning a small event to celebrate this occasion, check our Website and Facebook pages for updates. To learn more about the CWA click [here](#).

During September there were numerous cleanups on our rivers and streams, including the statewide River Sweep. We would like to thank all of the

Congaree Riverkeeper Begins Water Quality Monitoring

Over the last several weeks Congaree Riverkeeper collected water samples as part of a water quality monitoring program. Samples were taken from various locations on our rivers and streams and analyzed for a number of different parameters. While we are still reviewing the data, the following are some of the results we can share now.

One of the parameters we sampled for was fecal coliform, a type of bacteria which may indicate the presence of untreated or undertreated sewage and/or animal waste. The state standard for fecal coliform in freshwaters is 400 colonies per 100 ml of water. Above that the waters are not considered safe for contact recreation (i.e. swimming, kayaking, etc.). Samples taken near the mouths of Smith Branch and Rocky Branch, tributaries to the Broad and Congaree Rivers, came back with counts of **640 and 750 colonies/100ml** respectively. These samples were taken during dry weather. A few weeks earlier we partnered with the USGS and the Rocky Branch Watershed Alliance to sample Rocky Branch after a storm event. During that sampling we found three sites with fecal coliform levels **above 4800 colonies/100ml**, more than 12 times the state standard.

We also sampled some sites for nutrients. While South Carolina does not currently have standards for nutrients in rivers and streams there are some guidelines we can look to as a reference. In 2000 the EPA published a [document](#) that described recorded nutrient levels in "pristine or minimally impacted waters" in our ecoregion and recommended the following as the high end of potential nutrient limits; Total phosphorous, 0.1 mg/L and Total nitrogen, 1.0 mg/L. South Carolina does have a nutrient standard for lakes and it states that "for the Piedmont and Southeastern Plains ecoregions of the State, total phosphorus shall not exceed 0.06 mg/l, and total nitrogen shall not



volunteers who came out and worked to help improve our waterways.

The South Carolina Water Resources Conference will be held in Columbia on October 10th and 11th. For more info check out the [website](#).

If you see a pollution concern call us at (803) 760-3357 or email us at CRK@congareriverkeeper.org. We will investigate.



exceed 1.50 mg/l." Samples taken from the Saluda River at the discharge of the Carolina Water Service I-20 Wastewater Treatment Plant measured **total phosphorous at 1.44 mg/L and total nitrogen at 12.7 mg/L**. Excessive amounts of nutrients like phosphorous and nitrogen may lead to low dissolved oxygen levels, fish kills, and harmful algal blooms.

We expect to publish more details from our water quality sampling on our website in the coming weeks. We are also working to secure funding sources so we can continue this important work.

Welcome Our New Board Members

Last month Congaree Riverkeeper elected three new members to our Board of Directors.

Dr. Mark Salley is a physician at Palmetto Health Baptist who loves to hunt, fish, and swim in the Congaree River basin. He is devoted to preserving this wonderful natural resource.

Steve de Kozlowski is retired from the S.C. Department of Natural Resources where he worked on a variety of water resource issues and now enjoys paddling and fishing our local rivers.

Malcolm Leaphart is the founding President of the Saluda River Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He served on the Lower Saluda River Advisory Task Force and as a water quality and fisheries advocate during the federal relicensing of the Lake Murray hydro.

We are excited about working with our new board members and we would like to thank them for their commitment to protecting our rivers

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