

# south carolina update



## From the Executive Director

The Nature Conservancy's South Carolina chapter is celebrating 25 years of saving the last great places in our extraordinary state.

*From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic beaches, our state has an incredible diversity of spectacular landscapes.*

The Nature Conservancy crossed a significant threshold in Fiscal Year 2003—we have now protected 202,000 acres in South Carolina. These tangible results are important—and these are results you can walk on!

As we celebrate this silver anniversary, we invite you to take advantage of these natural treasures. This fall, we have several field trips offering a unique opportunity to experience the beauty of the places we call home and the natural haven they provide. We also look forward to a partnership with the Gibbes Museum in Charleston as we sponsor *In Response To Place*, a 48-piece exhibit of photographs from The Nature Conservancy's Last Great Places throughout the world. You will find additional details about the exhibition in this update.

Many people speak of leaving a legacy. With the support and efforts of people like you, the Conservancy has many examples of these legacies within the diverse and spectacular landscapes of our state. From the Blue Wall and Peachtree Rock, to the ACE Basin and Sandy Island—we take great pride in our successes and invite you to celebrate them with us.

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SANTEE RIVER © TOM BLAGDEN, JR.

### THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S MISSION

*The Nature Conservancy's mission is to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.*

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At the same time, we know we must work harder, faster and smarter to accomplish our mission. We face tremendous growth in South Carolina and are in a critical time of transition. We rank 10th in the nation in the rate of conversion of farmland and forestland to urban use. Huge tracts of timberland—close to 2 million acres in our state—are currently for sale. While much will stay in timber production, a great deal of this land is prime for rapid, dense development, putting significant habitats at risk.

Thank you for the part you have played in our 25 years of conservation work in South Carolina. Your efforts and support have enabled us to protect these precious landscapes. Now, more than ever, I ask you to play a continuing role by sustaining your commitment as we look ahead to the next 25 years of preserving important natural legacies for future generations.



*Mark L. Robertson*

Mark L. Robertson  
Executive Director

# save the date January 16-April 25, 2004

## in response to place

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM  
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S  
LAST GREAT PLACES



CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE TREE, MOYER SLOUGH, COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE © KAREN HALVERSON

12 PHOTOGRAPHERS • 48 PHOTOGRAPHS  
50 YEARS OF CELEBRATING THE ENVIRONMENT

Gibbes Museum of Art • Charleston, SC

In celebration of The Nature Conservancy's 50th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the Conservancy's South Carolina chapter, the Gibbes Museum of Art will host an exhibition of photographs showcasing the majesty of the natural world.

*In Response to Place* features 48 photographs of The Nature Conservancy's "Last Great Places," ecologically important areas around the world. Twelve renowned photographers were invited to participate, each selecting a place the Conservancy helps protect, and record their response to that place on film. Annie Leibovitz and William Wegman are among the featured photographers.

In conjunction with *In Response to Place* the Gibbes Museum of Art will feature several exhibitions that offer a Lowcountry perspective on the nature theme. The shows include: *In Love with the Lowcountry: Photographs* by Tom Blagden, Jr. and Michael Johnson; *Places and Spaces: Landscape and Genre Scenes of the South*; and *Landscape and Nature in Japanese Wood-block Prints*, curated by Barbara Duval.

Members of The Nature Conservancy will receive a reduced admission price to the Gibbes Museum of Art throughout the month of February when they present this flyer at the front desk of the museum.

# fall 2003 field trips

## Friday, September 19

### Brookgreen Gardens Creek Excursion

9:30–11:30 a.m.

*Trip Leaders: Brookgreen Gardens and Pam Ferral, Conservancy Winyah Bay Project Director*

Take an hour's cruise through long-abandoned rice plantations on a 48-foot pontoon boat where you'll see alligators, waterfowl and ospreys. An interpreter will guide you through the distinctive landscape where you'll learn the history of the rice crop and the cooperative partnership between Brookgreen Gardens and The Nature Conservancy. Spend the rest of the day exploring the gardens on your own.

\$20 per person. Limit 45.

Register Trip #T091903

Reservation deadline 9/12/03

## Saturday, October 4

### Black River Paddle

10 a.m.–2 p.m.

*Trip leader: Black Water Adventures*

Kayak 3.5 hours on the scenic and historic Black River in Georgetown County. This stream was frequented by General Francis Marion, a.k.a. "The Swamp Fox", during his campaign against the British. Enjoy an easy paddle as you view Black River swamp forest as well as the rare Sarvis Holly and False Dragon Head.

\$45 per person. Limit 30.

Fee includes kayak, personal flotation device, paddle, guide and shuttle service. Barbecue lunch available for \$10 per person.

To register, call Black Water Adventures at (843) 761-1850, or visit [www.blackwateradventure.com](http://www.blackwateradventure.com). Reservation deadline 9/20/03

## Saturday, October 18

### Congaree Bluffs Hike

9 a.m.–noon

*Trip leaders: Ann Darr and Chris Judge of the Department of Natural Resources, Mark Robertson, SC State Director, and Tom Hughes of Congaree Land Trust.*

This easy hike rewards you with an awesome view of the Congaree Swamp National Monument where you'll see across Richland County to the Wateree River. Explore archaeological and historical sites with abundant and diverse plant life.

\$15 per person. Limit 20.

Register Trip #T101803,

Reservation deadline 10/10/03

## Saturday, October 18

### Raven Cliff Falls near Caesars Head Hike

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

*Trip leader: Dr. Doug Rayner*

Dr. Rayner, renowned South Carolina botanist, will lead a strenuous hike to the falls. The adjacent 2,076 acres were protected by The Nature Conservancy in 1980–1981. This is one of the most spectacular and rugged areas of the South Carolina mountains, and you are sure to enjoy the colors of autumn.

\$15 per person. Limit 20.

Register Trip #T101903

Reservation deadline 10/10/03

## Saturday & Sunday,

### October 18–19

#### Sewee to Santee Sea Kayaking Trip

9 a.m.

*Trip leader: Rock Rest Adventures*

A two-day trip to explore the most remote salt marshes of this region, as well as a day paddling through a bottomland hardwood swamp and old abandoned rice fields of a coastal river. Time permitting, there will be a hike through a long-leaf pine ecosystem. Lodging is available at a local bed and breakfast.

\$187–\$320 per person depending on lodging choice. Limit 10.

To register, call Rock Rest Adventures at (919) 542-5502, or visit [www.rockrest.com](http://www.rockrest.com). Reservation deadline 10/3/03

## Saturday, October 25

### Brookgreen Gardens Art & Nature Tour

9:30–11:30 a.m.

*Trip leaders: Brookgreen Gardens and Pam Ferral, Conservancy Winyah Bay Project Director*

This in-depth guided tour provides an overview of Brookgreen's fascinating history, sculpture and plants. This is a place filled with beauty and inspiration. Learn about the cooperative partnership between Brookgreen Gardens and The Nature Conservancy and have the rest of the day to explore on your own.

\$15 per person. Limit 20.

Register Trip #T102503

Reservation deadline 10/17/03

## Saturday, October 25

### Jocassee Pontoon & Kayak Trip

9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

*Trip leader: Black Water Adventures*

Take a 4-hour guided pontoon and kayak tour of beautiful Lake Jocassee to Toxaway River in South Carolina's western highcountry. With 7,500 acres of emerald green water and 75 miles of shoreline, including waterfalls and swift mountain streams, there's plenty to explore.

\$65 per person, includes lunch. Limit 30.

To register, call Black Water Adventures at (843) 761-1850, or visit [www.blackwateradventure.com](http://www.blackwateradventure.com). Reservation deadline: 10/10/03

## Saturday, November 1

### ACE Basin Paddle

9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

*Trip leaders: Black Water Adventures and Outpost Moe's*

The Conservancy calls the "ACE" one of the last great places worth saving. Join us for a half-day paddle tour and see why.

\$50 per person, includes lunch. Limit 50.

To register, call Black Water Adventures at (843) 761-1850, or visit [www.blackwateradventure.com](http://www.blackwateradventure.com). Reservation deadline 10/17/03

## Saturday, November 1

### Sandy Island Boat Trip & Hike

10:00 a.m.–2 p.m.

*Trip leaders: Pam Ferral and Furman Long, Conservancy Winyah Bay Project, and John Nelson, University of South Carolina Botanist*

Enjoy an easy boat ride down the Waccamaw River to Sandy Island, considered "the jewel in the crown" of the Winyah Bay. Explore the natural beauty of the island with expert guides.

\$45 per person. Limit 40.

Register Trip #T110103

Reservation deadline 10/20/03

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(Continued from pg. 3)

**Saturday & Sunday, November 8-9**  
**Jocassee Gorges Sea Kayaking & Hiking Trip**  
**9 a.m.**

*Trip leader: Rock Rest Adventures*

Join this inspirational, two-day hiking and sea kayaking trip in North and South Carolina. The first day will be spent hiking the Gorges and exploring the many waterfalls and beautiful vistas in the area. The second day will consist of a sea kayaking expedition on Lake Jocassee to explore the Gorges from a different perspective. Lodging is available at a local bed and breakfast.

\$187-\$320 per person depending on lodging choice. Limit 10.

To register, call Rock Rest Adventures at (919) 542-5502, or visit [www.rockrest.com](http://www.rockrest.com).  
Reservation deadline 10/24/03

**Wednesday, November 12**  
**ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge Hike**  
**10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

*Trip leader: Joe Hamilton, Conservancy Project Director of ACE Basin & South Lowcountry*

This easy 3-hour hike traverses several walking trails through wildlife food plots, a greentree reservoir, and along the dikes of the waterfowl impoundments (once rice fields). There will be ample habitat types and potential sightings of wildlife, particularly waterfowl and wading birds.

\$15 per person. Limit 20.  
Register Trip #T111203,  
Reservation deadline 10/31/03

**Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 6-7**  
**ACE Basin Sea Kayaking Trip**  
**9 a.m.**

*Trip leader: Rock Rest Adventures*

Join Rock Rest Adventures on a two-day sea kayaking trip along Ashepoo, Combaheee and Edisto River channels. Plenty of time has been set aside for birdwatching, photography and general wildlife viewing. Lodging is available at a local bed and breakfast.

\$187-\$320 per person depending on lodging choice. Limit 10.

To register, call Rock Rest Adventures at (919) 542-5502, or visit [www.rockrest.com](http://www.rockrest.com)  
Reservation deadline 11/21/03



CAESARS HEAD: RAVEN CLIFF FALLS HIKE © TOM BLAGDEN, JR.

*Detailed information with meeting place directions and what to bring will be sent prior to your trip. To register for trips hosted by the Conservancy, complete the sign-up form below and mail it with your check to The Nature Conservancy of South Carolina. Registration is limited to ensure the highest quality trip with minimal impact to the site. NO REFUNDS. For further information contact Monte Parsons at [mparsons@tnc.org](mailto:mparsons@tnc.org), call (803) 254-9049 ext 13 or visit [www.nature.org/southcarolina](http://www.nature.org/southcarolina).*

**Please register the following for**  
**The Nature Conservancy of South Carolina's Fall Field Trips:**

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Trip no. \_\_\_\_\_

Trip fee \$\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ number registered = \$\_\_\_\_\_ total enclosed.

Make checks payable to The Nature Conservancy of South Carolina and mail to:  
P. O. Box 5475, Columbia, SC 29250-5475. Registration confirmation and trip details  
will be mailed to you upon receipt. **Questions? Contact Monte Parsons at**  
**(803) 254-9049, ext 13 or [mparsons@tnc.org](mailto:mparsons@tnc.org).**



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**nature.org**

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