

Coastal Conservation League

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Confronting the Future

by Dana Beach, Executive Director

“The past is never dead. It’s not even past.”

– *William Faulkner*

In predicting the future, the most important consideration is humility. It is tempting, and perhaps a fundamental human error, to imagine the future entirely different from the present. Visions of flying cars, nutrition from pills, cities rising like stalagmites out of a network of elevated highways and monorails, energy from nuclear fusion, efficient, wise and competent government – these images have adorned world fairs, technology trade shows, architecture and urban planning classes, and cartoons since the 1930s.

And yet, day after day, year after year, decade after decade, reality relentlessly exerts its magnetic pull toward the mean; the future unfolds inexorably like the present.

Except...that every now and then something hits us over our collective head – terrorists launch a successful attack, a political scandal is uncovered, the economy melts down, the planet warms up, the train runs off the track. We rise momentarily from the grindstone and look around. We ask serious questions – about the nature of prosperity, the possibility of endless expansion, the obligations of a civil society, our responsibility to subsequent generations and the biosphere. And then, inevitably, we stop. We refocus on the grindstone and, perhaps with a slight adjustment,

we return to the quotidian.

This is the way things work, and it is the reality we must confront as we move from past to present to future. But it should inform us as we choose a path forward.

What can we know about the future? And what should we do? To the former, the answer is, surely, very little but that the future will tend toward the present, except when there are shocks to the system, when our mooring is pulled loose, when the window momentarily opens and a fresh gust of civic enlightenment blows through the room. These are critical points in history, when society can learn, when things can change, when the future can, but may not, depart beneficially from the past.

These moments are essentially unpredictable and they are difficult to make sense of. So the answer to what we should do is to prepare as best we can, pay close attention and take advantage of them when they occur. This requires a high degree of humility in the face of history.

Humility is learned later than other traits, and sometimes never. Young people are notoriously oblivious to it, as are politicians, athletes and some economists. But humility represents an integral



form of wisdom. Without it, we are doomed to fundamentally misunderstand the world and our options in it.

Here is an apparent paradox, because humility would seem to preclude, or at least discourage, vision. Visions are often described as “bold” or “ambitious” . . . not exactly humble stuff.

But vision, properly conceived, is as essential as humility. The road to reform is littered with organizations that lack vision and instead have only processes and operational guidelines. They do certain things, but they are agnostic about where these things will lead.

It is especially challenging to combine vision, especially of the bold and ambitious variety, with humility. We are better served by visions that are thoughtful, compassionate, clear and holistic, that can help us chart direction, but allow us to approach them through many paths. Vision should be aspirational and inspirational, rather than prescriptive or ideological. The best combination would then be clear vision guided by a respectful understanding of history and humility in the face of future uncertainty.

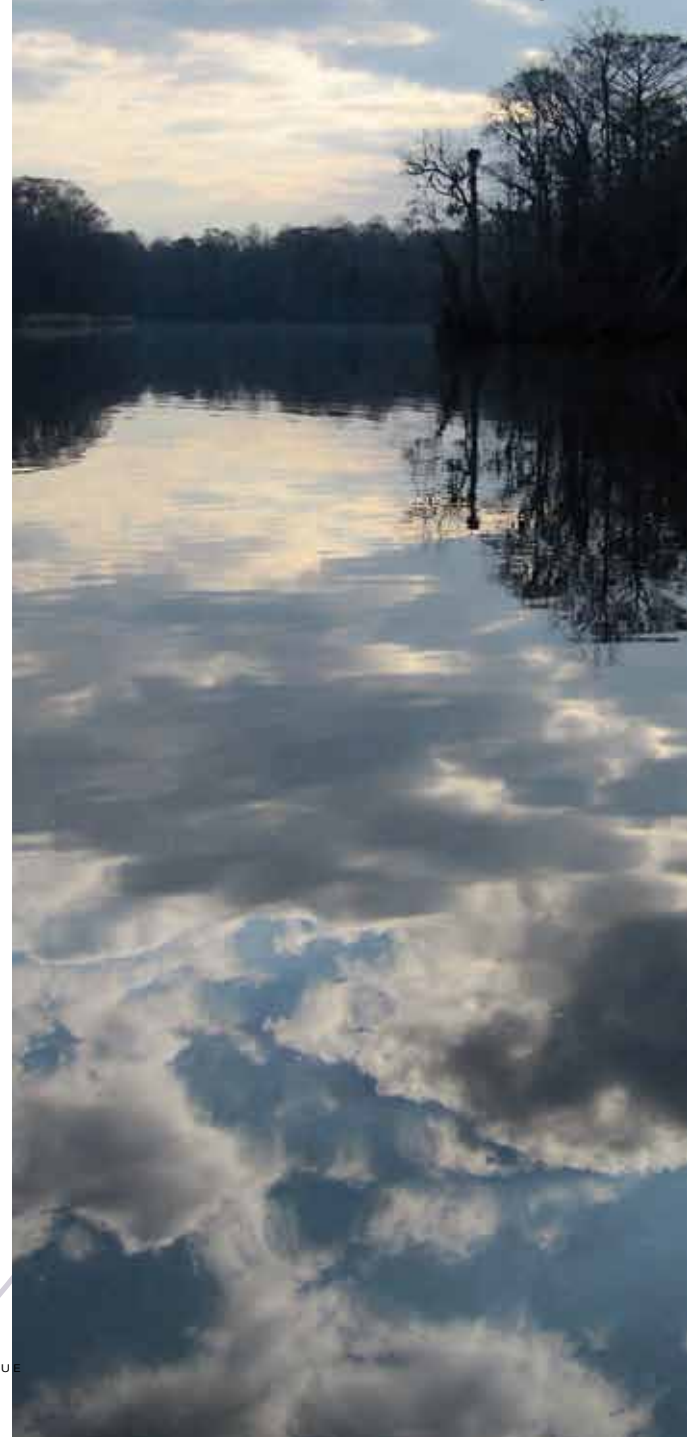
One more observation is in order. Of the thousands of decisions that are made by individuals, businesses, elected officials, and administrators, a few dozen will have inordinately important impacts on the future. It is easy to become distracted by the avalanche of things that have little long-term or broad meaning.

So, given the pull to the mean of history, the unpredictability of future events, and the overwhelming number of decisions to be made, how can an organization like the Coastal Conservation League – with its limited resources – act most effectively?

We must focus on those key events that will largely shape the future – events like the creation of a national park system, the construction of a light rail line, the protection of a keystone parcel of land, the banning of a systemic pesticide, the establishment of permanent funding for conservation, the raising of home energy efficiency standards. We must lay the groundwork for change and prepare for those moments when communities will be most receptive, knowing that we cannot predict when or in what form those moments will emerge.

In the following pages, we humbly put forth a vision for the future of the Lowcountry, along with a sampling of the critical tasks we must accomplish as a community to make this vision a reality.

We must lay the groundwork for change and prepare for those moments when communities will be most receptive, knowing that we cannot predict when or in what form those moments will emerge.



vision

Translating Vision Into Action

by Megan Desrosiers, Director of Conservation Programs

The Coastal Conservation League's vision has evolved over the past 20 years, but it is still essentially consistent with our founding principles. First, it is a vision of a place, a region in three dimensions, where the spatial distribution of land uses is a critical component of a healthy future. We envision a coast where working farms and forests, marshes, rivers, and swamps are protected through planning, zoning, infrastructure policy, public funding for land conservation, and a private commitment to conservation.

Towns and cities should develop in patterns that use land wisely, that promote efficient and equitable transportation options, with an emphasis on walking, biking and transit. Freight should move in and out of our metropolitan regions in ways that do not compromise human health and transportation. We believe this requires a particular focus on railroads.

The ecological and recreational health of coastal rivers and streams should not be compromised when cities and industries withdraw water for municipal and industrial uses. Energy should first be saved, through aggressive conservation and efficiency measures, and then produced using the most responsible and appropriate technologies available.

Today, we are engaging on a dozen key fronts. Boeing's announcement of a new aircraft assembly plant has opened the door in Charleston for a broader discussion of transportation, and for the first time, the region is seriously contemplating a light rail system. Beaufort and Jasper Counties have had a reprieve from the ravages of the pre-2008 "Ponzi era" real estate schemes, and the alarm has been sounded over the closure of oyster beds south of the Broad River. In response, the Conservation League has presented a land use agenda that, if adopted, could secure a healthy future for the May, New and Okatie watersheds.

Rural South Carolina has suffered even more than the rest of the state from the economic downturn. The League is working with a coalition of groups on an initiative called One South Carolina, which would comprehensively promote higher incomes for rural families

We envision a coast where working farms and forests, marshes, rivers, and swamps are protected through planning, zoning, infrastructure policy, public funding for land conservation, and a private commitment to conservation.

through enhanced agricultural and forestry operations and stronger connections to in-state metropolitan markets. This initiative would preserve wealth, especially for the rural poor, through energy efficiency upgrades and the conservation of a working land base throughout the state.

For South Carolina, and for the nation, efficiency is the non-negotiable basis for energy policy. Our state is also well positioned to benefit from the thoughtful development of renewable energy sources – like wind, solar and biomass – and from shifting to cleaner fossil fuels like natural gas. Last year's victory over the proposed Pee Dee coal plant has cleared the way for a more comprehensive assessment of the needs and opportunities for South Carolina's energy future.

In the coming decade, South Carolina will be either the beneficiary or the victim of its history. Vision, humility, vigilance, perseverance and opportunism – these are the building blocks for the coming decade. Properly deployed, they can help guide our beautiful, but challenged, state toward a future that draws responsibly on our cultural and natural assets.



Critical Tasks Ahead

Safeguard a Clean and Ample Water Supply

Bluffton Township Watershed Plan

The greater Bluffton area is defined by its waterways and marshes, but water quality in the area's rivers is declining. An increase in storm water runoff has accompanied rapid development and it is becoming clear that conventional, engineered solutions are not enough to fix the problem. The dominant pattern of sprawl development brings with it a high ratio of impervious surfaces. When impervious surfaces – such as rooftops, paved parking lots and roadways – reach 10% of land area in a watershed, the health of the waterways diminishes, resulting, for example, in the closure of oyster beds.

Already, impervious surfaces in the watersheds of the Okatie and May Rivers exceed the 10% threshold. In response, Conservation League staff in the Beaufort office and Land Use division developed the Bluffton Township Watershed Plan, which they have presented to town planners, Beaufort County Council, and the Bluffton Planning Commission. The plan maximizes undisturbed



Paul Nurnberg

Okatie River Threatened – Looking south, where Hwy. 278 spans the headwaters of the Okatie River.

natural landscape and vegetation and minimizes impervious surfaces, employing traditional neighborhood design principles that replace sprawl development.

However, despite portions of the May River being closed to shellfish harvesting last fall, combined with a 15-year-long closure of oyster beds in the Okatie, the Town of Bluffton continues to propose new developments directly adjacent to fragile headwaters in the Okatie. All told, planned development across the May, Okatie and New watersheds will bring 22,000 more housing units to southern Beaufort County, along with significant commercial development. The result will be hundreds more acres of impervious surface in these fragile watersheds, amounting to a collective development footprint never before seen on the South Coast.

It is not too late to save these rivers. In fact, the May and Okatie are both classified as Outstanding Resource Waters, the highest water quality rating in South Carolina. The Conservation League will continue to familiarize key stakeholders with the watershed plan and promote its adoption and implementation by town and county officials. [For more information, contact Garrett Budds at garrettb@sccl.org or 843-522-1800.]

State Water Withdrawal Permitting Program

While most states have surface water permitting programs, South Carolina does not. The severe drought that plagued our state for the last decade has brought water issues to the forefront. We must improve our weak, poorly enforced water regulations by passing new legislation governing



S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources

The severe drought that plagued South Carolina for the last decade has brought water issues to the forefront.

surface withdrawals that will provide certainty to residents, businesses and utilities that ample water supplies will be available in the future.

Almost every river in South Carolina flows through North Carolina and Georgia before reaching our borders, meaning these neighboring states have first crack at the water resources so critical to our economy and environment. Presently, South Carolina is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to equitably divide the Catawba River between South and North Carolina.

Meanwhile, there are numerous conflicts over water usage along the Savannah River that will require serious negotiations, if not legal action, to protect South Carolina's interests. But, due to the lack of a state withdrawal permitting program and the absence of any precedence for meaningful water management, South Carolina is at a

significant disadvantage in current interstate negotiations and court cases.

As a result, the Conservation League is working with state lawmakers on water management legislation in the General Assembly that would require permits for all surface water withdrawals of more than three million gallons per month. The proposed bill – S.452 – recently passed out of the Senate and is now being taken up in the House.

S.452 is an important first step in managing South Carolina's water resources. It will help prevent future droughts and discourage other states from depleting our water supply. *[For more information, contact Patrick Moore at patrickm@sccl.org or 803-771-7102.]*



S.C. Department of Natural Resources

Long Overdue – Go to the League Web site to contact your state representatives and urge them to support water withdrawal legislation.

Support and Rejuvenate our Rural Economy

A John's Island Vision

John's Island has experienced unprecedented growth and development during the last two decades. Concern is widespread that without adequate land use and

development regulations, the sea island's scenic roadways, pristine natural surroundings and agricultural and cultural heritage will be forever changed. The key goal is to create a code that will protect the unique character of John's

Island while continuing to allow the island to grow.

A group of island leaders and activists, with the help of the Conservation League, is forming a steering committee to create a holistic, comprehensive plan for the future of John's Island, with concrete goals and incremental measures of success. The plan will address transportation issues, land development, historic and cultural resources, economics and quality of life. The committee is currently doing research and compiling background information necessary to create this shared vision. The final product will be presented to the wider community to solicit input and develop a united vision for John's Island's future.

Currently, the steering committee is developing a transportation plan to promote safety and enforcement, as well as improve local intersections. In conjunction with this effort, the



Kate Parks

Cultural Heritage – The remains of the Progressive Club, a center for voting rights advocacy and activism on John's Island during the 1960s. The site has been designated by the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor as worthy of preservation.

Concerned Citizens of the Sea Islands have sponsored a petition that asks for better law enforcement on John's Island roads. Safety is a number one concern of island residents and the Conservation League supports this petition as a good first step in the creation of a comprehensive transportation plan. To access the petition, go to www.thepetitionsite.com/1/fixourroadsfirst. [For more information, contact Kate Parks at katep@sccl.org or 843-725-1290.]

One South Carolina

Strong rural communities and strong urban centers are critical to South Carolina's economy. To this end, the Conservation League is working with several conservation partners to reconnect the farms and forests that harbor South Carolina's natural and historic resources to our thriving metropolitan areas – to reignite and nurture the flow of commerce and culture between our cities and countryside. Our future lies in resolving the stark performance differences between rural and urban; it means becoming one South Carolina instead of two.

One South Carolina is a new initiative to improve the circumstances

of our rural areas. The initiative focuses on raising wealth and building and sustaining income – by enhancing the value and performance of rural homes and businesses; by increasing income from agricultural and forest-related enterprises, and by stabilizing the rural land base through voluntary conservation measures.

The core of the initiative is a state fund that will provide the following:

- Seed funding for agricultural and forestry investments, such as product marketing plans, food processing facilities, value-adding uses for forest products, plans for renewable energy production, farmers' markets, agricultural and forestry equipment upgrades, and funding for land conservation;
- Loans and grants for energy efficiency improvements for homes and businesses.

One South Carolina would provide funding to keep our state's best farmland, productive forests, critical flood control and drinking water areas, important wildlife habitats, cultural and historical sites, scenic vistas, and recreation areas functioning and working successfully. Not only would this allow rural landowners to retain and utilize important land, it would



Josh Martin

Revitalizing Rural Communities – The flow of commerce between rural communities and urban centers is vital to South Carolina.

infuse communities with badly needed funds to recapitalize their economies.

A state commitment of this kind has the potential to leverage billions of dollars worth of public and private investment in rural South Carolina. The goal is to build rural communities that are stable and prosperous, and that work in unison with urban communities towards a better quality of life for all. [For more information, contact Dana Beach at danabeach@sccl.org or 843-723-7016.]

Establish Local Food Networks



Steve Gregg

Community Supported Farms

Since the fall of 2007, the Conservation League has been working with Lowcountry Local First, a local chapter of the national organization Business Alliance for Local Living Economies, to create a sustainable agriculture program in the Lowcountry. The two organizations are working

Connecting Growers with Consumers – (l-r) Sara Reynolds, farmer and owner of Marshview Farm, with her aunt, Ruth Reynolds.

together on a broad, long-term initiative which will address the need for such changes as increased ease of distribution of local and regional products, improved local meat processing, year-round availability of regional farmers markets, and enhancement of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). In addition, the Conservation League has joined with the S.C. Department of Agriculture to promote its Fresh on the Menu initiative.

Today, Charleston County is home to several CSA farms, where local residents can purchase shares of a harvest at the start of the growing season and enjoy weekly deliveries of freshly picked vegetables and fruits, and in some cases, local eggs and other dairy and meat products. In addition, a host of restaurants and chefs in the area have joined Fresh on the Menu – sourcing at least 25% of their food from local growers within South Carolina.

Georgetown County is also rich in small, traditional farms, yet many local food producers are relatively unknown to residents and food purveyors. In partnership with the S.C. Department of Agriculture, the Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District, Lowcountry Local First and the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation, the Conservation League is working to enhance Farmers Markets and Certified Roadside Stands in the area, enroll local restaurants in the Fresh on the Menu program, and make consumers aware of the variety and quality of locally produced food available to them.

The first CSA operation established



Wade Spees

Market Potential – *A central distribution warehouse for local farmers would provide reliability, convenience and quality assurance for the wholesale and retail market.*

in Beaufort County was the Marshview Community Organic Farm, which has been in Sara Reynold's family for over a century. Participants in the Marshview CSA – either as shareholders or simply volunteers – connect to the seasons of their food. They learn what makes or breaks a harvest, when it makes sense to eat eggplant, and how to preserve food.

Marshview also distinguishes itself through its program of teaching young people on St. Helena Island about the value of farming, how to run a business, and cooking healthy meals at home.

[For more information, contact Cathy Forrester at cathyf@sccl.org or 843-577-9034.]

Central Distribution Markets

In the quest to strengthen the local food economy, one of the greatest obstacles is the lack of an adequate distribution network. An effective distribution system for locally grown food would provide the reliability, convenience and quality assurance that consumers – especially wholesale buyers, restaurateurs and chefs – need. In turn, a good distribution system would expand the market for local foods and save farmers valuable time and fuel.

To address this challenge, the Conservation League, with the support of the Ceres Foundation, is working to establish a central distribution market and warehouse in metropolitan Charleston to serve growers and consumers within a 100-mile radius of the city. Such a facility would provide safe, sanitary storage and a central drop-off point for farmers to deliver their local produce once a week. Operating as a nonprofit, the warehouse would conduct marketing and distribution of its local food inventory, targeting wholesale buyers at first. A retail sales component would be added later.

Modeled on successful initiatives in other states – such as the Local Food Hub of Charlottesville, Va. – a Charleston distribution market and warehouse would provide the missing link between local food growers and large-scale consumers like grocery stores, institutions and restaurants. Such a model could then be duplicated in other South Carolina communities where there is market potential between local growers and wholesale buyers. [For more information, contact Cathy Forrester at cathyf@sccl.org or 843-577-9034.]



Wade Spees

Promote Sound Town Planning and Transportation Policy

Ridgeland Smart Code

The Town of Ridgeland in Jasper County is on the cutting edge of growth planning in the region. Ridgeland will be one of the first municipalities in South Carolina to adopt a Smart Code for their entire town. Thanks to the town's foresight and the Conservation League's assistance in drafting a new zoning code, Ridgeland will grow in the same traditional town pattern upon which it was originally founded – an exception to the destructive pattern of sprawl that has dominated our landscape for the last 50 years.

Communities throughout the nation are recognizing the long-term problems associated with sprawl and many are looking to what are called “form-based codes” to fix what is broken. Such zoning codes, like the one Ridgeland has adopted, are based on the different types of neighborhood structures, or forms, that have traditionally evolved to serve a community's needs – such as Main Street business districts, dense residential neighborhoods, civic zones, natural zones, rural crossroads, and farms and family compounds, to name a few. These time-tested forms are durable, adaptable and sustainable; and



Josh Martin

A Model for Growth – Traditional neighborhood design is durable, adaptable and sustainable; and provides an ideal model for future growth.

they provide an ideal model for future growth.

As the population in Jasper County is expected to quadruple within the next ten years, the county and its municipalities are beginning to realize that current, conventional zoning codes are not only inadequate to address a community's complex needs, but also wasteful and inefficient – consuming land at a rate of eight acres per new resident. With its new Smart Code in place, Ridgeland will be better prepared for change and growth, while at the same time maintaining its unique identity. [For more information, contact Andrea Malloy at andream@sccl.org or 843-522-1800.]

Light Rail for Metropolitan Charleston

With a new Boeing assembly plant coming to North Charleston, proposed port expansions along the Cooper River, establishment of a wind turbine testing facility at the Charleston Navy Base,

and escalating pollution and gridlock along Interstate 26, the time is right and ripe for light rail in metropolitan Charleston.

Ripe, because federal funding to the tune of a 90% match is currently available. And right, for a whole host of reasons: efficiency, convenience, jobs, public health and the environment, to name a few. Already, the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments has identified the I-26 corridor from Summerville to downtown Charleston as a commuter rail transit corridor. Yet, to fully meet the transportation needs of this region, we must take that recommendation a step further and advocate for light rail instead.

While commuter rail runs on diesel fuel and uses existing train tracks and train cars for commutes of long distances with few stops, light rail uses smaller and lighter weight vehicles – powered by electricity – that are more flexible in where they can travel and operate. Light rail uses independent



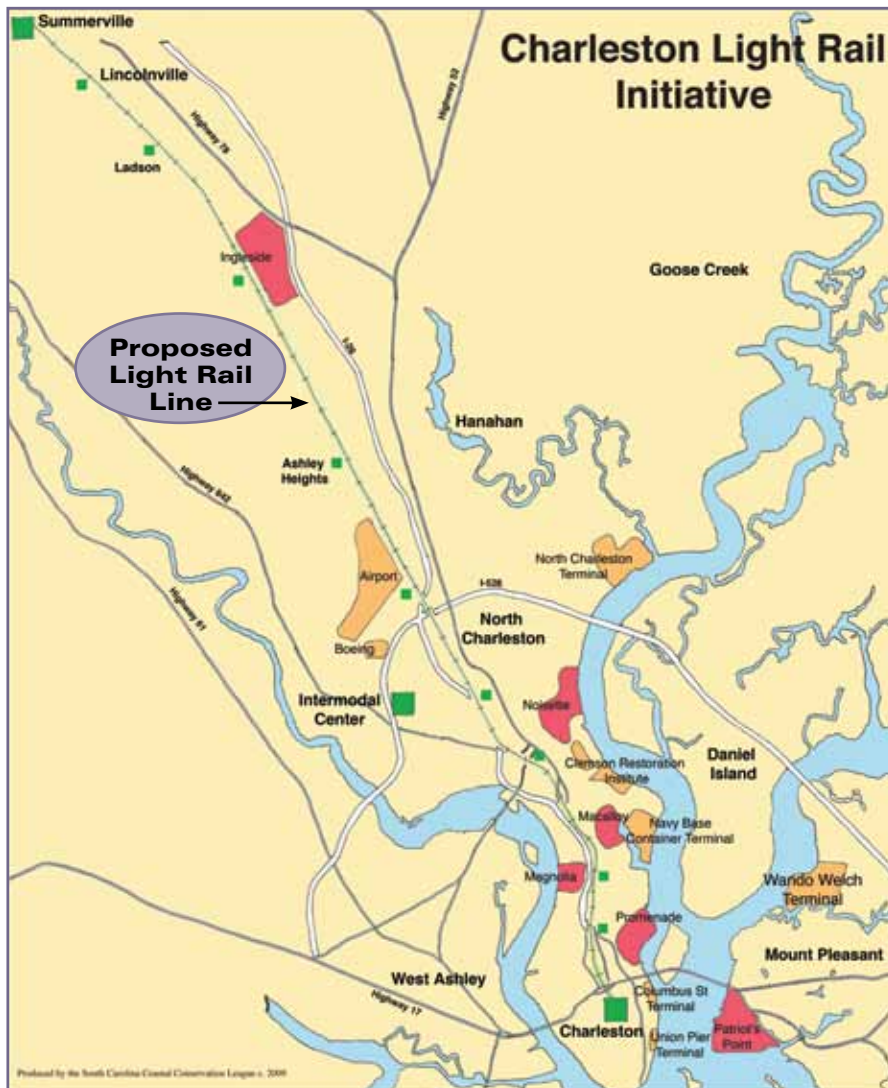
Josh Martin

The Jasper County Courthouse in Ridgeland.

tracks and makes more frequent stops while still maintaining an overall high speed. And because light rail makes multiple stops, more people can use it to go to the grocery store, the doctor's office, and to run errands, in addition to commuting for work.

Not only does light rail reduce traffic congestion and pollution, it also encourages compact, infill growth around existing areas of commercial and residential development. By contrast, commuter rail tends to promote sprawl-type development, far from population centers.

Metropolitan Charleston's business community and Chamber of Commerce support light rail for the region. Due to the heightened interest in this public transit option, the Conservation League is funding a light rail study by a University of Miami Transportation and Urban Design team, led by noted architect and urban planner Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk. They will examine the feasibility and economic and environmental impacts of constructing a light rail line between downtown Summerville and the Charleston Visitors Center. [For more information, contact Josh Martin at joshm@sccl.org or 843-725-1291.]



Josh Martin

Light Rail is the Way to Go – Metropolitan Charleston's business community and Chamber of Commerce support a light rail line between Summerville, North Charleston and Charleston.



Virginia Beach

Clean Air is a Birthright
Rep. Wendell Gilliard (D-Charleston), facing camera at center, discusses air quality concerns with (l-r) Dana Beach, Katie Zimmerman and Randall Goldman in the lobby of the State House.

Protect Clean Air for a Healthy Citizenry

Reversing Dangerous Pollution Levels

The Conservation League is working to ensure that children and adults living along the South Carolina coast are not exposed to harmful levels of industrial air toxins in their communities, especially around schools. Specifically, the League has asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to test the air in likely toxic hot spots and require clean-up of industrial emissions to secure the health and safety of our citizens.

Based on EPA models, several schools in North Charleston are predicted to have harmful levels of air toxins outside. The schools near the former Navy Base are in close proximity to industrial sites, and are ranked among the worst in the nation by a recent study. In fact, every school in North Charleston is ranked within the top tenth percentile for likely air toxins.

For example, EPA testing revealed elevated levels of acrolein in the air around Chicora Elementary School

in North Charleston. Acrolein is a chemical that in a more potent form was used as a chemical weapon in World War I. Chicora was one of 15 schools across the country where EPA identified elevated levels of air toxins. The federal agency will continue to test for other harmful chemicals in the air around Chicora.

Meanwhile, the Conservation League is keeping the news media and general public informed about threats to public health from industrial emissions. Ultimately, EPA and DHEC must take swift action to require industries to reduce harmful emissions, especially in neighborhoods where families live and work and go to school. [For more information, contact Nancy Vinson at nancyv@sccl.org or 843-725-2056.]

A Prosperous and Clean Port

The Conservation League recently released a study it commissioned from Massachusetts based Abt Associates, which revealed that health impacts of port pollution could cost Charleston residents up to \$81 million per year. Health impacts include asthma, chronic and acute bronchitis, non-fatal heart attacks, and death from cancer, cardiovascular disease and other ailments linked to fine particle pollution emanating from Charleston port operations. The League commissioned the Abt study after Charleston County received a failing grade (F) from the American Lung Association for the third consecutive year, and as the State Ports Authority (SPA) seeks to double port capacity.



Virginia Beach

MSC Rita – More and more mega ships like Panama’s MSC Rita (above on left) will be burning bunker fuel when docked at the Port of Charleston. While unloading and loading cargo, these ships must run their engines – since SPA does not provide plug-in power stations – thus emitting as much pollution as 350,000 cars during a typical stay.

Using SPA emissions data, the report found that a new container terminal planned at the former Navy Base in North Charleston would account for as much as \$27 million in annual medical expenses, and that the existing terminals would account for up to \$54 million in health care related costs by 2025. It also determined that if ships switch to cleaner, low-sulfur fuel as expected, the \$81 million figure would drop to \$36 million. Studies conducted by the SPA did not even take into account diesel emissions from trucks traveling to the county line or cruising emissions from ships coming and going into port – the two largest sources of fine particle pollution.

The Conservation League has requested a meeting with port officials and legislators to create a road map for cleaning up port pollution – with specific recommendations for switching to cleaner ship fuels, using plug-in power stations while ships are in port, moving cargo in and out of port by rail rather than truck, and installing diesel particulate filters on trucks and port equipment.

For every \$1 spent on cleanup strategies such as these, Charleston can save an estimated \$35 in health care costs. And it doesn’t take long to see results. In just two years, the Port of Los Angeles has reduced its diesel truck particle pollution by 80%. [For more information, contact Nancy Vinson at nancyv@sccl.org or 843-725-2056.]



Make South Carolina a Leader in Efficiency and Renewables

Energy Efficiency Financing

South Carolina ranks fourth in the nation in electricity consumption per capita. The reason is simple. Most of our homes have leaky windows and doors, too little attic insulation and poorly installed HVAC ducts. A loan program currently proposed in the S.C. General Assembly would allow an electric co-op or investor-owned utility to perform a home energy audit, complete efficiency upfits, and recover the costs of the upfits with a fee on the home's electric bill. At the same time, the consumer would save money through lower utility costs.

The Electric Cooperatives of S.C. proposed this innovative legislation with the support of the Conservation League and it quickly gained sponsorship in the State House, also garnering endorsements from U.S. House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn and U.S. Senator Lindsay Graham. Passed by the S.C. House and Senate, the legislation allows electric cooperatives and municipal electric systems to offer financing to their residential customers for energy efficiency improvements.

The voluntary program would make loans available for weatherization, insulation, and upgrading to more efficient heating and cooling systems. The loan is then tied to the electric meter and stays with the property even upon transfer by the owner. While the homeowner repays it over time on his utility bill, the significant savings on electricity offset the monthly loan payments.

Public/Private Partnerships in Renewables

South Carolina has no coal or uranium deposits and lacks significant oil and gas resources. As a result, less than 2% of the energy South Carolina uses actually comes



Wind Hub in South Carolina – Due to abundant offshore wind resources and private and public investment, South Carolina is becoming an important offshore wind industrial center.

from the Palmetto State. Instead, we send more than 13 billion dollars every year to other states and foreign nations to import the rest. As a result, we will continue to miss out on valuable investment and job creation opportunities unless we begin to develop our domestic energy resources.

In fact, South Carolina has tremendous homegrown, renewable energy potential and one day, it may be feasible to power a significant portion of the state from our world-class offshore winds. A testament to the state's wind reserves was the announcement last fall of a \$45 million federal grant to jump-start a wind turbine testing facility at the former Charleston Naval Base for the world's largest offshore wind turbines. The federal grant is part of a \$98 million proposal organized by Clemson University and other partners within the state. Clemson officials described the project as the largest single research effort in the university's history.

The Conservation League played a supporting role in directing these Energy Department dollars to South Carolina.

The new wind facility will test the durability and performance of the latest mega-turbines and their drive trains. Such a facility will position South Carolina to become the permanent home to an offshore wind industrial cluster – with General Electric's massive turbine manufacturing plant near Greenville and several wind component manufacturers already operating in the state. For example, a German company called IMO Group announced on March 19th plans to open a 190-worker factory near Summerville to make circular metal rings that help a turbine spin. IMO chose Summerville due to its proximity to the new turbine testing facility at the former Navy Base. [For more information, contact Hamilton Davis at hamiltond@sccl.org or 843-725-2061.]

Q & A with Dr. William Prioleau



Would you tell us a little about your background?

I grew up in Charleston and graduated from the University of Virginia before going on to Johns Hopkins for medical school. I did my post graduate work at Duke and the Medical University of South Carolina. After a fellowship in England in cardiac surgery, I became a cardio-thoracic surgeon and practiced at Roper Hospital here in Charleston.

I retired in 1996 and in the following year, founded a free health clinic at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion in downtown Charleston. In my spare time, I enjoy practicing the piano and serving on the vestry of historic St. James Goose Creek Church, which is now undergoing a major restoration. I am also treasurer of the Charleston Lowcountry Rose Society.



How does your health clinic operate and what are the most common ailments you see?

Church of the Holy Communion operates a monthly food pantry and that's how I began to see the need for a free health clinic in the neighborhood. We serve mostly adults and are open two days a week. We also receive free medications from Pfizer and Merck pharmaceutical companies.

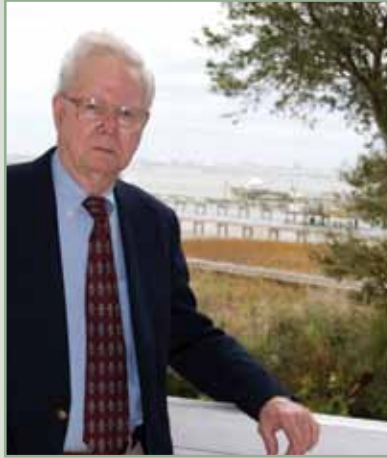
I focus on patients with high blood pressure, a condition which leads to many other complications and is closely connected to diabetes, high cholesterol, obesity and hardening of the arteries – chronic diseases that afflict our local population.



When and why did you begin working with the Coastal Conservation League on the problem of air pollution in Charleston?

Well, my wife, Patsy, taught history and English at Charleston Day School for many years and she would invite experts on different issues in the community to come speak to her classes. When it came to environmental matters, she contacted the Conservation League and through her discussions with League staff, I became aware of the fact that Charleston's air quality is not as good as people think.

Specifically, the Port of Charleston releases more fine particle pollution into our skies than any other industry or operation in the area. And because of my focus on the heart and the lungs, I am well aware of the



stress that this type of air pollution places on already vulnerable people, namely the poor and the elderly.



Why is fine particle pollution – the primary toxin in diesel exhaust – so dangerous to human health?

I see a lot of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in my practice and particle pollution is so fine that it can even pass through to the lungs, exacerbating breathing problems and inflammation.

In fact, once fine particle pollution gets into the lungs, it can then pass into the circulatory system and accelerate the clotting of the blood. The pollution works synergistically with chronic diseases like high blood pressure, high cholesterol and cardiovascular disease.

All these stresses on the system are compounded, and air pollution can create the tipping point that leads to stroke, heart attack, cancer and even mortality. The data bear this out quite clearly.



What has inspired you to speak out about port pollution, in particular?

People need to know that while the Port of Charleston provides many benefits to South Carolina, it is perhaps the largest unregulated source of air pollution in the state. The levels of fine particulate pollution emanating from port operations are already unsafe, which is unacceptable when you consider that the port is located in the middle of a densely populated metropolitan area.

No expansion of the Port of Charleston should occur until our taxpayer-funded port authority begins accurately monitoring air quality within the full radius of operations and begins implementation of clean technologies that are already in use at ports throughout the world. The risks to human health from fine particulate pollution and the costs to our health care system are too great to ignore this problem any longer.

[Dr. Prioleau is a recent recipient of the Charleston Regional Business Journal's "Health Care Hero" award for community outreach.]

5 Ways to GET ACTIVE in 2010

The Coastal Conservation League is now more active, in more areas of the state, and in more project arenas, than ever before. • We are innovating, and expanding our network, to realize bold new visions for the future of the coast, and beyond. And, the support of our members and activists is central to our success. • The League now offers more ways than ever to actively engage in our work and we urge you to **GET INVOLVED!**

1 Stay Current

Register your email address at www.coastalconservationleague.org and receive updates on your top causes.

“The challenge for all of us is how to protect the unique natural environments of the Lowcountry for future generations. The Conservation League provided great leadership in the development of the state’s first regulations governing bridges to marsh islands. I believe these regulations represent a great step forward.

“Specifically, in the Risher bridge application case near my home on Fripp Island, many of us felt that this little island represented the first challenge to the new

regulations. To us, this is about a very small “hummock,” or marsh island, that represents a very large principal – one that we felt was worth the challenge.

“In Beaufort County, there are more than 1,400 of these marsh islands and they are critical habitats to a great many species. We have worked closely with the League on this case, and are optimistic that the S.C. Supreme Court will rule in our favor.”

– Pete Richards, Fripp Island



2 Tell Your Story

Submit a personal account of your experience with the Conservation League, and let us post a profile of your relationship with us by emailing Dana Moorer at danam@sccl.org.

“I am very passionate when it comes to serving God and working in the Rosemont community. I was born in this community 57 years ago by a midwife and had two awesome parents. So I have very strong roots and ties here. I love Rosemont and the people that reside here. I truly enjoy being a community activist.

“Right now I want a good quality of life for all the residents that live here, especially when it comes to the environment. I have never met

a woman who is so educated and committed to her work as Nancy Vinson; plus she backs her work up with facts. She has truly been a blessing to us. She has educated me and the Rosemont community about air pollution and diesel fuel and the harm they cause to the human body.

“Not to mention our latest friend, Katie Zimmerman, whom I just met in the last year. What a smart young woman, who is



3 Raise Your Voice

Interact with other advocates and activists at upcoming League events. To view our event calendar, visit us at www.coastalconservationleague.org/get-involved/calendar. Also see the back page of this newsletter for our Outings & Events Calendar.

“As a citizen observer on the Southern Evacuation Lifeline Task Force (SELL), I was able to watch first-hand the politics behind this “developer’s road” – a road that will threaten the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge and open up western Horry and Georgetown Counties to sprawling development.

“There isn’t any money to continue the environmental study, but you never know when that will change. A call from the Conservation League and I will be going to meetings, writing letters to the editor, and calling elected officials to tell them not to ‘SELL’ us out. Say no to SELL!”
– Frances “Babe” Cone, Murrells Inlet



4 Support Your Cause

Become a member of the League today by visiting www.coastalconservationleague.org/membership and support the efforts that help maintain the quality of life in your area.

“As someone who has grown up in the Carolinas, I have watched the changes caused by unchecked development, pollution, and ineffective or non-existent environmental policy. My love of the natural environment and frustration with the lack of regulation is the reason I chose to pursue a career in environmental science and to join organizations such as the Coastal Conservation League.

“The League has provided me with a direct action group that values the opinions of young adults and gives everyone the opportunity to participate. As the Conservation League Campus Coordinator during my graduate program, I organized student lobby days, kayak trips, protests, and fundraisers. Even now, with little free time, it is easy to participate through letter writing campaigns, documentary screenings, and weekend trips.”

– Nikki Seibert,
College of Charleston alumna
(Masters of Environmental Studies graduate program)



also committed to environmental issues. These ladies do their homework environmentally, stay on top of the issues, and then inform me and the Rosemont community.

“We are truly blessed to have the Coastal Conservation League come aboard to help the Rosemont community. We thank God for all of you and everything that you have done for us in the past three years.”

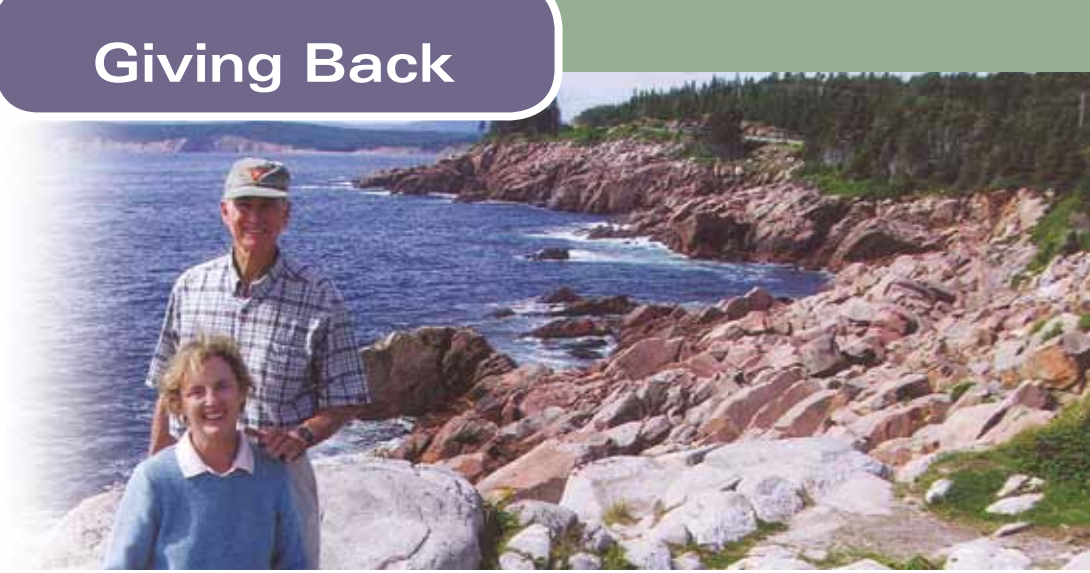
– Nancy Button, Rosemont Community, Charleston

5 Prepare for the Future

Learn how you can create a lasting legacy by participating in the League’s Planned Giving program, by visiting www.coastalconservationleague.org/support-us/planned-giving. Turn to the following page for more information on the League’s Coastal Legacy Society.

"We have been conservationists all our lives, and became particularly active with the campaign in the 1970s to establish the Congaree Swamp as a National Monument. We joined the Coastal Conservation League in its very first year because we hoped that it would be as effective in Lowcountry conservation as the Historic Charleston Foundation had been in urban preservation – and did we ever bet on the right horse! In its 20 years of existence, the Coastal Conservation League has exceeded our hopes (and wildest dreams) and we have provided for the League in our wills to help it continue past our lifetimes."

– Ellen and Mayo Read,
Wadmalaw Island



Support the Coastal Conservation League with a Lasting Legacy

As the Coastal Conservation League looks to the next 20 years, we are newly committed to our mission to protect the natural environment of the South Carolina coastal plain and to enhance the quality of life of our communities. To achieve this mission, we must creatively address funding challenges and deepen relationships with our valued supporters.

Across the nonprofit sector, bequests are an area of notable philanthropic growth, surpassing even corporate giving last year. Mature environmental organizations, comparable to the League, derive up to a quarter of their annual revenue from bequests. The League would like to work with its dedicated supporters to utilize this and other methods of planned giving.

Planned giving offers League supporters the opportunity to sustain efforts to protect the landscapes, waterways, and communities you love while meeting your current financial obligations. Smart and creative gift planning with us can help maximize your philanthropic giving and the benefits to you.

Please consider including the League in your estate planning by joining the **Coastal Legacy Society**. The Legacy Society is a group of supporters who have made a lasting contribution by including the Coastal Conservation League in their estate plans.

Coastal Legacy Society members receive all benefits associated with Live Oak Society membership, including:

- Access to Live Oak Society (Major Donor) events
- The League's award-winning quarterly newsletter
 - Name recognition in the newsletter

If you have already named the Coastal Conservation League in your estate plan, we would be honored to welcome you to the **Coastal Legacy Society**. Please contact Courtenay Speir at 843-723-9895 or courtenays@cccl.org to inform us of your intent to participate in this special program. (Donors are encouraged to seek the advice of an independent tax or financial advisor.)

[See page 19 of this newsletter for a complete listing of Coastal Legacy Society members.]



Dick Schmaltz Joins Board

We are pleased to announce that **Richard R. Schmaltz** has joined the board of the Coastal Conservation League. Dick and his wife, Joan, divide their time between homes in Rowayton, Connecticut and Spring Island, South Carolina. He serves on the board of the Spring Island Trust, as well as the board of the Spring Island Property Owners' Association.

Dick received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Colby College and is now a Trustee Emeritus of his alma mater. He has more than 40 years of investment industry experience and began his career with Morgan Stanley and Kidder Peabody. He also managed his own investment firm, Richard R. Schmaltz, Inc., for several years.

From 1993 to 1996, Dick was Director of Research at Neuberger & Berman and then in 1996, joined J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated as a Managing Director and Director of Investments. He also served as Chair of Seligman's Investment Policy Committee and a member of Seligman's Executive Committee.

In 2001, Dick took early retirement and in January 2004, rejoined the firm as Managing Director, Chief Investment Officer, and Head of Seligman's Core Investment Team. He also served as Portfolio Manager of Tri-Continental Corporation and Seligman Common Stock Fund, and Co-Portfolio Manager of Seligman Income and Growth Fund.

Welcome New Staff

Dennis Glaves has joined the Conservation League's legislative office in Columbia as Director of Government Relations. Dennis grew up on Florida's Gulf Coast where he spent most of his free time in and around the water. He graduated from Furman University with a degree in Business Administration and spent 33 years employed by a Fortune 50 telecommunications company, with the last 24 years spent in advocacy positions at the local, state and federal levels.

Dennis is active with several volunteer groups in the Beaufort area, where he and his wife, Holly Hook, have lived for many years. They enjoy traveling, photography, boating and the many outdoor activities that the Lowcountry has to offer.

Also joining the League's Columbia staff is **Cathy Warner**, who serves as a Legislative Lobbyist. Cathy grew up in Aiken, S.C. and went on to graduate



(l-r) Dennis Glaves, Cathy Warner and Ryan Black on the steps of the State House.

from the University of South Carolina College of Social Work, where she focused her studies on policy analysis and macro-level community practice strategies.

Cathy has worked with both local and national nonprofits analyzing the impact of poverty in South Carolina. She has also organized

numerous grassroots efforts for social change. A long-time supporter of local environmental campaigns, Cathy enjoys working with the conservation community on legislative issues and working toward a greener future for our state. She spends her spare time reading, listening to music, painting, enjoying the outdoors, and watching

(continued on page 18)



Nancy Vinson & Katie Zimmerman Win Environmental Justice Award

Nancy Button, President of the New Rosemont Neighborhood Association, presented League staffers Nancy Vinson (above) and Katie Zimmerman (right) with their Environmental Justice Award at the association's Christmas banquet on December 12th. Nancy and Katie were honored for their "hard work, dedicated service and community support to the Rosemont Community" in tackling air quality issues and educating residents of the neighborhood.



(continued from page 17)

old Kung Fu movies.

Ryan Black will work for the Conservation League's Energy and Climate Program as a new Project Manager. Ryan recently earned a Master of Public Administration degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. While at Columbia, he co-authored two comprehensive policy reports on a national water management plan for the U.S.

As an undergraduate at Princeton University, Ryan was a two-sport athlete, playing on the 1998 national championship team in men's lacrosse and captaining the Princeton men's volleyball team in 2001. Most recently, he has worked as a consultant for Earth Action and the Alliance for Renewable Energy in New York City, and on renewable energy projects in Black Mountain, N.C.

Cover Artist: **Matthew Coull** calls himself a novice photographer who enjoys nature, action, and portrait photography. Here is his account of shooting our cover photo: "I was at a friend's house on Wadmalaw Island, when I noticed these water lilies in the pond adjacent to the house. When I reached the pond I noticed the lilies were covered with mosquitoes. I used a notepad as a fan to keep the mosquitoes at bay, while I got the shot I wanted." To see more of Matthew's photography, please visit www.mattcoull.com.



Thank You!



LIVE OAK SOCIETY Contributions Received from February 1, 2009 - January 31, 2010

The Coastal Conservation League works very hard to ensure that all donor names are listed correctly; however, occasional mistakes do occur. Please contact Database Manager Nora Kravec at (843) 725-2057 with any questions or corrections.

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COASTAL LEGACY SOCIETY

The Coastal Legacy Society honors those who have provided for the Coastal Conservation League through their wills or estate plans. By making a gift to the Coastal Legacy Society, you will join this group of extraordinary individuals in their commitment to protect the Lowcountry for generations. If you are interested in finding out more about naming the Coastal Conservation League in your will or estate plans, please contact Development Director Courtenay Speir at (843) 723-9895.

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Live Oak Society

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November 1, 2009 - January 31, 2010

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 and Mr. Daniel George
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Outings & Events

Please check our Web site for event details and updates!

Wednesday, March 31st
Cruise Ship Forum, Charleston

Tuesday, May 4th
7th Annual Conservation
Lobby Day, Columbia

Saturday, May 8th
A Day at Millford Plantation:
Special Event for Live Oak
Society Members.
(For information on joining
the Live Oak Society, please
contact Courtenay Speir at
courtenays@sccl.org or
843-723-9895.)



COASTAL
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

P.O. Box 1765 Charleston, SC 29402-1765

For more information about the Coastal
Conservation League, check out our Web site
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THE MISSION OF THE COASTAL CONSERVATION LEAGUE is to protect the natural environment of the South Carolina coastal plain and to enhance the quality of life of our communities by working with individuals, businesses and government to ensure balanced solutions.

At Your Service



The Staff of the Coastal Conservation League – Top row (l-r): Merrill McGregor, Katie Zimmerman, Garrett Budds, Courtenay Speir, Dennis Glaves, Nancy Vinson, Amanda Watson, Cathy Warner, Cathy Forrester, Hamilton Davis, Dana Moorer, Angela Chvarak, Nora Kravec, Kate Parks, Reed Armstrong. Bottom row (l-r): Tonnia Switzer, Patrick Moore, Eugenia Payne, Josh Martin, Andrea Malloy, Nancy Cave, Ashley Waters, Megan Desrosiers, Dana Beach (not pictured: Ryan Black and Gretta Kruesi).