



Carol and John Kososki have spent their professional lives working for a healthier South Carolina and their free time enjoying it! After a career in state government, Carol now represents Richland County District 8 on the Richland County Conservation Commission. She is a founding member of the Friends of Congaree Swamp and a board member of Gills Creek Watershed Association. In 2005 she helped pass a tree protection ordinance in the City of Forest Acres.

Meanwhile husband John spent 30 years as a successful information technology consultant, helping the EPA, FEMA and other public and private entities protect the public health. His studies on safe ways to handle chemical accidents have helped develop standards for dozens of countries, including the 34 members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Why do they contribute to the Green Tie Award Luncheon? Explains Carol, "We value the work of Conservation Voters and believe the luncheon is a great way to celebrate our environmental values. It raises awareness of the good work accomplished by our partnership with elected leaders and the public."

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

We owe our success to hundreds of you standing up for a clean, vibrant South Carolina.

How can you help? The summer and fall months provide a great opportunity to meet directly with your legislators in their home districts. Please contact our office if you'd like to join our in-district visits.

Interested in a clean energy future? How about protecting our air, land and water? Since 2007, we have hosted the Common Agenda, which brings together 40 organizations representing thousands of citizens. Our volunteer action teams help design and run our campaigns. Please contact our office if you'd like to get involved!



Citizen volunteers hold a clean energy press event in Greenville.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 21

Our Third Annual Green Tie Award Luncheon! 11:30-1:30 p.m. at Historic 701 Whaley Building. Contact Suzie Sale for tickets: suzi@cvsc.org

OCTOBER 7

Come join us for our Common Agenda Fall Meeting! 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. the University of South Carolina Green Quad.

NOVEMBER 6-7

Our Eco-Leaders Retreat takes place each year at beautiful Camp St. Christopher on Seabrook Island. Email Debbie Parker for details: debbie@cvsci.org



EDUCATION. ACCOUNTABILITY. RESULTS.

LET'S RENEW OUR SCHOOLS!



Ed Falco is Project Manager for CVSC



With generous support from the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, Conservation Voters of South Carolina Education Fund is pleased to announce the launch of a bold campaign to help green our schools.

When you consider that every day, one in five Americans goes to school – whether as a student, teacher, staff, or administrator – we have a great opportunity to create healthier futures for South Carolinians.

Schools are not simply places where students study. Research shows that improved lighting, ventilation, and temperature controls associated with green schools actually raise student achievement and reduce the number of sick days due to asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

Student-centered environmental and energy projects within and beyond the classroom, coupled with collaboration from community partners, school staff, and district administrators, results in reduced energy costs and bills, improved environmental literacy, and healthier places to learn.

Did you know that South Carolina school districts paid an energy tab of over \$138 million in 2008? Greening our schools is a win for taxpayers too.

Some new schools in South Carolina are being built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Our own homegrown (and growing) Green Steps Program (www.greenstepschools.com) includes dozens of South Carolina schools conducting classroom projects promoting campus gardens, recycling, improved air quality, and habitat restoration.



Students at Orchard Park Elementary in Fort Mill (York Four) have set up an ambitious recycling program, placing collection bins throughout the school. The profits gained from the sale of items like used cell phones and printer cartridges go to help pay for environmental projects at the school.

Over the next two years we'll be working with Green Steps and other allies to make our South Carolina schools – whatever their team colors – go green!



Students at Christ Church Episcopal in Greenville have enrolled in DHEC's Breathe Better (B2) campaign, encouraging parents not to idle their cars while waiting to pick up their kids. Students have studied driver participation and are participating with other schools in a statewide effort to promote cleaner air on school grounds.



Rab Finlay Thompson / Columbia
Alan Runyan / Beaufort
Gail Richardson / Barnwell
Charles Patrick / Charleston

John Mood / Columbia
Jenks Mitkell / Columbia
Lee Manigault / Charleston
Delores Logan / Lexington

Jay James / Darlington
Blair Holman / Charleston
Carol Ervin / Charleston
Holly Cork / Hilton Head

Howard Coker / Hartsville
Elliott Close / Rock Hill
Emma Ruth Brittain / Myrtle Beach
Dana Beach / Charleston

OFFICE MANAGER
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LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
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It's not too late! There is no better way to show your company's support for conservation than by sponsoring our Green Tie Luncheon. Last year's event drew nearly 400 people and rave reviews for the all-local gourmet lunch, featuring a "certified SC grown" and organic menu.

Our annual fundraiser has become the premiere venue for bringing legislators, business leaders and conservationists together to celebrate our common goals. This year's luncheon will be Wednesday, September 21 in the Grand Hall of the historic 701 Whaley building in the Olympia community of downtown Columbia.

Green Tie Award LUNCHEON
Wednesday, September 21
Historic 701 Whaley St.

Tables and tickets are going fast!
You may register online at www.cvsc.org/events or contact Suzi Sale for more details: suzi@cvsc.org, 803-799-0716.

WE'RE HALFWAY THERE!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR 2011



Debbie Parker is Legislative Director for CVSC.

Despite a tight budget and resistance from the Governor, South Carolina's conservation community is creating jobs and a brighter future for South Carolina!

WHAT MAKES SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIAL?

Who would have thought at the beginning of the legislative session that we would not only save the Conservation Bank, but help add another \$2.2 million in funding? Governor Haley's veto would not only have ended the Bank permanently, she would have broken the state's word with South Carolinians who have already agreed to protect their land for future generations. Recognizing that no state agency does more to protect the precious cultural and natural landmarks that bring visitors to our state, the General Assembly overwhelmingly overrode her veto.

What work remains? The Bank is set to end or "sunset" in 2013. H.3083, which passed in the House, extends the Bank's life to 2023. This bill now sits in the Senate Finance Committee. We will ask that our Senators pass this important bill early in the 2012 session.

LET'S NOT WASTE AN OPPORTUNITY!

Together with our allies in the business community, conservationists are ready to "seal the deal" to create thousands of jobs in recycling. Senator Ray Cleary's Alcoholic Beverage Container (ABC) Bill helps guarantee a steady stream of materials for recycling companies and reduces the waste we send to landfills. The ABC Bill was passed out of the Senate in the last week of the session and has been assigned to the House Agriculture Committee. We hope the House moves quickly and supports this job-creating legislation!

A BRIGHTER ENERGY FUTURE

We also made great strides with our allies in the solar business community. The Solar Tax Credit Bill H.3346, which passed overwhelmingly in the House, establishes a 35 percent state tax credit for both residential and commercial solar projects. Right now, both North Carolina and Georgia have more generous tax credits and consequently are creating thousands of new jobs in the solar industry. It's now the Senate's turn to promote a clean, energy independent future for South Carolina.

PROTECTING CLEAN WATER

Two bills essential for preserving clean water got caught in a legislative logjam on the last day of the session. H.3470, Representative Mike Pitts' Phosphate Bill, prohibits the use, sale or manufacture of dishwashing detergents containing phosphates, a harmful and unnecessary nutrient that kills fish and lowers lakefront property values. Meanwhile, H.3617 – the Chronic Sewage Polluter Bill – requires any wastewater utility that repeatedly discharges sewage in our lakes and rivers to undergo a comprehensive audit to fix its problems. The state's 30 largest wastewater utilities joined us in support of this bill that goes after chronic polluters and protects our responsible companies.

Both of these bills passed UNANIMOUSLY in the House but stalled in the last days of the Senate session. We expect them to be taken up and passed early in the 2012 session.

Hundreds gather in Columbia to lobby at the State House!



RENEWING OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES



John Ramsburgh is Program Director for CVSC

One of our state's conservation leaders also happens to know something about banking and real estate. Earlier this year, Charles Lane, who has helped conserve thousands of acres in the ACE river basin, told a gathering in Columbia, "Our three most prosperous urban counties are home to 40 percent of all bank deposits, totaling nearly \$28 billion. By contrast, our 11 most distressed rural counties have less than four percent of all deposits, only \$2.6 billion."

Thus, when we think about poverty in South Carolina, what matters most is not the difference between South Carolina and other states, but the difference between urban and rural communities within South Carolina itself.

Now, a diverse group of South Carolinians has joined forces to reshape the way our state approaches rural economic development. This alliance includes leaders from affordable housing, agriculture, community economic development, conservation, forestry, and tourism. Despite a wide spectrum of expertise, group members are motivated by one simple question: What if we envisioned building wealth from within?



"Certified SC Grown" began with a modest \$500,000 grant and has already increased farm revenues by nearly \$3 million. A recent study by the Moore School of Business determined that an additional \$2 million investment would boost revenues by \$23 million and create 10,000 jobs.

There are already exciting efforts in South Carolina that focus on generating and circulating wealth inside local economies. They include local food markets that bring farmers into direct contact with consumers; home weatherization projects that retrofit substandard housing while creating jobs; and conservation projects that help landowners invest in their farming and forestry businesses.

Whether by promoting nature-based tourism, local food markets, or small business entrepreneurs, this coalition is dedicated to reversing a trend that has seen our natural resource wealth exported to other states and nations where goods are processed and then resold to South Carolinians. For example, South Carolinians currently spend at least \$7



Embracing the new approach! Allendale County ALIVE has helped establish the Sugar Hill Flat Street Neighborhood Association. A house rehab program has helped several neighborhood residents weatherize their homes and reduce energy costs.



Affordable housing is a win-win! Focusing solely on our rural counties, South Carolina's affordable housing coalition has calculated that a five-year investment in affordable housing would generate nearly 50,000 jobs and over \$322 million in local revenues. Learn more at www.lowcountryhousingtrust.org

billion on food with less than 10 percent originating on South Carolina farms. Simply doubling the amount of produce and livestock we consume locally would generate millions in revenues and create thousands of jobs.

How do we get there? Building wealth from within means looking at the whole picture and thinking outside the box. It also means reaching across longstanding divisions to find common ground on an integrated, long-term approach to economic development. By examining what works – and what hasn't – in rural communities, our coalition is offering a plan that breaks with the past and gives our rural communities a new and viable start.

TRANSITIONS AT CONSERVATION VOTERS

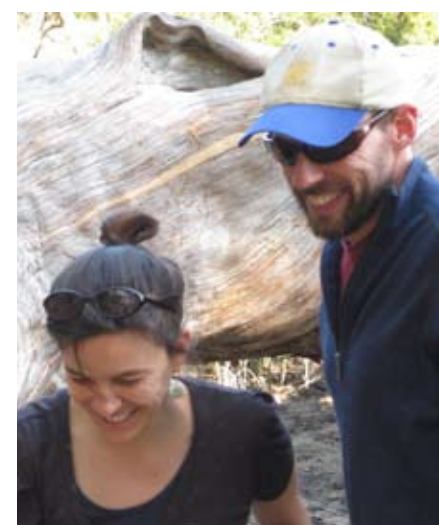


BRUCE LAWRENCE

Development Director Bruce Lawrence left CVSC in June to start his own company, Lawrence Quillen & Associates, a full service marketing and fundraising firm. Bruce writes, "I am so proud of the time I got to spend with all of you and the work we were able to do together. Thank you for your friendship and support."

SUSAN SALE

In June we welcomed our new Development Director Susan Sale. Suzi has more than 25 years public affairs, corporate marketing and development experience. She has also been active in and served on the boards of various conservation and historic preservation organizations in Georgia, Connecticut and, in her home state, South Carolina. Immediately prior to joining CVSC Suzi successfully developed a multi-faceted business development enterprise for a national civil engineering and environmental services firm. Welcome Suzi!



JOHN RAMSBURGH

In August, we bid goodbye to Program Director John Ramsburgh, who led multiple issue campaigns to reduce carbon pollution, boost energy efficiency and re-invest in our rural economy. His wife Carolyn Seabury was recently named an English Language Fellow and will be teaching at the University of East Sarajevo in Bosnia Herzegovina. Sretan put!

ED FALCO

In July we welcomed Ed Falco as our new Project Manager on our Green Schools campaign. For nine years Ed served as the Environmental Science and Education Associate II with the SC Department of Education (SCDE) and he is currently President of the Environmental Education Association of SC (EEASC), serving to advance environmental literacy through quality environmental education statewide for all citizens. Welcome Ed!



A Letter from the



WE CAN'T AFFORD ROLLBACKS.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On July 11, 2011, the South Carolina Supreme Court issued a landmark opinion in support of a healthy, sustainable future for our state. Upholding our state's Pollution Control Act, the Court ruled that our state Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has the authority to protect isolated wetlands and that citizen groups can file suit to enforce the Act.

Heartfelt congratulations to our Common Agenda allies at the League of Women Voters and the South Carolina Environmental Law Project, who fought to protect our cherished Carolina Bays and the right of citizens to intervene when polluters break the law.

Two questions remain: will DHEC enforce our environmental protections? And will the General Assembly respect the very laws they pass to promote a healthy future for our state?

If recent events are any indication, we have cause for concern. There has been a concerted effort in recent months to roll back our environmental protections under the false claim that "regulations" are hurting businesses.

To offer just one example, a DNR restructuring bill (H.3049) by Representative Alan Clemmons would have moved DNR to the Governor's Cabinet and relegated the DNR Board to an advisory role. For over a century, DNR has successfully protected our natural resources for hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation and tourism.

Turning DNR into a sinecure would have harmed the agency's effectiveness and independence. Thankfully, the bill died in an Agricultural subcommittee and we thank Representatives Ted Vick and Kenneth Hodges for voting against it.

Needless to say, working to defeat bad bills is perhaps the least appealing aspect of the work we do. Our organization would much rather be collaborating with our legislature to promote good bills that protect our natural resources and create jobs. Too often public officials present citizens with a false choice, arguing we can either protect the environment or create jobs.

Considering the fact that our state's natural resources are responsible for \$54 billion in annual economic impact and over 460,000 jobs, we have a responsibility – and an opportunity – to manage these resources wisely. Doing so is vital not only to environment our children will inherit, but the economic future they will create.

Ann J. Timberlake

Ann Timberlake is Executive Director of Conservation Voters. Email her at ann@cvsc.org.

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