I AM A CONSERVATION VOTER

I am Jennie Peze and I am a Conservation Voter. I grew up on my family’s farm in Darlington County. My earliest memories include walking in the woods with my dad identifying plants. My path has led me to Pennsylvania, Montana, D.C., Boston and back to South Carolina but my path has always remained focused on the outdoors.

I have found a way to work and play outside, whether it was working in the tobacco and soybean fields or labeling plants at Riverbanks Botanical Garden. My favorite place to be is on Black Creek. As far as I am concerned, it’s South Carolina’s prettiest stream, with swift moving black water and high banks covered in mountain laurel and spicebush, right here in Darlington.

I’m scared of snakes and other biting things under the water, but I just figure it’s worth the risk to get to enjoy life outdoors. I care about having elected officials who will protect the South Carolina I love. I am a Conservation Voter and believe CVSC has the nerve and the power to elevate the dialogue about conservation. I believe we can’t get the job done without organizations like CVSC.

That’s the kind of Conservation Voter I am. What kind are you?
Share your conservation story - send it to lara@cvsc.org.

THE CONSERVATION VOTER

THE RACE IS ON

You spoke and we listened. More than half of the responders to our recent member survey said that “CVSC should be better known to the general public.” We could not agree more.

We hope you approve of our new logo. We believe it conveys that we are a father and son fishing together. We are old friends sharing time under an oak tree. We are future generations who will choose to work and live in South Carolina because of our unparalleled quality of life.

In addition to our logo, we are working on a new website. We have expanded our team with a Field Director ready to multiply and mobilize our members. We are planning more events across the state to introduce ourselves and our endorsed candidates.

You know we are your eyes and ears at the State House ensuring that legislators remember the father and son, the old friends, and the future generations when they make decisions. We invite you to introduce us to your friends, family and coworkers. Together, we are all “conservation voters” working to protect the South Carolina we love.

A NEW LOOK

We learned in December that DHEC had months ago approved an agricultural “registration” for a new farming operation to draw as much as 8 billion gallons annually from the South Fork. CVSC quickly responded.

Our call for DHEC to hold a public information session was answered. On a frigid evening in early January, we joined more than 400 attendees to hear DHEC explain what the current law requires and consider how to refine the agricultural withdrawal process under the Surface Water Withdrawal Act.

CVSC worked with stakeholders for over three years to pass a compromise water permitting bill. Given the threat at that time that Atlantis might siphon whatever it wanted from the Savannah, most of the negotiations focused on ensuring that industrial users left enough water flowing in our rivers for “boats, bass and bubbles,” a phrase made famous by Senator Chip Campsen. We know now that not enough attention was paid to the Act’s tenant process for agricultural withdrawals.

We are encouraged that Friends of the Edisto (FRED) and Wadher Farms reached a settlement to delay a second registration by a year and reduce the amount of water taken from the Edisto by roughly half. The state water basin modeling studies will take several years to complete. For now, Senator Campsen’s S.970 is a “measured response” and a necessary first step. Representative James Smith is working on legislation in the House.

OUR EDISTO

OUR FUTURE

We are rich in natural resources. Millions of people visit South Carolina every year: they come here to swim on our beaches, to hike in our mountains, to fish in our lakes and rivers and to hunt in our fields and forests.

Vincent Sheheen is a proven leader and a conservationist. He is in step with prior Republican and Democratic Governors who recognized that natural resources enrich our economy and our lives. Forestry, farming, outdoor recreation and tourism account for over $50 billion outside, whether it was working in the tobacco and soybean fields or labeling plants at Riverbanks Botanical Garden. My favorite place to be is on Black Creek. As far as I am concerned, it’s South Carolina’s prettiest stream, with swift moving black water and high banks covered in mountain laurel and spicebush, right here in Darlington.

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### Thank You for Your Support

Thank you for your generosity in 2013. Every donation makes a difference and is important to us. Last year was a turning point when you donated.

### Our 2013 Donors

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<tr>
<th>Donation Amount</th>
<th>Donors</th>
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<td>$1,000-$1,999</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. John Aiken, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holleman, Ms. Connie Darden-Young and Mr. Michael Criss, Mr. and Mrs. Watford and Ms. Betty Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Williams and Ms. Annann Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Holliday, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis</td>
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<td>$500-$999</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Burl Beach, Mr. and Mrs. John Aiken, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holleman, Ms. Connie Darden-Young and Mr. Michael Criss, Mr. and Mrs. Watford and Ms. Betty Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Williams and Ms. Annann Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Holliday, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis</td>
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### Acknowledgments

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