



SAVANNAH RIVERKEEPER®

It's Your River, Protect It!

Augusta, GA | Allendale, SC | Savannah, GA

NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2017



Riverkeeper speaks at TEDx Savannah

Your Savannah Riverkeeper Tonya Bonitatibus was selected to speak at TEDx Savannah on May 19, an independent TED talk event featuring influencers and innovators from the community. Echoing this year's theme, Bridge, Tonya shared lessons about the Palmetto Pipeline, coalition-building, and how people of different interests can build bridges over one issue: WATER. Check the event website at www.tedxsavannah.com or YouTube to watch the video of her speech; "Bridging the Partisan Divide".

Lock and Dam Draws Debate; SRK Comments

Studies are underway to determine the future of the New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District last month requested input from local city officials, industry and the public "before determining how best to meet the intent of the law and address the concerns of the local community" and are now reviewing more than 460+ comments. Southern Environmental Law Center, on behalf of Savannah Riverkeeper, South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, and South Carolina Wildlife Federation, submitted formal comment proposing to: replace the Lock and Dam structure with a rock weir to allow fish passage through the natural river channel; rehabilitate the lock system to maintain its functionality; and develop an adaptive management plan that allows for adjustments as needed to ensure the long-term success and efficiency of the fish passage. To learn more, visit the Take Action blog our website at savannahriverkeeper.org/take-action.

1

RESTORE

This spring, SRK hosted an unprecedented gathering of agencies to discuss the progress of the largest river restoration in U.S. history.

2

PROTECT

We submitted comments of concern on Jasper Port, a new wastewater permit on Ebenezer Creek, Augusta's Lock and Dam, Atlantic offshore drilling and more.

3

EDUCATE

SRK visited Lakeside Middle School 6th grade STEM classes to teach about the history and role of dams, and students modeled innovative alternative structures.



Clean Up Augusta

We partnered with the City of Augusta and other community groups to clean up six locations, collecting 1000+ lbs. of trash & hundreds of tires.



Roast on the River

We held our 5th annual oyster roast & low country boil fundraiser in downtown Augusta, GA. With 32 bushels of Bluffton oysters and 300 guests, it was a smash!



LSRA Savannah River Classic

Our affiliates the Lower Savannah River Alliance held their annual fishing tournament in Allendale, SC. The prize winner caught 15 lbs. of bass, catfish and brim.

Legislative Session Wrap-Up

In [South Carolina](#), all bills we opposed were successfully blocked—3 years running for SRK—and we made progress on a landmark number of proactive bills. Together with our partners and YOU: we saved the automatic stay, protected communities’ right to ban plastic bags, stopped legislators from stripping the Pollution Control Act, opposed offshore drilling, monitored the progress of the state’s Petroleum Pipeline Study Committee, and much more. Environmental protection legislation far exceeded rollback and detrimental bills we fought this year, a true sign of progress in the Palmetto State.

In [Georgia](#), we succeeded in finalizing the first of the 2 states’ pipeline legislation that greatly restricts eminent domain for private companies and creates new environmental oversights that will protect all of Georgia’s waterways. We continued to fight for clean water against special interests in Atlanta and around the state with our partner groups.

YOU are the final line of defense to keep Georgia’s rivers, streams and lakes swimmable, fishable and drinkable. Sign up at savannahriverkeeper.org to receive our e-mail newsletter and stay up-to-date on news and action alerts year-round.



“Savannah Riverkeeper keeps members and stakeholders up-to-date on issues that concern us. They keep watch over our watershed with courage and tenacity. It’s so good to know that they have our backs.” - Judith, SRK supporter since 2015



SRK Welcomes New Development Director

Our newest staff member joins us this month, Development Director Shawn Risher. A South Carolina native, Shawn has an extensive background in nonprofit fundraising and more than a decade of service to the community through the Boys and Girls Club of Aiken. We’re looking forward to the growth and good ideas Shawn will contribute to the team and to the good of our Savannah River! To wish him luck or learn about how you can give to SRK, email shawn@savannahriverkeeper.org.

Upcoming Events

- AUGUST 5: GATORFEST
- AUGUST 12: CLEAN UP AUGUSTA
- AUGUST 26: THE BIG FLOAT
- OCTOBER 21: RIVERS ALIVE

We’ve launched our new website! Stay tuned for details and find more great ways to get involved at savannahriverkeeper.org.



SAVANNAH RAPIDS	4/06	CLARKS HILL	7/13
EBENEZER CREEK	4/23	PURRYSBURG	7/19
EUCHEE CREEK	5/11	STEVENS CREEK	8/17
HOG MARSH ISLAND	5/21	WEEKEND CAMPING TRIP	8/18
HORSE CREEK	6/15	EBENEZER CREEK	9/03
TURNER’S CREEK	6/18	DOWNTOWN AUGUSTA	9/14



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