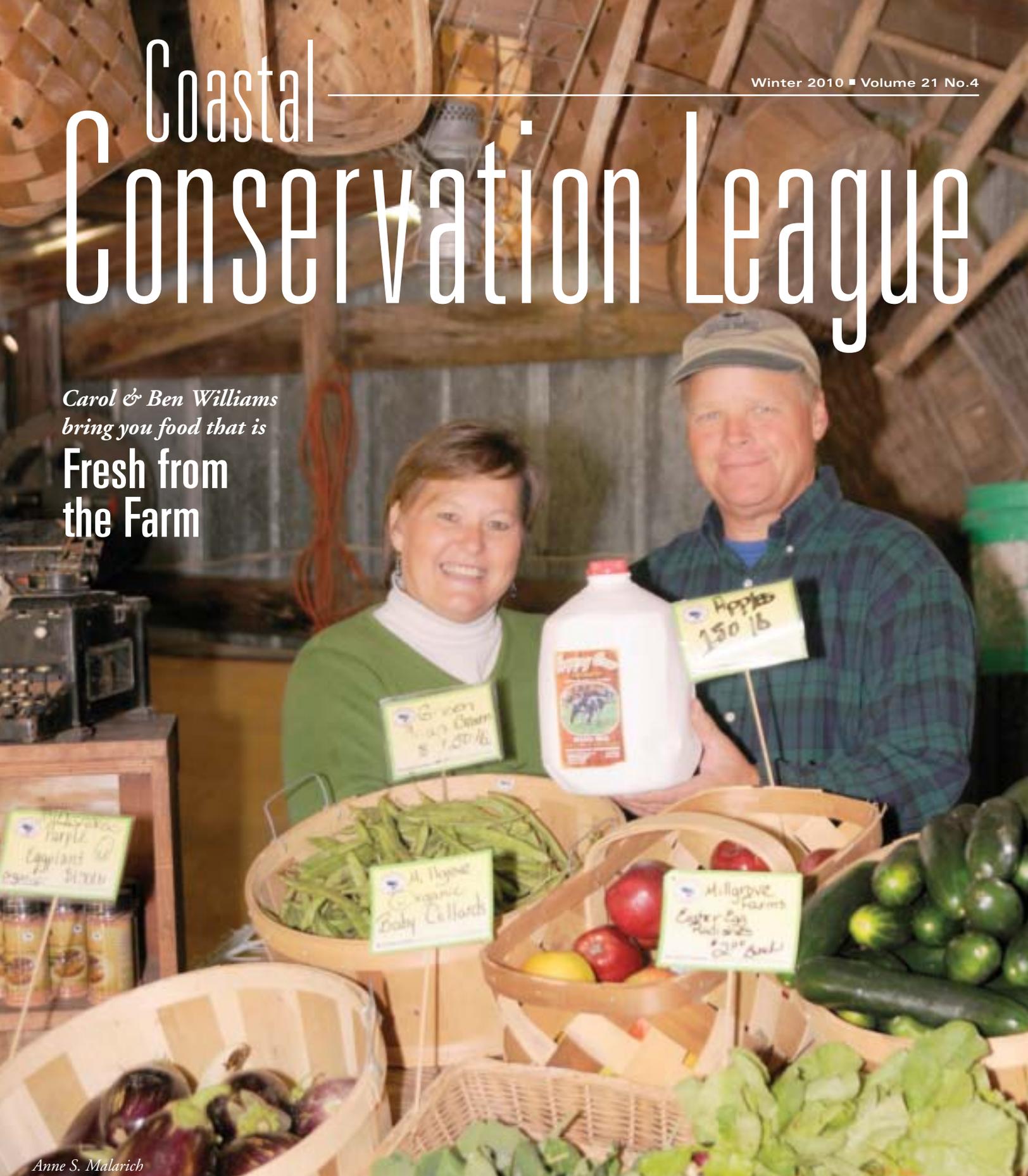


Coastal Conservation League

*Carol & Ben Williams
bring you food that is
Fresh from
the Farm*



Anne S. Malarich



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Time for the Tea Party to Get Serious

It's hard to know what to make of the November elections, except that a lot of people are mad about health care, too much government spending and not enough jobs. What policy direction this suggests is anybody's guess. It's certain that continuing to starve government of the resources necessary to perform basic functions like education, medical care for the young and old, improvement of our nation's transportation system and natural resource conservation (yes, that is a basic function), will not yield a prosperous future.

And yet, fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency are all laudable goals. If this new wave of officials is sincere in their commitment to reform, they will take on the status quo in areas where the stakes are the highest. In South Carolina, that means transportation. We spend an immense amount of money fixing and adding to our road system. Some of the most flagrant abuses of fiscal stewardship have occurred in the transportation arena.

Take, for example, the absurd proposition that building I-73 through Marlboro, Dillon and Horry counties to Myrtle Beach is the number one transportation priority in the state – more important than the I-85 corridor in Greenville, more important than interstates, secondary roads and transit around Columbia, and more important than I-26 and the freight rail lines to the port and industrial facilities in Charleston. And yet the state Department of Transportation Commission, led by Myrtle Beach businessman Danny Issac, has stated precisely that. Amazingly, the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments agreed, in a resolution passed last spring.

The result is that so far, South Carolina's federal representatives have directed more than \$100 million in earmarks to I-73. This is only a drop in the bucket for a road that will cost \$2.4 billion, but it would go a long way to advancing mobility in other parts of the state.

Similarly, the state Infrastructure Bank, which controls the money for the state's largest transportation projects, has committed every last penny it has to building two new bridges to John's Island from Charleston. That would be the same John's Island where two new bridges were built in the last ten years, and the same John's Island that the county down-zoned to agricultural uses in 2001. The bridges are estimated to cost \$80 million more than the county has available, so the project would not move forward for years or decades, even if the vigorous public opposition to the project did not exist.

There is nothing remotely reasonable or responsible about locking up more than half-a-billion dollars on two projects that are largely unnecessary and that cannot be built in the foreseeable future, especially when the state badly needs to modernize its roads and rails.

This fiscal abuse is the elephant in the living room, and so far, the business community has been afraid to deal with it. The litmus test for our new governor, and for the other reform candidates at the state and local level, will be whom they appoint to key positions on the DOT board, on the Infrastructure Bank board, and on other state boards with the power to spend hundreds of millions of public dollars. We'll have a clear sense by the end of January of whether the Tea Party and its allies can move beyond anger to the more difficult job of true fiscal management.

Dana Beach



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CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

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Director *Dana Beach*
Assistant Director *Megan Desrosiers*

REGIONAL OFFICES

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Project Manager *Reed Armstrong*

NORTH COAST

Office Director *Nancy Cave*

COLUMBIA

Office Director *Patrick Moore*
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Hamilton Davis
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Holly Hook *Victoria C. Verity*
Cariter Lupton

Advisors and Committee Members

Paul Kimball
Hugh Lane
Jay Mills

Newsletter

Editor *Virginia Beach*
Designer *Julie Frye*

P.O. Box 1765 ■ Charleston, SC 29402

Phone: (843) 723-8035 ■ FAX: (843) 723-8308

Email: info@scccl.org

website: www.CoastalConservationLeague.org

P.O. Box 1861 ■ Beaufort, SC 29901

Phone: (843) 522-1800

1001 Washington Street, Suite 300 ■ Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: (803) 771-7102

P.O. Box 603 ■ Georgetown, SC 29442

Phone: (843) 545-0403

Redrawing the Lines

by Patrick Moore, Director of the League's Columbia Legislative Office

On January 12th, the 119th session of the South Carolina General Assembly will convene for the first year of the 2011-2012 Legislative Session. The return of the General Assembly will look and feel like most other years: bills will be filed, committee appointments made, and newly elected members will go through orientation as they learn the ropes in Columbia.



But, the truth is, the 119th General Assembly is more important than many sessions in recent memory.

Legislators are set to redraw House and Senate district lines based on the 2010 census data; re-evaluate our state funding priorities as they fill a \$700-\$900-million-dollar deficit in the state budget; craft a comprehensive energy policy, and review state policies on shoreline management. It is too early to know the likely outcomes of these deliberations, but what is clear is that South Carolina will be a much different place when they are through – physically, politically and financially.

Following the release of the census data every ten years, state and federal legislative districts are re-evaluated and their boundaries adjusted based on changing populations. South Carolina is expected to gain at least one U.S. House seat since the last census. In addition, numerous state Senate and House districts will change, fundamentally affecting who gets elected where and by what margin.

The Legislature will draft a redistricting proposal and with gubernatorial approval, send it to Washington for final approval by the Department of Justice. This process will be the primary focus of many lawmakers in the coming session and will determine the electoral landscape of South Carolina for the next decade.

Also in 2011, state legislators will be called on to cut between \$700 and \$900 million dollars from the state's budget to account for declining tax revenues and non-recurring federal stimulus dollars. These cuts will have significant impacts on the ability of nearly every agency to perform their statutory functions, but will have particular impact on our natural resource agencies.

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources, for

example, has already been drastically cut. Sixteen South Carolina counties only have one wildlife officer; one county has no officer at all. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is preparing for a 20% budget cut after deep cuts last year. These cuts will essentially leave our air, water and land resources with less protection, as the agency will not have enough funding to staff its existing programs. For example, DHEC has just announced that they will be waiving their authority to condition certain environmental permits, including 401 water quality certifications for beach re-nourishment, due to lack of funding.

Meanwhile, the Public Utilities Review Commission (PURC), made up of three senators and three House members, is undertaking a comprehensive review of energy policy in our state, including recommendations on energy efficiency and renewable energy. The PURC recommendations and their implementation will determine whether we create clean energy jobs here at home or whether we export them to nearby states.

And throughout 2011, the newly announced Blue Ribbon Panel on Shoreline Change will be meeting and crafting recommendations on how to amend South Carolina's shoreline management rules and guidelines. They will work from the report and recommendations of the Shoreline Change Advisory Committee released earlier this year. The recommendations of the panel will be critical as we adapt to changing weather patterns and rising sea levels.

It is in this context that the Coastal Conservation League legislative team is working to bring positive change to South Carolina's Code of Laws. We are working to keep the Conservation Bank alive, promote clean energy jobs in South Carolina, encourage walkable, mixed use redevelopment, and keep the economic engines – that are our natural resources – healthy for years to come.

GROWING THE LOCAL FOOD CHAIN

Whatever you want to call it – a renewal, a resurgence, a revolution even – the local food movement in South Carolina has skyrocketed over the last few years. Consumers, restaurants, grocery stores, farmers’ markets — all are demanding local produce like never before. In fact, the demand for locally grown produce is far outstripping what our state’s current agricultural system has the capacity to deliver.

A National Trend

The trend is sweeping the country, with 71% of Americans willing to pay more for food that is grown locally. While demand is also rising in South Carolina, our infrastructure and distribution system is geared almost solely toward large-scale, commodity growers – those farms devoted mostly to export crops such as cotton, soybeans and tobacco.

Of the \$7 billion that South Carolinians collectively spend on food each year, less than 10% of the total food purchased originates here. Smaller-scale farmers tend to be relegated to roadside stands, weekly farmers’ markets, undependable transport, irregular buyers,

and unpredictable and uncontrollable prices.

Change is Coming

Moreover, conventional industrial agriculture is failing to deliver prosperity, or even subsistence, to our state’s rural areas. Forty percent of South Carolina residents live in rural areas, yet only 20% of the state’s jobs are there. This translates into a rural unemployment rate of about 14.7%, well above the current national average of 9.6%. And our rural income levels are among the lowest in the nation, with rural schools and infrastructure literally crumbling.

However, the winds of change are blowing across South Carolina, just as they are across the country. With large metropolitan markets in Greenville,

Columbia and Charleston, and population concentrations in Beaufort, the Grand Strand, Florence and Rock Hill, the potential for surrounding rural residents to profitably tap into their longstanding knowledge and tradition of farming is enormous. The combination of a powerful agricultural heritage with a long growing season, ample farmland and fertile soil, gives South Carolina a significant head-start in the local food movement.

A New Agricultural Model

Making the transition from big agriculture to community farming will require reassembling and reforming the economic infrastructure of rural South Carolina, in three basic areas: state and local policy; farmer education and recruitment, and physical infrastructure for product processing, marketing and distribution.

We need laws and regulations that accommodate small farmers selling locally; we need to provide farmers the educational resources to tap into new metropolitan markets, and we need physical facilities and places for local processing and distribution. Properly done, this agenda has the potential to revitalize the state’s rural economy, to recapitalize farms, and to conserve the best of the state’s valuable agricultural lands.



Anne S. Malarich

Cold Weather Bounty— *Root crops and greens are staples in South Carolina during the fall and winter months.*

THE CENTRAL MARKET



Gibson Guess Architects

Local Food Distribution Market Coming to Charleston –

Preliminary drawings for the renovation of a 10,000-square-foot warehouse on Morrison Drive, which is to be converted into a distribution center for Lowcountry small farmers.

It is generally agreed that a critical missing link to making community based agriculture profitable in South Carolina is the availability of local distribution centers that are specifically designed to serve small farmers. In states like North Carolina and Virginia, such centers already serve as points of collection and distribution. They also perform clearinghouse functions, match buyers with sellers, establish fair prices, and provide marketing services. In addition, they provide space for product processing that allows producers or other entrepreneurs to add value to products produced locally.

In April of this year, the Coastal Conservation League – with funding from the Ceres Foundation – purchased a warehouse/office building in the City of Charleston with the intention of performing exactly these functions. The Central Market, as it is called, is located at 990 Morrison Drive, just up the road from the downtown Charleston restaurants, and a short drive across the Cooper and Ashley Rivers from restaurants and grocery stores in Mt. Pleasant, West Ashley and North Charleston. The building has 6,500 square feet of warehouse space and 4,100 square feet of office space that can be used for administration and food processing.



With the advice of a small steering committee of restaurateurs, farmers, a former USDA official, and others involved with the local food movement, the Conservation League has sought input to guide the mission, organization and operation of the Central Market. This winter, the League is also holding a series of three focus group meetings to obtain additional advice from the broader community. Participants include farmers, agricultural workers, rural landowners, state and local

government agricultural workers, chefs, restaurant owners, produce retailers, grocers, extension agents, and relevant stakeholders.

The core mission of the Central Market is to provide a central location that can receive, combine and distribute fresh products to restaurant, grocery and institutional customers in the Charleston area. This summer, the Central Market was approved by the S.C. Department of Revenue as a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, nonprofit entity. By helping the local food market reach its full potential and providing meaningful opportunities to rural farmers, the Central Market will strengthen and secure the future of a regional food supply and ensure that local rural lands remain viable for agricultural use.

The Conservation League has already begun meeting with potential clients, including restaurants and grocery store chains. The reaction has been extremely positive. Grocery store representatives have noted that they are selling locally grown foods on a much larger scale in North Carolina and hope to replicate that same success with local foods in South Carolina.

SUSTAINABILITY 101

What does “Sustainable Agriculture” really mean?

- Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the future
- Preserving ecosystems and wildlife habitat
- Minimizing pollution and the use of fossil fuels
- Minimizing the use of synthetic chemicals, preservatives and other additives
- Conserving the natural resources – e.g., water, soil, clean air – upon which farming and a community depend
- Reducing fuel consumption, travel time and costs of transporting produce to market
- Selling and consuming foods that are locally in season
- Promoting closer connections between consumers and those who grow and raise their food
- Providing a sufficient livelihood for farm owners and workers
- Keeping money and jobs circulating in the local community



FOR MORE INFO:

Visit www.CoastalConservationLeague.org and go to Programs, then to Sustainable Agriculture.

MILLGROVE FARMS



Anne S. Malarich

Monday through Saturday, from 9am until 6pm, a drive down Rose Hill Road will find the Millgrove Farms Fresh Market wide open and ready to serve you. Just 20 minutes northwest of Georgetown, Millgrove Farms lies along Millgrove Creek, a tributary of the Black River and the site of what was once a thriving rice mill – turning out 500,000 pounds annually of Carolina Gold rice, remnants of which can still be found in the area today.

Ben Williams, who with his wife, Carol, own Millgrove Farms, can trace his family’s ownership of the place back to his third great-grandfather. “Over the years, we’ve gone from conventional farming to transitional farming; now we are working toward our ultimate goal of sustainable farming,” explains Ben.

For 30 years, the Williams grew and sold Coastal Bermuda hay wholesale. They built a solid reputation in the area on the quality of their hay, with the majority of their customers being horse owners. Once their three children were grown, the couple began farming full-time and selling their hay themselves,

quickly developing a custom retail market.

With 150 acres of the farm devoted to hay and 50 acres planted in deer corn, the Williams began expanding their home vegetable garden for commercial use. Pretty soon they had 15 acres planted in a variety of vegetables, just as the demand for local fresh food began to grow in the Georgetown area. While Ben focused on the cultivation side of the farm, Carol applied her marketing expertise to the selling side.

Fortified with an abiding faith and a keen marketing sense, Carol began reading, researching and visiting farmers’

Creating a Market– *Establishing the Millgrove Farms Fresh Market in 2009, was a key factor in developing a brand and customer base for the Georgetown County farm.*

markets, gaining knowledge of what products consumers wanted and who was growing what in the area. In the fall of 2009, she launched the Millgrove Farms Fresh Market, offering not only fresh produce from Millgrove Farms, but from other farms in South Carolina and North Carolina as well – always indicating the source of the product, and offering natural and organic

Anne S. Malarich



whenever possible.

Today, a stop at “the store” will yield Millgrove grown organic baby collards and organic purple eggplant, Millgrove grown Easter egg radishes, S.C. grown green snap beans, N.C. grown red apples, Happy Cow organic milk and cheese from Pelzer, S.C., all natural bread and granola from McCarley’s Bakery in Hartsville, S.C. . . . and the list goes on. The Williams also sell to several restaurants in the Georgetown and Pawleys Island areas. In addition, Carol maintains an email list of about 100 customers with whom she communicates weekly, listing what produce is available, offering cooking tips and recipes, and her musings on “the realities of farm life.”

Meanwhile, Ben continues to work on his goal of sustainability, using chicken manure instead of chemical fertilizer on his hay fields and planting no genetically altered seed. He has also purchased a vacuum planter that can plant individual seeds as small as a carrot seed, 1 ¼ inches apart, four rows at a time. The planter enables him to plant several varieties of vegetables directly into an “all natural field,” requiring no transplanting and no thinning, and producing much heartier plants as a result; thus eliminating the need for chemical fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides.



It's All in the Family—

Food and sustainability expert Michael Pollan says we need to bring animals back to the farm.

MAKING LOCAL FOOD *Family Friendly*

by Lisa Turansky, Director of the League's Sustainable Agriculture Program

It wasn't the years of agricultural work in Africa or my childhood at the barn that made me passionate about local agriculture. Those experiences were fun, formative, and educational, but what has raised the value of the local food issue in our household is feeding our two small children three times a day with food that we believe to be the healthiest, purest, and best for their futures.



Though rewarding, prioritizing local and organic food is not easy. We shop at many different places, pay a local/organic food premium on groceries, rarely eat out due to a lack of kid-friendly, local food venues, and cook creatively with what is in season. I admit that it is challenging to consistently adhere to our nutritional values.

Eating locally and sustainably farmed food should be easier, but it is going to take some work. We are going to have to reexamine statewide

policy and planning for our farms and farmers, removing burdensome constraints for safe local community farms. Local food distribution needs to happen more efficiently in order to bolster local food production. And we are going to have to work with the greater agricultural community to educate farmers and consumers on how to support each other as

we move forward in improving the future of our food system.

The Conservation League's Sustainable Agriculture Program is working to fundamentally repair the local food economy to make eating local healthy food an easier choice. In the coming years, we will be reconnecting the food cycle to the people who produce and consume the food, matching rural needs for markets with our vibrant urban centers, and helping farmers to fully thrive in producing food for the local economy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

To join a CSA, and to learn more about Community Supported Agriculture, go to Lowcountry Local First's website at www.LowcountryLocalFirst.org.

For a listing of restaurants in your county that serve Certified South Carolina Grown foods, go to www.certifiedscgrown.com/FreshOnTheMenu/Members.

For other sources of sustainably grown food and how to start a community garden in your area, go to www.LocalHarvest.org or www.CommunityGarden.org.

Thackeray Farm

Shawn Thackeray began working on his father-in-law's Wadmalaw Island farm back in 1989, when he was 18 years old and the land was planted entirely in wholesale, commodity tomatoes. Today Shawn owns this land – some 20 miles south of Charleston – where he dedicates about 32 acres to growing heirloom tomatoes and a diverse roster of specialty vegetables for the local market, including greens, lettuces, root crops, radishes, squash, broccoli and cabbage, along with a variety of flowers. He leases another 20 acres for raising pasture-fed, heritage hogs.

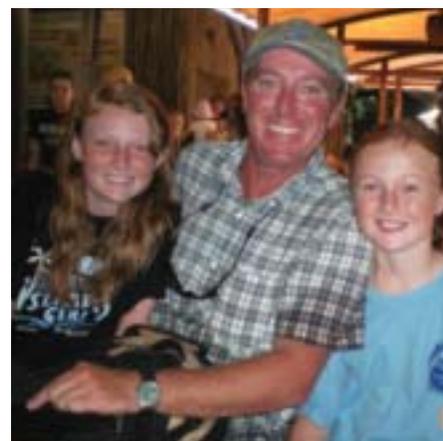
Shawn has been selling his produce to Whole Foods in Mt. Pleasant ever since the natural and organic grocery chain opened a store there in 2004. Jay Maynard, who works for Thackeray Farm in sales and marketing, has nearly 40 accounts with different restaurants in the Charleston area. Thackeray Farm is also a fixture at the weekly Charleston Farmers' Market and has

120 shareholders or subscribers who have joined its CSA. Shawn's partner Kenneth Melton runs the CSA and they split the profits. Thackeray Farm employs four full-time workers while the CSA hires four to five part-time workers for harvesting.

"These days our buyers want 100% local, especially the chefs," say Shawn and Jay. "The public is absolutely demanding local." At times, however, there can be a problem with consistency – in terms of quantity – due to the vagaries of Mother Nature and the seasons.

When asked about the establishment of a central market in the Charleston area to serve small-scale farmers, Shawn responds, "If a central market could guarantee greater consistency in terms of quantity and availability for these buyers and chefs, then I think it would be a wonderful thing."

"We would also like to sell to local institutions, like schools and hospitals," adds Jay. "If a central market could



Elizabeth, Shawn and Mary Frances Thackeray.

open up that sales opportunity for us, we could definitely use it. It could also be a more efficient way for the smaller volume restaurants to procure fresh, local produce."

Meanwhile, Thackeray Farm has teamed up with a Hendersonville, N.C. farmer to address the issue of consistency and to "work" the micro-climates and seasonal variations of the two regions to their advantage. Together, they can better guarantee fresh, farmer-direct produce to their customers, and "stretch" the seasonal availability of popular foods such as heirloom tomatoes and specialty greens.

What is a CSA?

CSA stands for a Community Supported Agriculture cooperative. It is a partnership between families and farms that is bringing the small family farm back to life by linking consumers directly with the people who grow their food. At the beginning of each growing season, participants purchase a share of the upcoming harvest, which ultimately supports the farm's early season start-up expenses such as seeds, irrigation, fuel, labor and tractor maintenance.

In return, shareholders receive a weekly box of healthy, fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs throughout the season. They also receive the satisfaction of knowing they are reducing the dramatic fuel consumption typically associated with food distribution across the U.S., avoiding the risks of disease and contamination that can afflict large-scale factory farming, and supporting the local farming economy and preservation of rural land.



HOW TO JOIN

Visit Lowcountry Local First's website at www.LowcountryLocalFirst.org and go to Programs. Then click on Farm Fresh Foods and scroll down to CSA Info for a complete listing of CSAs operating in the Lowcountry. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Beak, Director of LLF's Sustainable Agriculture Program at 843-740-5444 or at elizabeth@lowcountrylocalfirst.org.

BRANT FAMILY FARM

While Susan and Don Brant started farming commercially only three years ago, by 2011, they aim to do three things – produce all 12 months of the year (they are currently producing eight months of the year); become a USDA certified organic farm, and turn a profit. “It’s all about amending the soil and healing and restoring the land,” says Don. “We want to be a model for good stewardship.”



Soil is Everything – *Susan and Don Brant have spent three years “amending” and enriching their soil.*

Originally from Allendale County, Susan and Don have lived all over the world, he as a chemical engineer for Exxon and she as an ob-gyn nurse. They have a grown daughter in California, and a grown son living in the Habersham neighborhood of Beaufort with his wife and four children. The family has owned a house at Lands End for more than 50 years and Susan and Don moved there in 1998, planning to retire.

Then in 2004, they bought the farm – 180 acres of fields, swamp and Westvaco timberland – located near the historic town of Gillisonville in Jasper County. At first, they had planned to use the place as a family hunting retreat,



Fruits of Their Labor – *Susan and Don Brant stand beside their organic vegetable fields.*

managing for game and wildlife. Then in 2007, Don and his son built a house there. Before long, Susan and Don moved in permanently and decided to start feeding people as well as animals.

Over the last three years, the Brants estimate they have worked some 500 tons of compost, chicken manure and sawdust into the 3 acres of sandy, loamy soil where they do most of their vegetable cultivation. They use drip irrigation to conserve water, and have followed all USDA organic protocols in order to gain organic certification – a process that takes at least three years.

The Winter Harvest Handbook, by Eliot Coleman, has been an invaluable guide to the Brants, as has their membership in the Coastal Organic Growers, a dedicated group of organic farmers on the Georgia and South Carolina coastal plain.

Susan and Don grow a host of fresh, organic produce, both in open fields and inside what’s called a “cold house,” which protects the more tender varieties from winter freezes. They also rotate their crops so as not to deplete the land’s nutrients, and periodically rest and replenish the fields with cover crops that fix nitrogen into the soil. Their harvest includes heirloom tomatoes, several varieties of lettuce, as well as spinach, arugula, collards, cabbage, broccoli,

mustard greens, turnips, squash, eggplant and carrots. They also cultivate blueberries, strawberries, figs, pears, plums and apples. In addition, the Brants plant Coastal Bermuda hay in partnership with horse owners in the area.

Susan maintains an email list of about 150 customers and handles about 30 orders of fresh produce each week. She fills each order in an insulated reusable bag that is kept cool by an ice brick, then loads up the bags in her van and spends one full day each week making deliveries to four designated drop-off points in Habersham, Beaufort, Port Royal and Bluffton. She also sells to Chef Richard Wilson of Maggie’s Pub in Habersham.

Susan has been so successful at marketing and distribution that they now sell all they can grow, with production, or volume, being their primary challenge. As a result, the Brants are considering launching an intern program in order to boost their labor force, mentor future farmers, and share the rewarding experience of growing food. In the coming year, they will also add chickens and a pair of Black Angus cows to the Brant Family Farm, always striving to enhance the stewardship and sustainability of the land.

Planned Giving

THE COASTAL LEGACY SOCIETY

by Jarrett Ransom, Senior Development Officer for the Conservation League



The COASTAL LEGACY SOCIETY of the Coastal Conservation League

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Russell and Judith Burns
Charlotte Caldwell
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Coffee, Jr.
Ms. Marcia Curtis
Howard Drew
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Dr. Thomas R. Mather
Miles F. McSweeney
Ellen and Mayo Read
Mr. Jason A. Schall
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Tecklenburg
George W. Williams

In recent years, planned giving has emerged as an increasingly popular way for conservationists to sustain efforts to protect the landscapes, waterways and communities they love, while at the same time, meeting their own current financial obligations. Making a planned gift not only demonstrates one's commitment to a particular charity, it also allows a legacy to build out of that generous gift.

Many people assume that a bequest – the leaving of a tangible item or set amount of money in a will – is the only form a planned gift can take. There are, however, opportunities to set up trusts and life insurance plans that will not only benefit the organization, but will also benefit the donor and another beneficiary. In addition, there are multiple tax advantages that can result. Talking with an attorney or estate planner is the best way to learn about all of the options that are available.

It is never too early to start thinking about your future, and also never too late. Here at the Coastal Conservation League, the Coastal Legacy Society is made up of a wide range of supporters – from new arrivals in South Carolina to people who have been established here for many years. To date, the Coastal Legacy Society boasts 29 members, including farmers, lawyers, small business owners, a banker, a doctor, and a retired English professor.

Please consider including the League in your estate planning by joining the Coastal Legacy Society. Members receive all benefits associated with Live Oak Society membership. And, most importantly, their gift ensures that the vital work of the Coastal Conservation League will continue well beyond their lifetime, safeguarding a healthy and sustainable Lowcountry environment for generations to come.

To discuss planned giving options, please contact your financial advisor.
For referrals to local estate planners and for more information about the Coastal Legacy Society, please contact Jarrett Ransom at jarrettransom@scccl.org or 843-725-2066.

Dana Beach



The Carnival Glory

Broken Promises 10 SHIPS IN 13 DAYS

The State Ports Authority and Charleston Mayor Joe Riley have assured city residents that limiting the Union Pier cruise terminal to one berth will limit ship calls to one per day. They have also promised that no more than two cruise ships a week would visit Charleston, but that they would consult the community if they see that number changing.

On October 25th, there were two cruise ships in Charleston on the same day, within 15 minutes of each other—the Carnival Fantasy departed as The World ResidenSea entered the Charleston Harbor. During that same week of October 24th-30th, in addition to having two ships in one day, a total of five cruise ships visited Charleston. The following week, five more cruise ships docked at Union Pier, totaling...

10 SHIPS IN 13 DAYS:

Week One

October 25 – Carnival Fantasy & The World ResidenSea

October 28 – Crown Princess

October 29 – Aida Luna

October 30 – Carnival Fantasy

Week Two

October 31 – Celebrity Mercury

November 1 – Carnival Glory

November 4 – Carnival Fantasy

November 5 – Crystal Symphony

November 6 – Carnival Glory



The Crown Princess



The Celebrity Mercury



The Carnival Fantasy



The Aida Luna

“So many folks said how wonderful it was to learn about the Conservation League... especially outside and with their children.”

- Michelle Sinkler, QOL Member



QOL

Kick-off at Thornhill Farm!

photos by Gayle Brooker

The Quality of Life season kicked off on October 10th at Thornhill Farm to rave reviews.



“On Sunday, I feasted on gooey okra, hearty collards, and robust sea island red beans straight from the farm. Literally, I could see the fields from my seat! I dined among friends, laughing and listening to live music as we watched the sun set over the golden fields. I’m happy to have joined QOL and look forward to the next event!”

- Gervais Hagerty, QOL member



“The event was really fun and had great participation!”

- William Applegate, QOL Member



What's Coming Up:

Free for QOL members

Oysters à la Clean Water Roast

Join us at this QOL event to crack open steamed Lowcountry oysters and craft beer at a private home overlooking the water.

Sunday, January 30th, 2011, Sullivan's Island

Family Friendly / Activate Series

Want to know how South Carolina's coastline can avoid facing a ruinous oil spill like the Gulf Coast? You won't want to miss this opportunity to meet CCL's Hamilton Davis to find out. An expert on state energy policy and an avid kiteboarder, Davis will be on hand to discuss the exciting new developments in South Carolina's wind power industry.

1920s Transit Party

Wear your favorite 1920s garb and celebrate Charleston's streetcar past and future!

Thursday, March 24th, 2011, 7pm-9pm, American Theater,

Adult / Activate Series

Charleston's renowned planning and transit expert, Josh Martin of CCL, will release cutting edge simulations of the Tri-County area, illustrating effective streetcar and light rail systems. Sip cocktails, dance to swing music and picture a Charleston with seamless mobility!

Private Wildlife Tour

Enjoy a private beach tour as Kate Parks, CCL's Land Use Program Manager and a former naturalist for Kiawah Island, shares her piece of heaven with a walk on the legendary Captain Sams Spit. Afterwards, let the kids roam through the petting zoo while adults dine on dishes prepared from the fresh bounty of Rosebank Farms.

Sunday, May 1st, 2011, 4pm-7pm, Beachwalker Park and Rosebank Farms

Family Friendly / Activate Series

WHAT YOU CAN DO

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Your QOL Membership Card (which you'll receive upon joining) gives you amazing discounts at these wonderful partners with Quality of Life. We appreciate the support of these thriving local businesses, who are also mindful of the environment:

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Earthling Day Spa, www.earthlingdayspa.com/Welcome – 15% off spa services

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Giddy Goat Cheese, www.organicprocess.com/press – \$1 off their 8oz. containers sold at the Charleston Farmers Market



A People “Generally Assembled”

The close of the 118th Session of the General Assembly this summer marked a remarkable two years of accomplishment for the Coastal Conservation League legislative team and the broader conservation community. 2009 and 2010 brought us unmitigated success in water, energy, recycling and land protection. We won landmark victories with water withdrawal legislation, mandatory E-waste recycling, energy efficiency financing, and the rescue of the Conservation Bank; while stopping flawed legislative initiatives such as mega-mall subsidies and fast-track offshore drilling permits.

These victories would not have been possible without the enthusiastic support of the Conservation League’s dynamic membership. Your phone calls, letters, emails and presence in Columbia at critical moments are what allow us to be successful, year after year.

2011 marks the beginning of a new two-year session with its own unique challenges. Legislators face not only growing state budget deficits, but also the challenge of identifying \$700 million to \$900 million dollars in additional cuts to fill the holes created by expiring federal stimulus funds and declining tax revenues.

Nevertheless, the Conservation League, together with its conservation partners, has set a meaningful and ambitious agenda for this upcoming 119th Session. We will continue to keep you apprised of the critical issues before us, and as always, will count on your support every step of the way.



Virginia Beach

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Visit the following websites and get connected with what’s happening at the S.C. State House:

www.CoastalConservationLeague.org

www.ConservationVotersofSC.org

www.SCStateHouse.gov

Common Agenda

On September 24th, more than 60 conservation leaders gathered at the University of South Carolina to vote on the conservation community’s top priorities, also known as the “Common Agenda.” Which issue received the most votes? Promoting recycling as a way to create jobs, protect the environment, and reduce trash in our landfills. Other top priorities include creating a clean energy future, protecting funding for the Conservation Bank and South Carolina’s natural resource agencies, and addressing our failing wastewater treatment plants.

The Conservation Voters of South Carolina Education Fund hosts the Common Agenda, helping the state’s conservation community to speak with one voice on South Carolina’s most pressing environmental issues. Thirty-six organizations representing more than 40,000 South Carolinians participate in the Common Agenda.

The legislative priorities of the 2011 Common Agenda are as follows:

- **Recycling Package** – Waste reduction incentive of \$3 for rebates/incentives to counties and municipalities implementing recycling programs; ABC recycling mandate.
- **Conservation Bank** – Protect funding; extend sunset provision; eliminate death clause.
- **Clean Energy Standard** – Require South Carolina to meet defined targets for renewables and energy efficiency.
- **Natural Resource Agency Funding** – Support state natural resource agencies in their budget requests.
- **Chronic Sewage Polluter Act** – Require facilities with repeated spills to fix their operations.

Commercial Center Revitalization Act

We've spent the past 50 years focusing on the edges of our communities," says League Land Use Director Josh Martin. "Now it's time to focus on the center." This might sound like a commentary on the state of politics in 2010, but in actuality, it's a description of the nation's land use policy for the past half century, and how it's changing in the 21st.

Martin's statement reflects a shift in the way communities grow and develop that is sweeping the country. With the current economic downturn and the slowdown in construction, communities, planning boards and developers find themselves taking stock of where conventional zoning ordinances have taken them and how they might change course in the future.

"So, if the past fifty years of settlement in the Lowcountry have been dominated by the conventional suburban development model, what is the model for the next fifty years?" asks Martin. The answer: A retrofit of suburbia. In other words, redevelop the conventional suburban pattern into something more sustainable.

And this is exactly the kind of new model that South Carolina's Commercial Center Revitalization Act will provide. Recent market trends have led to the demise of the traditional large-scale, closed in commercial spaces that were popular in the mid-50s through the mid-80s – otherwise known as "shopping malls." These indoor malls often spawned outdoor "strip malls," or vice versa, all of which have come under increasing pressure to be reinvented or shut down.

A popular trend in the development industry is to retrofit these failing malls into new developments, forming a town center in the middle of the suburbs. Essentially, developers take these outdated, large-scale, retail only centers and transform them into city centers. These new centers possess more of an urban feel and contain a greater variety of space and uses – including



Sprawl Repair – The Development of Jean Ribaut Square, Beaufort

Initial improvements include the formation of a block and street network with a central town green, a grand civic building, and a frontage road along the north side of Boundary Street. Infill development will occur on an incremental basis.

walkable streets and outdoor space, plus a combination of retail, residential, office, recreational, entertainment and civic venues.

The new legislation would charge regional S.C. Councils of Governments to draft policy and corresponding model ordinances intended to enable retrofit of shopping malls and shopping centers into walkable, mixed use town centers. The Commercial Center Revitalization Act would also encourage development of legal incentives for special state taxing districts for public improvements to such sites and funding for design and construction of parking and transit infrastructure that enable redevelopment.

South Carolina will be the first state in the nation to propose statewide legislation to facilitate and incentivize the retrofitting of failed malls and shopping centers. And if successful, the state can realize increased tax revenues from new real estate and retail sales, enhanced value of existing neighboring real estate, and savings from the use of existing services and infrastructure already in place. Successful retrofits also result in job creation and renewed community pride.



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Energy “Star”

South Carolina is poised to become a national energy “star” if it can seize on promising opportunities emerging in the arenas of energy efficiency and renewables. Public and private initiatives

already in the works in South Carolina have the potential for significant clean energy job creation as well as huge savings in energy costs over the long term.

One of these important initiatives is that of the Energy Advisory Council for the Public Utility Review Committee (PURC). Hamilton Davis, Energy and Climate Director for the Conservation League, is one of the appointees to the Advisory Council. The Council also includes representatives from private energy companies, public utilities, electric cooperatives, private industries, state agencies, and other private conservation groups. It is tasked with making recommendations for a comprehensive state energy policy.

Currently, the council is developing recommendations for conventional, renewable energy and energy efficiency policies, according to Davis. Their goal is to adopt a set of recommendations for PURC to submit to the General Assembly for passage in the 2011 Legislative Session. Passage of a set of recommendations would provide the basis for a state energy policy to be developed and introduced in 2012.



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The goal of setting incentives and standards for South Carolina is to spur investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Some of the arenas where the Advisory Council is considering recommending action include:

- **A State Clean Energy Standard** that results in large-scale investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- **Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Municipal Financing Districts** for voluntary home improvements and upgrades;
- **Building codes update;**
- **Improved net metering policies;**
- **Solar incentives;**
- **Broadening involvement for offshore wind initiatives;**
- **Support for research and development** in renewable energy sources, and
- **An updated resource study** of South Carolina’s energy needs and options.

Taxpayer Protection Act

Inappropriate and harmful annexations have caused growth to outpace infrastructure in many regions of our state, burdening taxpayers and undermining local and regional planning efforts. The Conservation League has continued to advocate for reform of our state’s outdated annexation laws at the State House, working with key legislators and a growing list of stakeholders who all share an interest in annexation reform.

The League’s goal continues to be to improve the efficiency of local governments and to protect taxpayers from undue financial burdens resulting from unplanned growth in their communities. Several key legislators have expressed an interest in working on annexation reform in 2011 and may revive a bill that was worked out in the Annexation Study Committee last year. Stay tuned.

QOL MEMBER Julie Frye

I've always had a need to create," says Julie Frye, owner of Julie Frye Design, LLC of Charleston, mother of three young children and a QOL member (see page 12). "Both of my parents were professional musicians – my father a pianist and my mother a violinist. They were constantly playing and performing, and instilled in me a love of the arts."

As a child growing up in Columbus, Ga., Julie played the oboe and eventually won a music scholarship to the University of South Carolina, where she earned her B.A. in graphic design, with a minor in music. She performed with both the university orchestra as well as the university's concert band. Today, she sings in her church choir and directs the youth choir.

It was at USC where she also met her husband, Mark, who started the life and health insurance departments for Anderson Insurance. Mark loves to garden, and founded his own garden center several years back. They are both loyal Gamecock fans.

Julie's art training was all by hand; computerized graphic design came later – something she taught herself and learned on the job. Her clients include MUSC, Trident United Way, Ashley Hall School and the Conservation League, among others.

Prior to forming her own graphic design company, Julie worked in Charleston for the Reed Advertising Agency and the Davis Advertising Agency, designing for corporate clients such as Centex Homes and Commscope, a cable manufacturer. When her eldest daughter Cameron was born in 1998, she took the plunge and started her own business. Julie laughs, "I had the baby in one hand and the computer mouse in the other!"

Cameron is now 12 years old, followed by little sister Brynнан, who is ten, and baby brother Brady, now three. The family has lived in the South Windermere neighborhood of Charleston for 15 years. As Julie describes their life, "We love our neighborhood; it's right in the middle of everything. The children can walk to St. Andrew's School, we have the West Ashley Greenway close by, and on Thursday nights, we walk or bike over to Earth Fare, where the kids can eat for free."



Mark, Julie, Brady, Brynнан and Cameron Frye.

"We also love the mix of ages here," Julie continues. "Our neighbor will celebrate her 92nd birthday next month and we have so enjoyed becoming friends over the years." Nevertheless, as Julie notes, the neighborhood

needs sidewalks so that residents can safely walk and take advantage of the convenience of their central location.

Indeed, the Fryes are an environmentally conscious family, largely led by Cameron, the 12-year-old. "She keeps us on our toes," says Julie, "whether it's the tiniest scrap of paper that

should go into the recycling bin or Cameron insisting that our next car should be a hybrid. I credit her school for instilling this awareness early."

"And, of course, having designed the Conservation League newsletter since 2004, I have become much more aware and concerned about the environment," says Julie. "I care deeply about the desecration of the land and the trees and I worry about air quality in North Charleston, where Cameron now attends the School of the Arts."

"Joining QOL [the League's young patrons group] has been a great entré to learning the issues and meeting other like-minded young families," continues Julie. "Our children loved making ice cream and seeing the mobile chicken coops at Thornhill Farm at the QOL kick-off event this fall. Mark and I look forward to the adult events as well, getting to know the other members and furthering our education about conservation."



Julie Frye Design, LLC

photos by Courtenay Speir & Virginia Beach

Georgetown Celebrates Local Food

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in October, Scott and John Adams hosted a gathering for Georgetown Conservation League members to celebrate the bounty of local farmers. Guests enjoyed informal tours of the Adams' home along the Waccamaw River and feasted on a delicious buffet provided by Carefree Catering, with produce supplied by Millgrove Farms, C-Breeze Farm and other area growers.



(l-r) Goffinet and Ian McLaren with Lisa Turansky, Director of the Conservation League's Sustainable Agriculture Program.



(l-r) Doris Dawson with Barbara and Steve Goggans.



Conservation League supporters listen to an update on the Local Food Local Use initiative, presented by staffers Nancy Cave and Dana Beach.



William and Tanis Bowles.



(l-r) Former Conservation League board member Billie Houghton with League supporter Goffinet McLaren.

Conservation League Teams Up with Local Sculptor at SEWE

The Conservation League will be sharing a table with local artist and sculptor Van Keuren Marshall during the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, February 18th-20th at the Francis Marion Hotel's Carolina Ballroom in Charleston. Stop by anytime during SEWE to meet Van and visit with League program staff.

Also, check out the calendar on the back page of this newsletter for details regarding a special program series entitled, *Conversations on Art and Conservation*, to be held on February 18th and 19th. (To view Van's bio and work, visit his website at www.vankeurenmarshall.com.)



A pair of painted buntings.



Three pelicans take the plunge.

courtesy of Van Keuren Marshall

photos by Dana Beach

3rd Annual Green Fair

Hundreds of citizens and dozens of exhibitors and local food vendors participated in Charleston's Third Annual Green Fair at Marion Square on September 26th. The Green Fair was sponsored by the Charleston City Paper, the Coastal Conservation League, the City of Charleston, Lowcountry Local First and a host of other conservation minded organizations.



Nancy Cregg, League supporter and event planner extraordinaire, manned the Conservation League booth.



No matter where you're from or where you're going, the Green Fair is the place to be!



The Steep Canyon Rangers take center stage at downtown Charleston's Marion Square.



The 3 Dudes, youngest rock band on the Charleston music scene, wows the crowd.

Mouzon & McMillan: Landscapes Revealed

The Charleston Library Society and the Coastal Conservation League jointly hosted two special evenings at the Library Society in Charleston this fall – the unveiling of the restored Henri Mouzon 1775 Map of North and South Carolina, and a lecture by Dr. Patrick McMillan, natural historian at Clemson University and host of the popular ETV program, *Expeditions with Patrick McMillan*.

photos by Anne Cleveland



(l-r) Kit Matthew, Steve Gates, and Pat and Robert Prioleau.

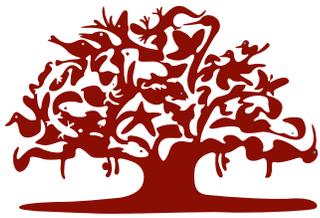


(l-r) Megan Desrosiers, Dick and Eleanor Hale, and Will Cleveland.



(l-r) Laura and Joel Oppenheimer with Anne Cleveland.

Thank You!



LIVE OAK SOCIETY

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QOL

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Thursday, Jan. 13th –
“Conversations with Conservationists”
hosted by House and Senate leaders
in Columbia

Tuesday, Jan. 25th – Lobby Day
Tuesdays begin at the State House

Friday, Feb. 18th, 11am & 3pm
Southeastern Wildlife Exposition
(SEWE): “Flamingos of Kenya,”
photography and conversation
with Dana Beach

Saturday, Feb. 19th, 3pm
SEWE: “Common Ground: The Story
of the ACE Basin,” excerpts from the
new documentary and conversation
with filmmaker, William Bailey

Tuesday, May 3rd – 8th Annual
Conservation Lobby Day



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coastal plain and to enhance the quality of life of our
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government to ensure balanced solutions.

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