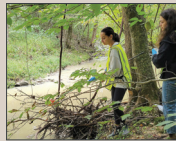




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CURRENTS

Sound Rivers' Quarterly Newsletter | Volume 9, No. 4 | Winter 2023

Farewell, 2023.

Hello, 2024!

I recently spoke to our members about how I have been reflecting on my 20 years working at Sound Rivers. I noted that I have never been more excited than I am currently about the opportunities that lie ahead. Our rivers and communities certainly face many challenges, but together, and with your support, we are making a positive difference for our rivers and the communities that depend on access to clean water.

Sound Rivers is a unique organization — working regionally AND locally to solve our pollution and flooding problems on the Tar-Pamlico and



Neuse rivers. What you'll read in this issue of the Currents newsletter is a wonderful snapshot of 2023 highlights.

As we approach the new year, we

"I have never been more excited than I am currently about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Our rivers and communities certainly face many challenges, but together, and with your support, we are making a positive difference for our rivers and the communities that depend on access to clean water."

promise to:

- **Serve as a valuable and accessible resource for communities;**
- **Fight to restore state protections for wetlands which improve water quality and reduce flooding;**
- **Expand the Litter-Free Rivers program;**
- **Secure funding for beneficial projects for those most impacted by pollution and flooding;**
- **Continue water-quality monitoring through our successful Swim Guide program;**
- **Solve stormwater problems and enhance education through our Campus Stormwater Program;**
- **Advocate with community leaders to demand greater transparency on local zoning/ordinances and improve policies to reduce the harm caused by new development;**

- **Expand volunteer opportunities;**
- **Be transparent in our work — if you'd like to see Sound Rivers' audit for fiscal year 2022-23, visit soundrivers.org/2023-audit.**

Join us by being active in your community; join us by volunteering in our programs; join us by contacting your elected representatives; and, for those who are able, supporting us with your gifts. Your year-end gift before Dec. 31 will help us continue to make progress for our communities and rivers in 2024.

From all of us at Sound Rivers, we wish you the happiest of holidays!

Weather Deck

Executive Director, Sound Rivers

THE YEAR AHEAD 2024

What's in store for Sound Rivers in 2024? Plenty, according to Sound Rivers' staff!

SAMANTHA KROP Neuse Riverkeeper



Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop's goal for 2024 is simple: clean-water wins.

"I'm looking forward to successful campaigns that are place-based and borne in partnership with community. I'm looking forward to our stronger and bigger Sound Rivers team becoming more of a well-oiled machine in doing this work," Sam said.

Between pollution and fish kill investigations, serving on Raleigh's Stormwater Management Advisory Commission and overseeing the Little Rock Creek trash trap and water-quality sampling programs, Sam dedicated much of her time and energy in 2023 to sedimentation and erosion issues caused by rampant development in the Durham area. While there were both rezoning wins and losses, Sam says the fight for the upper Neuse's waterways is far from over: "Our next steps are to build a robust and intersectional movement around responsible development in the upper watershed, especially in Lick Creek. I'm looking forward to working with the community to save what's left of the Lick Creek watershed," she said.

Sam said she's looking forward to closing pollution investigations in Havelock and Kinston — the Sound Rivers team is moving closer to identifying the sources of bacterial pollution in both waterways — as well as expanding Sound Rivers' Litter-Free Rivers program and education.

KATEY ZIMMERMAN, Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper



Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman sees 2024 as an opportunity to step more fully into her Riverkeeper role. Katey joined the Sound Rivers staff in September, and has since been getting caught up to speed on the issues facing the Tar-Pamlico and its tributaries and methods used to resolve them.

"I am looking forward to getting involved in more campaigns and doing more pollution investigations independently," Katey said. "My focus is going to be on taking the issues as they come at me and doing whatever is most needed in the watershed."

Katey said decisions made this year, such as the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to remove protections for "isolated wetlands" and the North Carolina General Assembly passing legislation that essentially does the same, will likely be a central part of her work.

"One of the biggest problems all of the watersheds are having right now is what's going to happen in the aftermath of the Sackett decision," Katey said. "I think that's going to be a big issue for years to come."



CLAY BARBER Program Director

Sound Rivers Program Director Clay Barber is making a plan to not only install green stormwater infrastructure projects in 2024, but to follow through with the educational component of the work.

"What gets me jazzed about 2024? More education and engagement," Clay said. "What's great about having more staff is that we can diversify our efforts even more, so instead of building projects and moving on, we can revisit these projects, educate staff, students and other groups about them and make sure they're being used as educational tools and operating in the best way they can."

Meanwhile, Clay has projects he'll be wrapping up in the coming year — finishing up his work with the City of Washington and the Mid-East Commission on 9-Element Watershed Restoration plans for both the Jack's Creek and Runyon Creek watersheds — and he'll be embarking on new projects like a step-pool conveyance system at Vance-Granville Community College in the upper Tar-Pamlico watershed.

"I'm also looking forward to getting back to working on the Water Trail's camping platforms, now that we've got a good jon boat and a great volunteer coordinator — that's going to help me out a lot," Clay said.



TAYLOR REGISTER Water Quality Specialist

Sound Rivers Water Quality Specialist is looking forward to resolution in 2024—that is, resolving the pollution investigations she has dedicated much of her time to in 2023.

"I would love to get at least one resolved on our end — mainly Slocum Creek in Havelock," Taylor said. "Hopefully, I have sufficient data to figure out where the bacterial pollution is coming from and putting an end to it. The biggest problem with these major pollution events is they're really difficult to figure out, and it takes a lot of time."

Much of that time has been spent in the field, taking multiple water samples on multiple occasions, often in hard-to-reach places.

Taylor said education is also on the agenda for 2024. While she's honed her skills with bacterial and DNA testing, she's got a plan to increase her knowledge base to further support Sound Rivers Riverkeepers' work.

"This upcoming year I'm going to have a lot more opportunities for training and expanding what I'm doing," Taylor said. "I'm going to be taking courses on macro-invertebrates and cyanobacteria, and I'm very excited to learn about those things and being able to apply them to my current suite of practices in the organization."



EMILY FRITZ Volunteer Coordinator

Emily hit the ground running when she joined the Sound Rivers staff in March. After a successful season of Swim Guide — the sixth for Sound Rivers, the first for Emily — she said she's excited to continue expanding the program. This year, she teamed up with Wayne Community College's biology club to collect samples from four sites previously untested along a stretch of the Neuse, and next season, she's bringing on East Carolina University's Water Resource Center to expand Swim Guide testing on the Tar River.

"We're working a lot with the schools, which is great because we want to provide as much information as possible to everyone in the watersheds, and this is one way to make that happen," Emily said.

Emily said she'll also be working to bring more volunteers into the Sound Rivers fold in 2024.

"I'm definitely looking forward to expanding our volunteer groups and getting them together to meet one another," Emily said. "I'm excited to have more events and clean-ups, and have more volunteer appreciation events to get to know our volunteers even better. Something I love about my job is hearing their stories and their connection with the river, and how they became involved with Sound Rivers."

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

A LOOK AT OUR WORK ON THE NEUSE & TAR-PAMLICO

The following are highlights of 2023, and a glimpse into the work Sound Rivers' staff does on a daily basis. On any given day, they're out in the field, in the lab, standing in a classroom or at a podium sharing our clean-water goals and mission.



Lick Creek sample compared to nearby creek.

LICK CREEK

Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop has worked hard this year to bring to the public's attention the widespread problem of sediment pollution from new development in Durham County. Specifically, she has been investigating Lick Creek which empties into Falls Lake — a major water source for the Raleigh area. Through science, the media, collaborating with community members and pure persistence, Samantha's work has paid off in the fact that we have gathered enough evidence to document clear violations of the Clean Water Act and, together with concerned residents, have pushed the Durham City Council to strengthen ordinances for new development.

In September, the Southern Environmental Law Center, on behalf of Sound Rivers, filed suit against one developer responsible for the ongoing sedimentation of Martin Branch, a tributary of Lick Creek.



Swim Guide test kits lined up in lab.

SWIM GUIDE

We celebrated another successful year of Swim Guide!

This year, we monitored 54 sites from Memorial Day until Labor Day, then scaled down the program to 17 key locations in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico watersheds during the off-season.

The Swim Guide sampling team included 52 volunteers in 2023, and Sound Rivers has analyzed nearly 800 water samples throughout the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse river watersheds so far.

Through our local media partnerships, more than 50,000 households receive our water-quality reports, which let the public know where bacteria counts are high and to use caution when recreating at those sites. This year, weekly sampling turned up poor water-quality results over a period of time at two sites, prompting our team to conduct investigations to track down sources of pollution that could be a public health threat.



Water sampling on Maple Creek.

MAPLE BRANCH INVESTIGATION

In January, local residents' complaints of a cloudy, milky-looking Maple Branch launched a Sound Rivers investigation. Maple Branch is a tributary of Runyon Creek, which runs into the Pamlico River in Washington.

At the time, then Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Jill Howell traced the source of pollution from Runyon Creek more than a mile upstream to one of two properties on Maple Branch. She reported her findings to North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality staff, and after investigations by both NCDEQ and the North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources, two notices of violation were issued to a mining company on Whootentown Road, east of Washington — sediment-laden water from the mine pit was spilling into Maple Branch. Working with the state, the mining company corrected the problem, and there have been no reported issues since.



Nahunta Swamp field day.

WHITE OAK INVESTIGATION

After a yearlong Sound Rivers investigation, a Wayne County industrial hog facility was issued a notice of violation, ordered to undergo a comprehensive groundwater investigation and the state declined to renew its operating permit.

The action was a win for Sound Rivers' Riverkeepers, which began their investigation in August of 2022, after a hog-waste lagoon cover used to harness biogas ruptured, releasing millions of cubic feet of nutrient- and bacteria-laden "foam." Some of that foam — a byproduct of the decomposition of hog waste, dead hogs and food waste such as hot dogs and deli meat — spilled into nearby Nahunta Swamp. Sound Rivers continues to monitor what appears to be ongoing pollution from the facility, which is no longer in operation.

(Pictured above: Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop and Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman walk into the swamp to take water samples.)

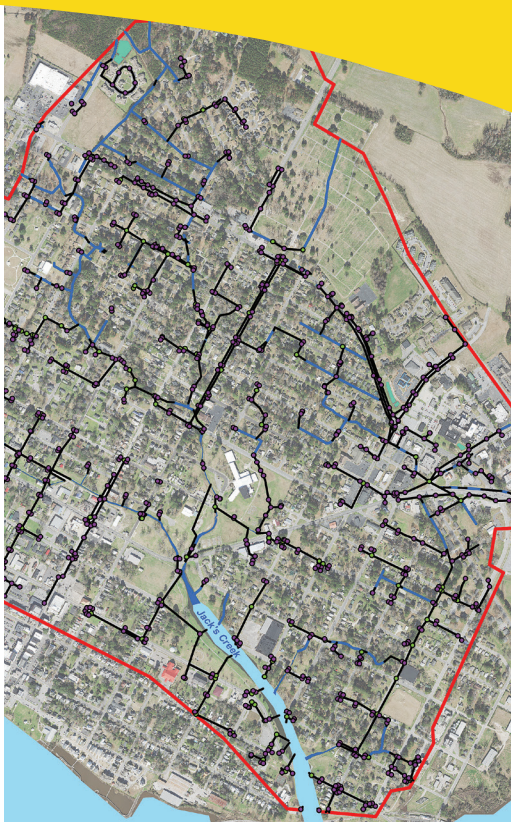


A DNA test kit used at Slocum Creek.

SLOCUM CREEK POLLUTION

After numerous poor water-quality results for Slocum Creek during our summer Swim Guide program, Sound Rivers' Water Quality Specialist Taylor Register took action. Extremely high bacteria levels caught her attention, and further investigation and DNA testing revealed the source of the pollution was human.

With the Town of Havelock's history of sewage problems, the Sound Rivers team went directly to town officials to discuss the findings of their sampling and the fact the DNA was human, and determine next steps in what to do about it. A public meeting is scheduled for 2024 to get the community involved and to ensure transparent solutions to the problem. Taylor and Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop continue to seek the source of the ongoing pollution, most recently paddling upstream by kayak to take water samples at areas of concern.



Jack's Creek watershed in Washington.

9-ELEMENT WATERSHED PLANS

A future of heavier and more frequent rainfall and flooding puts stormwater solutions on the resiliency map in the Tar-Pamlico watershed.

Sound Rivers Program Director Clay Barber spent 2023 working with the City of Washington, the Mid-East Commission, N.C. State and East Carolina universities on 9-Element Watershed Restoration plans for Jack's Creek and Runyon Creek in Washington. The goal is proactive: find ways to improve existing stormwater infrastructure and plan projects to mitigate flooding.

Water Quality Specialist Taylor Register is working with the Village of Simpson on its 9-Element Watershed Plan, collecting monthly water samples and gathering baseline data to identify the town's most significant water-quality issues. She also found major bacterial pollution in the three creeks she's testing, and Sound Rivers has partnered with the town for DNA testing to determine its source.

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

Rain garden and trash trap installations. Clean-ups. Investigations. Sampling. Interviews with media. Public speaking. It's all in a day's work.



Wetland restoration in progress.

CAMPUS STORMWATER PROGRAM

In 2023, Program Director Clay Barber wrapped up five green stormwater infrastructure projects on campuses across the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico watersheds: rain gardens at Nash Community College and West Craven Middle School; and a rainwater harvester, bioswale restoration, and reconstruction of an existing constructed wetland at Wayne Community College. This year also delivered many new opportunities for our Campus Stormwater Program for 2024: an American Rescue Plan Act grant will provide stormwater assessment plans for 12 Nash County schools (in addition to three funded by a 2020 Environmental Enhancement grant), and a \$251,586 grant from the N.C. Land and Water Fund will fund a regenerative stormwater conveyance system at West Craven Middle School. Since 2015, Sound Rivers has installed 26 stormwater projects that treat an average of 11.5 million gallons of stormwater runoff each year.



The Kinston trash trap at work.

KINSTON TRASH TRAP

In August, Sound Rivers and City of Kinston staff, along with plenty of community stakeholders, gathered in Kinston to install a trash trap on Adkin Branch, in the heart of the city.

The waterway is a tributary of the Neuse River; the trash trap is the fourth Sound Rivers has installed on waterways in both watersheds, as part of our Litter-Free Rivers program. The passive litter-trapping devices prevent trash from flowing downstream into the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico rivers. Other trash traps are installed on Jack's Creek in Washington, Duffyfield Canal in New Bern and Little Rock Creek in Raleigh.

Collectively, 1,000 pounds of trash were removed from these four waterways in 2023. Sound Rivers is currently working with municipal governments in Greenville and Rocky Mount to install trash traps on waterways in 2024, and the City of Raleigh has expressed interest in a second trap.



Loose on the Neuse, held in August.

EVENTS

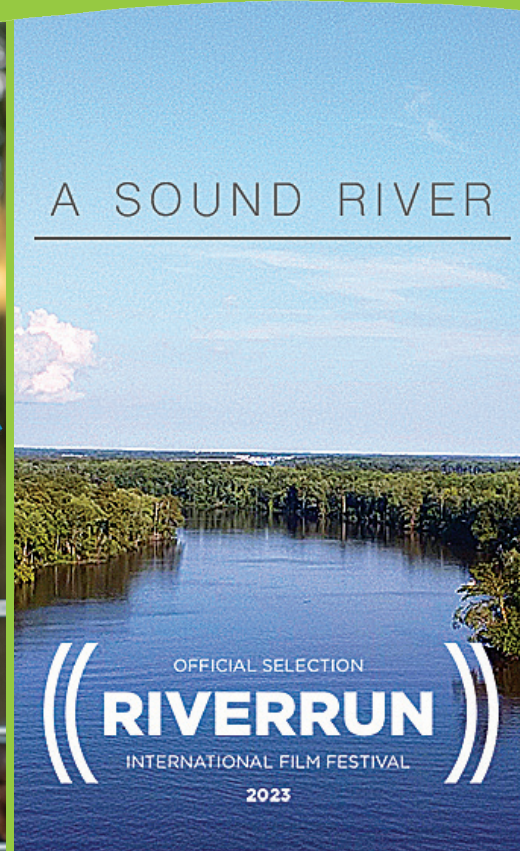
Sound Rivers staff hit the road and the waterways in 2023, hosting/participating in events across both watersheds. When Volunteer Coordinator Emily Fritz joined Sound Rivers' staff, she immediately set to work. Clean-ups were held in Rocky Mount, Washington, New Bern and Greenville, and we joined Raleigh partners to host a revival of Loose on the Neuse, a clean-up on the upper Neuse. In Oriental, we hosted a "FRIEND-raiser" at New Village Brewery and, with local supporters, a kayaking fundraiser at Cycle NC's Spring Ride; Sound Rivers was there for Walnut Creek Wetland Center's Mud Day; and in Silver Springs, Emily took dogs (and their owners) on an educational walk at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park's "Dog Days of Summer." These are just a few highlights — Sound Rivers' staff also shared our clean-water mission with innumerable civic and school groups in 2023.



Sound Rivers' staff accept RESA award.

RESA AWARD

The City of Raleigh honored Sound Rivers, alongside partners The Great Raleigh Cleanup and Walnut Creek Wetland Community Partnership, with the Raleigh Environmental Stewardship Award at the city's 2023 Earth Day celebration. The RESA award acknowledged the work Sound Rivers and partners have done to clean up Little Rock Creek — specifically by installing a trash trap on the urban waterway that runs through the Walnut Creek Wetland Center campus. In 2023, 53 volunteers removed more than 300 pounds of trash from the Little Rock Creek trash trap, preventing that trash from flowing downstream into the Neuse River. The trash trap — part of Sound Rivers' Litter-Free Rivers program — has also worked as an educational tool for a variety of local groups, from the middle schoolers who make up the Neighborhood Ecology Corps to residents of the Walnut Creek watershed.



'A Sound River' with RiverRun laurels.

RIVERRUN FILM FESTIVAL

"A Sound River" — Sound Rivers' short film celebrating 40 years of fighting for clean water — was one of more than 100 films from 30-plus countries shown at the 2023 RiverRun International Film Festival held in Winston-Salem in April. The documentary, released in the fall of 2021, explores Sound Rivers' history of activism, from its humble beginnings around kitchen tables to court battles against industrial polluters, as told by the voices of Sound Rivers — its founders and partners, those continuing the fight for clean water and environmental justice, and the Riverkeepers guarding the waterways that cover nearly a quarter of North Carolina.

RiverRun, considered one of the Southeast's premier film festivals, paired "A Sound River," with the feature-length documentary, "The River Runs On," about the struggle to manage two national forests in North Carolina, the Pisgah and the Nantahala.



Taylor and Emily on the job.

SOUND RIVERS EXPANDS

In March of 2023, we welcomed two new staff members to two newly created positions at Sound Rivers: volunteer coordinator and water quality specialist.

Since, Volunteer Coordinator Emily Fritz and Water Quality Specialist Taylor Register have provided invaluable behind-the-scenes support to program staff. For Emily, support comes in the form of organizing volunteers to help with trash trap clean-outs, Swim Guide sampling, fundraisers (including our largest one, the Oyster Roast) and more, while Taylor's role puts her in the field several times a week, collecting water samples, testing them, reading results, then organizing data to share.

With these additional roles, Sound Rivers is much better situated to respond to reported issues on your waterways, as well as build an active, and larger, corps of dedicated volunteers throughout the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico watersheds.

RIVERKEEPER REPORTS



The water runs red at the confluence of Martin Branch and Lick Creek in southeast Durham.

Durham City Council votes for more Lick Creek development

In November, Durham's City Council voted, 4-3, to approve a proposal to develop the largest remaining private forested parcel along Lick Creek.

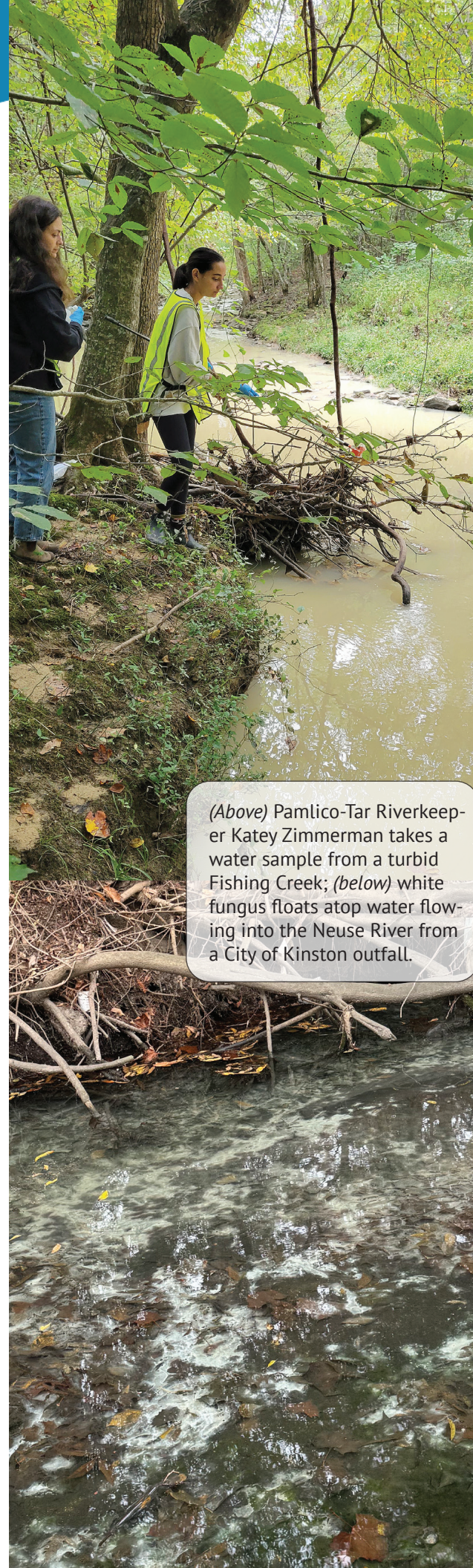
"The 4-3 slim majority vote in favor of the development is an all too familiar margin in Durham City Council," said Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop. "We are crestfallen, but will continue to fight. It will take an upswell of intersectional advocacy to push back against the senseless sprawl – the sacrificing of our remaining forestlands and waterways to fractured, overpriced, polluting subdivisions. Above all, we must insist that we can have clean water and housing. It's going to be a long-haul fight to get there."

Lick Creek is a tributary of Falls Lake, a drinking water source for half a million Raleigh-area residents. In September, Sound Rivers and the Southern Environmental Law Center filed suit against another developer in an effort to stop

sediment pollution of another Lick Creek tributary, Martin Branch. Sam, in coalition with local community members, organized to oppose more rezoning that will intensify pollution of an already impaired waterway.

"I have documented sediment polluting the stream, settling on the bottom of the stream channel and a lack of aquatic diversity as a result of sediment pollution," Sam said. "The forestland in this parcel contains mature hardwood forest, floodplain, wetlands and 11 tributaries of Lick Creek. It contains federally listed endangered species and endangered plant communities."

Though more than 1,600 emails opposing the rezoning were sent to council members through a Sound Rivers Action Alert, and 17 area residents and Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop spoke against the proposal at the public hearing before the vote, the council voted to rezone the land for Perry Farms' proposed 655 homes.



(Above) Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman takes a water sample from a turbid Fishing Creek; (below) white fungus floats atop water flowing into the Neuse River from a City of Kinston outfall.

Oxford growth may pose threat to local waterways

Rezoning decisions and development proposals in Oxford stand to impact the waterways of the upper Tar River watershed.

Area residents reached out to Sound Rivers after rezoning requests for two housing development proposals were put on the November agenda of Oxford's Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman was on hand at the meeting where the board approved rezoning of land from agricultural to conservation/development for the Raleigh Road and Knox Grove developments. Raleigh Road developers plan to put 417 housing units on 160 acres; 836 units on 260 acres are proposed for the Knox Grove development.

"The concern is that these developments are going to negatively impact Fishing Creek, which is already experiencing sedimentation issues," Katey said, adding that the existing sedimentation pollution's likely source is other developments currently under construction around Fishing Creek. "There's definitely expediated growth in the city."

Katey said she's planning opportunities to meet with residents who are concerned with how unchecked growth may impact their local waterways.

"My next steps are to be able to monitor the creeks off of these developments before they break ground so we can see the impact in real time," Katey said.

Kinston investigation continues

Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop and Water Quality Specialist Taylor Register are honing in on the source of pollution that caused one Swim Guide site's water quality to go from pass to fail.

Midway through the Swim Guide season, test results of water samples taken at the N.C. Highway 11 boat ramp in Kinston began returning with elevated levels of *E. coli* – levels that have continued in the scaled-down, year-round monthly testing.

Sam identified one potential source: a large stormwater outfall pipe flowing directly into the Neuse River, located upstream from the Swim Guide site. Though little rain had fallen before her discovery in mid-November, she said there was a "pretty significant flow" of what looked, and smelled, like sewage. When informed of the issue, city officials were responsive. A visit by Taylor the following week showed the same odorous, blue-green water flowing from the pipe. Results from water samples showed "off the charts" levels of bacteria at the site, in the normal range upstream and elevated levels downstream.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality is investigating, and the city is working to resolve the issue.

2023 OYSTER ROAST



Another Oyster Roast in the books!

More than 440 guests and sponsors turned out for Sound Rivers' 36th-annual Oyster Roast, held at the Washington Civic Center on Nov. 11. On the Civic Center grounds, oyster-lovers shucked all-you-can-eat oysters to traditional music by the Flatland Zingers, while inside, there were bidding wars on silent auction items and dancing to the tunes of the Chuck Phillips Band.

The annual Oyster Roast is Sound Rivers' biggest fundraiser of the year, and **this year, we raised more than \$50,000!** These funds are used for a single purpose: supporting your Riverkeepers' work to protect the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico rivers, and all their many tributaries.

We'd like to thank the many volunteers who helped set up and break down the Oyster Roast; volunteers who checked in ticket-holders, and those who washed oysters, cooked oysters and delivered them, steaming, to our hungry guests. We could not possibly host this event without the help of Sound Rivers' sponsors and dedicated volunteers — *thank you all!*



(Clockwise from above) Oysters are delivered steaming to a table by Sound Rivers volunteer Tyler Johnson; Sound Rivers Program Director Clay Barber shovels steamed oysters into buckets for delivery; more than 440 guests went through approximately 70 bushels of oysters. The oyster shells were donated the next day to N.C. Coastal Federation's living shoreline projects.



Then Pamlico-Tar River Foundation Board President Joe Hester gladly accepts the gift of a Grady-White boat from owner/CEO Eddie Smith in 2009.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: *Grady-White Boats*

It's a good time for a great cause, but without the support of generous sponsors, Sound Rivers' Oyster Roast could not happen.

Grady-White Boats, and owner/CEO Eddie Smith, have long been dedicated supporters of Sound Rivers' mission. The legacy of giving by Grady-White and the Smith Family Foundation has put Riverkeepers on the water, built camping platforms on the Water Trail, launched the Swim Guide, provided the match for multiple April Match campaigns, funding for educational programs and events and so much more.

That legacy is borne of a love of eastern North Carolina waterways, one not only instilled in generations of the Smith family, who grew up skiing, boating and fishing at the family home in Bath, but built into the fabric of Grady-White as a company.

"At Grady-White, we talk about the fact that our owner, Eddie Smith, has a great love and great respect for the outdoors. He brought that with him to our organization when he bought the company in 1968," said Shelley Tubaugh, Grady-White's vice president of marketing. "He understands that outdoor recreation is an incredible gift, and we, being good stewards, need to protect and advocate for the environment, and

specifically for waterways and our fisheries."

From the donation of a Thunderbird, raffled off in the early days of the organization and the 2009 gift of the Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper's Grady-White boat and a truck to pull it, to a donation for water-quality testing to determine the impact of Hurricane Florence in 2018, the Smith Family Foundation and Grady-White have given generously to support the work of Sound Rivers over many years — and every year for Sound Rivers' signature event, the Oyster Roast.

There's a simple reason for that, according to Tubaugh.

"It's a really visible, easy way to introduce people to how important it is to protect our resources," Tubaugh said. "It's such a universal outreach, but it really highlights the specific resources of oysters and clean water. But being able to enjoy that has a price: we have to protect the waterways and the oyster beds and the habitat."

In addition to Sound Rivers, Grady-White and the Smith Family Foundation also support the Tar River Land Conservancy, Nature Conservancy, Coastal Land Trust, North Carolina Coastal Federation, Coastal Conservation Association, Conservation Trust for NC — all working toward a lasting legacy of healthy waterways.



Legacy giving is an effective way to make a difference to future generations. Legacy giving is a meaningful way to affect your waterways. Every small gift — and your legacy can be any size — makes a difference, because maintaining stable and continuous funding for Sound Rivers also maintains the breadth and quality of your Riverkeepers' work.

In the words of her daughter, Ann Crehore, Ann Woodall Davant's love of North Carolina's waterways is the inspiration behind her legacy gift to Sound Rivers: "In addition to being an avid Duke fan, 'Peetie' was a fierce protector of and advocate for clean water. Being in and on the water with her left an indelible mark on our lives. From the Catawba River where she taught us to swim, the Pamlico River where we spent weeks at her sister, Erin Tayloe's, house at Hawkins Beach, to the Neuse River where she enjoyed Family Camp at Seafarer and her own home near Adams Creek. At an early age, she taught us how to swim, fish, catch crabs (using a piece of string, a shower curtain hook and a fish head), gig flounders and identify all kinds of wildlife. I was so blessed to have such an incredible role model for loving and protecting our water."

We, at Sound Rivers, are so grateful to Ann and to everyone who supports our mission.

If you are interested in learning more about a legacy gift for Sound Rivers, please contact Executive Director Heather Deck at info@soundrivers.org.

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