



Spider Web and Mist on the Lower Saluda... Happy Halloween!

Congaree Riverkeeper works to protect and improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation on the Congaree, Lower Saluda and Lower Broad Rivers through advocacy, education and enforcement of environmental laws.

River Watch

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Thanks so much to everyone who made the Save Our Water campaign

Congaree River Coal Tar Update

On October 18th the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved a permit that would allow SCE&G to cover up their plume of toxic coal tar in the Congaree River rather than clean it up.

This will not protect the Congaree River or the people who use it, and is a far cry from SCE&G's promise seven years ago to do right by the river. We believe SCE&G can do better, and should do better. No one from SCE&G has ever fully explained to us why they have backed away from their assurances of a full cleanup.

SCE&G also claimed in a recent statement to the press that "the water in this area of the Congaree River is safe for recreational use and that the tar material does not pose a short-term health hazard." The reality is exposure to coal tar can cause acute health issues including skin irritation and coal

this last month a big success, especially [SweetWater Brewing Company](#), [The Whig](#), [Jake's, Craft & Draft](#), [World of Beer](#), [Pawleys Front Porch](#) and [Liberty Tap Room](#). And congrats to Joe C. on winning the kayak raffle.

Have you heard about [Running for Rivers?](#)

Ultramarathoner and biologist Keith "Wildman" Hanson plans to run 300 miles across South Carolina in 3 days to help raise awareness for river protection and raise funds for our partners at [American Rivers](#).

[Join us at Riverfront Park on Friday, Nov. 3rd when Keith hits Columbia to cheer him on and celebrate our rivers.](#)

Last week the Free Times Burning Questions series tackled the question "What are those stinky concrete cones along the river?" Spoiler... they're elevated sewer manholes. [Read the whole article here.](#)



tar is a known carcinogen that contains several hazardous chemicals including benzene, naphthalene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Furthermore, very little work has been done so far to assess the impacts of the coal tar on public health, water quality, and aquatic life in the Congaree River. Since 2010 only two sets of water quality samples have been collected and analyzed for coal tar related pollutants. Attempts by SCE&G to downplay the public health and ecological impacts of this coal tar are misleading at best.

Congaree Riverkeeper is reviewing all of our options at this time, including possible legal actions. SCE&G should not be allowed to burden our community with a toxic legacy that every future generation will have to live with.

Read more here:

[The State Newspaper - Feds OK SCE&G's plan for coal tar in river](#)

[Study Finds Dozens of Contaminants in Water and Soil at Congaree National Park](#)

A recent study from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and National Park Service found dozens of contaminants in water and soil samples collected at Congaree National Park. The contaminants included pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and chemicals associated with wastewater. While not found at levels that would pose a risk to the health of park visitors, the USGS did state that "additional research would need to take place to determine if the present levels or mixture of contaminants could cause adverse health impacts to aquatic organisms."

This study highlights the importance of addressing these emerging contaminants that are entering our waterways, as well as the need to identify and address sources of pollution impacting Congaree National Park.

Read more here:

[USGS - Shedding Light on Contaminants in Congaree National Park](#)

[WLTX - Dozens of Contaminants Found at Congaree National Park, USGS Says](#)

Visit our website at <http://www.congareeriverkeeper.org>.
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