

CVSC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



Howard Coker, Hartsville

Hartsville native Howard Coker is currently an executive and corporate officer of Sonoco, one of the world's largest packaging companies. A Wofford graduate, he earned an M.B.A. from Wake Forest University in 1990. An avid angler and boater, Howard has lived all over the world, including Singapore and Australia. He and his wife Rhonda and their three children now reside in Hartsville.



Holly Cork, Hilton Head Island

Hilton Head Island native Holly Cork spent a decade in the S.C. General Assembly, first as a House member followed by eight years as Senator from Beaufort County. Her career in politics began as Legislative Assistant to U.S. Congressman Arthur Ravenel, who taught her that Republicans really could care about the environment. A consistent perfect score winner in Sierra Club Legislative rankings (before CVSC!), she was named their Legislator of the Year in 1998 and Legislative Conservationist of the Year by SC Wildlife Federation in 1995. She has a B.A. and J.D. from USC. Holly and her husband have three children and live on Hilton Head Island.



Delores Logan, Columbia

Saluda native Delores Logan is founder and CEO of AllCaregivers, Inc., a community-based company that specializes in providing home health care services. AllCaregivers, Inc., now employs more than 250 people has offices throughout the state, including Saluda, Florence, Myrtle Beach and the Lexington area. Delores has a Master's Degree in Behavioral Science and is a past recipient of the South Carolina Minority Small Business Entrepreneur of the Year. She currently resides in Columbia.



CVSC says goodbye to Harriett Keyserling who just recently left our Board. Thank you for all your time and years of service to our organization and to protecting our state.

LET'S GET POLITICAL IN 2010!

Among all the conservation organizations in South Carolina, what makes Conservation Voters special? We play an unparalleled role where it matters most: in elections.

Your generous contribution will help our bi-partisan Political Action Committee support pro-conservation candidates. When the race is close, we can make the difference. When a conservation supporter goes up against a special interest cronny, we can make the difference. Where the rubber hits the road, we can make the difference.

Our Board carefully vets candidates' credibility, strengths and conservation records before making endorsement decisions. Our strength lies in our ability to pool the resources of conservation minded voters from all over the state. By working together, we can make our voice even stronger.

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These are challenging times, but if you want a healthy, sustainable future for South Carolina, donating to the "CVSC Political Action Committee" offers the best return on your investment. You can contribute up to \$3,500 per individual, or \$7,000 per couple.



South Carolinians want a clean energy future. David Stoney and activists from all over South Carolina hold a press event to expose the lies of Big Oil.



EDUCATION. ACCOUNTABILITY. RESULTS.

LET'S ELECT A GREEN GOVERNOR IN 2010

As we enter a new decade, Conservation Voters of South Carolina is undertaking a bold campaign to bring accountability to our state's highest elected office. This year's gubernatorial races are the first openly contested elections since 1994.

We have a great chance to elect a truly "green" governor for South Carolina!

How will we do it? Working with one of the best web companies in the state, Cyberwoven, CVSC has designed a website that allows you, the voter, to interact directly with the candidates! Just go to www.scgreengov.com to learn how.

This cutting edge website allows you to post questions directly online to specific candidates and sign a "green pledge" to vote green. We are encouraging all the candidates to define their positions on important conservation issues through interactive profile pages. And our issues pages are designed to educate both the public and the media about the vital issues facing our state.

How serious are we about making our homes more energy efficient? About making locally grown and healthy foods available in our schools and markets? About keeping northern trash out of our rural communities? About protecting the water in our rivers and reducing dangerous toxins in our fish? Our next governor needs to offer, and fight for, the right answers.

By participating in the www.scgreengov.com website, you can help frame the debate. We want to hear what you think is important for a clean and healthy future. We want you to challenge us to think big because doing so will raise the expectations for our elected leaders.

We have the power to create a future where protecting our conservation values is more than just a sound bite in a stump speech. With so much at stake for our state and our economy – we can't afford not to be "green."

And neither can our next governor!

SCGREENGOV

About Candidates Issues

Let's elect a green in 247 days.

- ▶ SIGN THE PLEDGE
- ▶ MEET THE CANDIDATES
Check out each candidate's experience, compare their views on South Carolina's conservation future.
- ▶ LEARN THE ISSUES
- ▶ ASK THE CANDIDATES
- ▶ GIVE GREEN



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LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR Debbie Parker	CLIMATE AND ENERGY DIRECTOR John Ramsburgh	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Ann Timberlake	DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR Bruce Lawrence
STAFF			
Harry Shealy, /CHAIR, Aiken			
Dana Beach /Charleston	Esther Ferguson /Charleston	Delores Logan /Columbia	Alan Runyan /Beaufort
Emma Ruth Brittain /Myrtle Beach	Greg Gregory /Lancaster	Lee Manigault /Charleston	June Shissias /Columbia
Elliott Close /Rock Hill	Blan Holman /Charleston	Jenks Mikell /Columbia	Rab Finlay Thompson /Columbia
Howard Coker /Hartsville	Dell Isham /Columbia	Charles Patrick /Charleston	Evelyn Williams /Columbia
Holly Cork /Hilton Head	Jay James /Darlington	Gail Richardson /Barnwell	Brad Wyche /Greenville
Carol Ervin /Charleston			



ADVANCING OUR COMMON AGENDA IN 2010



Debbie Parker is Program Director for Conservation Voters of South Carolina.

Thanks to all our great volunteer activists who have made such a difference at the State House. Despite the budget crisis we are working hard to advance the Common Agenda. If you'd like to learn more, or find out how to get involved, please visit our website and click on the links to "Advocacy and Education" and "Volunteer Lobby Team." We can't do it without you!

WATER PROTECTION BILL FLOWS FORWARD:

The "Fair Share Water Bill," S.452, has been voted out of Committee with a favorable report and now waits on full Senate action! This critical bill calls for a system of permits to determine how much water can be withdrawn from our river by users like industries and power plants. Without this bill, there is no limit on the amount of water big users can take. S.452 is key for developing an comprehensive water management strategy for our state. Our volunteer lobby teams have been vital to promoting S.452. You can be part of these teams that make conservation issues a legislative priority. You do not have to be an expert! For more information, visit the advocacy page at <http://www.conservationvotersofsc.org>.

A CHANCE TO SAVE CONSERVATION BANK FROM THE "DEATH CLAUSE":

Legislation has been introduced (S.903/ H.4269) that calls for for eliminating the "death clause" that nearly wiped out the Conservation Bank last year. The Conservation Bank is critically important for our state because it provides funding to buy conservation easements to offset out of control urban development. Last year's economic downturn triggered a "death clause" that nearly eliminated the Bank's entire funding. A last minute appropriation pulled the Conservation Bank back from the brink, but the threat remains. Lobby teams can help here too by emphasizing the importance of the Conservation Bank to our state's future. Get involved! Contact Debbie Parker at (803) 799-0716 or Debbie@conservationvotersofsc.org

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE ENERGY AND CREATE JOBS!

Both the House and Senate are considering important legislation (H.4448/ S.1096) that would allow electric and natural gas providers to offer financing to their customers for energy efficiency upgrades, including the purchase and installation of insulation, water heaters and more efficient heating and cooling systems. Homeowners would see an immediate savings on their utility bills even as they repay the loans over time. Congratulations to the SC Electric Coops for spearheading this effort!

Keep up with these and other conservation issues by subscribing to our weekly "hotlist" that tracks the progress of conservation issues in the legislature. You can sign up at www.conservationvotersofsc.org/the_hotlist/



Debbie Parker and volunteer leaders storm the State House for clean, abundant water!

SUSTAINING THE MIDLANDS



Ryan Nevius is the Sustainable Midlands Coordinator. She also serves as Chair of the Richland County Appearance Commission and President of the Richland County Master Gardeners Association.

For too long, our diverse conservation community in the Midlands has lacked a means of organizing around our shared goals. Thanks to Sustainable Midlands, that has changed. Our coalition, now 15 members strong, has quickly become a recognized name in the community.

We have held several events at 701 Whaley involving hundreds of participants and community leaders. Over 500 people turned out for our "Sustainable Holiday" celebration on November 30, 2009, held in the grand ballroom at 701 Whaley. Attendees came to celebrate the concept of sustainability and were able to support over 30 area vendors specializing in sustainable food, arts and crafts.

In February we held a mayoral candidate forum. Seven candidates seeking the top job in Columbia outlined their positions on a range of conservation issues to over 100 attendees.

Improving the water quality of our rivers is a key mission of Sustainable Midlands. Our efforts to promote reasonable stormwater management have been well received by both the City of Columbia and Richland County. Successful meetings and agreements with both will give us an opportunity to help protect our water resources in Columbia.

We would love for you to join us at future programs and events. You can learn more at our website: sustainablemidlands.org.



GRAHAM FIGHTS FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE



South Carolina veterans John Cowson and James Smith join Columbia Mayor Bob Coble and US veterans to thank Senator Lindsey Graham for his leadership on energy.

Despite all the gridlock and partisan bickering in Washington, one leader has emerged on comprehensive climate and energy legislation and he is South Carolina's own Senator Lindsey Graham. As Senator Graham has explained, wherever we are on the climate debate, we can all agree that reducing our dependence on foreign oil is good for our troops, and embracing a clean energy future is good for our economy and the environment.

How is South Carolina responding? The support has been tremendous. Members of the faith and military community have publicly thanked Senator Graham for his leadership. Dozens of South Carolina business leaders have traveled to Washington to lobby in favor of comprehensive legislation. And around the state, South Carolinians by the thousands have been emailing and calling the Senator to express their thanks.

What remains? A final bill. Senator Graham, and our entire federal delegation, needs to hear from us. The best way to enhance our national security and create jobs in South Carolina would be to pass a strong climate and energy bill. Want to get involved? Contact our office to learn more.



Over 20 South Carolina faith, military and business leaders meet with Senator Lindsey Graham's staff in Washington DC to push for climate and energy legislation.



Bruce Lawrence is Development Director

CONGRATULATIONS to our 2009 Green Tie Award Winners!

Attendees enjoyed an array of local food featuring Manchester Farms Quail, Bowen's Island Shrimp, Adluh Grits, and Certified SC vegetables all cooked to perfection by Spotted Salamander Catering. This year's menu will undoubtedly be amazing.

We are expecting the 2010 Green Tie Luncheon to be bigger, better and greener! And we hope you will consider participating in this year's event either as a sponsor, attendee, or volunteer.



Ann Timberlake, CVSC Executive Director, and Debbie Parker, CVSC Legislative Director, presented Senate Conservation Leadership awards to Senators John Cowson (R) and Phil Leventis (D).



House Leadership awards were given to Representatives James Smith, Jr. (D) and Bill Herbkersman (R).



The Honorable John Drummond received the Lifetime Conservation Leadership award, which was accepted by Senator Floyd Nicholson.



The Honorable Dick Riley, along with Dr. Harry Shealy, CVSC Board Chairman, presented the Honorable Harriet Keyserling with the Lifetime Conservation Advocacy Award, now named in her honor.

SAVE THE DATE for the 2010 Green Tie Luncheon

Wednesday, September 15, 2010
701 Whaley Street - Columbia, SC

Tickets will go on sale later this year and sponsorship information is available by contacting Bruce Lawrence at 803-799-0716 or bruce@conservationvotersofsc.org.

A Letter from the



NEW ALLIANCES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past January I signed a joint letter with other conservation organizations and the South Carolina Farm Bureau, Forestry Association and the Palmetto Agribusiness Council calling on the General Assembly to increase funding for our natural resource agencies. Other examples of collaboration with new partners include:

- Working with the South Carolina Electric Cooperatives on a set of energy policies that, if implemented, would make our state a national leader in energy efficiency.
- Meeting with affordable housing advocates and Community Development Corporation leaders to discuss shared goals for rural land conservation and sustainable economic development.
- Building the largest network of clean energy business allies in the state to promote South Carolina's "homegrown" energy sector. Over 150 businesses have signed our clean energy pledge.

Why is CVSC spending time in these new alliances? Because as Ronald Reagan once said, "That person who agrees with you 80 percent of the time is a friend and an ally; not a 20 percent traitor."

Because we facilitate the Common Agenda process and host Sustainable Midlands, CVSC is ideally suited to forge relationships with "nontraditional" allies. Our "Green Tie Luncheon" brought together hundreds of conservation, business and political leaders to celebrate the achievements of our champions in the General Assembly.

These collaborations will only strengthen our mission to make common sense conservation values top priorities for South Carolina's elected leaders, political candidates, and voters.

Indeed, this month we launched the www.segreenv.com website to engage all South Carolinians in our effort to elect a "green governor" in 2010.

As we consider how to protect clean air and water, plan for future growth, and create a new energy future, we are learning to think bigger and better. We can help families who can't pay their heating bills and also create new jobs. We can promote more locally grown food and also protect prime farm and forest land.

Too often in the past, conservationists have had the right answers but not enough diverse voices to pass pro-active legislation. Here at Conservation Voters we are finding that when we focus on core values we have common ground with new allies for creating a clean, healthy, sustainable South Carolina.

Won't you join us?

Ann Timberlake is Executive Director of Conservation Voters. Email her at ann@conservationvotersofsc.org.