

The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Volume 9, Issue 11

Recent views from the new iron bridge in Glendale show the high-water levels on the Lawson's Fork.



The Many Moods of the Lawson's Fork Creek by Dr. Peter Brewitt



Dr. Brewitt's view from the Glendale bridge of the high-water flowing over the dam.



Click above to see the latest up-to-the-minute stream gage conditions from the Lawson's Fork Creek.

Also check out the [Goodall Center Dam Cam](#) to see a live view of the Lawson's Fork.

The weather this week's been all fall-like all of a sudden – you might have noticed. Low grumbly skies, mean-spirited breezes that pierce right through your jacket, and, of course, jets of cold gray rain. The weather this morning was such a surprise that when I saw sun coming through the curtains this morning I worried that I'd slept through my alarm – I'm not used to it being light at this hour.

All this weather, of course, has made its way across the piedmont and into the Lawson's Fork. Our own little river is not so little these days. If you cross the shiny new bridge you will see it roaring and leaping over the old dam and surging over the rocks and even the grass. It's an impressive sight on its own – the raw power of untamed nature, and all that – but my favorite part is that it reminds us of our personal, constant relationship with the landscape. If you're an

Environmental Studies student (or faculty or staff member), you get to know the Lawson's Fork in all its moods. You see it carrying yellow leaves downstream in October – leaves that are even now being churned into detritus and providing habitat and nutrients for the animals with whom we share the stream. You see it trickle across the rocks, warm and still and small enough step across to the other side, on heavy heated days in May. You listen to it as you consider your possibilities as a freshman, and as you sit reflecting on your time here as a senior. And, of course, you feel its spray as the water rises with cold November rain. Coming to know friends and companions is one of the great things about Wofford; I'm glad that one of ours is a river.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

November 21st – 23rd

Happy Thanksgiving!

January 15th
Entry Deadline

Wild Spartanburg Poster Contest: SPACE and the Tyger River Foundation are launching a [poster contest](#) with a \$2,500 prize! Inspired by the beautiful WPA National Park Posters, they will launch a conservation awareness campaign of posters designed by a local artist of Berry's Bridge, the Cottonwood Trail, Glendale Shoals, and Nesbitt Shoals. Artists are encouraged to create work inspired by one of these places. There will be an exhibition at the Headquarters of the Spartanburg County Libraries of selected entries beginning in February. The winner will be announced during a reception on April 18th. To learn more and to receive an application, please e-mail alix@spartanburgconservation.org.

January 15th
1st Round Application &
Scholarship Deadline

Middlebury School of the Environment Summer Session 2019: Six-week summer environmental studies program in Yunnan Province, China (June 7-July 19) with undergraduate credits for 3-full courses. Applications accepted on a rolling basis until the program is full. Need based financial aid is available. Visit [Middlebury School of the Environment](#) for more information.

February 1st
Application Deadline

Santee Cooper Summer Internship Program: Assist Environmental Specialists with aquatic plant control, water quality monitoring, laboratory analysis, special projects, equipment maintenance and other duties. Students must have finished their first year of college and be pursuing a degree in Biology, Wildlife Management or other environmental related field. [View the job details here](#). Internship begins May 13, 2019.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

University of California – Santa Cruz – Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems

Apprenticeships in Ecological Horticulture are available through UC-Santa Cruz's Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems to learn organic gardening and small-scale farming. There are about 35-40 positions available each year for the full-time, 6-months (*mid-April to mid-October*) apprenticeship with a weeklong break halfway through the program. Participants live onsite and work on the UC-Santa Cruz 30-acre farm and 3-acre garden, spending 4 days per week in the field and have 2 three-hour sessions of lecture and workshops per week.

Prospective students are encouraged to visit the farm on a scheduled orientation tour. Go to [UC Santa Cruz – Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems](#) for a more detailed look at the apprenticeship program and how to apply.

Check out the link to a video in the *NYTimes* about the program:
[The Roots to Organic Farming on Campus](#)