

# The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



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*Environmental Studies 101 kayaked to the Upper Shoals at Glendale.*

## *Art & Earth: Science and Nature* by Kaye Savage



*Students in "Art & Earth" assemble glass for plate project.*

This spring I am teaching one of my favorite classes, *Art & Earth*. We spent the first part of the semester learning how landscapes develop over geologic time and exploring artwork that focuses on landscapes. Our second subject is geologic sources of art supplies and materials, such as stone for sculpture and architecture, ore minerals that contribute to colorful paints and metallurgy, and clay for pottery. We compare the processes in the rock cycle to processes used to fire clay and make glass. We'll finish up by looking at land art and art focused on environmental activism ("art-ivism").

We also make some art of our own! This year we had a wonderful experience making glass plates under the guidance of glass artist and Wofford librarian Shelley Sperka. We have also had superb support from ceramic artist and Wofford instructor Nathan

Goddard to experiment with glaze chemistry. We will soon be working with local artist Helen Correll to do nature journaling at Glendale, using watercolor paints that we made ourselves from mineral pigments, gum arabic, and honey. The mixture of art and science together is why I love this course so much!



*Watercolor palettes made with mineral pigments, and brushes assembled from twigs.*



*Glass plate "Sailing Scene" by Griffin Bosserman. Photo: Shelley Sperka*

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

*\*These count toward your two required extracurricular events for the semester.*

- April 13<sup>th</sup>**  
4:00pm  
*Leonard Auditorium*
- A Talk with Rudy Mancke – A Naturalist at Home\****: The Spartanburg Science Center will host a talk on Wofford’s campus as part of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. [RSVP](#) for your free tickets.
- April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
*Application Deadline*
- Summer 2019 Research Experience for Undergraduates***: The University of Iowa will host a [National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates](#) (NSF-REU) in Geography and Spatial Sciences. A 10-week summer program (May20-July26) will explore human-environment interactions. Participants will receive a stipend and housing in UI residence halls.
- April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00am-11:00am  
*Spartan High Tennis Court parking lot*
- Spartanburg Area Conservancy Cottonwood Stream Cleanup\****: Join SPACE for a cleanup day at the Cottonwood Trail. [Sign up here](#) and wear closed-toe shoes, gloves, and clothes that can get wet.
- April 26<sup>th</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup>**
- City Nature Challenge 2019***: Help Spartanburg County compete against 125 cities worldwide to see which one can observe the most nature over a 4-day period. Participating is easy! Find wildlife, take pictures of what you find, upload and share your observations. Visit <http://www.tygerriver.org/naturechallenge.php> for more information and to download the app.
- April 30<sup>th</sup>**  
*Application Deadline*
- The Goat Island Boat Club Merit Scholarship Program***: The one-year scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$2000. Eligible student must be from South Carolina enrolled in an institution of higher learning in the state of South Carolina studying marine biology, forestry, fisheries, wildlife management, or other related field focused on environmental protection of the Santee Cooper lakes and river systems. Stop by Wofford Office of Financial Aid to pick up an application.
- Ongoing**  
*Apply ASAP*
- Summer 2019 Seasonal Job Opportunity in Wyoming***: Sublette County Conservation District in Pinedale, WY is hiring summer (May-August) help for an [Ecological Site Inventory Field Technician](#). Join Dr. Blackwell in the field this summer!

## PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

### *East Carolina University – MS in Sustainable Tourism*

In 2009 East Carolina University began offering the nation’s first interdisciplinary Master of Science in Sustainable Tourism (MS-ST) degree.

The program website states, “Sustaining environments, businesses, and social and cultural identities requires an interdisciplinary approach and perspective. The MS-ST program draws upon emerging sustainability sciences ranging from the physical to the social to address complex sustainable tourism issues. Science and education are critical partners in the sustainable, long-term management

of tourism, and this program provides the foundation for this new approach to sustainable management.”

Four core courses in sustainability and tourism are offered - an introductory course, a science course, a business course, and a planning and policy course. Students also choose from a set of electives and can opt for independent study or internship experience. Both thesis and non-thesis options are offered.

[ECU – Sustainable Tourism MS](#)