

REPORT

SOUTHEASTERN NATURAL SCIENCES ACADEMY 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

From the President

Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy is focused on water, and today's headlines accentuate the need for the Academy's work. At this writing, more than 90% of Georgia is experiencing drought, with 60% of the state in severe or extreme condition. (Both of the Carolinas are experiencing severe drought.) The stark reality of drought reminds us not to take for granted the water supplies we desperately need for residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational uses. Water is the lifeblood of our local economy.

In 2007, innovative water research programs were the hallmark of the Academy's work. Our research team sustained the critical Savannah River at RiskSM research project, now in its third year, and the Academy sponsored the second Savannah River at RiskSM Forum, bringing greater attention to local issues from state and federal agencies. **The Academy and Clemson University entered into discussions about a research affiliation, resulting in a research agreement with Clemson's Center for Watershed Excellence. In just 11 years since its founding, the Academy has realized one of its goals and matured into a major participant in regional natural resources issues.**

The year also saw significant change. Although I continue to serve as life member of the Academy's Board of Directors, it was with great difficulty that I resigned as President and CEO of the Academy to take a position with Clemson University. There, I am a Professor of Biological Sciences and Director of Restoration Ecology Programs for Clemson University Restoration Institute. My relationship, collaboration and research with the Academy will continue.

I'd like to recognize the Academy's Savannah River at RiskSM researchers for providing timely, extensive data to scientists at Region 4 EPA and Georgia EPD, helping these agencies to evaluate the health of the Savannah River with a contemporary dataset and to rerun existing computer models of the river. The generous financial support of those who funded

the Savannah River at RiskSM capital campaign resulted in a robust database that will inform the wise use of Savannah River for years to come. Your gifts help in preserving the ecology of the river, sustaining our local economy, and enhancing our quality of life.

The Academy's sponsorship of the second Savannah River at RiskSM Forum continued the dialogue of river policy and management among stakeholders on both sides of the river as well as among regulators from state and federal agencies. The final report on the research will be submit-

ted to manage and conserve the resources within the Savannah River Basin.)

Our initial collaboration will be a demonstration project to showcase the power of cyberinfrastructure to support real-time, remote monitoring of Savannah River. Clemson purchased the Academy's river monitoring network and enhanced it with additional datasondes and flow monitoring equipment. When the demonstration project is complete, remotely monitored data can be viewed through a Clemson website (and Academy link) using innovative visualization to provide

the data in an understandable format. The cyberinfrastructure program requires a large team of interdisciplinary faculty and students. It extends the value of the original Savannah River at RiskSM research, providing an excellent example of the type of collaborative research possible through the agreement.

It has been a great privilege to found and lead the Academy, to make valued friendships with loyal supporters, staff and board members, and to watch a severely degraded swamp transform into a healthy ecosystem and robust learning center. Thanks to the dedication of so many, Phinizy Swamp today is bursting with birdsong and the sounds of students enjoying nature-based activities designed to give them an outstanding environmental education experience. Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy is an award-winning, regionally-recognized leader in community-based environmental education and water resources research. We can all take pride in our teamwork in realizing these accomplishments. Thank you for your support, your volunteerism, and your stewardship.

With highest regards,

Gene W. Eidson, Ph.D.
President & CEO



ted to EPA in August 2008 with a summary report available to those who supported the research financially.

In the year ahead, the Academy and Clemson will collaborate to more competitively pursue natural resources research funding. The local community will benefit from the Academy's affiliation with the Center for Watershed Excellence, recently designated an EPA Region 4 Center of Excellence in Watershed Management. This affiliation sustains my relationship with the Academy and provides meaningful opportunities for both organizations. (This relationship also helps foster solid science based discussions between South Carolina and Georgia on how

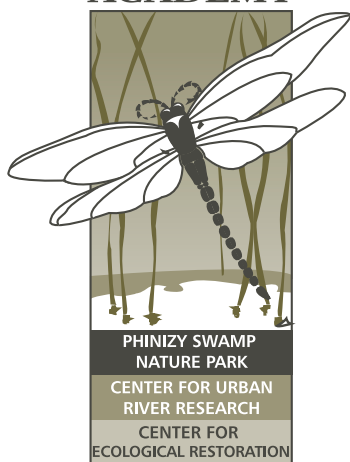
The Mission

The mission of Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy is to promote environmental stewardship through research, education, and public outreach.

The Vision

The vision of Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy is to demonstrate leadership in research-based solutions to healthy and sustainable natural resources.

SOUTHEASTERN
NATURAL
SCIENCES
ACADEMY



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Augusta, Georgia 30906
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2007 ANNUAL REPORT

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The number of foundations, corporations, business, civic, and educational groups supporting the Academy demonstrates the value community leaders find in the Academy's mission and vision and their willingness to assist the Academy in accomplishing its goals. The list below represents corporate, foundation, academic, and civic partners who generously supported the Academy in 2007.

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Cherokee Rose Garden Club

SAVANNAH RIVER AT RISK INITIATIVES CAMPAIGN

In 2004, the Academy initiated its Savannah River At Risk Initiatives Campaign to develop science-based sustainable management practices to support economic growth; improve stakeholder understanding of the ecology of a healthy river system; promote empowerment of stakehold-

ers for more effective environmental stewardship; and encourage future leadership through meaningful K-12 and undergraduate natural sciences programming. In 2005, the Academy reached its campaign goal with pledges totaling more than \$1.9 million. In 2007, the last of those pledges were fulfilled. The list below includes generous donors who contributed to the Savannah River at Risk Initiatives Campaign.

\$300,000
Augusta-Richmond County Utilities Department
Knox Foundation

\$240,000-\$299,999
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Mr. Tyler Morris
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

\$75,000-\$100,000
Columbia County
City of North Augusta
Southern Nuclear and Georgia Power

\$50,000-\$74,999
Mrs. Jacquelyn Blanchard

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND FUND BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2007 (SUBJECT TO AUDIT)

Gross Revenues		\$786,225¹
Operating Expenditures		
Salaries	\$330,868	
Other Expenditures	\$630,530	
Total Operating Expenditures		\$ 961,398²
EXCESS REVENUE		< \$175,173 >
Current Assets	\$830,476	
Property & Equipment	\$1,691,400	
Other Assets	\$ 21,315	
Total Assets		\$2,543,191
Liabilities		\$ 36,285
Fund Balance		\$2,506,907
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		\$2,543,191

(Detailed Financial Statements may be obtained by contacting Academy headquarters at 706-828-2109.)

¹ \$273,656 of the Academy's gross revenues were contributions to the Savannah River at Risk Campaign (a 3-year initiative)

² Includes \$115,558 in booked depreciation

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 Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Boardman III
 Mr. & Mrs. Wyckliffe A. Knox, Jr.

\$30,000-\$49,999

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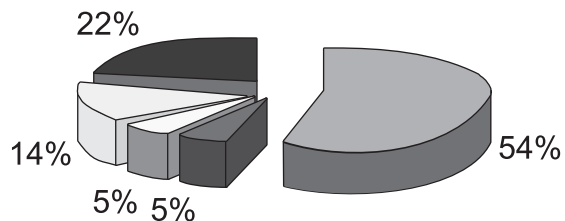
EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY DONATIONS

The Academy diligently endeavors to keep expenditures to a minimum in order to be a more responsible steward of our contributors' monetary donations.

The following individuals and businesses assisted us in this way by donating supplies, services, and equipment in 2007. (Please note: Some in-kind donations received from corporations qualify them for Partnership opportunities. These donors are included in the Partner listing [see page 2].) We thank all those listed below and those who may have been inadvertently omitted.

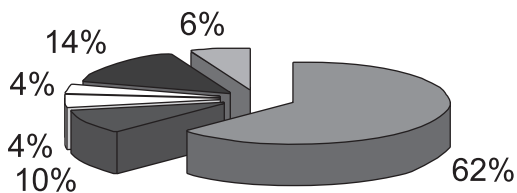
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2007 Operational Expenditures



- Research Programs 54%
- Fundraising 5%
- Facilities 5%
- Management & General 14%
- Education/Outreach Programs 22%

2007 Operational Revenues



- Research Programs (Grants, Contracts, & Savannah River at Risk) 62%
- Other Contributions and Income 10%
- Education/Outreach Programs 4%
- Savannah River at Risk Education/Outreach Dev't Allocation 4%
- Special Events 14%
- Membership 6%

RESEARCH

In 2007, the research division worked on four projects, wrote four technical reports and three research proposals, and had two papers accepted and published at a regional conference.

Success of Phases 1 and 2 of the restoration effort at the Merry Brick site was achieved, according to the United States Army Corps of Engineers guidelines, which allowed Merry Land Properties to proceed with Phase 3 of the restoration plan.

Our final design plan of the constructed wetland and water quality enhancement features was accepted and implemented at the Hammonds Ferry site. Each of the features within the design (which included waterfalls, ponds, a meandering ephemeral stream, and the constructed wetland) will help dissipate the energy and enhance the water quality of runoff water during storm events.

Monthly data was added to the existing pit lake water quality database for the restoration effort at the Kennecott Ridgeway mine site. The pit lake database began in 2000, and it chronicles one of the most successful pit lake remediation efforts in the world.

The Savannah River at RiskSM Research Program was, by far, the most labor intensive project in 2007. Although data collection will be minimized to continuous, autonomous parameters in early 2008, our attention will shift to analysis of the two year dataset. Once the data can be viewed and analyzed in its entirety, future papers and proposals can be written to mark the achievement and begin new, in depth studies.

As some of the projects and research come to a close in 2007, we move forward with knowledge gained to other areas of water quality research that can benefit from additional insight as well as sensible and worthy science.

**EDUCATION/
OUTREACH**

2007 was another successful year for the Academy's Education Programs, as their growth and development was evidenced by enthusiastic teacher comments and student interest. The strong trend to service middle and high school students continued to grow as spring field trips consisted of 52% middle and high school



students and fall field trips consisted of 58% middle and high school students. During the summer months, the Academy added South Carolina State Standards to all field trip programs and increased its South Carolina audience from 13% in the spring to 26% the following fall.

The Academy added two new field trips to its program offerings, a special "Habitat Ecology" field trip for 3rd grade students and "Drinking Water Ecology" for high school students. While most field trip programs continue to focus on wetlands, stream ecology, and watersheds, "Drinking Water Ecology" focuses on watersheds and also includes a visit to the Hicks Water Treatment Plant for a close study of the process of treating drinking water, as well as activities that focus on water allocation and water usage in our own Savannah River.

The Academy's outreach efforts included much service to the community in 2007. In January, the Education Department judged science fairs for both middle and el-

ementary school students. Education staff also wrote and monitored the new Ecology testing session for Georgia's Science Olympiad, ran the wetland testing station for the CSRA Middle School ECO Meet, and co-sponsored the second Rocky Creek Waterfest, an outreach event exposing watershed education to underserved students in South Augusta. In addition to hosting the CSRA's Earth Day Celebration complete with workshops, exhibits, and information, the Academy hosted three days of an urban watershed study for Richmond County High school students participating in the 21st Century program in spring/summer 2007.

The Academy's Kids' Clubs continued to grow as many participating students graduated to higher age group levels. To accommodate the middle school Muskrateers, the Academy offered its first week-long summer middle school camp in addition to its signature elementary Eco Camp. In other notable Kids' Club news, the newly formed Eagle Eyes Youth Birding Team participated in the second annual Georgia Youth Birding Competition. The Education Department is looking forward to purchasing new equipment and programming for Kid's Clubs next year thanks to a CSRA Community Foundation Grant received in 2007.

The Academy continued to train educators by offering several learning opportunities in 2007. Educators benefited from two ten hour teacher workshops including "Wow! The Wonders of Wetlands" and "Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)." Academy staff also effectively

facilitated GA Adopt-A-Stream curriculum to educators participating in University of Georgia and Augusta State University's "Mountains to Sea" teacher program. The Academy Education Staff was also tapped to serve as trainers for Augusta State University's P-16 Best Practices Showcase. In addition to the showcase, Academy staff offered a special four hour dragonfly identification workshop to interested naturalists.

MEMBERS

The Academy is grateful for a strong base of donors who demonstrate support of our mission and vision through annual membership. Individuals and families who joined the Academy's efforts or renewed their memberships in 2007 are listed below.

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From assisting with the Academy's robust field trip program to leading hikes, to planting trees and clearing trails, to helping at the Visitor Center and Academy office, Academy volunteers are instrumental to the progress of the Academy's mission and vision. Our sincere thanks to the following people who happily sacrificed their time, energy, and talents to the Academy in 2007. Please contact the Academy office at 706-828-2109 to become a part of this very special group.

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The Ninth Annual Swamp Soirée played an integral role in raising awareness and funds for the Academy's award-winning education, research, and outreach programs. Nearly 500 guests enjoyed a magical evening at the riverside home of Hale and Lelia Barrett. Special thanks to our sponsors, patrons, and volunteers who made this year's event a success. We offer heartfelt appreciation to the following donors and to those who may have been inadvertently omitted.

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1. We continued to strengthen our academic affiliation with Clemson University through Academy President/CEO Dr. Gene Eidson's position as Director of Restoration Ecology Programs at Clemson University Restoration Institute
2. Savannah River at RiskSM water sampling concluded, and Academy researchers began analyzing two years of data.
3. As part of our Savannah River at Risk Initiatives, we conducted our second successful public forum, bringing together scientists, engineers, regulatory agencies, environmentalists, and economic developers to discuss vital river issues: sharing water supplies and wasteload allocation, addressing dissolved oxygen in the Savannah Harbor, preserving the ecology of the river basin, maintaining commercial and recreational usage, and broadening awareness of the river's impact on the region's economy. We were honored to have Georgia's Governor Sonny Perdue give the keynote address. Over 200 individuals attended and heard presentations by more than a dozen key officials and stakeholder representatives from both Georgia and South Carolina.
4. We presented preliminary Savannah River at RiskSM findings to stakeholders at the public forum.
5. Academy researchers presented Savannah River at RiskSM data analysis at the Georgia Water Resources Conference.
6. We supplied crucial data and collaborated with The Nature Conservancy on the Savannah River flow prescription.
7. The Academy was invited to serve as a charter partner in Clemson University's Remote River Monitoring Project.
8. The Academy advised the City of Augusta on optimum use of the constructed wetlands complex at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park.
9. For the sixth year, we taught a 3-week long course on Restoration Ecology at our sites to Clemson University undergraduate and graduate students.
10. Partners at the North Augusta Hammond's Ferry Development successfully implemented the Academy's recommendations for ecological restoration and optimization for its storm water impact.
11. We continued our long-term monitoring project at the Kennecott-Ridgeway mine in Ridgeway, SC.
12. Phases 1 and 2 of the Academy's restoration efforts at the Merry Land Brick site were achieved, allowing Merry Land Properties to proceed to Phase 3 of the restoration plan.
13. Our educators and scientists continued to integrate our Savannah River at Risk research into our upper elementary, middle, and

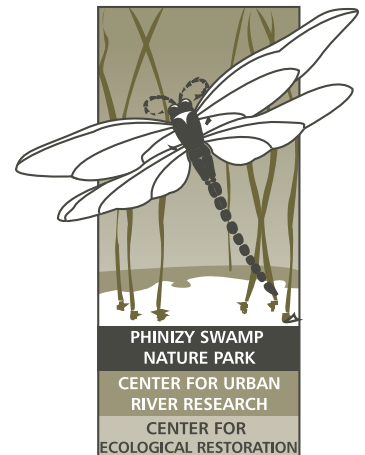


high school-level education programs.

14. We hosted our sixth annual Swamp Stomp 5K and second annual December Dash 10K races at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park. Nearly 400 racers contributed to Academy programs and enjoyed this regional race circuit.
15. For the tenth consecutive year, we hosted a full slate of Earth Day activities including hands-on exhibits, workshops, and an art contest focused on promoting environmental stewardship.
16. We received a \$25,000 grant from Lowes Charitable Fund to
- extend boardwalk around the William Bartram Rain Garden.
17. We received a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation toward Academy Kids Club needs.
18. We continued to be gifted with the support of a particularly large, diverse, generous and dedicated corps of volunteers, who added their expertise to Academy programs.



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