

# Final Report Discover Carolina Water Quality Program

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The Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium  
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## *Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium*

### **Project Objective**

This project was to develop a Discover Carolina Water Quality Program curriculum for Lake Greenwood State Recreation Area's classroom and lake environment that addresses SC Department of Education Science Standards. We emphasized a "your back yard" approach to the program since most of the students who are expected to use the program will be from the Greenwood area. The program will concentrate on how water quality affects you and all aspects of the watershed environment

### **Project Development**

Dr. Rob Bixler Clemson University, Jennifer Bausman graduate student Clemson University and Bill Marrell SC State Park Service made a trip to the Lake Greenwood State Recreation Area to review the program site and discuss how the project would be developed to provide water quality and watershed learning opportunities to the local school districts. Ms Bausman would make several additional trips to the site during the curriculum development process. A literature search of water quality and watershed educational programs was completed by Ms Bausman and a large amount of material was reviewed and narrowed down to material that could best be adapted to the Lake Greenwood curriculum. Clemson's 4H2O program was also reviewed and some portions of this program were include in the final product. The final product for this period of the project is a fourth grade Water Quality and a Watershed program.

## *Report on Discover Carolina Program*

Each program has a pre-visit, on site and a post visit activity. Having students conduct water testing using real science equipment on site collecting both a biotic and biotic elements such as pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, plankton, and aquatic invertebrates and analyzing the data will allow students to draw conclusions about the quality of the water tested. The Watershed Program uses maps of the Lake Greenwood area and student observations to allow students to examine the relationship between land use and water quality. At some point in the future it would be nice to tie this site with Jones Gap State Park so students could compare and contrast the Middle Saluda River's upper area to the Lake Greenwood area of the watershed.

### **Conclusions & Recommendations**

The curriculum was completed in the 2004 project year. Several school principals and science coordinators were contacted in the Greenwood School districts. A general interest was shown for the project but no in service dates were set due to the in service programs time schedules being already filled. None of the teachers contacted and given information on the Lake Greenwood curriculum would comment to an on site visit for their classes. Our conclusion is that a new approach needs to be taken to generate teacher interest in this project. Clemson University's SC LIFE program has agreed to fund a Lake Greenwood graduate teacher course in June 2006 . A portion of the course will

be based on using the Lake Greenwood developed curriculum on site doing the on site. pre-visit and post visit activities with the teachers. This course will accept 12 teachers and one of the course requirements is that each teacher take their class students back to Lake Greenwood State Park for an on site program. This will generate 12 class visits totally an estimated 360 students.

In addition to the Clemson University course SC State Park Service will attend the fall 2005 SC2 Science Teachers Conference and the Social Studies Teachers Conference to promote the Lake Greenwood curriculum. We recommend that the needed classroom equipment be purchased and placed in the classroom as soon as possible.