



# GILLS CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Leadership and Funding

- ❖ A three-year Strategic Plan was endorsed by the Board in December 2010.
- ❖ The Wine for Water Fundraiser was held in July 2010 at Cooks Mountain, raising over \$3,000.
- ❖ GCWA served as a co-hosting organization for the June 2011 River Rally, a national conference of watershed and river groups held in North Charleston.
- ❖ The Urban Paddle and Picnic Fundraiser was held on Lake Katharine in June, raising approximately \$1,000.

## Outreach and Education

- ❖ GCWA participated in 7 events and provided educational information about the watershed, major pollutants which impact water quality, and how people can become more involved.
- ❖ We presented at 12 meetings with approximately 400 people in attendance. These meetings included neighborhood and homeowner associations, civic groups, church groups, and conferences.
- ❖ We participated in a four stream clean-ups that resulted in the removal of 65 bags of trash removed from Gills Creek.
- ❖ GCWA will Adopt-A-Highway segment on South Beltline Boulevard near Gills Creek.
- ❖ Richland County Stormwater Division erected signs in 13 locations that identify Gills Creek as well as the outer edge of the watershed to help residents' geographical awareness.
- ❖ A promotional video (PSA) about GCWA was produced with funding from Richland County and SCE&G.
- ❖ A video on the Cary Lake Project was produced with funding from the Cary Lake Homeowner's Association.

## Special Projects

- ❖ **Lake Katharine Initiative**  
A sub-committee is meeting with stakeholders to help facilitate solutions to sedimentation problems at Lake Katharine and Little Lake Katharine.
- ❖ **I-Phone Rangers**  
With a grant from Richland County Conservation Commission, GCWA will assemble and train a team of volunteers to document stormwater concerns with a GPS-linked photo database.
- ❖ **Middle Watershed Conceptual Plan**  
A Technical Committee team is looking at opportunities for stream restoration, trail development and stormwater retro-fits in the area from Lake Katherine south to Shop Road.
- ❖ **Water Monitoring for Neighborhoods**  
GCWA is developing user-friendly guidelines for basic water monitoring which can be implemented by individuals and neighborhood groups.
- ❖ **Cary Lake Project**  
The Cary Lake Water Quality Improvement Project was completed in early 2011 by Richland County in association with GCWA to address water quality concerns, particularly sedimentation and trash/debris that have accumulated over several decades in Cary Lake.
- ❖ **Devil's Ditch Design**  
This project will be a coordinated effort involving Richland County Stormwater Management, the City of Columbia and GCWA to stabilize conditions at Devil's Ditch near Owens Field.