

Fall 2004



Keep Oconee Beautiful Association

Keep Oconee Beautiful Association

K O B A

New Agenda for KOBA: Phil Soper

Your KOBA Board of Directors has been busy revitalizing the association. Starting with a blank sheet of paper, under the facilitation and coaching of Melissa Grant, the board developed a Five Year Strategic Plan. This included a review of what has and has not worked well for KOBA in the past and a subsequent reevaluation of our future direction. The result was a confirmation that the mission remains unchanged—to keep Oconee County, South Carolina, beautiful through efforts, projects and programs to preserve and enhance the county's natural beauty, especially to discourage its defacement by litter.

Existing programs such as Adopt-A-Highway, Education and the Annual Photo Contest form a core, with increasing emphasis on membership growth and involvement.

To assist in our expansion, KOBA has applied for affiliation with Keep America Beautiful. KAB is a national, non-profit, public education organization networking over 500 local, state and international affiliates with goals and objectives similar to KOBA's. The resources available through KAB will improve the capability to pursue our mission. Concurrent with this affiliation, KOBA will be adding a part-time Executive Director, Ms. Veronda Holcombe Lewis, to assist in the transition and implementation of our projects, programs and funding/grant research.

We are also working to establish additional organizational partnerships in the county. For example, our expanded association with the Oconee County Solid Waste Department includes such programs as compost bin sales, Litter Task Force, Teacher Workshops and America Recycles Day.

Next, we have updated our website and changed the address. It's now www.kobasc.com Our special thanks to member Glen Opfer for all the work involved in making this a success. Check out the website and give us your feedback. Ideas for additional information to be put on the website are encouraged.

We will have a KOBA booth at the Apple Festival in Westminster on September 10th and 11th and the Oktoberfest in Walhalla on October 15th—17th. Come by and say hello to your hard working members. Or better yet, volunteer to lend a hand.

Be sure to read this entire newsletter for more exciting things happening in KOBA!

Monthly Meetings:

KOBA meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4 pm in the upstairs activity room of the Walhalla Farm Service Building. The meetings are open to everyone and we welcome all input.

For more information:

Walhalla Farm Service

301 South Broad Street

Walhalla

638-2213

or check out our website: www.kobasc.com

Contacts:

| | |
|--|--|
| Chairperson: Phil Soper | soper@charter.net |
| Community Relations: Sandy Sandifer | sandysandifer@sandiferfuneralhome.com |
| Education: Lynne Dee Barth | ldb44.aol.com |
| Litter/Beautification: Fred Bailine | bailine@mindspring.com |
| Membership: Bill Shields | cbshields@nuvox.net |
| Newsletter: Liz Kuemmerer | wdynamics@bellsouth.net |
| Promotions: Lynn Holley | holleys@innova.net |

Calendar of Events

Please check out the Calendar of Events insert in the Newsletter for listings of local activities .

Community Relations: Sandy Sandifer

The Community Relations Committee is busy reorganizing under the new goals and priorities of our Five Year Strategic Plan. We need your help to implement new initiatives which benefit KOBA and the residents of Oconee County.

Organizationally, we have three committees:

1. Legislative Liaison: is responsible for promoting effective state and county laws and regulations against littering/dumping and encouraging their full enforcement.
2. FOLKS Liaison: is responsible for maintaining good relations and communications with Friends of Lake Keowee. Fred Bailine is the chairman of this committee.
3. Partnerships: is responsible for meeting and establishing partnerships with Oconee County Government officials to determine their positions on KOBA issues and discuss alternatives. This includes attending County Council meetings and other local/state meetings.

Education: Lynne Dee Barth

A standing ovation for....Our KEEV's (KOBA Elementary Education Volunteers)...those fine people that keep the anti-litter program in the elementary schools happening each year. Obviously, over time, health concerns and other pressures have resulted in an attrition in our ranks, but new volunteers have stepped forward to fill the gaps, keeping the program moving forward.

So, we want to take this opportunity to thank ALL the volunteers who have helped us over the past four years to put this program in place in Oconee's elementary schools.

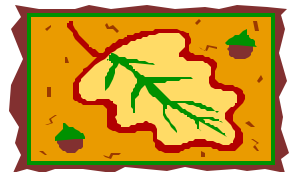
But a special thanks is due to Arlie Harman, formerly KOBA's Education Chairman, who had the foresight to see the potential of expanding the program at that time to all levels of elementary education. And to Donna Wexler, whose energy and enthusiasm over the past four years has been vital in getting school schedules and volunteer schedules to mesh. And also to Matt Phillips, who was such a critical element in working out the musical part of the program. Arlie, Donna, Matt and Jan Brannon took the pilot program into the schools in the year 2000.

Arlie's volunteer efforts these days are concentrated on Lion's club activities. Donna and her husband started a new business which is prospering to the extent that she must devote full time to it this year. We will miss her input but wish her continued success. Matt entered southern Wesleyan to do a master's program in Music Education.

Litter/Beautification: Fred Baline

AAH NEWS:

If you or a group you are associated with wants to be part of something BEAUTIFUL, consider adopting part of a highway in Oconee County. Adoption only requires three litter pick-ups per year (certainly MORE if you want to) with trash bags and safety vests supplied by the state. We presently have 107 groups who have adopted roads, but there are plenty of road sections left "unadopted." If you are interested, contact Fred Baline at bailine@mindspring.com or 888-0190.



RECYCLING NEWS:

The first **County Litter Task Force Meeting** was held on August 19th at the Solid Waste Office on Wells Hwy. Representatives from the Sheriff's Department, Building Codes, Roads, SCDOT, KOBA and Solid Waste were invited to attend. The agenda for the meeting included discussion of problem areas that need to be targeted and consideration of ordinance changes. The Task Force will serve as a means to coordinate the various litter and illegal dumping prevention programs in the County.

The Solid Waste Department held a **Teacher Workshop** on August 2nd. A DHEC representative trained the participants to use the State's "Action for a Cleaner Tomorrow" curriculum. S.C. has been recognized for the curriculum that is correlated to testing standards and covers topics related to waste management, energy conservation and water and air pollution. The Teacher Workshop was an extension of the Green Teacher Liaison Program that the Solid Waste Department established with KOBA two years ago. Each school has a designated liaison. Newsletters are emailed to those contacts, as well as seasonal information. Next year we hope to have the workshop in conjunction with the AOP Science Hub.

A **C&D Debris Guidebook** is now available at the Solid Waste Office. All haulers that use the Seneca Landfill should have received a copy in the mail. It outlines the procedures for using the landfill and provides recycling vendors for building materials.

On Thursday, September 23rd at 10:00am the Oconee Solid Waste Department became certified as a **Wildlife and Industry Together (W.A.I.T.)** facility. W.A.I.T. is a program sponsored by the SC Wildlife Federation and the SC Department of Natural Resources, which strives to involve industries in providing habitat on their under-utilized properties. The Seneca Landfill provides habitat for rare grassland birds, deer and turkey. The County received a grant from PalmettoPride to plant over \$10,000 worth of plants as a buffer around the landfill and to control erosion at its Convenience Centers. Future plans include a butterfly garden at the MRF and a Compost Demonstration Site. If you are interested in volunteering to help, call 888-1440. The County Solid Waste facilities are a vital part of your community. Why not enjoy them?

Membership: Bill Shields

Your KOBA board has spent a great deal of time in the last year to redefine our mission statement, goals and how to achieve them. Plus, with our decision to affiliate with “Keep America Beautiful”, which can only make our organization stronger, we look forward to the years to come.

KOBA needs your help, both financially and recruiting members willing to volunteer their time. If you have a neighbor or know of someone that has recently moved to Oconee County, let them know about KOBA.

They can call Bill Shields, 886-9574 or Lina Haycraft, 944-2346.

Thank You and we look forward to meeting you all one day in our community effort to Keep Oconee Beautiful!



Promotions: Lynn Holley

The Promotions Committee is a composite of several committees and activities. Each is attended to by volunteer KOBA members. The purpose of the Promotions Committee is to present KOBA’s mission and activities to the public and its’ members via:

The History Committee keeps written and photo records of KOBA events and has done so since KOBA’s inception in 1985.

The Bike Ride Committee is structured to promote the awareness of the consequences of littering in Oconee County and the countryside of the United States. A bicycle “Ride Across America” is scheduled by Sammie Lipscomb during the summer of 2005.

The Photo Contest Committee monitors the contest application sites, secures sponsors, arranges for contest judges, and oversees to the presentation of awards to each years’ photo winners.

Publicity/Editorials Committee’s objective is to write articles about KOBA activities and editorials related to KOBA for publication in area newspapers.

The Awards/Annual Meeting Committee arranges for the acknowledgment and presentation of awards to members and individuals that have aided KOBA in various ways. The committee also has charge of organizing the annual meeting for its members each Spring.

The KOBA Newsletter, under the guidance of volunteer editor Liz Kuemmerer, will be published twice a year. The hope of KOBA is to e-mail all newsletters to its members in an effort to cut time, save money and conserve natural resources.

The KOBA Website is presently under reconstruction by volunteer Glen Opfer, and is accessible now.

Website: Glen Opfer

Glen Opfer has volunteered to be the new Webmaster for KOBA. Glen has been living in Seneca for 6 years. Previously, Glen and his wife, Dian, lived in the Chicago area. Glen is a self-taught web designer and is the current Webmaster for the Keowee Anglers Fishing club. He also spent some time working on the new FOLKS web site.

Glen is now transferring some of the information from the current KOBA web site and adding more up-to-date information to the new site. Current plans are to have the new site ready by the end of September.

Take a look at the new site and offer your comments on the hotspot provided on the Home Page. The address for the new site is: www.kobasc.com





Keep Oconee Beautiful
Association

KOBA

POB 1491
Seneca, SC

864.638.5889

We're on the Web!
www.kobasc.com

Option for Electronic Newsletter!!!!!!!

In an effort to cut down on the bundles of paper we receive every day, KOBA will be offering the option of e-mailing the newsletter to you.

Just think of the time and effort saved by doing this; not to mention, the \$\$\$\$\$.

If you're interested, please send an e-mail to: **newsletter@kobasc.com**

Thanks!

Otherwise, you can download the newsletter from our website: **www.kobasc.com**

