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This Earth Day...

KIM ELLIMAN: CELEBRATING A RENEWED LOVE OF THE LAND ON EARTH DAY

Earth Day has special meaning this year, and spring brings wonderful opportunities to get outside and rediscover all that nature provides for our health and wellness. I hope the updates featured in this monthly newsletter inspire you to immerse yourself safely and fully in the outdoors. Soak up the sun, get your feet wet, and breathe in some fragrant springtime air.

But before you do, I hope you take a couple of minutes to learn about some of OSI's most recent achievements, including our multi-year effort to create South Carolina's first new state park in 15 years and build local connections to the Black River. The full story is highlighted in the beautiful OSI-created Story Map linked below.

We wish you a happy spring and a meaningful Earth Day, 2021.



CONNECTING TO THE BLACK RIVER

OSI’s “Hinds-Canada” property is slated to become South Carolina’s first state park in 15 years, anchoring the Black River Water Trail & Park Network – a proposed recreational paddling route across two South Carolina counties. Now, OSI and its local partners are conducting a comprehensive, community-based planning effort to shape this exciting initiative along the Black River.

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VISIT THE BLACK RIVER STORY MAP

OSI is proud to debut its latest Story Map, “Connecting to South Carolina’s Black River.” This multimedia tour of the Black River Water Trail & Park Network includes video and interactive maps. It and was produced by OSI to promote and support a community-based planning process for the new recreational asset.

[VIEW STORY MAP](#)



PROTECTING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

OSI’s newly protected “Canopus Hollow” property offers long-term protection for the Appalachian Trail and furthers the ecological and recreational connectivity of New York’s eastern Hudson Highlands. John Lafata, who owned the property with his family for more than 25 years, said, “I am delighted to see this property permanently protected and feel satisfied knowing that the land will never be developed.”

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IMPROVING TRAILS AT FAHNESTOCK

A suite of OSI trail projects is providing critical updates to the 9.5-mile Hubbard Perkins Loop Trail at Fahnestock State Park. The upgrades will enable the trail to accommodate multiple user groups, including walkers, hikers, bikers, and runners. The project includes building new sections of trail and renovating existing trail and is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

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GREATER DIVERSITY IN CONSERVATION

Now in its fifth year, OSI's Conservation Diversity Fellowship is a one-year, paid position in New York City that offers candidates from diverse backgrounds the chance to work with environmental leaders. The fellowship is awarded to college graduates or postgraduates pursuing professional experience in the field of conservation.

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SHOWCASING LAND THROUGH ART

For the month of April, members of the Charleston Artist Collective are donating a portion of the sale proceeds of their artwork to benefit OSI. The artists' beautiful paintings depict contemporary and traditional interpretations of the very Lowcountry landscapes OSI is working so tirelessly to save for future South Carolinians.

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