



For Immediate Release
June 29, 2009

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***unearth* Amateur Photography Contest**
Photographs Celebrating Nature at Saluda Shoals Park

Columbia, Irmo, and Lexington, SC – The Saluda Shoals Foundation and Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission are requesting submissions for the ***unearth* Amateur Photography Contest** at Saluda Shoals Park. Amateur photographers are invited to enter their best color and black & white prints. Photographs must be taken at Saluda Shoals Park and deadline for entries is September 18 at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of this contest is to capture and display the beauty of nature found at Saluda Shoals Park through photographs. For a copy of contest rules go to www.unearthsaluda.org or call 772-1228.

An awards ceremony and reception will be held September 30 and photographs will be on display at the Environmental Education Center at Saluda Shoals Park through the *unearth* event held October 1-4. Cash prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in Adult and Junior divisions in each of the following four categories: General Nature, Human Nature, Black & White, and Digital Creativity.

"Imagine what Ansel Adams would capture through his lens if he were to spend a day along the banks of the Saluda River," wonders Irene Dumas Tyson, Saluda Shoals Foundation Board Member. "Though different than the majestic peaks and valleys of the west, imagine capturing the morning mist or the reflections of autumn leaves on the river or freezing a moment in air from a river trout jumping out of the river or the play of the water on the rocks. The *unearth* photography contest is a wonderful opportunity for photographers to be inspired by the beauty of Saluda Shoals Park and to capture the magic of the park's unique habitats."

The Amateur Photography Contest is part of *unearth, a celebration of naturally inspired art* weekend to be held at Saluda Shoals Park from October 1 through 4. This annual celebration of the arts showcases visual, performing and literary arts in an outdoor setting. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in art, nature, and the creative process. Art demonstrations and instruction, poetry reading, a variety of musical and dance performances and a songwriting workshop & competition will engage visitors in a unique art experience.

unearth is presented by the Saluda Shoals Foundation and Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina, the Irmo Chamber of Commerce, and the Musician & Songwriters Guild of South Carolina.

The Saluda Shoals Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization committed to serving as a steward of and an advocate for the preservation and sustainability Saluda Shoals Park programs and the environment.

***unearth* is the recipient of the 2009 National Recreation and Parks Association Dorothy Mullen Arts and Humanity Award.** For more information about *unearth* or the Saluda Shoals Foundation, please contact Dolly Patton at 213-2035.

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