Web of Water Webisode 1: In the Mountains

Transcript

Ian Sanchez: Here we are in the Appalachian Mountains, right in front of Table Rock State Park, and if you look behind us, you can see Table Rock in the distance. And that's where the Native Americans believed that the gods would sit down on the stool next to the mountain there and sit at the table. We also are talking with the Pickens school 7th graders, and they were testing the turbidity of the water, and they were also testing the dissolved oxygen, and the pH. The question is "would there be more or less dissolved oxygen up here?" Something to think about, because the water here is much colder than it is down near the coastal zone. Here we are at Jones Gap State Park, another one of those rivers that are contributing to the Santee watershed. The forces of nature never cease to amaze me. This is another thread that weaves together that web of water that connects all life through South Carolina and through the rest of the world. This continuous waterfall fed by the rain that was probably water that came up from the

ocean in different parts of the world, all brought up into the sky and then eventually, rained down on mountains and then making their way, once again, on that incredible journey to the sea, connecting all life along the way, and uncovering stories of plants, animals, stones, and people. Look at these amazing mountain plants, out here in the Appalachians, soaking up the sun's energy, and the carbon dioxide into their leaves, and then, over time, mother nature being that great recycler as these leaves fall down to the ground, and turn back into other plants and animals. These leaves are still retaining some of the carbon dioxide and the energy that they soaked up from the sun, and they bring that right back into the earth, and again, new plants and animals spring up from it. And that ever-present, ubiquitous fungus, helping to break that stuff back down and into the earth, helping the earth bring it back and recycle – that decomposer. Look at this moss, and how the plants have adapted to grow right onto the rocks right here in the mountains. You see, these different adaptations, again, moss and lichen, and then algae in the water. All of this stuff bring in the oxygen that we breathe, and then we, in turn, returning our carbon dioxide, all of it being a recycled process, everything being connected, here in the mountains like anywhere in the world. You can see how the contour lines tell you, the farther apart they are, the flatter it is, and the closer they are, the more steep it is. It gets steeper, and you can see how close they are right here, so you would assume around this turn right here, things might get real steep. This is Rainbow Falls and we made it! Look at that water – that another thread of water and the awesome power it has as it comes over that cliff, taking the pieces of this mountain down the waterway, and connecting it to that web of water down below. Those contour

lines were not kidding when you see the steep drop-off of where this water is coming off of. No force is as powerful in the erosion process as that stuff coming over that waterfall right now. Now let's follow it to the sea [end].