



Sierran

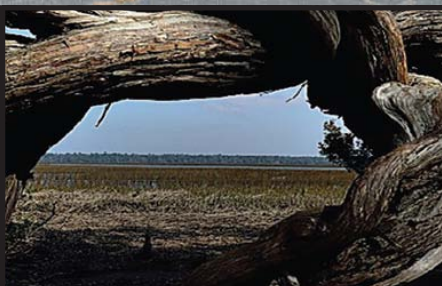
To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

Working Together: *Allies Big and Small, Likely and Unlikely*

PARTNERSHIPS SPECIAL FEATURE: PAGES 4-11



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Building the Movement, One Partner at a Time

By Colleen Kiernan

When I first started at Sierra Club (my first tour of duty, back in 2001), I remember talking to our National Field Director, Bob Bingaman, about how we do our work at the Sierra Club. Of course, his most famous quote is “If it ain’t written, it ain’t a plan,” but he also imparted to me that we are known by the company we keep. He ran through some of our most common partners on the national level, such as The Wilderness Society on lands issues, National Resources Defense Council and Union of Concerned Scientists on pollution issues, and Waterkeeper Alliance on water pollution, but he told me that the group with which we see eye to eye on nearly everything was Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), which is today Environment America.

In 2006, Jennette Gayer arrived on the scene to direct Environment Georgia, a citizen-based environmental advocacy project of Environment America. I was in graduate school at the time, but we got to know each other through wicked games of badminton and our mutual interest in triathlons. When I came back to Sierra Club in 2010, I was glad to know I would always have a friend and partner in Jennette at Environment Georgia.

Of course, we need a much bigger movement than just our closest friends if



Jennette Gayer and Colleen Kiernan

we are going to protect the planet in the long term. Sierra Club’s efforts to examine who we are and who we want to be began in earnest in 1990 as we grappled

with the changes demanded by environmental justice groups. We launched our Environmental Justice Program in 1993, and I’m proud that I attended the Sierra Club’s very first “Dismantling Racism” training in 2002. In May, our national Board of Directors adopted a Multi-Year Diversity Equity and Inclusion Organizational Plan and elected our first African American president (Come meet him at the Chapter Retreat! See page 12 for details.).

The Georgia Chapter continues to strive to be a more welcoming and inclusive organization, and in this issue we celebrate some of the partnerships that are helping us move forward both in terms of achieving our mission, to explore, enjoy and protect the planet and building the movement that we need to thrive. 🌱

About Georgia Sierran

Articles: Send materials to: gasierran@gmail.com. Maximum word length: 750 words with one photo. Please include high-resolution digital photos (200 dpi) with your story.

Moving? Send address changes to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968. Send changes by email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

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If you prefer to continue receiving the printed newsletter, there is no need to do anything. But if you’d like to switch to the electronic edition please contact the Chapter office at **404-607-1262 x221** or georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org. Our budget – and our trees! – will thank you.

Note: in accordance with Chapter bylaws, all members will receive the annual election issue by mail.

Sierrans at Southern Company Stockholders Meeting: Making the Business Case for Climate Action

By Colleen Kiernan

It's the fourth Wednesday in May, and that means I'm on my way to the Annual Southern Company Stockholders Meeting at Callaway Gardens. A lot of corporations' annual shareholder meetings are beyond dull, but often last less than 30 minutes. Other times, when shareholder activists engage, they become a venue for street theater and other lively actions, and last late into the evening. The Southern Company's Annual Meeting falls somewhere in the middle.

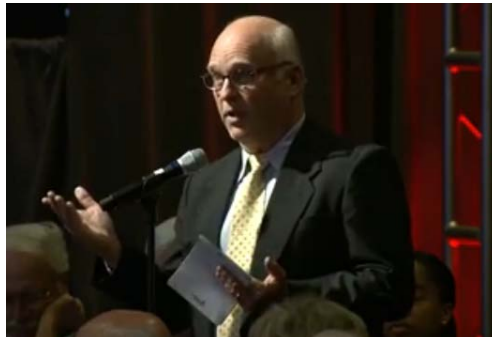
This year there were two shareholder resolutions, and both were focused on Southern Company's business practices related to climate change and climate change drivers, which pose a real risk to current investors.

The first one was filed by the New York Comptroller on "proxy access" and would allow for shareholders owning at least 3% for three years to nominate candidates for the Board of Directors. Many companies have adopted this policy, including Bank of America, General Electric, Prudential Company and Staples. Concern about climate change in the wake of Hurricane Sandy and the lack of independence of Directors with regard to managing climate risks drove the New York Comptroller to file at Southern Company.

Lack of independence is a real concern. In February, Greenpeace released documents that showed Southern Company was the major funder (\$469,500 since 2006) of leading climate change denial scientist Willie Soon. The company quickly cut ties with Soon, but according to the New York Comptroller's office, the events underscored that "the Directors would rather deny these risks rather than understand and manage them," as the representative from the Comptroller said when presenting the resolution. The resolution garnered 46%.

The second resolution was filed by the Sisters of Charity and other faith-based investors, socially responsible investor groups, and Sierra Club members. It would have the company set absolute, quantitative time-bound goals for reducing total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by November of this year. This year the GHG resolution got about 22% of the preliminary vote, about the same as a resolution in 2003. As part of the company's response to this year's resolution, they note that their 2014 GHG emissions are almost 20% below their 2005 levels. So, even if a resolution doesn't pass, it does force the company to pay attention.

Other utilities have established such goals, including AEP,



Sam Collier addresses the stockholders meeting

Exelon, Duke, Con Edison, NextEra Energy, PSEG and Idaho Power. But, as CEO Tom Fanning says, "It's not our role to engage in the climate debate." However, statements like that reinforce the notion that there is a debate. With all the progress on renewables and energy efficiency over the last few years, Southern Company could become an industry leader by acknowledging the risk that climate change poses and the need to mitigate

that risk.

While the Company has not acknowledged the overarching problem of climate change, they have shown willingness to embrace many of its solutions. For example, during the Q&A portion of the Annual Meeting, while announcing Georgia Power's rooftop solar program, expected to launch July 1st, and detailing the future of energy efficiency in homes, Fanning said, "If our customers want to buy it, I want to sell it to them."

However, the next day I found myself at the Georgia Public Service Commission, urging Commissioners to order the company to go forward now with more wind contracts. As part of the 250 MW wind deal with the Blue Canyon project in Oklahoma approved a year ago (which gives Georgia ratepayers electricity well below avoided cost), the Commission had the company go out to market and see what other deals were out there. In February, Georgia Power published the results: over 6,500 MW of projects, some of which were one-third of what electricity costs under the business-as-usual model in Georgia. We showed that Georgia Power's customers - and people from all corners of the state - want wind generation.

But even though their customers want more cheap wind, Georgia Power is the one party steadfastly opposed to moving forward now, saying that the best time to figure out the "appropriate" energy mix was during the Integrated Resource Plan, which won't be voted on until next July. The deals may well be snatched up by then, especially as utilities begin to look for a lot more carbon-free generation as they put together compliance plans for the forthcoming Clean Power Plan, set to be finalized in August.

"If it makes sense, we'll do it" is a common Fanning refrain, but this Southern Company statement isn't bearing true within its operating companies. In this case, customers will have to let Georgia Power and the Public Service Commission know that we want to buy more cheap, clean wind power so they will sell it to us. ♣

In this issue we highlight some of the partners with whom we work to further our mission: to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. Our groups and issue committees are making great strides to work smarter, not harder, by supporting people and organizations who are working toward our mission as well as by asking others to join us as we tackle our three Georgia Chapter priorities: Energy, Green Transportation and Forest Protection.

Pipeline Battles Bring Together Unlikely Allies

By Mark Woodall

The Sierra Club is now fighting against two unneeded fossil fuel pipelines. Both are proposed to cut through Georgia on the way to Florida. Kinder Morgan's Palmetto Pipeline is a proposed billion-dollar, 360-mile pipeline for petroleum products which would start in South Carolina and run down the Georgia side of the Savannah River to Savannah and then south to Jacksonville. The second pipeline, Sabal Trail, is proposed by Spectra Energy to supply natural gas to Florida Power & Light and Duke Energy. Sabal Trail is a \$3 billion, 465-mile pipeline which would start in Alabama and cut across southwest Georgia on its way to the central Florida hub.

Many of our allies against these fossil fuel pipelines are old friends. GreenLaw, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Flint Riverkeeper and Gulf Restoration Network are involved in the Sabal Trail struggle. Savannah, Ogeechee, Satilla, Altamaha and St. Johns Riverkeeper organizations have joined in the fight against Palmetto, as have GreenLaw and the Southern Environmental Law Center.

In addition to the predictable friends, pipeline fights attract many conservative, private property rights advocates. We first noticed these unlikely allies 20 years ago in the controversy

over the proposed Colonial Pipeline spur from north Georgia to Tallahassee for petroleum products. In 1994, representatives of the Sierra Club, Georgia Forestry Association and Georgia Farm Bureau met to discuss various threats to the landowners of Georgia including the proposed metro Atlanta Outer Perimeter highway.

As explained in the summer 1995 Georgia Forestry Association magazine, the groups agreed that the rural roads on the Governor's Road Improvement Program list (GRIP) should be built before any funds were expended for the proposed Outer Perimeter. The groups, sometimes called the Unholy Alliance, also agreed on the need for legislation protecting landowners in eminent domain condemnation proceedings. Such legislation was passed, which is why the Palmetto Pipeline is now under review by the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. The proposed Colonial Pipeline to Tallahassee was defeated.

Twenty years later, the threat to private property has once again brought together unlikely allies in the fight against unneeded and environmentally harmful fossil fuel pipelines. Billy Morris, a conservative newspaper publisher from Augusta, has been one of the most prominent opponents of the Palmetto proposal. The biggest oil distributor in

Savannah has been a vocal opponent, as Palmetto appears to be an attempt by major oil companies to put it out of business. While the Georgia DOT has rejected Kinder Morgan's request to be allowed to condemn land for Palmetto, an appeal has been filed. Go to <http://www.pushbackthepipeline.com> for more information.

In southwest Georgia, a diverse coalition has come together to fight the Sabal Trail proposal. Albany residents were infuriated when Spectra purchased property next to a church, a minority neighborhood and the City of Albany's water wells for its only compressor station in Georgia. Gloria Gaines, a former Dougherty County commissioner; representatives of landowners for notables such as Ted Turner and former U.S. Sen. Bob Graham; and the Keokee-Flint landowners led by Dinorah Hall are all fighting Sabal Trail. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is expected to issue a final Environmental Impact Statement before the end of 2015. That could allow construction to begin. Go to <http://www.spectrabusters.org> for more information.

In Georgia, the threat to private property from environmentally destructive fossil fuel projects is bringing people together. From the most conservative to the most progressive, Georgians are working together for their mutual benefit and survival. ♣

GreenLaw Attorney Helps Give Sierra Club its Day in Court

By Ian Karra

From helping to secure retirement of 20 percent of Georgia's coal capacity to calling for solar and wind power for hundreds of thousands of Georgia homes, the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Beyond Coal campaign are bringing Georgia's clean energy future closer to reality. Those victories would be impossible without the tireless work of our volunteers, staff and coalition partners, but even our strong collective voice needs an advocate of its own. That's where Ashten Bailey comes in.

Since 2012, Bailey has been a staff attorney with GreenLaw, an Atlanta-based nonprofit dedicated to "giving Georgia's environment its day in court." She represented the Sierra Club through Georgia Power's 2013 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) process, which saw a major shift in Georgia's energy mix away from dirty coal and toward cleaner, safer, more affordable renewable resources. Through that process, the Sierra Club engaged thousands of Georgians to submit comments to the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC), write editorials in their local newspapers and testify in support of clean energy to power their homes and businesses.

According to Bailey, the advocacy and legal work create a partnership essential to driving sustainable energy policy. This highly collaborative relationship creates a bridge between the complicated regulatory framework that determines our energy mix and consumers who are concerned about the environment, transparency and affordable rates. One such instance of the partnership in action is the rate case procedure that typically follows the IRP. This is the process with which the PSC evaluates Georgia Power's requests for changes to rates. In 2013, Bailey intervened on the Sierra Club's behalf to shield ratepayers from burdensome increases related to expensive environmental controls for the state's aging fossil fuel infrastructure and from inappropriate fees for customer-generated solar.

While the energy planning process is a public affair, it only takes place every three years and is not the most accessible venue for the general public. In a way, Bailey serves as our translator — making sure that decision-makers hear the demands of our members, and ratepayers statewide, in a cogent and compelling legal manner.

What supports that legal strategy are the powerful stories of our individual members and the values that drive us to care



GreenLaw Staff Attorney Ashten Bailey with Chapter Director Colleen Kiernan at a Sierra Club and Beer event. (Photo by Lawrence Andrade)

about Georgia's air and water quality and affordable power bills. Just this week, Bailey presented a strong case before the PSC for Georgia Power to consider proposals for more wind power for the state, while Chapter Director Colleen Kiernan delivered more than 700 supporting comments from Sierra Club members. That kind of showing does not go unnoticed by decision-makers, and it is a testament to the efficacy of the relationship with GreenLaw and the commitment of our membership to hold leaders accountable.

As Georgia Power's next 20-year planning process approaches in early 2016, Bailey thinks there has never been a better opportunity to take the energy debate into our own hands. The cleanest megawatt is the one not produced, so home energy efficiency upgrades are the most effective way to save energy and money. But Georgia Power and the PSC need to hear that Georgians want more solar, wind and efficiency statewide. The simplest way to help shape our state's energy outlook is to take an action with the Beyond Coal campaign and join the Smart Energy Committee, which meets the first Monday of every month. There you will learn about Georgia's energy issues and help build the grassroots movement for clean energy. Sierra Club advocacy, outings and legal work all carefully depend and build on each other — and it is a great time to be involved in each.

With action from members like you and Bailey's legal acumen, more affordable wind power may be on the horizon this year and 2016 looks to hold even more victories for Georgia's environment! 🌲

Veteran Inclusion in the Sierra Club Making a World of Difference

By Joshua Hanthorn

“There is a really long history of the military and conservation,” explains Stacy Bare. Bare has had an incredible journey, beginning when he was a young 17-year-old from South Dakota up to when he was named Director of Sierra Club Outdoors. First, he decided to serve his country as a soldier after high school so he enrolled in ROTC (Reserve Officers’ Training Corps) at the University of Mississippi. From there, he became a commissioned officer in the Army, in which he served as an intelligence officer in Bosnia, an explosive ordnance officer, and an executive officer in Iraq.

When Bare got out of the military, he, like many war veterans, had a rough

time transitioning to civilian life. He battled depression, alcohol abuse and drug addiction due to post-traumatic stress. He eventually found a way to win this battle through climbing in our national parks.

In 2010, Bare met fellow climber and veteran Nick Watson. They came up with an idea: Veteran Expeditions. The goal of this nonprofit organization is to get veterans outdoors to help them cope with the transition to civilian life through outdoor engagement.

In 2011, the Sierra Club hired Bare as its Military and Veterans Affairs Coordinator to get as many military families, kids, service members and veterans outdoors as possible in conjunction with great organizations like the National Military Family Association and



Sierra Club Outdoors director Stacy Bare

the YMCA. In 2012, he was promoted to Sierra Club Outdoors Director and in 2013, he and Nick Watson were named National Geographic Adventurers of the Year.

Veterans’ Relationship with the Sierra Club

There is a common stereotype that military members and veterans are conservative, making the relationship with the Sierra Club an interesting one, but Bare expresses a desire to move past the idea that veterans have to have conservative ideals. “What did we fight for if not for clean water and clean air? We don’t go to war for multi-billion dollar oil companies.”

Despite common misconceptions, veterans feel connected to the outdoors and want protection for these spaces. “When we have veterans out in the wilderness I ask them if they think what they see is something that should be protected. Their response is always an

Continued on next page

Georgia Chapter to Partner with The Mission Continues

Later this summer, the Georgia Chapter is partnering with The Mission Continues to bring on Joshua Hanthorn, a Mission Continues Fellow, to become our Wildlands and Wildlife Coordinator. The Mission Continues is an organization that gets post-9/11 veterans to volunteer for a local non-profit for 20 hours a week.

Hanthorn loves the outdoors since it harkens back to the experiences he had growing up hiking and fishing with his father. Hanthorn has been a Sierra Club member since 2009, when he attended several outdoor Sierra Club outings while living in Hawaii. He moved



to Atlanta in 2011 and volunteered for fundraising and Beyond Coal events until he attended Vermont Law School that fall. He came back after graduating in 2014 with an environmental-law-focused Juris Doctor (JD) degree.

ICO and REI Team Up to Support Outings for Youngsters

REI has a history of community partnerships, and ideas for those partnerships start with teams at individual stores who come up with ideas for promoting and working with nongovernmental organizations for particular events and services. About eight years ago, the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club was invited to be one of those partners.

For two weeks each December, REI welcomes volunteers from the Georgia Chapter into the store to provide a gift-wrapping service to shoppers. All monies raised go to fund the Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) program for the next year. ICO introduces city kids to the outdoors by partnering with groups such as Boys & Girls Clubs to find candidates for adult-led activities such as hiking, kayaking, camping and exploring historical sites and parks. Each year the holiday gift wrapping raises enough money to help ICO take 180 participants on an average of 17 trips. ICO provides food, park fees and other miscellaneous expenses. 2014 was a big success, with over 1,000 gifts wrapped and \$6,700 raised.

For the past five years, Dolly Katz, an ICO volunteer, has coordinated with REI to set up this fundraiser, and she has nothing but praise for the store: "REI is just wonderful. They provide space for us, help with setup and direct people to our service." She also raved about REI customers who stop by to get gifts wrapped. Once they see the information flyers explaining what the money will be used for, some have been known to add an extra donation to ICO.

Nicole Warren-Miller serves as REI's local Outdoor Pro-



grams and Outreach Coordinator. She is equally enthusiastic about this fundraiser and looks forward to its continuing. Until December 2014, gift wrapping was held at both Perimeter and Northeast Expressway stores, but now it is limited to the Northeast Expressway location. Warren-Miller said Dolly Katz has done a good job recruiting volunteers from ICO and the Sierra Club and making sure everything was running smoothly each day.

Unfortunately, Katz has resigned the position this year, and ICO Chairperson Terri Lyde will be looking for someone to fill the job. If you are interested or would like to suggest someone, please contact Terri at lydeterri@bellsouth.net. 📧

Stacy Bare, continued from previous page

affirmative one." Actually, there is a long history of soldiers walking through the wilderness to get home from war. After the Civil War, Union soldiers had no way to get home other than to walk through the forest in the Appalachian Mountains. Even more recently, veterans like Doug Peacock, the famous environmentalist and Green Beret combat medic, is proof of the veteran connection to preservation and conservation.

Being a part of an organization like the Sierra Club can help veterans transition into the communities they now call home. Specifically, participating in outdoor activities can give a feeling of accomplishment at the end of the trail or the top of the peak. It gives a person an objective, a mission and confidence as well as builds comradery that many veterans long for when they leave the military.

The relationship veterans have with the Sierra Club has also benefited the organization. Veterans who are part of the

Sierra Club don't usually identify themselves as veterans, but Bare estimates that about 10 percent of the membership have served in the armed forces. When veterans are included in an organization, they bring diversity to that organization. As much as 60 percent of the Sierra Club's veteran membership is neither white nor male. This participation broadens the club to truly reflect the local communities in which the Sierra Club is located.

The Battle Continues

Bare mentions that the Sierra Club Military Outdoors is now on its Summer/Fall schedule. The next trip is a seven-day hike at Gannett Peak, Wyoming. That is followed by a Gates of Lodore Dinosaur National Monument outing at Vernal, Utah in September. Bare expressed that the program is looking to get more local. However, there is more demand than there are resources at this time. 📧

Chapter, Labor Work with Rep. Johnson to Slow “Fast Track”

On February 18, 2015, Jennifer Kaduck, a member of the Executive Committee of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club, joined with leaders of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) at a meeting with Georgia Congressman Hank Johnson to discuss concerns about granting President Obama fast track authority for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The TPP is an expansive international trade and investment treaty being proposed for the Pacific region. As trade expands in the Pacific Rim, the potential for trade to damage the environment also expands. At risk are some of the most biologically significant and diverse areas of Earth, including Australia’s Great Barrier Reef and Peru’s Amazon rain forest.

This huge trade pact must include a strong and binding environmental chapter that protects the environment, natural resources, and American jobs. We urged Congressman Johnson to oppose fast track authority for TPP because we believe it is an inappropriate mechanism for negotiating trade deals as expansive as TPP, which has high potential for negative impacts on workers in the United States and the environment in the Pacific region.

Fast track authority takes away opportunities for input from our elected Congressional representatives and gives complete decision-making power to the Executive Branch. It allows the President to sign the TPP and then send it to Congress for limited debate, no amendments, and a simple yes-or-no vote. With fast track, our elected representatives in Congress cannot effectively oversee trade policies to make sure they protect air, water and protect us from even more climate disruption.

CWA leaders emphasized the devastating toll that previous trade treaties like NAFTA had on American jobs. Our Georgia Chapter Sierra Club leader focused on the environmental dangers the treaty could pose without strong, binding environmental protections. This meeting further strengthened the partnership between Georgia’s “Blue Green” coalition of labor and environment and helped Congressman Johnson understand the issues and ultimately oppose fast track. Unfortunately, Congress passed fast track authorization at the end of June so the focus now is fixing or defeating the Trans-Pacific Partnership. ♣

Outreach Volunteers Work to Save Cooper Creek

By Joshua Hanthorn

It’s festival season and you may have seen opportunities to volunteer at outreach events for Sierra Club’s efforts at Cooper Creek. This community outreach is a build-up for an Environmental Assessment proposal coming out later this year. So far, the Sierra Club has been at several great events, including the Candler Park Music and Food Festival, the Gainesville Wild and Scenic Film Festival and the Mountain Park Craft Beer Festival, along with several local farmers markets.

Tabling at these outreach events is no easy task, with either too much traffic or not enough traffic, and the constant rigging of the stubborn outreach tent. However, our volunteers understand the significance of this outreach. As one of our recent volunteers noted, “Any form of outreach to the public impacts the goals of the organization in positive, subtle ways, and creating a face for all to see plants seeds cultivated over time.”



Volunteer Lois Chang

Some volunteers are looking to gain experience. One volunteer, Timothy Gandy, is currently in law school aspiring to become an environmental lawyer. He is passionate about environmental issues and is volunteering to build connections with environmental organizations in Georgia.

Lois Chang, another volunteer and an Emory student working on her bachelor’s degree in environmental science and master’s degree in environmental health, stated she is looking to help because she wants to raise awareness on environmental issues like the proposed actions at Cooper Creek. She loves the environment; she “finds true peace and comfort when in nature - it’s like a second home.” About her volunteer experience, she said, “I had a blast meeting people of all types and informing them about Sierra Club’s advocacy work.”

These are only a couple of our volunteers who have been doing great work to save Cooper Creek, but we still need more volunteers to sign up for our upcoming outreach events. To get involved contact Joshua Hanthorn at joshua.hanthorn@sierraclub.org. ♣

The Georgia Water Coalition: A Powerful Force for State's Waters

By Mark Woodall

In 2002, the Georgia Water Coalition was founded by the Georgia Wildlife Federation (represented by Jerry McCollum), the Georgia Conservancy (John Sibley), the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper which is now the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (Sally Bethea), and the Southern Environmental Law Center (Wesley Woolf). Within four months, over 40 organizations had signed on as partners.

The founding groups and their partners were horrified by the prospect of Georgia adopting Western water law. In the western United States, water is treated as a mineral that can be bought and sold as a commodity. This has damaged many of our great rivers, such as the Colorado and the Rio Grande, which now are often no more than a trickle when they reach the Pacific or Gulf.

The metro Atlanta development industry sees the regulated water laws of Georgia and most of the Eastern states as an impediment to unlimited growth. Western water law experts such as Professor Ron Cummings of New Mexico were brought to Georgia universities to assist in the attempted grand theft of water which is currently a public resource in Georgia. Georgia Environmental Protection Division Director Harold Reheis was enlisted as a co-conspirator.

In 2003, the Western water law advocates made a bold attempt to steal the water rights of the people of Georgia with House Bill (HB) 237. HB 237 would have allowed the trading and sale of water permits to the highest bidder.



Thanks to the relentless education and lobbying efforts of the members of the Georgia Water Coalition, HB 237 was defeated on the last night of the session with 61 House members voting yes and 98 House members voting no.

But, as is said, environmental victories are not permanent. Such is the case in protecting Georgia's current Eastern water law system, which is known as regulated riparian rights. In 2013, Georgia's current system was once again under attack from the Georgia and Metro Atlanta Chambers of Commerce and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Instead of permit selling, the 2013 attack was an attempt to give the state of Georgia ownership of "augmented flows." This water rights grab was included in the amendments to the Flint River Drought Protection Act, Senate Bill (SB) 213. SB 213 was denied passage in 2013 and finally passed in 2014 in a much amended and mostly harmless form.

The mission of the Georgia Water Coalition is to protect and care for Georgia's water resources. The struggles to protect our water resources are ongoing in many areas besides preservation of the regulated riparian rights system.

The water wars between Alabama, Florida and metro Atlanta have gone on since 1990. The battle against unneeded reservoirs is continuing and made even worse now due to Gov. Deal's attempt to inject \$300 million into reservoir development. Groundwater protection, including the protection of Georgia's mostly pristine aquifers, is continuing as the Georgia EPD experiments with aquifer storage and recovery (ASR). Stream and marsh buffers, erosion control, contaminated sites, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), emergency planning and response, interbasin transfers, in-stream flows, drought response, enforcement and other issues continue to require the attention of the GWC.

In 2014, a consultant's report on the GWC found the Coalition to be "an exceptional leader on critically important water issues within the state of Georgia and the Southeastern region and a highly effective voice on water management and conservation issues." It describes the GWC as "a model for educated citizen engagement."

As Chapter Legislative Chair, I have witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of Sierra Club volunteers and other concerned citizens willing to go to the Capitol or contact their elected officials. GWC's meetings, Capitol Conservation Day, e-alerts and newsletters have increased the effectiveness of the environmental movement in Georgia.

The Sierra Club is proud to be an important member of the GWC. I urge you to go to the GWC website, <http://www.garivers.org/gawater>, and to get informed and involved. ♣

Standing Up for Transit in Clayton County

By Jessica Jarrett

In the early hours of March 21, 2015, Georgia STAND-UP joined with the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club, a crowd of other coalition partners, community representatives and volunteers at the College Park Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) station to catch the first MARTA bus to officially run in Clayton County, Georgia. As the buses started to roll, a crowd of onlookers stood by with joy, pride and excitement in their eyes, pleased at what they were able to accomplish.

Clayton County residents voted last fall to approve a one-cent sales tax increase to become the third county in Georgia that MARTA serves. MARTA had not expanded its services outside of DeKalb and Fulton counties in 40 years.

Clayton County had been without any public transportation for five years.



Jessica Jarrett is an organizer with Atlanta-based Georgia STAND-UP, a community “think and act tank” that focuses on economic development and social justice issues.



Georgia STAND-UP’s Deborah Scott and Sierra Club transportation organizer Brionté McCorkle at a rally supporting expansion of MARTA to Clayton County.

MARTA needed the cooperation of Clayton County residents, and Clayton County residents needed the ability to travel within and outside of the county to access jobs, schools, entertainment and social services.

I remember working with the Georgia Sierra Club on the Clayton County transit campaign. It was so hard trying to convince people that their votes counted and that they could make a difference. A lot of the residents were unaware of the transit referendum, were unregistered voters and/or were not interested in registering to vote. Some had criminal backgrounds and did not know the process of re-registering to vote. But we did it.

We worked, and worked hard ... and late. We held signs out on the side of the streets, held voter registration drives daily, attended education events and talked to anyone we could about public transportation coming to Clayton County. I remember hearing a bunch of, “We ain’t getting no buses here,” and “MARTA ain’t coming,” statements. They were disheartening in

the moment, but we stayed clear in our vision, and in our mission to get public transportation restored in Clayton County. We won.

MARTA has started with one route, #196, which departs from and returns to Clayton County, a dedicated line to the residents within the county’s borders. The initial bus route travels between Southlake Mall and the College Park station, including a stop at Southern Regional Medical Center. MARTA plans to add five more routes, two FLEX routes and two Mobility buses by mid-December 2015.

So now the really hard part begins. It will be vital from this point on for MARTA to continue to engage the community on its needs and how MARTA can assist with meeting those needs, especially when it comes to placing bus stops and hub locations. We at Georgia STAND-UP look forward to working with the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club to hold both MARTA and Clayton County accountable to the needs of this community. 🌱

An Unlikely Partnership: *An Interview with Dalton Tea Party Member Ed Painter*

Among the more improbable allies the Sierra Club has found itself working alongside in recent years is the Tea Party movement in Georgia. Despite differences on many issues, Chapter and Tea Party activists have managed to find common ground on topics like rooftop solar energy and local regulatory autonomy, leading to significant legislative victories in this year's session such as the Solar Freedom Act and the surprise defeat of the "Plastic Bags Everywhere" bill. Chapter lobbyist **Neill Herring** recently spoke with Tea Party leader **Ed Painter** to discuss this unlikely alliance.



NH: When did you start working with the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club?

EP: As a citizen I worked on key issues during the 2011 session of the Georgia Legislature. There I became reacquainted with Neill Herring whom I have known since high school. We began discussing issues of concern to all citizens and how we could work together on legislation that provided a common ground. TSPLOST provided that opportunity.

NH: After the TSPLOST vote, were there other issues on which you were able to work with the Club?

EP: Yes, the Flint River Drought Protection Act (Senate Bill 213) was stopped from passing in the House on *Sine Die* 2013, primarily because we were able to convince conservative Republicans to postpone the bill until the 2014 session. Working as a Green Tea Coalition member, together with the Sierra Club, we helped shape the Public Service Commission's policy on solar energy. I was also an opponent of the "Plastic Bag Bill" (SB 139).

There was a funny bit in the House Agricultural and Consumer Affairs Committee this session when you testified against SB 139, the bill that would prevent local governments from banning plastic grocery bags. A member of the committee, Scot Turner, asked you what you were doing there, saying "Aren't you a conservative activist, a tea party leader?" Can you tell us about that?

Scot Turner and I had met at several tea party and Republican functions, and he was aware of the leadership positions I held in both. He was unaware I was going to testify, and he wanted the other Republican members to consider the issues from a conservative perspective, hence the question after my remarks. The previous speakers were environmentally motivated and knowing how most of the Republican legislators view them, I told the committee, "I am not with the left wing loons" before I considered how it would sound. Some

laughed; some didn't. I was a little red-faced, but the comment did underscore the diversity of opposition. We also actively lobbied against the bill the day it was brought before the House.

NH: Do you have any thoughts on conservation and conservatism?

EP: We are all concerned about our environment, and few are more concerned about conservation of our natural resources than hunters and fishermen and we are often conservatives. Activists must all be aware of the efforts of those in the ruling elite (both left and right) to keep the grassroots split by demonizing the other side, thus allowing the special interests to exploit our division to advance their agenda. We should all focus on positive results, not the motivations that bring them about. 🌲

A promotional graphic for EarthShare Georgia. The background is a large, stylized green tree. At the top center, the EarthShare Georgia logo is displayed, featuring the text "EarthShare" in a bold, sans-serif font with a circular arrow around the "S", and "Georgia" in a smaller font below it. Below the logo, the tagline "One environment. One simple way to care for it." is written in a smaller font. In the center, the main message "Working for the day when our Air, Land and Water are clean, abundant and healthy." is written in a large, bold, white font. Below this, the text "Start an EarthShare of Georgia employee giving campaign today!" is written in a smaller white font. At the bottom left, the phone number "404.873.3173" is displayed, and at the bottom right, the website "www.earthsharega.org" is shown.

Reserve Your Spot at the 2015 Chapter Retreat!

Registration Options

Conference Ticket: \$95. Please note that lodging is NOT included in the price for this option. You are responsible to book your own overnight accommodations, either at one of the nearby motels or at one of the Crooked River camping sites. **Conference Ticket Includes:**

- Access to all conference activities, outings, and workshops (excluding the Cumberland Island outing on Saturday – separate registration)
- Friday Evening Chili Social
- Saturday Breakfast
- Saturday Lunch Bag
- Awards Banquet
- Sunday Breakfast

Sat. Night Banquet Option: \$50

- Awards Banquet Only (no activities)

Motel Rooms: We have arranged for a group discount at the La Quinta Inn & Suites at Kingsland, GA, which will offer 10% off of the regular price. People wishing to take advantage of the discount will need to call the hotel directly at (912) 882-8010 and state they are with the Georgia Sierra Club. This discounted registration is available until October 6th so please do not delay on making your reservations!

On-site Camping: Crooked River State Park offers a variety of camping options. If you would like to camp at the park for the retreat, you are responsible to book your own overnight accommodations. You will need to call the park at (912) 882-5256. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, and will go fast during the peak season. For this reason, we encourage you to make your reservations before September 20th! If you would like to share a campsite with someone to reduce costs and need our assistance finding a partner, please indicate such on the registration page. We will contact you!

Children: Special pricing is available for children. Please call us directly at (404) 607-1262 x 221 for pricing and payment.



Registration for the 2015 Georgia Chapter fall gathering is now open for members, families and friends. We encourage you to register early and join us for an exciting weekend, October 23-25, at Crooked River State Park located near St. Marys on Georgia's Colonial Coast. Activities include hiking, biking, birding, and kayaking. If you register for the weekend, you may also sign up for an optional outing to Cumberland Island National Seashore led by Carol Ruckdeschel (see opposite page).

We will also offer workshops, entertainment, two exciting keynote speakers, a sustainable chili potluck social on Friday night, our traditional awards banquet on Saturday, and a chance to meet volunteers and friends from throughout the region (Sierrans in Florida and South Carolina have been invited.). Our theme is "Sierra Club in 2100 and Beyond." During the week-

end, we will examine some of our priority campaigns and the tools, resources and alliances needed for continued success. Look for a retreat e-news update in July with details about planned workshops.

Attendees can choose from on-site camping options and several nearby motel accommodations including the LaQuinta Inn. For retreat details and to register, visit <http://sierraclub.org/georgia/retreat>.

The final deadline for registration is September 20. Register by August 14 and receive a special Sierra Club gift. One more reason to register early: The 40 seats we've reserved for the Saturday morning ferry to Cumberland will go to the first 40 who register for the weekend. Late registrants can still make the trip, but will need to make their own reservations on a second (public) ferry. 🌲

Register today at sierraclub.org/georgia/retreat

Janisse Ray, Aaron Mair to Headline Retreat

Janisse Ray, Writer, Naturalist and Activist

Janisse Ray is author of five books of literary non-fiction and a collection of nature poetry. Her first book, "Ecology of a Cracker Childhood," a memoir about growing up on a junkyard in the ruined long-leaf pine ecosystem of the Southeast, was published by Milkweed Editions in 1999. The book won numerous awards including the American Book Award in 2000 and the Southern Environmental Law Center 2000 Award for Outstanding Writing, and was chosen as the "Book All Georgians Should Read" by the New York Times. Her most recent book is "The Seed Underground: A Growing Revolution to Save Food."

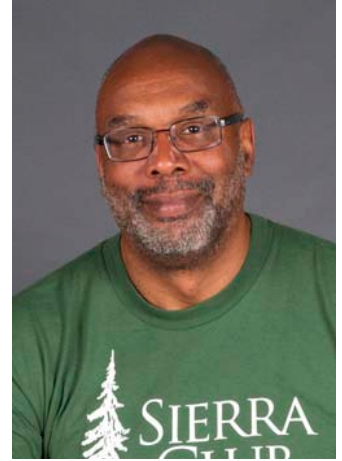


In 2014 Ray was awarded an honorary doctorate from LaGrange College following one from Unity College in Maine in 2007. She holds an MFA from the University of Montana, where she was the 2014 William Kittredge Distinguished Visiting Writer. She is a 2015 inductee into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame.

Ray makes her home in southern Georgia, attempting to live a simple, sustainable life on Red Earth Farm with her husband and daughter. She is an organic gardener, tender of farm animals, slow-food cook and seed-saver, and she lectures nationally on nature, community, agriculture, seeds, wildness, sustainability and the politics of wholeness. 🌱

Aaron Mair, National Sierra Club President

Aaron Mair of Schenectady, New York was elected as Sierra Club president in May 2015. An epidemiological-spatial analyst with the New York State Department of Health, Mair brings more than three decades of environmental activism and over 25 years as a Sierra Club volunteer leader to his position as the Sierra Club's first African American president.



Mair became a Sierra Club member in 1999, following a decade-long battle that he led to shut down a polluting solid waste incinerator in an inner-city community in Albany, New York. His efforts ultimately led to a commitment by the state to shut down the facility and a \$1.6 million settlement award to that community. Mair was also a key figure in leading the fight and securing the Sierra Club's participation in the Clean Up the Hudson campaign, which resulted in a settlement between the Environmental Protection Agency and General Electric to dredge toxic PCB sediments from the Upper Hudson River.

Mair has held more than three dozen leadership positions within the Sierra Club's Hudson Mohawk Group and Atlantic Chapter, including chapter chair (2002-2003), chapter executive committee (2002-2004) and environmental justice chair (2009-present). He was elected to the national Sierra Club's Board of Directors in 2014. 🌱

Retreat Weekend to Include Cumberland Island Outing

Retreat attendees have a unique opportunity to join a 4-mile walking tour of nearby Cumberland Island, led by biologist, naturalist, and environmental activist Carol Ruckdeschel. A Cumberland Island resident, Carol was instrumental in the creation and preservation of Cumberland Island National Seashore; please visit her website www.wildcumberland.org for more information. She will discuss current issues Cumberland Island is facing. Also joining the walk will be Jerome Walker of Wilderness Watch, who has been actively working on issues with Cumberland Island for 20 years.

We will meet at the dock at 9:30am, with a private boat

taking us to Sea Camp Ranger Station where our hike will begin and end. Our tour will include visits to the Ice House Museum, Dungeness Ruins, Cemetery and Sea Camp, plus a mile-long walk along the pristine beach. We should be back to the dock at 3:30pm for the boat ride back.

Make sure to bring plenty of water to drink, sunscreen and bug spray. This is an easy hike with no hills to climb and the pace will be slow so we can enjoy the island. We will have lunch on the island; bring your own lunch and snacks. **Registration for this outing is only available through a link that will be in your confirmation email when you register for the Chapter Retreat.**



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Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

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For more info and confidential assistance, contact:

Sierra Club

Gift Planning Program

85 Second Street, Second Floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

Membership

Honoring Marge Yost Davis

By Norman Slawsky

Marge Yost Davis decided in her late 70s that there was plenty in the world worth saving, and she gave her support to the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club to do it. Marge was the soul of the Georgia Chapter Political Action Committee. She arranged meetings with political candidates to discuss issues when there were candidates who wanted Sierra Club endorsements, and she made sure we had enough Sierra Club members attending the meetings. Her enthusiasm and perseverance kept us going. She cared about us and about doing the right thing.



Until her death in April 2015, Marge continued to write letters to the editor as long as she could. She supported her husband Louis, who used his experience as a nuclear engineer to advise us on problems with the construction of Plant Vogtle. At any age, she was an example of the way we should live our lives.

If you haven't yet made a contribution to Georgia Sierra in 2015, now is a good time to do so in honor of Marge. Contributions may be made in her memory to the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club and to the Georgia Sierra Club Political Action Committee to continue the work to which she dedicated a significant part of her life. You may send checks to the Chapter office: 743 E. College Ave., Suite C., Decatur, GA 30030 or contribute online by going to the website <http://georgia.sierraclub.org> and clicking on the Donate button. 🌲

Find your local chapter outings
@ www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter



Sierrans Join Hands for Clean Energy



Georgia Sierrans took to Tybee Island on May 16th as part of Hands Across the Sand, an international show of support for clean energy. For more information, visit handsacrossthesand.com.

Call for Chapter ExCom Nominations

The Chapter Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the Executive Committee (ExCom). The Chapter ExCom has oversight responsibility for the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club to ensure that it is carrying out our mission productively. If you know of someone who would be a good ExCom member, or if you are interested in serving yourself, contact Jennifer Kaduck at jkaduck@mindspring.com no later than Aug. 1, 2015. Chapter and Group candidate statements and any nomination petitions for petition candidates must be submitted by Sept. 1, 2015. You may refer to the Chapter website (<http://www.georgia.sierraclub.org>) to review the responsibilities of ExCom.

Complete rules for the election are posted on the Sierra Club website. Ballots with candidate statements will be mailed by Oct. 22. Ballots must be received by 5 p.m., Nov. 19 in the Chapter office in Decatur. Details for returning ballots and ballot counting will be published in the next Sierran.



photo by Marco Scurati

GOING, GOING... GONE?

Sea turtles date back nearly 90 million years and are among the Earth's oldest surviving species. All 6 species of sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Sierra Club has mounted a major effort to defend and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever.

Help protect our animal friends; because once they're gone, they're gone. Join Sierra Club now.

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

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Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.



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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

Chapter Director Colleen Kiernan Recognized by Atlanta Magazine

Editors' note: Atlanta magazine's Women Making a Mark Program "recognizes and celebrates Atlanta women who are positively shaping our city." Colleen Kiernan is noted for her environmental work, and the magazine's citation is reprinted below. Congratulations, Colleen! Well deserved.



Colleen Kiernan is a warrior. In her role as director of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club, she battles against power plants, plastic bag manufacturers, and deforestation. Admittedly, her work pulls her in a million different directions, but she says what makes it worthwhile is "seeing all of the effort come together to make positive change."

With a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and political science from Emory University, a master's in city and regional planning from Georgia Tech, and stints at environmental groups and an architecture and planning firm, this 38-year-old seems perfectly suited to her job, which she's had since 2010. Recent Sierra Club victories include extending MARTA – and bringing the first commuter rail – to Clayton County, increasing Georgia's solar and wind power energy, and drastically reducing the state's dependence on power plants. "Our goal is to get to 100 percent clean energy by 2050," she says.

When Kiernan isn't protecting the environment, she's outside enjoying it. Kiernan runs, bikes, and plays softball, and she is slowly but steadily hiking the Appalachian Trail – she plans to tackle North Carolina this summer. After that, it's back to battle. 🌲



To watch Atlanta's video interview with Colleen see: <http://www.atlantamagazine.com/women-making-a-mark/colleen-kiernan>

Outings Leaders Gather for Weekend at High Falls



By Lynn Walston

Georgia Chapter Sierra Club Outings Leaders (and a few friends, one four-legged) had a fun and interactive outdoor experience the last weekend in May at High Falls State Park, near Macon in Monroe County.

There was tent and yurt camping, kayaking (led by Pete Johnson), night hiking (both one on Friday night with a park ranger and Sammy Padgett's on Saturday), and a fascinating outing with Loretta English at Dauset Trails, which is a private farm and animal rescue park near Jackson, Georgia. Many hikers also set out on their own to explore the trails, falls, lake and rocky landscapes of High Falls Park. The Park, situated on the Towaliga River, is the oldest designated park in the U.S., dating from the early 1800s after a treaty with the Creek Indians transferred it to the U.S. government.

Besides campfires with s'mores and a shared potluck dinner at the pioneer campground with all our outings leaders on Saturday night, Sammy Padgett led a productive discussion about how to engage hikers and increase the numbers of hiking leaders. Many outing sites and best times for hiking were discussed. He said that the chapter hopes to hold an outings retreat for all members who might want to attend next year, in order to engage more members. 🌲



LaGrange Group Partners with LaGrange College

By **Laura Breyfogle**
Group Chair

Ever since our group started in 2007, we have realized the value of having a fine liberal arts college in the midst of our community and how engaging its students and faculty promises to enrich our group's opportunities to learn about, explore and enhance our natural surroundings. We hope to better their lives as well through outings, educational experiences and projects.

In our first year we benefited from the efforts of an exemplary student, Jessica Shaver, who created an excellent forum highlighting various current energy sources. It was open to the student body as well as to the community. Jessica involved her sorority sisters in our Trees for Tots project in which the Sierra Club procured, prepared and gave tree seedlings to approximately 1,000 kindergartners in the Troup County School System. A college fraternity helped with this project as well, happily accepting the reward of a cookout afterwards.

Faculty connections have led to several exemplary programs. Biology professor Dr. William Paschal wowed us with a Galapagos Islands presentation. Another biology professor, Dr. Mark Yates, shared his pictures and adventures from his studies in the Amazon River Basin. Being a self-proclaimed bat fanatic, he has offered to include Sierrans in a bat blitz this summer, in which we will learn firsthand how bats are captured, tagged and observed for scientific purposes. Political science professor Dr. John Tures moderated a political forum during the 2008 election season.

In 2012, LaGrange College began offering the Servant Scholars program, in which students earning high grades as well as demonstrating high levels of service to others are rewarded with scholarships and special living quarters. During their junior year, students choose one or two nonprofits with which to volunteer. This is how Reese Hight became involved with Sierra Club. He chose us! Reese advised us on



getting some of our meetings set up at the college with participating students earning required "cultural enrichment credits" for attending. He also helped recruit other students for an annual bike outing on the Chattahoochee RiverWalk. He agreed to serve on our board during his senior year.

Currently, rising senior Andrea Richard serves on our board. Working on a minor in sustainability, Andrea is especially interested in community gardens. We look forward to finding out how we can weave her enthusiasm and creative ideas into helping us encourage other students to join Sierra Club on meetings, outings and projects as well as make a difference in our community.

Partnering with LaGrange College has benefited our group in so many ways. We learn from the

professors about the wonders of our natural world, and we become infused with the hope and youthful enthusiasm of the students. In turn, we share with our college friends the importance of the Sierra Club's mission to explore, enjoy and protect our planet! 🌲

Meetings and Activities

Our spring activities included such highlights as a Pine Mountain Trail hike, a Tree ID hike, and Flint River paddle. Our monthly programs featured The Nature Conservancy, Sustainability in LaGrange and a Sierra Club Chapter Update

Upcoming summer activities:

July 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.: Lake Martin Bash. Contact Laura Breyfogle at breyfogle@charter.net to register.

Dates TBA: Kayaking on Chattahoochee River. Stay tuned to Georgia Sierra Club Meetup!

Building a Relationship With the Cobb County Commission

When we supported Cobb County Commission candidate Bob Weatherford last year, we hoped to lay groundwork for better communication and foster a “listening ear” on the Board of Commissioners. We also worked to identify areas in which we might partner to seek solutions to problems such as the need for more greenspace and better transit.

We have had some success so far, and our efforts definitely show promise. Our leadership team has met three times recently with Bob to discuss various issues and concerns including rezoning proposals, re-issuance of a 2008 park bond for green space, and future transit planning. He seems to appreciate our support for his election and our efforts to meet with him to discuss ways to work together. We have been

able to ask questions of each other; he has offered to research and gather additional information that we need. We plan to speak with the other four Cobb commissioners about these and other issues, and to continue mobilizing our volunteers to attend commission meetings and affect key decisions.

We have also been in touch with Jennifer Burke who worked with Concerned Citizens of East Cobb in efforts to push for purchase of the Tritt property (next to East Cobb Park, and of particular interest to our group) for green space. We are exploring ways our groups might partner and share ideas and resources to support the re-issuance of the 2008 park bond. ♣

SPRING MEETINGS

Our group meetings have drawn a record number of attendees recently - many from other organizations, many receiving extra promos and invitations from our e-news blasts sent to partner outings groups.

In **March**, Susan Caster’s “Pacific Crest Trail” presentation drew 54 participants.

In **May**, speaker Dr. Bill Witherspoon, retired Fernbank geologist, led us on a pre-lecture excursion to Life University’s historic cabin and water mill to see geologic occurrences in North Georgia along Rottenwood Creek. He then presented a program to 59 attendees entitled “Gorges Atlanta: Along the Chattahoochee and Its Tributaries,” with some of his own students and associates joining us. Dr. Witherspoon is the author of the book “Roadside Geology of Georgia.”

In **June**, we welcomed Jim Bearden who spoke about his Bluebird Trail and the care and management of backyard songbird populations.



Author Bill Witherspoon

UPCOMING MEETINGS

On **August 6**, Jerry Hightower of the Chattahoochee Nature Center will entertain and teach with one of his popular presentations.

On **September 3**, we will hear from Terri Hannah from Keep Cobb Beautiful about their many KCB programs (We already participate in the Adopt-A-Mile program).

SPRING TABLING/OUTREACH

Three outdoor tabling events (Chattahoochee Nature Center’s Back to Your Roots Farm Fair, the Milton Earth Day Festival and the Spring Fling in Woodstock) enabled us to interact with hundreds of local people about what we do (through fun family activities like planting wildflowers in peat cups) and to get a number of sign-ups for our group newsletter. We also tabled for the first time at Cobb NAACP’s Annual Juneteenth Celebration at Glover Park in Marietta.



Tabling at the Cobb NAACP’s Juneteenth Celebration

Centennial Group

SPRING OUTINGS

We had 10 outings in March, April and May led by our group outing leaders (three led by new outing leaders), with many more planned for the summer. We were fortunate to be able to present Outing Leader Training (OLT) at REI's Kennesaw store on April 25. Lee Graham, Bob Springfield and Maria Adams did a great job training eight new outing leaders in the morning. Basic first aid training was held in the afternoon. REI had a "garage sale" that day, so it was a perfect opportunity for us to interact with the staff and some patrons in the store.



Kathy Jo Champion and Vera Miller, both recent OLT trainees, with Lee Graham, Lynn Walston and Bob Springfield

OTHER SPRING EVENTS

A few of our leaders attended a March Chapter donor event for potential supporters graciously hosted by Centennial member Ankush Patel. We enjoyed meeting these friends and colleagues, many of whom live in our vicinity, and we intend to invite many of them to future group activities.



Donor event at the home of Ankush Patel

We continue to look for more partnering opportunities as we focus on growing our membership, better communication, updating our website and hosting a SC101 meeting.

FAREWELL

Best wishes to Barbara Owens, our treasurer, membership booster and dedicated leader, who is relocating to the West Coast to help care for her parents. We expect to see her occasionally when she visits family here, but we will miss her enthusiasm and many talents.



Barbara Owens with Bettye Harris and Lynn Walston

HELP WANTED

Do you know someone who can assist us as group treasurer, or someone who can help support our group webpage or group newsletter? Please let us know.

Greater Gwinnett Group

Our work with the Unitarian Universalist church and Citizens' Climate Lobby is in the beginning stages as we help sponsor environmental movies and work to bring environmental issues to the attention of politicians at the national, state and local levels. In the remainder of the year, our involvement will increase with movies programs, politicians and the citizens of Gwinnett.

Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at Berkmar High School. We welcome all of you to come to see and hear how the environment is affecting you and what the Sierra Club is doing about it.

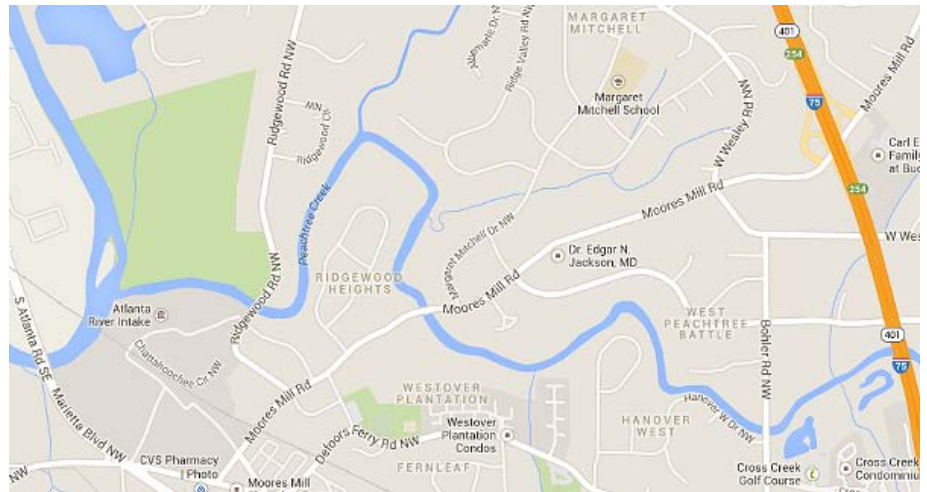
- Dan Friedman

Standing Peachtree Park Opens Again

By D. Gordon Draves

Each year the Atlanta Preservation Center sponsors Phoenix Flies, an annual celebration highlighting Atlanta's historic sites. One of the 200 events this spring was in a very historical section of Atlanta - Standing Peachtree Park. This park is located at the confluence of Peachtree Creek and the Chattahoochee, where Atlanta withdraws water from the river. Until October 2014 the park had been closed as a precaution over possible sabotage of the water supply. At the Phoenix Flies event, visitors gathered under the park's large pavilion as curators from Fort Daniel in Gwinnett County presented interesting facts about the area, complete with artifacts and a model of the fort.

The curators explained that Native Americans, and most recently Creek Indians, had lived in this region for 10,000 years before European settlers arrived. Standing Peachtree Park was



The location of Standing Peachtree Park in northwest Atlanta

the site of a Creek Indian Village of the same name, and upon which the U.S. Military built a fort during the War of 1812.

Today, Standing Peachtree Park is once again open to the public. The large picnic pavilion offers a fireplace and stone seats lining the two walls, and visitors may also bring their own

tables and chairs. There is a large parking area and an unpaved road leads down to the river. The park is located at 2630 Ridgewood Road NW, Atlanta, running off Moores Mill Road near Bolton Road. Gates are open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. For more information see <http://atlantasupperwestside.com/Site/StandingPeachtree.html>. 🌲

Meetings & Activities

Metro Atlanta Group meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. at the intersection with East Lake Drive; the entrance to the church is on East Lake Drive. MARTA bus #2 runs on Ponce de Leon Ave. between North Avenue Station and Decatur Station. Snacks at 7 p.m.; program begins at 7:30.

For topics and speakers for upcoming summer monthly meetings, please see the website below.

Adopt-A-Stream Program Events

-Chemical monitoring: **July 11.** August date **TBA.** (Contact: Larry Kloet at 404-636-7226)

-Biological and chemical monitoring: **Saturday, Oct. 3**

We meet at the South Fork of Peachtree Creek in Medlock Park, north of Decatur, from 10-11 a.m. for chemical monitoring. For biological monitoring, we meet 10 a.m.-noon, and we need many eyes to find the critters of the creek.

From Clairmont Road (between N. Decatur and N. Druid Hill Roads), take Desmond Drive (third street north of N. Decatur Road) until it intersects with Willivee Drive. Turn left and follow Willivee around to Scott Circle, where you turn right. Parking is on your left when you reach the park. Park in the middle, and walk the dirt road with the two-story building on your left and ball fields on either side. Go into the woods behind ball field #5. Bear left and you will see us at a picnic table by the creek.

For more details about biological monitoring, call Nancy Wylie at 404-256-1172

For more information, updates and new events please see: <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/atlanta/>

Sharing Across Organization and State Lines

By Judy Gordon
Savannah River Group Co-Chair

When your Sierra Club Group sits on the line between two states, it seems that partnering is the name of the game! We work with the South Carolina Sierra Chapter on issues such as fighting the Palmetto Pipeline, and share out-ing events such as our recent day hike to Congaree National Park, which we organized jointly with the Sierra Club's John Bachman Group of Columbia, South Carolina.

At our recent rummage sale fundraiser, we partnered with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta and split the profits. We pay to use one of their meeting rooms, but we also have volunteered to help with their ongoing "Green Sanctuary" efforts.

We have worked with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources



Ladies tresses orchid, Congaree Park

(DNR) program Rivers Alive by participating in events such as waterway cleanups, and with the Savannah River-

keeper by attending hearings opposing the Palmetto Pipeline.

Many of our members are active in Richmond County and Columbia County Adopt-A-Stream monitoring. In fact, our own Linda McBurney was recognized as the 2014 Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer of the Year. We also advertise their training sessions in our newsletter and have contributed funds to help pay for chemicals used in monitoring.

Currently we are funding a bee-keeper who is working with Augusta Locally Grown, an organization which promotes eating locally grown foods and organic farming.

Many of the organizations mentioned above have also provided speakers at our monthly meetings.

Three cheers for working together to protect our planet! 🌱

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

ICO Visits Island Ford Park



Eleven youth from the Warren/Holyfield Boys and Girls Club participated in an ICO trip led by three volunteers on May 16th. The group traveled to Island Ford Park, a tract of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, and began the outing with fishing "old time" style using bamboo poles and bait provided by John,

a Park Ranger. The youth caught three fish in a matter of 45 minutes and followed John's instructions on how to release them back into the pond. After lunch, the kids were tugged out of the air-conditioned Welcome Center (it was a hot, humid day) for a hike. Once outside, the group had fun observing more wildlife (even snakes!), exploring an overhung rock face, and running to the top of the hill. We found ourselves off the trail sometimes, but had a lot of fun, despite the heat and a few scrapes. The participants learned how to move in the woods and catch fish – and built some lasting memories.

For more reports, visit the ICO blog at atlantaico.blogspot.com

About Atlanta ICO

Formerly known as Atlanta Inner City Outings, Sierra Club Inspiring Connections Outdoors is a community outreach program providing opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world. The goal of the Atlanta ICO program is to help these young people discover the beauty of wild places, to foster an appreciation for nature, and to help them acquire the necessary skills to enjoy these places safely. To learn more or to get involved, please visit www.atlantaico.org or email atlantaico@gmail.com.

Chapter Contacts

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At-Large Elected Member

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Metro Atlanta Group Delegate

Dan Friedman, 404-610-5770,
dan3688@aol.com
Greater Gwinnett Group Delegate

Bettye Harris, 678-463-7827,
bettyeharris@gmail.com
Centennial Group Delegate

Jennifer Kaduck, 770-925-2575,
jkaduck@mindspring.com
At-Large Elected Member

Linda McBurney, 706-631-1489,
msmcb@outlook.com
Savannah River Group Delegate

Tom Neff, 770-565-3869,
tsneff2003@yahoo.com
At-Large Elected Member

Diane Shearer, 770-934-7062,
djshearer@bellsouth.net
At-Large Elected Member

Steve Willis, 912-341-0718,
snwillis@yahoo.com
Coastal Group Delegate

Chapter ExCom Meeting

The next Chapter Executive Committee meeting will be Saturday, July 18th at the Chapter office in Decatur. Meetings are open to the membership. For more information, call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x221.

Officers & Chairs

Conservation Chair: Alan Toney,
mudflat@comcast.net

Secretary: Todd Daniel, todddan@mac.com

Treasurer: Tom Neff, tsneff2003@yahoo.com

Finance Chair: Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

Fundraising Chair: *vacant*
Meeting: 4th Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., Chapter Office. Contact the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x221 for more information.

Human Resources Chair: Norman Slawsky,
nslawsky@gmail.com

Legislative Chair: Mark Woodall,
woodallmark8@gmail.com

Litigation Chair: Norman Slawsky,
nslawsky@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Ross Cheairs,
cheairsjr@aol.com

Newsletter Editors: Diane Shearer and Tanya Frazee,
gasierran@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Sammy Padgett,
sammypadgett@comcast.net

Political Chair: Eddie Ehlert,
edehlert@bellsouth.net

Webmaster: Charlotte Gardner,
ga_sierra_webmaster@yahoo.com

Issue Campaigns and Contacts

Clean Air: Dale Kemmerick,
dalekemm@comcast.net

Coastal Issues: Steve Willis,
snwillis@yahoo.com

• **Coastal Marsh:** Karen Graineey,
karengraineey@bellsouth.net

• **Marine Species/Habitat:** Karen Graineey,
karengraineey@bellsouth.net

• **Okefenokee Swamp:** Sam Collier,
scollier@mindspring.com

• **Savannah Port:** Steve Willis,
snwillis@yahoo.com

Factory Farms: Leah Garces,
leah.garces@ciwf.org

Organic and Locally Grown Foods: Bryan Hager,
bhager@mindspring.com

Population: Todd Daniel,
toddan@mac.com

Recycling: Lori Blank, lblank@hotmail.com

Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL): Marcus Sharpe, marcusseattle@live.com
Meeting: 4th Monday, 7 p.m., Chapter office. Committee sometimes skips months. Email first.

Smart Energy Solutions:

Eleanor Hand, eghand@bellsouth.net and
Cecilia Harris, ceciliaharris@gmail.com
Meeting: 1st Monday, 7 p.m., Chapter office

• **Beyond Coal:** Ian Karra,
ian.karra@sierraclub.org

• **Natural Gas:** *vacant*

• **Nuclear:** Glenn Carroll,
atom.girl@nonukesyall.org

• **Solar:** Thomas Jackson, tj31975@gmail.com

• **Wind:** Eleanor Hand, eghand@bellsouth.net

Water Sentinels/Adopt-a-Stream:

Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

Wildlands and Wildlife:

William Tomlin, wmltom@gmail.com
Meeting: 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., Chapter office. Committee sometimes skips months. Email first.

• **Chattahoochee National Recreation Area:** Alan Toney, mudflat@comcast.com

• **Federal Endangered Species:** Larry Winslett,
winfog@windstream.net

• **Rivers and Wetlands:** Keith Parsons,
kparsons@mindspring.com

• **State Lands/Georgia DNR:** Phil Zinsmeister,
pzinsmeister@oglethorpe.edu

Georgia Chapter Staff

Chapter Director:

Colleen Kiernan, 404-607-1262 x224,
colleen.kiernan@sierraclub.org

Chapter Conservation Coordinator:

Bronte McCorkle, 404-607-1262 x232,
bronte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org

Wildlands and Wildlife Coordinator:

Joshua Hanthorn, 404-607-1262 x222,
joshua.hanthorn@sierraclub.org

National Staff

Beyond Coal Organizing Representative:

Ian Karra, 404-607-1262 x233,
ian.karra@sierraclub.org

Sierra Club National Programs

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Contact Terri Lyde (lydeterri@bellsouth.net) for more information.

Sierra Student Coalition

Contact Tyler Faby (tfaby@uga.com) for more information.

Local Group Directory

A great way to get involved in your Chapter is by joining and participating in a local group. Some groups take certain months off, so it's a good idea to email first. Each group has a website. For maps and additional information on each group, visit the website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/get-involved>.

Centennial Group

Serving Cobb, Cherokee & North Fulton

Chair/Meetings Contact: Lynn Walston, lynnwalston22@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Lee Graham, leegrah3@gmail.com, 404-202-9065

Meetings: 1st Thursday, welcome/refreshments 7 p.m., program 7:30 p.m.; Life College, 1269 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta. For directions contact Lynn Walston, lynnwalston22@yahoo.com.

Coastal Group

Serving Savannah & surrounding counties

Chair: Karen Graine, karengraine@bellsouth.net

Outings Chair: Steve Wagner, sjwgnr@hotmail.com

Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 520 E. Washington Ave., Savannah.

Greater Gwinnett Group

Serving Gwinnett County

Chair: Dan Friedman, dan3688@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Art Sheldon, asheldon.cp81@gtalumni.org

Outings Chair: Jake Hardison, jake.hardison@ssa.gov

Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., Berkmar High School, 405 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lilburn 30047.

LaGrange Group

Serving the LaGrange area

Chair: Laura Breyfogle, breyfogle@charter.net

Conservation Chair: Sim Blich, simblich@charter.net

Outings Chair: Joanna Baxter, joannabbaxter@yahoo.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesdays; 6:30 p.m. welcome and refreshments, 7 p.m. program; St. Mark's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 207 N. Greenwood St., LaGrange (no meetings June-August).

Metro Atlanta Group

Serving Atlanta, Dekalb & South Fulton

Co-Chair: Jeff Bragg, braggson@springmail.com

Co-Chair: Konrad Hayashi, rainingatl@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Martin McConaughy, mcmarty@bellsouth.net

Meetings: 2nd Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. (between Atlanta and Decatur).

Savannah River Group

Serving Augusta & surrounding areas

Co-Chair: Judy Gordon, Ph.D., gordonjudith@att.net

Co-Chair: Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Frank Carl, frankcarl@knology.net

Outings Chair: Cathy Black, sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Unitarian Church on Walton Way, Augusta.

Regional Contacts

LeConte Group/Athens & North-east Georgia

Terry Jones, wolpers4@aol.com

Forsyth County

Jim Callison, callisonjim@bellsouth.net

Macon

Fletcher Winston, winston_f@mercer.edu

North Georgia

Larry Winslett, winfog@windstream.net

Valdosta

Brian Day, bjday@valdosta.edu

Georgia Chapter Office

743 East College Avenue, Suite C
Decatur, Georgia 30030
404-607-1262 - FAX: 404-876-5260
georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org
<http://georgia.sierraclub.org>

Directions to take MARTA to the Sierra Club

office: Our office is an easy 3-4 minute walk from the MARTA Avondale station (E7). We encourage you to take MARTA when possible. Exit the MARTA station towards the SOUTH PARKING LOT, located on the East College Ave. side. Once outside, proceed to the right towards Sams St. Cross over Sams St. and the office is the building located right behind the convenience store. The office is the second door from Sams St. – Suite C.

Stay Informed!

SIERRA CLUB WEB SITES

GA Chapter Web Site:
<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/>
GA Chapter Outings:
<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/outings/>
GA Chapter Email Lists Site:
<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/lists/>

EMAIL LISTS

Subscribe to a Georgia Chapter email list. Just send an email to:

LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Your message should read:
SUBSCRIBE LISTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

LIST NAMES:

GA-OUTINGS (chapter outings list)
GA-NEWSLETTER-ANNOUNCE (online newsletter updates)
GA-RAIL-NEWS (RAIL/Transit Advocacy Committee)

Subscribe to the Smart Energy Solutions listserv at:
gasmartenergycommittee@googlegroups.com

Subscribe to Georgia Chapter Online E-Newsletter at:
http://action.sierraclub.org/CHP_GA_Signup

Visit the Georgia Chapter web page and click on "Local Groups" for info on local groups' email lists.

Looking for a group near your home?

The Georgia Chapter website (<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/>) contains a map showing the locations of all groups. Or, call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262.

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Outings & Events

Sierra Club Outings provide a variety of opportunities for people to enjoy the beautiful outdoors. To find out more about what outings are being offered, please visit our website at www.sierraclub.org/georgia/get-outdoors.

Saturday, August 1, 2015

Panther Creek Falls Hike and Swim

Leader: Jake Hardison, Jr, 770-904-4893, jake.hardison@ssa.gov

Time: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Presented by: Georgia Chapter

Rated: Moderate

Registration: Required before July 31, 2015, 8 p.m.

Description: Join us for a 6.8-mile round trip hike and swim at Panther Creek Falls. Panther Creek Falls is a high-volume powerful affair that dumps over a large and ragged rock face into one of the largest pools in the Georgia mountains. The majority of the trail is flat and shaded with only a few steep inclines. We will hike at a moderate pace until we reach the 70-foot waterfall where we will spend a couple of hours swimming and having lunch before heading back to the trailhead. Limit 12. Contact Jake by email at jake.hardison@ssa.gov or by phone at (770) 904-4893. Please include your contact telephone number if responding by email. Meetup details will be forwarded at a later date.



Thursday, July 23, 2015

Outings Leader Training 101

Leader: Pete and Ilene Johnson, 770-241-1723, petehog2003@comcast.net

Time: 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Presented by: Georgia Chapter

Registration: Required before July 22, 2015

Location: 743 East College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030

Description: Do you like spending time in the outdoors? Like seeing new places and meeting new people? If you have ever thought about leading outings, then this is the perfect volunteer opportunity for you! The Sierra Club has been offering outings for over 100 years, furthering the Sierra Club's conservation goals around the country. Attend our Outings Leader Training 101 to learn how you can lead outdoor events with the Sierra Club of Georgia. Special class taught by Sierra Club volunteers! We will cover Core Outings Information, History and Programs, Leader Requirements, Planning and Conducting an Outing, and Safety Management. RSVP required at sierraclub.org/georgia.

JOIN US FOR SIERRA CLUB & BEER



Join us on **July 15th** where our topic will be Pastured Poultry Week, featuring speaker Leah Garces of Compassion in World Farming.

*Wednesday, July 15th
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Park Tavern
500 10th St NE
Atlanta, GA 30309*

Suggested Donation: \$5