

GEORGIA SIERRAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA SIERRA CLUB ♦ JAN / FEB / MAR 2018



GET INVOLVED IN 2018 ♦ LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW ♦ ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF A CULTURE OF CONVENIENCE ♦ PLANT VOGTLE UPDATE ♦ **PLUS** ♦ UPCOMING EVENTS AND OUTINGS ♦ GEORGIA CHAPTER UPDATES

FROM THE CHAPTER DIRECTOR

2017 was a year wrought with disasters and disappointments, both natural and otherwise. But, as we head into 2018, I'm filled with optimism and energy, and there are two big reasons why.

First, I'm encouraged by the progress we've made in replacing dirty fuels with clean, renewable energy here in Georgia. Despite a momentary setback in stopping the \$25 billion dollar nuclear power boondoggle at Plant Vogtle, progress on solar installations, energy efficiency and electric vehicle ordinances, and transit investments haven't been stopped. Instead, many cities and businesses across the state are accelerating renewable and clean energy solutions.

We're also retiring dirty and dangerous coal plants faster than ever. This past year, the Sierra Club Beyond Coal national campaign passed the halfway mark on retiring our nation's coal fleet, and we hope to announce two more in 2018! Wow.

Second, we're pushing forward on local clean energy. As of the end of 2017, more than 50 municipalities around the country have committed to transition to 100% clean, renewable energy, with the City of Atlanta releasing their plan at the end of January. This plan maps out how the city will be powered by 100% renewable energy by 2035. We will use Atlanta's blueprint as a model to transition other municipalities and communities in Georgia for the second phase of this work, showing local leaders how clear and economical the path to the future has become.

I'm incredibly optimistic for the year ahead. From our burgeoning Sierra Student Coalition work on college campuses and the vibrant Military Outdoors program, to our expanding grassroots legislative and political networks that are working to hold politicians accountable and make sure that the environmentalist voice shows up in November, I'm seeing and hearing encouraging news from our groups and advocates on the ground around Georgia.

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Visit the Georgia Chapter Office

Our office is an easy 2-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 E. College Ave side (currently under construction). Once outside, proceed down the temporary stairway and turn left towards Sams Street. Cross over Sams St. and the office is the building located right behind the bakery. Look for the playground behind the building. Enter the fenced gate. The office is the second door from Sams St. on the right.

On the Cover

2017 EPA Rally

WINTER 2018 CHAPTER NEWS

Kelley Cody-Grimm, Oliver Owens Join Chapter Staff

We are pleased to welcome several new Chapter Staff members!

Kelley has worked in the nonprofit industry for over 25 years, organizing several events that have earned five Best Charity Event Awards from Gwinnett Magazine. As Development Coordinator, Kelley is cultivating and sustaining generous giving to the Georgia Chapter so that we can continue to explore, enjoy, and protect our state for years to come.



Oliver works with college and high school students in the metro Atlanta area and around the state to support them as they organize environmental justice campaigns on their campuses. He enjoys connecting his personal love for nature to his commitment to social change through SSC's climate justice framework.

Kimberly Spence, David Joannides Join as Clean Energy Organizers

Kimberly has more than 18 years of experience in national marketing, politics, and public policy under her professional belt. She specializes in leading organizations that are poised to drive national public policy via

effective communication, opposition research, legal strategy, and political relationships.

David graduated from Emory University in 2017 with a BA in Philosophy with a focus in social and political philosophy. He



is excited to join the Sierra Club as a clean energy organizer, mobilizing political energy in Georgia to keep the planet healthy and to end our reliance on fossil fuels.

Farewell, Brionté

Finally, the Georgia Chapter is saddened to say goodbye to Assistant Director **Brionté McCorkle**. Thank you, Brionté for all of your dedication, passion, and drive to preserve and protect Georgia. The Georgia Chapter would not be the same without you, and you will be sorely missed! We wish you and your family the very best as you move into your new position, and we are thankful that you will be back during the legislative session to help us lobby!



DIRECTOR'S CORNER, CONTINUED

Most of it doesn't make headlines, but all of it reassures me that although our clean energy for all movement momentum might be slowed, it can't be stopped. Don't let it stop in 2018. Continue to renew your Sierra Club membership, pitch in an extra donation to help with our grassroots work, volunteer with your local group, show up to vote in the gubernatorial and Public Service Commission elections, and join us outside this year. Hope to see you soon.

Ted Terry
CHAPTER DIRECTOR

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LEGISLATIVE

2018 Legislative Preview

MARK WOODALL

The 2018 state legislative session should see critical action taken in all Sierra Club priority issue areas, including energy, transportation, water, and land protection. Now is the time to get involved and make your state representative and state senator aware of your support for the protection of Georgia's environment. Visit legis.ga.gov to find the contact information for your elected officials, as well as all things concerning the Georgia General Assembly.

Georgia is now the only state seemingly so corrupted by monopoly utility money that hideously expensive **nuclear power** units are still under construction. In 2009, Georgia Power hired an army of lobbyists to pass Senate Bill 31, the Georgia Nuclear Power Financing Act. SB 31 shifted all the risk for building new nukes to the customers. The customers have now paid over \$2 billion for Vogtle 3 and 4 and are still paying every month, even though Vogtle 3 and 4 were supposed to be finished by 2017. We must strengthen our efforts in an attempt to see that SB 31 is repealed or amended.

Transit advocates are optimistic the House Commission on Transit Governance and Funding meetings will result in state support for public transportation. State funding of capital improvements for transit seems to be the most popular option. Local transportation funding votes outside Atlanta in 2018 are possible in Gwinnett and Fulton Counties. The state law covering local voting needs to be amended to allow a longer collection period, if such funding is to improve transit. Driving an electric vehicle (EV) is one of the best ways to protect both the environment and national security. We expect continued efforts to reduce the nation's highest annual fee on EVs (\$200 a year) and to re-establish, at least, some of the EV state tax credit which has gone from best in the nation to zero.

As a member of the Georgia Water Coalition, the Sierra Club will again work to pass several **water quality protection** measures. The Georgia Supreme Court's buffer case decision left many rivers and streams in Georgia without protection. Legislation is needed to provide certainty of protection to landowners and regulators. Georgia Power's 90 million tons of coal ash continues to have an impact. Greater public notification and groundwater protections are needed. The Coalition will again be working to restore funding of the trust funds that get fees from tire disposal, landfill tonnage and hazardous waste. These funds have been diverted to

other uses, leaving abandoned toxic sites and used tires all over Georgia. The constitutional amendment to put trust back in the trust funds is House Resolution 158 sponsored by Representative Jay Powell. Find information about the water quality bills at gawater.org.

An increase in the real estate transfer tax to fund **land protection** was narrowly defeated on the 1998 ballot. Ever since then, a funding mechanism has been sought. The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act Committee has hired the entire McGuire Woods Consulting team, led by Brad Alexander, to lobby for passage of a constitutional amendment this session. The funding would be supplied by a sales tax on certain recreational equipment.

Stopping **rollbacks** of environmental, health and safety protection is always a critical concern. Lieutenant Governor, Casey Cagle, and the Senate GOP Caucus made Senate Bill 2 a 2017 priority. SB 2 is a sweeping attack on health, safety and the environment of Georgia. As introduced, SB 2 included all the old, largest polluters who don't like environmental protection, such as cost-benefit analysis and legislative override of regulations. SB 2 is said to be revenge on the City of Atlanta for its building efficiency ordinance. While SB 2 has been heavily amended along the way, it still needs to be scrutinized. Another possible rollback held over from 2017 is the Shore Protection Act, HB 271. It is a beach destruction act in its current form. HB 271 was held in the Senate Natural Resources Committee for study over the summer. HB 271 needs to be amended or killed. Other rollbacks will certainly appear. So, please, pay attention and get involved.

JOIN US FOR CAPITOL CONSERVATION DAY!

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018

MEET AT 8AM, CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
201 WASHINGTON ST. SW, ATLANTA, GA 30303
(FIVE POINTS OR GEORGIA STATE MARTA)

SIGN UP AT GEORGIAWATER.ORG



Find Your Local Chapter Outings @
sierraclub.org/georgia/outings



NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____
 Check inclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
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Enclose a check & mail to: Sierra Club, 743 E College Ave, Suite B, Decatur, GA 30030 or visit our website: sierraclub.org/georgia

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	PRICE	Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.
SPECIAL OFFER	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
STANDARD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	



CONSERVATION

Environmental Consequences of a Georgian Culture of Convenience: Observations from a Semi-Recent Transplant

MATTHEW SNOPE

We live in a hotel civilization... in which people are obsessed with comfort, contentment, and convenience, where the lights are always on. [We] don't have time for questions. We don't have time for such interrogations.

- Cornel West, lecture to Washington University in St. Louis, 2006

Punk band the Dead Kennedys once titled an album "Give Me Convenience or Give Me Death," riffing on the well-known Patrick Henry quote. It's important to remember that convenience has not always been part of the human adventure; in fact, much, if not most, of human history has been inconvenient. When I moved to the Atlanta area from California's Bay Area (where plastic bags have been banned), I was amazed to see how much plastic packaging was used as the de facto policy

of many restaurants, grocery stores, and retailers.

I have also found that while Southern hospitality and a general sense of politeness are indeed part of the culture, people act differently behind the wheel of their vehicles. I've experienced some close calls of almost being hit by distracted and aggressive drivers while walking around Decatur, most likely well-meaning people simply caught up in the furious acceleration of capitalism. After experiencing a few particularly humid and brutal Georgian summers, I understand the allure of an air-conditioned car. However, I've noticed that many people use their cars for absurdly short trips, such as a neighbor who drove her car from her home to the convenience store... one block next door. Possibly the most shocking of all, I've even noticed police personnel leaving their cars running while dining at local eateries. What all of this speaks to is a culture of convenience, but with such a culture comes a high cost. Plastic packaging ends up in landfills or, worse, in the ocean and then in bodies of marine creatures; this reliance on cars means a reduced importance on walking, bicycling, and public transportation.

Society was transformed with the rise of both automobiles and plastics in the 1950s. Now we have climate change, sedentary lifestyle-related health problems, and five distinct plastic garbage islands in our oceans. Philosopher Paul Virilio once noted that the invention of the ship was also the invention of the shipwreck, but

humanity has a tendency to overlook the disastrous consequences of new inventions until it is at a crisis stage.

The use of plastic packaging and hopping in the car for the shortest of trips, for many, has become entrenched and encultured. However, there is always hope. When I got rid of my car many years ago, I naturally had concerns about safety, getting around, moving, etc. Since then, I have found that light rail systems, walking, bicycles, and car-sharing are completely doable. Often, we know better but persist in acting in environmentally-insensitive ways that create this culture of convenience that is entirely avoidable.

The interesting thing about Georgia is that, often, people don't know any better – they don't always realize that alternatives exist. I am not calling for the abolition of either cars or plastics; ultimately, however, the reduced use of both these conveniences could make a significant impact. As is often the case in the environmental movement, it begins with awareness, dissemination of information, and counter-intuitive changes to people's habitual behavior. Moving forward in 2018, I hope to see us become even more progressive about environmental impacts and improvements, large and small.

* * *

Interested in the topic of transit issues around the state of Georgia? The Georgia Chapter's Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL) Committee advocates for transportation choices, such as mass-transit and biking, and transit-oriented development in Georgia. We believe that traveling by car should be just one of many options available to Georgians.

In 2015, Americans drove enough to travel to Pluto and back 337 times. Now, burning oil is the #1 source of climate-disrupting pollution in the U.S., and most of that comes from cars with only one passenger. Burning oil to power vehicles harms our air quality and public health. That's why our goal is to cut oil use in half in Georgia by 2030.

We work to reduce dependence on cars and trucks by securing more funding for sustainable transportation choices like mass transit, biking, walking, and electric vehicles. We encourage walkable community development for a better quality of life in Georgia, and oppose bloated road projects.

To get involved with our RAIL Committee, visit: sierraclub.org/georgia/rail



GET INVOLVED IN 2018!
MAKE A DIFFERENCE - PARTICIPATE IN AN UPCOMING CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING:

-  **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**
MON. JANUARY 29, 5:30PM - 6:30PM
-  **WILDLANDS & WILDLIFE COMMITTEE**
MON. JANUARY 29, 6:30PM - 8:30PM
-  **SMART ENERGY SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**
MON. FEBRUARY 5, 7PM - 9PM
-  **CHANGE TEAM MEETING**
TUES. FEBRUARY 20, 7PM - 8:30PM

Meetings will be held at the Chapter Office - 743 E College Ave. Suite B, Decatur, GA 30030

ATTEND AN UPCOMING EVENT:

-  **FROM THE ASHES SCREENING**
EMORY UNIVERSITY, JANUARY 31
-  **CAPITOL CONSERVATION DAY**
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARCH 1

To RSVP for all meetings and events, visit: sierraclub.org/georgia/calendar

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY: WILDLANDS & WILDLIFE COMMITTEE CHAIR

THE CHAIR IS ONE OF THE PRIMARY VOLUNTEERS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CHAPTER'S PUBLIC LANDS POLICY.

To apply, visit: bit.ly/WildlandsChair

INTERESTED IN BEING A CITIZEN LOBBYIST FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

Contact Brionte McCorkle at briontemcc@gmail.com for details on how to hold your elected officials accountable

CONSERVATION

Vogtle Gets the Green Light - What's Next?

IAN KARRA

Georgians got an early Christmas present from the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) in the form of guaranteed higher future electricity rates. On December 21, the commission unanimously voted to give Georgia Power the green light to continue construction on Plant Vogtle, where two new nuclear units have been under construction since 2009 and are now projected to cost \$25 billion and come online 5 years behind schedule.

Georgia Power rates will climb by as much as 8% when Unit 3 comes online, according to PSC chair Stan Wise, whose planned resignation will clear the way for Governor Deal to name a replacement. While construction continues, Georgia Power will see a cut to its profit margin, but the company still stands to profit over \$5 billion from the delays. As part of the agreement, Georgia Power will build a 5 megawatt (MW) community solar project at Plant Vogtle (enough to power about 750 homes) in addition to the 3 MW project currently online. By contrast, Xcel Energy has 139 MW of community solar projects online.

Even with the commission's blessing, the project remains on shaky ground. The vote to move forward hinges on the project's backers receiving \$800 million in tax breaks, which failed to make it into the Tax Reform bill passed at the end of last year. There is currently no timeline for this vote to proceed. Despite the sunny outlook from Georgia Power that construction will remain on the new schedule and budget, credit agencies have downgraded credit outlook for Georgia Power, Oglethorpe Power, and the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, based on Vogtle's continued risk.

Throughout the hearing process, commissioners cited grid resilience, carbon regulations, and sustainability as reasons to proceed full steam ahead. We agree wholeheartedly with the sentiments, but knowing that reg-



ulators and Georgia Power will commit \$25 billion to those goals, it is clear that solar, wind, energy efficiency, and smart grid investments are a better means to build resilience and move away from fossil fuels. The bomb cyclone that hit the northeast over the holidays poked a big hole in the argument for nuclear's stability. The biggest grid failure came from a power line failure that forced Entergy Corp. to shut down the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in eastern Massachusetts.

Up next in the Vogtle saga is this summer's 18th Vogtle Construction Monitoring process, which will give clues to whether the project proceeds according to the schedule and budget now supervised under Georgia Power's and new contractor Bechtel's management. The race for two Public Service Commission seats currently held by Chuck Eaton and Stan Wise will take place in November 2018. The victorious commissioners will be seated at the time Georgia Power claims Units 3 and 4 will be completed; they will be tasked with the fallout if they are not.

In January 2019, Georgia Power will file its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), a 20-year outlook on meeting Georgia's energy demand. The previous IRP required Georgia Power to build up to 1,600 megawatts of renewable energy, bringing the share of Georgia's grid to about 4% renewable by 2021.

We hear a common refrain from our Georgia regulators that they do not want to pick winners and losers when it comes to our fuel sources. Big fossil fuel and nuclear bets have proven repeatedly to be losers (see: Kemper County Coal Plant and Plant Vogtle). Besides their clear environmental benefits, wind, solar, and energy efficiency are emerging as winners in the marketplace.

WINTER 2018 GROUP NEWS

METRO ATLANTA GROUP

Fall/Winter 2017 Recap

NINA DUTTON

In **October** Eddie Ehlert, our political chair, spoke on the races and candidates for Atlanta mayor and City Council. Misty Novitch introduced the Ready For 100 Atlanta campaign and described opportunities (including Community Conversations) to learn about the City of Atlanta's 100% clean energy goal and provided input on the city's upcoming plan for meeting that goal.

In **November** we heard from Nikema Williams, Jennifer Ide, Jason Dozier, and a representative from Jen Jordan's campaign. All of these candidates received Sierra Club endorsements in their races; Williams (District 39) and Jordan (District 6) won their state Senate seats, Ide won the Atlanta City Council District 6 seat, and Dozier made it to the runoff for the Atlanta City Council District 4 seat! At the meeting, speakers and attendees connected the dots between energy efficiency, transit, infrastructure for walking and biking, housing affordability, resiliency, and more.

In **December**, we had no regular meeting and instead opted to celebrate with the rest of the Chapter at the holiday party!

ADOPT-A-STREAM PROGRAM

Our Adopt-A-Stream activities involve Peachtree Creek in Medlock Park. For biological monitoring, we need many eyes to find the macroinvertebrate critters found in the creek. The next chance to get your feet wet - figuratively or literally! - on a day with both biological and

chemical monitoring is March 17, from 10 AM to 12 PM. Chemical monitoring will be from 10 AM to 11 AM, and biological monitoring will take the full time.

For information about chemical monitoring dates, call **Larry Kloet (404.636.7226)**. For more details about biological monitoring, call **Nancy Wylie (404.256.1172)**. Detailed directions are available at

sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta/adopt-stream-program

GET INVOLVED!

We've got some major elections coming up in 2018, including for the governor, Public Service Commissioners, and state House and Senate! It's a great time to get involved with our group's political committee, which reaches out to candidates for information and decides on which ones to endorse, as well as voter outreach. If you'd like to help with the political committee, please email political chair **Eddie Ehlert (edehlert@bellsouth.net)**. If you'd like to help with voter outreach, please email our chair **Nina Dutton (naddutton@gmail.com)**.

Want to pitch in by keeping on top of local news, policy, politics, events, and opportunities? Would you like to help out at our meetings or plan events? Please email our chair **Nina Dutton (naddutton@gmail.com)**.

GROUP INFO & CONTACTS

Nina Dutton • naddutton@gmail.com • *Chair*

Martin McConaughy • mcmarty@bellsouth.net • *Outings Chair*

Monthly Meetings: The Metro Atlanta Group usually meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Typically our meetings feature a speaker on a timely topic, followed by information about how to take action on important issues. Recently we have been meeting at the Georgia Chapter office, at 743 E. College Ave. Suite B, Decatur, GA, 30030, but the location is subject to change. Please join us at 7 PM to socialize and 7:30 PM for our programming!

Our Executive Committee Meetings are open and generally held on the first Tuesday of the month (Athens Pizza, 7:30 PM). Contact **Nina Dutton (naddutton@gmail.com)** for details.

Sign Up for Email Updates through the Georgia Chapter website (sierraclub.org/georgia) and be sure to include your Atlanta-area zipcode.

Visit our webpage at sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta

Join us on Facebook at facebook.com/sierraclubatl

CENTENNIAL GROUP

Continuing 2017's Success

LYNN WALSTON & BETTYE HARRIS



The Centennial Group ended a busy 2017 with a well-attended and successful Holiday Party & Auction at the Avery Gallery. Special thanks to our hosts Shae & Gwenda Avery!

We recognized four volunteers for special contributions: **Andrea Searles, Janice Metzler, Linda & Steven Bell, and Ron Warnken.** We also acknowledged our recently elected ExCom members: **Claudette Suke-nick, Lynn Walston, and Olivia Williams.** Finally, we welcomed **Mary Miller** as our newest certified Outings Leader!

Other 2017 highlights noted: celebrating our 25 Year Anniversary with a picnic and hike; hosting our first Cobb-area Sierra Club & Beer gathering & outreach to millennials; significant success lobbying for Cobb Parks and greenspace funding; forming new Cobb transit issues team and creating a survey; showing up to support a number of Chapter priorities/campaigns; continuing our outreach to diverse communities and partners including Cobb NAACP (Juneteenth Festival) and City of Austell (Community Gardens program); and growing our Outings program (we trained and certified 6 new leaders, and led 23 outings during the year attended by 240 people).



LOOKING AHEAD

In 2018 we will continue our strategic focus on equity and inclusion, transit solutions, parks and greenspace funding, outings, and recruiting and training new leaders.

Our **monthly meetings**, held on the first Thursday of each month, will include these programs: "Hot Topics: Grassroots Environmental Actions in the Year Ahead" with Chapter staff and leaders; "Legislative Update" with Mark Woodall and Neill Herring; "Cobb Alternative Transit Solutions;" "A Geoscientist's Perspective on Georgia's Climate, Past and Future" with Bill Witherspoon; "Healthy Diets & Climate Change;" and more.

We will also participate in many **tabling events** during the year, and strengthen our legislative, lobbying, political, and social media skills. Remember to keep track of our planned **outings** and join us outside: sierraclub.org/georgia/outingscalendar

We would love to hear what you're interested in! We have many needs and opportunities and would welcome your support and ideas. Contact Lynn Walston (lynnwalston22@yahoo.com) to get involved.

Happy New Year!

GROUP INFO & CONTACTS

Lynn Walston ♦ lynnwalston22@yahoo.com ♦ *Chair*
Lee Graham ♦ leegrah3@gmail.com ♦ *Outings Chair*

Monthly Meetings: 1st Thursday, welcome/refreshments at 7 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m.; Life College, 1269 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta. For directions please contact **Lynn Walston.**

Visit our webpage at sierraclub.org/georgia/centennial

Join us on Facebook at facebook.com/Centennial.Sierra.Club

SAVANNAH RIVER GROUP

Join Us for an Outing this Year

LINDA McBURNEY



Although the temperature dipped to some of the lowest this fall, it did not affect the fun everyone had in our group's family-oriented celebration of Sierra Club's 125th anniversary on November 18-19! There was overnight camping at Mistletoe State Park, a bonfire, hiking, and a talk from a wildlife biologist about animals of Mistletoe.

We also elected three members to our Executive Committee: **Cathy Black, Larry Komp** and **Tim Nelken!** Congratulations to each of our members for their re-election into another 2-year term!

UPCOMING EVENTS

♦ **Saturday, February 3 at 10:30 AM: Greenway Bike Ride.** Contact Bill Jackson at 404-538-3336 or billjakson01@gmail.com.

♦ **February 23-24: Hike Inn.** Reservations must be made ASAP by contacting Dawn at dgavigan@live.com.

ADOPT-A-STREAM TRAINING

Columbia County: Mike Reardon, AAS coordinator, holds training and certification classes as needed on Saturdays from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Reed Creek Interpretive Center. To request a class date, contact Mike Reardon at 706-421-8639 or reardonmp@hotmail.com

Richmond County: Frank Carl, AAS coordinator, holds training in the Cotton Room at the Augusta Canal Authority, Enterprise Mill, 1450 Green Street, Augusta. Workshops are on Saturdays from 9 AM to 4 PM. Contact Frank Carl to obtain information at Frankcarl@knology.net, or 706-364-5253.

If you are interested in assisting or observing an

AAS Stream Monitoring Team, contact either one of the above AAS coordinators, Mike Reardon or Frank Carl, (contacts listed above).

JOIN US AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 20th: The SRG will meet from 6:30 PM to 11 PM at UU Church (3501 Walton Way Ext.). During this meeting, Pat Lynch-Hayes will talk about her experiences while traveling to Ireland. Come by to learn about places to visit and maybe she'll share how to catch a leprechaun! If you need more information about this free and public event then please contact Linda (msmcb@outlook.com).

GROUP INFO & CONTACTS

Linda McBurney, ♦ msmcb@outlook.com ♦ *Co-Chair*
Sam Booher ♦ sbooher@aol.com ♦ *Co-Chair*
Frank Carl ♦ frankcarl@knology.net ♦ *Conservation Chair*
Cathy Black ♦ sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com ♦ *Outings Chair*

GREATER GWINNETT GROUP

Looking Ahead to 2018

DAN FRIEDMAN

The Gwinnett Group is looking ahead to 2018 with great anticipation. Historically, Gwinnett has been averse to public transit and, if nothing is done, may well remain that way. As Bob Dylan once said, "Times, they are a-changin." The citizens of Gwinnett, due in no small part to the changing demographics, increased congestion, and education about transit, have pressured the Gwinnett Commissioners to seriously consider transit. However, this is only the beginning of a long and drawn-out process. The Gwinnett Group, with Art Sheldon as our point person, will continue to engage and connect political, business, and civic leaders to make transit a reality. Transit in Gwinnett is at a tipping point. Engaging and enhancing businesses and the citizens of Gwinnett is our mandate as Sierrans, as well as our moral responsibility.

Our January ExCom meeting will be focused on our strategy and tactics for influencing county political leadership and working with diverse groups, including

business, civic, racial, religious, and economic groups to bring a transit system that will meet the needs of Gwinnett's citizens. Included in our discussion will be the roles our members will play and what resources we will need to employ.

Join us at our group meetings! The Gwinnett Group meets at 7 PM on every third Thursday of the month at Berkmar High School (405 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lilburn, GA 30047).

GROUP INFO & CONTACTS

Dan Friedman ♦ dan3688@aol.com ♦ *Chair*
 Art Sheldon ♦ asheldon.cp81@gtalumni.org ♦ *Conservation Chair*
 Jake Hardison ♦ jake.hardison@ssa.gov ♦ *Outings Chair*

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

LAGRANGE GROUP

Congratulations, Travis Towns!

LAURA BREYFOGLE

Congratulations to our 2017 Volunteer of the Year, Travis Towns! Travis has been a tremendous asset to the LaGrange group. He not only regularly participates in our leadership team meetings, general meetings and two clean-up events each year but goes way above and beyond. He runs our communications and social media, posting all events on our Facebook page and our new MeetUp page. As our new program chair, he has already arranged most of our programs for 2018! His work also extends to the chapter level. He is our group representative to the chapter executive committee, and he attended the chapter political training, lobbied on Capital Conservation Day, marched in the Atlanta March for Social Justice and Women and even traveled to our nation's capital to join the People's Climate March.

Our 2018 Executive Committee members are **Ellen Parkhurst** (membership, communications and hospitality), **Eric Simpson** (vice-chair), **Ken Fiske** (cleanup chair), **Laura Breyfogle** (chair), **Mary Lou Dabbs** (recycling chair), **Sim Blitch** (conservation chair) and **Travis Towns** (communications co-chair, program chair and chapter excom representative). In addition, other members of our leadership team are **Judy Lawrence**

(treasurer), **Kathryn Scholl** (recycling), **Mitzi Flagg** (outings), **Paula Darden** (secretary), **Jake Krysiak** (Sierra Student coalition), **Kilsup Van Lieu**, **Joanna Baxter**, **Sam Breyfogle** and **Emily Jones**.

We are updating our communications in 2018. We will be discontinuing the use of YahooGroups as our email vehicle. Our meetings, outings and other events will be announced via our Facebook page, MeetUp page, or chapter outings email list. Visit these sites to sign up for any or all of them:

- ♦ **MeetUp:** for email notification of all of our meetings and outings: meetup.com/Sierra-Club-LaGrange-Group/events
- ♦ **Facebook:** for Facebook notifications of all of our meetings and outings plus other broader environmental issues: bit.ly/SCLaGrange
- ♦ **Chapter outings email list:** for notification of all of outings offered by Sierra Club outings leaders in Georgia: bit.ly/SCGAOutingsList

GROUP INFO & CONTACTS

Laura Breyfogle ♦ breyfogle@charter.net ♦ *Chair*
 Ellen Parkhurst ♦ ellen_parkhurst@yahoo.com ♦ *Membership and Hospitality Chair; Communication Co-Chair*
 Travis Towns ♦ ftravist@aol.com ♦ *Chapter Excom Representative and Communication Co-Chair*

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Tuesday; 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).

COASTAL GROUP

GROUP INFO & CONTACTS

Karen Grainey ♦ karengrainey@bellsouth.net ♦ *Chair*
 Steve Wagner ♦ sjwgnr@hotmail.com ♦ *Outings Chair*

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

REGIONAL CONTACTS

Athens & NE Georgia ♦ Ted Terry ♦ ted.terry@sierraclub.org
Forsyth County ♦ Jim Callison ♦ callisonjim@bellsouth.net
Macon ♦ Fletcher Winston ♦ winston_f@mercer.edu
North Georgia ♦ Larry Winslett ♦ winfog@windstream.net
Valdosta ♦ Brian Day ♦ bday@valdosta.edu

CHAPTER DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

David Emory ♦ david.emory@gmail.com ♦ *Chapter Chair, At-Large Member*
 William Tomlin ♦ wmltom@gmail.com ♦ *Vice Chair, Conservation, At-Large Member*
 Marina Gutierrez ♦ mari.advocates@gmail.com ♦ *Vice Chair, Admin, At-Large Member*
 Jeff Schoenberg ♦ schoenbergjhe@gmail.com ♦ *Fundraising Chair, At-Large Member*
 Dan Friedman ♦ dan3688@aol.com ♦ *Human Resources Chair, Gwinnett Group Delegate*
 Yeou-Rong Jih ♦ yeourong@gmail.com ♦ *Membership Chair, At-Large Member*
 Seth Gunning ♦ srgunnin@gmail.com ♦ *Secretary, At-Large Member*
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 Mary Miller ♦ cbuschillfan@gmail.com ♦ *Centennial Group Delegate*
 Karen Grainey ♦ karengrainey@bellsouth.net ♦ *Coastal Group Delegate*
 Travis Towns ♦ ftravist@aol.com ♦ *LaGrange Group Delegate*
 Norman Slawsky ♦ nslawsky@gmail.com ♦ *Metro Atlanta Group Delegate*
 Linda McBurney ♦ msmcb@outlook.com ♦ *Savannah River Group Delegate*

CHAPTER EXCOM MEETINGS

The next Chapter Executive Committee meeting will be Saturday, March 17 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 AND CHAIRS

Conservation Chair ♦ Larry Winslett ♦ winfog@windstream.net
Secretary ♦ Seth Gunning ♦ srgunnin@gmail.com
Treasurer ♦ Tom Neff ♦ tsneff2003@yahoo.com
Finance Chair ♦ (vacant)
Fundraising Chair ♦ Jeff Schoenberg ♦ schoenbergjhe@gmail.com
Human Resources Chair ♦ Dan Friedman ♦ dan3688@aol.com
Legal Chair ♦ Erin Glynn ♦ eglynn1@gmail.com
Legislative Chair ♦ Mark Woodall ♦ woodallmark8@gmail.com
Membership Chair ♦ Yeou-Rong Jih ♦ yeourong@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor ♦ Brenda Cargin ♦ brenda.cargin@sierraclub.org
Outings Chair ♦ Sammy Padgett ♦ sammypadgett@comcast.net
Political Chair ♦ Eddie Ehlert ♦ edehlert@bellsouth.net
Webmaster ♦ Charlotte Gardner ♦ ga_sierra_webmaster@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEER ISSUE LEADERS

For a complete listing of Conservation Committee Chairs and Issue Leaders, please visit: sierraclub.org/georgia/directory



CHAPTER STAFF

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Chapter Conservation Program Manager
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Clean Energy Organizer
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Southeast Military Veterans & Outdoors Coordinator
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NATIONAL PROGRAM CONTACTS

Inspiring Connections Outdoors
 Terri Lyde ♦ lydeterr@bellsouth.net

Sierra Student Coalition
 Oliver Owens ♦ oliver.owens@sierraclub.org

GEORGIA SIERRA CLUB

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 Decatur, GA 30030
 Phone: (404) 607-1262
 E-mail: georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org
georgia.sierraclub.org

OUTINGS

Sierra Club Outings provide a variety of opportunities for people to enjoy the beautiful outdoors. To see a list of upcoming outings, please visit our outings calendar at georgia.sierraclub.org/outings

What to Bring

For day hikes, always bring lunch and enough water. Consider layered clothing, sunscreen, good hiking boots with treads, and hiking poles. Non-service dogs are allowed only if specified in the listing; canine hikers should bring leashes, litter bags, and water for their dogs.

Liabilities

To participate on a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver form, please visit tinyurl.com/outingswaiver or call (404) 607-1262.

Carpooling

Carpooling helps the environment and allows people without cars to participate. If you are driving to a hike, please stop by the carpool point to pick up others. If you're a rider, pay a share of expenses. Many activities are listed on the Chapter's MeetUp site in advance of the event. Join the MeetUp group and post a comment requesting or offering a ride: meetup.com/georgia-sierra-club.

Become an Outings Leader!

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. We can give you the preparation you need for certification by the Chapter or your local group as a qualified leader of safe, enjoyable outings.

ATLANTA INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS

Sierra Club Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) is a community outreach program providing opportunities for urban youth to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world. The goal of the Atlanta ICO program is to help 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. Through active involvement with nature, the program increases participants' environmental awareness, interpersonal skills and self esteem.

Have questions? Contact our ICO Chair, Terri Lyde at lydeterri@bellsouth.net.

WINTER 2018 OUTINGS

FEBRUARY 3 • SATURDAY

North Augusta Greenway Bike Ride. Join us for a leisurely and enjoyable bicycle ride thru North Augusta, Hammond's Ferry, the Brickyard Ponds and the River-front development area. Please contact **Bill Jackson** at 404-538-3336 or billjakson01@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 17 • SATURDAY

Sweetwater Creek State Park Hike. Join us for this popular hike with the park's interpretive ranger, Don Scarbrough. Sign up at Chapter Outings page at sierraclub.org/georgia/outingscalendar.

FEBRUARY 23 • FRIDAY

Len Foote Inn Hike. Join us for the 2nd annual Len Foote Inn hike. This is a moderately difficult hike up to an incredible inn that promotes best ecological practices while offering a comfortable room, dinner and breakfast. Reservations must be made ASAP by contacting **Dawn** at dgavigan@live.com.

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OUTINGS & EVENTS

2017 Events Wrap-Up

BRENDA CARGIN

The Georgia Chapter has been busy lately! We wrapped up 2017 with several notable events.



On October 20-22, we held our 2017 Fall Gathering at Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge. We were glad to see so many of our members and supporters enjoying workshops, hikes, campfires, and more in the stunning North Georgia mountains. At Saturday night's banquet, we announced our 2017 Volunteer Award winners. **Congratulations to Frank Carl, Tricia Embry, Stacey Kronquest, Terri Lyde, and the Centennial Group on their wins!** Thank you to Atlanta Beverage Company, United Distributors, Len Foote Hike Inn, Patagonia, Piedmont Provisions, REI, and Southeast Adventure Outfitters for their generous donations to our Gathering. We also owe a huge thank you to Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge for working with us to put on such a memorable weekend.

On November 21, we hosted our final Sierra Club & Beer of 2017. The topic was "Ready For 100: Atlanta." We had a wonderful turnout at Smith's Olde Bar and engaged in a compelling discussion on how the City of



Atlanta is planning to transition to 100% clean energy by 2035. **Special thanks to Stephanie Stuckey, the City of Atlanta's Chief Resilience Officer, for being our guest speaker.**

We finished out November with a very special PAC fundraiser at Blue Tarp Brewery, featuring former Democratic candidate for Georgia's 6th congressional district Jon Ossoff and Nathaniel Stinnett, founder and CEO of the Environmental Voter Project. Jon and Nathaniel spoke to our members about how important environmental voters are, and how we can encourage other environmental voters to show up on election day. **A huge thank you to both Jon and Nathaniel for taking the time to join us.**



Finally, thanks to everyone who joined us at the Chapter Office on December 12 for our annual holiday party! Delicious food was shared, we took a look back at the Georgia Chapter's year, and a good time was had by all. Special thanks to City Dog Market, Atlanta Rocks!, Whitewater Learning Center of Georgia, Pure Bliss Organics, Marinangeles Gutierrez, Zegi, United Distributors, and Atlanta Beverage Company for their generous contributions to our refreshments and raffle drawings. Lastly, thank you to everyone who brought a dish to share at our potluck!



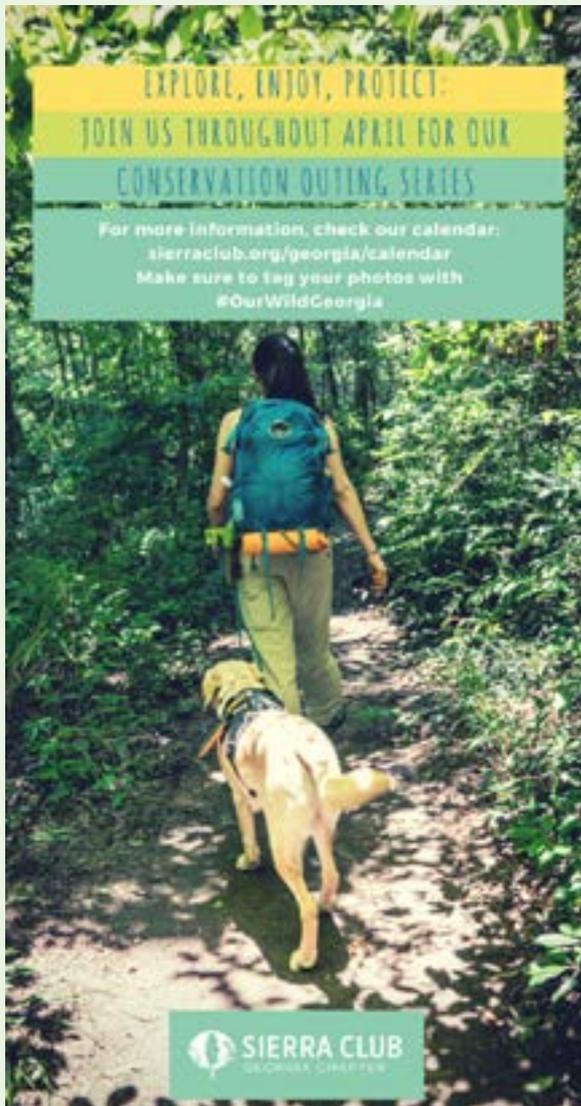
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CLUB**

GEORGIA CHAPTER

743 E. College Ave., Suite B
Decatur, GA 30030

Change service requested

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID



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Meetup @ Georgia Sierra Club

YouTube @ Georgia Sierra Club

LinkedIn @ Georgia Sierra Club

Google+ @ Georgia Sierra Club

Flickr @ Georgia Sierra Club

SIERRACLUB.ORG/GEORGIA

Head to our website for all sorts of great resources and opportunities including:

- Issue briefs
- Full events and activities calendar
- Group info and leadership roster
- Volunteer opportunities

VOLUNTEER

For 125 years, Sierra Club volunteers have worked to protect the environment. Be a part of the legacy! Sign up today: bit.ly/GASCVolunteers

NEED TO CONTACT A LEADER?

For a complete listing of all Conservation Committee Chairs, Issue Leaders, and Group Leaders please visit:

sierraclub.org/georgia/directory