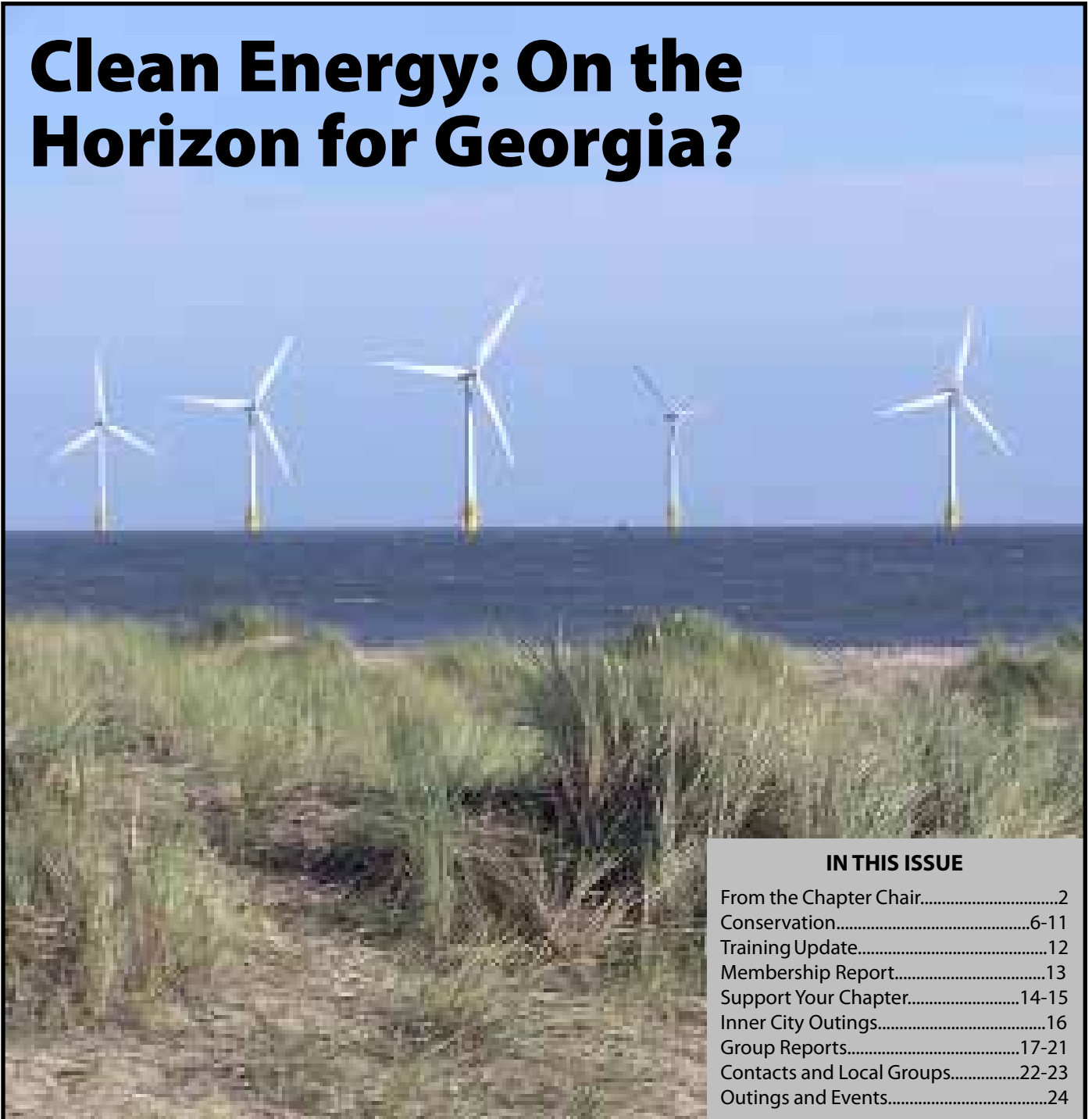




Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet

Clean Energy: On the Horizon for Georgia?



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Where are the Big Mules When We Need Them?

By Mark Woodall

The remarks of Senator Seth Harp (R-Columbus) to the Georgia State Senate Natural Resources Committee a few sessions ago now seem prophetic. After the Committee failed once again to pass water conservation legislation, Senator Harp remarked they they might reject his water savings legislation but one day a federal judge would order water conservation.

While not exactly ordering water conservation, Judge Magnuson's decision in the water wars has led to such a crisis that water conservation is the only responsible action as well as the cheapest and fastest approach to ensuring adequate water for all Georgians.

Gov. Perdue has introduced comprehensive water conservation bills which require separate water meters for each unit of multi-tenant residential, commercial or industrial buildings built after July 1, 2012, require high efficiency plumbing fixtures in new construction after July 1, 2012, and require large water systems to audit their water delivery pipes and implement water loss detection programs.

The Governor's bills fail to address some crucial areas such as the rescheduling of watering lawns away from the hottest times of the day when most of the water is lost to evaporation. Water scheduling legislation is needed to address the massive spike in water use in metro Atlanta during the summer months when rivers and reservoirs are often at their lowest.

Go to the GA Water Coalition website www.gawater.org to get the latest fact sheets and find out how to contact your public officials.

Unfortunately, the transportation gridlock in Georgia has not quite reached the crisis point at which something must



Mark Woodall, Chapter Chair

be done. MARTA faces draconian cutbacks if it is forced to continue with a rigid formula for spending its sales tax proceeds. Capital funds must also be found. The Clayton County transit system which is operated by contract with MARTA has a shut down looming. Recently, the Clayton delegation was basically told to drop dead by the DOT planning czar as the

Georgia gas tax cannot be used to pay for transit operations.

Georgia recently was bypassed by billions of dollars in federal grants for mass transit and high speed rail construction. Some of you may not be aware that a few decades ago Birmingham and Atlanta were the same size. One observer remarked that Georgia missing out in 2010 on rail and mass transit funding was the equivalent of Birmingham's failure to build a large airport in the 1950s as Atlanta did, helping Atlanta become the Capital of the South.

One wonders where the business leaders of Georgia are. Maybe they have all left for the Super Bowl. The Atlanta Airport and the World Congress Center and the economy of Georgia would be devastated by MARTA shutting down several days a week. One almost wishes for the days of the Big Mules when Coca-Cola magnate Robert Woodruff could call up Mayor Ivan Allen and address what needed to be done whether it was honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. for his Nobel prize or getting an airport built.

In Sierra Club communications news, check out the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter facebook site. We are approaching 550 friends. Also, thanks to Gregory Schwartz, Erin Glynn, Charlotte Gardner, Genie Strickland and others who worked to get our new improved chapter calendar working. The results can be viewed on the Georgia Chapter website (<http://georgia.sierraclub.org>).

ON THE COVER

Pictured on this issue's cover is the **Scroby Sands Wind Farm**, a North Sea offshore wind power facility located off the coast of Great Yarmouth, England. The farm's 30 turbines can produce up to 60 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 41,000 homes.

Georgia has been identified as having great potential for offshore wind power generation; see Steve Willis' article on page 4 for details.

(Photo via Wikimedia Commons / GFDL)

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Green Pricing and the Solar-Only Option

By Colleen Kiernan
Chair, Smart Energy Solutions Committee

Over the last ten years, utility green pricing programs have been launched all across the country. These programs have become a popular way for consumers to support renewable energy development. The way they work is that consumers sign up to purchase a certain size “block” or number of kilowatt hours of renewable energy, which is added on to their regular monthly power bill. The green electrons don’t necessarily get delivered to the subscriber’s home, rather, the subscriber is paying for the peace of mind knowing that the renewable energy they have purchased has offset some dirty energy from coming on to the grid.

Green pricing got its start in Georgia in 2001, when the Georgia Legislature passed a “Net Metering” bill, which required utilities to work with consumers who wished to become

power producers by installing a solar photovoltaic array or wind turbine and connect to the grid. The renewable energy placed on the grid could then be sold to utility customers looking to purchase a cleaner option.

The Green Power EMC was established in 2003 to provide power to participating Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) in Georgia and has produced 151 million kilowatt hours of green energy (enough to power about 2,200 homes a year). Ninety-five percent of the Green Power EMC’s generation is from landfill gas, but they have added a Solar for Schools program and continue to invest in adding solar generation to their mix.

Georgia Power’s green pricing program was launched in 2003. There were several problems with the program at the time – it was one of

the most expensive programs in the country, the “green” energy was not certified by a third party, the mix of renewable energy was 98% landfill gas, and it established a 500 kilowatt cap as the amount of solar energy Georgia Power was required to buy from the folks who chose to install PV on their roofs. At the time, the Georgia Chapter objected to the heavy reliance on landfill gas, as it emits smog-forming pollutants, acts as a subsidy to landfills, and could never provide more than a tiny drop in the bucket in terms of meeting our current energy needs.

After six years, federal and state incentives have finally made the economics of installing PV possible and the 500 kilowatt cap of solar power was reached. In response, the Public Service Commission (PSC) tripled the cap to 1500 kilowatts in August of 2009. The 1500 kilowatt cap was reached by November, and there is an additional 2000 kilowatts on the waiting list. In response, the PSC is developing a “solar-only” option as part of Georgia Power’s green pricing program. Estimates are that it would cost about \$9 per 100 kw block.

The Georgia Chapter enthusiastically supports the “solar-only” option. Solar energy is the most widely available renewable energy resource in Georgia. The production of energy results in no air pollution emissions and no water use. Solar energy is the most deserving of receiving support from our “green energy dollars,” since Georgia Power currently pays less for landfill gas than they do for the average of the rest of their fuel mix.



Will “solar-only” soon be an option for Georgians?

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**take
 action**

Please contact the Public Service Commissioners and tell them you support the Solar-Only Option. And then put your money where your mouth is when it becomes available!!

Georgia Delegates Attend Wind Energy Convention

By Steve Willis

On December 2 and 3, 2009, I attended the AWEA (American Wind Energy Association) off-shore wind convention in Boston, along with fellow Coastal Group Executive Committee member and Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) environmental sciences professor Steven Wagner. The Northeast has come to take off-shore wind power very seriously. Three governors (Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Delaware) spoke to the enthusiastic conventioners. Last year there had been barely 300 attendees, mostly environmentalists; this year the huge Boston Seaport World Convention Center was filled with more than 800 conventioners, exhibitors and speakers. The governors were articulate, informed, and clearly committed to making sure their states benefited from the world-wide boom in wind power. Nancy Carig, Vice Chair of the Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club, and employee of Blue Water Wind, Inc., was one of the Convention's chief organizers.

What did we learn from the conference? First, that all of the Northeast Atlantic Coast States are chomping at the bit to get the first great Washington Monument-sized, up to 5 Megawatt, wind turbines "in the water." The United States is already behind European off-shore wind installation by decades, and forward looking Americans are determined to stop this decline. The European Economic Union expects to generate 10% of all its electricity from off-shore wind when current projects already under development are completed and front runners like Denmark plan to generate 50% of their electrical needs from off shore wind by 2020. The United States has huge off shore



Offshore wind power: part of Georgia's energy future?

wind potential. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar has shown that American off shore wind potential far exceeds the entire national electricity requirement, but we have yet to install our first production off-shore turbine.

Second, we learned that Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina have awakened to the vast opportunities offered by off shore wind. South Carolina just won a 45 million dollar grant to construct an off-shore wind turbine testing facility near Charleston (see http://www.sctv.org/index.php/the_big_picture/show/wind_turbine_testing/) but Georgia didn't bother to apply. The project is estimated to eventually produce as many as 20,000 high quality jobs in South Carolina.

Georgia is remarkably well placed to grasp an off-shore wind leadership position, with an ideally situated port facility for staging and constructing turbines, platforms, and support infrastructure in Savannah, high quality wind off Tybee, and a central location with minimum transmission distances to the three big Southern electricity consumption centers: Atlanta, North Carolina's tri-Cities including Charlotte, and Florida. Unfortunately, Georgia currently plans to dedicate this decade to building two more hyper-expensive Vogtle nuclear reactors and a three coal-fire power plants.

A recent Georgia Tech study projects that Georgia's electricity needs can be met for more than a decade through modest conservation measures alone. By then there will be plenty of off-shore wind electricity flowing from the coasts of North and South Carolina. Georgians would be smart to forget about Vogtle, more coal plants, or mega wood burners. Clean renewable wind and solar energy is coming to the Southeast, even if Southern Company/Georgia Power succeeds in stopping it in Georgia.

"I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in"

—John Muir, Sierra Club Founder

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The Big Picture

National Campaign Launched to Support Proposed EPA Rules

By Erin Glynn,
Sierra Club Staff, Georgia Beyond Coal
Campaign

President Obama appointed Lisa P. Jackson as EPA Director in December 15th, 2008. Since that date, positive changes at the Agency have been both apparent and widely publicized. From the newly formatted website (www.epa.gov), where citizens can easily obtain data and news, join information listservs and social media groups, and more easily communicate with agency staffers to the aggressive and solutions-oriented agenda of the new agency, it appears that EPA is actually proposing and better yet, succeeding, in its mission to “protect human health and the environment.”

While the agency appears to be making great strides, “tea parties,” lawsuits against the agency and alleged “climate-gates” prove the need for support of EPA action is real.

What’s Happening and How You Can Help

The EPA’s proposed new rules on carbon dioxide (CO₂), mercury (HG), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), ozone, and coal combustion waste otherwise known as “coal ash” or CCW, are top of the docket in importance to the Sierra Club. But Big Oil and King Coal are fighting to protect the dirty status quo, putting their profits before our health. It is imperative that members are knowledgeable about these rules and take action to support them. The Big Picture campaign allows you to do just that. Join the Sierra Club’s Big Picture Campaign at www.sierraclub.org/bigpicture.

Ozone: Otherwise known as “smog,” ozone is a chemical compound that is harmful even at very low levels. In a move to protect public health, especially for people suffering from illnesses like asthma, EPA is moving towards set-

ting a lower level of permissible ozone. On January 6, 2010, EPA proposed to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone. The EPA is proposing to strengthen the 8-hour “primary” ozone standard, de-



Under new administrator Lisa Jackson, the EPA has pursued more aggressive regulations on CO₂, mercury, and other pollutants.

signed to protect public health, to a level within the range of 60 parts per billion and the secondary standard at 7 ppm-hours. EPA will issue final standards by August 31, 2010.

Mercury: The Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act both cover mercury standards, but loopholes are taken advantage daily by big polluters like coal companies. EPA may be moving forward on limiting the amount of mercury we are exposed to; more information, once it is available, will be posted to the Big Picture homepage.

Coal Ash: In response to the 2008 coal ash TVA disaster in Tennessee, EPA Administrator Jackson promised to propose federal regulations for coal ash disposal, but the coal industry is putting intense pressure on the White House to stop or weaken the rule. Despite its toxic ingredients like arsenic, lead, cadmium and mercury, coal ash is currently

disposed of much like household trash. Classification of coal ash as what it really is – a hazardous waste – will help keep this toxic material out of our communities.

Carbon Dioxide: With allies across the country, the Big Picture campaign submitted over 44,000 comments in support of EPA’s December 7, 2009, final finding that greenhouse gas emissions (and thus CO₂) endanger public health and welfare and therefore must continue to be regulated under the Clean Air Act. Currently, This “endangerment ruling” is being fought tooth-and-nail by coal companies, who make their billions by constantly polluting carbon dioxide. The coal companies, and many of your United States Senators, under the guise of the “Competitive Enterprise Institute,” sued to strip EPA of its power; this case is currently in court. In addition, Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, whose top five contributors from 2005-current are, in order, Edison Chouest Offshore, Constellation Energy, Van Ness Feldman, Southern Company, and Exxon Mobil, has offered up her lovely “Murkowski Amendment,” which also aims at stripping EPA’s power to regulate carbon. Author’s note: Lisa’s office number is (202) 224-6655 if you too would like to share your thoughts on her clever idea.

take action

To submit your comments in support of the new standards discussed above, visit: www.sierraclub.org/bigpicture

In addition to taking a Big Picture action, if you would like to be a part of local efforts, please contact Erin at (404) 607-1262 x233 or attend a Smart Energy Solutions Committee meeting (conference call-in available).

Georgia's Big Coal: What You Need To Know About the Three Proposed Plants

By Erin Glynn, Sierra Club Staff, Beyond Coal Campaign

Georgia is home to the largest, dirtiest coal plant in the entire United States.* In addition, we are facing three new dirty coal plants. If built, these plants would eliminate all possibilities for a renewable energy economy in Georgia.

**The first person to email erin.glynn@sierraclub.org with the correct name and location of said dirty coal plant will be mailed a snazzy new "Beyond Coal" t-shirt. Please include the name & location of the power plant in the subject line of the message, along with your t-shirt size and mailing address in the body of the email.*

Here are updates on the three proposed plants:

Plant Washington

Location: Sandersville, GA (Washington County)

Funded by: POWER4Georgians – a consortium of EMCs including Cobb, Central Georgia, Snapping Shoals, Upson, and Washington EMCs

Size: 850 Megawatts

Type: Supercritical – operates at a higher temperature, designed to be more "efficient" and lower emissions

Source of coal: Washington proposes to burn Illinois (IL) and PRB (Power River Basin) coal.

Estimated emissions in tons per year: Proposes to pollute 105 pounds of mercury into our air and water per year. In addition, the dirty coal plant is estimated to emit 1,896 tons of nitrogen oxide, 1,896 tons of sulfur dioxide, 678 tons of particulate and 453 tons fine particulate matter, and over 6 million tons of carbon dioxide pollution per year for the life of the plant.

Water withdrawal: Up to 16 million gallons per day from the Oconee River and 15 groundwater wells via a proposed 30-mile pipeline.

Last public action: A public hearing was held for the air and water permits on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 in Sandersville. The hearing was attended by 321 people; 51 spoke against the plant, 14 in favor of it.

Next public action: Statewide activities include attending campaign events for gubernatorial candidates to ask for commitments for energy efficiency and renewables, and against coal. Local activities include preparation for candidates for EMC boards and outreach at the Kaolin Festival. If you are interested in attending a Governor's event near you, or live in Middle Georgia and can help at the Kaolin Festival, please contact the Fall-line Alliance for a Clean Environment at (478) 553-9151, www.facenvironment.org.

Permits applied for or obtained: Draft air and water permits were issued in August of 2009. The comment period closed at the end of October 2009 and EPD is currently considering the submitted comments. It is expected that final permits will be issued in Spring of this year, approximately Feb-March for the final air permit and approximately March-April for the final water permit. No solid waste handling permit (SWHP) application has been submitted by the applicant, Power4Georgians.

Litigation: There is currently no litigation on Plant Washington; however, litigation is likely.

Financials: 55% of the original Power4Georgians investment team bailed on funding new coal in 2009, leaving the five remaining EMCs with the full financial burden of the plant. Cost estimates range from \$2-4 Billion.

Take Action: To voice your opposition to dirty coal Plant Washington, contact Dwight Brown at Cobb EMC (770-429-2100, dwightbrown@cobbenergy.com) and Frank Askew at Washington EMC (478-552-2577 f.askew@washintonemc.com).

Plant Longleaf

Location: Blakely, GA (Early County)

Funded by: LS Power

Size: 1200 MW (two 600 MW units)

Source: Longleaf proposes to burn Power River Basin (PRB) coal and/or Central Appalachian coal (CAPP).

Estimated emissions: This plant would produce 9 million tons of global warming carbon dioxide pollution annually— equal to adding as many as 1.3 million cars on Georgia's roads every year. The plant will unnecessarily emit 4,700 tons of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) every year. If built, modeling shows that Longleaf will violate EPA's standards for safe air by exceeding ambient air quality standards for fine particulate matter where the plant is located.

Water withdrawals: Could consume as much as 20 million gallons of water (net) per day from the Chattahoochee River. The permit allows intake of 27 million gallons, of which roughly 5 million are supposed to be returned.

Summary update: Longleaf has been in the permitting & litigation process for nearly five years. Dynegy Corporation, one of the two major and initial investors, pulled its support of the project in January of 2009, leaving LS Power as the main public supporter of the project. The local community has increased its opposition to the plant, citing concerns of child and senior asthma rates, as well as

Georgia's Big Coal: What You Need to Know

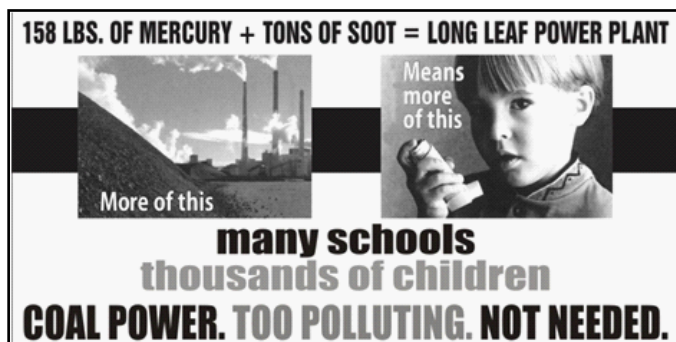
(Continued from previous page)

negative impacts on the water supply. Also concerning to locals is the possibility of an increase in taxes to pay for the plant. Litigation is likely to begin again soon, with a second round of lawsuits to focus on the controls for hazardous air pollutants. For more information on Longleaf litigation, visit GreenLaw's website at www.green-law.org.

Last public action: July 28, 2009 MACT hearing in Blakeley, GA. Approximately 100 people attended the hearing; roughly 6 were in favor of the coal plant.

Next public action: Statewide activities include attending campaign events for gubernatorial candidates to talk about coal. If you are interested in attending a Governor's event near you, please contact Erin Glynn at (404) 607-1262 x233.

Permits applied for or obtained: After submitting original applications over five years ago, Longleaf remains stalled. Final air permits are being litigated. Longleaf MACT (addressing hazardous air pollutants) permit expected in spring.



Six billboards with the above image have been placed around Early County by members of Friends of the Chattahoochee

Litigation: Currently ongoing for air permits that were appealed to the Court of Appeals, which found the ALJ erred by failing to make independent "de novo" – Latin for "anew" – findings and decisions; decision remanded back to the Administrative Law Judge.

Financials: Originally a joint venture between Dynegy Corp and LS Power, Dynegy pulled out of the Longleaf proposal January, 2009, leaving LS Power as the sole public supporter of the deal. Locally, the Early County Commission, the Early County Tax Assessor's Office and the Early County Development Authority have provided support to Longleaf by virtue of their taxing authority.

Take Action: To see an end to Plant Longleaf, contact LS Power CEO Mike Segal at 212-615-3456 (press 1 for the company directory), and tell him to cancel the dirty coal plant Longleaf proposal for Early County, Georgia.

Plant Ben Hill

Location: Fitzgerald, GA (Ben Hill County)

Funded by: Power4Georgians

Size: 850 MW

Type: Supercritical

Estimated emissions: Expected similar to Plant Washington, though unknown for sure due to lack of permit application.

Summary update: News of Plant Ben Hill surfaced in December 2009, though it had been in the works by Power4Georgians since January of 2009, according to an EMC Payment Agreement document. Where Washington has political support, however, Ben Hill has water. Neither plant can count themselves to have both. The proposed site of Plant Ben Hill is near the banks of the Satilla River, and would block smart energy economic development to the area. Sponsored by the EMCs of Power4Georgians, this plant could be nothing more than a "back up" plan to Plant Washington, however, locals are taking the proposal very seriously, and are organizing opposition to the plant.

Last public action: Early in January, 2010, the Brantley County Commission passed a resolution opposing Plant Ben Hill. During January 25-28, a series of Mountain Top Removal Roadshows (MTRR) were hosted by the Flint, Altamaha, and Oconee Riverkeepers throughout South Georgia. The shows were immensely well-attended and covered many times over by local media outlets. To watch the MTRR online, visit <http://www.vimeo.com/5914497>

Next public action: To find out you can get involved, contact the Flint Riverkeeper at (229) 435-2241.

Permits applied for or obtained: No applications have been submitted.

Litigation: There is currently no litigation on Plant Ben Hill.

For More Information

Visit GreenLaw at www.green-law.org for more information on projected emissions. Coaltracker, the online map, is the best and most current source of information of the status of dirty coal-fired power plants. Find it online at <http://www.sierraclub.org/maps/coal.asp>. In addition, Georgia updates can be found on the new website www.sierraclub.org/coal/ga. If you would like to help provide content or keep this site updated, please call (404) 607-1262 x233.

From the Air to the Water, How Coal Affects our State

By Jim Reeve

When the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, old growth forest stretched unbroken from the high water mark of the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Plains. North America burst with a natural bounty beyond the experience of western civilization to that time. With unbridled enthusiasm the settlers set out on a conquest to subdue the continent. It was our Manifest Destiny to explore, subdue and conquer the continent and we did just that.

At that time the natural world still seemed limitless, unbounded. Since then the evidence to the contrary has been overwhelming but as a society we continue to act as though nature were boundless. At one time we had nearly killed off all life in the Great Lakes. The water itself was considered to be toxic. In the Wild West, adventurers nearly shot the North American Buffalo to extinction. Through over fishing we nearly completely exhausted the bounty of the Grand Banks fisheries. These things add up to one inescapable conclusion: Our world, Mother Earth, is a bounded, finite system where the actions of mankind have real, measureable and profound effects on the world around us. One of the most fundamental challenges of environmental advocacy is to help the people understand the system view of our world and our connectedness to nature.

The Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club continues to focus on energy policy as one of our major campaigns. Our efforts focus on reaching out to the community to engage our neighbors and explaining that we, as citizens, can influence the course of events around us and that we support initiatives for the development of alternative sustainable energy sources in Georgia. As a Club, we work in opposition to the expansion

of coal burning power plants in Georgia. There are three coal fired power plants that have applied for permits in Washington, Early, and Ben Hill counties in Georgia, and we are actively fighting against these plants.

Coal as it is used for power generation is toxic. It contains heavy metal contaminants that poison our air and water. To illustrate: You can fish in the state of Georgia and if you are good, you catch some fish. But the State of Georgia has issued an official health advisory restricting the intake of fresh water fish to one per month. Why? The fish swimming in the rivers and lakes of Georgia are collecting mercury and it builds up in their bodies. When you eat a fish caught in Georgia waters, it is like eating a mercury vitamin. Yummy.

Where did the mercury come from? The most significant source of mercury is from the smoke stacks of a coal fired power plants.

The combustion of coal leaves coal ash with heavy metal contaminants. A coal power plant will generate an ocean of coal ash in its life time. Even before the plant opens, the utility can project to the nearest ton, how much coal ash the plant will generate in its lifetime. To date, there is no standard practice defined for the extraction of the contaminants from the ocean of waste. This is part of the hidden deferred cost of coal based power generation.

By recognizing that nature is bounded and finite, we admit that we cannot act irresponsibly without negative consequences. The greater the scope of our activity, such as large scale power generation, the greater our responsibility. You can learn how to get involved in our campaign by attending a Smart Energy Committee meeting. The committee meets the first Monday of the month at 7pm at the Sierra Club office, 743 E. College Ave, Decatur. A conference call-in is available.

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Particulate Matter Increases Mortality Risk

By D. Gordon Draves

There is a growing body of evidence demonstrating that indoor and outdoor polluted air elevates the risk for heart attack. Coal-fired power plants, autos and tobacco smoke are major contributors with their own risks, but carbon monoxide and particulate matter are common to all three. These are more good reasons for the Sierra Club to campaign against coal and for public transit.

An article recently published in *Cardiology Today* states that smoking restrictions in Europe have resulted in fewer heart attacks, and a recent report out of Iowa has seen a 24 percent drop in hospital admissions just one and a half years since banning smoking in public places and workplaces, including restaurants and bars. This is a very important reason for Sierra Club to advocate for and to host events in smoke free locales.

Excerpts from *Cardiology Today*:

Low levels of fine particulate matter from either cigarette smoke or other air pollution may be associated with an increased risk for mortality from CVD [cardiovascular disease].

[Dr. Annette] Peters wrote. "Recent abatement of smoking in public places in Europe has had significant effects on hospital admissions for CVD and in particular for CAD [coronary artery disease]. When this recent evidence is considered, it calls for sustained efforts to reduce the exposure to particulate matter indoors and outdoors."

You can read the *Cardiology Today* article at:
<http://www.cardiologytoday.com/view.aspx?rid=44276>

Read about Iowa's 24 percent decrease in hospital admissions due to heart-related causes:
<http://www.dailyiowan.com/2010/01/19/Metro/15051.html>



WILDLANDS COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

The Wildlands Committee of the Georgia Sierra Club has had a long, active and successful history. However, for a variety of reasons, the past few months have seen the number of participating members dropping to a dangerously low level. Therefore, please read this article as a plea for any interested persons to consider joining in our ongoing efforts.

Most of our activities are centered on political issues revolving around the usage and preservation of the natural resources in our public lands. This is really the core of the original work of the Sierra Club, and we are proud of our work to continue this tradition. Included in the issues on which we are currently concentrating are (1) the attempt to reverse the rapid disappearance of the hemlocks in the National Forests through the effect of the hemlock wooly adelgids, (2) supporting legislation to increase and enforce roadless rules in the Forests, and (3) supporting legislation to limit the harvesting of fresh-water turtles before their populations crash to supply the Asian demand for turtle meat. A variety of other issues invariably arise.

To further our efforts we maintain contact with, provide information to, and lobby for appropriate action the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forestry Department, and local legislators.

Our need is great and immediate for individuals willing to participate in monitoring the work of officials who can have great positive or negative impacts on the truly rich forests and waterways we still have reasonably intact in Georgia. We will welcome those who have field experience and know some of the potential problems first hand as well as those who are willing to write letters and attend policy meetings in order to give us first hand information on what bodies of influence are currently doing.

Meetings are typically on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We are a low-key, friendly, non-contentious bunch and will welcome your presence. For more information, please contact either Phil Zinsmeister (pzinsmeister@oglethorpe.edu) or Michelle Kegler (mkegler@emory.edu).

MARTA Awarded Grant for Solar-Powered Bus Garage

Transit Agency is Largest Recipient in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Initiative

On September 21, 2009, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood visited Atlanta to award MARTA a \$10.8 million grant under the Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) Grant Program. Secretary LaHood was accompanied by newly appointed Federal Transit Administrator, Peter M. Rogoff.

The grant will be used to install energy-efficient solar panels at the Laredo Bus Maintenance Facility in Decatur, GA, resulting in considerable cost-savings for MARTA and creating much-needed economic opportunities for metro Atlanta.

The TIGGER award represents a timely and substantial contribution to MARTA's sustainability initiatives and continuing commitment to be innovative and cost-effective.

"Thank you so much to Secretary LaHood for awarding MARTA with this substantial grant, which will help us significantly improve the energy efficiency of our operations, cut our fuel consumption and emissions, enhance our work environment, and create additional jobs for our region," said MARTA's General Manager/CEO Dr. Beverly A. Scott.

The turnkey project will provide for shade structures with integrated, grid-tied solar photovoltaic (PV) cells at the Laredo bus garage. The steel-and-concrete structures will cover 220 bus parking stalls, and will include translucent panels to filter sunlight. The canopies will be equipped with light-emitting diodes (LEDs) to provide ample lighting for safety and maintenance activities at night. These PV panels will generate electricity equivalent to the facility's annual electricity consumption.

"This is truly a win-win for MARTA and for the environment," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "It shows that MARTA is helping to lead the way to make public transportation

cleaner, greener, and more energy-efficient for everyone who lives and works in Greater Atlanta."

Once completed, MARTA's Laredo project will be the largest solar PV installation in Georgia. It will rank as the second largest in use by a U.S. transit system behind the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's 1.2 megawatt installation.

In addition to producing power, the shade structures will reduce summertime temperatures by as much as 50 degrees underneath the canopies. The canopies'

estimates a net income of \$159,280 per year, for a total of \$7,167,600 over its 45-year useful life, which will be used to offset the cost of the electricity needed for the Laredo Bus Maintenance Facility. Through a negotiated rate with Georgia Power, this electricity will be sold back to the power grid, and Georgia Power will provide a credit to MARTA for the electricity.

Approximately 20 new jobs will be created directly by this program and an additional 12 jobs indirectly for manufacturing, sales and distribution. The total capital cost for the project is \$10,820,250, and it's expected to be completed in 18 months.

The Laredo project will further advance MARTA's commitment to being a leader in transit excellence and environmental stewardship.

Last year, the MARTA Board of Directors approved a Sustainability Policy for the Authority, including a Strategic Plan to secure funding through the federal Energy Independence Security Act, reduce its carbon footprint and prioritize the most effective "green" action items, going forward.

In March of 2009, MARTA and the city of Atlanta were awarded a Clean Cities Lifetime Appreciation Award from the U.S. Department of Energy. The agency lauded MARTA for deploying a fleet of clean-burning, compressed natural gas buses that currently save the equivalent of about seven million gallons of petroleum every year.

As part of its sustainability initiative, MARTA became a signatory to the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Sustainability Program. This nationwide pilot program calls on MARTA and other signatories to take pro-active steps to preserve the environment for current and future generations, to be socially responsible and to maintain economic viability.



An artist's rendering of the proposed Laredo Solar Canopy

other benefits include lowering bus fuel consumption, reducing the need for air conditioning and enhancing the general work environment for MARTA operators, maintenance and facilities personnel.

"The MARTA board of directors is incredibly grateful to the Obama Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation for giving us the opportunity to move forward with this unique project, which will help us better achieve our goals of becoming more energy-efficient and cost-effective as an agency," said former MARTA Board Chairman Michael Walls.

Projections show that the panels will generate 1,200,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, which will offset approximately 0.6 percent of the Authority's overall power consumption annually as well as during the course of the project's estimated 45-year life span. This project

Replace Your Dirty Electricity Put Solar On Your Home or Business

By Rand Knight, Ph.D.

While I truly hope that Georgia Power will soon offer a 'solar-only' green power purchase option for ratepayers, the debate over the merit of the existing blocks of green power from Georgia Power is completely irrelevant to the real issue: Of the kilowatt hours (kWh) of coal and/or nuclear power that you are currently consuming, how many of those kWh's have you consciously replaced with a renewable, non-coal/non-nuclear power source of electricity?

If you replace just one kWh of coal and/or nuclear consumption with a even partially-clean energy kWh, it is significantly better than nothing at all – whether that replacement kWh is 5% - 15% solar (i.e., current Georgia Power \$4.50/mo. solar green power blocks) or 100% solar (i.e., install the solar directly on your home/business) – the action sends a message that you will put your money where your heart and smarts already are. If one consciously refuses to purchase the existing green power blocks from Georgia Power on the grounds that there is not enough truly clean, renewable energy in the offering, then that person or business will simply endorse the status quo and continue to drive growth in the consumption of coal and nuclear power, while simultaneously hurting the renewable energy industry in Georgia by lending credence to the falsehood that Georgia Power has spread that no one in Georgia wants green power because people have not signed-up for the existing program.

If you want to demonstrate leadership in renewable energy, and you are serious about clean air, water resources, and energy independence, then there is another option for you – install a solar photovoltaic (PV) system directly on your home, business or property. You will receive a 30% Federal cash rebate within 60 days of application to the



A rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) system

U.S. Treasury, and there is a 35% Georgia State Tax Credit, which is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in your GA State taxes (the \$2.5m in 2010 funds for this program are already 50% gone and going quickly). Furthermore, you can elect to send your solar electricity back into the grid and sell it to Georgia Power for a premium of \$0.183/kWh (likely 50% more than you pay per kWh), posted as a credit it against your power bill; and even though the solar system has a 30+ year lifespan, if you itemize your tax returns or have a business then you may be able to accelerate 100% depreciation of the system in as little as one year.

If you want to install a solar PV system, then you will need to examine your electric bills and determine how many kWh's you use each year. If your current electricity usage from coal and nuclear is 10,000 kWh per year, then you can go 100% renewable with a 7.5 kW solar PV system. This system will cost \$45,000 – \$50,000 upfront – and maybe less depending on your roof. You will then receive a check for \$15,000 from the U.S. Treasury, and \$17,500 in tax credits from the Georgia Dept. of Revenue, as well as the cash value of depreciation, and roughly \$1,830 in credit for up to five years from Georgia Power. Depending on your tax appetite and whether or not you can use the depreciation, the solar PV system is completely paid for in as little as 1 – 5 years, and not more than eight years. The next 25 years of electricity from the system are almost free, paid for by the sun – and the rivers, the atmosphere, and our children's health will thank you, too.

National Sierra Club Elections Underway

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet for those who chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership. Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election website at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2010election>

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. Alternatively, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

Georgia Chapter Conservation Leadership and Political Training Conference

March 19 through March 21, 2010 - Georgia Chapter Sierra Club Office

Please join us for a Conservation Leadership and Political Training Conference the weekend of March 19th. We will be joined by National staff who help the Chapter develop our strategic plan committee working goals. The training weekend will kick off with registration and a social Friday night in Decatur. Saturday morning, join us for breakfast at 8 am and conservation planning with Tim Guilfoile, the Deputy Director of the Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program. Lunch will be provided by the Fundraising Committee.

Saturday afternoon we will break out into committees with the Executive Committee meeting during this time as well. Saturday night, committees will meet for dinner at area restaurants with a bon fire to follow at the office. Sunday morning, training will resume with a political committee break out.

Several lodging options have been made available. You may choose to camp in the green space behind the office in Decatur, using the bathrooms inside to clean up (unfortunately, we don't have any showers!). The Sierra Club has also arranged special pricing at the following hotels in the area:

Super 8 Motel	Holiday Inn	Sycamore House Bed and Breakfast
\$58.50 per night (King or 2 double beds)	\$99.00 per night if we fill 10 rooms	\$120/night (suite), \$100/night (room)
917 Church Street, Decatur	130 Clairmont Ave, Decatur	624 Sycamore Street, Decatur
(1.16 miles from the office)	(1.15 miles from the office)	(half a mile from the office)
404-378-3765	1-800-HOLIDAY (1-800-465-4329)	404-378-0685
	Parking: \$7/day with in/out privileges	Library, Deck and garden,
	Free breakfast, Fitness center, Indoor pool	Heated pool and Hot Tub

When you call to make reservations, please tell them that you are in town for the Sierra Club Conservation Conference to get the discounted rate. Complete the registration below and return to the office if you plan to join us. We hope that you can come!

Name(s) of those attending conference _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

If you would like breakfast at Sierra Club Saturday morning, please check box by the meal you prefer.

☐ Eggs, turkey bacon or soy sausage, pancakes, fruit

☐ Eggs, pancakes, grits or oatmeal, fruit

Please mail your registration form and check in the amount of \$10 per person made payable to:

Georgia Chapter Sierra Club
743B East College Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030
404-607-1262 Ext 221

For questions about conference, please e-mail Ashley at Ashley.Robbins@georgia.sierraclub.org

Volunteers Needed for Atlanta Earth Day Festival

Sierra Club is seeking members to volunteer at the 6th Annual Sweetwater 420 Fest in Atlanta's historic Candler Park. The 420 Fest is an annual Earth Day festival with free admission for great live music, activities, food, and environmental education. (Note: For those wishing to partake in Sweetwater's lovely adult brews, purchase of a \$5 wristband is required). An approximate 10,000 visitors are expected at this year's festival.

The 2010 420 Fest will be held in Candler Park on Saturday, April 17 from Noon to 10 p.m. and Sunday, April 18 from 12:30 to 8 p.m.

Currently, Georgia's 2010 election cycle is upon us and it will be up to us, Sierra Club members, to educate candidates and the public on the environmental issues that are of importance to us. Georgia Sweetwater 420 is a great opportunity to engage and educate the public by asking them to support Sierra

Club's effort to "Green the Governor" on key issues such as water, energy and transportation.

At last year's festival, over 50 people volunteered with the Club to educate at-



tendees about the EPA's "endangerment finding" concerning the negative health and public impacts of global warming pollution. Volunteers obtained over 600 signatures which were forwarded to the EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson in sup-

port of the finding.

We hope to eclipse that number for our effort in 2010, and need your help in doing so!

The volunteer process begins with signing up for a shift by visiting the Sierra Club website (georgia.sierraclub.org) and checking under "Hot Items" or "Chapter Currents." After signing up, attend the volunteer orientation (with food!) on Wednesday, April 7th, 6-9PM at the Sierra Club office (743 E College Ave Suite B Decatur GA 30030). Here, Club leaders will hand out materials, help volunteers to learn specific messaging, and answer questions.

The time commitment we seek at the festival itself is a 2-3 hour shift on just one of the two days. This is a great way to have fun and make a difference at the same time! For inquiries or to sign up, please contact shap.sierraclub@hotmail.com.

Social Corner

Being a member of the Sierra Club means more than paying dues and occasionally calling your state representative. It's about being a part of something bigger, a brotherhood of people who have learned that if we don't protect the environment, we won't have anything to enjoy. Across the US, there are more than 1.5 million Sierrans who have joined John Muir's mission to explore and preserve the Earth, and in Georgia, nearly 12,000 of you agree. We hope that you can join us at one of these upcoming socials as we come together in friendship. You are the Sierra Club, and we're excited for you to be involved.

Friday, March 19th – We'll kick off the Conservation and Political Training weekend with a dinner at Leon's in Decatur. Meet us at 7:00pm at 131 E Ponce de Leon Ave.

Saturday, March 27th – Join us at Cha Bella in Savannah for dinner at 6:00pm. Cha Bella is at 102 E. Broad Street.

Wednesday, April 21st – Celebrate John Muir's birthday with us at our office in Decatur. There will be plenty of cake for all! 7:00pm at 743 E. College Ave, Suite B, Decatur.

Saturday, May 1st – Join us for a work day at the office. We'll paint the fence, landscape, and prepare our green space for the summer. 10am at 743 E. College Ave, Decatur.

Wednesday, May 12th – The Georgia Chapter pairs up with Atlanta Green Drinks to host a night of networking at our office. Drop by between 6 and 8pm at 743 E. College Ave, Decatur.

Support Your Chapter

Is Monthly Giving Right for You?

By Greg Schwartz, Development Coordinator

As you consider your giving capacity in 2010, we hope you consider supporting the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club. With volunteers and staff working on important issues in Georgia like our clean energies campaign to promote renewal energy and better transit options for Atlanta, your support is important.

Your membership is important to the Sierra Club and our family of supporters but you may not realize that only \$5 of your membership dues go to Georgia. The rest of the dues support the great work that the National Sierra Club is doing to support solid environmental policy at the federal level.

A great way to support the Georgia Chapter and to make the process the best for you is monthly giving. Monthly giving is a great way for you to craft a gift to your needs, benefit the Sierra Club at the same time and provide much needed funds for our environmental work.

What is monthly giving?

Monthly giving is making a monthly gift, of any size, to the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club through an automatic donation charged to your credit card. The Sierra Club processes your gift as a secure credit card transaction each time period that you desire, then distributes it to the Georgia Chapter to use for its most pressing needs such as addressing Georgia's water needs. Monthly contributions are flexible and can be changed or canceled at any time. You can craft your gift to reflect your giving desires and can donate annually or quarterly instead. Each option is convenient to the donor.

What are the benefits of monthly giving?

Monthly giving is a creative but helpful way for you to donate to the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club. Along with

your actual donation, monthly giving supplies benefits to both you and the organization:

Affordability: Spread your contribution out over the year.

Convenience: Avoid the hassle of writing a check, and automatically have your donation sent according to your specific donation setting. No wasting of paper!

Efficiency: Reduce the Georgia Chapter's gift processing and mailing costs. By keeping our administrative costs low, we can direct more of our resources into on-the-ground projects—in places where we're needed the most.

Flexibility: Choose a donation level that works for you.

Making a Difference: \$10 or \$15 a month results in a sizeable contribution to the Georgia Chapter that can be used on important environmental work.

What options are available?

Monthly donating is available through several options for the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club. You can craft the gift online yourself by visiting the Georgia Chapter webpage at www.georgia.sierraclub.org and selecting "Make a Donation".

You can fill out the monthly giving segment and send the donation form on the next page to the Georgia Chapter Office at 743 E. College Ave., Suite B, Decatur, GA 30030. You can also call the Georgia Chapter office and setup your donation instantly by calling 404-607-1262 extension 225.

Donation Recognition

*A donation was made in honor of
Melissa Thurmond
in celebration of the Holiday Season.*



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, please contact:

Gift Planning Program
(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Preserve the Future

Support Your Chapter



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Yes! I want to support the work of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club for sustainable living, healthy environment, improved transportation, and a green Georgia future!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

_____ Sign me up to receive the
Georgia Chapter E-Newsletter:
Footnotes Online.

_____ Please do not publish my name
as a donor.

_____ Please send more info on how
to give an environmental bequest!

Make check payable / send check and form to:

Georgia Chapter Sierra Club
743 E. College Ave., Suite B
Decatur, GA 30030



Monthly Giving Program

Gift Amount:

☐ \$10.00 ☐ \$25.00 ☐ Other \$ _____

Gift Duration:

☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

Continuous: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Credit card # (not AMEX): _____

CVV Number: _____ **Expiration Date:** _____

Card Type: Visa Discover Mastercard

2010 Georgia Legacy Council

- ☐ *Live Oak Champion* \$5,000 +
- ☐ *Southern Magnolia Society* \$1,000 - \$2,499
- ☐ *Longleaf Pine Protector* \$2,500 - \$4,999
- ☐ *Evergreen Partner* \$500 - \$999

Other Contribution Levels:

☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ _____

Contributions and gifts to the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. For information concerning tax-deductible contributions to the Sierra Club Foundation to support grants for public education, research, and litigation programs necessary to further the Sierra Club's conservation goals, please contact greory.schwartz@sierraclub.org or 404-607-1262 ext. 225.

Inner City Outings Update

By Karla Zientowski

For 22 years, children from inner city settings have been making their way past the concrete jungles, mountains of trash and puddles of polluted water to find themselves surrounded by towering trees and pristine lakes. Jaded by police sirens and city buzz, the cheerful chirping of birds and serene sounds of nature is a refreshing escape for these children, many of whom have never set foot outside the communities they call home. It is the mission of Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program to provide the opportunity to urban youth to explore and discover the natural world.

While the Sierra Club has sponsored this program for 38 years, the Atlanta group of the program has been sponsoring hiking, camping and day trips since 1988. The chapter currently works with four agencies that range from Boys and Girls clubs to elementary schools to leadership organizations. Some of the agencies have worked with the organization for over ten years, while others, such as Parkside Elementary Unity Group, are in their first year of partnering with Atlanta ICO. The four agencies the organization currently works with are John Hope Elementary School, the Brookhaven and Warren Boys and Girls Clubs and the newest agency, Parkside Elementary Unity Club. These agencies all have one goal in mind; they all want to

provide the children in their care with natural outings, but lack the resources to do so. That's where ICO steps in, providing the agencies with resources such as equipment, food and transportation, in addition to covering all expenses associated with the outing. With the goal of 8-10 trips per year per agency, this is no small feat, but it comes easy to the team of dedicated volunteers that keep the Atlanta chapter of ICO running.

Select volunteers serve as agency contacts, acting as the liaisons between the agency and the organization and serving as Trip Leaders, organizing and planning the trips. Trip leaders are those individuals certified in areas such as CRP, First Aid, Wilderness training, etc. However, the organization is also comprised of many volunteers that accompany the trip leaders from various agencies to help supervise the children, ensuring a safe child to adult ratio.

Since the organization is staffed entirely by volunteers, the organization participates in two fundraisers throughout the year. During the holiday season, the Atlanta chapter relies on its volunteers and local Sierra Club members to wrap gifts at local REI stores.

The fundraiser is traditionally very successful, raising anywhere from \$1,500 to \$3,500 over the course of the month, depending on the volunteers' ability to recruit outside help to staff the gift-wrapping stations at the individual stores.

Additionally, the group also partners with Horizon Theater to help sell tickets to one of their shows. In return, Horizon Theater donates all tickets sales and profits from the show to Atlanta ICO. This is the largest fundraiser the group participates in, typically generating half the organization's operating costs for a year.

While fundraising is important to keep the organization up and running, the most rewarding part of the operation is, of course, the trips. Atlanta ICO has organized trips to state parks, trails, nature centers and locations all over the state. Ranging from hikes on the Chattahoochee Trails, to day trips to Amicalola State Park, to overnight trips to places such as Cloudland Canyon State Park, Atlanta ICO has introduced children to natural beauty in every corner of the state. Whether it is seeing a waterfall for the first time, getting a glimpse of the ocean, or seeing a deer gallivant across your path, the trips expose the children to sights and sounds that may have been foreign to them forever, if not for ICO. Not only do the trips expand upon the children's knowledge of the wilderness, but they instill an appreciation for nature that is difficult to find among city streets and concrete buildings.

If you are interested in volunteering with Atlanta ICO, please visit http://ico.sierraclub.org/ico/atlanta/volunteer_info.html or contact Gwen Bergen, Volunteer Coordinator at (404) 320-9358 or at gbergen@gmail.com for more information. The organization meets once a month, and volunteer recruitment occurs twice a year.

Sierra Club 101



Are you new to the Sierra Club and want to get involved but aren't sure how? Do you know what issues the Georgia Chapter is working on and how to get involved? Do you want to know who we are and what we do?

Join us **Saturday, April 10th**, at 10 AM for Sierra Club 101, your crash course on the Sierra Club, the Georgia Chapter, and the issues facing our state and how you can get involved. Meet with volunteer leaders and staff for breakfast at the East Atlanta Library, the only green library in the state, at 400 Flat Shoals Ave, Atlanta, as we introduce you to our Sierra Club.

If you are unable to join us this month, the next Sierra Club 101 will be held **June 5th**.

For questions or to RSVP, contact Ashley at ashley.robbsins@georgia.sierraclub.org.

Centennial Holiday!

We'd like to say thank you to everyone who joined us for our annual holiday party and silent auction in December. A good time was had by all and we raised more than \$250! We appreciate your support through the year and look forward to continuing to work with you. Thank you for making 2009 good year and for making it a pleasure to serve you!

Sincerely,
Your Centennial ExCom



Centennial Group Photo Contest

On Thursday, May 6th, the Centennial Group will be hosting a photo contest, open to members of our group. We welcome you to submit your nature photography to be judged by our guest professional photographers. Please submit up to three photographs, no larger than 8 x 10 inches, affixed to a foam board backing. The cost of entering is the contest is \$10 and prizes will be awarded.

If you will be submitting photographs for the contest, please arrive at Life by 7:00 PM for set-up. At 7:30, please join us as we socialize, view the photographs exhibited and share snacks as the judging occurs. For questions or additional information, please e-mail Ashley at ashley.robbs@georgia.sierraclub.org.

We look forward to seeing your photography skills at work!

Sierra Club License Plates

We have the Sierra Club front auto plates now for sale. They identify you as a committed environmental activist, they serve as effective advertising for the club, they make a nice, thoughtful gift to friends who care about the cause, and not least, help sustain your Centennial Group. See the auto plates on page 19. Your Centennial Group ExCom appreciates your support.



Plates can be purchased in two ways: 1) purchase at our monthly meetings for \$12.50 each; or, 2) purchase by mail for \$16.50 each, including postage and handling.

Make check out to Centennial Group and mail together with your order to: Wolfgang Tiedtke, 750 Bayliss Dr., Marietta, GA 30068.

Upcoming Meetings & Programs

March 4th, 2010: Joe Cook will join us to talk about the 2010 Paddle Georgia, an 82 mile, 7 day trip that benefits the Georgia River Network. Several Sierrans have participated in this exciting trip and we hope that you can join us this year!

April 1st, 2010: We know that coal fired power plants are bad, and that water is a particularly valuable resource in Georgia, but what do they have in common? A guest speaker, to be determined, will join us to discuss how one of our most precious resources is affected by our need for power.

Meeting Location:

The Centennial Group meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at: Life University, Room 311 in the Upper Gymnasium, 1269 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta, GA 30060. For detailed directions contact wtiedtke@bellsouth.net or check our website www.georgia.sierraclub.org/centennial. Executive Committee meetings are the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., usually at La Madeleine Restaurant, 4101 Upper Roswell Road, Marietta 30060.

Adopt-A-Stream Update

By Elizabeth Knowlton

Sixteen people from around Atlanta, mostly members of the Sierra Metro Atlanta Group, attended the chemical monitoring certification class led by Kevin Smith from Forsyth Co. Adopt-A-Stream on Sat., Jan. 23, at Stone Mountain Park. Kevin, also a teacher of biological monitoring, was helpful and humorous, eager to share his knowledge and nudge the students towards successful certification with slides, stories, and mnemonic devices. Recertification must be done yearly.

Participants learned about the goals of the program: to increase public awareness, provide tools and training for monitoring, encourage partnerships in this work, and collect water quality data. Georgia Adopt-A-Stream maintains the database on its interesting and informative website (<http://www.georgiaadopt-a-stream.org/>).

Although the group is under the state's Dept. of Natural Resources, it is supported with federal funding and is one of many state sites.

Chemical monitoring is performed monthly to measure water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity. The Atlanta Group monitors a stream in Decatur that flows across Atlanta, into the south fork of Peachtree Creek, and then to the Chattahoochee River. Measurements are taken in the middle of the stream at mid-depth within a previously determined stretch that must take into account floods, droughts, and the group's ability to access the site.

Water temperature is important as it affects feeding, respiration, and aquatic metabolism of animals and plants living in the stream. pH is expected to be low in Georgia as the soil is acidic, but it is particularly low in south Georgia where tannic acid stains the water. Animal and plant life in the water are acclimated to these conditions.

Making Atlanta's Streets "Complete Streets"

By Nancy Wylie, Group Chair

You can't tell the players without a scorecard, and you can't follow talks about solving Atlanta's traffic problems without a dictionary. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood told Congress: "President [Obama] has made livable communities a key aspect of his agenda [...] How a community is designed—including the layout of the roads, transit systems and walkways—has a huge impact on its residents." OK, so what is a "livable community?" It is a mixed-use neighborhood with highly-connected streets. That means no cul-de-sacs, so when you walk outside you have the choice of going in several directions. It means people can get around, whether they are children walking or biking to school or commuters riding transit or driving motor vehicles.

A livable community is a community where if people don't want an automobile, they don't have to have one; a community where you can walk to work, your doctor's appointment, pharmacy, or grocery store. Or you could

take light rail, a bus, or ride a bike.

Secretary LaHood also said "investing in a 'complete street' concept stimulates private-sector economic activity by increasing the viability of street-level retail small businesses and professional services, creating housing opportunities and extending the usefulness of school and transit facilities."

What's a "complete street?" It's a street that is designed for pedestrians, bicycles, and motor vehicles. A street where people can easily get to stores, shops, and services without having to get into a car.

Secretary LaHood is working to help communities build better sidewalks and bike facilities to make it easier for people to get to transit facilities. There is a proposal (Federal Register, Nov 13, 2009) to allow federal money for construction of sidewalks up to a half mile away from a transit station, or bicycle facilities up to three miles away. That is about three times the current guidance.

So – imagine Atlanta as a livable community where people walk or ride bikes to MARTA on complete streets.

Dissolved oxygen is a vital measurement because without oxygen a stream is dead. Normal stream water has a measurement of 5-6 mg. per liter, anything lower being poor. Oxygen is increased by riffles, wind, and certain oxygenating plants. It is decreased by warmer temperatures, runoff from hot roads and rooftops, and slow moving water. Conductivity refers to water's ability to pass an electrical current and is affected by the presence or absence of inorganic dissolved solids and organic compounds. Changes in conductivity measurements can indicate discharges of sewage, urban runoff, fertilizers, and mining wastes.

After the students were tested on various parts of the lecture, they did hands-on testing of water and were amused to find that in some cases tap water in the building had a better score than commercially bottled water.

ATLANTA GROUP DIRECTORY

*Chair	Nancy Wylie, 404-256-1172 nancywylie@mindspring.com
*Vice Chair	Gordon Draves, 404-766-3456 nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.com
*Secretary	Larry Kloet, 404-636-7226 larrypkloet@aol.com
*Programs	Jeanne McCarthy, 404-873-3985 cell 678-595-4882 jeanne_mccarthy@bellsouth.net
*Political	Eddie Ehler, 770-455-4849 edeherl@bellsouth.net
Store Manager	Blount Ferrell
Outings	Martin McConaughay, mmcconaughey08@gmail.com
Membership	Lissa Jackson
* Denotes a member of the Metro Atlanta Group Executive Committee.	

Upcoming Meetings & Programs

We meet the 2nd Tuesday each month • Doors open at 7:00 p.m. • Church of the Epiphany • 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. (see directions below).

March 9: Lee Biola on Transit Plans. In 2008, the leaders of ten counties and the city of Atlanta voted unanimously to make most projects on the Citizens for Progressive Transit map part of Concept 3, metro Atlanta's official regional transportation plan. Inclusion in the plan is a necessary requirement for obtaining federal transit matching funds.

Lee Biola is president of Citizens for Progressive Transit. The organization was founded in 2003 its mission to promote the use and expansion of quality public transportation. Shortly after its founding, the group developed a regional transit map for metro Atlanta. The map includes commuter rail, heavy rail, light rail, express buses and streetcars. In his day job, Biola is an attorney with his own firm representing injured employees in workers compensation cases.

April 13: Water. The April program brings water back to the forefront and provides some perspectives that are a bit outside our normal areas of expertise.

One will be Alex Laidlaw, Vice President of Operations for Westrec Marinas which include Holiday Marina and Sunrise Cove Marina at Lake Lanier. Alex is also President of the "1071 Coalition", an organization primarily composed of businesses on or associated with Lake Lanier and interested in keeping it at the full pool of 1071 ft. above sea level.

In addition, we will host a representative of the Lake Lanier Association. The LLA, founded in 1966, is the oldest volunteer group working to protect the high water quality as well as the Lake Lanier water levels.

As the "water wars" continue and the absence of leadership from the Governor and General Assembly it behooves us to understand as much about the realities of others in this dispute who may share our interests.

Meeting Location: Metro Atlanta Group General membership meetings are held at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. at the intersection of with East Lake Drive; the entrance to the church is off of East Lake Drive. From MARTA's East Lake station, it's a 10-15 minute walk north along East Lake Drive.

ADOPT-A-STREAM

Saturday, Mar 6, 10 AM: We will do biologic monitoring at our site on South Fork of Peachtree Creek on Saturday, March 6th at 10AM. Biologic monitoring requires lots of eyes to find the "macro invertebrates" - or bugs big enough to be seen without a microscope.

The site is in Medlock Park on the east side of the park [but you can't get there from the street address for the park]. From the intersection of Willivee Road and Scott Circle (it is a T intersection) go about 1/4 mile on Scott Circle to the parking lot on the left (lots of baseball fields). At the end of the parking lot closest to Willivee Road follow the paved path going between ball fields (do not follow the path on the far left we used in the past). Follow Sierra Club Signs and find us at the picnic table. Call Nancy Wylie 404-256-1172 for more information.

DISCOVER ATLANTA

Saturday April 10 8AM: Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve: Have you wanted to find a lovely in-town location to see and learn about beautiful birds? This walk will be led by Lisa Hurt and will last 2-3 hours.... depending on the birds. The group will do a checklist of all the birds seen that morning. Individuals are free to leave whenever they wish. This is a wetland area so remember to wear shoes/boots/sneakers that may get muddy. There are no bathrooms. Bring binoculars. Be prepared for a great walk and to learn a lot!

Lisa was on the Atlanta Audubon Society (AAS) board for 6 years where she was Education Director and an At Large Board Member. She teaches in the AAS Master Birder Program and has been leading walks for 20 years.

Contact Jeanne McCarthy (404-873-3985)

Directions: From Hwy 78, North Decatur Rd, and Medlock Rd, Follow Medlock Road 1/4-mile to Medlock Elementary School; go right on Wood Trail Lane. Pass one stop sign; travel another 200 yards to the preserve entrance.

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LaGrange Group

LaGrange Group Update

The January Sierra Club monthly meeting included a presentation by LaGrange College Religion Department professor Alvin Lingenfelter, titled "The Sustainable Student". Lingenfelter and his teaching assistant Kelsey Tinker described a course that introduces first year students to organic gardening, recycling, sustainable living, and paperless course work. December's meeting was the traditional annual Christmas dinner, this year held as a potluck at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The group raised \$250 through an auction for a beautiful handmade guitar, a gift to the LaGrange Sierra Club for fundraising purposes by member Mack Best.



The man pictured is Mack Best with the guitar he made and donated for our auction.

Programs and Events

The major upcoming project for the group is the annual "Trees for Tots" project which will provide a dogwood tree to every Troup County kindergarten student to take home to plant for Georgia Arbor Day. For more information on the tree planting project, contact Sam Breyfogle at Breyfogle@charter.net.

March 4- Chapter Chair Mark Woodall gives Georgia Legislative Update

April 1- Sharon Holbrooks on Georgia Nongame Conservation Section of the Department of Natural Resources

We hope all Sierra Club members in the area can join us for regularly scheduled monthly meetings on the first Thursday of every month in the parish hall of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 207 North Greenwood St., LaGrange. Refreshments are at 6:30; program starts promptly at 7:00.

New Solar Business

By Renee Warrick

Combining a lifelong interest in the environment with my financial background, I started my business, Clean Green 4 West Georgia LLC. My primary goal for the start up was to bring solar energy to LaGrange and the surrounding communities. Partnering with United Renewable Energy LLC of Alpharetta helps me provide solar electric solutions to residential and commercial customers. We installed a 4.2kw array on our office to demonstrate our commitment to green energy. Along with our grid-tied solar array and conservation, our power bill is greatly reduced. But most important even our small array can make a difference in the environment. Solar energy here in West Georgia can create jobs, reduce carbon and have a positive economic impact on our community. With the federal and state incentives, solar energy is financially feasible. However, more grassroots work is needed on the state level to increase the incentives and help make Georgia a solar leader.

Savannah River Group

Savannah River Group Update

The Savannah River Group elected ExCom officers in January, adding a few new volunteers to the current "tried and true" returnees.

Our January and February "Movie Night" theme for these two monthly meetings proved to be very popular. We had good attendance for viewing Iron Weed's DVDs on "Garbage! The Revolution Starts Here," and "The Story of Stuff." Our organic refreshments, particularly the popcorn, were quickly consumed. Many of our attendees commented that they thought they knew all about recycling and were surprised at how much they didn't know, particularly the long-term environmental ef-

fects. Can you imagine volunteering to collect three months worth of garbage and trash in your garage to demonstrate



Group volunteers do chemical testing on Betty's Branch in Columbia County

some important environmental aspects of garbage?! There is more to this than a trash can....

Our March monthly meeting will

deal with water issues. And speaking of water issues, we hope to expand our Adopt-A-Stream participation. In addition to doing chemical and biological monitoring of streams in Columbia and Richmond Counties, some members are learning how to monitor for E. coli. We also have some members who are now qualified trainers: Sam Booher, Mike Reardon, and Frank Carl.

Our Outings activities featured a day hike to look at early spring flora at Mistletoe State Park in late February. In April we will have our annual day hike to The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) granite outcrop, Heggie's Rock, near Appling, Georgia. Interested? Participants are limited to 15, per TNC regulations. Contact Judy Gordon (see Directory) for more information.

Sustainable Gwinnett?

Anyone who's lived in the Atlanta metro area over the last couple of decades would have a tough time believing that the county that has been the poster child for suburban sprawl since the 70's is now becoming a local leader in suburban sustainability. Not to be confused with counties that have adopted strict no-growth or slow-growth models, but the actions that Gwinnett County and some of its cities are taking to become more sustainable are certainly worth a closer look.

To begin with, there are active volunteer community organizations such as Sustainable Norcross and its close neighbor, Sustainable Peachtree Corners. These groups comprised of committed residents and business owners take the old homeowner association organization to a new level of green. Through eco-blogs, community and stream cleanups, recycling education, farmer's markets, and promoting local businesses in order to reduce driving, these groups are reaching out to their neighbors to foster a more sustainable lifestyle in their own hometowns.

On a larger, more administrative level, the cities of Suwanee and Norcross have signed on to the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities Program with Suwanee achieving Certified Bronze Level status in December 2009. The program mandates that new city buildings must meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards as the new Suwanee City Hall does. Energy efficiency policies include purchasing of Energy Star certified products, green city vehicles, incorporating alternative modes of transportation for any new and improved roadways, high-efficiency plumbing, and rules that require drought-tolerant, native, and organic landscaping on city property.

Now, Gwinnett County government agencies are getting on board with a recently drafted Environmental Sustainability Program. The Sustainability Program incorporates Energy Star and LEED policies and uses the ARC's Green Communities Certification Program as a framework. Gwinnett has an overall goal to reduce energy consumption by 10% by 2012, which equates to approximately 20-30 million kilowatt-hours and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 15,000-20,000 metric tons. When successfully implemented, the real green thing is an annual savings to the County's utility budget of over \$1 million.

Other major components of the Sustainability Program include energy efficiency retrofits identified through energy audits and LED-traffic signal upgrades totaling almost another \$1 million in annual savings. Renewable energy will generate an estimated 1.6 to 2.0 megawatts of electricity from a projected Gas-to-Energy / Fats, Oil, and Greases (FOG) waste station. Natural gas will come from digester gas at the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center to provide power for the sewage plant. It is most ironic that without the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, aka the Stimulus Bill, this Environmental Sustainability Program would be years away instead of on the verge of reality. Really....in Gwinnett!

Upcoming Meetings & Programs

March 18th - Rex Schuder of Gwinnett County Parks Department will discuss the award-winning County park system including the new proposed passive parks.

Suwanee Creek Adopt-a-Stream monitoring events will take place **Saturday, March 20th** and **Saturday, April 17th**. Meet at 11am at the Martin Farm Rd. parking area of the Suwanee Creek Greenway

March 21st - Field trip to Suwanee Community Garden. Details forthcoming. Contact Tom Morrissey at thmorrissey@bellsouth.net or (404) 513-4069.

April 15th - Steve Willis, Coastal Group Chair will present Alternative Energy Solutions for Georgia.

Meetings: 3rd Thursday at Berkmar High School, 405 Pleasant Hill Road, Lilburn, GA 30047, in the Media Center. Doors open at 7 p.m. with light refreshments. Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. For questions, contact Tom Morrissey at 404-513-4069.

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Contacts

Executive Committee

Chair: Mark Woodall, 706-674-2242,
markwoodall@windstream.net
At-Large Elected Member

Vice Chair - Administrative: Ashley Robbins, 276-780-3748,
ashley.robbs@georgia.sierraclub.org
Centennial Group Delegate

Vice Chair - Policy: Steve Willis, 912-341-0718
snwillis@yahoo.com
Coastal Group Delegate

Sam Booher, 706-863-2324, sbooher@aol.com
Savannah River Group Delegate

Mary Drake, 706-412-9728,
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David Emory, 404-477-0496,
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At-Large Elected Member

Dan Friedman, 404-610-5770, dan3688@aol.com
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Dean Rogers, 706-837-0037,
dean@mediamindz.com
LaGrange Group Delegate

Nancy Wylie, 404-583-1455,
nancywylie@mindspring.com
Metro Atlanta Group Delegate

Appointed Officers & Chairs

Secretary: Nancy Wylie,
nancywylie@mindspring.com

Treasurer: Tom Neff, tsneff2003@yahoo.com

Assistant Treasurer: Wen Zhou,
wzhou.awsco@gmail.com

Conservation Chair: Alan Toney,
mudflat@comcast.net

Conservation Vice Chair: Sam Booher,
sbooher@aol.com

Conservation Vice Chair: Larry Winslett,
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Finance Chair: Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

Fundraising Co-Chairs: Sandy Stewart,
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Inner City Outings: Allison Williams,
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Legislative: Mark Woodall,
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Litigation: Mary Drake, mdrake126@charter.net

Membership Engagement Chair: Ashley Robbins,
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Outings: Paula Phillips, hide.n.seek@gmail.com

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Sierra Student Coordinator: Kelsea Norris,
kelseanorris@gmail.com

Training Team Coordinator: Terry Jones,
wolpers4@aol.com

Webmaster: Charlotte Gardner,
ga_sierra_webmaster@yahoo.com

Conservation Campaigns

RAIL Committee:

Jim Dexter, jimdex@aol.com
Meeting: 4th Mon., 6:45 p.m., chapter office

Fresh Water Protections Committee:

Glynn Groszmann, glynn@charter.net
Meetings rotate, please call.

Smart Energy Solutions:

Colleen Kiernan, colleenkiernan@mindspring.com
Meeting: 1st Monday, 7 p.m. chapter office

Cool Cities: *vacant*

Wildlands and Wildlife:

Phil Zinsmeister, pzinsmeister@oglethorpe.edu
*Meeting: 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Location TBA
Committee sometimes skip months. Call first.*

Volunteer Issue Leaders

The Conservation Committee is organized by issues. To get involved in Conservation issues, please contact the Issue Leader of your choice below.

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

Clean Air: Curt Smith, chsmith@speakeasy.net

Coastal: Judy Jennings,
judyjennings@comcast.net

Coastal Marsh: Mark Mosely, msmosely@aol.com

Cumberland: Annette Gelbrich,
apgelbrich@yahoo.com

Factory Farms: Thomas Black,
tblack9@yahoo.com

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

Federal Public Lands: Shirl Parsons,
kparsons@mindspring.com

Historic Places/ Arch. Sites: Brian Thomas,
bthomas@trcsolutions.com

Marine Species/Habitat: Karen Grainey,
karengrainey@bellsouth.net

National Forest Issues: *vacant*

Nuclear Waste: Stacey Kronquest,
stacey@kronquest.com

Okefenokee Swamp: Sam Collier,
scollier@mindspring.com

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

Population: Todd Daniel, todddan@mac.com

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

Savannah Harbor: Judy Jennings,
judyjennings@comcast.net

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

State Lands/Stone Mountain: Larry Winslett,
winfog@windstream.net

Stop I-3: Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

Transportation: Bryan Hager,
bhager@mindspring.com

Waste/Recycling: Larry Winslett,
winfog@windstream.net

Water Sentinels / Adopt-a-Stream:
Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

Georgia Chapter Staff

Director: *vacant*

Administrative Coordinator:
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genie.strickland@sierraclub.org

Development Coordinator:
Gregory Schwartz, 404-607-1262 x.225
gregory.schwartz@sierraclub.org

Program Manager: *vacant*

National Staff

Regional Conservation Recruiter:
Erin Glynn, 404-607-1262 x.223
erin.glynn@sierraclub.org

Standing Meetings

Inner City Outings

Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., Brookhaven Boys & Girls Club, 1330 North Druid Hills Rd., Atlanta.

Local Groups

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://georgia.sierraclub.org/local/>

Centennial Group

Serving Cobb, Cherokee & North Fulton

Chair: Wolfgang Tiedtke,
gacentexcom@gmail.com

Conservation Chair: Joe Sutherland,
suth1e@comcast.net

Outings Chair: Bob Springfield,
bob@bobspringfield.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday, welcome/refreshments 7:00 p.m., program 7:30 p.m.; Life College, 1269 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta. For directions call Wolfgang Tiedtke at 770-973-7820.

Coastal Group

Serving Savannah & surrounding counties

Chair: Steve Willis, snwillis@yahoo.com

Conservation Chair: Judy Jennings,
judyjennings@comcast.net

Outings Chair: Jim Darby,
darbyjim@bellsouth.net

Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 520 E. Washington Ave, Savannah

Greater Gwinnett Group

Serving Gwinnett Co.

Chair: Tom Morrissey, thmorrissey@bellsouth.net

Conservation Chair: Art Sheldon,
a.sheldon@charter.net

Outings Chair: Mirza Balic,
mirza.balic@georgia.sierraclub.org

Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Berkmar High School, 405 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lilburn 30047

LaGrange Group

Serving the LaGrange area

Chair: Dean Rogers, dean@mediamindz.com

Conservation Chair: David Wappler,
david.wappler@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Elizabeth Appleby,
ecappleby@yahoo.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday, 6:30 p.m. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 207 North Greenwood St.

Metro Atlanta Group

Serving Atlanta, Dekalb, & South Fulton

Chair: Nancy Wylie,
nancywylie@mindspring.com

Outings Chair: Martin McConaughy
mcmarty@bellsouth.net

Conservation Chair: Nancy Wylie,
nancywylie@mindspring.com

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 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: Denice Traina,
yboty@aol.com

Outings Chair: Cindy Annis, ctreehuggr@aol.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Unitarian Church on Walton Way, Augusta at 7:30 pm.

Regional Contacts

LeConte Group/Athens & NE Ga.

Joel Eizenstat, jeizenst@uga.edu

Forsyth County

Jim Callison, jimcallison@juno.com

Macon

Fletcher Winston, winston_f@mercer.edu

North Ga. Conservation Group

Larry Winslett, winfog@windstream.net

Valdosta

Brian Day, bjday@valdosta.edu

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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Georgia Chapter Office

743 East College Avenue, Suite B
Decatur, Georgia 30030
404-607-1262 • FAX: 404-876-5260
georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org

Directions to take MARTA to the Sierra Club

office: Our office is an easy 1-2-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 East College Ave side. Once outside, proceed to the right towards Sams Street. 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 B.

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 e-mail list. Just send an e-mail to:

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Your message should read:

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LIST NAMES:

GA-OUTINGS (chapter outings list)

GA-NEWSLETTER-ANNOUNCE (online newsletter updates)

GA-ENERGY-FORUM (Smart Energy Solutions Committee)

GA-RAIL-NEWS (RAIL/Transit Advocacy Committee)

Subscribe to Georgia Chapter Online E-Newsletter at:

http://action.sierraclub.org/CHP_GA_Signup

Visit the Ga. Chapter web page and click on "Local Groups" for info on local groups e-mail lists.

Chapter ExCom Meeting

The next meeting is Saturday, March 20th from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Meetings are open to the membership. For more information, call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x. 221.

Outings and Events

Sierra Club Outings provide a variety of opportunities for people to enjoy the beautiful outdoors. Venture out to explore the world, take a day hike closer to home, or volunteer with Inner City Outings to bring at-risk youth into the wilderness.

The Georgia Sierra Club Outings program offers educational and fun outings across Georgia, led by nationally certified leaders who are also certified in First Aid. These outings are open to members and non-members alike, however, a few outings may require membership, but most do not. There is no charge to participate, although outings leaders may solicit a nominal voluntary donation to support the program.

To find out more about what outings are being offered, please visit our website at <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/outings>.

Have you ever wondered how to become an outings leader? Do you have a special place that you'd like to share with like minded people? Would you like to be part of an outings program that has existed since 1901? Then join us at our next training session. You'll learn the skills you need to lead safe, successful trips.

The next **Outdoor Leader Training 101** will be held Saturday, May 15th, at the Sierra Club office in Decatur. This is the first step to becoming a certified outings leader. You will learn the requirements for leading outings and also receive practical leadership training.

There is no cost for the OLT 101 course. The training course is held only twice a year in the Atlanta area and attendance is limited to 10 people. The training will also include first aid training, which is required for outings leader certification. The cost of the first aid training is \$25, and subject to the availability of funds, the Chapter Outings Committee will reimburse an individual for the cost when they become a certified Sierra Club Outings leader.

The training will be held at the chapter office located at 743 E. College Ave, Suite B, and will run from 8 AM to 4 PM. For additional information or to sign up, please contact Paula Phillips at hide.n.seek@gmail.com

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Don't forget to purchase your Sierra Club tag



See page 17 for more information.



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