



Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet



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Making Connections

By Colleen Kiernan

Thanks to everyone who helped make the John Muir Outings Series a success! Well over 100 people participated and we raised over \$2,000 to support the Georgia Chapter. While I think it is fair to say that everyone who attended learned something new and got outdoors, perhaps the most beneficial thing that came out of the series were the connections people made, with each other and with these special, threatened places.

Several of our long-time leaders came out to share their history and experience with these issues. At the end of the Dawson Forest trip, Alan Toney remarked, "Hey, thanks for making us do this. This place is even prettier than I imagined." Bryan Hager, the Chapter's first Director, brought copies (maybe mimeographs?) of the rally song from the Northern Arc campaign. We all sang it together before we set off, and it was a nice reminder of how all the different tools and skills we use



Colleen Kiernan, Chapter Director

in this work.

Peggy Meredith introduced herself to me, telling me she was the Chapter Membership Chair "oh, 30 years ago or so" and ready to get involved again. Good thing our Sierra Club 101 leader, Sybil Cypress was there and I was able to connect them! (The next Sierra Club 101 is Saturday, June 11th, by the way.)

Several South Carolinians joined us for the Savannah River boat trip, and it was fun introducing two groups from Hilton Head who did not know each other, even though I met them both for the first time that day. The Watsons, Craig and Nita, were on their first Sierra Club anything, having learned about the series from their daughter, who recently went on an inter-

national outing. I certainly hope to see them again.

While things like email, texting, Facebook and LinkedIn make it easier to stay in touch with people, it's important to take the time to actually connect with the people and places around you. I hope you get to do that, too, this summer.

About Georgia Sierran

Advertising is welcomed! See our new, downloadable rate card at http://georgia.sierraclub.org/news/ga_sierran_rate_card.pdf.

Articles: Send materials to: gasierran@gmail.com. Maximum word length: 750 words with one photo. Please include high-resolution digital photos (200 dpi) with your story. Moving? Send address changes to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968. Send changes by email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

The Georgia Sierran (ISSN 1044-824) is published bimonthly by the Sierra Club, Georgia Chapter, 743B East College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030. Periodicals Postage Paid at Atlanta, GA. Subscription fees: \$1.00 annually for chapter members (included with membership dues) or \$12.00 annually for non-members.

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Sierra Club 101



Are you new to the Sierra Club and want to get involved but not 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're doing?

Join us on **Saturday, June 11th** from 10:30 AM to noon for Sierra Club 101, your crash course on the Club, the Georgia Chapter, and our issues. Meet with volunteer leaders and staff at the Sierra Club office at 743B East College Ave., Decatur as we introduce you to our Sierra Club.

Go to georgia.sierraclub.org/sc101 to RSVP or contact Sybil Cypress at gasierraclub101@gmail.com if you have questions.

Be Green, Save Green – Become an E-Subscriber Today!



Did you know that the Georgia Chapter spends roughly 10 percent of its annual budget printing and mailing the *Sierran*? Looking for an easy way to help the chapter – and the environment? Remember that at any time you may "opt out" of receiving the printed *Sierran*. Members who do so will continue to receive every issue in its entirety (in full, brilliant color, no less) – only it will arrive in your inbox, not your mailbox.

If you prefer to continue receiving the printed newsletter, there is no need to do anything. But if you'd like to switch to the electronic edition please contact Genie Strickland at **404-607-1262 x.221** or genie.strickland@sierraclub.org. Our budget – and our trees! – will thank you.

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

Legislative Session Ends with Mixed Results

By Neill Herring

The 2011 General Assembly started in an ice and snow storm in early January. The legislators then gave up until the end of the month making for a late start notable for the relatively low number of bills introduced. A very large freshman class in both the House and Senate contributed to the slowness to action as the new members found their way through a process that is designed to make such understanding as difficult as possible. The fact that the state's revenues are well below levels obtained in the mid-2000s also dampened enthusiasm for action.

Water issues continued to absorb time, and several initiatives saw some action. Four different bills were introduced to regulate interbasin transfers of water, a goal long sought by the Georgia Water Coalition, of which Sierra Club is a founding member, but none of those could get past the resistance of the Chairs of the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees. Those two Chairs, Rep. Lynn Smith and Sen. Ross Tolleason, did manage to pass a bill, SB 122, pushed by the Metro and Georgia Chambers of Commerce that provides a way for local governments and private parties to build and operate water supply and wastewater facilities. This measure was opposed by Sierra Club but narrowly passed the House, by only 2 votes. It will undoubtedly serve to enrich some engineers, consultants and lawyers, but whether or not any water is impounded remains to be seen.

Sen. Pres. Pro Tem Tommie Williams is fascinated by the lumber from logs sunken in south Georgia rivers, and passed a bill several years ago to get access to them. When his logger buddy refused to pay the price set for the timber by the DNR Board nothing happened. This time he tried again with SB 218 which lets the logger set the price. The bill failed in the House thanks to a legislative coalition of rural anglers and urban conservationists, organized by the Club and the state's Riverkeeper groups.



The Club's biggest victory in 2011 was turning back an attempt by the state's road contractors, firms like E.R. Snell and C.W. Matthews, to avoid paying any fines for violating the federal Clean Water Act. Working with Georgia Water Coalition we were able to stop the bill, HB 131, from even reaching the House floor for a vote, and when a similar measure was amended onto another bill in the Senate, it was defeated in an uncontested floor motion thanks to heavy conservationist lobbying.

Solid waste is another perennial issue for the Club, and there were several bills in this area in 2011. HB 274, a repeat bill from Rep. Randy Nix would allow yard waste to be buried in sanitary landfills to increase the tonnage income for the big waste firms. We beat it last year, but this year, thanks to a massive lobbying and contributions effort by Waste Management Inc., it passed. Another waste bill, SB 110, would have repealed a law from 1995 that prohibits large landfills in places that are significant aquifer recharge areas. That bill was stopped in a House subcommittee, and action to stop those landfills is now underway in a number of counties in the major recharge areas.

Energy legislation in 2011 was discouraging, which is not unusual for the Georgia legislature, where the utility companies have long enjoyed levels of

influence that would make ordinary interests blush. SB 160, A bill to legalize campaign contributions by utility monopolies to legislative races passed overwhelmingly, apparently in the hope that votes for Georgia Power's giant nuclear construction rate hike bill, SB 31, of 2009 will be financially rewarded. Rep. Wendell Willard introduced HB 316, a bill to make the board meetings of electric membership cooperatives open to their members and the press. That measure failed to get out of committee, but it did receive a hearing, at which several members of the Cobb EMC delivered forceful testimony. The bill will be eligible for consideration in 2012, an election year. One energy victory was the extension of the state solar tax credit through 2014 with an increase in the annual cap to \$5 million.

Transportation was the "dog that failed to bark" in 2011, despite the chronic need for metro transit funding. House Transportation leader Rep. Donna Sheldon told reporters that the transport funding referenda of 2012, and the project lists that voters will approve, or not, at that time, compose the state's entire future transportation program; "There is no Plan B," said the Dacula Republican.

Thanks to all of you who contacted your legislators. Constituent pressure is the most effective lobbying tool we have.

Water & Energy – What’s the Connection?

By Colleen Kiernan

Did you know that leaving the light switch on is no different than leaving your tap running? Approximately half of all water use in the United States is consumed by the production of energy. Water is used to create steam used to turn the generator, condense that steam again, cool other equipment, prevent coal ash from flying around and it some pollution controls. When you flip the switch, you suck water into the power plants.

How much water are we talking? Nuclear plants are the most water intensive; the two new units at Plant Vogtle are estimated to consume 55-88 million gallons per day (mgd), which doubles its current use to a total of 110-176 mgd. According to the City of Atlanta, the entire consumptive use of the Atlanta Metro Region is 161 mgd. One power plant uses as much water as the entire Metro region?

There are two types of cooling that coal plants use: once-through cooling or cooling towers. Cooling towers are ultimately better for the environment because they allow the water to go back into rivers and lakes at lower temperatures, which is better for aquatic ecosystems. However, cooling towers let much of the water evaporate, which means that it doesn’t get

Plant	Annual Water Use
Bowen	27 mgd
Branch	3 mgd
McDonough	6.34 mgd
Scherer	35 mgd
Wansley	21 mgd
Yates	16 mgd
Total	108.34 mgd

returned to the river or lake at all.

Several of the Georgia coal-fired power plants use cooling towers. Here is a list of them, along with their average annual consumptive water use in mgd.

The Georgia Water Councils are currently meeting all across the state to develop region-specific water plans. Not only do the draft plans designate however much water is being used for

electricity generation currently to electric utilities, the plans assume an additional 1,000 MW of coal or nuclear will be added every year until 2050. This is a huge missed opportunity for our water situation to drive a move toward cleaner, less water-intensive energy.

Energy efficiency has the potential to cost-effectively flat line demand until 2050, and after that, solar and wind can meet most or all of our electricity needs. The most common response is that “solar or wind are too expensive!” but when you consider that the cost of building additional reservoirs on top of all those new power plants, you find that not only is it less expensive, but we leave the planet better for our children and our grandchildren. The best thing we can do for Georgia’s water situation? Flip the switch to efficiency and cancel plans to build more guzzling and polluting power plants.

Court Rules Against Longleaf Coal-fired Power Plant

A Georgia administrative law court handed a victory to opponents of a proposed 1200 megawatt coal-fired power plant in Blakely, Georgia. According to the ruling issued on April 19, the state permit did not sufficiently limit harmful air pollution that will be emitted by the plant.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) must reconsider its permit after the court found flaws in provisions designed to make Longleaf a “minor” source of pollution for toxic air pollutants. EPD had previously determined that the plant would be a “major” source of such pollutants.

EPD’s permit would allow New Jersey-based LS Power to build the largest coal plant in the nation to be classified as a “minor” source of pollution, a strategy that would circumvent the stricter pollution controls required for a “major” source of pollution under the law. EPD defended the permit on the basis that it contained safeguards to ensure that the plant would emit at “minor” source levels. The court found, however, that the permit’s monitoring and reporting scheme could “miss” many tons of toxic air emissions each year, including emissions of known carcinogens like formaldehyde. The court also found

that the permit did not account for toxic air emissions from the entire facility. The court remanded the permit to EPD to address these issues.

The court upheld the permit in other respects, disagreeing with the challengers’ core contention the facility remained a “major” source of toxic air pollutants despite the provisions designed to make it “minor.” The mercury and air toxics rule recently proposed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency observes no distinction between “major” and “minor” coal-fired utilities, holding them all to a common set of standards, including a mercury limit that is sharply lower than the limit in the permit. However, the proposed rule will not become final until November, and Longleaf would have several years to comply with the new standard.

“This is another step on our journey,” said Bobby McLendon, President of Friends of the Chattahoochee. “We need the pollution controls called for by the Clean Air Act in order to protect all our citizens, but especially our children, from being forced to breathe dirty air.”

Thursday May 26th! Support EPA Issuing the Best Mercury Protections

Did you know Georgia is ranked 12th in the nation for mercury emissions, or that Georgia is home to the largest polluting coal plant in the entire country, Plant Scherer in Macon, which has put nearly two thousand pounds of mercury into Georgia's rivers and fish already?

Coal-fired power plants are the largest unregulated source of mercury pollution. Pregnant women and children are at greatest risk from mercury exposure, especially if they consume large amounts of fish and seafood. Exposure to mercury can contribute to severe birth defects, including learning disabilities, delayed onset of walking and talking, and cerebral palsy. Mercury can make its way to our dinner tables via contaminated fish. Once ingested, mercury acts as a potent neurotoxin and can damage the brain and nervous system.

After 20 years of delay, EPA will hold three public hearings on the proposed mercury and air toxics standards, the last of which will be in Atlanta on Thursday, May 26th from 9:00am to 8:00pm at the Sam Nunn Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street SW Atlanta, GA 30303.

The public may preregister to speak at the hearings at a specific time. People also may register in person on the day of the hearing, and will be worked in to openings in the schedule of speakers. To preregister to speak at the hearings, please contact Ms. Pamela Garrett, telephone 919-541-7966 or email garrett.pamela@epa.gov.

Check our website for more details, but plan on a 5:00 rally downtown the evening of May 26th with a star-studded line up!

Georgia Sierran ♣ May/June 2011

AUC Students Attend Power Shift in D.C.



By D'Andre Ball

On behalf of the AUC (Morehouse College, Clark Atlanta University, Spelman College) I want to thank the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club for helping to bring over 120 students to Power Shift 2011 in Washington D.C.

Power Shift is a conference that seeks to train leaders from different walks of life on how they can become part of the fight for a clean energy future. AUC students participated in a vast amount of workshops in regards to building a ground force for clean tech and green job creation to starting campaigns to fight for the right to clean air, water, and healthy food.

Another great thing about Power Shift is that there were statewide breakout sessions, so students from the AUC were able to work with students from Georgia Tech and UGA on how we can influence our elected officials to create more environmentally conscious policies.

On a personal note this was my second Power Shift. I remember at Power Shift 2009 I had a little knowledge of different environmental issues, but I unsure if there was a place for me environmental movement, by the end of the conference I was aware of how climate change effects the African-American community, and also how green job creation can help lift people out of poverty.

This is why we felt it was important

to bring a large delegation to Power Shift again because although many college students are aware of climate change, not all of them are aware of topics like environmental justice, and the emerging green economy. After hearing speeches from Al Gore, Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins, Van Jones, and Lisa Jackson to name a few, students were able to see how broad environmentalism is and that they do have a place in the youth climate movement.

After coming back from Power Shift students who were a little on the fence about attending the conference have already shown an increased interest as to how they can help increase the environmental awareness on campus and also within the West End-Atlanta community.

One thing I remember about Power Shift 2009 is the enormous amount of energy that all the participants had. In the last two years our expectations haven't been met in regards to environmental policies, and it would have been easy for us as young people to give up and become discouraged. After attending Power Shift 2011 I think elected officials realized that the youth climate movement is not going anywhere, and we will be a strong presence for years to come.

D'Andre Ball, class of 2011, is a Political Science major at Morehouse College.

Chapter Develops Draft Woody Biomass Policy

The following draft woody biomass policy was prepared by the Chapter's Energy Committee.

GEORGIA CHAPTER INTERIM POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF WOODY BIOMASS FOR GENERATING ELECTRICITY

The carbon neutrality issue is not sufficiently understood at this point (nor will it be understood sufficiently in the next couple of years) for the Sierra Club to take a stand one way or another on that big piece of the puzzle. However, some issues are better understood and we should take a stand on those, especially considering the huge economic importance of timberlands here in Georgia and the rapid growth of proposed biomass-to-electricity plants in the state

Consider supporting (or at least not objecting) under the following conditions:

- No removal of timber, standing or downed, from National Forests or other public lands for woody biomass electricity generation.
- No public subsidy, federal, state or local, for woody biomass to electricity projects.
- Woody biomass for generating electricity must be harvested from private forests that are actively and sustainably managed according to best management practices (to be identified). Power plants must have in place a verification system to ensure this is so.
- Power plants that use woody biomass must be efficient in conversion of wood to energy- preferably combined heat and power (CHP) facilities.
- Woody biomass burned must not be co-fired with other fuels that contain toxic material (i.e. municipal solid

waste, sewage sludge, tires, hazardous waste, etc).

- Ash that results from the burning of woody biomass for electricity generation must not be mixed with ash from fossil fuel combustion, and must be returned to the soil in accordance with permit conditions established to enhance soil quality, and not degrade water or air quality.

- Power plants that use woody biomass must control emissions to the air, water and land in full compliance with state and federal laws and rules. While this may be an obvious point, it is important to recognize that some of the biomass plants are utilizing old boilers and ancillary equipment located at industrial locations that, when restarted, may not meet minimum environmental standards.

Membership

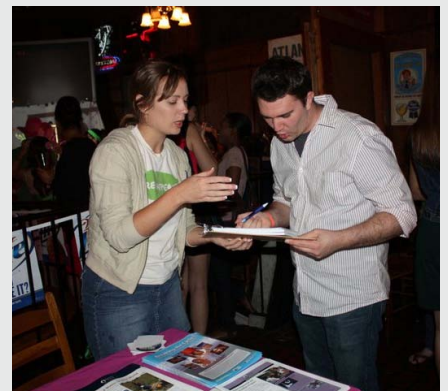
Save the Date for the 2011 Chapter Retreat!

Please join us for the Georgia Chapter Sierra Club 2011 Retreat, Sept. 30 – Oct. 2. This year's retreat will be held on beautiful Jekyll Island, the island that has been preserved for the people of Georgia. We'll explore the island, learning about the birds, sea turtles and Georgia's State Mammal, the Right Whale, all of which rely on this island and the sea offshore for their survival. There will be plenty of opportunities to go dolphin watching, biking, kayaking, birding, kite-flying, etc. We also have a variety of workshops planned where you can learn more about how you, as a Sierra Club member, can become more involved in the variety of Conservation initiatives of the Georgia Chapter. Go to www.georgia.sierraclub.org/retreat to see the variety of housing options available, and register. You won't want to miss this exciting event!

Sierrans Focus on Women's Health Issues at Green & Pink Party

The Green & Pink Party, held April 8th at Manuel's Tavern, draws attention to the connections between women's health and the environment. This year's event was packed with Emory students, representatives from Planned Parenthood and the Feminist Women's Health Center, other enviro supporters, and even a few folks from the state legislature! Everyone was dressed up in funky green & pink costumes (there was a contest & photo booth). Attendees loved the endangered species condoms Sierra Club volunteers passed out, plus assorted other goodies. Dozens of supporters also signed postcards supporting a strong mercury rule.

- Samantha Sayer



The New Kids in Town: Urban Foxes and Coyotes

By **Melanie Furr, AWARE Volunteer**

I saw a red fox in my Tucker neighborhood one cool, misty morning recently. As I slowed my car to have a look, it looked straight at me for a moment before darting into the woods at a nearby park. I knew that foxes live in my neighborhood, as they do in neighborhoods throughout Georgia, but I had never seen one before, so I was excited to witness such a beautiful creature near my home. It made me thankful that there is still enough space where I live for us to coexist.

Not everyone, however, is so enthusiastic about seeing a predator in their neighborhood. AWARE (Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort) gets hundreds of calls every year from people who are concerned or frightened because they have seen a fox or a coyote in their neighborhood. Habitat destruction has forced foxes and coyotes to become urban dwellers, and they inevitably make an appearance from time to time. However, when people understand the normal behaviors of foxes and coyotes and do their part to keep these animals at a safe distance, they have nothing to fear. In fact, it is possible to coexist peacefully with foxes and coyotes and even to enjoy having them in our midst.

What are some distinctive markings of foxes and coyotes?

While these two members of the canine family may appear similar to the untrained eye, there are a few quick and easy ways to distinguish a fox from a coyote. First, coyotes are much larger than foxes. Coyotes stand about two feet tall at the shoulder, measure about 3 feet in length (not including the tail), and weigh between 15 and 45 pounds. Foxes typically stand about 15 inches tall, measure a little more than 3 feet in total length (including the tail), and weigh between 8 and 14 pounds. The red fox, which is much more common in Georgia than its cousin the gray fox, is also easily distinguished by its reddish color, white chest, white-tipped tail, and black paws. Coyotes vary in color from light gray or tan to a dark gray-brown, have a mottled fur pattern, and usually have a black-tipped tail.

Are foxes and coyotes dangerous?

Foxes and coyotes have an instinctive fear of humans, and they typically will not come within 30 feet of a person. While urban foxes and coyotes tend to be nocturnal (in order to avoid encounters with people), seeing a fox or a coyote during the daytime is not unusual, especially in the spring and summer months when they have young to feed. Fox and coyote attacks

on humans are extremely rare, however. Under normal circumstances, these animals will run from humans; they will not attack unless they are cornered or they perceive a threat to their young. Thus, our fear of these animals is misplaced.

Will foxes and coyotes attack pets and can they transmit rabies?

Dogs and cats are not the chosen prey of foxes and coyotes. In fact, normally neither of these species will bother a dog at all. Unless the dog picks a fight, both foxes and coyotes typically would rather befriend a dog and share his food than fight him. Foxes and coyotes will occasionally take a free-roaming cat, but not nearly as frequently as people think. When they do kill a cat, they are often not killing it for food, but rather to eliminate a competitor. However, the truth is that the urban environment is a dangerous place for a cat—more so because of

dangers posed by other cats, dogs, cars, and exposure to parasites and diseases than because of predation by foxes or coyotes. The only way to ensure a cat's safety is either to keep it inside or to keep it in a controlled outdoor environment like a cat enclosure.

Both foxes and coyotes can carry rabies, but the disease is uncommon in these species, especially coyotes. The best way to protect yourself from a sick fox or coyote is to call your local animal control services if you see an animal that appears sick or is acting oddly or aggressively. The best way to protect your pets is to keep their vaccinations current. Most of the time, foxes and coyotes don't pose any threat to people or to pets. However, if you or your pet is bitten by a fox, coyote, or any other wild animal, you should seek treatment immediately.

What are some ways to reduce the chance of conflicts with foxes and coyotes?

Don't feed foxes or coyotes, either deliberately or inadvertently by leaving pet food outside or trash cans uncovered. Foxes and coyotes that receive food from humans begin to lose their natural fear of them, while animals that rely on natural food sources maintain that fear. Keep small children and small pets safe by providing supervision when they are outside. If you must leave your pets outside alone, make sure to provide them with a secure shelter and a fenced area (6 ft. or taller is recommended). Close off crawl spaces to discourage foxes and coyotes from using these spaces for resting or raising their young, and cut back brush areas, which attract prey and provide cover for predators. Finally, if you see a fox or a coyote on your property, let it know who's boss—wave your arms, make noise, throw a small stone or tennis ball, squirt it with a hose. Enjoy these animals from a distance, and you'll be doing them a favor. Your diligence will protect you both.



For more information: call AWARE at (678) 418-1111 or visit our website at www.awareone.org.

Inner City Outings

New Year, New Trips

By Karla Zientowski

The Atlanta chapter of the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings started out 2011 exploring several spectacular treasures in their own backyard. While January was full of snow, ice and staying indoors, the warmer weather in February drew both kids and volunteers outside, with two of the groups having taken trips to some unique spots around Atlanta, while a third embraced the snow and ice and embarked on a more unusual ICO trip.

The Brookhaven Boys and Girls Club kicked off 2011 with a trip to Arabia Mountain. Upon arriving, the kids watched a quick movie about the history of Arabia Mountain and then were greeted by their personal guide for the day, Park Ranger Charles Monroe. Armed with knowledge from the video and some quick lessons from Ranger Monroe, the kids started their trek up the mountain with plenty of knowledge of the flora and fauna on the mountain. Quick to put their new knowledge to use, the kids had lots of fun (and a little friendly competition) trying to identify the plants and wildlife they had just been briefed on. The high point of the hike however, occurred when the group came across a lake with a small waterfall feeding into it. Playing around the water and climbing the boulder rocks was a nice break for the kids and all that could get them to move on was the promise of more good things to come.

After hiking down the mountain, the group headed over to AWARE (Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort), a group that rehabilitates wild animals found by citizens around the state. There, the group got to meet two owls, a crow, young possum and a shy bobcat. The group wrapped up the trip with a nature scavenger hunt at the bottom of the mountain and headed home full of new knowledge, experiences and a few new furry friends that they wished well.

The Parkside Elementary School group kicked off their year with a trip slightly closer to home, taking a hike

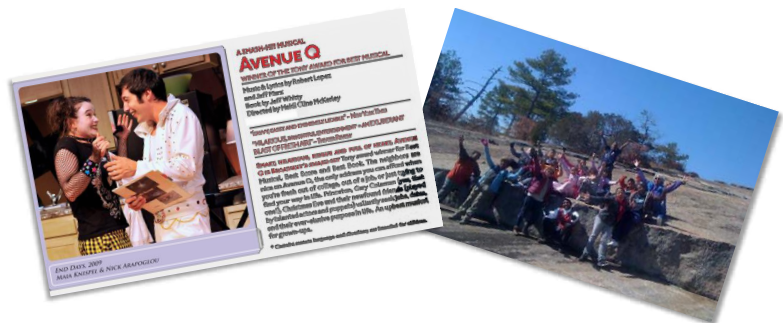
through the city on the Atlanta Belt-Line. A change from the usual hike-in-the-mountains type trip, the kids were exposed to a cool project taking place right in their own backyard. It was a two-hour trek from the Martin Luther King Center to Piedmont Park, but the kids were entertained along the way, stopping at MLK's birth house, interesting sculptures and natural works of art along the way. It was a long hike, but they kids enjoyed seeing the city from a different view.

The Warren Boys and Girls Club started their year off by embracing the harsh weather and taking a trip to the Cooler Ice Rink in Alpharetta. Even

though most of the girls have never been ice skating before and were slightly intimidated, by the end of the trip none of them wanted to leave the ice!

With three great trips under its belt this year, the Atlanta ICO chapter is looking to have a great year and is hoping to top the 22 trips the group went on in 2010. 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 or more information. The organizations meets once a month, and volunteer recruitment occurs twice a year.

Atlanta Inner City Outings is Proud to Present **Avenue Q at Horizon Theatre** For the Annual Benefit Performance Fundraiser *Tuesday, May 17th, 2011*



Atlanta Inner City Outings, ICO, will be hosting its annual benefit show at Horizon Theatre Company for the production of Avenue Q* on Tuesday May 17th, 2011 at 8pm. All proceeds for Horizon Theatre's production of Avenue Q that evening will go to providing opportunities for urban youth to explore, enjoy, and protect the natural world.

Tickets are \$20 with all proceeds going to Atlanta Inner City Outings. Tickets may be purchased online at www.eventbrite.com/event/1577254611 or purchased through a volunteer and picked up at Will Call the night of the event.

Please contact Marissa Maldonado at 770.289.6761 or email at mmaldonado@pivotal.us.com for any inquiries.

Avenue Q contains mature language and adult situations not intended for children.



ATLANTA
Inner City Outings
SIERRA CLUB



Thank You for Supporting Your Georgia Chapter!

Thank you to everyone who contributed during the March Window or went on a John Muir outing! The Georgia Chapter is a unique organization because we don't accept corporate donations from recognized major polluters or government entities. Individual donors like you contribute about 65% of our total budget. And with only two staff and an army of volunteers, your contributions go a long way!

If you meant to send a check in but your return envelope is buried with no hope of it resurfacing, you can donate online at www.georgia.sierraclub.org/donate. YOU are the Sierra Club!

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

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- ☐ Sign me up to receive the Georgia Chapter E-Newsletter *Footnotes*.
- ☐ Please do not publish my name as a donor.
- ☐ Please send more info on how to give an environmental bequest!

Make check payable to Georgia Chapter Sierra Club

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 colleen.kiernan@sierraclub.org or 404-607-1262 ext. 224.

Donation Options

Monthly Giving Program

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Gift Duration:

☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

Continuous: ☐ Yes ☐ No

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(Not AMEX)

CVV Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ Mastercard

One-Time Donation

Gift Amount:

☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$_____

Donate Online Now!

Visit the Georgia Chapter donation webpage at
http://action.sierraclub.org/ga_donate

Upcoming Meetings & Programs

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., program begins at 7:30.

May 10: Regular Meeting

Scott Petersen hopes to debut a film about the long closed Atlanta Prison Farm—formerly a federal prison farm. It was used for growing produce for these prisons. He has been working for several years to get this as a public park. With green space an issue in various places, this area could be a recreation Mecca.

Scott is a Registered Nurse, a Park Pride board member, DeKalb County Green Space board member, Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites staff - organized Georgia Heritage Association as a 501c3, Save the South River Coalition and other urban environmental efforts.

May 14: Atlanta Prison Farm Hike

Location: DeKalb County south of East Atlanta

Rated: 5 mi. / 2 mph / 100' elev. gain

Description: We will hike to Entrenchment Creek, which has Civil War connections, and hope to see the great blue heron and kingfisher at the larger lake. Limit: 12. Contact: Gordon Draves, 404 766-3456, nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.com

May 21: Nature Walk at GPC Native Plant Garden

Location: Georgia Perimeter College, Decatur Campus on Panthersville Rd.

Rated: 2 mi. / 1 mph / 30' elev. gain

Description: We will walk through the garden, then for those adventurous hikers we will go through the Privet Jungle to Doolittle Creek and to the confluence with the South River. Limit: 12. Contact: Gordon Draves, 404 766-3456, nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.com.

June 14: Regular Meeting

Walt Kellar, a project manager and amateur beekeeper, has been very active in the Decatur community and recently helped create a local community garden in the Great Lakes/Clairemont neighborhood. He will be discussing various topics about establishing such gardens, reclaiming unused city land for productive and environmentally positive uses, organic gardening increases awareness of the environment and may include organic beekeeping.

June 18: Adopt-A-Stream in Medlock Park

We'll be doing biologic monitoring and we need a lot of eyes to find the critters in Peachtree Creek. During the last monitoring on March 12, five participants found many red worms, several insect larvae, a dozen clams with one the size of a quarter, and a crayfish. More details at: <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/atlanta/>

June 18: Hike from Medlock Park to Mason Mill Park

Location: DeKalb County north of Decatur

Rated: 5 mi. / 2 mph / 500' elev. gain

Description: We will hike from the Adopt-A-Stream site along Peachtree Creek, on Path towards Mason Mill Park, but then top the ridge, so strenuous at times, go along the creek, to a beach (remember your swimsuit), then along the railroad tracks. Limit: 12. Contact: Gordon Draves, 404 766-3456, nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.com

Jul 12: Annual Picnic in Candler Park

For more information stay tuned or see <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/atlanta/>

Meeting Location: Meeting Location: Unless otherwise indicated, 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 East Lake Dr. From MARTA's East Lake station, it's a 15 minute walk northeast along East Lake Dr. MARTA Bus 2 may be running again between North Avenue and Decatur stations on Ponce de Leon.

Atlanta's Old Prison Farm Could be Reborn as Green Space

By Scott Petersen

The long closed Atlanta Prison Farm is a major green space opportunity, over 300 acres, owned by the city outside of the city limits in south DeKalb County. It has two lakes and enough land for a variety of green uses. Another 112 acres of public land adjoins it to the east that has been saved, along with approximately 1200 acres to the south. Nearby Constitution Lakes Natural County Park has been saved, also. Thus, this area is a key parcel to create the largest green space inside I-285. The local governments have come close to saving this place in the recent past, but egos of the politicians got in the way. Now that set of folks has gone, we can start to save this beautiful large pastoral area. It is close by to East Atlanta, situated between Moreland Avenue and Bouldercrest Road with Key Road running between them and through the farm. This green space area is larger than Piedmont Park, Grant Park and Perkinson Park combined. Let's think big Sierra Club!! Chapter Director Colleen Kiernan has toured the area on her bike. This project is important; one the land is owned by local governments but has been abused, with environmental justice concerns.

This area is visited every weekend and is an informal park at present. This area could be a cultural use area as drums, bag pipes and other primitive instruments could be played without bothering the neighborhood. Other activities possible: growing gardens; cricket, soccer, flag ball fields could share in a great demand in the area. This project is balanced in the activists' favor, no private property rights to bump into. Help change poor public misuse and abuse issues into a great park.

Metro Atlanta Group

Atlantans Attend 2011 Confluence Conference

By Larry Kloet

Nancy Wylie, Elizabeth Knowlton, and I attended the State-wide Confluence 2011 Adopt-A-Stream Conference held at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. This is the third Annual Conference and is coordinated by the Non-point Source Program of the Watershed Protection Branch of Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Adopt-A-Stream is a federally funded program designed to get citizens involved in protecting and cleaning up streams. Several hundred participants from around Georgia attended Confluence. Participants included government officials, environmental organizations, and citizens actively engaged in or interested in Adopt-A-Stream activities. Adopt-A-Stream volunteers from the Centennial, Gwinnett, and Savannah River Groups of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club were also at the Conference.

The keynote address was provided by Michael Beach, Associate Director for Healthy Water, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He discussed the water caused disease problems around the world and differentiated the problems of poor countries and well-off countries. Back at the beginning of the 20th Century, the US faced the same problems as poor countries are now facing, which relates to drinking contaminated water and poor sanitation practices. Today, the problems facing the US and other well-off countries are much different. These deal with diseases contracted by swimming, diseases originating from cooling systems (i.e. Legionnaire's disease), and diseases caused by eating food that has come into contact with contaminated water.

The remainder of the morning program split into various sessions including nutrient testing, macroinvertebrates (i.e. water creatures) identification, landscaping to improve water quality, making your own bacterial water sampler and incubator, and sessions involving a discussion of the status of Georgia's waters in meeting federally mandated criteria, and how the federal Clean Water Act got to where it is today.

The afternoon program also split into five different sessions. These included Watershed Planning, Visual Monitoring, and Stream Bank Restoration. I attended the session on Watershed Planning. The watershed discussed was the Flat Creek Basin, which incorporates Peachtree City and part of Tyrone. The Group involved with this is from a high school and monitors five stations, with data going back to early 2004. One of the objectives of the workshop was to look at the data and decipher where there may be problems with water quality. Then look at a land use map to possibly identify the source of these problems. The final part of the session included a discussion of how the monitoring Group was able to identify the source of some of these problems and foster changes to resolve these issues.

LaGrange Group

LaGrange Group Update

The LaGrange group continues its 3 fold focus on meetings, projects and field trips.

Our meetings serve the purpose of better educating Sierra Club members as well as any community members interested in environmentally related topics and issues. In March, Chapter Director Colleen Kiernan presented an informative and thought provoking power point/discussion concerning Electricity in Georgia.

Spring has presented several opportunities for service in our community. In March we had a team participate in the West Point Lake Mega Clean Up, a local annual effort to clean up our lake. This year the push was to recruit 1000 volunteers to prepare for a big bass fishing tournament to take place in May.



In April, we had a team participate in the Great American Clean Up, organized by Keep Troup Beautiful. Rather than doing roadside litter pick up, we opted to spruce up the very unsightly yard of a local women's shelter.

In February lifetime Sierra Club member Stephen Johnson led a bird walk at West Point Lake. The most exciting sightings were loons and a bald eagle.

-Laura Breyfogle



Upcoming Meetings

May 17: Monthly Meeting at St. Mark's Episcopal Church at 207 N. Greenwood St. in LaGrange. Welcome/refreshments 6:30-7 and program 7-8. Troup County Commission Chair Ricky Wolfe will lead presentation with opportunity for attendees to voice concerns about local issues.

Greater Gwinnett Group Update

Spring is here. I know this for two reasons- my black car is now a yellow-green reminiscent of 60s era carpet and my sinuses are telling me they need major decongestants. On the other hand, my brain is telling that warm weather is here and this is the primo environmental time of the year. Up here in Gwinnett, we have had amazing programs and activities that is just begging to be told.

Our March meeting centered around the challenges and opportunities of EVs- electric vehicles. Who knew that plugging in a million EVs would not be an issue for power generators as they can accommodate the demand with current generating capacity? Our May meeting hosted representatives from Gwinnett County's Stormwater Utility Program. The water conservation presentation focused on leak detection and repair, installing water-efficient fixtures, and how to increase the amount of water saved inside and outside the home. In addition, participants will learn about Gwinnett's toilet rebate program and free low-flow

retrofit kits for residents living in older homes. I can't begin to tell you about the excitement level in the room as our members are seeking any way they can find to save money.

On Wednesday, April 20, we were at Camp Creek Elementary in Lilburn for our annual tree planting. The kids were amazing and all had a great time. Our stream monitoring continues as we had our first warm day of the year. That cool stream water felt great. Speaking of stream monitoring, Brian Sterner of the Gwinnett Environment and Heritage Center and Gwinnett County Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator, who will be speaking about the AAS program. Dr. Michael Beach will present our data collected over the last three years and discuss the implications.

Spring has sprung and we in Gwinnett have been up in the air with all the activities and events and our annual picnic is just around the corner but I'll tell you about that next time.

- Dan Friedman

Gwinnett Group Celebrates Milestones



Turning two or three is a really big deal for a child and their parents. And it's also a really big deal for the Greater Gwinnett Group. While the group has been around since the late 80's, in April we held our 2nd Annual Earth Day tree planting and recently celebrated the third anniversary of our Adopt-a-Stream monitoring at Suwanee Creek. These are significant milestones for our group and demonstrate that an active environmental tradition has been established by the Sierra Club in Gwinnett.

This year's Earth Day activities continued our pattern of outreach to today's youth with a tree planting at a Gwinnett public school with Camp Creek Elementary School in Lilburn being the lucky recipient in 2011. Last year, our Earth Day planting was at Chattahoochee Elementary School in Duluth. Thanks go out to Diane Dotson at Camp Creek for her guidance and enthusiastic support of this event.

For the third straight year, we also celebrated our Adopt-a-Stream monitoring of Suwanee with a picnic at the Suwanee Creek Greenway following the April monitoring event. It is a busy stretch of the Greenway trail that courses by our monitoring site. This provides us with a great opportunity to interact with joggers, walkers, and cyclists that stop and ask what we are doing and just why is someone tethered in the creek in hip waders. Naturally, a healthy meal always caps off this event.

If you are interested in becoming involved in activities like these in Gwinnett, please join us. You will be glad you did and your community will become a greener place because of you.

- Tom Morrissey

Gwinnett Group Recognizes Norcross for Sustainability Efforts



In March, Greater Gwinnett Group Chair Tom Morrissey presented a certificate of appreciation to Norcross Mayor Bucky Johnson, the City Council, and Sustainable Norcross founder Connie Weathers, for their efforts to make Norcross a greener and more sustainable city.

River Rendezvous Planned for May

On May 14, the Centennial Group will host River Rendezvous with the Cobb County Water Department. River Rendezvous is an annual event that looks at water quality at 30 sites along Rottenwood Creek in Cobb County.

Volunteers will collect samples for lab analysis, perform water quality testing and habitat surveys, and clean litter from the creek. In addition, we often provide other valuable services. For example, at previous events, volunteers have been integral in finding and reporting active sewer leaks.

We are looking for volunteers who want to have fun and be outdoors while donating their time to a good cause! We meet up at the water department at 8am for a briefing before heading out to the sites.

Afterwards, join us for a lunch cookout. The Centennial Group will provide hotdogs and hamburgers as well as vegetarian options, and volunteers are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

This is a fun event for all ages. No experience in water testing is necessary, just come prepared to be outdoors!

Contact either Ina Allison (allison@LOMA.org) or Carina O'Bara (carina_do@yahoo.com) regarding questions or to RSVP.

March Hike to Arabia Mountain

On March 19, outings leader Bob Springfield and geologist Carina O'Bara led a hike to Arabia Mountain.

The hike began with Carina reading the history of the Arabia Mountain area written by Arabia Mountain volunteer Tom Smith.

During the hike, we stopped several times to look for geocaches. Each geocache contained a brief history about the immediate area. After signing the guest book, we left a Sierra Club button in each one.

Throughout the hike, Carina spoke about the geology and pointed out interesting features including pop-ups. Hikers also enjoyed looking at the quarrying that took place in the area many years ago. Many rare flowers were in bloom all over the mountain provided a great colorful background.

The great weather was definitely in our favor and everyone on the hike had a wonderful time.

Thanks to Arabia Mountain volunteer Tom Smith for all his help planning the hike.

- Carina O'Bara



Find us on Facebook - Please visit our new Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/CentennialSierraClub>, where you can see some of the great pictures from this outing.

Centennial Group Tables at Kennesaw State University



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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

Todd Daniel, 678-567-2052, todddan@mac.com
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J. Michael Walls, 404-643-5283,
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At-Large Elected Member

Appointed Officers & Chairs

Secretary: Todd Daniel, todddan@mac.com

Treasurer: Tom Neff, tsneff2003@yahoo.com

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Inner City Outings: Allison Williams,
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edehlert@bellsouth.net

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

Training Team Coordinator: *vacant*

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

Smart Energy Solutions:

Mike Walls, mwalls@ellijay.com
Meeting: 1st Monday, 7 p.m. chapter office

Cool Cities: *vacant*

Wildlands and Wildlife:

Mike Murdock, murdock1@mindspring.com
Meeting: 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Location TBA
Committee sometimes skip months. E-mail 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: *vacant*

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 Port: 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: David Emory,
david.emory@gmail.com

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

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

Georgia Chapter Staff

Chapter Director:

Colleen Kiernan, 404-607-1262 x.224
colleen.kiernan@sierraclub.org

Administrative Coordinator:

Genie Strickland, 404-607-1262 x.221
genie.strickland@sierraclub.org

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., Chapter Office

Fundraising Committee

Third Wednesday of the month. Contact Erin Wetty
at ewetty@seyfarth.com for more info

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

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: Steve Wagner,
sjwgnr@hotmail.com

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

Greater Gwinnett Group

Serving Gwinnett Co.

Chair: Tom Morrissey, thmorrisey@bellsouth.net

Conservation Chair: Beth Remmes,
bremmes@hotmail.com

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

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

LaGrange Group

Serving the LaGrange area

Chair: Laura Breyfogle, breyfogle@charter.net

Conservation Chair: Nancy Green,
mngreen@wirelesshometown.com

Outings Chair: Elizabeth Appleby,
ecappleby@yahoo.com

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

Metro Atlanta Group

Serving Atlanta, Dekalb, & South Fulton

Chair: Gordon Draves,
nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.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.

Terry Jones, wolpers4@aol.com

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:

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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 Sat., May. 21st at Tybee Elementary School, Tybee Island, GA. Meetings are open to the membership. For more information, call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x. 221.



PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

Outings & Events

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

Friday, May 6

Vickery Creek Trail

Location: Roswell, GA

Rated: { 4 miles / 2 to 3 mph / 500 ft elev gain }

Description: Come enjoy spring flowers on a hike in Vickery Creek, a unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Vickery Creek is located in downtown Roswell, so you do not need to make a long drive to enjoy this hike. After hiking we will explore the old mill ruins. Limit 15. Contact Susan Caster at Susan.Caster@gmail.com or call 770-649-0061

Monday, May 9

Gold Branch Hike

Location: Roswell, GA

Rated: { 4 miles / 2 to 3 mph / 500 ft elev gain }

Description: Come hike in Gold Branch, a unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. This is a wonderful trail along the Chattahoochee River at Bull Sluice about Morgan Falls Dam. Limit 15. Contact Susan Caster at Susan.Caster@gmail.com or call 770-649-0061.

Saturday, May 14

Tray Mountain from Unicoi Gap on the AT

Location: Blairsville, GA

Rated: { 11 miles / 2 to 3 mph / 3500 ft elev gain }

Description: Round trip hike on the Section 5 of the AT from Unicoi Gap to Tray Mtn, the 2nd highest point on the Georgia Appalachian Trail. Ascend 1017 feet in 1.3 miles to top of Rocky

MT with views south including Mt. Yonah. Descend 1020 feet in 2.7 miles to Indian Grave Gap. Ascend 1430 feet in 1.2 miles to Tray Mtn with excellent north and south views - (altitude: 4,430 feet). Lunch on Tray Mtn, then return hike to Unicoi Gap. We will take a moderate 2 mph pace on the uphill portions. Approx Hiking time 5.5 hours, lunch 1/2 hour. LIMIT: 8 - CONTACT: Lee Graham at lga@mindspring.com or c: 404-202-9065 Morgan Falls Dam. Limit 15. Contact Susan Caster at Susan.Caster@gmail.com or call 770-649-0061.

Saturday, May 14 - Sunday, May 15

Panther Creek Beginner Backpacking

Location: Clarkesville, GA

Rated: { 7 miles / 1 to 2 mph / 800 ft elev gain }

Description: If you have ever said, "Someday, I really want to try backpacking." Well now is the time. Join me on this beginner backpacking trip for first time backpackers. We will hike along the scenic Panthers Creek trail for 3.5 miles ending at the falls. About 2.5 - 3 miles in we will look for a good spot to set up camp. The falls are only about another 0.5 mile ahead so we can take a nice dip to cool off. Along the hike and at camp we will spend a lot of time going over basic backpacking skills. There will also be ample time for open discussion so you can learn everything you wanted to know about backpacking but were afraid to ask. Stoves and water filters will be provided so you do not have weight your pack down. If you are not sure what you need to pack I can help you with pre-trip planning. For hikers who do not have backpacking equipment or just want to try it a time or two before making a big commitment, REI has everything you will need for rent. Panther Creek recreation area is located about 2 hours north of Atlanta just off highway 441... LIMIT: 10. CONTACT: Cathy at sonnyandcathy-black@gmail.com or 706-284-0230