



Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet



Get Outdoors!
Outings Focus: Pages 8 - 15



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What Inspires You to Get Outside?

By Colleen Kiernan

For me, sometimes it's a need to escape, relax and recharge. Other times, the first days of warm weather and daylight savings time have me waking up early and itching to shake off winter. Other times it is forces beyond my control. This time, it's my friend Sara.

Sara and I met on the campaign trail in 2002, when she was Congressman David Scott's right hand woman. We hit it off right away, as we both loved politics, weekend road trips to Tybee and watching Ali G. She reminded me a lot of my best friend from high school. A couple years later she met a great guy and moved to DC to be with him, but our lives continued on a similar path when we both enrolled in Masters of City Planning programs, she at the University of Maryland, me at Georgia Tech.

When I think of my "outdoorsy" friends, Sara does not immediately come to mind, as I've spent more time with her in heels than any other footwear. So I was a little surprised when recently told me that hiking the Appalachian Trail was on her bucket list, and she wanted to start in Georgia. And she wanted me to be her partner in crime.

She first suggested that we could do the entire Georgia segment in less than a week. "It's 80 miles, we can do 20 miles a day, right? Four days?" Sara has never been backpacking. I'm not entirely sure she's ever been car camping. I do know that she kind of panicked when I added "trowel" to our packing list.

After I leveled the lofty goal to 40 miles in four days, I started getting excited. We're going to start at Vogel Park and



Colleen Kiernan, Chapter Director

head South. We'll spend the last night at the Len Foote Hike Inn. Genius! We'll take hot showers, eat real food and sleep in beds on our last night.

I challenge you to make your own plans to get outside, if not for a big trip like a segment of the AT, spend an afternoon at state park you've never been to, or set out to discover somewhere in your neighborhood that is a easy spot for enjoying nature's beauty. We've tried to make it easy for you this April with the John Muir Outings Series. We have four great trips planned that will help you explore, enjoy and protect the planet. Hope to see you out there!

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

Georgians Join Thousands in Washington to Demand Action on Climate Change

By Jeremy Cherson

The clock is winding down on what could be America's finest hour. The opportunity to bring atmospheric carbon down to 350 parts per million – the level scientists say is a safe level for our climate is rapidly fading. Bold and visionary leadership is the prescription for the climate crisis. Sadly, our prescription has not been filled. A new grassroots movement has risen to demand America's leadership as the conscience of the world. On February 17th I joined nearly 50,000 citizens in Washington, DC to deliver a resounding message – President Obama, the time for talk has passed!

Mr. President, when you came to Atlanta many of my friends greeted you with a simple message. Reject the Keystone XL Pipeline and live up to the bold nature of your statements. Follow through with your rhetoric on climate change policy. Perhaps 50 people in Atlanta weren't enough, how about 50,000? Next time I can guarantee double or greater. Our numbers will continue to grow and our demands will not yield.

Actionable solutions exist to prevent the worst effects of climate change. I went to Washington in February to demand action on our most pressing issue. Over 150 supporters from Georgia joined me for the momentous occasion. More than anything, this rally served to galvanize the ranks; connect climate activists from around the country to forge friendship and unity.

The Keystone XL pipeline carrying the dirtiest fuel known to man is only one piece of the problem. Years of delay on developing our cities' public transit infrastructure and high-speed rail will leave our cities and nation unprepared to compete on the global stage. Con-Georgia Sierran 🌱 April/May/June 2013



The Georgia delegation was easily identified by the green beanies!

serving and protecting public lands not only mitigates climate change but also guarantees economic prosperity for rural communities. This is why I traveled over 20 hours in a 48-hour period.

Everyone showed up to this rally with a heavy sense of purpose. I befriended a woman who simply wanted her grandchildren to have the same opportunities as she did. Another, was passionate about how the world's farmers and farmlands will be affected by an increased droughts and heat waves. I rode with students from Valdosta State University who are pushing for change on their own campus. All the faces I met and stories I heard left me inspired and motivated.

During the rally our Native American brothers and sisters from Alberta, Canada and the United States spoke of the need for unity amongst nations. Their plea brought me to tears! They implored us to embrace one another in this struggle for the right of mother earth—the right of all her creations to exist in harmony. You see, in their tradition ev-

ery blade of grass has a spirit, every rock, every animal – they are all sacred. We heard from Bill McKibben of 350.org who stressed the importance of engaging our communities on climate change and building on a genuine grassroots movement. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune talked of his little girl and of the world he hopes she can grow up in. A world where our water is clean, our air healthy, and our global climate is stable once more. Brune spoke of many ideals and values even the most conservative republican can aspire to.

The rally swept through downtown DC, ultimately taking us to the gates of the White House. We arrived right on the doorstep of President Obama, making clear our intention to hold him accountable. Now, our job is not done now that the rally is over. In fact, the real work has just begun. Upon returning home I have committed to giving this fight all I got. This moment has activated me. I am committed to educating a new gen-

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20% by 2020: A Roadmap for Georgia's Clean Energy Future

By Seth Gunning

A battle over the health of Georgia's families, environment, and future economy has just kicked off at the Georgia Public Service Commission. Georgia Power has filed its tri-annual Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which lays out the company's 20-year vision for power generation in Georgia. The Sierra Club is intervening in the case to ensure their plan includes increases in renewable energy and energy efficiency and decreases in the dirty fossil fuels that pollute our air, water, and economy.

Your work as a Sierra Club member and supporter helped us secure new EPA safeguards to protect our communities from mercury and other toxic heavy metals from coal plant smoke stacks. Due in part to these new safeguards, outdated coal plants are struggling to stay competitive with the plummeting costs of clean energy. In this year's 2013 IRP filing, Georgia Power admits that cheap coal is a thing of the past, and has made the wise decision to phase out three of the company's nine aging, dirty, and expensive coal-fired power plants. The decision will prevent hundreds of premature deaths and thousands of asthma attacks in our state every year, and improve the health of our families, environment, and economy.

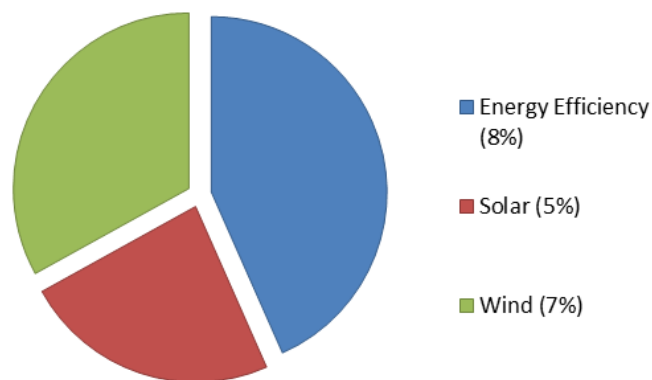
Just a few years ago coal-fired power accounted for as much as 67% of the electricity Georgia Power produced, but today, Georgia Power is less than 40%. Unfortunately, though, Georgia Power's 20-year energy plan has NO vision for increased clean energy or energy efficiency. In fact, Georgia Power CEO Paul Bowers recently admitted that if left up to him, clean, renewable energy would be only a "sliver" (2-4%) of the Company's energy mix 50 years from today, in 2062!

Instead, the company is choosing to make big bets on out-of-state natural gas power. Those following energy news over the past year are likely aware that natural gas prices have plummeted to historically low levels, in part due to the expanded use of an extraction process called hydraulic fracturing (fracking). The fracking process pumps a myriad of undisclosed chemicals into bedrock to force the release of trapped natural gas, and in the process can contaminate drinking water and releases methane gas that is 25 times more effective than CO₂ at trapping heat in Earth's atmosphere. Potentially making natural gas a worse climate polluter than coal!

We have an opportunity.

Though Georgia Power's current IRP does not include a proposal for any new clean energy, the Public Service Commission does have the power to approve, reject, and amend Georgia Power's plan in part or as a whole. In 2010, the PSC used this power to encourage the company's to install 50 mw of solar power. The public IRP process, ending in July, is our one BIG opportunity to shape Georgia's energy future, and Georgia Power's decision to reduce our state's dependency on dirty,

20% Clean Energy by 2020



outdated, and out-of-state coal opens the door for clean energy advocates like the Sierra Club to communicate and organize around a common vision for our clean energy future.

So, the Georgia Sierra Club's Smart Energy Solutions Team is stepping up to the challenge, and with the input of our partners at Southface, the Georgia Solar Energy Association, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and Georgia Watch we have been digging into the numbers and crafting a realistic yet visionary outlook for Georgia's energy future over the remainder of the decade.

This is our vision:

Investments in solar, wind, and energy efficiency can replace 100% of the coal plant capacity that Georgia Power has already announced for retirement. Doing so would mean that Georgia Power will generate 20% of its energy from clean, renewable, and efficiency technology by 2020!

We know it might be hard to believe that a company which is currently planning to install less solar power over the next three years than New Jersey installed in one quarter of 2012 can be moved to make such a visionary commitment. But, the numbers are on our side. Using very conservative assumptions about the efficiency of clean energy technologies and the rate of growth in demand for electricity, we are building a model to put Georgia Power at 20% clean energy by 2020.

The cleanest kilowatt is the one never produced.

First and foremost, Georgia Power must make serious investments in energy efficiency. Energy efficiency programs help consumers use less electricity by providing assistance in weatherizing homes and businesses or assisting with the purchase of energy efficient appliances. These types of investments are the fastest, cheapest, cleanest way to meet new energy demand AND create more jobs on the dollar than ANY other type of energy investment. Healthy investments in energy efficiency

are essential in any energy mix because they help to reduce electricity bills for consumers, regardless of the cost of the electricity itself. As a flagship utility, Georgia Power can and should be leading these job-creating investments for the Southeast.

Georgia as a state currently ranks 45th in per-person investments in energy efficiency. Georgia utilities are currently spending a mere two dollars per household help us save on our power bills by reducing the amount of electricity we use in our homes. On average utilities around the nation which on average are spending \$19 per household on efficiency. As a result, Georgians use the 8th highest amount of electricity and pay the 14th highest power bills per household compared to all other states.

In 2011 and 2012, for the first time in the company's history, Georgia Power set targets for how much energy it hoped to save through energy efficiency investments. They deserve to be congratulated for their success in meeting those targets (.15% of annual demand), but perhaps castigated for their low ambitions. By comparison, other Southern utility companies (some which are also owned by Southern Company) are on track to meet between five and ten percent of annual demand through energy reductions by 2020. Other top utilities around the nation are on track to meet more than 15% of demand through economy-boosting efficiency investments in that same time period.

In Georgia Power's IRP filing, the company says it hopes to meet just .35% of annual demand through energy efficiency investments by 2016. That is a miserably low goal for a utility that thinks of itself as a bold leader. Our analysis and the analysis of our expert partners shows that Georgia Power can and must do more, and we are calling on them to make moderate investments to save 8% of demand through energy efficiency by 2020 (an energy reduction of about 8,000 Gwh by 2020).

The next big piece of the 20% by 2020 puzzle: wind energy.

Wind energy installations are at record high levels. In January of 2013, wind was the only new source of generation installed around the country. In 2012, it accounted for 42% of all new electricity added to the grid, bringing our total installed capacity to more than 60,000 megawatts (enough to power more than 15 million homes). New wind farms across the country are producing electricity cheaper than their coal plant competitors- at just three or four cents per kilowatt hour. Without the burden of needing to pay for fuel (the wind is free!) wind power costs stay level over a project lifetime and provides a hedge against the risk of volatile fossil fuel prices - like natural gas.

Most Midwestern states, from Texas to North Dakota and Missouri to Colorado, have thousands of times more wind energy potential than they do in demand for that electricity. Utilities on the east and west coasts have started to take notice. In the Southeast, Alabama Power is purchasing over 400 megawatts of wind (the size of a medium sized coal-plant), and the Tennessee Valley Authority is already purchasing 2,000 mega-

watts of wind from Kansas and Oklahoma.

Currently, Georgia is home to more than 30 businesses and agencies, employing more than 1,000 individuals, which work in the wind energy supply chain. The majority of these businesses plan, design, or manufacture one of the 8,000 wind turbine components used in projects across the country. By simply following the lead of other southeastern utilities, Georgia Power could easily purchase 2,000 megawatts of wind power, generating 7% of its projected demand in 2020, and be supporting Georgia jobs.

The last piece of the puzzle is homegrown solar power.

In 2012, the solar industry grew by over 76% and now powers more than 1.2 million homes and employs over 100,000 workers around the United States. In Georgia alone, there are already more than 45 businesses in the solar energy industry, employing some 1,700 Georgians. Since 2011, the price of solar power has fallen by 60%, making it easier for homeowners and small businesses to afford the upfront cost of solar technology.

To date, Georgia Power plans to generate about 300 megawatts of power from solar by 2016. Seeing the national trends and with the announcement of their 'Advanced Solar Initiative', we think that Georgia Power is finally beginning to learn that they can produce clean, reliable, and affordable energy with one of Georgia's most abundant resources (the Sun!). We are calling on Georgia Power take visionary leadership on solar energy and help to spur a new economic driver for Georgia. The Georgia Solar Energy Association expects Georgia to generate 1,000 Mw of power from solar energy by 2016. Georgia Power can reclaim its status as an economic engine, helping to create thousands of Georgia jobs, by committing to generate 2,500 Mw from solar, or the equivalent of 5% of their power needs, by 2020.

Georgia Power's decision to meet the challenge of replacing 100% of their old and dirty coal retirements by producing 8% energy efficiency, 7% wind energy, and 5% solar power by 2020 would give a powerful boost to Georgia's economic landscape (not to mention to the health of our air, water, and families).

But, we know that they will not meet these challenges alone. Georgia Power's corporate leaders and your elected Public Service Commissioners need to hear from us that we expect visionary leadership from to invest in energy efficiency and clean energy to meet 100% of retired coal capacity, 20% of demand by 2020, and to create new, lasting, quality jobs for Georgians.

Over the next several months, our Smart Energy Team will be carefully honing this vision for Georgia's clean energy future, crafting our message, and then releasing it to the world. We will be calling on you to help us win key victories at the Public Service Commission, at the state legislator, and in Georgia Power's board rooms to create the energy future we all envision.

Georgia Being Swept Into the Fracking Frenzy

Proposed Elba Island LNG Exportation Scheme Raises Concerns

By Steve Willis

The United States had a revolution over the past decade, but very few Americans even noticed. The revolution is the most rapid introduction of a major new source of power the world has ever witnessed. The revolutionary power source? Natural gas (NG) from shale produced by thermo-hydro-chemical fracking. North American fracking methane production has gone from less than half a trillion cubic feet per year in 2000 to well over eight trillion cubic feet per year in 2011. The rate of increase seems almost certain to continue and even accelerate throughout this decade. Never before in history has such an enormous new energy source been developed and deployed so fast and furiously, with so little consideration of inevitable consequences.

Today Georgia is being swept up into the fracking frenzy. Not only are Georgia's abundant shale deposits being eyed for future fracking, but Southern LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas), the operator of the Elba Island LNG facility located a few miles downriver from historic downtown Savannah, has petitioned the Department of Energy to permit conversion of the Elba Island import plant for LNG liquefaction and export.

The idea is to pump the abundant American fracking gas to Elba through existing pipelines, cool it until it liquefies and becomes highly concentrated LNG, then pipe it onto giant LNG supertankers, and ship it to much higher priced markets in Europe and Asia. NG now sells in Europe for about three times the cost of NG in the US, and about five times the US cost in Far East Asian markets. Huge profits seem almost certain. Almost.

First of all, this project is estimated to cost from between one to one and one-half billion dollars – twice the cost of deepening the Port of Savannah channel. Second, this project will be quite a bit slower than the introduction of



LNG tankers could become a more common sight off the coast of Georgia if the exportation proposal goes forward (photo by Pline / Wikimedia Commons)

fracking – the very most optimistic estimate would have construction starting at the end of 2014. This would place actual export operations starting in 2016 or later. A lot can happen in this time frame, and more than a billion dollars is a lot to bet.

Many energy experts advocate fracking and significantly increased worldwide use of NG because of its abundance in many shale formations around the world, noting that NG generates much less CO₂ per unit of energy produced than coal or oil. On the other hand, a large proportion of environmentalists and climate scientists are opposed to greater exploitation of NG because, if oil and coal continue to be consumed at current or increased rates globally, the addition of fracking gas will have the net effect of multiplying the amount of fossil-fuel generated CO₂ being pumped into our atmosphere. There is also great concern that the exploitation of cheap natural gas will result in the global misdirection of vast energy production investments and thus forestall deployment of undoubtedly much more environmentally sustainable wind and solar energy sources. A short-term fracking solution may delay absolutely necessary conversion to truly clean wind, solar and other renewables beyond the atmospheric tipping point, the point of climate change no-return.

The environmental risks of fracking

and greater use of NG are unclear. The rapid fracking implementation has leapfrogged ahead of responsible evaluation and assessment. It is known that significant amounts of natural gas (methane) escape into the atmosphere during the fracking process. Since methane is a much more potent greenhouse gas than CO₂ (estimates ranging from 15% to 25% more damaging), even a small methane leak can offset the relative environmental advantages natural gas enjoys over coal and oil. Additionally, the short and long-term impacts of fracking on the water supply and geology of the regions being exploited is not at all well understood. Racing into such uncertain waters with such scanty understanding seems astonishingly foolish.

The prospect of a growing worldwide fracking LNG market raises important economic impact questions. Sure, there are huge global NG price gaps today, but Europe, Russia, Australia, and much of the rest of the globe have shale deposits capable of producing large quantities of NG. As these shale deposits begin to be exploited, we can expect a worldwide leveling of NG prices, which means more expensive NG in the US and much cheaper NG elsewhere. This predictable falling-off of NG price throughout most of the world will seriously undermine the potential profitability of America's LNG exportation plans. America's exportation effort

may very well drive the rest of the world to rush, as the US has, into ill-considered fracking investments. This could accelerate the worldwide rate of CO₂ generation from NG considerably. The intensive exportation of American LNG will make NG much more expensive in the US, spawn wider use of fracking worldwide, and probably result in one more gigantic source of fossil fuel CO₂ emissions to the already unsustainable mix.

It is important to remember that the giant Elba Island LNG facility was built about 35 years ago in the flush of the oil embargo and high energy prices in the late 1970s. Elba was almost immediately mothballed because falling prices made importation unprofitable. Elba was reopened in 2001, but since the fracking boom took hold in the last half decade, and import profitability plummeted, Elba LNG importation has fallen to almost zero. The public risks and dangers, and the billion dollar ante required to get Elba into the exportation game, is far from a certain win-win proposition.

The process of liquefaction and exportation of NG has its own significant downsides. The business of shipping LNG has long been acknowledged by top terrorism experts such as Richard Clarke, top terrorism advisor to Presidents Clinton and both Bushes, to be at the top of terrorist attack risks. A LNG supertanker pirated and intentionally detonated in the river channel near downtown Savannah would destroy historic Savannah and much of the port. Additionally, the 38-mile-long narrow, winding, silt-prone channel must be cleared for two miles in front of a transiting LNG supertanker, and a mile to the rear for security reasons. This effectively closes the channel for one-half a day per LNG tanker calling on Savannah and Elba Island. (All large ships routinely come into port on the incoming tides, and leave on the outgoing tides. There are two high and two low tides daily). This is a serious hazard and traffic impediment for a port seeking to increase container transport from the present three million TEUs (roughly, twenty-

foot cargo containers) per year to six to seven million TEUs annually within the next ten to twenty years.

If the LNG exportation scheme is to be permitted, the option of offshore liquefaction should definitely be given a high priority. The billion dollar plus cost of refitting the Elba Island site could be redirected to proven, available and much safer offshore liquefaction facilities. If the safety and health of the people living along the Lower Savannah were an important Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) consideration, certainly no other sort of liquefaction proposal would be considered.

The process of rapidly liquefying enormous volumes of NG being pressure-pumped into Elba Island for export will require a bank of 10 modular liquefaction systems, which include NG burning furnaces to provide the enormous refrigeration capacity required. This bank of furnaces will produce enormous amounts of CO₂, and the regasification process needed at the receiving port will generate similar amounts of CO₂. These CO₂ producing processes combined with the large energy expenditures needed to pump the NG from its well-site in the US to the liquefaction plant, the CO₂ emissions from the transport ship, as well as the "venting" of the methane boil which is produced during the unavoidable heating of the super cooled liquid during transport, and the pumping of the regasified NG to its point of use from the receiving port, makes the use of LNG much less environmentally advantageous than the direct use of NG.

America has an unfortunate record of allowing prospects for short-term profits to override economic caution and responsible concern for the public welfare. The rush to exploit fracking technology, and now to expand the impact of fracking globally through LNG export will ultimately produce enormous additional fossil fuel greenhouse gas emissions. History may come to see fracking and the LNG export program as egregious examples of shooting ourselves in the foot (or head).

Climate Rally, continued from page 3

eration of environmental leaders. Youth don't have to wait to be "adults" to create positive change. Adults, you don't have to look back and wonder why you didn't stand up and fight while you could. Step forward and join me on this path. Ask us how you can help, where you fit in. Although the struggle may seem insurmountable, you must have faith that the truth, facts, and caring folks like you and me can change the world.

Make no mistake, this is the fight of a lifetime and we will not back down. This is the message I heard from my fellow Georgians. If Obama approves the northern leg of the Keystone XL pipeline, a possibility that is becoming more likely by the day – it will prove a decision that will tar the legacy of his administration. Our movement will respond with greater urgency, numbers, and a louder voice.

We know that super storms like Sandy, heat waves, droughts, and wildfires will become more common as CO₂ increases in our atmosphere. Our voice in Washington that cold February day was unified and determined. Regulate greenhouse gasses as the dangerous pollutants they are. Humanity can no longer face inaction at the expense our future. The world needs the leadership of the United States and President Obama. We need it now.

Let's lead the world in the manufacture of clean energy technology and installation. Let's retrofit and build the most energy efficient infrastructure on the planet. Let's support healthy communities that bike, walk, and grow food with their neighbors again. This is the future we want to see in America. That is the vision of America that drove 50,000 of us to descend on Washington D.C. just a few weeks ago. Great leaders do not aspire for what is possible, the inspire others to achieve what is commonly deemed as impossible. We can do this – let's move forward on climate today!

Outings Part of Rich Sierra Club Tradition

"If people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish." -John Muir

Adapted from Sierra Club Outings Committee Materials

Promoting a philosophy he developed long before the Sierra Club's founding on May 28, 1892, John Muir encouraged the public to enjoy the outdoors, to "climb the mountains and get their good tidings," in hopes that they would become interested in the fight to preserve natural lands. "I have run wild," Muir later wrote of the effects of Yosemite's rugged grandeur. "As long as I live," he wrote, "I'll hear waterfalls and birds and winds sing. I'll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm, and the avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can." "This was my 'method of study,'" he recalled later, "I drifted about from rock to rock, from stream to stream, from grove to grove. Where night found me, there I camped. When I discovered a new plant, I sat down beside it for a minute or a day, to make its acquaintance and hear what it had to tell... I asked the boulders I met, whence they came and whither they were going." Muir's philosophy has played a key role in the Club's history, and continues to inspire Sierra Club members to enjoy the outdoors today.

As early as 1890, even before they founded the Sierra Club, early conservationists worked to establish Yosemite National Park. Shortly after its founding the Club had its first campaign success: they defeated a proposal to reduce Yosemite National Park's boundaries.

In 1901, the Sierra Club Board of Directors proposed an annual summer outing, with the purpose of encouraging members and other interested people to see firsthand the country the Club sought to preserve and protect. William Colby, who led the annual outings for 29 years, noted that "an excursion of this sort, if properly conducted, will do an infinite amount of good toward awakening the proper kind of interest in the forests and other natural features of our mountains, and will also tend to create a spirit of good fellowship among our members."

The first outing drew 96 people to Tuolumne Meadows (in the eastern portion of what is now in Yosemite National Park, about 250 miles east of San Francisco) in 1901, and was the model for what came to be called the High Trip. Nearly every summer for fifty years, groups numbering up to 200, were taken into the wilderness by the Club. By the late 1930s, when many members desired smaller, more intimate groups, the Club pioneered burro trips and knapsack trips. In the 1950s the impact of large numbers of people became a matter of concern, and the High Trip tradition passed into history.

Sierra Club outings were never simply hiking trips. Before



President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir at Glacier Point, 1903. (Stereograph by Underwood and Underwood, New York.)

an outing, campers were advised to read Muir's *The Mountains of California* and Joseph LeConte's *Ramblings Through the High Sierra*. Once the trip was underway, participants learned about forestry, biology, history, and geomorphology; poems, plays and general good fun added to the camaraderie.

The experience resulted in an enthused and growing membership ready to fight for the places they had explored. Today, many smaller trips have replaced the once-yearly get-togethers, but outings still recruit new members to "hear the trees speak for themselves."

As the Club's interests and membership extended beyond California, new wilderness areas were explored by Sierra Club outings. The North Cascades in Washington, the Sawtooths in Idaho, the Wind River Range in Wyoming, Dinosaur National Monument in Utah, the Grand Canyon, and the Everglades benefited from this interest. Today, Sierra Club legislative and legal battles strive to protect such areas as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; old-growth forests in the United States and Canada, desert wilderness in California and across the intermountain West; the New England forests; the Gulf coastal wetlands; and the prairies of the Great Plains. The Club also fights to save endangered species such as the desert tortoise. These are all issues highlighted by outings.

From a charter group of 182 California mountaineers,

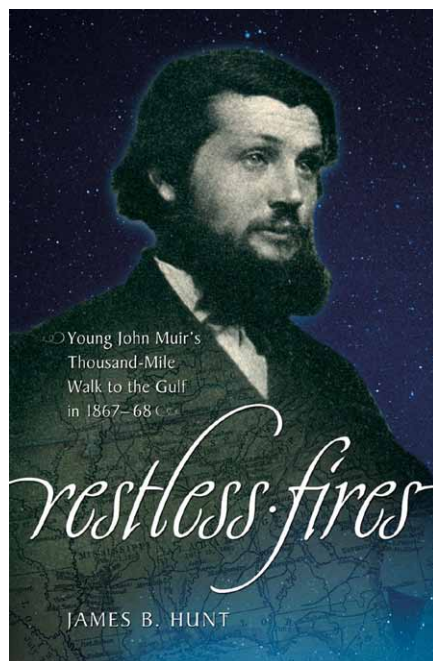
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Restless Fires Author Reflects on John Muir's Legacy

Statement by James B. Hunt, author of *Restless Fires*, for Sierra Club

I wrote *Restless Fires, Young John Muir's Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf, 1867-68* because I became interested in the impact of youthful travel in leadership development. When I read Muir's journal of his walk, some of which he revised later in life, I saw both an emerging determination and perspective on Nature that proved transformative in the work he would do as an adult. A fascinating component of the walk entails his journey just two years after the end of the Civil War and during a period of devastation and efforts at Reconstruction in the South. I dived into the research with energy and enthusiasm into both the archives and manuscripts as well as following his route in a 2007 research trip to local libraries and depositories to understand what was going on in the historical context of the time.

Restless Fires provides a detailed rendering of John Muir's thousand-mile walk to the Gulf based on both manuscript and published accounts. I particularly examined the development of Muir's environmental thought as a young adult. Muir experienced delight in seeing nature anew after recovering from partial blindness due to a factory



accident. He witnessed the Civil War's devastating impacts and efforts towards Reconstruction on towns, villages, and people. He wrote that the marks of war were on people's faces as well as on their fences. This is one of the first books on John Muir's thousand-mile walk that places his journey in the context of the Civil War and Reconstruction, to which Muir gave only passing witness. Through these experiences and reflections, Muir came to radical views regarding humankind's relationship to

nature, death, and faith. Muir suffered hunger, felt pangs of loneliness, slept five days in a cemetery, slogged through swamps, and nearly died of malaria. He was nursed back to health by the kindly care of a Florida couple who owned a lumber mill at Cedar Key, Florida.

The legacy of this walk is found in Muir's perceptive insights generated in part by his background and reading, and by his experience with the Southern environment and its people and plants during the walk. His journal gives evidence of a young man resolving what he wants to do with his life. He grappled with the reality of death. He had a generous view of predatory animals such as alligators even though he walked fearfully through Florida's swamps adjacent to the railroad track that he followed. Muir comes to profound insights as to how human beings fit into nature. Human beings were but a small part of creation which provides both beauty and bread. A walk in nature gave humans a sense of their limits, a lesson in humility. In Muir's view, nature provides humans a moral touchstone when they recognize their small part in the "divine harmony." Muir argued that humans need Nature to "heal and gain strength for both body and soul." Muir wrote that when he simply went out for a walk in nature, he was really "going in." This book explores what Muir meant.

Outing History, continued from previous page

naturalists, and educators, the Club grew dramatically during its first century to more than 1.4 million members and supporters. Now an international organization, it consists of 63 chapters and almost 400 regional groups in the United States and Canada, and maintains vigorous conservation relations with similar volunteer organizations around the world.

Local trips range from strolls on the beach to Inner City Outings for disadvantaged, at-risk youth, from trail maintenance to white water canoeing, from Georgia Sierran 🌲 April/May/June 2013

potluck socials to backpack trips. Indeed their variety ranges as widely as the interests and creativity of Club members. Outings allow members (following Muir's advice) to introduce others to sensitive and endangered areas that need protection. It has been clearly stated in *On The Loose*, a book written by young members Terry and Renny Russell, published by the Sierra Club in 1967:

Not to escape from but to escape to: not to forget but to remember. We've been taking care of ourselves in places where it really matters. The next step is to take care of the places that really matter.

James B. Hunt is Professor Emeritus of History at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, and cofounder of the Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship. Hunt taught American, Latin American, and World history while at Whitworth. For twenty-five years, he provided faculty leadership to students traveling to Central America for Whitworth's five months study/service program. This led to his compelling interest and writing on the impact of youthful travel on such American leaders as John Quincy Adams, Frederick Douglass, Jane Addams, and John Muir.

John Muir Outings Preview

Saturday, April 6

Take a Ride on the Lovejoy Line!

The proposed commuter rail line connecting Atlanta to Macon has been in the works for over a decade. If Clayton were to join MARTA, the missing funding piece would finally be in place for the first segment to move forward. Take a ride to check out some of the stops along the way! We'll depart via charter bus from the East Point MARTA station and will follow the planned route of the line, including the future stations at Hapeville, Forest Park/Fort Gillem, and Clayton State University. The outing will also include a leisurely hike through the Reynolds Nature Preserve, which is an easy walk from the Clayton State stop.



DATE: Saturday, April 6th

TIME: 11:30am - 3:00pm

LOCATION: Meet at East Point MARTA Station

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$25

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy

DOG FRIENDLY: No

KID FRIENDLY: Yes, 9th grade and above

SPECIAL NOTES: To get your John Muir fix, we will do a 1.5 mile hike at Reynolds Nature Preserve.

OUTING LEADER: Joanna Baxter

FEATURED SPEAKERS: TBD

To register for any outing, visit:
<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/johnmuiroutings>

Saturday, April 6

Skidaway River Paddle

Our Georgia coasts are an integral part of our state's beauty and healthy environment. Join the Coastal Group for this awesome outing, where their guest speakers, Dr. Clark Alexander, professor at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography and David Kyler of the Center for a Sustainable Coast, present the impacts that rising sea level has on our Georgia coastline and how important it is that we act to prevent climate change. Then we will paddle the Skidaway River. This three mile loop takes you south on the Skidaway River from Butterbean Beach and up into a small tidal creek where the low tide reveals large oyster reefs where shorebirds like to feed, continuing past a little marsh hammock and then back out to the river and Pigeon Island to view nesting bald eagles before returning to the start.



DATE: Saturday, April 6th

TIME: 10:00am - 3:00pm

LOCATION: Skidaway Institute of Oceanography

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$25 (plus rental fees)

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy

DOG FRIENDLY: No

KID FRIENDLY: Yes

SPECIAL NOTES: We will hear a lecture then drive over to Butter Bean Island for the paddle portion of the outing. Kayak/Canoe required (Rentals available), Life vest required (Included with rental)

OUTING LEADER: Karen Grainey

FEATURED SPEAKERS: Dr. Clark Alexander, professor at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, David Kyler of the Center for a Sustainable Coast

John Muir Outings Preview

Saturday, April 20

Earth Day Paddle on the Etowah

Join Georgia Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign on a beautiful 10-mile jaunt down the Etowah River outside Euharlee Georgia on arguably the most scenic stretch of the Etowah in Bartow County. This stretch of river features numerous Native American fish weirs, the Island Ford island complex, a beautiful "rock garden", and has had numerous Otter and Bald Eagles sitings. This section is also highlighted by a large threat to Georgia's precious water resources: one of the largest carbon polluting coal-fired power plants in the country, Plant Bowen. We will spend the early morning examining the threat of archaic coal-power to Georgia's beautiful fresh waters, and the afternoon exploring the scenic natural wild river.



DATE: Saturday, April 20th

TIME: 9:00am - 4:00pm

LOCATION: Euharlee Road Launch site

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$25 (plus rental fees)

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy/Moderate (10-mile leisurely paddle with breaks)

DOG FRIENDLY: Yes, if they like water/being in boats!

KID FRIENDLY: Yes

SPECIAL NOTES: A Beyond Coal volunteer will be at the Euharlee Road launch site by 8:15 am to assist you in unloading boats. The Sierra Club will provide shuttle service back to this site from our take-out. Kayak/Canoe required (Rentals available), Life vest required (Included with rental)

OUTING LEADER: Martin McConaughy

FEATURED SPEAKERS: Joe Cook of the Coosa River Basin Initiative

Georgia Sierran 🌲 April/May/June 2013

Saturday, April 27

Ellicott Rock via the Chattooga River Trail

Join Sierra Club's Wildlands and Wildlife Committee for a 7 mile moderate hike as we explore Georgia's only designated Wild and Scenic River, the Upper Chattooga, which forms the border of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia in the middle of the Ellicott Rock Wilderness. Brent Martin, Southern Appalachian Regional Director for the Wilderness Society based in Sylva, NC, will provide an overview of some of the threats faced in this area and how increased protection is needed to make sure that commercial encroachment and overuse do not occur. Wilderness areas are necessary protectors of wildlife, bio-diversity, and watersheds and provide critical habitat corridors that will be needed for species to adapt as our climate continues to change.



DATE: Saturday, April 27th

TIME: 10:00am - 3:00pm

LOCATION: Chattooga River Trail Head at Burrell's Ford Bridge

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$25

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Moderate (7-mile hike)

DOG FRIENDLY: Yes

KID FRIENDLY: Yes

SPECIAL NOTES: Caravall/Carpool meet-up at Exit #4, I-985 Commuter Parking Lot @ 7:00am

OUTING LEADER: Mirza Balic

FEATURED SPEAKERS: Brent Martin, Regional Director for the Wilderness Society

Providence Canyon Offers Unique Contrast of Agricultural Disaster, Natural Beauty



By Rudi Kiefer

At the end of February, thick clouds settled into our valley. Increasingly heavy rain filled the Habersham County air. Soon, the fields began to bleed. Runnels of water carried red-dish lines of clay. By the end of the day, streams of red mud were pouring into the roadside drainage ditches. Those on the west side of the railroad track would eventually end up in the Gulf of Mexico. Those to the east, in the Atlantic Ocean.

You can observe soil erosion during just about every rainstorm in Georgia. But nowhere is its effect as pronounced as in Providence Canyon, near the city of Lumpkin, 45 miles west of Americus. Also named one of the Seven Georgia Wonders (along with Okefenokee Swamp, Amicalola Falls, and others), Providence Canyon State Park offers opportunities for outdoor recreation as well as learning about the natural environment (www.gastateparks.org/ProvidenceCanyon). Of the Seven Wonders, it's the only feature that wasn't already there when the first humans arrived.

The first glimpse of the canyons – more than 40 in all – astounds most visitors. Coming from Lumpkin, you'll see a canyon to the right after about 6 miles. The main cluster follows a mile later at left in the Park. Gorges as deep as 150 feet are cut into layers of soft sediment. The canyon walls show colors changing from red near the top to white in most of the midsection. That's the Clayton Sand formation, laid down some 67 to 70 million years ago when dinosaurs roamed the earth during the fairly recent Cretaceous period. Below that are older de-

posits, with hues ranging from pink to orange and bright red. All of this is quite unstable. One wrong step at the edge can make the ground collapse and have you sliding down the steep slope, so the Park Service advises caution when hiking into the valleys on the canyon trail. Along the way you might see some rare Plumleaf Azaleas, only found in this geographic region.

While this seems like a scaled-down version of Arizona's Grand Canyon, it isn't the result of a river cutting into bedrock uplifted by tectonic action. It really reflects a colossal failure of agriculture. Starting in the mid-1850's, when Lumpkin was experiencing strong economic growth, the area was farmed intensely with little regard for runoff. Modern techniques like contour plowing or cover crops were unknown. Runnels formed, turning into gullies. The gullies got deeper and joined other gullies. Side walls collapsed, and over the decades the canyons formed, getting wider and deeper with every rainstorm. While their bottoms show signs of stabilizing, with trees growing tall now, the canyon walls are still eroding backwards. During the 1930's, it was finally realized that topsoil capable of growing food is a nonrenewable resource. It'll take thousands of years to re-accumulate. A camping trip to the state park will let you learn about the damage that careless human activity can cause, but also provides spectacular views of the rich varieties of sediments and plants in the canyon.

Rudi Kiefer, Ph.D., is a professor of physical science and director of sustainability at Brenau University. He can be reached by email at rkiefer@brenau.edu.

Want to Adopt a Wilderness?

By Mike Murdoch

These days people are adopting all kinds of things; kids, dogs, roads and streams. Why not adopt a wilderness? Seriously? Yes, very seriously!

In 2014 the Sierra Club and other conservation groups will be commemorating the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964. This enlightened legislation allowed for federal protection of land without the disruption of motorized equipment or mechanized transportation. The Wilderness designation ensures that land will remain relatively untouched and provide unrivaled escape into nature. Wilderness areas protect watersheds, provide ecologic stability for wildlife, and provide meaningful experiences for people seeking to retreat into nature. Wilderness areas are open to hiking,

hunting, kayaking, backpacking, fishing, rock climbing and bird watching in areas of spectacular beauty.

As part of the celebration of the Wilderness Act, the Wildlands/Wildlife Committee is asking Sierra Club members to get outdoors and act as Wilderness Adopters. We would ask the Adopters to select one of the wilderness areas in Georgia and become as familiar with it as possible. Adopters would study written material about their area as well as visit it at least once per year. We would also suggest that they visit the District Ranger's office and introduce themselves to the staff. When hiking or boating their area they would note any signs of neglect, abuse, or illegal activity and report those findings to the Ranger's office. The Wildlands Committee has developed a suggested format and pro-

cess to use when reporting findings.

Wilderness areas are remote and beautiful, but they are also fragile and need looking after. Several Wildlands Committee members have signed on as Adopters. However, we would like to get more people on the ground and in the woods looking after our wildernesses. The areas in Georgia available for "adopting" are: Big Frog, Blood Mountain, Brasstown, Cohutta, Elliott Rock, Mark Trail, Raven Cliffs, Rich Mountain, Southern Nantahalia, Tray Mountain, Chattooga Wild/Scenic River, Blackbeard Island, Okefenokee Swamp, and Cumberland Island.

Persons interested in becoming an Adopter can get more information from Mike Murdoch, at murdoch1@mind-spring.com. Let's get out there and take a look!



photo by Marsha Scattur

GOING, GOING... GONE?

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

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Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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Atlanta ICO Visits Kolomoki Indian Mounds & Providence Canyon

Eleven kids and Monica Trimble, a youth director at the Warren-Holyfield Boys and Girls Club, met with the Atlanta ICO leaders and volunteers to have a bagel and fruit breakfast and go over the outing plan (to camp at Kolomoki Indian Mounds State Park then see Providence Canyon en route home the next day). After registering at the State Park, they toured the museum, which has a recreation of the findings in one of the mounds, then drove to pioneer site 1 where they had lunch and set up their tents. This group campsite is spacious and has ample room for tents and a campfire, and is close enough to the other activity areas of the park for kids to hike to them. Everyone walked to the mound area, climbed on the mounds, played games in the plaza area in front of the main mound (flew kites), then visited the general camping section of the park to see how different people set up their camps (from tents



to RVs), bring pets, etc., to enjoy the playground, and see the location of the more civilized restrooms (the pit toilet in the campsite being very primitive, although adequate). Everyone hiked back to camp, then had dinner (silver turtles), two desserts (peach cobbler cooked in a Dutch oven and S'mores), then looked at stars, told stories and went to bed. The next morning, had breakfast and broke camp. En route back to Atlanta, stopped at Providence Canyon State Park and had lunch, then hiked into the canyon to see the beautiful formations.

About Atlanta Inner City Outings

Atlanta Inner City Outings (or ICO) is a community outreach program for urban youth who would not otherwise be exposed to the natural environment. We provide opportunities to explore, enjoy, appreciate, and protect wild lands. Atlanta ICO is one of over 50 such groups in the country. Our volunteers work through partnership with agencies (e.g. Boys & Girls Clubs) and schools serving people from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds to provide outings such as hiking, camping, kayaking, caving, and environmental education and service. We work with both middle school and high school aged groups. From August 2012 through July 2013 we conducted 23 outings with more than 300 "kid outing days" with 5 agencies and schools. If you are interested in learning more about our group, you can contact us at atlantaico@gmail.com, or contact our volunteer coordinator at kwestbroico@gmail.com.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget.

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

Mail your contribution to:

Sierra Club, Georgia Chapter, 743 East College Avenue, Suite B, Decatur, Georgia 30030

Chapter Outings Program

*In addition to the special **John Muir Outings** series featured on pages 10 and 11, the Georgia Chapter and its local groups organize outings around the state year-round. 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 web-site at <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/outings>.*

Saturday, April 6

Mistletoe State Park Hike

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Mistletoe State Park, 3725 Mistletoe Rd., Appling, GA

Presented by: Savannah River Group

Leader: Richard Dillenbeck, 706-869-8770, r.v.dillenbeck7720@att.net

Registration: Registration Required before April 6, 2013, 8:00 AM

Rated: Moderate

Description: A 7-mile hike through piedmont woods. this scenic walk will cross streams, traverse hardwoods, and pine uplands. Bring a lunch. Pace 2-3 miles per hour.

Saturday, April 27

Congaree National Forest Hike

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Congaree National Park, 100 National Park Road, Hopkins, SC

Presented by: Savannah River Group

Leader: Richard Dillenbeck, 706-869-8770, r.v.dillenbeck7720@att.net

Registration: Registration Required before April 27, 2013 8:00 AM

Rated: Moderate

Description: Congaree National Park has the largest intact expanse of old growth bottomland hardwood forest remaining in the southeastern United State. We will walk the boardwalk for 2 miles reading interpretive signs. Then follow a trail for 2 miles through an old-growth forest as it skirts the edge of Weston Lake and runs alongside a cypress-tupelo slough. Pace 2-3 miles per hour. We will meet at the Unitarian Church at 9am to carpool.

Saturday, November 9, 2013

Backpacking the AT in Georgia

Location: North Georgia

Presented by: Georgia Chapter

Leader: Sammy Padgett - 770-786-3100
sammypadgett@comcast.net

Registration: Registration Required before October 31, 2013 9:00 AM

Rated: Strenuous

Description: We will spend a week backpacking the AT in Georgia. Saturday we will leave our cars at Amicalola Falls state park. A shuttle takes us to Dicks creek gap on US 76. Then we hike back to our cars some 75.4 miles away. With a re-supply at Neels gap 36 miles into our trip. I will have a couple of informational meetings over the spring and summer. There is plenty of time to train and get ready for this trip. I will be available to answer any questions about gear, training or whatever you need to get ready for this trip. If you have never done a multi-night trip this is the perfect trip to start with. Limit of 6 people. Contact Sammy 404-775-7660



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Membership

Save the Date! **Chapter Gathering at Camp Wahsega, October 4-6, 2013**



Please mark your calendars now for our next Chapter Retreat the weekend of October 4-6, 2013, at the Wahsega 4-H center in Dahlonga, Georgia. We will gather for a weekend of outings, workshops, and recreation and, as always, a chance to relax with friends and family in the beautiful north Georgia mountains. Details and registration information will be included in the next issue of the Georgia *Sierran*, and will also be available online at that time. In the meantime, please consider offering your assistance (in a small or larger way) to the volunteers of the retreat planning team who would appreciate more input in planning and leading our weekend events. If you can help, please contact Marcia Abrams, marciaabrams@bellsouth.net.

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, April 13th** 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.

Membership

Sierra Club, GreenLaw Welcome Al Gore to Atlanta

The Georgia Chapter teamed up with our friends at GreenLaw to co-sponsor a lecture by Al Gore at the Carter Presidential Center on February 1st. The former vice president spoke about his new book *The Future: Six Drivers of Global Change*, an assessment of critical issues that will have profound impacts on our world in the decades to come.



National Conservation Director Sarah Hodgdon Visits SC&Beer



March's Sierra Club and Beer focused on Clean Energy Movement Building, with special guest Sarah Hodgdon, Conservation Director for the national Sierra Club. Sarah spoke to a packed house at the Edgewood Speakeasy about the growing national movement to get our nation off fossil fuels, to kick-start a just clean energy economy, and in Georgia to get 20% of our electricity from clean renewable energy and energy efficiency by 2020!



Atlanta Hosts Renowned Climate Scientist Santer

By D. Gordon Draves

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane are two of the greenhouse gases blamed for climate change. On March 12 and 13, Atlanta adults and students had the opportunity to hear from one of the scientists who accumulated evidence that man's actions has dramatically altered the climate by increasing these gases.

The Georgia State University flyer stated, "Dr. Benjamin D. Santer is a senior climate researcher at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. His research contributed to the historic 'discernible human influence' conclusion of the 1995 Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize shared with Al Gore." It told about two of his lectures, but they worked him like a dog before he went back to California, and had him do four events, including a luncheon hosted by Greenlaw and Sierra Club, where members of the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) listened.

He was honored to be the speaker at the 14th Plummer Lecture during GSU's 100th anniversary events, delivering "The Search for Human 'Fingerprints' in Observed Records of Climate Change." The 1995 report said, "the evidence suggests" and the 2007 report stated, that global warming was



Santer and PSC member Bubba McDonald discuss climate issues.

"likely due to the increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas."

At lunch, John Sibley, who has been long engaged with Southface, asked Santer questions. He prepped the first with a statement that it was difficult to read the natural record especially with human effects and the deniers get hung-up on a

continued on next page

Savannah River Group

Our monthly meetings continue to be both informative and entertaining. In March, biologist Dr. Cathy Tugmon provided us with an entertaining look at the ancient forests and reefs of Australia which she recently visited. April's program focused on how to get your bike ready for all the spring outings coming with the warmer weather.

April also brings our annual Rummage/Yard Sale, held in conjunction with the Augusta Unitarian Universalist Church. And of course, April brings Earth Day. This year we are expanding out Earth Day participation to include several tabling events around Augusta. We continue to use our "Eco-wheel" which spins and stops at a variety of questions, varying in difficulty. This is particularly popular with children because if they answer an environmental question correctly they win a prize- usually a plastic animal such as a lizard, beetle, frog, etc. It's hard to tell who has more fun: the kids or the volunteers working at the Earth Day booth.

We have a new treasurer, Ann Sutherland, who graciously agreed to fill the shoes of our retiring Treasurer, Julia Crowley, who has served us well and faithfully for nearly 30 years! Julia will continue to serve on our Executive Committee.



Left: Co-Chair Judy Gordon presents retiring Treasurer, Julia Crowley with a plaque honoring her 30 years of service to the Savannah River Group.

Below Left: A big sign helps attract the bargain hunters.

Below: Australian Casawary bird



couple of issues. Santer responded with the facts that they may attack on the surface temperature issue, but a great variety of elements are studied, not just one. Measurements are taken of the stratosphere, the sun, ice cores, effects of volcanic dust, how man has changed the planet with cutting down forests to adopt agriculture, and has much effect, for he is no longer just a bystander. When Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991, sulfur aerosols cooled the world. El Nino and La Nina have their affects of heating or cooling the climate for a year or more. Therefore, it takes decades of scientific work observing current and past records from around the world to conclude that the above normal levels of CO2 is man-made and Santer has been in the fray.

Santer has traveled around the world, climbed peaks in Alps, Himalayas, and the Rockies to see changes just in his lifetime. The bottom line he concluded is that even with all sorts of natural contributors combined, they would not affect the climate as much as we see. They don't even come close to explaining the massive changes. He believes that a great portion of the 30% higher levels of CO2 is from man's activities.

CO2 has long-term consequences, for even if we could stop all the CO2 production, the planet would still warm for there is a lag time. It is like waving down a train, when the engineer stops accelerating and applies the brakes, it still takes a mile for it to stop. But here is a more apt climate story, when the Titanic crew saw the iceberg it was already too late to stop.



Upcoming Meetings & Programs

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

April 9 Meeting: Dolphin Project

Don Bender discusses the habits of these fascinating creatures under threat from man's activities. Learn more about these mammals of the seas at our website.

May 14 Meeting: Story of Southface

Mr. Trevor Donnelly, an EarthCraft Fellow at Southface, will provide an overview of Southface's programs and activities. For 30 years, Southface has promoted comfortable, energy-, water-, and resource-efficient homes, workplaces and communities throughout the Southeast.

Their Green Building Services included the EarthCraft construction certification program, working with both builders and consumers as a means of assuring energy and water conservation. This is integral to the construction of durable, healthy, efficient homes, and can improve resale values. See our website for details of their programs.

June 11: Annual Picnic at Candler Park

Beginning at 6:30 PM, we will meet at picnic area across from the pool, and begin eating at 7 PM. It is potluck style, so please bring some food to share. The group provides plate, dinnerware, cup for those who don't want to bring their own, plus hot dogs and hamburgers. There will be a fire for cooking. See website for further details.

Adopt-A-Stream Program events:

- **Saturday, April 20** (Chemical monitoring)
- **Saturday, May 18** (Chemical monitoring)
- **Saturday, June 22** (Biological & Chemical monitoring)

We meet 10 AM to noon. For biologic monitoring, we need many eyes to find the critters found in the creek.

Location: South Fork of Peachtree Creek in Medlock Park north of Decatur.

From Clairmont Rd. (between N. Decatur and N. Druid Hill roads.) take Desmond Dr. (third street north of N. Decatur Rd.) until it intersects with Willivee Dr. Turn left and follow Willivee around to Scott Circle where you turn right. Parking is on your left when you reach the park.

Alternatively, from the intersection of Scott Blvd, Medlock Drive, and North Decatur Rd, turn north on Medlock (that is to the right if you are driving towards Atlanta from I-285). Drive half a mile and turn left on Lancelot, which dead-ends onto Scott Circle. Turn right. In the second block, the park and parking lot are on your right.

Park in the middle, and walk along a dirt road with the 2-story building on your left and ball fields on either side, back into the woods behind ball field #5. Bear left and you will see us at a picnic table by the stream.

For information about chemical monitoring and dates, call Larry Kloet at 404 636-7226. For more details about biological monitoring, call Nancy Wylie at 404-256-1172.

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 runs on Ponce de Leon between North Avenue Station and Decatur Station.

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

Earth Day Kids Fest Coming to Chattahoochee Nature Center

The 11th Annual Earth Day Kids Fest is hosted by the Captain Planet Foundation and the Chattahoochee Nature Center and will be held on Saturday, April 13, from 10 to 3:00 at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. This is a motivational, action packed, and FUN event where “children and youth learn how to become great stewards of the planet we all call home.” Through “engaging hands-on activities and live performances, kids are given the power to lead the way in preserving and protecting our natural resources and biological diversity,” according to the Nature Center literature. There is a green Eco-Village marketplace where earth-friendly household goods and ideas to green homes and businesses will be displayed. There will also be live native animal presentations by CNC, as well as food vendors for people. Numerous local organizations will be on hand to help attendees explore eco-themes. Old cell phones, ink cartridges, and corks may be brought to be recycled, among other activities.

The Centennial Sierra Club Group is one of the local environmental organizations participating in the Earth Fest. They will feature the Environscape, which kids and families may use and see first hand how pollution gets into our water sources. Folks will also be given the chance to plant wildflower seeds in enviro-friendly peat pots that they may take home and plant directly in the ground.

Come join others concerned about our earth at this educational and fun family event. Admission is \$6 for children, \$7 for students and seniors, \$10 for adults, and children under two are free. Visit <http://www.chattnaturecenter.org/> for more information, including shuttle bus info.

Centennial Group Hosts Joint Outing with Atlanta Outdoor Club

On March 30th, Sierra Club Outings Leader Bob Springfield and Atlanta Outdoor Club Leader Charlie Cottingham led a day hike in the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area (CNRA) Vickery Creek Unit. This joint activity was planned by Rush Netterville (Centennial Group Ex Com) to help attract new members to the Centennial group. Bob and Rush described the Sierra Club's role in establishing the CNRA and invited hikers to join the Sierra Club and attend a Centennial Group meeting.

- Bob Springfield

Centennial Adopt-a-Stream Program Wins EPD Award



On March 16th at the Adopt-a-Stream Confluence, the Centennial Group was awarded the 2012 Extraordinary Volunteer Watershed Effort Award. This was to award us for the River Rendezvous event that we hold each year collecting a snapshot of the entire watershed.

Greater Gwinnett Group

I'm sitting in my yard writing on March 15, a very bad day for Caesar but in little more than two millennia the day has become almost perfect: 65 degrees and bright sunshine with trees blooming and plants flowering. It is enough to make my sinus's come back to life. While other parts of the country has had blizzards and cold weather, this winter is among the top warmest winters ever and remember, the 2012 winter was the warmest winter ever. Makes you wonder what summer will be like. In Gwinnett, our stream-monitoring program continues in high gear. We participated in the Young Environmentalists Youth Summit. WOW, Those were some of the brightest and informed people ever. It reminded me that environmentalism is not only alive but also thriving. A big well done to Charles Orgbon, a Sierran and CEO of Greening Forward, who put the conference together. Our March, April, May and June meetings will encompass Plant Vogtle, the Chattahoochee River, a travelogue of Point Reyes, California and a BBQ respectively. What separates the national Sierra Club and the Gwinnett group from other environmental organizations is not only the depth of our understanding of environmental issues but also the breath of issues our members undertake. Come and join us for a hike, wading in a cool stream or discussions on a variety of topics.

- Dan Friedman

Get Outdoors With LaGrange Outings

The LaGrange group is fortunate to have Joanna Baxter as our new outings chair. Joanna has already trained as an outings leader and led numerous hikes on the Pine Mountain Trail. She brings not only experience but also enthusiasm, organizational expertise, and great ideas to our program.

Future outings will be varied to accommodate a variety of interests and ages. Based on a recent survey sent to all participants in the LaGrange group, our top priorities will include hikes, bird ID walks, plant ID walks, canoeing and even a tour of organic gardens. Stay tuned for possible bike ride and backpacking outings as well as a tour of our local wastewater treatment plant.

We welcome nature enthusiasts from around the state. Please join us. Joanna will be posting some of our outings on the chapter outings website!



New LaGrange outings chair
Joanna Baxter



Sam Breyfogle will lead a Tree ID
hike April 13

Tree ID Walk: Saturday, April 13

Approx. time expectation: 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Leader: Joanna Baxter (706) 594-0991
joannabbaxter@yahoo.com

Level: Easy

Meet: River Bend Trail Head Day Use Parking Lot of Chattahoochee Bend State Park @ 10:30 am or carpooling is available from the St. Mark's Episcopal Church on 207 North Greenwood St. in LaGrange at 9:30 AM. Bring a lunch and water.

Event: This will be a flat, easy walk of approx. 1-2 mi. Sam Breyfogle, professional forester, will teach basic tree identification during this walk on a river bottom forest path. NOTE: The path continues for approximately 5 miles to the "bend" in the river, for anyone wishing to "sign-out" and continue on.



Endangered Lilies Walk: Sunday, May 5

Time Expectation: 2-5 pm

Leader: Joanna Baxter (706) 594-0991,
joannabbaxter@yahoo.com

Level: Easy ½ mile trail

Meet: West Point (contact trip leader for details) or carpooling is available from the St. Mark's Episcopal Church on 207 North Greenwood St. in LaGrange. Refreshments will be provided. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring camera. Swim suits optional.

Event: The purpose of this outing will be to visit the beautiful blooming of the endangered *Hymenocallis coronaria* or Shoals Spider Lilies on the Flat Shoal Creek, property of Stephen Johnson in West Point, GA.

Organic Farm Tour: Saturday, June 22

Time Expectation: 10-3 for complete tour of 4 gardens

Leader: Joanna Baxter (706) 594-0991
joannabbaxter@yahoo.com

Level: Easy

Meet: Carpooling is available from the St. Mark's Episcopal Church on 207 North Greenwood St. in LaGrange. Alternatively, maps will be provided for all 4 farms on tour upon request. Bring picnic lunch and water.

Event: We will meet 4 organic farmers in Troup County- Ricky Wolfe, Sim Blitch, Eric Simpson, and Pierre Millet- who will show us their gardens and answer questions. Some may have produce for sale!

For more information, please visit
<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/lagrange/>

Chapter Contacts

Executive Committee

Chair: Mark Woodall, 706-674-2242,
woodallmark8@gmail.com
At-Large Elected Member

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

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

Laura Breyfogle, 706-845-7235,
breyfogle@charter.net
LaGrange Group Delegate

Todd Daniel, 678-567-2052, todddan@mac.com
At-Large Elected Member

Eddie Ehlert, 770-402-0087,
edehkert@bellsouth.net
Metro Atlanta Group Delegate

David Emory, 404-433-4914,
david.emory@gmail.com
At-Large Elected Member

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

Bettye Harris, 770-578-1186,
bettyeharris@gmail.com
Centennial Group Delegate

Thomas Jackson, 404-607-1262 x221,
tj31975@gmail.com
At-Large Elected Member

Bruce Morton, 404-569-5896
brucekmorton@gmail.com
At-Large Elected Member

Norman Slawsky, 404-299-1211 x25
nslawsky@gmail.com
At-Large Elected Member

Midge Sweet, 404-667-4476,
sweetsmidge@gmail.com
At-Large Elected Member

Appointed Officers & Chairs

Secretary: Todd Daniel, todddan@mac.com

Treasurer: Tom Neff, tsneff2003@yahoo.com

Assistant Treasurer: vacant

Conservation Chair: Alan Toney,
mudflat@comcast.net

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

Conservation Vice Chair: Larry Winslett,
winfog@windstream.net

Finance Chair: Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

Fundraising Chair: vacant

Human Resources: Norman Slawsky, nslawsky@gmail.com

Inner City Outings: Naomi Bock, atlantaico@gmail.com

Legislative: Mark Woodall,
woodallmark8@gmail.com

Litigation: Norman Slawsky,
nslawsky@gmail.com

Membership/Outreach: Ross Cheairs,
cheairsjr@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: David Emory,
gasierran@gmail.com

Outings: Scott Sanders,
thebrittinggroup@gmail.com

Political Chair: Eddie Ehlert,
edehkert@bellsouth.net

Sierra Student Coordinator: Ian Karra,
ikarra23@gmail.com

Webmaster: Charlotte Gardner,
ga_sierra_webmaster@yahoo.com

Conservation Campaigns

RAIL Committee:

David Emory, david.emory@gmail.com
Meeting: 4th Mon., 7 p.m., chapter office.
Committee sometimes skips months. E-mail first.

Smart Energy Solutions:

Eleanor Hand, eghand@bellsouth.net
and Robert Fera, rheria@gmail.com
Meeting: 1st Monday, 7 p.m. chapter office

Wildlands and Wildlife:

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

Issue Leaders & Contacts

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.net

Clean Air: Curt Smith, chsmith@speakeasy.net

Coastal: Judy Jennings,
judyjennings@comcast.net

Coastal Marsh: Mark Mosely, msmosely@aol.com

Cumberland: vacant

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

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

Assistant Chapter Director:

Sybil Cypress, 404-607-1262 x.221
sybil.cypress@sierraclub.org

National Staff

Associate Press Secretary:

Jenna Garland, 404-607-1262 x.222
jenna.garland@sierraclub.org

Beyond Coal Organizer:

Seth Gunning, 404-607-1262 x.233
seth.gunning@sierraclub.org

Standing Meetings

Inner City Outings

Fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Chapter Office. Contact Naomi Bock (atlantaico@gmail.com) for more information.

Fundraising Committee

Third Wednesday of the month. Contact Sybil Cypress (sybil.cypress@sierraclub.org) for more information.

Local Group Directory

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

Centennial Group

Serving Cobb, Cherokee & North Fulton

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

Outings Chair: Anderson Mycroft, awmycroft@yahoo.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday, welcome/refreshments 7:00 p.m., program 7:30 p.m.; Life College, 1269 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta. For directions contact Carina O'Bara at carina_do@yahoo.com.

Coastal Group

Serving Savannah & surrounding counties

Chair: Steve Willis, snwillis@yahoo.com

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: Dan Friedman, dan3688@aol.com

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

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

Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7:00 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: Sim Blitch simblich@charter.net

Outings Chair: Joanna Baxter, joannabbaxter@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, (404) 766-3456 nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.com

Outings Chair: Martin McConaughy mcmarty@bellsouth.net

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: Frank Carl, frankcarl@knology.net

Outings Chair: Cathy Black, sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com

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

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
<http://georgia.sierraclub.org>

Directions to take MARTA to the Sierra Club

office: Our office is an easy 3-4 minute walk from the MARTA Avondale station (E7). We encourage you to take MARTA when possible. Exit the MARTA station towards the SOUTH PARKING LOT, located on the East College Ave side. Once outside, proceed to the right towards Sams 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:

LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Your message should read:

SUBSCRIBE LISTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

LIST NAMES:

GA-OUTINGS (chapter outings list)

GA-NEWSLETTER-ANNOUNCE (online newsletter updates)

GA-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 will be Saturday, May 19th in the Savannah/Tybee area. Meetings are open to the membership. For more information, call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x. 221.



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JOHN MUIR OUTINGS

Celebrate Earth Day – and Georgia’s spectacular beauty – all month long. Saturdays in April, we’re hosting an outing where you can learn about our state’s threatened areas and how to protect them. To support the Georgia Chapter’s work, a donation of \$25 per person per outing is requested. What better way to honor Earth and our founder, John Muir?

Sat. Apr. 6 - Take a Ride on the Lovejoy

Sat. Apr. 20 - Etowah Paddle

Sat. Apr. 6 - Coastal River Paddle: Skidaway

Sat. Apr. 27 - Ellicott Rock Wilderness Hike

For more info and to register: georgia.sierraclub.org/johnmuiroutings



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