



# Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

## 30 Years of Exploring, Enjoying and Protecting



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# Georgia Sierra: Thirty Years of Inspiring Activism

By Colleen Kiernan

When we sat down for the editorial meeting for this issue of the *Sierran*, it had an air of a blank slate that we don't often have. Usually there is a topic that is hot enough that we want to dig in and provide you, our members, with as much information as we can about it.

It occurred to me recently that the Georgia Chapter was founded in 1983, and this year is our 30th Anniversary. Seth, our Beyond Coal Organizer, suggested that our Anniversary be the theme of the last *Sierran* of the year, which we all agreed was a great idea.

This issue highlights some of the most important issues we've worked on, issues which have changed the political landscape in one way or another. But rather than focusing on the the number of tons of air pollution we've stopped or the number of acres we've protected, we sought to look at how doing this work has affected the people who have engaged in it.

The work we do is hard, often thankless, deeply personal and rooted in love. As I told Bobby and Jane McLendon when I met them in 2001, their fight against the Longleaf Power Plant in Early County was going to be a marathon, not a sprint. Often our victories



Colleen Kiernan, Chapter Director

are fleeting, or they are that we live to fight another day.

We'll start even before the founding of the Georgia Chapter, when we were the Chattahoochee Chapter, combined

with Alabama, and take you all the way to the political landscape shifting work we are doing now, as part of the Green Tea Coalition.

My first introduction to the Georgia Chapter was in 2001, when I met Neill Herring (our lobbyist) and then Sam Booher (long time Chapter Chair and Savannah River Group Chair). It's been eye-opening to have met over the years other key people from the Chapter's history – Roger Buerki, Chuck McGrady, Alan Toney, Sam Collier, Bobby and Jane McLendon, Natalie Foster, Anna Cherry – and hear their stories.

I couldn't be happier to share these stories with you, because I think in the stories of our past, we can better see our future, play to our strengths, inspire others, and protect this little corner of our country we all call home.

## About Georgia Sierran

Articles: Send materials to: [gasierran@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

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



## Metropolitan River Protection: A Tale of “River Rats” and Voodoo?

By Roger Buerki

In September of 1970, just after a coalition of environmentalists calling ourselves “River Rats” protected the Palisades cliffs from being blasted to make way for an exposed sewer line, Roy Wood, Director of the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation announced that Interior Secretary Hickle planned to bring the parks to the people and that the Chattahoochee was one of 14 sites selected for study. Lou Greathouse, state planner, made my acquaintance and suggested that we should do something comprehensive for the river corridor as had been done in other states, namely a law to provide some regulation of land use.

I got Lou and a group of planners and attorneys together with State Senator Bob Walling. With Lou providing the framework, we drafted what became the Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA), which was introduced late in the 1971 session. Despite the support that we generated the bill was tabled in Senate Natural Resources at the end of the session.

What stopped it was a few local heavy hitters, including former Senator Smythe Gambrell, First National Bank Director Alfred Kennedy, and Horace Sibley, a large Cobb landowner, who all testified against the bill. It was heartbreaking that the public support we had generated was not enough to overpower these entrenched interests.

However, as a result of the tremendous response we had gotten, it was obvious to the “river rats” that our loose coalition needed a dedicated agency to lead the effort. At our meeting to design such an agency, the Junior League proposed to contribute \$4,000 to the fight if we let them take it over, giving life to Friends of the River. The lobbying and publicity continued and in the 1972 legislative session, MRPA, in a somewhat weakened form was again defeated.

In early June of 1972, Carlton Neville with Audubon came back from DC with a suggestion that we form a Georgia League of Conservation Voters. This was the spark we needed as we had already seen what effects special interests had on legislators. We looked for ripe races and issues, and State Senator Jack Higginbotham was one of our “no” votes on the committee. I went to his opponent in the GOP primary, George Warren, and proposed that the Chattahoochee be a major issue in his campaign. He agreed, and we recruited many volunteers and got great press. Higginbotham threatened to sue us. The Briarcliff High School Biology club helped with late night guerrilla mailbox stuffings and George Warren won.

The next morning we received calls from Andy Young and Sam Nunn asking if we could participate in their campaigns.



*The author (3rd from right) with U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt (center) and other Sierrans during a 1995 visit to the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area.*

What an astounding lesson in the impacts of electoral participation.

We did, and they won. Andy introduced the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area legislation in the House and Sam did in the Senate, and in the 1973 legislative session Jack's defeat over Chattahoochee issues was the bump we needed. With the help of House Majority Leader Al Burruss, our bill easily passed the House and went back to the Senate, where Lt. Gov Lester Maddox, declaring we were Communists, instructed his Natural Resources Committee Chair Roscoe Dean to hold us in committee. Late in the session, the Marietta Daily Journal ran a story on voodoo on the coast. Someone knew that Roscoe Dean was a believer, and a little research revealed that a certain color root was a hex against your health. Our lobbyist Kay McKenzie and Rep. Burruss placed the appropriate roots in their lapels and stood in the back of the room at the Senate Natural Resources Committee hearing. Kay reported that Roscoe began to fidget and fled the room, whereupon the Committee passed our bill in his absence.

Maddox held it in Rules but ran out of chips on the last day and the bill made it to the floor, and announced that our bill was locked in his desk drawer until the editor of the Marietta Daily Journal apologized. In the afternoon he relented, and the roll call was taken. When the roll got to George Warren, he stood and said, “The man who held this seat last year voted against this bill, and he's no longer here. I wish to cast my vote as a resounding ‘aye.’” Most of the Senators left, and the bill passed 52-2.

This was almost as good as being invited to George Warren's wedding.

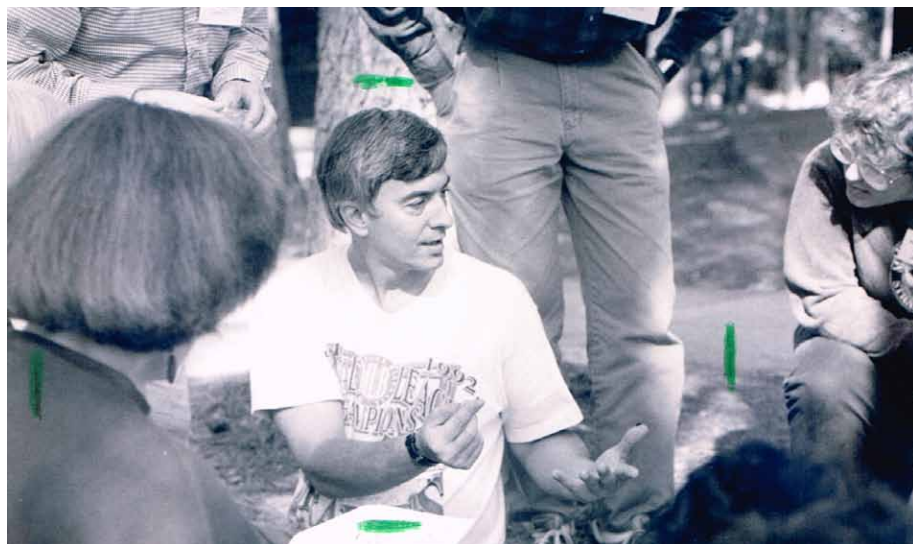
## The Story Behind Adopt-a-Stream

By Alan Toney

I have always loved waters and wild-life and try to spend a lot of time fly fishing and paddling. In 1976 I joined Friends of the River to help create the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area, and this is where I became acquainted with the Sierra Club.

By the mid-1980s local environmentalists felt that a citizen “adopt-a-stream” program would be a good strategy for protecting Georgia waters. I attended a workshop led by Karen Firehock from Virginia’s successful Adopt-a-Stream Program. She showed us how to catch and identify aquatic insects and other invertebrates. We learned which ones were sensitive to pollution and which ones were more tolerant. This not only allowed us to gauge water quality based on the mix of bugs and larvae present, but we could also get a good picture of the stream’s ecology over each creature’s life cycle.

Unfortunately, Georgia EPD was not eager to create an organization where citizens would be looking for pollution problems, so our proposal was shelved. A couple of years later I met fellow Sierran Charlie O’Neal, an Emory professor who loved native fish. He wanted to create a Sierra Club Stream Watch in lieu of the missing state program. I wrote Virginia Adopt-a-Stream and obtained their startup kit. We got more information from Maryland and the Isaac Walton League. Then we developed a program to monitor Peavine Creek where we soon found a major mud pollution problem from Emory University’s new soccer field. Mud can be more damaging to a stream’s ecology than sewage, so I naively believed that DeKalb County and Emory would be eager to fix the problem, but neither responded positively. Charlie got media attention at some risk to himself since he was trying to obtain tenure at Emory and, begrudgingly, some erosion controls were put in place. We continued to



monitor and spread the word to various civic groups, encouraging them to set up their own stream watch programs. We didn’t just monitor. If we noticed a problem, we went looking for the cause, and we reported polluters and tried to educate the public. Finally, the state found new interest in setting up their Adopt-a-Stream Program that had been sitting on a shelf for 5 years.

As Adopt-a-Stream slowly progressed, the Sierra Club started monitoring a badly polluted section of Peachtree Creek just below Tanyard Creek where raw sewage often spilled from overflows. This was managed by a Carol Couch when she was at USGS. She was studying both the creek and the citizen group’s ability to provide accurate results. We had a very strong team including Keith and Shirl Parsons, Bob Woodall, Glen Groszmann, Ted and Lisa Jackson. Carol was very pleased with our protocol and samples.

The newly created Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper was going after the big polluters like the City of Atlanta’s sewers and, while this was encouraging, I was frustrated by arrogant developers and the blatant lack of enforcement at the local level. Streams were dying from thousands of smaller violations.

In 1995 I was able to get appointed to the Fulton County Soil and Water District replacing an elected supervisor who had retired early. The Soil and Water Districts have an important educational and oversight role with all the local governments. After a year I was elected chairman, and we also had a green majority for the first time. We rescinded the City of Atlanta and Fulton County’s Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), and they were furious. It was a shot across the bow to the development community.

Meanwhile Sierra Club members and other clean water advocates were elected in DeKalb and Cobb Districts. Over the years the urban Soil and Water Supervisors have played an important role in helping local governments develop strong clean water programs, but more importantly there has also been a positive sea change among many developers and especially among Design Professionals who are now responsible for how their plans are implemented. I’m especially proud of the City of Atlanta for its strong lead in promoting green infrastructure. Protecting the waters of Georgia will always be a struggle, but these changes are very positive.

## Political Activism: Sending John Lewis to Congress

By Chuck McGrady

The Sierra Club made its first presidential endorsement in 1984. The Georgia Chapter made a few endorsements, too – Elliott Levitas for the DeKalb County-based congressional seat, for example. In 1984, however, the endorsements were just on paper. No one actually worked in a campaign.

That changed in 1986 when the Georgia Chapter's political program really got its start, and club volunteers worked in campaign offices, raised money, wrote letters to the editor, and attended campaign events.

There were two important federal races that year. Rep. Wyche Fowler challenged Sen. Mack Mattingly for the U.S. Senate seat and had to give up his congressional seat. The Fifth District seat was a Democratic seat, and whoever won the Democratic primary was going to have a safe seat. The major candidates were Julian Bond and John Lewis, two civil rights leaders. Lewis was serving on the Atlanta City Council at the time, and Bond had remained active in the civil rights movement.

The conventional wisdom – at least in Washington D.C. and San Francisco – was that Julian Bond would win the race. He was better known nationally, was better spoken, had access to more professional help, and was expected to raise more money.

The Georgia Chapter's conservation leaders, however, had better ties with John Lewis. He'd been the headliner for an Acid Rain event the chapter had sponsored, and he was viewed as being not just supportive on environmental issues but likely to be a leader if he were elected to Congress.

Club activists interviewed both candidates. Bond was well-spoken, but didn't show a lot of understanding or passion for environmental issues. Lewis also didn't know all of the issues, but he clearly viewed the Club's endorsement as important in his somewhat long-shot challenge to Bond.

The chapter's political committee and then its Executive Committee voted to endorse Lewis. That was the easy part. The hard part was convincing that Club's national leaders to support the endorsement and then support Lewis's campaign with Club monies.

Aside from serving as the Georgia Chapter's conservation chair and political chair, I also served on the Club's national political committee. I'd been appointed as part of the fallout from the Club's endorsement of Mondale for President in 1984.

The Club's southern chapters hadn't liked the process used to make that endorsement, and part of the problem was that no Sierra Club members who were Republicans were involved in the process. The San Francisco-based political leaders weren't enthusiastic about adding Southerners or Republicans



*The author (center), circa 1998.*

to the national political committee, but with my appointment they got a “two-fer” – a Southerner and a Republican – with only one vote.

Bond and Lewis were both credible candidates, but the San Francisco leaders' view was that Bond was the favorite and that Lewis bordered on being a sure loser. Since the Georgia Chapter had followed proper procedures in making the endorsement, employing questionnaires and interviews of the candidates, the national organization really didn't have any basis for turning down the endorsement, but they sure weren't going to waste money on the race.

Carl Pope was then the Club's political director, and at that time relatively early in his political work for the Club. Pope thought an endorsement of Lewis was likely a mistake, but he knew spending money in the race was a mistake.

Lewis' strategy was to keep keep Bond from getting 50% of the vote in the primary. There was a long history in Georgia of front-runners failing to win without a runoff, and more often than not the second place winner won the runoff. The national office thought Lewis was just too much of a long-shot, and they didn't want to irritate Bond, who was expected to win. In those days, there was no polling, so no one really knew what was going on.

The chapter's strategy in dealing with the national organization was to shame them into giving us resources. We inundated them with information about the race, and I tried to horse-trade with other members of the national political committee for support. Ultimately, the Club put money into the race.

Of course, the rest is history. Lewis did keep Bond from an outright win in the primary and narrowly defeated him in

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# The Taylor County Hazardous Waste War

By Mark Woodall

In 1987, Georgia Governor Joe Frank Harris, Chair of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Authority, sent letters to county officials around the state inviting them to apply for a hazardous waste incinerator and storage facility. Only the poorest, most desperate rural counties applied.

In west central Georgia, the Taylor County Commissioners offered three sites, totaling 21,700 acres, without notification or consent of the landowners. So began the Taylor County hazardous waste war.

In February 1988, the original selection of Taylor County was thrown out by a Superior Court decision on an open meetings lawsuit filed by the local opponents. Undaunted by the court's rebuke, the Taylor County Commissioners voted in an open meeting to apply for the facility a second time in March, 1988.

In the August primary, Commissioner John Neely, the most vocal proponent, was defeated but others were re-elected. It became clear the political fix was still in when a Taylor County site was once again selected for the hazardous waste facility despite ranking below a site in Warren County.

Fed up after two years of betrayal by their state and local elected officials, the citizens drove to the State Capitol on April 17, 1989, for a meeting of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Authority chaired by Governor Harris. Led by Marie Jarrell McGlaun, the citizens stood one by one to state their grievances. Finally, those present began a chant of "No Joe. No Joe. No Joe." A frustrated Governor Harris abruptly adjourned the meeting.

The opponents decided to expand the struggle to the 1990 Georgia General Assembly. Two bills were drafted which would change the policy of Georgia from promoting disposal to pollution prevention and hazardous waste



*The author (right), pictured with longtime Chapter lobbyist Neill Herring.*

reduction.

My cousin Louise Love asked me to go to Atlanta for a few days to help pass the legislation. I agreed to be a volunteer lobbyist and showed up at the Capitol to meet with State Senators Skin Edge and Pierre Howard, sponsors of one of the bills. State Senator Roy Barnes sponsored the other bill.

Soon I met Sierra Club lobbyist Neill Herring who helped tremendously with media contacts including those that led to a three night special on Channel 2. Sierra Club volunteers, Norman Slawsky, Mike Wardrip and Karen Bernheimer helped as well. During the session, I attended a Sierra Club Atlanta Group meeting for the first time to hand out info on the hazardous waste controversy.

After much excitement, Senate Bill 519 did pass and pollution prevention became the policy of Georgia with large generators required to prepare hazardous waste reduction plans. The other bill was traded for the lake water quality standards act.

EPD Director J. Leonard Ledbetter became a target in the 1990 gubernatorial race as citizens all over Georgia

urged the candidates to fire Ledbetter for his failure to control the massive Metro Atlanta sewer overflows which were killing West Point Lake as well as the promotion of the Taylor County facility. Ledbetter soon resigned. New Governor Zell Miller reconstituted the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Authority with many new members including Sierra Club activist Ogden Doremus and me.

The reconstituted Authority finally dropped the project entirely. I remained a volunteer lobbyist until the project was dropped and was then asked to become Chair of the Sierra Club's Legislative Committee.

If it weren't for the Taylor County war and the help provided by the Sierra Club in that fight, I would have remained in the woods of west Georgia. The people of Georgia have united to defeat many bad ideas since the Taylor County debacle such as the defeat of the DOT's proposed Outer Loop around Atlanta and the proposed Early County coal plant. The Big Money special interests like Georgia Power and the road contractors are still there so the people must continue to work.

## Collaborating to Protect the Okefenokee

By Sam Collier

“Everything we’ve discussed so far assumes there will be some amount of mining,” I said. “If we are going to look at all options, then we need to also consider a scenario where there is no mining at all.”

Then I gulped and waited for a response.

After a long, long moment, the DuPont representatives ended their huddle and announced: “that is fine with us.”

Now I know my question did little if anything to start the No-Mine Scenario – they agreed to it much too quickly to not have already been planning it. But I played a very Sierra Club role at that moment: to ask the unasked question, to push beyond the comfort zone and be bold enough to call for bold ideas. Maybe they were even hoping it would be asked.

In April 1997, the DuPont Corporation hastily called a press conference calling for a “stakeholder collaborative” to discuss their plan to mine Trail Ridge along the eastern edge of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, one of the most wondrous landscapes in America. They wanted to dredge 50 feet deep into the sands, below the water line of the Swamp, for titanium dioxide, used to make white paint bright white. A 20-50 year mine project on the edge of the largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi, mining the ridge that played a significant role in the formation of the swamp.

Just eight days earlier, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt had toured the site, and flown over DuPont’s mine in Starke, Florida. He called on the company to abandon its plan, and Georgia Gov. Zell Miller and the Department of Natural Resources also opposed the mine.

The collaborative DuPont called for was open and transparent, and no one ever asked us to stop campaigning (vigorously) while we collaborated and



L to R: Sam Collier, Delaware-based staffer Mike D'Amico, Sierra Student Coalition leader Elizabeth Hagan, and Coastal Group Leader Judy Jennings at the DuPont Shareholder meeting.

discussed options and scenarios. The No-Mine Scenario SubGroup met after the 6th monthly meeting in Folkston, where 40 stakeholders met to discuss the mine proposal. A year later, we were announcing tentative approval of a No-Mine Agreement.

The Georgia Chapter led Sierra Club’s effort to protect the swamp in three key ways: public advocacy campaign against the mine, supporting Sam Booher’s shareholder resolution to stop it, but also sitting down with the company to discuss alternatives.

What happened over the next two years changed my life in a number of ways. In addition to my sense of accomplishment in working with Sierrans in Georgia, Florida and Delaware, I learned to separate the people from the problem. Sitting across the table from DuPont folks, I realized that if I had their job, I would have a hard time accomplishing something I actually thought was the right thing to do. That once people “get it” about the crises we face, implementing the changes we need to make is still hard. Once we are to-

gether that a solution is needed, there is plenty of work left to do to get it solved.

I learned there is nothing about negotiating that prevents asserting my position. Rather, better solutions result when all are acting in good faith. The No Mine Agreement, signed on February 9, 1999, brought other projects to the local area, and DuPont made the mine site the largest land conservation gift in Georgia history. It turns out there were several “wins” for each party under a No-Mine Scenario, but only when collaborating on how to optimize no mine for all did most of those wins come forward.

Credit for this great accomplishment is shared by many, but with Judy Jennings, Josh Marks, Sam Booher and others bringing media spotlight and focusing citizen and shareholder outrage, Sierra Club was a potent voice for protecting the Swamp. And as we negotiated with them, I always knew what brought us to the table – a steady, focused, often creative expression of Americans’ longing that we protect where we live while we make a living.



## Developing “Environmental Eyes” in Early County

By Bobby and Jane McLendon

Ten years is a significant part of a life to dedicate to one project. We had no idea what we were getting into in 2001, when friend Carleen Bell Logan asked us to attend a meeting about a coal plant proposed for Early County.

The plant was to be built on land that had been in the Bell family for generations. The land had been the family gathering place for holidays and reunions and was very important to them.

It was at the meeting that night that we became involved in what was to be the country's longest-running campaign against the construction of a new coal plant. Proposed by LS Power Company of New Jersey, the 1200 megawatt plant was to be called the Lingle Energy Station.

We went to the meeting concerned for our friends and what the proposed industry would mean to our county. Living with the poverty of the area, we were well aware of the need for “progress.” However, after hearing presentations from several experts, we began to realize we did not want a coal plant in our home county. Dr. Ron Saff, an allergist from Tallahassee, Florida, spoke passionately about the effect coal plant emissions would have on the health of people in a widespread area. He described heartbreaking examples of children and adults with asthma and lung problems struggling to breathe because of pollution. Other experts explained the potential damage to the quality of air and water and described the threat of coal ash containing mercury, lead and arsenic.

After more research on coal plants, many in our area began to view the proposed Lingle Energy Station as a threat to our most valuable assets—our pristine environment and our health. We joined other concerned citizens to form an environmental group called Friends of the Chattahoochee to protect the beautiful land bordering the Chattahoochee River.

During the weeks, months, and years that followed, representatives of the Sierra Club were constant visitors to Blakely as they advised and directed us in a powerful campaign against the plant.

They joined us in meetings with the EPA and EPD in an effort to counteract the influence of the Early County Development Authority, who was meeting with state politicians to bring the coal plant to Early County.

Buses filled with members of the Sierra Club came to Blakely to participate in many public hearings with the EPD on the permitting of Lingle then drove into the night back to Atlanta.

The Sierra Club advised Friends of the Chattahoochee to contact attorneys with the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest (later to become GreenLaw in Atlanta) and joined



with our group in challenging the permitting of the plant through the courts of an Administrative Law Judge, the Fulton County Superior Court, and the Georgia Court of Appeals.

A small group of citizens from all walks of life would not have had a chance against the local Development Authority and state politicians without the strength and expertise of the Sierra Club. We will always be indebted to those who led us in the successful campaign against the Lingle Energy Station.

The past ten years affected everyone involved. Somewhere along the way we became environmental activists. We see life from an environmental perspective. We have developed environmental eyes.

We see huge disposal bins filled with plastic bottles and containers and feel an urgency to get such waste recycled. We look for ways to get the message to those who are responsible.

There are two recycling trailers in Blakely. One bears the name of Andrew Smith, our grandson who started the recycling program when he was nine. We now recycle everything at our house. We have been amazed at how little garbage we have to carry to county waste receptacles. We have installed a solar water heater and remind ourselves often that our hot water does not cost us anything.

There is a compost bin by the pump house. After all, this will produce rich soil that can be added back to the earth.

Our church is the grateful recipient of a Georgia Interfaith Power and Light grant, which has paid for much of the insulation that has been added above our beloved 100-year-old sanctuary. More improvements that will reduce energy consumption at First Baptist Church are planned. Other local churches are planning to do the same.

God has given us a world that is pure and beautiful beyond measure. We feel a renewed responsibility to care for it and preserve it for those who follow us. It is our prayer that He will find us faithful.



## The Atlanta Beltline: From Vision to Reality

*In the mid-2000s, the Sierra Club in Georgia embarked on one of its most memorable campaigns ever – the push to make the Atlanta Beltline, at the time a mere proposal hatched by a graduate school thesis, a top priority for city officials. Instrumental to that effort were **Anna Cherry**, **Natalie Foster**, and **Colleen Kiernan**, three national Sierra Club organizers based in the Atlanta office. The Sierran spoke with the three of them recently about the Beltline campaign and its legacy.*

**Sierran:** What are you most nostalgic about from the days of the Beltline campaign?

**Colleen:** Our assignment was to build environmental community, one person at a time. There was no better issue to build energy and enthusiasm than the Beltline; thinking about redevelopment in a smart growth way is something that made Atlantans feel proud and optimistic. I remember clean-ups and events in Piedmont and Maddox Park, distributing yard signs in the neighborhoods, and the boost the Beltline gave to Sierra Club & Beer – it was just a fun, fun time in the Atlanta office.

**Anna:** Screen on the Green BeltLine canvassing – best canvass ever! You're standing in Piedmont Park, pointing to the Beltline path a couple hundred feet away to people who were in the midst of the gridlock that happened anytime there was an event in the park. I truly do miss canvassing on this campaign. It was such an easy canvass – the Beltline was still a new idea and so you would often run into people who had no idea about it, and see people get on board and get excited. We were able to plant the seed, ensure that the message stayed on point with transit as the backbone of the project. And then watch “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” and drink Sierra Club wine with 10,000 of your closest friends.



*Beltline supporters outside the Fulton County government center. Among them are Sierra Club organizers Natalie Foster (back row, holding sign) and Anna Cherry (immediately in front).*

**Natalie:** Once the Beltline idea moved from Ryan Gravel’s white paper to an idea people were talking about, we heard a lot of passion from our Sierra Club family about the idea. It combined the Sierra Club values of hiking, public transit and smart urban planning together – as well as connecting Atlantans from all walks of life.

**Sierran:** How did working on the Beltline change you as an activist?

**Anna:** The Beltline was my introduction to Atlanta. When I took the job with the Sierra Club in December 2004, I moved to Georgia from Utah knowing no one. The three of us hashed out the organizing plan and the Beltline became the center of my world. I threw myself into the campaign, and was soon building coalitions and working in partnership with leaders of the largest non-profits in Atlanta. Within months I went from being a completely unconnected newcomer to working shoulder to shoulder with Cathy Woolard and Ryan Gravel, who I now count as old friends. In fact I met most of my friends working on the Beltline campaign, including, most

importantly, my husband. The Cherry Beltline wedding was even featured on Good Morning America!

**Colleen:** I had never won a campaign before the Atlanta City Council vote to pass the Beltline tax district; it gave me optimism that we can bring about the solutions to the problems we face.

**Natalie:** Winning on the Beltline is my second favorite campaign I’ve worked on to date, second only to passing Obamacare. The campaign brought me in touch with so many parts of Atlanta that were new to me – new organizations, new allies and new parts of the city I’d never seen. And it rallied a new, younger part of the Sierra Club. All over the world, people are moving into cities – the entire millennial generation will live in cities – and it’s more important than ever that we make sure people can get around easily. Through the Beltline campaign, I personally learned a lot about what was smart growth and what wasn’t – as well as what it takes to build a world-class city project.

*continued on following page*

# Special: 30th Anniversary Retrospective

## BeltLine, continued from page 9

**Sierran:** How did the political landscape change as a result of Sierra Club's work?

**Natalie:** That it's easier to say no than yes is more true politically today than it's ever been. The fact we were able to marshal support to get the city council to say yes to a smart civic infrastructure project is a true win for the Sierra Club and our allies – because it's far easier to defeat things than it is to move the ball forward.

**Anna:** This campaign was a perfect example of the importance of messaging. The Beltline was originally conceived as a transit project with the parks and trails as the "icing on the cake," but it would have been easy for the mayor to cut out the transit and make it just a greenway and development project and call it a day. With our extensive grassroots organizing, we ensured that the Beltline was about transit, and the Beltline will never be truly done in the eyes of the public until the tracks are laid. We had the resources and were able to build momentum around transit in a way that no one else could, and in a way the city could not ignore. Projects like Ponce City Market and the Peachtree Streetcar are possible because of the groundwork we laid and the impetus that we built around transit and smart growth development.



L to R: Ryan Gravel, Colleen Kiernan, and Anna Cherry at a Beltline-themed Sierra Club and Beer event

**Colleen:** The beauty of this project is that it is rooted in the very thing that makes Atlanta great – the fact that it is whatever people want it to be. Some cities offer their residents more culture or more progressive policies, but Atlanta provides the opportunity for its people to shape it, to leave their mark on it. To make it what we want it to be.



photo by Marcia Searns

## GOING, GOING... GONE?

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

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

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# New Directions in Activism

By Sara Black

During the Fall Semester of 2012, I moved to Washington D.C. to take an internship with the Sierra Club's Beyond Oil campaign. I was living out a mini-dream of mine, doing national scale work, helping to shape a new campaign, and feeling, in general, very "in the room" for national issues like Keystone XL. I learned a lot about how the Sierra Club works at this scale, how we relate to our national allies and partners, and how we leverage our grassroots base to create big action – all just by being in the room, taking notes.

Meanwhile, my friends in Georgia were in a different room. The Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia announced a meeting in Athens, and the UGA Beyond Coal campaign team wanted to plan an action. They linked up with the Undocumented Student Alliance, a campus group that builds student power to reverse the 2011 Board-of-Regents-instituted ban on undocumented youth from only Georgia's best public universities. Together they stood up in the middle of the Board of Regents meeting and began shouting a message of justice for all – all students on campus, dirty energy off campus.

The action got national press and spun off subsequent events nestled within a broader conversation about the spirit of



solidarity between these two movements. Op-eds rolled out in the spring from Bill McKibben, as did a landmark statement of solidarity to the immigrant justice movement from the Sierra Club board. Students at UGA hosted a local climate-immigrant organizing convergence, and that work of building relationships and finding avenues of mutualism continues today.

What is possible when we go beyond statements of solidarity? Can we continue to act together, to collaborate in a way that mutually strengthens our calls for justice, progressive politics, and a livable future for all?

I think chapters are the places to continue transcending dated barriers between our typical environmental movement and economic and racial justice broadly. We need to be in those rooms, learning from our neighbors, listening to the needs, burdens, ideas, and strategies of Georgia's marginalized. We need to recognize that the same forces of short-sightedness, po-

litical expediency, corruption, and racism are at the root of a state with some of the most draconian anti-immigrant laws in the country, and two of the most carbon intensive coal plants in the world.

Collaboration there will help us identify ways that our work can most appropriately contribute to bending that long arc towards justice in this state.

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### John Lewis, continued from page 5

the runoff. The Sierra Club may have been the only national organization that endorsed Lewis over Bond, and Lewis went on to become a leader on environmental issues. For the Sierra Club, it was a big victory because we'd ignored the conventional political wisdom. For the Georgia Chapter, it was a big victory because for the first time it had put people into the race and an important candidate in Georgia was telling people about the Club's work.

While Fowler was great on environmental issues, he didn't win reelection in 1992. Lewis is still a congressman, and having seen him recently, I can say he still remembers that the Sierra Club was behind him when few other organizations were willing to support him.

On a personal note, the Lewis campaign was just fun,

and the fun continued after the campaign. I married another Sierra Club activist (Jean Sokol) after the election, and John and Lillian Lewis came to the wedding. When Lewis first went to Washington, D.C., I went with him as his non-paid staff. Lewis lost the lottery for office space and ended up on the top floor of the Longworth Building. He had to take two elevators just to get to the subway that runs over to the Capitol. But that wasn't my fault.

Carl Pope went on to become Executive Director of the Sierra Club, and I went on to become national president of the Sierra Club. But, Pope had to now eat crow after this election. He'd argued loud and long that Lewis was going to lose. I dyed a toy stuffed penguin totally black and shipped it to Pope in San Francisco. I couldn't find a crow, but for several years that penguin hung in Pope's office – reminding him never to get himself out on a limb like he did in the Lewis-Bond race.

# The “Green Tea” Partnership: Finding Common Ground Among Unlikely Allies

By Colleen Kiernan and  
Seth Gunning

The beginning of any relationship is fraught with uncertainty and excitement. Sometimes you admire someone from afar for a while; other times it's love at first sight. Sometimes you start out hating each other, but over time your respect and admiration grow in ways you never would have expected.

Debbie Dooley first caught our attention during the legislature in 2012, when she vehemently opposed SB 469, which would have criminalized protesting on private property, and would not stand down even after the sponsor of the bill amended it to only apply to labor unions. Chapter Director Colleen Kiernan picked up the phone and invited Debbie to lunch in late April of 2012 to discuss potential areas of collaboration: two Public Service Commission elections and of course the transportation sales tax referendum.

While Debbie and the Sierra Club worked together on both, our efforts on the transportation sales tax got far more attention. Our side spent a few hundred dollars on our campaign in contrast to the \$8 million plus spent by boosters. Thomas Wheatley, News Editor of *Creative Loafing* observed that we “outlined one of the more well-reasoned criticisms of the tax - one which even supporters had to acknowledge was, despite a few flaws, pretty solid.”

This summer, the fossil-fuel backed Americans for Prosperity (AFP) attempted to torpedo a proposal made by conservative Public Service Commissioners to add 525 megawatts of solar to Georgia Power's 20-year energy plan. Debbie Dooley, who had already testified in support of the proposal, led Tea Party Patriots from around the state in challenging AFP's false claims. As the clock wound down on the PSC's deci-



*Beyond Coal organizer Seth Gunning speaks at a Green Tea rally at the State Capitol.*

sion, conservatives, greens, libertarians, and liberals came together to show our collective support for the Public Service Commission's solar proposal by turning out to town hall meetings and rallying on the Georgia Capitol steps.

The loose alliance between the Sierra Club and Tea Party leaders has held several events and generated international media since this summer under the “Green Tea Coalition” banner. We are proving that progress on clean air, clean water, and 21st century clean energy isn't a partisan job: that conservation is also a conservative issue. Instead of concentrating on the differences that too often drive a wedge between political movements, we're staying focused on cultivating our common ground. We are not compromising our values so that we can work together, we are organizing together on the values that matter to each of us.

As long as the fossil fuel industry and corporate powers continue to lobby against the health and financial well being of Georgia residents by promoting dirty and risky energy sources over sound affordable clean energy investments, our coalition will continue to grow. We are changing the political

landscape in unexpected ways. We are not only opening up political space for conservatives to again join the conversation about conservation and clean energy, but also for leadership from anyone directly impacted by coal pollution, rate-hikes from costly nuclear overruns, and dirty politics.

Go to [www.georgia.sierraclub.org/utilitycustomerbillofrights](http://www.georgia.sierraclub.org/utilitycustomerbillofrights) to see where our common ground exists.

In the coming months, we will face increasing attacks from entrenched and deep-pocketed fossil fuel interests who call our alliance “unholy” and fear the political pressure the public is ready to bring. Already, Georgia Power has proposed rate-hikes, increased profit margins, and egregious fees on the use of clean energy that benefit shareholders and fossil fuel interests on the backs of utility customers and Georgia citizens. But, If we can continue to look beyond our differences and embrace our shared vision for the future, our movement will demand that our elected officials act in the best interest of the people, to remove market barriers to clean energy expansion, allow clean energy freedom, and protect utility customers from rate-hikes from big bad utility bets.



# LaGrange Group Hosts Organic Farm Tour



One strategy used by the Sierra Club to get folks interested in protecting our environment is giving people opportunities to “explore our planet”, in other words get outside! The LaGrange group strives to plan a variety of outings to suit many interests. One very popular outdoor pursuit was our first organic farm tour in June, which attracted a wide age range. Three organic gardens in Troup County were highlighted, each with a unique style and various fruits and vegetables showcased.

Sim's Garden Patch, located in the historic Mountville community, has been in operation for almost 20 years. Sim Blich has spent years building up the organic matter in the soil. He taught participants about organic means of fertilization, pest and fungus control, as well as the use of cover crops and crop rotation. He and his partner Caroline bought and restored a vacant Methodist church for their home and use an abandoned elementary school for their shed. It is a real treat to experience this garden in its historical setting! Sim sells blueberries, strawberries, cut flowers and vegetables on a seasonal basis from his garden 2 mornings a week, as well as at a local plant nursery in LaGrange 1 morning a week. He will also take special orders. He can be contacted at 678-575-1063.

Pierre Millet, also known as “the

French Gardener”, has capitalized on a small half acre lot in the town of Hogansville. He demonstrated to us that by eliminating grass, one does not need much land to produce a lot of vegetables and flowers. One aspect he strongly emphasizes is the vital importance of feeding the soil with organic matter such as compost, leaves, clippings, and manure. Also by mulching heavily, a gardener can reduce the amount of water needed. Pierre's tour included examples of creative and economic landscaping techniques, for example, using wine bottles as borders and utilizing recycled lumber for raised bed construction. In addition to selling his vegetables at the Market on Main in LaGrange on Saturday mornings, Pierre offers landscaping services, synergistic gardening presentations to groups, and produces a monthly newsletter on gardening. He can be reached at [pierre@thefrenchgardener.net](mailto:pierre@thefrenchgardener.net).

New Eden is a relatively new farm in south Troup County which is owned and operated by Eric Simpson. His inclusion of chickens, turkeys, goats and a horse named Baby, in addition to vegetables, made this an especially fun experience for kids. Eric taught us about using goats as browsers to get rid of unwanted plants, how he transports his chickens to various parts of the pasture for fertilization purposes, and how he plans to irrigate his gardens using his

own pond water. Eric markets his organic vegetables and eggs using the CSA (community supported agriculture) method in which customers pay in advance for a certain amount of vegetables to be delivered to their homes on a regular basis (either weekly or biweekly). If you are interested in renting Eric's goats as browsers or signing up for his CSA, contact him at 706-881-1249.

Because this was such a popular event, the LaGrange Sierra Club would like to offer a local farm tour each year!

### Upcoming Meetings

**When:** Tuesday, Oct. 15 6:30-8 pm

**Where:** St. Mark's Episcopal Church on 207 N. Greenwood St. in LaGrange

**What:** Henry Jacobs, LaGrange Outreach Coordinator for Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, will speak on the current state of water monitoring in the West Point Lake water basin

**When:** Tuesday, Nov. 19 6:30-8 pm

**Where:** St. Mark's Episcopal Church on 207 N. Greenwood St. in LaGrange

**What:** Nancy Sieger, Troup County Planner will present topic What will Troup County look like in 10 years?

*No meeting in December*

## Metro Atlanta Group

### Upcoming Meetings & Programs

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

#### **October 8 Meeting:** *How GreenLaw Protects the Environment*

Stephanie Stuckey Benfield will discuss how an environmental law group can balance the scales of justice in the favor of the ecosystems Sierra Club and other groups are fighting to save.

#### **November 12 Meeting:** *Climate Change is a Reality Now*

Gail Gill of the Sierra Club Centennial Group will visit our group to present more information about global warming and those who deny it.

#### **December 10 Meeting and Potluck:** *Twenty-five years of Photos for National Geographic Magazine*

Peter Essick is a noted National Geographic photographer with a new book "Our Beautiful, Fragile World: The Nature and Environmental Photographs of Peter Essick," which will be available for purchase and signing after the meeting.

This is our annual potluck meeting, so please bring something tasty to share. Our group will provide turkey or other meat and beverages. You may bring your own place setting, but we will have dinnerware available.

#### **January 14, 2014 Meeting**

Larry Winslett presents the Wilderness Act at 50 years.

#### **Adopt-A-Stream Program events**

- **Saturday, October 19** (Chemical monitoring)
- **Saturday, November 16** (Chemical monitoring)
- **Saturday, December 14** (Biological & Chemical monitoring)

We meet 10 AM to noon on South Fork of Peachtree Creek in Medlock Park, north of Decatur. For biologic monitoring, we need many eyes to find the critters found in the creek.

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.

Park in the middle, and walk the dirt road with the 2-story building on your left and ball fields on either side, go into the woods behind ball field #5. Bear left and you will see us at a picnic table by the 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:** *General Membership meetings are open to the public and held at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. at the intersection with East Lake Drive; the entrance to the church is on East Lake 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/>

## Greater Gwinnett Group

November is here, or maybe not. As my old friend Max, a smart man, used to say, "Would you believe October". No? Would you believe September? Actually, it is mid September but the way the year has gone by and Thanksgiving is a mere two and half months away, the year seems to be almost over. Yes, I could talk about the solar and nuclear programs we have had. I could talk about the urban gardening and travelogue programs as well. Or the future, for September writing of wind energy, recycling and parties we will be having. I could but I'm not. This year, for the first time in many years, the Chapter and the Gwinnett Group will be taking a hard look at where we have been, celebrating those victories, remembering the not so victories and looking for where we will go. We will look at our conservation work and the not so glamorous work of member-

ship engagement, finances and organization. As with any organization – for profit or non profit – has to examine the environment and determine what the organization needs to change to reflect the changes in the environment. By environment, I'm not referring to global warming but rather the economic, social and political forces that shape our lives. We in Gwinnett will be examining what we need to change. The chapter will also and some of that will be/was done at the retreat. Every Group needs to examine themselves because if we do not change with the times, we will go extinct. Come have a say in where the Sierra Club is going. It is your Club, you should have a say in what we do. Now is no time to go mute.

**- Dan Friedman**



# Centennial Group

The Centennial Sierra Club Group has had some interesting programs the last couple of months: Stephanie Stuckey Benfield, executive director of Greenlaw, Inc., the environmental organization that advises the GA Sierra Club on legal issues, spoke at our August meeting, and two students from Kennesaw State University, Michelle Allen and Jennifer Pramuk, who are active in the Kennesaw Alliance for Clean Energy (KACE), spoke in September. Our club was happy to have the information about the issues in the state that Ms Benfield addressed and shared ideas with the KACE students about how they might make their organization stronger on campus and in area environmental issues.

Upcoming meetings include **October 3rd's** meeting, which Jim Wilbanks of Sera Kaust Task Force (SKTF.org) cavers cleanup will join us. **November 7th** "Repurposing Event," in which members and guests are encouraged to bring examples of ways to reuse household items in new, creative ways. In December we will have our Holiday Potluck party at the Avery Gallery in Marietta. (Normally we meet the first Thursday of each month at Life University, Room 311 in the Gymnasium,

at 7:00pm for a social period and the meeting at 7:30pm. For directions visit our website at <http://www.georgia.sierraclub.org/centennial>.)

Other upcoming events include a hike on **Saturday, October 19, at 10:00am**, starting at the Jones Bridge trailhead of the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area. To sign up email Andy Mycroft, the hike leader, at [101798@gmail.com](mailto:101798@gmail.com). For directions go to Google Maps with this address: 9065-9357 Barnwell Rd., Johns Creek, GA .

The semi-annual Rivers Alive Clean up for the Rottenwood Creek Adopt-a-Stream and pot-luck lunch will be **Saturday, October 26**. Keep Cobb Beautiful and students from Southern Poly University will be joining us. We will meet at Life University at the entrance of the gymnasium in front of the historic cabin. Parking is available across from cabin. We will meet at 9:00am to start the clean up. **We will return at noon for a potluck and cookout**, with meat and vegetarian offerings from the grill. Please bring a side dish to share. Contact Carina to signup for this educational and fun event: [carina\\_do@yahoo.com](mailto:carina_do@yahoo.com).



*Centennial Group volunteers at Chattahoochee River Race Festival in June.*



*Atlanta Group Chair Gordon Draves joined us at our July picnic.*



*August guest speaker Stephanie Stuckey Benfield, executive director of Greenlaw.*



*Michelle Allen (l) and Jennifer Pramuk from Kennesaw Alliance for Clean Energy spoke at the September meeting. Also pictured are Seth Gunning and Gigi Burke.*

# 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,  
sweetmidge@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 Monday, 7 p.m., chapter office.*  
*Committee sometimes skips months. E-mail first.*

**Smart Energy Solutions:**

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

**Wildlands and Wildlife:**

Mike Murdock, murdock1@mindspring.com  
*Meeting: 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m., chapter office.*  
*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

**Chapter Program Assistant:**

Bronte McCorkle, 404-607-1262 x.224  
bronte.mccorkle@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 Block (atlantaico@gmail.com) for more information.

**Fundraising Committee**

Contact the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x221 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](mailto:lynnwalston22@yahoo.com)

**Outings Chair:** Anderson Mycroft, [awmycroft@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:carina_do@yahoo.com).

## Coastal Group

*Serving Savannah & surrounding counties*

**Chair:** Karen Grainey, [karengrainey@bellsouth.net](mailto:karengrainey@bellsouth.net)

**Outings Chair:** Steve Wagner, [sjwgnr@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:dan3688@aol.com)

**Conservation Chair:** Art Sheldon, [asheldon.cp81@gtalumni.org](mailto:asheldon.cp81@gtalumni.org)

**Outings Chair:** Jake Hardison, [jake.hardison@ssa.gov](mailto: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](mailto:breyfogle@charter.net)

**Conservation Chair:** Sim Blitch [simblich@charter.net](mailto:simblich@charter.net)

**Outings Chair:** Joanna Baxter, [joannabbaxter@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.com)

**Outings Chair:** Martin McConaughy [mcmarty@bellsouth.net](mailto: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](mailto:gordonjudith@att.net)

**Co-Chair:** Sam Booher, [sbooher@aol.com](mailto:sbooher@aol.com)

**Conservation Chair:** Frank Carl, [frankcarl@knology.net](mailto:frankcarl@knology.net)

**Outings Chair:** Cathy Black, [sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:wolpers4@aol.com)

### Forsyth County

Jim Callison, [jimcallison@juno.com](mailto:jimcallison@juno.com)

### Macon

Fletcher Winston, [winston\\_f@mercer.edu](mailto:winston_f@mercer.edu)

### North Georgia

Larry Winslett, [winfog@windstream.net](mailto:winfog@windstream.net)

### Valdosta

Brian Day, [bjday@valdosta.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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

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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, November 17th at the Chapter office in Decatur. Meetings are open to the membership. For more information, call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x221.

# Chapter & Group Elections

## CHAPTER & GROUP ELECTIONS

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## Georgia Chapter Executive Committee Candidates

### Sara Black

*Location: Athens*

*Sierra Club Member Since: 2013*

I am a senior undergraduate at the University of Georgia. In three years of climate leadership, I have devoted much of my time and attention to youth inclusion and leadership development within the Sierra Club. Since August 2011, I have served on the Sierra Student Coalition's national Trainings and Campaigns Committees, developing strategic objectives for our award-winning grassroots organizing training programs (called "Sprogs"), coordinating national fundraising campaigns, and confronting national campaign structure and support capacity issues. I was the director of the 2013 Northwest Sprog, a trainer at the 2012 Southeast Sprog, and during the Fall 2012 semester, I worked as a full-time campaign development intern with the Beyond Oil campaign in D.C. Outside of the Club, I was the Georgia organizer for Southern Energy Network in 2011 – 2012, where I worked to build a coalition of youth climate leadership in Georgia. My experiences are rich with strategic planning and critical organizational assessments of how to stay relevant and useful in the rapidly evolving national climate conversation. I am deeply familiar with the Sierra Club, our community, our mission, and our challenges. And one of our biggest challenges has always been the meaningful inclusion of youth, minority, and marginalized voices in shaping our direction. I'm passionate about seeing the Club build mutually strategic partnerships with organizations across Georgia confronting issues from immigrant dignity to the widening wealth gap, because I believe our success is measured to the extent that we contribute broadly to the progress of justice in this state.



### Krista Brewer

*Location: Atlanta*

*Sierra Club Member Since: 1994*

As a native of Atlanta, I have watched this state change in dramatic ways. I am interested in serving on the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club of Georgia to help protect the state's beautiful environment. I have been a member of the Sierra Club for probably more than 20 years, and admire the bold positions of the club on many important issues, both on a national and state level.

While I have not been active in the local Sierra Club, I have a long history of political and volunteer involvement in the Atlanta area that I bring to the Executive Committee. Currently, I serve on the board of ProGeorgia, a collaboration of organizations that have as part of their mission voter engagement and progressive issue education. I am also on the board of Georgia Women for a Change and the Olmstead Linear Park Alliance. I recently served a seven year term as the board chair of Georgia Women's Action for New Directions (WAND). I also have been on the Paideia School Board of Trustees, and have done many volunteer jobs in my children's schools, in my neighborhood, and for various political causes.

I believe that I bring a unique mix of background, skills and interests to the Executive Committee. The membership of the club has a unique role to play in advocating for policies that will protect the environment and also bringing attention to the natural beauty of Georgia. I look forward to serving.



### Jackie Echols

*Location: Atlanta*

*Sierra Club Member Since: 1997*

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for more than a decade. Since 1995, I have been actively involved in environmental issues and have worked to improve the quality of life and well-being of Atlanta's communities. I was formally introduced to water issues in the context of environmental justice in 1997 when I assumed leadership of the Clean Streams Task Force. The Task Force was comprised of more than a dozen community-based and grassroots organizations that advocated for complete separation of Atlanta's combined sewer system during the 1995 Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper federal consent decree implementation





## Chapter & Group Elections

negotiations.

In 2004, I was appointed to the Atlanta Tree Conservation Commission where I served until 2010. Recognizing that Atlanta's tree canopy is the city's primary ally in the fight for cleaner air, throughout my tenure including one year as chairperson, I campaigned for the Commission to adopt a more advocacy and less administrative tree protection role.

In 2010, I became president of South River Watershed Alliance which is leading the effort to restore and protect the South River. Over the past three years the river has gained both visibility and community support.

"My perspective is that a healthy environment is essential for healthy communities. Regardless of whether the issue is surface water, aquifers, air, land, tree canopy or other natural resource, the organized involvement of people and communities is absolutely necessary for success. To win we must first be in the game and this is what the Sierra Club offers, access to the game."

### David Emory

*Location: Atlanta*

*Sierra Club Member Since: 1995*

I am pleased to offer my name for an additional term as an at-large member of the Chapter Executive Committee. I have been a Sierra Club member for nearly 20 years and a member of the Chapter ExCom since 2009. It would be an honor to continue this service for another two years.

My volunteer roles, which include serving as editor of the *Sierran* and chair of our Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL) Committee, give me a unique perspective on the breadth of the Georgia Chapter's conservation work. As the state's largest grassroots environmental organization, the Sierra Club has a vital role to play on the defining issues of our time, including climate change, renewable energy, and sustainable development. On all of these, the Georgia Chapter has taken a lead role, and we are seeing real results, as evidenced by our recent victory at the PSC on solar energy.

In addition to our conservation efforts, there is also important work to be done on the organizational front. The Chapter recently launched its first comprehensive strategic planning exercise in many years, and we are also embarking on a long-overdue overhaul of the Chapter website. I have agreed to serve on committees assisting both of these efforts and am excited about the opportunities they present to strengthen our Chapter's effectiveness going forward.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve these past four years, and I look forward to continued involvement well into the future.



### Norman Slawsky

*Location: Atlanta*

*Sierra Club Member Since: 1986*

I am seeking my second term to serve on the GA Chapter Excom. I currently serve as chair of the Chapter Human Relations Committee, chair of the Legal Committee, and as a member of the Political Committee, and serve as Chapter Compliance officer.

I previously served as Political Committee chair from 1989 to 1994 and from 2005 to 2009. In 1993, I was the GA Chapter Leader of the Year; in 2006, I received a certificate of appreciation for outstanding leadership; and in 2008, I received a Chapter award for outstanding leadership. I am a life member of the Sierra Club.

I was a member of the selection committee for the Chapter executive director and we are working with the director to improve relations with the Excom and to develop and implement a plan for the Chapter's priority issues. I have worked as a labor attorney since 1980.

I will be honored to serve a second term and to contribute to the Chapter's efforts the best I can.



### Mark Woodall

*Location: Woodland*

*Sierra Club Member Since: 1989*

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over 20 years. My first contact with the Georgia Chapter was the state lobby program's outstanding assistance in defeating a proposed hazardous waste incinerator near my home. That experience led to my appointment as Chapter Legislative Chair. I currently serve as the Chapter Chair.

The great issue of our time is avoiding catastrophic climate change by reducing fossil fuel use. We can celebrate significant victories such as the July vote of the GA Public Service Commission to retire over 2,000 megawatts of old fossil fuel units (13 coal boilers and two oil units). The PSC also voted to add 525 megawatts of solar energy.

However, much work remains before Georgia achieves a sustainable energy and transportation system that protects our future. The Sierra Club needs to continue to lead the way in Georgia. I would appreciate your support in this effort and your vote.



## Chapter & Group Elections

### Centennial Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### Mark Banks

---

I am running for Centennial Group Ex-com again to continue our efforts to educate our members, communities, and political leaders about saving the environment. One of our biggest problems is the technological and scientific illiteracy that is so prevalent today. Most of our political leader as well as citizens do not understand the science needed to explain what needs to be done. This leaves people to be easily influenced by special interest groups. These groups only care about their short term profits and political agenda. We must get the facts and present them in a way that people can relate to. This will make it easier to expose the special interest groups and defeat them.

#### Gigi Burke

---

¡Hola! Bonjour! Caio! Merhaba! 你好 (nǐ hǎo)! My name is Gigi Burke. I am honored that you are considering me for Executive Committee for the Sierra Club's Centennial Group.

I want to take a moment to tell you about myself. I am an educator at heart. I have spent my career in academia identifying, implementing, and managing solutions that address learners' needs to develop a workforce capable of supporting business goals.

In addition to my love for all things learning, I'm a science fiction buff, a foodie, and I suffer from the travel bug. Fortunately, I take regular vacations to cool locals, which helps to relieve the symptoms.

Since becoming a member of the Sierra Club, I've truly enjoyed meeting fellow members and learning about the ways our organization is working to protect and enhance the quality of our environment.

Membership in the club has also enabled me to gain some hands-on experience by volunteering to test Rottowood Creek's air and water quality for the River Rendezvous project and educating the public about the Sierra Club at the annual Back to the Chattahoochee River Race and Festival this past June.

Thus, should you vote for me to serve on the Centennial Group's Executive Committee, I will commit to the following:

- Helping to identify unique and engaging speakers to present to the group at the monthly meetings.
- Looking for opportunities to educate the public about the Centennial Group's initiatives and increase membership.

- Most importantly, getting to know and learn from each of you and vice versa as we address key environmental issues!

In closing, thank you for considering me for the Executive Committee. I hope to have the opportunity to contribute to the outstanding programs and services that the Centennial Group offers.

#### Gail Gill

---

The Sierra Club caught my eye in 1989. That's when I became a Sierra Club member. We moved to the Atlanta area in 1999 where I have been following environmental issues ever since.

I became actively involved in the Centennial Group last summer and was elected Treasurer this past February. I have been fulfilling my duties responsibly. As a climate leader for the Climate Reality Project, I gave a slide show presentation to the group this past April. Since I have been attending the ExCom meetings regularly, I felt I could contribute even more to the group as an ExCom board member.

In the past few months, I've been working with the group and our chair on a project to spiffy up our presentation board for tabling events. With more involvement, I'll have the opportunity to offer more ideas on how to make our group better.

I'll gladly serve as your representative.

#### Lynn Walston

---

I have been a Sierra Club member for about 30 years. I first joined in Florida and later became active in our then new local Centennial Group when I moved back to Georgia in 1990. I served on the Centennial Ex Com in the 1990's and again over the past two years. I live in Marietta, where, as in most of metro Atlanta, there has been an abundance of changes that need attention to environmental impacts, and the Sierra Club is a key player in that oversight. I am currently the chair of the Centennial Group. I enjoy working with the local, state, and national environmental issues that Sierra Club endorses. I feel it's very important that we encourage younger citizens to become involved with these issues also. I appreciate the effort and attention that goes into all that our Georgia and national Club do, as well as toward local issues with our Centennial Group. I would be an honor to serve another term on the Centennial Group Ex Com.



## Chapter & Group Elections

### Metro Atlanta Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### Jeff Bragg

---

Resident of DeKalb County 22 years and retired from the DeKalb County school system, where I taught high school social studies. Political Science degree from Berkeley, law degree from Michigan (where I took two elective courses in environmental law) and a teaching certificate from UGA.

Former member of the Natural Resources Defense Committee and the Environmental Defense Fund. Shared my wife's memberships in the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy this century. Also a member of the Metro Atlanta chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America. Recently joined the Olmsted Linear Parks Association and The Archaeological Conservancy.

Experience: camping, hiking, and rafting in the Big Bend country of west Texas, the mountains of the Pacific Coast, the Great Lakes, Appalachia, Canada, and Mexico. Forty year member of Recreational Equipment co-op. Love bird-watching, botany, geology, and fascinated by insects and fungi. Primary interests are fresh water issues, particularly aquifer depletion, contamination by agriculture, and inadequacy of conservation practices. Also concerned with environmental hazards to children's health: asbestos, lead paint and mold in old schools and other buildings; air quality and asthma; hormones in food affecting child development.

Organizational ambitions are to help develop the Sierra Club's coalitions and to expand the demographic base of the membership. I also hope to help motivate members to become more engaged in multi-faceted strategies to change Georgia's politics, economics, and culture.

#### Martin McConaughy

---

For most of my 43 years living in DeKalb County I taught math in the public high schools. Since retiring from teaching I tutor at the International Community School, have run for public office and been a member of Sierra Club for 9 years.

My motivation to do more comes from my enjoyment of our parks and my dismay and dislike of our general environmental policies. I feel a need to do more to help enhance a cleaner and fresher future for my grandchildren and their peers.

#### Eddie Ehler

---

I have been a Sierra Club member for over 20 years and an active member in the Atlanta Group for about 9. I have been Chapter Political Chair since 2009 and also Atlanta Group Political Chair.

I have been a resident of the Brookhaven/Chamblee area for over 30 years and own two of the most environmentally conscious auto service facilities in the State there as well.

My areas of interest and expertise are control and reduction of airborne emissions, reduction of storm-water borne emissions and helping to elect Legislators, Commissioners and City Council Members who will keep these emissions under control. I am well aware of the problems that confront us with the water situation in Metro Atlanta as well.

By now, I am well versed in the structure and protocols and responsibilities as required by the Sierra Club bylaws. The need to be a conduit of ideas and implementation from the Membership to the Chapter is always paramount in my considerations.

My experiences so far with the Atlanta Group EXCOM have been quite fulfilling and I hope to continue to work with and learn from the leadership of the Atlanta Group.

### LaGrange Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### Ellen Parkhurst

---

Ellen owns and operates a farm in Southern Troup Co. She therefore understands the importance of clean air, clean water and conservation of resources. A member of the Sierra Club since 2007, she has been responsible for the membership drive and public relations for the local Sierra Club. She has participated in local clean up and restoration projects.

#### Eric Simpson

---

Born, raised, and educated in Troup County

Human services professional (20 years), sustainable farmer(7 years), and environmental and social justice advocate

Hobbies include horseback riding, reading, and nature  
Resides in West Point, Georgia

# Chapter & Group Elections

## *LaGrange Group Candidates (continued)*

### **Mary Drake**

Former environmental attorney; Member of the Sierra Club intermittently since 1978; Two previous terms on LaGrange Sierra Club Group Excom; One term on Chapter Sierra Club Excom; Interested in local practical environmental efforts such as recycling and replacing plastic grocery bags with paper bags.

## **Greater Gwinnett Group Executive Committee Candidates**

### **Dan Friedman**

I have been a Sierra Club member for 10 years and have been actively engaged with the Gwinnett Group for six years. I have worked to increase our membership- we have increased our membership over the past two years. I have also worked to have meaningful and timely programs

including the energy alternatives, hikes, urban gardens and more transportation options. I would like to contribute to our success by reaching out to new members and involving inactive members in our many activities and programs and continue to increase our profile within the Gwinnett community.

### **Michael Shapiro**

Michael Shapiro is the Broker for Property Management Of The South in Lilburn. He has been in Property Management for thirty years managing homes, communities and their natural habitats. Specialties include organizing, budgeting time and money, and speaking to small groups.

### **Michael Hallen**

Member of the Sierra Club for 20 plus years, active member for as long. Lead Monitor for the Sierra club Georgia Adopt A Stream, Suwanee Creek site.

## Voting Instructions

Support democracy in the Sierra Club by taking time to vote. The Georgia Chapter ExCom election is open to ALL members. To vote, follow the easy steps outlined here.

### **Chapter Voting**

All members of the Georgia Chapter may vote for up to **four** (4) candidates and complete the ballot on page 23. You will find the chapter candidate statements on pages 18-19.

### **Group Voting**

You may also vote in **one** of the Group elections for the Metro Atlanta, Centennial, Greater Gwinnett or LaGrange groups. You may only vote in one group election. You will find the group candidate statements on pages 20-22.

Not all groups are using the Georgia *Sierran* for their election ballots. If your group is not listed, please contact your

group leadership (see contacts on page 17) to inquire about your group Executive Committee election.

### **Joint Membership Voting**

If there are two names on your mailing label, then you have a joint membership and therefore get two votes. One person listed on the label will vote in column "A", while the other person will vote in column "B".

### **Complete Your Ballot**

After voting, place the entire page into an envelope. **The page must contain your mailing label, which we need to verify your membership.**

After your ballot is verified, your label will be removed to ensure anonymity during counting.

### **Mail or Deliver Your Ballot**

Your ballot must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 14, 2013. Mail

to: Georgia Sierra Club Elections, 743-B East College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030.

### **Questions?**

For questions regarding the Executive Committee elections, please call the Georgia Chapter office at 404-607-1262, or email [georgia.chapter@sierra-club.org](mailto:georgia.chapter@sierra-club.org).

### **Ballot Verification and Counting**

The ballots will be verified and counted by the Elections Committee, on Thursday, November 14, in the Georgia Chapter office at 743-B East College Ave, Decatur, GA 30030 (at the corner of Sams Street and East College Ave, across from the Avondale MARTA station). Ballot verification will begin at 6:30 p.m. Ballot counting will begin following ballot verification. Candidates may observe ballot verification and/or counting, or send a representative to do so.



# Chapter & Group Elections Ballot

## Remember:

- Please read the voting instructions on the opposite page before completing your ballot.
- If there is one name on your mailing label, please vote in column "A" only.
- If there are two names on your mailing label, one should vote in column "A" and the other should vote in column "B."
- Everyone may vote for Georgia Chapter candidates.

- You may vote for Group candidates for your Group, but **only your** Group.
- Vote for up to the number of candidates indicated below. If too many boxes are checked in either column, the ballot will be declared invalid.
- Detach and fold this **entire ballot page**. Make sure your mailing label is still attached to the back.
- Place ballot in an envelope and mail to the Georgia Chapter office at the address below to be received by no later than 5 p.m. Thursday, November 14, 2013.

## Georgia Chapter

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on pages 18-19

### How many?

Vote for up to FOUR candidates

4

	A	B
Sara Black	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Krista Brewer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackie Echols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David Emory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Norman Slawsky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Woodall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Centennial Group

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on pages 20

### How many?

Vote for up to THREE candidates

3

	A	B
Mark Banks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gigi Burke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gail Gill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lynn Walston	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Metro Atlanta Group

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on pages 21

### How many?

Vote for up to THREE candidates

3

	A	B
Jeff Bragg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martin McConaughy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eddie Ehlert	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## LaGrange Group

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on page 21-22

### How many?

Vote for up to THREE candidates

3

	A	B
Ellen Parkhurst	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Simpson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Drake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Greater Gwinnett Group

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on page 22

### How many?

Vote for up to THREE candidates

3

	A	B
Dan Friedman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Shapiro	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Hallen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Mail ballots to:** Georgia Sierra Club Elections  
743 East College Ave., Ste. B  
Decatur, GA 30030

**Questions?** Call the Georgia Chapter office at 404-607-1262 or email [georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org)

**Deadline:** Ballot must be received no later than 5 p.m., Thursday, November 14, 2013.

**Notice:** Ballots will be verified and counted on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chapter office.



PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

## Outings & Events

**November 9 to November 16, 2013**

### ***Backpacking the AT in Georgia***

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

**Rated:** Strenuous

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

**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

## THE GEORGIA GIVING SOCIETY

Show your support for our continuing success by joining the Georgia Giving Society!

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Southern Magnolia Society – \$1,000-\$2,499

Evergreen Partner – \$100-\$999

Visit [georgia.sierraclub.org/donate](http://georgia.sierraclub.org/donate)

Find your local chapter outings  
@ [www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter)



## 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, November 9th** 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](http://georgia.sierraclub.org/sc101) to RSVP or contact the Chapter Office at [gasierraclub101@gmail.com](mailto:gasierraclub101@gmail.com) if you have questions.